



TIN 'N BRASS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
ONTELAUNEE AACA
OFFICIAL CHAPTER OF THE AACA



*Melvin Ramos Biaggi, Puerto Rico Nationals
Photo credit: Bob Hobaugh*

Puerto Rican Partnerships

I recently learned that Puerto Rico is rich in culture, resources, and relationships shaped by its unique partnership with the United States. I traveled there in March 2026 to judge an Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) show—and discovered far more than cars.

The AACA includes a Puerto Rico Region, whose members regularly participate in mainland events such as Hershey. In 2025, I met Melvin Ramos Biaggi while serving as a judge. His invitation to serve as a judge in Puerto Rico, along with his enthusiasm, made the trip possible.

My wife, Florita, and I stayed in Miramar, where the hospitality we experienced immediately stood out. That warmth continued throughout the week, as mainland judges and Puerto Rican members built relationships that extended well beyond the show field.

Before the event, we explored parts of the island, enjoying its natural beauty and vibrant culture. But the highlight of the trip was not sightseeing—it was the people and the shared passion for antique automobiles.



*El Yunque
Rainforest*



*Macaws at LaMarquesa
Forest Park*

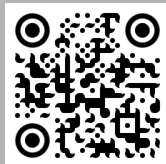
But nothing prepared us for what we saw when judging began—keep reading

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Zion's New Jerusalem UCC,
Lenhartsville

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ontelauneeaca.com



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Any items contained herein may be reproduced if proper credit is given. *All articles are edited for length, grammar, accuracy, and composition.* They will be used at the discretion of the editor and Region officers. Please advise the editor of all the corrections that are needed.

Articles are due on 2nd Thursday of each month.

Cheri Dotterer, editor

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for the web - webmaster@ontelauneeaca.com

The Puerto Rico Region welcomed visiting AACA members with exceptional generosity, including a memorable evening at La Marquesa Forest Park. These gatherings strengthened friendships and reflected a great pride in both their island and their automotive heritage.

We immersed ourselves in the AACA culture with judging seminars led by experienced members. One standout example was a rare 1955 BMW Leblond Speciale, presented by former Jaguar dealer Jaime Del Valle. It became clear that Puerto Rico's collectors maintain vehicles of remarkable quality and authenticity. To host a successful AACA event, however, the Region relies on collaboration with mainland judges and staff, highlighting the importance of partnership within the club.

Judging day brought everything together. I served as Team Captain alongside Assistant Captain Jaime Velez, Bill Bass, and Glenn Bailey. Our team combined local knowledge, technical expertise, and developing skill—exactly what AACA judging is designed to foster.



Emancipation Mural in Capitol

To discover how many cars
were in Puerto Rico,
turn the page.

We evaluated 146 vehicles in the tropical heat at the Escuela de Bellas Artes. The show featured everything from Ford Model Ts to mid-century Cadillacs, muscle cars, and modern European classics. Unlike the improvised vehicles often associated with Caribbean imagery, these cars were restored with authenticity, supported by access to parts, skilled craftsmanship, and strong resources. The quality of both the vehicles and the judging process reflected the dedication of Puerto Rico's AACA members.

Beyond the show, conversations with local residents revealed a shared desire: to strengthen the island's future while maintaining its cultural identity. Many families balance ties to the mainland with a deep commitment to Puerto Rico itself.

In the end, this trip was about more than judging. It was about the connection between people, regions, and shared interests.

The Antique Automobile Club of America provides that bridge. Through events like this, we not only evaluate vehicles, but we also build relationships that strengthen the entire organization.

Puerto Rico's AACA members demonstrated that clearly. Their generosity, professionalism, and passion made this an unforgettable experience.



~Bob Hobaugh



Scan the QR Code with your phone to see Bob complete article of Puerto Rican Nationals

1. Open your phone app
2. Tap the link from Facebook that appears

Read Bob's entire article here

President's Message

Omamaste

Pronounced *omah-muh-steh*, this Hindu greeting means "I bow to the divine in you." It's an acknowledgment of the simple belief that divinity resides in everyone, a central tenet of Hinduism. The word is spoken with palms together, fingers touching and pointed upward, with thumbs at the sternum; accompanied by a slight bow of the head, or a bend forward at the waist.

