

TIRE TRACKS

SEPTEMBER 2026

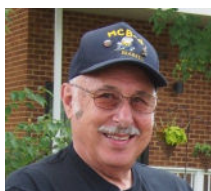
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The Official Publication of
the
**Waynesboro-
Staunton Region
Antique Automobile
Club of America**



RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Atheism is a non-profit
organization*

Just a synopsis on my trip to New York in July. Living in a Teepee for 8 days with a family of 9 was more than quite an experience. Being that I was housebroken as a toddler, finding a suitable edifice to use in the current situation was going back to cave man standards. Gads, what an experience. Having dead animal coverings at night was not exactly what I had expected. I should have packed my mother's quilt. Eating by a roaring campfire (inside the teepee) produced a rather smoky atmosphere, but what the heck, beats sitting in the rain. (and does it ever rain up there) Washing clothes (what, no Maytag?) meant going to the river and beating my designer clothes (designer in this case means 1959) with rocks to get the dirt out. I looked worse than a vagrant bag lady when I left.

The Syracuse Nationals was fabulous with over 5,000 cars and I never got to see well over half of them over two days, even using my battery buggy to lug me around. The "car corral" was much more scrap yard than vehicles. People actually try and sell this junk? The nice folks at the Chevy exhibit felt sorry for me and gave me a free "T" shirt in lieu of my rags.

Put the Norwich Car Museum on your bucket list of things to visit. Several buildings full of fabulous cars. The private house across the street from the museum has over 5,000 model cars on FREE display. It made my 413 model car museum in my basement seem puny. The AACOA Museum in Hershey? OUTSTANDING on 3 floors of exhibition. These folks absolutely do it right.

Mecum's Auction? Should you wish to empty your DEEP pockets of spare change, knock yourself out. The eye candy was beautiful to say the least. Highly entertaining if you've never been and Harrisburg is so close, you've got to attend before they plant grass over you. (note to self) Next year, bring a credit card that has a limit of 7 figures as gas is obscenely expensive in New York and Pennsylvania and don't drive a truck with a 36 gallon fuel tank that gets a paltry 20MPG.

REDNECK MEDICAL DICTIONARY:

MEDICAL STAFF:

A doctor's cane.

Jack Drago

Ken & Shirley Farley have moved to a retirement facility in Farmville VA. Their new address is:

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Farley
The Woodland
2005 Cobb St.
Farmville, VA 23901



Ken & Shirley Farley
received their 23rd
Repeat Senior Grand
National Award for
their 1963 Chevrolet
Impala Convertible.
June 2019

Ken was president of Waynesboro-Staunton Region in 2015 & 2016 and he and Shirley were very active in the Region until health issues affected Ken for the past two years.

Annual Meeting/Picnic with Tri-County Region at Grand Caverns in Grottoes

W-S & Tri-County Members and guests enjoyed a nice day at Grand Caverns on August 16. The weather cooperated with temps in the low 80s and plenty of shade in Shelter #1. There were 43 in attendance.



Grand Caverns is a great location for our picnic with large shelters and plenty of parking.



There is always plenty of delicious dishes and lots of time to catch up on the summer's events.



GM was well represented by this nice Firebird and the 1940 Buick.



Pictures courtesy of Josiah Gingerich and Robbie Kuykendall

"Someday" ...

By Fred Trusty
2026 VP Regions Development & Support - Central Division



Willie lived in southern California for about 30 years before moving back to Louisville to help with the care of his elderly mother. He knew that I liked unusual cars so in early 2018 he told me one of his friends in California had a 1955 Pontiac Chieftain two-door wagon that he was going to sell. Asking an antique car addict if he would like to buy another old car is like asking an alcoholic if he'd like another drink. I thought about all the shows I've attended over the years, and I can't remember ever seeing a Chieftain wagon so naturally I said yes, I'll have another drink. It was a southern California car that Richard had purchased about 30 years ago with the intention of restoring it, "Someday." Now, I'm sure none of you guys have ever purchased an old car with the intention of restoring it "Someday" only to find out that someday never arrives.

