

# The Gauge

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO CHAPTER  
OF THE ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA  
[southernohiochapteraaca.com](http://southernohiochapteraaca.com)



FEBRUARY 2026 EDITION

Join us February 21<sup>st</sup>  
for a tour and luncheon  
11am - 2:30pm



Butler County Historical Society  
327 N. Second Street  
Hamilton, Ohio

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Lunch will be provided  
Suggested donation: \$10/person

AACA members are invited to a luncheon and guided tour of the Butler County Historical Society Museum. This organization has been in existence for over 90 years and have been operating from the Benninghofen House Museum for over 75 years. The Benninghofen House is a showcase of Victorian-era lifestyle and includes all the furnishings and decor appropriate for a late 19th-century home. Other highlights include displays that highlight Hamilton's industrial heritage. Hamilton was once known as the Safe Manufacturing Capital of the US and was home to Beckett Paper Company and the Mosler Safe Company. Ford Motors manufactured tractors and parts here for Model T's and Model A's in the 1920's-30's. The BCHS also operates the Emma Ritchie Auditorium, Olive S & Herbert T. Randall Research Center, Butler County Soldiers, Sailors & Pioneers Monument, and McCloskey Wonder Works Museum.

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After exploring the Museum,  
we will enjoy "The Sweetest of  
Hometown Traditions" at



**Aglamesis Brothers Ice Cream & Chocolates**  
304 Main Street, Hamilton, Ohio

Aglamesis Brothers' rich, super premium ice creams and deliciously decadent chocolates have been delighting Cincinnati for well over a century. To this day, our family still uses the same Old World recipes, simple, wholesome ingredients, and traditional confectionery techniques that our ancestors Thomas and Nicholas Aglamesis used when they opened their first parlor here in the Queen City in 1908.

Hosted by Doug Fraits

Please RSVP to Doug by phone: 513 236 7877 or e-mail: [dfraits@gmail.com](mailto:dfraits@gmail.com)

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**URGENT**



**WE DO NOT HAVE A HOST FOR THE MARCH CLUB  
ACTIVITY! IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HOST, PLEASE  
CONTACT JACKIE AMICK  
PHONE: 443.624.9626  
e-mail: JACKIE.AMICK@GMAIL.COM**



**First Meeting of 2026**

# **A Collector's Dream**

The first 2026 Southern Ohio chapter event took place at Aldrich Restorations in Brookville, Ohio. Sixty people were in attendance, including six new guests. The only antique that was driven to the event was Tim Fink's 1926 Ford Model T touring car, "Lucille." It's important to note that the high temperature for this Saturday was 21 degrees F. Tim represents that we are a touring chapter. Tim's wife, Susan, and their daughter arrived in their modern car; I don't blame them.

This was a carry-in event with pulled pork provided by the chapter (thanks Nora!) An ample supply of side dishes and desserts were available to ensure no one was left hungry. Bill Montgomery sold 50/50 tickets where a guest of Tim and Julia Wolfe, Steve Knouff, scored an extra \$72.00 to take home. Congratulations Steve!

Chapter member Dr. Greg Davis shared a wonderful presentation about one of his passions, collecting Matchbox toys. Greg confessed there's a connection to the beginnings of the Matchbox company and the meaning of the vanity license plate on his car. His license plate LESNEY is a combination of the first names of the Matchbox founders Leslie Smith and Rodney Smith. Thanks Greg. A very interesting presentation. It was fun to see some members who carried in some of their own personal Matchbox collection to share with the chapter.

As an additional treat, Greg designed special 2026 calendars using Matchbox toys from his collection pictured in real world settings.

Thanks everyone for making this a fun event. I look forward to seeing everybody in February.

*Submitted by Don Sword*



Photos submitted by Jackie Amick, Greg Davis, Tim Fink, Bill Montgomery, and Jeff Smith

# 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 21, 2026 – Butler County Historical Society Tour –  
Doug Fraits

March 2026 – **OPEN**

April 25, 2026 – USS Cincinnati Peace Pavilion – Preview of  
Park and Car Tour – Linda Muth and Ken & Debby Koontz

May 8-10, 2026 – Ohio Region Spring Tour – Southern Ohio  
Chapter to Host – See Page 6-7 for the Details

June 28, 2026 – Dayton Dragons Game and Car Show –  
Bill and Marita Montgomery

July 2026 – **OPEN**

July 24-26, 2026 – Ohio Region Summer Tour  
Western Reserve Chapter to Host – Location TBD

