

THE WESTERN ROUND-UP



July 2023

Promoting the Preservation & Enjoyment
of Antique Automobiles Since 1950.



Tour to Dell Cromie's Classic Car Collection



Story and more fun photos start on page 10



Directors

Debbie Sheetz, *President*
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Flo Myers, *Vice President*
724-331-7293

Mark Jackson, *Treasurer*
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Mark DeFloria, *Secretary*
412-558-0417

Bob Doppelheuer, *Publicity*
724-366-5930

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412-554-3321

For more information see the WPR roster available our website.

How to Become a Member

Do you like old cars? The Western PA Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) invites you join our region. Make new, like-minded friends. Enjoy our fun activities, events, and "know-how networking."

You don't have to own an antique vehicle to become a member, However, you must first join our national club, The Antique Automobile Club of America, before joining our Region. For national membership information and to join on line visit: www.aaca.org AACA is the largest and oldest antique automobile club in the world, and offers a wide variety of resources, and activities. All national members also receive the beautiful *Antique Automobile Magazine*.

Then visit our Western PA Region website for membership information, forms and examples of our activities <http://westernparegion.org>

Our new members are required to attend a Western PA Region monthly meeting to be introduced, officially voted in and welcomed. Our region's monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month except December and January. We are a Latrobe-based club.

Upon receipt of your membership application, our Membership Chairman will contact you to schedule a convenient monthly meeting for you to attend, which take place at several venues in the Latrobe and Greensburg areas.

Please feel free to contact any of the directors listed above with questions about memberships.

President's Message



Hello Everyone!

Welcome Summer, finally!

Dave and I have been very busy! We went on the AACA Eastern Divisional Tour in Denver, PA. We had a wonderful time touring and meeting new friends along the way.

It was with great sadness that we had to cancel the Christmas in July car cruise in Latrobe. However, the skies opened up for the 4th of July parade and 10 of our club members cars participated in the parade. The Twin Lakes Arts and Heritage Festival was a success with members showing their cars and manning the clubs booth thru sun, clouds, wind and torrential down pours. All ended well with the awarding of the peddle car to very excited couple.

We are looking forward to the next two weekends with the first being the Progressive Dinner Tour. The next weekend will see our members gather for an always fun picnic at the Cooperstown Club park. So lets all shine up those car and trucks and have some great food!

Just a reminder that the July meeting is at Hoss's Steak and Seafood House in Greensburg.

-- Debbie

2023 Calendar

Check our calendar each month for event and meeting updates.

WESTERN PA REGION MEETINGS

Tuesday, July 18 - Monthly Meeting at Hoss's Steak & Seahouse Restaurant

1261 South Main St, Greensburg, PA 15601

6:00 p.m. Dinner - on your own

Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

The August Monthly Meeting location and date will be announced.

WESTERN PA REGION EVENTS

NOTE: If you are interested in hosting a tour or have an idea for a tour please contact our Tour Chairman Carl Erb.

Saturday, July 22 - Progressive Dinner Tour

Sunday, July 30 Annual Picnic

Cooperstown Club, Latrobe Starting at 1:00 p.m. Registration flyers were emailed. Printed flyers are included in the printed July Western Round-Ups.

Sunday, September 3, The Paul P. Bell Memorial Antique Auto, Custom and Street Rod Show

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 at Legion Keener Park, Latrobe, PA

AACA NATIONAL EVENTS

July 26-29 -AACA Special Eastern Spring Nationals

Norwich, New York, AACA Rolling Antiques Old Car Club, Norwich

August 16-19 - AACA Grand Nationals

Bettendorf, Iowa, AACA Mississippi Valley Region

LOCAL EVENTS

Saturday, August 5 - The 5th Annual Cruise for

Conservation to benefit the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association, Donohoe Center, Donohoe Road, Greensburg (by the Westmoreland Conservation District barn) 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Club Considerations

By Flo Myers

Sunshine Committee

As a reminder, when someone is not well, having had an injury, death in family or you think they might just need a note of support, please let me of anyone on the committee know. Sheila, Kurtz, Molly Detwiler, Becky Blank or myself. Our current phone numbers and emails are on the membership list that Mark DeFloria recently sent to all. We are a compassionate and caring group.

Recycle.....

I'm almost positive we all received the monthly magazine from National. Why do we not try to use these for promotionals at events such as Twin Lakes and our Car Show in September (even at the car cruise we were to have on July 2nd.) People would stop at the booth and while engaging in conversation we offered a copy of the newsletter and the National magazine. If you had the chance to speak with them, most were interested in taking the material. My thought is, you never know when or where they may be reading it and decide they too can be a part of something exciting and fun. Please hold on to them and turn them into me at the monthly meetings. I'll just pack them into a box in our garage. (Hope it's okay John?)



Calling All Veterans!

The Western PA Region AACA car club would like to recognize ALL of our active members who have served the United States of America at our monthly meeting in October.

