

January/February 2025

Promoting the Preservation & Enjoyment of Antique Automobiles Since 1950.



Tim Hoover's 1937 Mack at the 2024 WPR Car Show, Legion Keener Park



A 501(c)3 Public Charity Organization

# Directors

(as of the Feb 2, 2025 elections)

John Kuhns, Sr., President 412-554-3321

Flo Myers, Vice President 724-331-7293

Craig DeFloria, Treasurer 412-558-3100

Mark DeFloria, Secretary 412-558-0417

Debbie Sheetz, Publicity 724-454-8948

Cindy Fisher, Safety 860-833-2095

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.

# 2025 Calendar

Future WPR meeting and event dates, times and locations will be listed as they are determined. We will also send email updates.

# WESTERN PA REGION MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 18, - Regular Monthly Meeting - American Legion Post 982, Latrobe, Pipetown starting at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 28 - Car Show Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. Westmoreland Conservation District barn, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg

# WESTERN PA REGION EVENTS & TOURS

Saturday, April 26 - Rev-Up Party, 2:00 p.m. Westmoreland Conservation District barn, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg. A registration flyer with more information will be coming in March.

# AACA NATIONAL EVENTS

See aaca.org - Events - National Shows and Tours for details and registration links

April 3-5, 2025 - Southeastern Spring Nationals Charlotte, North Carolina

May 1-3, 2025 Western Spring Nationals/Grand National Tucson, Arizona

June 1-7, 2025 Vintage Tour Southern/Eastern Pennsylvania

July 2-5, 2025 - Central Springs Nationals Auburn, Indiana

July 24-26, 2025 - Grand Nationals / Zenith Dayton, Ohio

September 7-12, 2025 – Revival AAA Glidden Tour® (Pre-1943) - Owensboro, Kentucky (VMCCA Hosted)

October 7-10, 2025 – Eastern Fall Meet Hershey, PA - hosted by Hershey Region AACA -717-566-7720

October 18-22, 2025 - Central Divisional Tour -San Antonio to Gonzales, TX - hosted by Texas DFW Region - 214-498-0531

October 23-25, 2025 - Central Fall Nationals -Galveston, TX - hosted by Gulf Coast Region AACA -832-693-4008

President's Message



Debbie Sheetz served as WPR President in 2003, 2022, 2023, 2024 and until February 2, 2025

Rinally February! I for one an definitely looking forward to the end of winter. With all the snow, bitter cold temperatures and wind, Dave and I have been talking and looking forward to spring so we can get an antique out for a ride. I would like to take this time to thank everyone for welcoming me as your president this past year. I have enjoyed the fun and laughter with all our members. I hope I have brought you all some new memories of our shared love of antique and classic vehicle hobby.

I would like to make it a goal of 2025 for each member to bring a guest to a meeting. Hopefully we can encourage new members to join. Surely we all know someone with the same love of antique cars that would be a nice addition to our club.

This past year has been a lot of fun with all of our club activites. From a "Fabulous Fifties" Rev-Up party, car cruises, a fun picnic, enjoyable car tours, an outstanding car show and ending the year with a merry Christmas party, we have had a wonderful year as a club.

Please wear your name badges to all meetings. We will be collecting badge fines so don't be caught without your badge! Looking forward to the new year ahead.

-- Debbie



Dave Sheetz classifies show cars as they head towards the show fields at the 2024 WPR Car Show at Legion Keener Park, Latrobe.



# Minutes of the November 19, 2024 Monthly Meeting

meeting of the Western PA region of the Antique Automobile Club of America (WPR) was held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at American Legion Post 982 Latrobe (Pipetown). President Debbie Sheetz called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 22 members in attendance and no guests.

#### Minutes of the October 15, 2024 Monthly Meeting

The Minutes of the October 15, 2024 Monthly Meeting were published in the November/December, 2024 Western Round-Up newsletter. President Sheetz asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the Minutes as published. Howard Finney made the motion, seconded by Toni Beattie and unanimously approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Craig DeFloria was not able to attend tonight's meeting. An October, 2024 Treasurers Report will be presented at a later date.