On Sunday, June 7, we will visit the Hindu temple at Schuylkill Haven. We will arrive in time to observe the 30-minute morning prayer service. After that, we will meet with one of the temple leaders to discuss Hinduism and tour the facility. After our temple visit, we will travel to the Manheim Diner for lunch.

DRESS CODE

An important word about dress for the temple visit. Shoulders and legs should be completely covered, and shoes must be removed to visit the sanctuary. (Wearing socks is a good idea.) So, no shorts or open tops. Short sleeves are OK, and women can wear either long skirts or pants. For anyone who is unable to easily remove their shoes, we will provide acceptable shoe covers.

The temple in Schuylkill Haven is called Vraj, a Sanskrit name. (Sanskrit is to colloquial Hindi what Latin has been to the national language in Christian's countries, a formal worship language.) Vraj means "the place of Lord Krishna," and Krishna is the supreme god of Hinduism, who is worshiped here as an infant. In this form, he symbolizes love, innocence, and vulnerability, and his divine protection is

Which Founding Fathers read about Hinduism - Keep reading

highlighted. Krishna is portrayed in a cradle during the prayer service. The title "Nandalaya," outside the temple's rear entrance, refers to an important pilgrimage site in India.

Hinduism has had meaning in the United States for a long time. Founding Father John Adams read many Hindu texts and was particularly impressed with the Hindu concept of the Eternal God: "God is one, creator of all, Universal Sphere, without beginning, without end." Adams wrote to Thomas Jefferson about Hinduism in 1814.

Jefferson also had a strong interest in Hindu writings. So, it's good to learn a little more about this religion.



~Tim Hinkle



The rear entrance of the Vraj

May Birthdays

- 5/5 Carl Heffner, Jr.
- 5/9 Herb Elsner, Sr.
- 5/18 Lester Manwiller
- 5/18 Lynn Yoder
- 5/20 Isabel Lenny
- 5/27 Pattie Schaffer
- 5/28 Joshua Staack
- 5/30 Ron Bair



May Anniversaries

- 5/8 Edward & Doris Umberger
- 5/22 Brian & Donna Stever
- 5/30 Matthew & Susan Manwiller



From the Editor's Desk It's all about People

There's a lot you can learn on your own in this hobby. Manuals, videos, forums you can spend hours figuring things out, and many of us have. That's part of the fun. But every once in a while, you run into something you can't quite solve or you realize there's an easier way that only comes from experience. That's where other people come in.

A quick conversation at a meeting. A tip shared over lunch. Someone pointing out something you never would have noticed. Those moments don't come from a book. They come from being around the right people. As you look through this month's newsletter, from Puerto Rico to our temple visit, it's a good reminder that wherever we go, we're not just there to see something new.

We're there to experience it together, build relationships with new people, and draw them toward us. Next time you meet someone new, invite them to a tour.

Regardless of whether they have an antique car or not, the fellowship with Ontelaunee AACA is the only way we will grow.



~Cheri Dotterer



Reading Eagle Article on page 10

Secretary's Report

President Tim Hinkle called the meeting to order on April 4, 2026, at the New Jerusalem Zion UCC Church, Krumsville, PA, at 3:00 pm, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the American flag. There were 24 people present.

Susan Manwiller gave the Secretary's report from the business meeting held on March 7, 2026. A motion to approve the secretary's report was made by Mike Wolfe and seconded by Marilyn Roth. The motion carried.

Lester Manwiller gave the Treasurer's report for March, 2026. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Ray Huber and seconded by Mike Horning. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Phyllis Peters was absent. Lester reported receiving a call that Mervin Afflerbach had passed away. Although no longer an Ontelaunee member, he was a regular attendee at DAF. Jeff Dotterer talked with Goldie Rhode's son. She will remain in the nursing home because she can no longer walk, but mentally, she is good.

