



# The Split Rim



Volume 37 No. 1

Shenandoah Region, AACA

JAN 2024

see our website at: <https://shenandoah.aaca.com> and visit us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/ShenandoahRegionAACA](http://www.facebook.com/ShenandoahRegionAACA)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hello everyone, HAPPY NEW YEAR! Welcome to 2024. I hope everybody had a nice Christmas holiday. Thank you to all that attended the club's Christmas Party. I believe a good time was had by all.

As your new President, the person you trust to help steer the club in a good direction this year, I Thank You for your vote of confidence. We all look forward to some fun, fellowship, and rewarding times spent enjoying our "Old Cars, Trucks, & Motorcycles," and each other's company and encouragement along the journey.

I will work along with our ever-so-helpful Board members, whom we all need to thank and support, to make this a memorable year. We also request help and input from all of you members to keep the ride exciting and rewarding. Please don't be bashful. Participation is the key to keeping the tank full of ideas.

As I reach out to you to be chairman of this or



Our new Prez Jeff (right) shows off the 1908 REO to an admirer at the Lake Frederick Show in Oct. 2023. Photo by Paul Ruscito.

## CALENDAR

- JAN 1 - Happy New Year !
- JAN 4 - Membership Meeting, 7pm, Round Hill Church, Winchester
- JAN 16 - Deadline to register for AACA Annual Convention
- JAN 18 - Board Meeting, 7pm, Round Hill Church, Winchester. All members welcome
- **JAN 22 - NOON DEADLINE FOR FEB NEWSLETTER**
- FEB 1 - Membership Meeting, 7pm, Round Hill Church, Winchester
- FEB 8-10 - AACA Annual Convention, Chantilly, VA

that committee, please be open and willing to help. In fact, if you have an interest or expertise to share, please call me to volunteer... Many hands make the work go so much smoother. A small job can be very rewarding to you and all of us.

Let's look to 2024 as the year this club accomplishes more fun activities than ever before. We had several Fun Runs in 2023, hopefully we can have even more this year. We will also be hosting the Corn Roast with our sister Region, Queen City, this year.

As we use the winter months to tune our engines, smooth out dents, manage a little rust. Maybe even acquire a new project. Get on the phone to each other to offer & solicit help. This club has such a wealth of knowledge, expertise, and encouragement to share, let's make it count. Fun & Fellowship abound... Enjoy the Ride... Jeff

## WELCOME BACK !

Rejoining the Region at our December meeting are:  
Van and Barbara Armstrong of Berryville, VA  
(540) 955-4154 [carvan60@gmail.com](mailto:carvan60@gmail.com)

Please add them to your 2023 Roster.

**We're happy to have you back in the bunch !**

## Jan. 4, 2024 7:00 pm

## Membership Meeting

**Where: Round Hill Church**  
**2993 Northwestern Pike, Winchester, VA 22603**  
*(see directions, next-to-last page of newsletter)*

**Meeting Host: Jim Stup**

**Light Refreshments will be Served**

## HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS !

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 03 Bonnie Catlett | 14 Judy Powell   |
| 07 Tom Rissler    | 16 Lee Dieter    |
| 09 Larry Hubert   | 18 Duane Cookson |
| 10 Dickie Wolfe   | 24 Ben Dyer      |
| 12 Ryan Weddle    | 27 Jan Smith     |

# REMINDER: HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2024 DUES ?

2023 dues expired Dec. 31. Don't miss out on Region activities, newsletters, and the annual roster! Here's what to do:

- (1) Pay your AACA National dues. You can return the form that was part of the mailer for your National AACA magazine, phone AACA with credit card info at (717) 534-1910, or renew online at <https://aaca.org>.
- (2) Pay your Region dues (\$20) to Treasurer Bonnie Catlett. Make checks payable to: Shenandoah Region, AACA. Bonnie's address is 5601 Middle Road, Winchester, VA 22602 if you prefer to mail Region dues in.



**If you don't have your AACA National 2024 dues card yet, we can verify your 2024 AACA membership online after Jan. 1, so don't wait for your AACA dues card to pay Region dues.**

## PLEASE GET A ROUND "TUIT" TODAY !

If you are in the 61 % of the members who have already paid your dues, Thank You for your continued support of our Region!



**60 YEARS AGO:** Art Bragg submitted this photo from the National Awards Banquet at the AACA Annual Convention in 1964, in Philadelphia. Jim Stimme was Region President. Do you recognize Art in the foreground?

This year's **AACA Annual Convention** is almost in our back yard. The seminars each day are well worth attending - and if you don't want to stay in the hotel, you can drive in just for the day. See [aaca.org](http://aaca.org) website for registration & more info. Deadline is Jan. 16 and your AACA dues must be paid in order to register.