In order to make sure we have complete list, and building on my list from 2022, ANYONE who has joined since July of 2022, please get in touch with me either my phone: 724-331-7293 or email: flojo15601@gmail.com by September 30th, 2023.

ALSO - I need to find out from each of the Veterans, what was the first car/vehicle you purchased when you exited the military. I will also be asking each of you to give 2 or 3 interesting details or specs about that car. Soooo be prepared.



Minutes of the June 20, 2023 Monthly Meeting

A meeting of the Western PA Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America was held on June 20, 2023 at the American Legion Post 982, Latrobe, PA (Pipetown). President Debbie Sheetz called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. There were thirty-seven (37) members in attendance. There were three (3) guests at tonight's meeting. Guests included Cindy Ruffo, Beverly and John Rusnock.

Minutes of the May 16, 2023 Monthly Meeting

The May 16, 2023 monthly meeting that was held at the Specialty Cars Ltd. showroom in Latrobe. President Debbie Sheetz asked if there were any corrections or revisions to the May 16, 2023 minutes as printed in the June 2023 issue of the *Western Round-Up*. President Sheetz asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve was made by Becky Blank, seconded by Cindy Harvey and unanimously approved.

Treasurers Report – Mark Jackson

Treasurer Mark Jackson read the Treasurer's Report for May 2023. President Debbie Sheetz asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. A motion for approval was made by Charlie Schifano, seconded by Pete Highlands and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership – Howard Finney

Howard reported that there was one new membership application to read. Howard read the application for Beverly and John Rusnock. Beverly and John have a 1949 Willys Overland Jeepster and a 1998 Ford Mustang. Beverly and John were recommended for membership by Charlie Schifano and Denny Blank. President Debbie Sheetz asked for a motion to accept Beverly and John into the Region. A motion to accept Beverly and John into the Region was made by Becky Blank, seconded by Charlie Schifano and unanimously approved. Welcome into the Western PA Region, AACA Beverly and John.

July Monthly Meeting – Tuesday, July 18, 2023

The July 18, 2023 monthly meeting will be at Hoss's Steak & Seahouse Restaurant, 1261 South Main St, Greensburg, PA 15601. 6:00 p.m. Dinner that is on your own, with the meeting starting at 7:00 p.m

NEW BUSINESS

Tours – Carl Erb

Carl Erb reported that the Saturday, June 17th tour to Dell's Car Collection near Tarentum, PA. Dell's collection featured about 50 concours quality cars was amazing. On the day of the tour the cars were pulled outside for tour attendees to view. Dell spoke of each car that was on display. The cars presented included Chevrolets, Fords, Pontiacs, Packards, Buicks and Hudsons. Dinner at JG's Tarentum Station Grill followed.

Carl would appreciate more club member participation on the Region's tours as the tours take our members to places and collections that may not be available for viewing at a later time.

Carl reported that he was looking into possibly having a tour on Saturday, July 29th. Carl will provide more details later.

Progressive Dinner Tour – Debbie Sheetz

Debbie reported that a Progressive Dinner Tour is scheduled for Saturday, July 22, 2023. The tour will include three stops. Brunch is hosted by Debbie and Dave Sheetz, Lunch is hosted by Craig and Casper DeFloria, and Dessert is hosted by John and Vickie Kuhns. More details and a tour registration form will be emailed and posted at a later date.

Latrobe 2nd of July Christmas in July Car Cruise

– Debbie Sheetz & Flo Myers

The Latrobe Car Cruise, sponsored by the Western PA Region, AACA is scheduled for Sunday, July 2, 2023. Debbie Sheetz reminded members present that lottery tickets for our lottery frame raffle are still needed. Debbie asked that cookies (maybe with a Christmas theme) be individually bagged or wrapped for our bake sale at the cruise. All help with the cruise will be appreciated. Debbie asked that members be at the Latrobe stadium for around 7:30 – 8:00 am for setup as we will not be able to setup the day before.

Latrobe 4th of July Parade – Flo Myers

Flo Myers reported that ten (10) member vehicles have signed up for the Latrobe 4th of July Parade. Flo reminded members participating of the road closures that occur prior to the parade and they should plan to be at the parade start location between 8:00-8:30 a.m.

Westmoreland Arts & Heritage Festival Promotional

Booth and Antique Car Display – *Mark Jackson*

Mark Jackson reported that the festival will take place Thursday June 29, Friday 30, Saturday July 1 & Sunday July 2. All members are welcome to display their antique cars and trucks on the Twin Lakes Park lower lake dam breast during the festival as part of our display from 10:30 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. (Sunday until 6:00 p.m.). Mark reminded the members present that this is the some of the best parking to enjoy the festival, and it's free to our members with their antique vehicles, as available space permits. Mark stated that we also need members to help host our promotional booth. The Region will once again have an antique pedal car to give away. Mark passed around a sign-up sheet for the promotional booth time slots. Sunday, July 2 does overlap with the Christmas in July Car Cruise, but Mark thinks we should be able to manage.