Website: Cheri Dotterer reported for Michael Dotterer. For March, Google Analytics showed 361 users. Cheri spoke with Steve Moskiwicz concerning the Software Applications Accessibility Act introduced in the U.S. Senate. National AACA is unable to monitor over 300 regions and chapters. This could possibly be a seminar at the National Convention. Cheri will follow up on it.

Newsletter: Cheri received a positive compliment on the TNB from Ed and Isabel Lenny. Richard Bettel from the New Jersey Region would like a flyer of the Apple Blossom Tour to include in their newsletter. Cheri received a copy of their impressive 30-page newsletter. Their editor received a Master Editor Award for 2025.

Activities: Suzy McGovern was absent. She has enough bakers for the year but needs tour masters for three tours.

- Apple Blossom Tour, Sunday, May 17 – Tour Masters Cheri and Jeff Dotterer going to Special Olympics Benefit Car Show at A.D. Moyer Lumber, Kutztown. Meet at 6:45 a.m., tour to Kutztown, breakfast at the Airport Diner, then go to the show at A.D. Moyer. The plan is for us to be parked together. Neil Merkel knows some students from his church who work on cars and would like to bring them along on the Apple Blossom tour.
- Church Tour, June 7 – Tour Masters Tim and Sue Hinkle will lead a guided tour of a Hindu Temple in Schuylkill County. Dress appropriately; shoulders and legs should be covered. Head and/or faces do not need covering.
- Picnic Tour – Tour Masters Neil and Audrey Merkel are going to Dreibelbis Farm.
- Dog Days Tour – Open
- Three-Day Tour, September 11, 12, 13 – Tour Masters Mike and Donna Wolfe to Lukan's Farm Resort. The deposit has been sent in.
- Fall Foliage Tour – Open
- Applejack & Cider Tour – Open

Leesport Swap Meet: Lester has been getting some renewals for 2027. He can take credit cards, but no one has asked to pay with a credit card so far. The contract with Leesport Farmers Market has been signed; the cost went up by \$200.



Das Awkscht Fescht: Chairman Bob Hobaugh reported:

1. Bob expects a strong response from the alumni of the Dorney Park and Reading Fairgrounds races.
2. There will be a display by Reading Fairgrounds with a 25 ft. van.
3. Eastern Museum of Motor Racing will have a table. There will be no vendor fee for them.
4. Lester will be providing a tow vehicle to pull race cars from the Blue Field to the Show Field.
5. Nancy Bischoff will sponsor part of the feature car tent costs.
6. Bob is updating the registration form for the mailing in May.
7. Bob has contacted Target Marketing about participation awards at around \$13 each.
8. Dennis Martin and Perkiomen AMCA have agreed to pay for the motorcycle tent.
9. The Park has accepted quotes for feature car and motorcycle tents.
10. Bob needs a third tent purchased for day-of-show registrations. The approximate cost is \$ 1,500 for a 10x10 pole tent. Anyone who knows where to get a pole tent for less, let Bob know.
11. The Ontelaunee Club has a credit card reader attached to Lester's phone. A decision on whether we will use our credit card reader for day-of-show registrations or the Park's credit card reader, if the Park decides to accept credit cards, is pending.
12. Bob is posting weekly on the Ontelaunee site's Facebook page.
13. Since Pontiac/Oakland will not be the feature car for 2027, Lester has contacted the Corvair Club. They will let us know. Jeff suggested Mopar Madness since it will be the 50th Anniversary of the Dodge Charger.
14. Triumph will be the feature Motorcycle for 2027. Al Hartman has agreed to help.
15. Susan reported 456 vehicles registered to date, down 10 at this time, and 131 flea market vendors registered, down 4 at this time.

President's Banquet: Nov. 15, 2026 – Tim Hinkle has someone to provide the entertainment; to be held at Blue Mountain Restaurant.

Christmas Party: December 13, 2026 – Leroy Hinkle received a revised contract for NOVA.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion on whether we want to continue doing the White Elephant stand at the Leesport Swap Meet. The leftover items were given to a church and a charity. We should have a volunteer to coordinate it. A decision will be made at a future date.
2. Jeff reported that we have 46 followers for our Facebook page.
3. Flyers were available for the Wheels for Victory Car Show on May 9th in Kempton.
4. Cheri is looking for events to post in the newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS – None

Thanks to Barbara Koch, Barbara Stewart, and Barbara Todd for refreshments.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 pm was made by Bob

Hobaugh and seconded by Shirley Schaffer.