Send articles, photos & ads to:  
[shenandoahregion@gmail.com](mailto:shenandoahregion@gmail.com)

**FEB. NEWS DEADLINE:**  
**NOON MON. JAN. 22**

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# Sunshine Report

Sunshine Chairs Dave & Sharon Lewis report sending:

- ♥ Get well cards to Sally Wolfe, who is recuperating from heart surgery; to Chip and Nancy Rohr, who both had COVID; to Kevin Malony, who is recovering at home from hip replacement surgery Dec. 18; to Judy Powell and Elsie Grant Norman, who both had recent hospital stays; and to Sharon Parker, Gerry Sandy, and Lee Dieter, all three of whom have been very under the weather lately.
- ♥ Please keep Sally and Dickie, Chip and Nancy, Kevin and Nicole, Judy and Gene, Elsie, Sharon and Wayne, Gerry, and Lee and Rita in your thoughts and prayers for healing.
- ♥ And as always, let's all also remember those members who struggle daily with ongoing issues that keep them "in the shop" and not running on all cylinders.

### THE BIG STEERING WHEEL AWARD 2023



Since its inception in 1983, this travelling award is given to a member (and spouse if applicable) who continue to “steer the Club in the right direction” by showing leadership through offices and chairmanships held, and by serving as an example of loyal participation in Region activities to promote and preserve the antique car hobby.

The recipient is determined by a committee of past honorees and is kept secret until the Christmas party, which this year was Dec. 16, 2023. The 2022 honorees, David and Lauren Conrad, made the following presentation:

“This member has a wide range of vehicle interests, including orphan makes such as Hudson and old Vincent motorcycles. But German cars are his most dominant interest, with Porsche being his favorite. He has owned many, many, many Porsches since the 1960s. He even drove a 1973 Porsche 211S in the 1975 Cannonball Run.”

“He first joined Shenandoah Region around 2008 but became really active in the last 10 years. When Barry Smith, our long-term chairman for the Museum of the Shenandoah show, passed away in 2020, this member stepped up to fill Barry’s big shoes, and fill them he did. He has chaired the successful MSV show since 2021. In 2022 he won the first of two terms as Region President, with all the duties that entails. And all this despite some occasional broken bones. He even presided at some meetings with an arm in a sling.”

“Of course, behind every great man is a supportive and patient woman. In addition to her volunteer work, she is



*David presenting, prior to the “big reveal (note blue tape).”*

also a talented master gardener and very active with the local Garden Club. However, she still finds time to proof-read his President’s messages for the newsletter. **The 2023 recipients of the couple who continue to ‘steer the club in the right direction’ are Dan and Ginny Rowzie”.** Congratulations, Dan and Ginny, well deserved !



*Dan and Ginny Rowzie accepting this year’s Award*

Following the presentation of the current year’s Big Steering Wheel Award, the honoree from the previous year is given a permanent, smaller version of the trophy to keep in remembrance of their year of being recognized for their service to the Club and the hobby. This award is nicknamed the “Little Big Steering Wheel,” and was presented to David and Lauren by 2022 Honoree Peter Ford.

See our website for more info on the history of the BSW Award.



*Peter presenting the “Little Big Steering Wheel” to David and Lauren*

*[Photos by Tom Parker and Craig Comontofski.]*



### REQUEST FROM THE SECRETARY

Secretary Linda is gearing up to work on your 2024 Club Roster. Have you had any changes since March 1 of 2023 (new street address, new email, new phone number)? Please review your 2023 Club Roster and see if your info still matches your current status. Send changes to Linda via email : [shenandoahregion@gmail.com](mailto:shenandoahregion@gmail.com) or snail-mail Linda Comontofski, 1501 West King St. , Martinsburg, WV 25401. Thanks !

# 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Party and Installation of Officers December 16, 2023



*Shenandoah Region  
Antique Automobile Club of America*

Our annual Christmas party was held at West Oaks Event Venue in Winchester. We had a nice turnout - a total of 44 signed up, so we nearly filled 6 tables of 8 seats each. There was plenty to eat (we even got boxes to take home leftovers), and a lot of "motor-metering" going on, especially during the social hour before the buffet.