Western PA Region Annual Picnic – *John Ross Kuhns*

John Kuhns reported that the Annual Picnic will be held at the Cooperstown Club Pavilion, 2541 Thomas Street, Latrobe on Sunday, July 30, 2023. Dinner starts at 1:00 p.m. Post Avenue Catering will be providing Carved Pig Roast with Sauces, Roast Turkey, Rigatoni, Corn on the Cob, Parsley Potatoes, Dinner Rolls and Butter. Beverages will also be provided. Members with the last names starting with an A-K are asked to bring a dessert of your choice to share. Members last names starting with an L-Z are asked to bring a side dish of your choice to share. There will also be games and door prizes. Please register as soon as possible if you plan on attending.

Sunshine Committee – *Flo Myers*

Flo Myers reported that the WPR Sunshine Committee consisting of Flo Myers, Sheila Kurtz, Molly Detwiler and Becky Blank has mailed three cards on behalf of our Region to members this past month (2-sympathy and 1 get-well). Please let a member of the committee know when you become aware of a member that can use some sunshine. Secretary's note: On behalf of the members of the Western PA Region, AACA – prayers and condolences are extended to Flo Myers and her family on the passing of her father Lloyd Richter on June 11, 2023.

From the Floor:

John Kuhns reported that a number of our members did very well at the AACA Eastern Spring Nationals Meet in Gettysburg that was held May 18th through May 20th. First Juniors were awarded to Tony and Norma Mascia for their 1981 Fiat X19, John Kuhns for his 964 Chevrolet Corvette, and John Ross Kuhns for his 1946 Dodge WC Pick Up. A Senior Award was awarded to John Kuhns for his 1968 Chevrolet Camaro SS. Original HPOF Award was awarded to Cindy and John Harvey for their 1989 Buick Park Avenue.

Other Car Shows and Cruises

Sunday, July 16th - Cruise at the Lincoln Highway Experience from 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

<https://lhhc.org/news-events/2023carshow.html>

Saturday, August 5, 2023 - Westmoreland Conservation District (The Barn), Greensburg, PA. 5th Annual Cruise for Conservation, 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Music by DJ Pete Highlands and food prepared by the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association Board. Dash plaques for the first 75 vehicles. As always, door prizes, raffle baskets, and 50/50 chances.

Meeting Snacks – *Toni Beatty*

Many thanks to Toni Beatty for bringing snacks for tonight's meeting.

Adjournment

President Debbie Sheetz asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:55 p.m. Howard Finney made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Becky Blank and unanimously approved.

-- Respectfully submitted by Mark DeFloria, Secretary



Vice President Flo Myers presents the Good Timing Award to Becky Blank for driving an antique 1990 Cadillac Eldorado to the Western PA Region June Monthly Meeting at American Legion Post 982, Latrobe (Pipetown).

This is a rotating award (pun intended). Each member who drives an antique or classic car to a Western PA Region meeting or event is given a special ticket. The winner is drawn towards the end of the event. That winner then gets to "keep the award" until the next event, when it will be passed on to another winner.

Drive your antique and classic cars to WPR events. Who knows? You may be the next winner.

Sentimental Journey

By Benjamin P. Davis

a Rabbit is a hare-raising experience

Find out for yourself. Hop on a Rabbit. You'll be convinced — here is fun at its finest. Safe fun, too. Rabbit has a lower center of gravity, a more protective leg shield, more complete electrical equipment. A Rabbit purrs with quality. And no wonder. Rabbit is designed and manufactured by internationally famed Fuji Heavy Industries, Ltd., a world leader in the production of roaring jet aircraft, automobiles, trucks and trains.

Rabbit represents the most sweeping change ever seen in two-wheel transportation. Rabbit is the modern way to go . . . for the fun way . . . for the Gentleman, his Lady Friend and the Young at Heart. No wonder the Rabbit is multiplying at such a rapid rate.

perflow — the most luxurious motor scooter in all the world . . . Up to 18 horsepower, automatic fluid transmission, electric starter, air spring ride, puncture-resistant tubeless tires. Economical to operate. Beautiful to look at. The best two-wheel value ever offered. What more could a Gentleman (or his Lady Friend) ask for?

Picture is the Rabbit S-601 Superflow.

Write for free brochure and the name of your nearest Rabbit dealer. Dealerships are available. American Rabbit Corp., a division of Fuji Heavy Industries, Ltd., exclusive U.S. distributor, 6802-6810 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, Calif.

Rabbit

APRIL 1965

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My Grandfather, Robert Davis, purchased this original condition 1965 Rabbit Scooter Superflow in the early 1980s.

