



# TIRE TRACKS

MARCH 2026

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Visit our website—<http://waynesboro-stauntonregion.aaca.com/>

The Official Publication of the  
**Waynesboro-Staunton Region  
Antique Automobile Club of America**



*President Jack Drago is a bit under the weather this month so I thought we would look back on his first “Ramblings” from 2018 when he assumed the office.*

*Editor*

## RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello?

“Hi Jackie, it’s Ken Farley”.



(ME thinking),  
Where’s caller ID  
when you need it?



“Hi Ken, you back in town for a week or two”?

(KF) “Nope we leave tomorrow morning for Albany”.

(Me thinking), it should be Albania.

(KF) “So I wanted you to know that the nominating committee has completed the list of new officers for the club for 2018”.

(ME) “That’s nice. Now I’ve got to go back to vacuum underneath the stove”.

(KF) “Wait! I’ve got more news”!

(ME) “Ken, unless you’re telling me I’ve won the lottery, I’ve got to watch the paint dry on the ceiling”.

KF) “Really? What color did you paint it?”

(ME) “Black, Ken. It keeps me in the mood to commit murder”.

KF) “Anyone I know?”

ME) “Ken, the news? What’s the news”?

(KF) “When did you join the club”?

(ME) “Gosh, I don’t remember. Maybe sometime in 2008, maybe? Why”?

(KF) “As you know, we need a president for the club in 2018 as it’s the only position not yet filled. So I nominated you whether you want it or not. Thanks for accepting, it’s very much appreciated”.

(ME) “Ken, it’s nice to be considered, but I’ve got a plate chock full of things to be accomplished and I really don’t have any spare time whatsoever to be president of the W-S Region”.

((KF) “Thanks ever so much Jackie. I knew you’d accept the nomination and will do a great job as has all of those that have gone on before you. Thanks again and bye, bye”.

CLICK!!!

ME) Now looking at the black ceiling for thoughts.

Jack Drago



Jack’s 1956 Ford Vic.

**W-S February 15, 2026 Meeting at Francesco's**



Francesco's always does a great job on our dinners.

They provide a nice meeting room, excellent food and really good service!



There is always time to swap some stories.



Larry Skillman and Karen Drago handle the 50/50.

**Notes from the Treasurer**

Dues are now due - \$15.00 for electronic copy of newsletter / \$20.00 for printed mailed copy. Make checks payable to Waynesboro-Staunton AACA and mail to: Todd Smith, 1422 Bloomer Springs Rd., McGaheysville, VA 22840 -OR- pay in person at the February car club meeting.

This will be the last year that the club can print and mail printed newsletters, for 2 reasons.

The cost of printing and mailing is just too expensive. With stamps at \$0.78 each, the cost of paper, printer inks, labels and printer wear, the board feels it is just not economically feasible to continue mailings

The time it takes to print and mail is just too prohibitive. It takes 10-12 hrs. for each editing, printing and mailing. This includes actual printing time, collation, folding, labeling, placing stamp and then the trip to the Post Office to mail.

So, 2026 will be the last year for a printed & mailed copy of the newsletter.

If you do not have a computer or internet, let me or someone on the board know and we will try to accommodate you.

Todd

## Editor's Rants

We all appreciate that our Federal government is doing its best to keep us safe on the highway. Sometimes the requirements they put in place cause me to wonder: does common sense ever enter into the thought process?



Here is an example of a warning that displays on a lot of cars as one is driving. Your information screen is locked on this message until you respond “OK” that you have read the message. The dilemma is: how can I read this message without taking my eyes off the road? Did anyone really think this through before establishing this requirement?



Another feature that I personally hate is the automatic stop/start feature most manufacturers implemented to get extra credit on EPA fuel economy ratings. Statistics show that about 80% of drivers agree with me. The minor fuel economy savings are offset by major increases in starter and battery wear. Since I spent 20 years of my life developing carburetors to prevent stalling, one might see why I hate the engine shutting off by itself at each stop. On February 12, 2026, EPA announced it was dropping the credit for the start/stop feature. I'm sure manufacturers will quickly rid future models of this annoying feature.