Outgoing President Dan Rowzie presided, introducing the 2023 Officers and thanking them for their service. Past President Peter Ford performed the installation of the 2024 Officers: Pres. Jeff Smulovitz; Vice-Pres. Kevin Malony (absent); Treas. Bonnie Catlett; Secty. Linda Comontofski; and Directors Paul Ruscito, Jim Tillery, and Tom Parker *[sorry, since the Officers were installed standing at their tables, we didn't capture a group photo].*

David and Lauren Conrad then presented the Big Steering Wheel Award to Dan and Ginny Rowzie, and received their "Little Big Steering Wheel" from Peter Ford *[see full story about the Steering Wheel Awards on page 3].*

Following the presentations, names were drawn for all the door prizes, and there were plenty to go around! Each table's centerpiece was a poinsettia plant, bottle of wine, and a Hess truck, all of which were door prizes, plus two 2023 White House Christmas ornaments and additional Hess trucks, wine, and poinsettias.

Thanks to Jim Tillery for donating the Hess trucks and Craig Comontofski for donating the wine. What a fun evening full of old car energy!



*Dan and some of the door prizes*



*Peter installing the Officers*



*2024 President Jeff Smulovitz and First Lady Vickie as Jeff is installed*

*[More photos on page 5]*



*Officers standing for installation. Clockwise from left, Paul, Jeff, Tom, Linda, and Jim. Bonnie is seated at the right rear table.*

# CHRISTMAS PARTY, CONT'D



*Photos by Craig Comontofski*

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GATHERING. IT WAS GREAT TO SHARE A SPECIAL EVENING WITH SO MANY FRIENDS !**



# MEMBER NEWS



*[Editor: here are members' submissions received since Nov. 27]*

**FROM DAVID SUNTER:**

Spotted at Sebring Raceway Dec. 2. Remember this movie?



**FROM PAUL RUSCITO:**

**TALES OF THE OLD STUDEBAKER or "MONEY PIT 289"**

Winter, what better time is there for working on your old vehicle? Spending time under, over or inside your classic makes the days go by so much faster, or so it seems.

My car had a small oil leak near the oil pan that was bugging me, so I decided now was the time to tear into it.



Craig Comontofski the "Veteran Studebaker Guru" said it was easier to pull the engine out of the car than to fight the needed repairs from under the vehicle. Craig was correct, the engine came out quite easily and access to the repairs were a snap.

Upon pulling the oil pan I noticed small particles of aluminum, definitely not what I expected to find, the car ran so well all Summer and had no telltale noises. I proceeded to remove the main bearing caps and was shocked to see the poor condition of numbers 2,3 and 4 bearings.

pump replacement and oil pan gasket re-seal job exploded into a major engine rebuild. The best is yet to come !



I removed the crankshaft and brought it to a well-known Carlisle PA. machine shop for polishing and metal testing for cracks (Magnafluxing). After a week waiting for results, I received a call from the technician. He informed me that I owned a lovely "boat anchor".

Yes Sir, with 3 cracks found, no repair could be made and the hunt for a replacement crankshaft was on.



I made several calls and was pleasantly surprised to find a Studebaker parts vendor that had 35 + good used V8 engines and multiple good used crankshafts in stock, tested and ready to install.

In the automotive world, most good things come at a price, most scarce parts come at an even higher price !! I ordered the replacement crankshaft and hope to have it by next month, I

pity the delivery guy that has to carry this thing to my front door.

Now you know why I call the Avanti my "Money Pit 289". I'll have my tin cup out at the next club meeting for lunch money.



*[Paul, looking forlorn, in the engine-less Money Pit 289]*

Thanks for reading this dribble, I'll have more in the following months as the aggravation....., I mean repairs continue.

**FROM JIM COLVILLE: HERSHEY CAR CORRAL 2023**

For most of us in North America, October means the end of car show season. But as the days get cooler, the old car events come closer together in an attempt to avoid the stifling heat of summer, as well as the unpleasantly frigid temperatures of late fall and winter. And so it is that Hershey comes along right on the heels of fall Carlisle, allowing vendors attending both just two days between the closing of the gates at Carlisle and the first shopping day of Hershey.

My goal for Hershey each year is to spend one day looking at cars in the car corral, and then to return one day for the car show. For an owner of any early '60s and older vehicle, Hershey is the place you'll most likely find parts. In fact, the older and more obscure the make and model, perhaps the better chance of finding parts. Though I have found parts for my cars on rare occasions at Hershey in the past, it really just isn't the place to find parts for muscle car era Mopars. In the past, when I have covered the flea market com-

*[Continued under MEMBER NEWS, page 7]*

**MEMBER NEWS:** [from page 6]

**HERSHEY CAR CORRAL CONT'D**

pletely, I typically come up empty handed. Imagine my frustration that one time Tom Parker arrived at Hershey and he found everything on his (early '60s Buicks) shopping list ON THE FIRST ROW!