Japan's Nakajima Aircraft Company was a major supplier of military airplanes during WW II. Following the war, the company was dismantled then reborn as Fuji Heavy Industries (now known as the Subaru Corporation). Between 1946 through 1968, Fuji Heavy Industries produced the Rabbit motor scooter, the first motor scooter manufactured in Japan. Over time, the Rabbit evolved into one of the most sophisticated, well-built, and technologically advanced scooters of any era. The pinnacle of the Rabbit scooter series was the Superflow model. It boasted a 199cc single cylinder two-stroke engine with fan-forced cooling, a hydraulic torque converter automatic transmission, electric start, air suspension, front and rear turn signals, fully instrumented dashboard, and high and low beam headlight. The original cost of the Rabbit Superflow model was about \$575.00.

In the early 1980s, my Grandfather Robert Davis, who was a long-time member of our Western Pennsylvania Region, purchased a 1965 Rabbit Scooter Superflow from an acquaintance of his. The scooter's last registration date was 1969 and the odometer showed only 1,386 total miles. The Rabbit was in totally original condition including lights, filters, and tires. Unfortunately, from sitting for such a long period of time, the gas/oil fuel mixture formed sludge in the gas tank, fuel line and carburetor. A number of other issues also needed to be addressed before the Rabbit could once again hop along down the road. Delving into the project, I began by disassembling the entire dashboard and frontend (including the fork and

It's smart to take a Rabbit to school

Rabbit represents the most sweeping change ever seen in two-wheel transportation. Only Rabbit and you'll be convinced — here is fun at its finest. Safe fun, too. Rabbit purrs with quality. And no wonder. Rabbit is designed and manufactured by internationally famed Fuji Heavy Industries, Ltd., a world leader in producing roaring jet aircraft, automobiles, trucks and trains. Picture is the Rabbit S-601 Superflow, the Cadillac of two-wheel transportation.

Rabbit

OCTOBER 1965

Write for free brochure and the name of your nearest Rabbit dealer. Dealerships are available. American Rabbit Corp., a division of Fuji Heavy Industries, Ltd., exclusive U.S. distributor, 6802-6810 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, Calif.

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tire), a necessity in order to remove the gas tank. I used multiple thinners and rust dissolvers to remove all of the rust and sludge from inside the tank and then proceeded to coat the inside with a fuel resistant rust preventer.

With the gas tank out, I removed the shut off valve, fuel line and carburetor. The shut off valve was stuck in the closed position and it wasn't going to turn. I had thought that this would be a simple item to replace. However, the tank had a converter nut on it that took the tank (which is metric left handed thread to metric right handed thread) to the shut off valve. There is no shut off valve that exists that is left handed thread. So I looked all over for a shut off valve that would fit into the right handed converter nut which was 12 millimeters. Needless to say the largest I could find was 10 millimeters, so I had to look for a converter nut to get me from 12 to 10 millimeters. No auto store or hydraulic shop around had any such converter. I went online and found a 12 to 10 millimeter converter nut and was finally able to attach the shut off valve. From the tank it goes into a left to right handed thread converter, then into a 12 to 10 millimeter converter, then into the fuel shut off valve. It may look a little peculiar but it works!

I then replaced the fuel line and started to look at the carburetor. I joined several Facebook Fuji Rabbit scooter clubs and vintage scooter clubs to hopefully aid in my search for carburetor parts. I was able to locate a company that sold rebuilding kits for Mikuni carburetors, which is a Japanese company that makes carburetors. Unfortunately, they no longer produce the Rabbit carburetor or parts for it. However I did find a rebuild kit on Ebay. With the help of my Uncle Dave we were able to rebuild the carburetor. We replaced all of the important parts except for the idle jet which was stuck in the carburetor. I put the



Taking my fiance Teresa Parrish for a spin on the Rabbit.

carburetor on and we poured the correct fuel mixture of 25:1 gas/oil into the tank. With a few sprays of gas down the carburetor the little engine which hadn't run in more than 50 years sputtered to life for a few seconds. Unfortunately, the scooter would not idle properly. We came to the conclusion that the idle jet in the carburetor had to come out. We were unable to get it out with a screwdriver so I bought an easy out tool, which unfortunately broke off inside the cylinder that held the jet. Losing hope in the carburetor, I began a long search for a new carburetor. I searched all through my scooter groups and on-line and eventually a man from Australia contacted me. The man was nice but hard to communicate and negotiate with. At first he wanted me to buy the carburetor and an air cleaner basket he had for an unreasonable price, then he changed his story saying that he would sell me the carburetor if I bought an entire scooter from him which was in parts and didn't work. Well I wasn't buying an entire scooter, so after a few months went by, I again contacted him and asked if he still had the carburetor to which he said yes. This time I was able to negotiate a price for only the carburetor. I forwarded him the money and after two months of waiting for the carburetor to arrive, I began to think I had been taken. He finally sent it after getting a good international shipping price. I partially rebuilt that carburetor and put it on the scooter. The scooter fired right up without any adjustments and began idling as it should.