### Membership - Howard Finney

No report at this time.

#### Newsletter - Mark Jackson

The November/December issue of the *Western Round-Up* will be the last issue published in 2024. The next one will be the January/February 2025 issue.

#### Website - Mark DeFloria

Mark was not able to be present for this meeting.

#### Sunshine Committee - Flo Myers

Two cards were sent out last month. Many thanks to Becky Blank, Molly Detwiler and Sheila Kurtz for serving on the committee. Please let us know of any members to whom we could reach out with a card of well wishes and encouragement on behalf of the WPR.

#### Tours - Carl Erb

Carl sincerely thanked Tony and Norma Mascia for planning and conducting the wonderful WPR Fall Foliage Tour on October 19th. The tour route followed scenic country roads in Northern Westmoreland County and Southern Indiana County. Stops along the way included visits to the Loyalhanna and Conemaugh dams, the Stone House Museum in Saltsburg and the 1848 Concord School and Carriage House. Carl wrote a comprehensive article about the tour which appeared in the October *Western Round-Up*, complete with photos and hyperlinks. He explained how the hyperlinks worked in the digital, interactive PDF version of the newsletter, and how clicking on them will take you to website pages with more in-depth information.

Carl also showed members present two posters featuring group photos taken at the two different car collection visits during the WPR's June Double-Header Tour. The posters will be given to the tour hosts to thank them for their hospitality. Carl thanked Mark Jackson for producing the posters.

#### WPR Veterans Recognition - Flo Myers

Flo thanked all those who attended and participated in the WPR Veterans Recognition held at the October Monthly Meeting.

#### **Christmas Party**

John Ross Kuhns will once again host the WPR Christmas Party. It will be held Sunday, December 8, 2024 at Rizzo's in Crabtree, Noon - 3:00 p.m.

### WPR Badge Fines - Debbie Sheetz

President Sheetz informed those present that the WPR will re-institute "badge fines" at Monthly Meetings in 2025. This is a fun way to encourage members to wear their name badges to WPR meetings and events. Here's how it works. Those members who attend a meeting without wearing their WPR name badge will be fined 25 cents at that meeting. The collected fine money will then go into a pot. At the end of the meeting a WPR member's name will be drawn based on their number listed in the current WPR Membership Roster. If that member is at the meeting, he or she wins the money in the pot. If that member is not present, the pot money carries over and builds for the next meeting.

#### 2025 Annual Meeting - Debbie Sheetz

The 2025 WPR Annual Meeting will be held on February 2, at Dino's Sports bar in Latrobe. A registration flyer will be sent out in late December or early January.

There will be an election of officers at the meeting. Three director positions will be up for election. Mark Jackson will not be running for reelection. Please let President Sheetz or another director know if you are interested in running for the WPR board.

# WPR Jack Clark Service Award - Debbie Sheetz

The Jack Clark Service Award is presented to WPR members who have done the most for the Region during a particular year. President Sheetz asked those present for 2024 service award nominations. The awardee(s) will be determined by vote during the 2025 Annual Meeting.

### 2025 Dues

President Sheetz requested that members pay their 2025 AACA National and WPR dues as soon as possible.

## 2025 WPR Car Show - Flo Myers

Flo informed those present that the first 2025 Car Show Committee Meeting will be held on Friday, February 7, 2025 at the Westmoreland Conservation District barn, Greensburg starting at 7:00 p.m. Flo stressed the importance of early planning, feedback from the 2024 show, and 2025 sponsorships.

## **Chance Car**

President Sheetz talked about the possibility of having a Chance Car raffle fundraiser in 2025. Any antique or classic chance car offered would have to be affordable and of good quality. Members present discussed options and challenges.

## WPR 75th Anniversary

President Sheetz pointed out that 2025 will mark the Western PA Region's 75th Anniversary, as the region was founded in 1950. She asked for any suggestions to herald this celebration.