So on Wednesday October 4th, I just went to see the cars in the car corral. . It's true that many of the cars that didn't sell at the Carlisle auction or car corral the week before could be found at Hershey, but so much of the inventory was different that you would really need to attend both events to see everything. The 56 T-bird was one of sev-

eral first-generation Thunderbirds there. I would say that Thunderbirds from subsequent generations of the breed, were hardly seen at all at Hershey this year. Below it is a pretty 1962 Pontiac Bonneville convertible.



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. Early Dodge Brothers touring cars like the 1920 model shown here, priced at \$16,900 were common sights at this year's event. The Citroen 2-CV panel is pictured here because I figured that just maybe, someone, somewhere, reading this, might actually like French cars. I kind of liked the '49 Chrysler Town & Country myself. This '63 Studebaker Avanti [top right] had the R-2 Super-charger option and a 4 speed. It was priced at \$49,500 and was one of at least six 62-64 Avantis we saw among the cars in the corral and flea market. [Editor: Paul Ruscito, do you need another one?] The 4 door pillarless hard-top is a body style many

forget was available on mid-size 66-72 GM intermediates like the red 68 Chevelle shown here. A 1959 Porsche 356 in a recreated "barn find" scene, a \$59,000 '64 Chevelle SS, and a Pope-Hartford.



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[Continued under MEMBER NEWS, page 8]

**MEMBER NEWS:** [from page 7]

**HERSHEY CAR CORRAL CONT'D**



The Daimler looked as though it were ready to chauffeur a member of the royal family. They wouldn't be riding in this Chevy tow truck. One of the cars from the Classic Auto Mall was this red '59 Plymouth Sport Fury convertible. The Nash Ambassador's unusual front-end styling drew stares and comments. Next, a Chevrolet rumble seat roadster. The 396 Impala was sure pretty in red with the white vinyl top and interior.



You don't often see a Model T truck with a fifth wheel trailer. Next, a '52 or '53 Mercury, a '40 Ford Deluxe convertible, and a '58 DeSoto Fire-dome (priced at \$38,000).

[Continued under MEMBER NEWS, page 9]



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**NOTE: Timothy Price (see ad above ) says for antique cars, if you supply the oil and filter, he will change your oil and lubricate the chassis for \$40. Mention this ad.**



**MEMBER NEWS:** [from page 8]

**HERSHEY CAR CORRAL CONT'D**



The '62 Mercury Monterey S-55 was unrestored and a rarely seen example of Mercury's first full-size model offered with bucket seats (buckets were offered on the Comet first with the mid '61 introduction of the Comet S-22 model). The Ram-Air 428 powered '69

Mercury Cyclone GT was priced at \$89,000. Here's a '96 Buick Roadmaster Estate Wagon with 45k miles and a \$38,500 price tag. Next, an Ace 428 (one of 29 convertibles built with Ford 428 V8 on stretched Cobra chassis). The original paint on the '64 Dodge Polara 500 convertible was a little rough, but it was a factory 383 4-speed car. Price was \$25,500. Don't often see a 1926 Hupmobile like this one in the Car Corral. Next, a Dual-Ghia (body by Ghia on a Dodge chassis), a '57 Ford Fairlane Sunliner. and a '69 Mustang GT fastback. One vendor used potted plants and pumpkins to "stage" the cars for more "curb appeal". The '61 Cadillac Coupe DeVille was one. A

Deussenberg was in the covered area. After walking through the car corral, we walked through some of the vendors on our way to get a sandwich for lunch and then to work our way back to the car. En route we spotted a 1939 Harley Davidson, and a curved dash Olds.

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# MARKETPLACE



**FOR SALE:** Now Available, 93 Octane non-Ethanol Gas, at Interstate Liberty. Rte. 7 at I-81. Pump 2.

**FOR SALE:** Now available, 90 Octane non-Ethanol Gas, all pumps, Royal Farms, 920 Berryville Ave. Winchester and in most other Royal Farms locations.

**FOR SALE:** VA and WV Vintage Tags – Tom Rissler (540) 662-9020

**FOR SALE:** 1928 4 cylinder, Chevy National, 2dr coach, 56,000 miles. Yellow body with black fenders. Engine, trans-mission, and brakes rebuilt within last 4 years. New tires. Original top. Runs and drives great. Project car. Needs new wood and wiring. Comes w/ extra parts. \$5,000. Call Doug Swanson (540) 636-4558.