Another hurdle to overcome was finding a proper battery (batteries) for the Rabbit. It has a 12 volt system which runs off of two 6 volt batteries. So I set out to find either two small 6 volt batteries or a tiny 12 volt battery which would fit into the battery holder. I finally found what I think is the smallest 12 volt battery in the world and placed it into the slim battery compartment. Once this was completed I was able to check



The Rabbit Scooter's last registration date was 1969 and the odometer showed only 1,386 miles

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FREEDOM ROAD RALLY - OHIO

By Cris and Molly Detwiler



Our 1948 Nash by the large open Geodesic dome at the ASM (American Society of Metals) near Warren, Ohio.

In the spring, we were mailed a reminder that this year's Freedom Road Rally will be in Ohio. This event will be their twentieth anniversary driving classic cars for a week long progressive journey. Everyday on this progressive tour, the driver and his navigator travel (on average) about 120 miles a day and visit the local sites.

This year's rally started in Columbus, Ohio on June 18th. The day before, our vehicle and other cars of the road

rally received their vinyl signage to promote the rally during the journey. We left the host hotel in the morning and our first stop was the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame (Pickerington). Next we visited a private car collection. The third stop was the Zane Grey and the National Road (Route 40) Museum (Norwich), and the last stop was the National Museum of Cambridge Glass (Cambridge). The Cambridge glass museum had a large display of colorful, decorative glass that was started in the 1920s.

On Day 2, our first stop was the Age of Steam Roundhouse (Sugar creek). The roundhouse was built in 2009, and it is considered the first full-sized, working roundhouse built in the U. S. since 1951. The building has 18 stalls and a 115 foot turntable. There were several steam engines in the process of restoration and a lot of diesel engines close by. We continued on the drive to see scrimshaw carvings of David Warther (Sugar creek). Mr. Warther talked about the history of ancient Egyptian, Viking, Spanish and other European boats and ships. The details of these ivory examples were amazing. We continued the drive to the Behalt Amish Mennonite Heritage Center (Berlin), and we had an Amish Mennonite lady gives us a talk about their history from Germany to America.

On Day 3, we visited the MAPS (Military Aviation Preservation Society) in North Canton and looked at the displays of local Ohio heroes who were involved in military conflicts overseas. There was a display of fifty examples of aircraft. After lunch, we drove to the Packard Museum (Warren) to look at the history of the Packard family and their legacy in the automobile era. Did you know that the Packard brothers started the family business in the electric company that produced incandescent bulbs?



Visiting The Age of Steam Roundhouse, Sugar creek, Ohio. This full-size, working roundhouse was built in 2009. It is considered to be the first full-size, working roundhouse built in the U.S. since 1951

On a side trip from Warren, we stopped and walked underneath a large Geodesic dome (American Society of Metals or ASM) that including a mineral garden and a water feature to walk around.

On Day 4, we headed North to Cleveland and walked through the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. There were many artists represented in the Hall. It was interesting seeing the costumes, sheet music and instruments that were used by these performers. The next stop was the Merry-go-round museum (Sandusky). We were told the original building was the town's post office built with a large rotunda and now houses a full-sized scale



A highly-detailed, scrimshaw model boat



Perfume bottles at the Cambridge Glass Museum

merry-go-round that patrons can ride on. There were several displays of horses, deer and other animals used for carousels and merry-go-rounds throughout the world.

On Day 5, we visited the Bicycle Museum of America (New Bremen), which had 150 bicycles on display dating back to 1815, with an 1816 Draisine from Germany. There were a couple of Rambler bicycles (before the Nash automobile), a few of the high-wheeler, the Ford quadricycle and the Bowden 'Spacelander' bicycle. The next stop was the Airstream Heritage Center (Jackson Center), and we took a tour of the assembly line. At this site, Airstream trailers are built from 16 feet up

to 33 feet long. The first Airstream known as the 'Clipper' was built in 1936 by Wally Byam.

On Day 6 (the last day), we traveled to Sidney and we visited the Shelby County Historical Society. We had a guide tell us the history of one of the oldest buildings, the Haslup residence. Also, we walked through the Wallace Family Learning & Innovation Center that had video screens of actors portraying early settlers and immigrants of the Sidney area. At the next stop, we visited the private collection located behind Gaslight Auto Parts, who sells parts for the Ford Model A, Model T and Ford V8s. Our last stop of the rally was the Champaign Aviation Museum (Urbana) that is know primarily for its ongoing restoration of a B-17 Flying Fortress to flying condition.

On this year's road rally, fellow WPR members, Bill and C J Maurer drove their 1965 Plymouth Fury III along with family members, Craig and Gloria McKenzie, who drove the 1965 Plymouth Sport Fury III.

The total mileage for this trip in the '48 Nash was 750 miles. The car did well despite having a water pump issue. So water was added at every stop. We had good weather and the country roads were good for the old car. We had a Victory Dinner on Thursday evening at the hotel on day 5, and we were told that next year's rally will be in Louisiana.