# From the Floor

**Howard Finney** told those present that the Model T Ford which was recently donated to the **Lincoln Highway Experience Museum** will be displayed on rotation with the 1937 Packard sedan that has been on display.

**President Sheetz and husband Dave** were at the antique rail car Toys for Tots collection stop along the railroad tracks by the Five Star Trail at the Youngwood Train Station Museum. The little railroad cars, which were once used for track inspection and maintenance, belong to antique rail car club members who get permission to use the tracks for an annual Toys for Tots sojourn. They decorate their antique rail cars in Christmas themes and dress in holiday costumes. Then they run in a little caravan along a route directly on the railroad tracks, stopping at various points so people can enjoy seeing their unique rail cars and donate to Toys for Tots.

The WPR will also have a Toys for Tots collection box at the Christmas Party on December 8 at Rizzos. Members are encouraged to bring new toys to donate.

## Snacks - Toni Beattie

Thanks to Toni and Phil Beattie for providing delicious and refreshing snacks and drinks for the November Meeting.

# Adjournment - Debbie Sheetz

President Sheetz asked for a motion to adjourn the November Monthly Meeting. A motion was made by Howard Finney, seconded by Tom Ulishney and unanimously approved.

-- Respectfully submitted by Mark Jackson substituting for Secretary Mark DeFloria



1959 Lincoln ad featuring American artist and illustrator Norman Rockwell

The Christmas Spirit Soared in 2024

o help bring 2024 to a warm and wonderful close, approximately 50 Western PA Region members got together at Rizzo's Malibar Inn, Crabtree for the annual Christmas Party. They celebrated a fun, successful year and the holiday season with great food, fellowship, music and a Toys for Tots collection.

John Ross and Blair Kuhns hosted the festive event once again. Rizzo's was decked out with bright and cheery holiday decorations and many members dressed accordingly. Acoustic guitar musician Wayne Shaffer was on hand to add to the atmosphere with favorite holiday tunes. There was also a caricature artist available to render creative cartoon portraits of members and guests.

Everyone savored the delicious Rizzo's food starting with hors d'oeuvres - roasted sweet peppers with asiago cheese, sweet sausage, cheese sticks and fruit. The cheerful Rizzo's staff then served the buffet dinner featuring Chicken Romano, cheese ravioli, cavatelli, Italian steamed mixed vegetables and roasted red potatoes. Then came an amazing Italian almond creme cake for dessert.

Sincere thanks to John Ross and Blair Kuhns for hosting the Christmas Party once again. Also thanks to all the Region members who collected the Toys for Tots donations and to all members who donated a total of 24 brand new toys.



Standing, right - President Debbie Sheetz with members, I-r facing - Tom and Dodie Ulishney, Betty Ann and Howard Finney, I-r back: Lou Zecchini, Patty Surovy and Bill Holtzer



Wayne Shaffer entertains all with holiday favorites on his acoustic guitar.



Vickie Kuhns has a holiday dance with her granddaughter Maisy.



The DeFloria family enjoys the Rizzo's dinner buffet.



Standing right - Christmas Party host John Ross Kuhns with I-r facing - Phil and Toni Beattie, I-r back, Carl and Camille Erb tiara goes well with a poinsettia.



Louise Marks' Merry Christmas



Teresa and Ben Davis sit for a caricature portrait



Linda Tierney and Kirk Fellabom



24 new toys were donated.



Secretary Mark DeFloria addresses the membership.



President Debbie Sheetz shows an AACA Membership promotion.



Director John Kuhns, Sr. collects badge fines before the meeting.

# WPR 2025 Annual Meeting Kicks Off 75th Year



Toni Beattie talks about the Rev-Up Party

Singing "Happy Birthday" to Casper DeFloria.

The Western Pennsylvania Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America has been promoting the preservation and enjoyment of antique automobiles since it was chartered 75 years ago in 1950. The first official member gathering in 2025, our 75th Anniversary year, was the traditional Region Annual Meeting and Dinner, which was held at Dino's Sports Bar in Latrobe on February 2nd.