**FOR SALE:** 1962 Biscayne 2-door post car, many extra parts, 6 cyl car but have extra 283 or 327 motors 3speed trans. \$4,000. Call Bo Weddle, 540-323-2858

**FOR SALE :** 1957 Ford Thunderbird. Triple white. Body off frame restoration. 50k miles. 312 V8 automatic. Beautiful condition. Please call or text Dave Lewis at 540-247-3584

**WANTED:** Driver's side door for a 1961-65 Chevrolet Suburban or Pickup truck. Contact Kevin Malony, kmalony@hotmail.com

**FOR SALE:** 1940 Packard 110, 6cyl. HPOF certified, was owned by the late Andy Anderson. Also for sale 1923 Buick Touring, 6cyl, HPOF

certified. Buddy Lacy 804-252-2196 or buddylacy@yahoo.com

**FOR SALE:** 1951 Mercury 4-dr. blue orig. color, aluminum radiator, 348 Chevy engine, 7R4 auto trans, air cond., power steering, new tires & wheels. Upholstery redone in orig. pattern. \$17k OBO. Bob Little 304-579-0807

**FOR SALE:** Devilbis 80 Gal. two stage air compressor. \$800; Abrasive blast cabinet \$100; VW dealers engine lift porter \$200 . Call Chet Allen (229) 977-1501 after 5:00 pm

**FOR SALE:** 1932 Ford Fire Truck. Flathead V-8. Lights and siren work, runs good, good overall condition. Needs paint. \$4500. Joe Reynolds 301-988-5351

**FOR SALE:** Stewart Warner South Wind gas heater, N.O.S. w/adapter for flathead Ford V-8, \$200. 31-pc Snap-on 3/4" drive socket set w/case, \$300. Husqvarna snowblower 36" cut, like-new cond, used approx. 12 hours, \$800. Snap-on parts washer, large cap., \$400. 2 pair 5-ton jack stands, \$40 per pair. Snap-on power brake bleeder, \$200. H/D truck wheel and brake drum jack \$500. Auto transmission jack 500-lb capacity. Traffic light, single side, \$250. 50's gas station-style oil display rack \$200. Starter/alternator growler \$150. Allen head-light aimer \$50. Snap-on garage diorama, complete, new in box, \$300. 10 Snap-on H/D truck spindle nut sockets \$300. All prices negotiable. Allen Bond 304-261-4080 or 304-876-6790

**FOR SALE:** Pair of 1965 VA tags, "Y6-288"; pair of 1956 VA tags, "474-264". Bruce Hall, 304-283-3661 or bruce@applewoodmotorcar.com.

**FOR SALE:** 1963 Buick LeSabre 4-dr. 54,000 miles, white, \$8,000 OBO. Also, 1929 Ford Model A 2-dr. \$6,000. Call Karl Ettinger, 540-877-8808.

**FOR SALE:** 1978 Thunderbird.302 cid engine. 59,000 miles. Runs and drives but engine runs hot and smokes. Needs paint. Asking \$4,000. Terry Fait, 304-270-8120.

**FOR SALE:** AMC/Rambler 198 c.i. Inline six cylinder block. Brand new in orig. labeled wooden crate and packaging. Never used. Stored inside temp controlled garage. Add'l info, photos, & pricing/shipping details, contact Mark Dinsmore, markshotrodgarage@gmail.com.

**FOR SALE: (NEW AD)** 1965-66 Mustang fast-back rear seat assembly, all there but needs some TLC, \$300. Some parts left over from a 1967 Lincoln Continental, dash and trim parts, \$100 all. David Coco Winchester 540-533-2885, david.coco@comcast.net

**PICTURE YOUR AD HERE**

**FEBRUARY NEWS DEADLINE: NOON MONDAY JANUARY 22**

**Send newsletter ads to: shenandoahregion@gmail.com**



**Driving Directions to Round Hill Church**  
2993 Northwestern Pike, Winchester, VA 22603

Starting just west of Winchester Medical Center, from the intersection of Route 37 and Route 50:

- Drive west on Route 50 (Northwestern Pike) for approximately 2 miles.
- Shortly after crossing Nat'l Lutheran Boulevard, turn left on Route 654 (Poorhouse Road). There is a used car lot on the left as a landmark.
- At 0.2 miles, turn right onto Route 803 (Round Hill Road). Winchester Independent School across the road is a landmark at this intersection.
- At 0.3 miles, turn right at the Church rear driveway (Trinity Lane) and uphill into the parking lot. There is a sign at the driveway entrance.

Fellowship Hall entry is at the bottom level, rear of the Church, off the parking lot. No stairs to climb.



*[Oh, darn, I guess it doesn't count...Hey, wait a minute !]*

# SHENANDOAH REGION, AACA -- OFFICERS 2024

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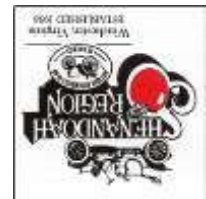
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