At the Airstream Heritage Center in Jackson Center, Ohio, we took a tour of the Airstream trailer assembly line.

Dell Cromie's Classic Car Collection Tour

By Carl Erb



Dell's car and truck collection is out and ready to greet us

**I would like to make note that this tour would not have been possible without our WPR member Al Terek's personal and business relationship with Del Cromie and his knowledge of Dells car collection.*

We could not have had a more beautiful day for our driving tour to Dell's Car Collection in Western PA. Everyone who signed up for the tour showed up on time and the few members who met us at the designated Sheetz parking lot near Dell's property were also on time. (Al Terek and his wife Irene were already at Dell's waiting for us to arrive). I had hoped that our drive to Dell's showrooms would be through a more country like setting, but there was so much construction on PA 356 that I was concerned that some of our tour members might get lost because of all the confusing signs and turns, so we took a more direct route.

During our stop at the Sheetz, one of our new members, Kirk Fellabom, opened the hood of his 1971 Chevy Monte Carlo and with Tony Mascia's help he discovered that the noise his car was making every time he applied the brakes was due to a missing bolt that had worked its way out of the suspension system. With Tony's knowledge of cars and his expert advice on how simple it would be to correct this dangerous situation, Kirk went to an Advanced Auto Parts and a True Value Hardware store just a few hundred yards from the Sheetz. Between those two businesses he was able to get a new bolt and washers that fit. With his newly purchased wrench to do the job, Kirk got it repaired very quickly and only missed a small part of Dell's tour.

I scouted out the route for the tour we would be taking a few weeks ahead of time and did a quick visit to Dell's cars to take a few photos. Dell has a total of 54 antique and classic cars

and pickup trucks, some in a 6-car and a 4-car garage, which are a pretty good uphill walk in different directions from his two very large showrooms. Not only was I concerned about that trek for our elderly members, but there are also cars & trucks double-stacked on 20 electrically operated car lifts with wires running everywhere to trickle chargers on each vehicle. Dell assured me that this would not be a problem on the day of our tour. As we approached his property, it quickly became apparent that my concern about these two issues had been eliminated as we could see that all the cars had been driven out of all the buildings and lined up around the outside of the two large showrooms. Dell had his full-time mechanic, Matt Luchkiw, and friends Bob Stoneburner, Scott Santarlaschi and his son Justin there to help him with that task. We were so fortunate to have a perfect weather day because to get all the cars down off the lifts and lined up for us look over carefully, Dell and his helpers spent about 1 ½ hours and another 1 ½ hours to return them to their spots inside.

As we gathered to meet Dell and his helpers at the opening of his main showroom, we were offered all types of beverages from the cozy snack bar, complete with a popcorn machine and a pinball machine, tucked away in the corner of that building. Although Dell is a Western PA native and a big Steeler football fan, he is also a big fan of the Cleveland Indians. On the floor of this showroom is a huge painting of their team mascot, Chief Wahoo. This accurate painting was done with well over 30 gallons of a special epoxy paint. There are also Cleveland Indians custom photo murals on one of the walls on the side of this showroom and on the back wall are photo murals of Dell's

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Complete with popcorn and pinball machines, this cozy snack bar is tucked away in a corner of Dell's main showroom.



A valuable, award winning 1956 DeSoto Fireflite Convertible in the main showroom surrounded by colorful baseball and basset hound wall murals.



This simply elegant 1953 Lincoln Convertible dashboard would help make driving a true pleasure.



A two door 1955 Pontiac Safari Wagon stands at attention beside a 1956 Chevy Nomad Wagon in a line of beautiful cars facing Dell's buildings.



This highly-optioned 1959 GMC Suburban Carrier was a combination of style and utility.



Dell shares the details about this 1970 Chevelle SS with his Western PA Region guests.



[Enjoying a 1954 Dodge Royal Indy Pace Car version in Pittsburgh Steeler colors](#)



[A stunning 1941 Buick Special Straight Eight Convertible](#)



[This Cleveland Indians mascot floor mural took about 30 gallons of special epoxy paint](#)



[An amazing 1953 Packard Convertible](#)



[A 1957 Dodge Sweptside pickup with car-style taillights](#)



[Dell had his collection unstacked just for us!](#)

many generations of Basset Hounds. Dell has raised 9 Basset Hounds in total, with 6 being the most owned at one time. He currently has 3 of them and his constant Basset companion, Ralph, followed him around during the tour. Every time Dell opened the door of a car or truck, Ralph was right there ready to jump inside to go for a ride. Click on this link to see Ralph on the cover of our June 2023 issue of [The Western Round-Up](#).

Dell says that he has always been a “gear head” starting with his first car, a 1956 Ford Town Sedan, but he did not start collecting cars until 1993 with his first collectible car, a 1956 Ford Sunliner. He says this is probably his favorite because it was his first collectible. When I asked why his collection today consists of 65% being convertibles he said, “I just like to drive a convertible on a beautiful day with the top down to feel the freedom and the wind”.