Stu Allen—Editor

*The family of the late John Alton Brown, founder of the Waynesboro-Staunton Region and an AACA director, gave the Region 86 articles entitled "Down the Road A Piece", written by Brown from the late 1970's until his death in April 1991. Many of these articles were printed in our Region newsletter, "Tire Tracks," as well as the Tri-County Region newsletter, "Clutch Chatter". Enjoy this trip down memory lane.*

### CARS FROM MY COLLEGE DAYS

I associate my college days with two cars; both of which I bought second hand. My very first car was a 1930 Model A Standard coupe with a rumble seat. It was painted Kewanee and Elkpoint green and I paid \$180 for it. I doubt if Cinderella was more thrilled with her pumpkin coach than I was when I started the A and headed for home.



*File photo*

I drove the car about two years between Pittsburgh and Bethany College in rain, snow, and fair weather without any major problems. On one occasion I was traveling between Bethany and Wellsburg, West Virginia when the ice jam in Buffalo Creek suddenly broke up. The water rushed over the roads and huge cakes of ice came floating down towards me. I managed to keep away from the ice cakes which must have weighed twenty tons or more but I was concerned when the murky waters rose over the running boards.

The only way that I could guess where the roads were was by watching the fence posts on either side of the road and hoping that I was in the middle. I also remember that the high water forced hundreds of rats out of their lairs and several hundred of them began swimming my way. Some of them tried to clamber up on the running boards but I was able to go fast enough to wash them off. I soon reached higher ground and the only problem that I encountered were a set of four very wet brake bands that took a while to dry out...

To make a long story short, I kept the Model A for about two years and then "traded up" for a 1933 Dodge coupe. It was painted black, had the famous Dodge ram on the radiator cap, crank out windshield and natural varnished wood wheels.



*File photo*

I went overboard by purchasing a Motorola radio which had the dial attached to the steering column. What a luxury! As soon as school was out, my roommate and I loaded up the car and took off for a transcontinental trip to California.

The summer of 1936 was characterized by drought and extreme heat. On most days the temperature was near 100 degrees and we managed to survive by dousing ourselves with water and propping open doors which hinged from the back (often called suicide doors). As we drove through Nebraska we saw hundreds of dead cattle beside the fences that were seeking a few blades of green grass but the worst sight was the swarms of grasshoppers that flew at the car and mashed themselves on the windshield. We had to stop every fifteen minutes or so to wipe away the mess so we could see.

We arrived in California after eight days and stayed with my Uncle George Brown, had a nice stay, met some cute gals, visited Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks and headed home. The only casualty on the whole trip was a flat tire on the ramp leading to the Oakland ferry which we changed in four minutes flat with 200 cars behind us tooting their horns. All in all, it was an exciting trip for a couple of 22 year old boys and we had nothing but praise for that old Dodge.

In 1938, I traded it for my first new car---a 1938 Business coupe with a boot that was about 4 feet wide and about 6 feet deep which made sleeping in the back a lot of fun---but that's another story that took me down the road a piece.

John Brown

**Tire Tracks**

The official monthly publication of the Waynesboro-Staunton Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America

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**Minutes of the February 15, 2026 W-S Region Meeting**

The Waynesboro-Staunton Region of the AACA held its February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 meeting in Bridgewater at Francesco’s Restaurant at 2pm. President Jack Drago opened the meeting by welcoming the 24 members present.

After the meal, Vice President Rick Downs stated the March meeting would be at Ming Garden in Waynesboro.

Todd Smith gave the treasurer’s report and reminded the members that dues are due and he introduced the two new members Xaver Wilhelmy and Mark Brown.

Stu Allen stated he still needed stories for the newsletter.

The new web master Josiah Gingerich stated he had finished the course needed to operate the web site and was now transitioning it from Bob Ridle..

Nelson Driver reported that the ODMA tour was still open for some group to do it.

Duane Perrin reported that tickets for the Fair Dinner at Weyers Cave Community Center on March 7<sup>th</sup> are available for \$14 now or \$16 at the door.