Richard emailed me lots of pictures, so I had a very clear understanding of the car's condition. The transmission and the 287 V8 engine block were there but everything else was missing. Other than the rusted floorboards it is a very solid body so we made a deal. Willie was planning a trip back to California to visit friends and pick up some items that he still had in storage, but that trip was over a year away. Richard agreed to store the car for me until then. Willie used his truck with my trailer and I paid for his fuel, so it was a good arrangement for both of us. Before tearing into another project, I decided to start collecting some of the harder to find parts first. Using the classifieds in the Pontiac club magazine *Smoke Signals*, AACA forums, Hemmings Motor News, and eBay enabled me to find a lot of parts. Front floorboard replacements and a NOS front grill trim filler were easy finds. Then I started looking for replacement taillights. One of mine was missing and the other was in very poor condition. I searched the internet for months and finally found a set on eBay that was solid but needed to be re-chromed. They were a "Buy it Now" price of \$1200 which I considered crazy money, so I kept looking. A few weeks later another set

popped up on eBay, but this time it was "Auction" style with a starting bid of \$150. I placed my \$150 bid and as the seconds ticked down to the end, I had my hand ready on the mouse like a gunfighter ready to draw his pistol in an old western movie. To my surprise, no one else bid on them. I sent them out to be re-chromed and they look great now.

The hardest part to find on these cars is what's called the paint divider strips. These are two "S" shaped chrome trim pieces about 1" wide and 12" long that attach to the body between the taillights and the bumper. They are made of pot metal and attach with small studs on the back. It's almost impossible to remove one without breaking the studs off. They are unique to the Chieftain wagon and almost impossible to find. I think I called every old car salvage yard in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. One yard told me I was looking for the rarest of the rare. I had one that was barely hanging on the car but in very poor condition. All but one of the studs were broken off and there was a big chunk out of it, but I thought I might be able to find a company that could copy it and make them using the 3-D printing process. If I was going to produce say, 100 of them, it would have brought the price down considerably but how many people own a 1955 Chieftain two-door wagon?

The next idea was to have them machined out of metal but again, it was cost prohibitive. I don't know why I didn't think of this to begin with, but I decided to place a "Parts Wanted" ad in *Smoke Signals*. A couple of months later a gentleman near Knoxville, TN called and said he had two of them in "fair" condition so I bought them sight unseen. While I was waiting for those trim pieces to arrive, an elderly man in Marietta, GA called and said he had one that he had pulled off a car in the 1960's just before it went to the crusher. He lived just a half mile off I-75 and it just so happened that we were going on an AACA tour in Florida in a few weeks, so on the way to Florida we stopped by his house, and he gave me the piece, for free. He was a very nice man in his mid-80's and had been a Pontiac fan most of his life. But you know what they say, "You get what you pay for." So now I had two sets, one in very rough condition and the other not much better. I was shocked when I got the invoice for the repair and chrome plating.

Next, I turned my attention to getting an engine. I bought an engine and Hydramatic transmission out of



"Someday," Con't...

a '55 parts' car. A short time later I saw an ad in Smoke Signals for a '56 engine and transmission so I made the trip to the little town of Prairie Du Rocher, Illinois, population 650, and met Dave, another lifelong Pontiac fan. I've never seen so many Pontiac parts in one place. He told me that "Someday" he was going to sell some of those parts." I bought his '56 engine and transmission.

Then about a year later, I saw an ad in Smoke Signals for a '55 NOS short block. Dennis bought the engine in the early '70's for a project that he would get to "Someday" and just like Richard, someday never came. As luck would have it, Dennis' friend that lives in Georgetown, KY was going to be visiting Dennis in Miami, so they put it in his truck, and he brought it back to Kentucky. It's now on an engine build stand in my shop. I took the heads off the first '55 engine that I bought and had them re-worked. I also used the oil pan and some other parts from the '55 engine. I still have the '56 engine and Hydramatic transmission that I plan on selling "Someday."

That brings us to the transmission. I looked for someone to rebuild the Hydramatic for over a year with no success. I finally found a man that said he could do it, so I dropped it off. Two years later it was still sitting in the same spot in his garage. He said he was going to get to it "Someday" but I could tell his "Someday" will never come so I brought it home. When we were moving the NOS block from Matt's truck to mine, he asked what I was going to do with the engine. I told him I was restoring a 1955 Chieftain wagon but still needed to find someone to rebuild the transmission. He told me about a shop that might be able to do it. I called and they didn't want the job but gave me the name of Ross Brothers Transmission shop in Jeffersonville, IN. I called them and when I told them what I had, they couldn't believe it. A customer had just dropped off two Hydramatic transmissions with the intention of building one good one. They hadn't seen one in many years and now they had three at the same time. I was very lucky because some of the unused parts were exactly what I needed for my transmission. What's the chance of that?

I haven't worked on the project for several years now but I plan on finishing it "Someday."

Here is some advice: "Someday" can be a very elusive animal. Let it get too far ahead of you and you'll lose it forever, much like Richard and Dennis. I'm confident that I will catch my "Someday" and when I do, I'll write a follow-up article about my just restored 1955 Pontiac Chieftain two-door wagon and all the fun I've had with the project.