To attempt to describe all the cars and trucks in Dell’s Collection would be impossible to do within this article, so we will just talk about a few and hopefully the accompanying photos will give you a better idea of the complete collection. Dell took us on a tour, first through the main showroom then outside around all the buildings, talking about each and every one of his Concours quality vehicles, which all have current registration and are driven regularly. When asked about the engines in any particular vehicle he would immediately open the hood and talk about it. One of our tour members made the comment about how impressed he was with Dell’s knowledge of his cars because he knew exactly how to open the hood of every vehicle, when many of us can’t even remember how to open the hood

of our daily drivers.

In the showroom were Dell’s two immaculate “Woodies”, a 1941 Packard Model 120 station wagon and a 1947 Chrysler Town & Country 4 door sedan. Some other impressive cars in this building were the 1956 DeSoto Fireflite Convertible which Dell considers to be his most valuable car, a turquoise and Navy 1956 Dodge and a beautiful special navy colored 1953 Lincoln. Immediately outside that showroom, cars that caught my eye were a turquoise 1953 Packard and a green 1954 Mercury. As we rounded the building, we discovered the line of most of Dell’s 18 pickup trucks. Among them were 1950’s and 60’s Chevy, Ford and GMC’s, but the ones that stood out most to me were the Chevy Cameos and GMC Suburban Carriers with pickup beds that on the outside look more like a car than a pickup. Both the Chevys and GMC’s, look pretty much the same, but to our surprise we learned that the GMC’s had



[Ready for dinner at JG’s Tarentum Station Grille in the old Tarentum Train Station](#)

different and larger Pontiac engines instead of Chevy engines.

As we rounded the other end of that building and around the next one, there were 32 more cars from the 1940's to 1970's, almost all convertibles including Chevys, Fords, Pontiacs, Oldsmobiles, Buicks, a Hudson and more. The ones that stood out most to me were the distinctive 1950's Chevrolet Nomad and Pontiac Safari station wagons with their uniquely designed tailgates. There were also 1958 and 1959 Ford Fairlane 500 Skyliners with retractable hardtops and many other Concours Quality cars too numerous to mention. We must not forget, I mentioned that Dell is also a big Steeler's Football Fan who attends the games regularly in one of his 3 Steeler colored vehicles, a 1957 and a 1954 Dodge Royal convertible or his 1968 Chevrolet Cameo pickup truck. When I asked Dell if there was any car he does not own that he would like to acquire he said, "Find me a 1961 or 1963 Chevy Impala Convertible with a 409 cubic inch engine and 4 speed transmission".

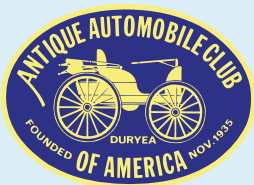
After about 2 hours learning about Dell's unmatched car and truck collection, 15 members of our tour of 23 people headed out to JG's Tarentum Station Grille in the old Tarentum Train Station for a great pre-arranged buffet. After the meal everyone took their own route back to their homes. IT WAS A GREAT DAY!

Sentimental Journey continued from page 7

all the lights to make sure they worked. Surprisingly, all the original light bulbs functioned! Adjusting the air suspension system, locating the correct fluid for the torque converter, and repairing the plastic bottle which holds the fluid were other tasks which I needed to complete. With the Rabbit scooter apart, I also took the time to degrease, clean, and polish the metal, plastic, and rubber parts. Finally reassembled, I poured the proper gas/oil mixture into the tank, pressed the starter button, and listened to the Rabbit come to life. A few spins around the block brought a smile to my face and inquisitive glances from curious onlookers. Once I get a license plate for the Rabbit and obtain a motorcycle license for myself, I hope to ride the scooter to club events for all to see and study this marvelous, innovative mode of transportation. I know that my Grandfather is happy to know that his Rabbit scooter is finally operative and back on the road. ■

Rabbit
APRIL 1965

A True Garage Find - Part I



By Fred Trusty
2023 AACA President

About four years ago I heard about a 1962 Oldsmobile Super 88 from a man that I had met at a local cruise in. The next day I called and talked with the grandson of the original owner. His grandfather purchased the car new but passed away in 1966 so his grandmother inherited the car. She didn't drive so it just sat in the garage. The grand kids would get the car out every now and then to take her for a ride but very few miles were logged between 1966 and 1988. She passed away in 1988 and her son inherited the house. He had no interest in the car, so it just sat there until he passed away in 2018. I met the grandson at the house and sure enough, it was an all original 1962 Oldsmobile Super 88 with 57,000 miles. It was covered in dust and all four tires were flat and dry rotted.