August 2026 – Matt Reither and Perry Yasher

September – Car Games and Covered Bridges – Nora  
Schreel & Jane Baker

October 6-9, 2026 – AACA Eastern Fall Meet – Hershey, PA

October 2026 – Date TBD – EB Lunken

October 24-26, 2026 – Ohio Region Fall Tour  
Commodore Perry Chapter to Host – Location TBD

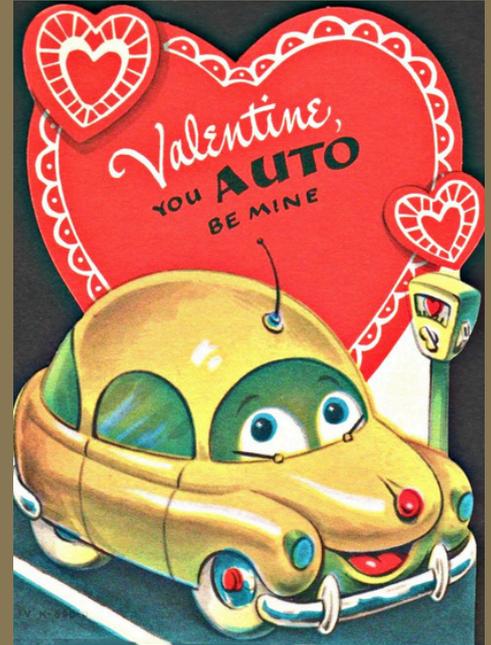
November 2026 – Date TBD – Marcia and Gary Jones and  
Bernie and Sue McGuire

December 2026 – Date TBD – Christmas Gathering

We need two additional hosts for 2026...the club doesn't work without everyone taking their turn! Want to host a tour, but not sure how? Co-hosts are available to help you plan your back road outing! If you aren't sure you would be able to host but know of areas or interesting areas that would be good stops along the routes for other tours, please send the info to Jackie and if you happen to have contact information for the attraction be sure to send along! Contact VP Jackie Amick at 443.624.9626 or e-mail [jackie.amick@gmail.com](mailto:jackie.amick@gmail.com) for more details or to volunteer.



Happy Valentine's Day



Ron Howard bought this 1970 VW Bug new in 1970---and it was his first car. He still owns and drives it. "I got a white Volkswagen Beetle," he said. "It was my way of saying, 'Don't put me in that other box (guys buying Corvettes because they were Hollywood).'" He said that the "very rooted, earthy, common sense approach" of his father kept him "sane and solid."

During an interview, he shared more details..."Actually, the only car I loved was the first car I ever bought, a 1970 VW Bug. I drove it for five or six years and moved on. Then a few years ago, my brother-in-law found it in Redding, California. It had my college sticker on it. Someone was using it to deliver eggs. So he put a new engine in it and shipped it to me. That was the car that I courted my wife in. It seemed a lot roomier then, if you know what I mean. We drive it around now and smile with recognition."



# Miami Valley Innovations Ohio Region Spring Tour May 8-10, 2026



## Westcott Frank Lloyd Wright Home Tour

A private tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's only Prairie School home in Ohio. It was commissioned by Burton and Orpha Westcott in 1906 and completed in 1908. John Westcott, together with his sons, Burton and Harry, originated the Westcott Carriage Company in Richmond, Indiana, in 1896. It was reorganized there as the Westcott Motor Car Company in 1909. In 1915, Burton moved the Westcott Car Company to Springfield. Learn more: [Westcott House](#).



## Mershon's World of Cars

From Model Ts to Ferraris and everything in between, you never know what Mershon's might have in inventory. Founded in 1981 Mershon's has over 40 years of experience in the business. They have paired Over 10,000 dream cars with new loving owners. If you are a car guy, you will love just walking through their showrooms! Learn more: [Mershon's](#)



## Carillon Historical Park

In 1950, Carillon Historical Park's museum complex opened with the purpose of showcasing the region's industrial innovations and transportation achievements. Since construction first began in 1940, the park has evolved into a beautiful 65-acre campus—designed by the Olmsted Brothers (the famed landscape architects responsible for Central Park)—containing dozens of museum buildings and countless artifacts. Learn more: [Carillon Historical Park](#).



## America's Packard Museum

The Museum is in an original Packard dealership which was operational from 1917 until 1940. Rogers Pontiac and Davis Buick used the facility as a dealership from 1940 until the 1970's. From 1899-1956, the Packard Motor Company built 1.6 million cars, and collectors estimate only about 10,000 still exist. The museum manages the largest public collection of Packard automobiles and memorabilia. Learn more: [America's Packard Museum](#).