The antique car hobby is much more than just cars; it's the people you meet along the way.



Maybe "Someday" Fred's '55 Pontiac will look like this one! *(file photo)*



Tire Tracks

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

2026 Executive Board

President: Jack Drago
412 University Farm Road
Stuarts Draft, VA 24477
(540) 337-2120
Magnumrt5@verizon.net

Vice President: Rick Downs
23 Willard Court
Stuarts Draft, VA 24477
540-836-0507
fsdowns@ntelos.net

Secretary: Robbie Gray
1430 Red Top Orchard Road
Waynesboro, VA 22980
(540)-943-3171
rwgray3@ntelos.net

Treasurer Todd Smith
1422 Bloomer Springs Road
McGaheysville, VA 22840
(540) 421-0397
tmjmsmith@gmail.com

Director/Corporate Agent: Stuart Allen
265 Stayman Ln.
Staunton, VA 24401
(540) 290-0329
stuscar@aol.com

Directors:
Josiah Gingerich (540)471-5890 Webmaster
Bob Kuykendall (540) 241-9952 Class of 2026
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Duane Perrin (703) 303-1234 Class of 2028
Alfred Meyer 860-670-6352 Past President
Nelson Driver 540-487-8120 ODMA Rep.

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

**August Meeting / Picnic at Grand Caverns**

The Waynesboro-Staunton Region of the AACA held its annual picnic with Tri-County Region at Grand Caverns Region Park on Sunday August 16th, 2026 at 1:30 pm. President Jack Drago opened the meeting by welcoming all present. He then asked Chester Bradfield to return the blessing. After the picnic meal, Jack Drago stated there were 29 members of Waynesboro-Staunton Region and 14 members of Tri-County present.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed and good fellowship was had by all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robbie Gray, Sec

Cedar Green Auto Show
116 Cedar Green Rd. Staunton, VA 24401
September 12th
Rain Date: September 19th
10:00a-2:00p
\$20 PER CAR ENTRY
spectators free
Benefiting Grace Christian School, Community Fellowship Church, and Trail Life
• Food Concessions by Trail Life • Music
• Trophy Presentation at 2:00p
• Classic Cars, Exotics, and Motorcycles.
116 Cedar Green Rd. Staunton, VA 24401
September 12th Rain Date: September 19th
Jim Rimel 540-290-2194 Jason Robson 434-906-0940

Jim Rimel reports:

We will be having several speakers at our show this year.

Shelby America representative Roger Christian and his son will give us the latest news and some history on Shelby. They will also display several new Shelby's.

Bill Krzastek, who appeared on Jay Leno Garage, will speak to us about his journey in the movie car business.

Winning cars will drive up and receive their awards on center stage.

Come out and support this spin off of The Barn Car Show and enjoy Grace Christian School's new complex.

Calendar of AACA Events & Community Car Events

- SEP 9** Wednesday, 7:00 PM Executive Board Meeting at Stu Allen's 265 Stayman Ln. Staunton
- 9-14** Founders Tour (1932-2001) Williamsburg VA—Historic Peninsula Region
- 12** Cedar Green Auto Show (formerly The Barn Show) See Page 5
- 20** Sunday, 2:00 PM – Monthly Meeting, Chicken Fry and Auction, Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church, 30 Tinkling Spring Drive, Fishersville. Bring a dish to pass. Chicken, drinks, utensils and paper goods provided. Don't forget your auction donations and your checkbook!
- 21-26** Revival AAA Glidden Tour (pre 1943—Dover Delaware—AACA Hosted)

- OCT 6-9** Eastern Fall Nationals @ Hershey—Hershey Region
- 14** Wednesday, 7:00 PM Executive Board Meeting at Stu Allen's 265 Stayman Ln. Staunton
- 18** Sunday, 2PM—Monthly Meeting—Panera Bread— 1101 Red Top Orchard Road—Waynesboro
- 23-24** ODMA Tour—Sponsored by Waynesboro-Staunton Region—**CANCELLED**
The Board reviewed the possibilities for hosting the tour and found it unfortunately necessary to cancel due to lack of suitable facilities and manpower to put on the tour. It also turns out that Duke plays UVA in Charlottesville that weekend which means motels will be sold out.

- NOV 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.

2026 Meeting Schedule

December 19 Christmas at Tinkling Spring

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Carol Ralston
Robert Ridle
Ann Ridle
Marilyn Rimel
Todd Smith

Piedmont Region Meetings

Meet the 4th Monday of the month at Timberwood Grill near airport road on Worth Ave.

Tri-County Region Meetings

Check their website:
<http://tri-county-aaca.org/>



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