I was able to turn the engine over with a long breaker bar on the crankshaft nut so that was a good sign. The best part was that it had clear plastic seat covers so the seats were like brand new. A deal was made to purchase the car. I loaded it onto my trailer and brought it home to my shop. I knew I would have to go through all systems to make it roadworthy. I figured I'd have the car running and in good shape in a few months.

As usual, life got in the way so here it is four years later, and it's still not finished. That's why this article is titled Part I. Part II will be when I finally finish it.



-- The Rummage Box



It's almost 4th of July Parade time in Latrobe.
l-r: Jaime Cintron, Tom and Dodie Ulishney are ready to roll.

Our Western PA Region AACA Shines at the Latrobe 4th of July Parade

By Flo Myers

It was a beautiful blue sky, gentle breeze and a gorgeous sun as we joined up at 8:30 in the morning at the Martin Complex in Latrobe. Hurry up and wait has become the norm when you participate in a parade. We mingled around each other's car talking about whatever, engaged with a few other drivers and riders from other organizations making the best of our time.

It was nice to see a familiar face directing/organizing our entrance location as we asked to stay together as a club, since we entered as a club. The parade committee had been trying to keep the flow of the parade interesting by interjecting cars/fire trucks/machinery by groups of 5 vehicles. Seeing the smiling

and familiar face, not to mention her upbeat personality, I inquired (lol) and whoola we were told we could enter as a whole. Thank you Johnna.

We eventually pulled into the line-up and perused through the streets of downtown Latrobe, waving and tooting horns at the spectators, listening to kids ask what kind of car was that and hearing friends and neighbors call out your name.

Thank you to: Dave and Debbie Sheetz, Tom and Dodie Ulishney, Tom and Doreen King, Howard and Bettyann Finney, Kirk Fellabom and Linda Tierney, Phil and Toni Beattie, Chris and Molly Detwiler, Jaime Cintron and of course my husband .. John. *You all made it fun.*



Toni Beattie and WPR President Debbie Sheetz



Kirk Fellabom's 1991 Corvette in parade position



Following Debbie and Dave Sheetz in their 1930 Plymouth looks like a scene from an old movie. The fans along the sidewalks love it.

Name That Car

by Mark Jackson

June's Car



Tony Mascia was the first to correctly identify June's Car as a 1954 Mercury Convertible. We also heard from Gary Wiegand. Tony and Norma Mascia were part of the Western PA Region AACA tour group who visited Dell Cromie's Classic Car Collection on June 17. Every vehicle we saw on this tour was unique and outstanding. See Carl Erb's article in this issue of the *Western Round-Up* on pages 10-13. This Mercury was sitting beside a 1953 Packard Convertible, which was nearly the same color (page 12). They made a beautiful pair.

July's Car



Here's one more beauty from Dell's Collection. The two tone color combo is striking, along with a visual symphony in chrome! Be the first to correctly identify the make and year of this car and win a \$20 Sheetz gift card. We'll throw in an extra five bucks if you can also name the model. Call 724-832-9074 and leave a message. Email me at jacksonmark469@gmail.com or catch me in person at a WPR meeting or event. One last question (just for fun) - what stylish feature helped identify this particular make for many years?

Member News



Welcome new Western PA Region AACA members John and Beverly Rusnock from Derry.

Our deepest sympathy to Flo and John Myers and family on the passing of Flo's father Lloyd Richter on June 11, 2023. May warm memories comfort you always.



HERSHEY Spaces Available!

I have two spaces for the Hershey Flea Market the first weekend of this October, that I will not be able to use this year. If any member of the club would like to use them to sell their extra or excess parts please contact me at 724-771-4183, Bill Holtzer.

THE WESTERN ROUND-UP

The Western Round-Up is the official publication of the Western Pennsylvania Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America. It is published on a monthly basis with January/February being a combined issue.

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Western Pennsylvania Region
 Antique Automobile Club of America
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I-r: Pete Highlands, Becky and Denny Blank help hold down the canopy during a wind gust.



Admiring Denny and Becky Blank's 1990 Cadillac Eldorado and Cathy Highland's 1955 T-Bird.

Festival Visitors Enjoyed Our Old Cars at Twin Lakes Park



John Ross Kuhns' 1932 Ford V-8, Norma Mascia's 1975 Olds Cutlass, The Fisher's 1986 Chevy C-10



Cindy Fisher dusts off her and Martha's 1986 Chevy C-10

We had some crazy weather during the 49th Westmoreland Arts & Heritage Festival at Twin Lakes Park June 29, 30, July 1 and 2. Smokey sunny days (Canadian wildfires) were followed by occasional high winds and some torrential rain. Through it all, the sun came out and many Festival visitors stopped by our promo booth to admire the old cars and learn about AACA, our Western PA Region and share old car stories. Thanks to all WPR members who participated!



Winners of our Festival booth classic pedal car give-away, Mary and Paul Tickner, accept the car from WPR Treasurer Mark Jackson at Specialty Cars Ltd, in Latrobe shortly after the Festival.