The motion carried.

Next meeting is

May 2 at 3:00 p.m.—Susan Manwiller, Secretary



From your Membership Chair

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

We have four free memberships available to individuals who have never been AACA members. If you know someone who may be interested, please have them contact me. I will ensure they receive the necessary paperwork.

Those who take advantage of this offer must also join Ontelaunee. This is a one-year-only membership, so it is important to act as soon as possible to take full advantage of this opportunity.

KEEP ME INFORMED

If you have any updates or corrections to your information in the future, please let me know so I can keep our membership records up to date. It is also important to keep your roster current by noting new members, as well as those who have passed away or chosen not to renew. Keeping our records accurate makes it easier for members to stay connected.

I rely on you to share these updates. If someone is in the hospital or on the sick list, I would appreciate it if you let me know. If a club member has passed away, I would also greatly appreciate a phone call.

THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN TOURING

- Always use and display your Ontelaunee Tour Banner. If you do not have one, you can purchase one for \$5.00 each from Phyllis Peters, Membership Chairperson
- If you have a CB Radio, we usually use channel 7. This is a great way to stay in touch with others if problems arise.
- When driving on a tour, it is important that you try to keep the car behind you in your sight. This way, if there is a problem, the tour can stay together.
- Tourmasters should always drive at a moderate speed if possible, so a tour can be enjoyed.



MEMBERS REJOINED

Denise Wagner
Bryan Wagner (son)
70 Carriage Circle
Oley PA, 19547



Contact: Phyllis Peters
5265 Elgen Drive, Emmaus, PA 18049
610-965-9236 | phyllispeters@hotmail.com



Classic Parts, Modern Searches Finding a Marque Specialist

Over the last four months, we have talked about ways to find parts for your classic car or truck. We have looked at modern and traditional sources, including the internet, swap meets, and local parts stores. But those sources do not always have what fits your vehicle, especially if you own something rare or unusual.

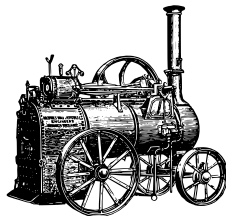
The good news is that almost every collector car has what I like to call a marque specialist. That is a person or company that stocks or reproduces parts for one specific make, and sometimes even one specific model. The easy examples, like Chevilles and Camaros, have several suppliers. There are even large companies, such as Eckler's and Original Parts Group, that serve multiple Chevrolet and GM models.

But what if the car in your garage is not one of the usual choices from the Big Three, or even from former independents like AMC or Studebaker? What if it is something less

common, like an MG? A quick Google search turns up plenty of MG specialists in the United States and abroad. The same is true for an International Scout, with several companies specializing in those, International pickups, and Travelalls.

Let's make it really tough. Take the Yugo. Surely there is nobody selling parts for them, right? Believe it or not, there is still a parts supplier in Texas. The inventory may be limited, but they still carry items such as glass, weatherstripping, suspension parts, brakes, and engine parts. Sheet metal may be harder to find, so you would want to start with a solid car, but it is still possible to keep one running. (A Yugo running? More like walking, they were never fast enough to be called running)

So whatever is sitting in your garage, there is probably a marque specialist somewhere with what you need on the shelf. Many of these suppliers do not travel to swap meets because moving that much inventory takes

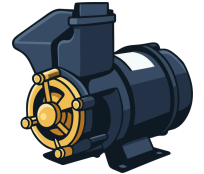


too much time, effort, and trailer space to make it worthwhile. That means the best way to find them is usually a good internet search.

This way, you will find a supplier a decent stock of parts for exactly the model of antique you have in your garage. Type in your vehicle's make followed by "vintage parts," and you may be surprised by what turns up. Have a good month.