Jack Drago then discussed the trip to Roanoke to see the Transportation Musuem and Black Dog Salvage in June. The date has not been determined as of yet but could be one of the two Saturdays; 13<sup>th</sup>, or 27<sup>th</sup>. This depends on at least 25 persons going. The cost would be approximately \$50 to \$55 per person for the bus.

Carol Sarginger won the 50/50.

The meeting was adjourned,

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Gray, Sec.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

**Kenneth Coiner  
Greg Hammer  
Dolly Harner  
Carol Sarginger**



**From the Editor’s Desk**

Please submit any articles, pictures, or ideas for publication to me at the following:

**Stuart Allen**  
265 Stayman Lane  
Staunton, VA 24401  
540-290-0329 (Cell)  
email: stuscar@aol.com



## Calendar of AACA Events & Community Car Events

- MAR 7 Augusta County Fair Dinner and Auction—5:00 PM—Weyers Cave Community Center. Call Duane Perrin for advance tickets. \$14/person**
- 11 Wednesday, 7:00 PM Executive Board Meeting at Stu Allen’s 265 Stayman Ln. Staunton**
- 15 2:00 PM Monthly Meeting at New Ming Garden Buffet—316 Federal Street, Waynesboro.**
- 19-21 Special Nationals—Guaynabo Puerto Rico—Puerto Rico Region**
- 26-28 Winter Nationals—Cartersville Georgia—Lake Alatoona Region**

- APR 8 Wednesday, 7:00 PM Executive Board Meeting at Stu Allen’s 265 Stayman Ln. Staunton**
- 9-11 Southeastern Spring Nationals—Charlotte NC—Hornets Nest Region**
- 19 2:00 PM Monthly Meeting at Francesco’s—101 North Main St. Bridgewater**
- 23-25 Annual Grand Nationals/Western Spring Nats.—Las Vegas NV—Las Vegas Region**

- MAY 8 Wednesday, 7:00 PM Executive Board Meeting at Stu Allen’s 265 Stayman Ln. Staunton**
- 17 Sunday, 2:00 PM -Monthly Meeting & Picnic at Sunset Park, 300 N. Winchester Avenue in Waynesboro . Bring a dish to pass. Chicken, drinks, utensils and paper goods provided .**
- 28-30 Eastern Spring Nationals—Indiana PA— Shannock Valley Region**

**2026 Tentative Meeting Schedule**

June 14	Francesco’s
July 11 25	Baldwin Park Augusta County Fair
August 16	Grottoes-Picnic
September 20	Tinkling Spring - Auction
October 18	Panera Bread
November 15	Ming Garden
December 19	Christmas at Tinkling Spring

**Bus Tour to Roanoke**

**June 13**

*(subject to bus availability)*

**Tours:**



**Virginia Museum of Transportation**—Exhibits include diesel, electric and steam locomotives. The museum also houses model train exhibits and road vehicles. One vehicle featured is the Model T Ford owned and restored by W-S member Willis Clemmer.

**Black Dog Salvage**—Featured on “Salvage Dogs”- DIY Network

Travel via Quicks Bus

Cost approx. \$60 each *(depends on number of passengers we have)*  
*Club will cover Museum entry fee and driver tip.*

**We need to reserve the bus ASAP so if you can attend please contact:**

**Jack Drago-(540) 337-2120**



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350 cubic inch  
New seals in auto. Transmission  
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Good tires  
Good interior  
Needs paint  
\$8000 obo.  
540-487-4609



**For Sale**

**1991 Toyota Deluxe pick up** with 110 K original miles.  
Every thing works except tape deck as it needs 2 rubber band drive belts.  
Price is \$7400 Truck is auto with over drive and has AC and zero rust.  
It came from Danville Va. I bought it with 98,000 original miles.

Call Rick Downs 540-836-0507

**For Sale**

**1946 Chevy Pickup**  
**1979 Harley-Davidson Shovelhead**  
Happy to talk to someone about price.

**Walter Wilson**  
**703-273-1600**

**Tri-County Region Meetings**  
Check their website:  
<http://tri-county-aaca.org/>

**Piedmont Region Meetings**  
Meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at Timberwood Grill near airport road on Worth Ave.

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