The Annual Meeting involves:

- a review of the previous year's activities and business;
- discussion of the current state of the region;
- discussion of future concerns;
- election of three of the six board of director positions for two-year terms;
- reorganizing the board officers for the current year;
- region recognitions and awards.

The Annual Meeting precedes the Dinner. Members may attend the meeting without attending the Dinner if they desire. President Debbie Sheetz called the meeting to order around 2:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. She paused to remember long-time, dedicated member Nancy Wolfe, who passed away in January, 2024, the only member to pass away that year. She then conducted a review of 2024 which included reports from the Treasurer, Secretary and various region

# Western PA Region AACA Awards



Cris Detwiler receives the Paul P. Bell Award from John Kuhns, Sr. for showing his unique 1948 Nash Super 600 at the 2024 car show.



Tony Mascia accepts the John Kuhns III Participation Award from John Kuhns, Sr. for driving an antique car to the most 2024 events.





Dave Davis receives the Foster Fike Restoration Award for restoring a 1977 Chevrolet Beauville Series 20 Passenger Van.

John Myers receives the Drive Your Antique or Classic Car Award from President Debbie Sheetz for driving his 1950 Plymouth to the Annual Meeting.

committee chairs. Overall, 2024 was an excellent year with some wonderful activities and tours, a successful fundraiser and an amazing car show Labor Day weekend with around 250 show cars participating.

The following region awards were presented by Annual Meeting host/WPR director John Kuhns, Sr. and President *continued on page 10* 

# The Road Less Traveled By

By Guy Davis



everal years ago, a former member of our club, Vince Altieri, and I were discussing why so few young people today are involved in the antique and classic car hobby. Aside from some of the more obvious reasons such as skyrocketing prices of collectible vehicles, the prohibitive costs of parts and restorations, and the general lack of interest of today's youth for anything outside of their smart phones and video games, Vince came up with a rather interesting perspective. According to Vince, today's children are rarely exposed in their formative years to the enjoyment of building model cars. Vince noted that as a youth, he took great pleasure in assembling plastic models, particularly those that were of automobiles. In the act of building such models, he became familiar with the various components of a car such as the engine, transmission, suspension, interior, and body. Vince feels that his hands-on experience of building such models contributed to his knowledge and enjoyment of real automobiles as he entered adult life.

Today, as I reflect on Vince's statement, I think that he might have had something there. My three brothers and I grew up assembling plastic models of all types but especially of automobiles and all four of us grew into enjoying and working on real cars. Fellow club members, John Kuhns, Dave Sheetz, and Mark Jackson also spent many hours building model cars which might have influenced their interest in the car hobby as they entered adulthood. Likewise, during my youth especially in the 1960's, Matchbox toy cars were at the height of their popularity and I along with many of my friends enjoyed collecting them. I especially liked the Models of Yesteryear series which not only featured authentically detailed antique cars, but



Classic ad for a classic model kit - build a Duesenberg!



Historic ad for the newest Matchbox cars and trucks Catalog

were also packaged in a box which included a short description of the vehicle. You not only had a toy car to play with but you also learned the make, year, and some interesting information about it. Competitors to the Matchbox line such as Hot Wheels, and Johnny Lightning entered the marketplace in the late sixties and featured hot rods and radically looking vehicles which caught the fascination of many youngsters. Perhaps that segment of the population later became the owners and fabricators of today's hot rods and restomods commonly seen at today's shows.

During my youth there were a number of toy stores and hobby shops throughout the local area which sold toy cars and plastic models. A hobby shop on Pennsylvania Avenue in Greensburg even awarded prizes to children who built the neatest looking car model. The finished products would be displayed in the hobby shop window for all passer byers to see. Spectators would admire the beautifully assembled models with their glossy paint jobs, chrome trappings and wild decals. Many a youth would purchase a model and try their hand at creating such a show car. Likewise, a hobby shop called Peterman's located in the old Gee Bee plaza on Route 30 east of Greensburg featured an impressive slot car racetrack where enthusiastic youth would compete against each other using their toy electric-powered cars. Magazines such as Hot Rod and Mechanics Illustrated drew a youthful readership looking to learn about the latest engines and vehicle designs.