## Host Hotel Information

DoubleTree by Hilton  
2800 Presidential Drive  
Fairborn, Ohio 45324

**MUST CALL FOR RESERVATION**  
937-426-7800  
MENTION SOUTHERN OHIO CHAPTER  
Deadline for special rate is  
April 10, 2026

## FREE COOKIES



Rate: \$159.00 plus tax  
Includes:  
Buffet Style Breakfast  
Newly Renovated Rooms  
Full Service Restaurant and Bar  
Fitness Room and Pool

Learn more: [DoubleTree Hotel](#)



**HOSTED BY**  
**JEFF AND ANN SMITH**  
**BILL AND MARITA MONTGOMERY**  
**SOUTHERN OHIO CHAPTER**

Phone: 937.907.4755  
Email: [2creeksjeff@gmail.com](mailto:2creeksjeff@gmail.com)

# Miami Valley Innovations - Reservation Form

## Ohio Region Spring Tour May 8-10, 2026 - Deadline April 10, 2026

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Car Year, Make, and Model:** \_\_\_\_\_

Activity	# Attending		Per Person		Total Amount Due
Registration Fee		x	Family/Car	=	\$20.00
<b>FRIDAY EARLY BIRD ACTIVITIES</b>					
Frank Lloyd Wright - Wescott Home Tour 1 PM		x	\$20.00/pp	=	
Frank Lloyd Wright - Wescott Home Tour 3 PM		x	\$20.00/pp	=	
Mershon's World of Cars			No Charge		
Heart of Ohio Antique Center			No Charge		
<b>SATURDAY ACTIVITIES</b>					
America's Packard Museum		x	\$8.00/pp	=	
Matt Miller's Sign Collection			No Charge		
<b>Lunch - Choose One - All Come with a Bottle of Water</b>					
Turkey Boxed Lunch - Pasta Salad, Chips, Cookie		x	\$15.00/pp	=	
Roast Beef Boxed Lunch - Pasta Salad, Chips, Cookie		x	\$15.00/pp	=	
Spinach Salad with Strawberries and Chicken, Cookie		x	\$17.00/pp	=	
Carillon Historical Park		x	\$13.00/pp	=	
<b>Dine Around Fairborn - We will order off the menu and everyone will pay their own bill. We will need a headcount by restaurant.</b>					
The Wright Place - Hotel Onsite Restaurant			# of Diners		
Cherry House Café - Home Style			# of Diners		
BJ's Resturant - Chain Upscale			# of Diners		
El Ranco Grande Mexican			# of Diners		
Ice Cream Social at Hotel		x	\$5.00/pp	=	
<b>GRAND TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</b>					
					\$

Checks should be made payable to the Southern Ohio Chapter AACA and sent to Jackie Amick at 196 Cambria Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45440. Questions? Contact Jeff Smith at 513.907.4755 or 2creeksjeff@gmail.com.

DoubleTree by Hilton  
2800 Presidential Drive  
Fairborn, Ohio 45324  
937-426-7800 - **MUST CALL FOR RESERVATIONS**  
**DEADLINE FOR GREAT RATE: April 10, 2026**  
Mention: Southern Ohio Chapter

Includes:

Rate: \$ 159.00 Plus Tax  
Buffet Style Breakfast  
Newly Renovated Rooms  
Full Service Restaurant & Bar  
Fitness Room and Pool



**OHIO REGION DUES WERE DUE DECEMBER 31, 2025.  
IF UNPAID BY FEBRUARY 28, 2026, YOU WILL BE REMOVED  
FROM OUR CLUB'S ROSTER**

RE: AACA Ohio Region Annual Membership Renewal for 2026

Dear Ohio Region Member,

Your annual **\$20.00** renewal dues for Ohio Region membership should be mailed to Ohio Region Treasurer's address listed below:

Linda A. Sneary, AACA Ohio Region Treasurer  
1191 Garrison Road  
Ashtabula, OH 44004

Please be sure to clearly **identify** your payment with your **name, chapter, and National membership number** on your check or simply complete & return the bottom portion of this form with your payment. If you have any questions, please contact me at the following email: lindaasneary@netscape.net or text to 440-796-3861.

As a reminder, you must also be current with your annual National AACA membership dues in order to be eligible for continued membership in your local AACA Chapter and the Ohio Region AACA.

Exceptions to annual Ohio Region dues: Paid Lifetime Ohio Region Memberships (\$0 due for 2026).

**DUES DEADLINE: DECEMBER 31, 2025**

Thank you & happy travels,

Linda

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Please enclose with your payment (and/or mark on your check) the following:

Member's First & Last Name (both Husband & Wife, where applicable) and National AACA #:

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ AACA Nat'l # \_\_\_\_\_

Please advise any changes to address, home/cell phone, or email if different from prior year:

\_\_\_\_\_