~Jeff Dotterer



Letter from a member

Good Morning, Cherri,

We want to compliment you on the work you have done on Tin 'n Brass. The fresh look of the club's newsletter is very appealing. We know that this requires a lot of time and effort.

Thank you and best regards,

Ed and Isabel Lenny

Bakers for Meetings

MAY

1. Cheri Dotterer
2. Nancy Horning



2026 Officers and Board Members

President	Tim Hinkle
1st V. President	Michael Wolfe
2nd V. President	Leroy Hinkle
Secretary	Susan Manwiller
Treasurer	Lester Manwiller
Board Chair	Jeff Dotterer
Directors	Elaine Baer
	Shirley Schaffer
	Marilyn Roth
	Ray Huber

2026 Committee Chairpersons

Activities	Suzy McGovern
DAF	Bob Hobaugh
DAF Registration	Susan Manwiller
Membership	Phyllis Peters
Newsletter	Cheri Dotterer
Swap Meet	Lester Manwiller
Website	Michael Dotterer

2026 Events

See ontelauneeaca.com for details

Monthly Chapter Meetings are held at
3:00 pm.

Zion's New Jerusalem UCC,
1456 Krumsville Rd, Lenhartsville, PA
19534

Meetings are held January-May,
September-November

NO Meetings June-August, December

May

May 2: Chapter Meeting

May 17: Apple Blossom Tour - Jeff Dotterer

June

June 7: Church Tour - Tim Hinkle

July

July 12: Picnic Tour - Neil & Audrey Merkel

July 20: DAF Pin Find, Macungie Memorial Park

July 27: DAF Stake Off, Macungie Memorial Park

July 31: Das Awkscht Fescht

2026 Events in Eastern PA

May 2: Blue Mountain Classics Car Show
9 AM - 3 PM

Park West Ln, Bethlehem, PA
Benefits Valor Clinic Foundation

May 9: Wheels for Victory

10 AM - 3 PM
Kempton Community Center
Benefits Victory Junction

May 9: Indoor/Outdoor Swap Meet

8 AM - 3 PM
Classic Auto Mall, Morgantown, PA

June 5: Hershey Regional Fun Cruise Night
5 PM - 8 PM

131 Museum Dr. Hershey, PA

June 6: Chalkapalooza Car Show
10 AM

Sponsored by: The Camel Project
RACC, 30 S Front St, Reading, PA, Lot C

June 7: GM on Display
9 AM - 3 PM

Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA

Apple Blossom Tour



Date: May 17

Departure: Greenwich Elementary

Time: Arrive 6:45 AM

Leave: 7:15 AM

Destination AD Moyer Kutztown Car Show -
Benefiting the Special Olympics Berks County
Softball

Breakfast: Airport Diner, Kutztown

Tour Host: Jeff and Cheri Dotterer

Registration Deadline: May 8, 2026

Guest Speaker: Steve Reinert will be joining us at our May Meeting to share more about this event.

Church Tour



Date: June 7

Departure: Cabela's, 100 Cabela Dr, Hamburg, PA
19526

Meet: 8:30 AM

Leave: 9:00 AM

Destination: Vraj Hindu Temple, 51 Manor Road,
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

10:30 AM: Prayer service, information, & Tour

Lunch: 12:30 PM: Manheim Diner

1514 PA 61, Schuylkill Haven 17972

Registration Deadline: Friday, May 15, 2026

2026 National Events

May 28-30, 2026 - Eastern Spring Nationals -
Indiana, PA - hosted by Shannock Valley Region

June 11-13, 2026 - Southeastern Fall Nationals -
Oak Ridge, TN - hosted by Volunteer Region

June 15-19, 2026 - Sentimental Tour -
Mechanicsburg, PA - hosted by Oakland-
Pontiac Worldwide Region

July 23-25, 2026
Central Spring Nationals
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Article from 2009 Reading Eagle

This article appeared in the January 11, 2009, issue of the Reading Eagle. It is about club member Walter Adams.

Master Deluxe dairy farmer's distraction

The barns and cow pastures of Windsor Township dairy farm have occupied most of the time of Walter R. Adams' 67 years on the Earth. As he's aged, he has turned the dairy over to his son, Dean E., to run, but still works there just about every day.