Unfortunately, today there is a scarcity of the once popular hobby shops, which featured model kits of cars, planes, and ships, and magazine readership has been on the decline due to information available via electronic devices.

My son, Ben, grew up assembling plastic car and airplane models. He also enjoyed building Lego structures. In Cub Scouts, Ben participated in the pine wood derby events which required the scout to fabricate a miniature car out of a block of pine and then race it against other cars on a sloped track. The winner of his local Cub Scout pack would then compete against scouts from other packs at an event held at Westmoreland Mall. There is no doubt in my mind that Ben's tactile experiences in the construction of plastic models and toy cars fostered his later interest and skill sets needed to work on real vehicles. One such example of the correlation between working on toy cars and the real McCoy is when Ben totally disassembled a Japanese scooter which had not run in over 50 years, repaired or replaced parts on it, then reassembled it. When the little engine on the scooter came to life after its decade's long slumber, Ben proudly hoped on it and drove it around the block. All of his was work on the scooter was accomplished without the aid of any manuals or written instructions, and I contribute a lot of his success on the project to his childhood years of fabricating and designing model cars.

Today, Vince Altieri and his wife Jan spend many a day on that road less traveled by in their antique automobiles. Vince has worked on and restored numerous vehicles throughout his lifetime. He credits his interest in the hobby to his time as a young boy sitting at the family kitchen table gluing a box full of plastic parts together to create a marvelous model of an automobile. Perhaps you have a niece or nephew or grandchild who would love to try their hand at assembling a plastic model, a Lego project, or create a car or go-cart out of wood. What a wonderful gift you could give that child especially if you spent some of your time helping to assemble it. Who knows, perhaps you might just plant a seed in that child's mind which one day will blossom into a lifelong membership in the antique and classic car hobby.



This motorized Oldsmobile kit would have been fun to build.

WPR 2025 Annual Meeting Kicks Off 75th Year continued from page 7

Sheetz after the committee chair reports:

- The Paul P. Bell Award for the Most Unique Antique Car shown at the Region's Labor Day Car Show was presented to Cris Detwiler for showing his 1948 Nash Super 600.
- The John Ross Kuhns III Participation Award was presented to Tony and Norma Mascia for driving an antique car to the most region events and meetings in 2024.
- The Foster Fike Restoration Award was presented to Dave Davis for his amazing restoration of a unique 1977 Chevrolet Beauville Series 20 Passenger Van. Dave found the van rotting away in a local farmer's field.

See November/December 2024 Western Round-Up article.

- The Jack Clark Service Award was presented to two members voted on by the members present at the Annual Meeting for their above and beyond service to the region in 2024 Flo Myers and Mark Jackson.
- The Drive Your Antique Car Award is rotated at each WPR meeting or activity during the year. The Annual Meeting winner was John Myers for braving the winter weather and driving his 1950 Plymouth to the meeting.

Following the awards presentations, elections were held to fill the three available WPR directors positions for two-year terms. Director Mark Jackson decided not to seek another term and step back. The other two directors whose terms were expiring agreed to run again. President Sheetz called for nominations from the floor. Cindy Fisher was nominated to fill the third available slot on the ballot. There were no other nominations. President Sheetz then asked the Secretary to cast the ballot for the three candidates. The directors then had a short organization meeting. The WPR directors and offices for 2025 are:

- John Kuhns, Sr. President
- Flo Myers Vice President
- Craig DeFloria Treasurer
- Mark DeFloria Secretary
- Debbie Sheetz Publicity
- Cindy Fisher Safety

After the announcement of the new directors and their positions the Annual Meeting was adjourned. Those who registered for the dinner then enjoyed a great meal and fellowship.