For a country boy at heart who says he is not very mechanical, he can't explain his fascination with automobiles, particularly classic and antique ones.

Adams purchased his first (and only) new car when he was just 19. It was a 1960 Chevy Impala convertible.

"I wish I still had it," said Adams.

He has owned a variety of cars over the years, but his current stable of vehicles includes a 1993 Buick Roadmaster he uses as a daily driver, a 1975 Oldsmobile Delta Royale, a 1960 Cadillac Coupe DeVille and his favorite, a 1938 Chevy Master Deluxe sedan.

Adams has owned the '38 Chevy for 42 years.

He saw it along the road in Kutztown with a "For Sale" sign in the window and was struck by how nice it looked.

"After much deliberation and thought — mostly over what I thought was a salty price — I decided to buy it," Adams recalled.

The price? It was \$650.

He had driven the car over the years, but it had been stowed away for 19 years. The demands of the farm compounded by the onset of his late wife Charlotte's illness left no time for the Chevy.

Last spring Adams dusted off the black beauty, changed the oil and took it to his trusted vintage car mechanic, Curtis Daub.

Daub creates hot rods and works on old cars as a hobby at his Kutztown home. He honed his mechanical skills over 45 years as a heavy equipment and large truck operator.

The front suspension in the Chevy was replaced by Daub and Adams was on the road with it once again.

"I don't know if you know it or not, but the type of suspension they had in them was scrapped from the day after they were built," Daub said.

With the new suspension, Adams was tooling around in the Chevy for a few months. Then, an illness sidelined him in the fall with a 17-day hospital stay and the Chevy has been in storage since.

This spring, Adams plans on having an oil leak worked on and he suspects the Chevy may need a new water pump as well.

For being 70 years old, the car is in pretty darn good shape, Adams commented.

Daub said as an original he would rate Adams' Chevy a nine, on a scale of one to 10.

"It's only got 33,000 original miles, the paint is original, the running gear interior and running boards are all original," Daub said.

To the right person, Daub guessed that they could sell for \$15,000.

The Chevy is not up for sale.

"I've had it the longest and it's easy to maintain," said Adams, reasoning why it is his favorite car.

A love of vintage cars is something Adams shares with his son Dean, who has a 1970 Chevelle that is in the process of being restored.

When their bovine duties allow, the Adams men put the cows out to pasture and enjoy the curves and hills on the roads in their machines of another era.

Contact Susan E. Miers Smith, special sections editor, at 610-371-5048 or smsmith@readingeagle.com

Cost Members including immediate family: \$25, 6-12 \$5, Under 6 Free

Tour Registration Forms
Checks Payable to Ontelaunee Region AACA

Non-Members: Actual cost of the event

Apple Blossom Tour

Sunday, May 17, 2026

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, May 8, 2026

Members' Names: (\$25) _____

Non-Members' Names: (\$32) _____

Children 6-12: (\$5) _____ Children under 6: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Check #: _____

Mail form to: Jeff Dotterer | 202 Donne Road, Hamburg, PA 19526
dcparts@comcast.net | 610-914-4808 | Cheri 610-914-9919

Church Tour

Sunday, June 7, 2026

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, May 15, 2026

Members' Names: (\$25) _____

Non-Members' Names: (\$25) _____

Children 6-12: (\$5) _____ Children under 6: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Check #: _____

Mail form to: Tim Hinkle | 712 East 18th Street, Northampton, PA 18067
Home 610-262-8572 | Sue Cell 610-703-8456

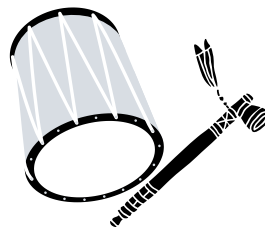
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Hamburg, PA 19526

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Ontelaunee Region



We are dedicated to the preservation, restoration and maintenance of antique cars, trucks and motorcycles.



TO :
May 2: Chapter Meeting
May 17: Apple Blossom Tour - Jeff Dotterer

Antique Automobile Club of America
Tin 'n Brass