Congratulations to the 2025 WPR directors and welcome new director Cindy Fisher. Congratulations to the WPR Award winners. Thanks to all who helped to make 2024 an enjoyable and successful year. Here's hoping for a terrific 2025 as we celebrate the Western PA Region's 75th Anniversary. And a special thank you to John Kuhns, Sr. for organizing and hosting the Annual Meeting and Dinner once again.



# **Headlights Aimed to Please**

Keep the headlights on your old cars lined up and shining bright on the road ahead with a Lev-L-Lite light meter. Cris Detwiler found and purchased this useful item. Then took the above photo to share. There have been amazing advances in headlight technologies over the years - LEDs, etc. But for the best night driving in an antique car from the early-to-mid twentieth century it pays to keep headlights adjusted and aimed as precisely as possible. These classic meters can be found for sale on eBay and at auto flea markets like Hershey.

# 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.

Each issue is also posted on the Region's website: www.westernparegion.org. Members may choose to receive this newsletter by email or a mailed hard copy at an additional cost.

Submission deadlines are the first day of each month for possible publication in that month's edition.

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 officials. Please advise the editor of any and all needed corrections.

> Mark Jackson, Editor 133 Alexander Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601 724-832-9074

email: jacksonmark469@gmail.com

Special thanks to:

Guy Davis, Molly and Cris Detwiler, Bill Holtzer, and Debbie Sheetz for their time and talent, which helped produce this issue.



Name That Car

By Mark Jackson

# November/December's Car



Cris Detwiler was the first to correctly identify November/ December's car as a 1950 Nash. Howard Finney, Gary Wiegand and Nancy McKelvey also correctly identified the Nash.

Long-time WPR members Cris and Molly Detwiler are amazing Nash ambassadors (pun intended). Owners of two award-winning antique Nash automobiles, a 1946 Ambassador Slipstream and a 1948 Super 600, they share their passion for the marque by often creatively displaying Nash-related automobilia from the era along with their beautiful cars at car shows and cruises. They've even been known to dress in dapper 1940s style to go with their cars and accessories. Those who stop and talk with them will learn about Nash's innovations like uni-body construction and comfy seats that fold down into a bed for those long (ago) road trips with no motels in sight.

From luxury and economy to stylish and trend-setting, Nash automobiles had, and did it all.

# January/February's Trucks



Let's start off 2025, WPR's 75th year, with a double-truck *"Name That Car"* entry from our fantastic 2024 WPR Car Show. Take a good look, and be the first to correctly identify the makes and years of BOTH of these two stunning pick up trucks. *(Hint - they both are the same year.)* 

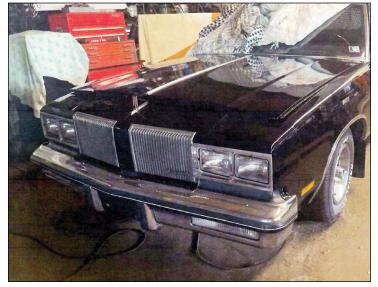
Contact me at jacksonmark469@gmail.com or call 724-832-9074 and leave a message to try to win a \$20 Sheetz gift card. Yes, I blocked out the year on the PA license plate on the turquoise truck. As Bugs Bunny would say after tormenting Elmer Fudd, "*Ain't I a stinker*?"

# **They're Still Out There!**



These two are sitting under a carport along Route 130 between Harrison City and Level Green. The truck is a 1979 Ford and the car is a 1974 Olds Cutlass Salon four-door.

By Bill Holtzer



This car belongs to the same people where the Ford truck and Olds are sitting in the photo on the left. It is a 1980 Olds Cutlass two-door hardtop. They still drive it some and keep it stored inside.



Western Pennsylvania Region Antique Automobile Club of America P.O. Box 882 Latrobe, PA 15650





These Saint Vincent College students piled into the bed of this old Chevy pickup truck for a ride many years ago. Do you have any memories of riding in the bed of a pickup like this? It's a long lost adventure.