

# THE FOOT WARMER

Official publication of the San Diego Region



ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB  
AMERICA



NOVEMBER 2022

Club Website: <https://sandiegoregion.aaca.com>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/SanDiegoRegionAACA](http://www.facebook.com/groups/SanDiegoRegionAACA)



October Open House at the Watts' home on Point Loma  
Photo Tom McIlravy

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**Member submissions are solicited, welcome, encouraged – all of that! Please email articles and photos of your antique automobiles and related activities.**

The Foot Warmer is published approximately monthly in San Diego, California. Subscription is free to members of the San Diego Region of the AACA. Editor John Boyd, [drjohn96@mac.com](mailto:drjohn96@mac.com).

# AACA San Diego Region Info

## OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT:** TOM MCILRAVY (21-22)

**VP:** MARK RICHARDS (22-23)

**SECRETARY:** SUSAN WOODS (22-24)

**TREASURER:** JOHN BOYD (22-24)

## DIRECTORS AT LARGE:

NANNETTE CLARK (22-23)

RON WALLING (22-23)

BARBARA FOLEY (22-23)

BOB GUNTHORP (22-23)

KIMBALL VINCENT (21-22)

## KEY PLAYERS

**PROGRAMS/SPEAKERS:** ALEX WATT

**MEMBERSHIP:** MARK RICHARDS

**TOURS:** MARK RICHARDS

**REFRESHMENTS:** DIANE RICHARDS

**ANNUAL BANQUET:** BOB GUNTHORP AND SUSAN WOODS

**ANNUAL AWARDS:** ALEX WATT, ART COTTEE, ROYCE DUNN, DARYL HOLMES, JACK HEACOCK

**CORONADO PARADE:** AL SMITHSON

**ACCC REP/LEGISLATION:** SHELDON JURIST

## CLUB PHOTOGRAPHERS:

BOB GUNTHORP, BETTY HOLMES, BRAD ZEMZIC, MARK RICHARDS, TOM MCILRAVY, AND THE MEMBERS VOLUNTEER SQUAD

**EDITOR:** JOHN BOYD

## Birthdays

RICHARDS	Mark	November 7
WAGNER	Robert	November 17
WILLIAMS	Cindy	November 18
HUNT	Andy	November 19
LOCKE	Betty	November 21
BOOTH	Newell	November 23
ALEXANDER	Timothy	November 25
PETERSON	William	November 27
MCGILL	Harry	December 5

## Anniversaries

MCGILL	Harry & Evelyn	November 13
FORT	Colin & Suzanne	November 15



September 4th Saturday breakfast at the Bay Club

## Silent Movie Night!

**Our last Silent Movie night of the year is in a couple of weeks. Join the club November 19 with your old car at Trinity Church, 3902 Kenwood in Spring Valley. Please be parked and ready to describe your car to guests by 5:00 pm. The program includes one of our favorites, Greg Breed, accompanying two Harold Lloyd silent films on the rare Trinity theater organ. Note that the show starts at 6:00 pm instead of 7:00 in order to catch a little more daylight. Let's get a good turnout for this fun event. Silent movie fans love antique cars!**

## Club Calendar

Date	Event	Details
Nov 7	Regular Membership Meeting	Joyce Beers Center, 3900 Vermont St
Nov 13	SD Region Awards Banquet	Register today – form included on back page
Nov 19	Silent Movie, 5:00 pm	Trinity Church, 3902 Kenwood, Spring Valley
Dec 5	Regular Membership Meeting	Joyce Beers Center, 3900 Vermont St
Feb 2023	Silent Movie TBA, 5:00 pm	Trinity Church, 3902 Kenwood, Spring Valley

## Members Meeting Report, October 3

The September meeting of the San Diego Region of the AACA was held at the Joyce Beers Center, 3900 Vermont St. in Hillcrest. Tom McIlravy and David Melendez provided a great assortment of October and Halloween treats including candy corn and pumpkin pie! Later, Mark Richards won the name badge drawing and Program Chair Alex Watt discussed the events following the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, which occurred while he was in the UK, showing some video clips and photos.

*These general meetings are always a great time to see friends, discuss antique car issues, and hear an interesting presentation. Not to mention the volunteer refreshment board! You should be there. The next one is November 7. Arrive by 6:30 to help set the room; program will begin at 7:00. Wear your club badge to be eligible for the \$20 cash drawing. Someone has to win – maybe it will be you!*

## 2022 Hershey Swap Meet and AACA Eastern Fall Nationals Report

By John Boyd

I attended the annual Hershey swap meet October 3-7 this year. In many ways, this event is the biggest deal AACA does, certainly the largest in terms of attendance. Held every fall (except for worldwide pandemics) during the second week of October, in a large collection of parking lots serving the Giants hockey stadium and Hershey's Chocolate World, it boasts 10,000 vendor spaces for up to 4 days of swap meet. I hope this report helps you decide whether you would like to attend next year. Besides the swap meet, there are several activities for attendees, mostly related to the old car hobby. Here are my observations and some photos, mostly found on Facebook posts about the event. There are thousands more (estimated) if you would like to see more, including some nice videos, on the AACA group page.

This year I flew to Baltimore instead of Harrisburg (closest commercial airport to Hershey) to spend a couple of days with my friends Jon and Neila Clulow. Jon partnered with me in restoring the 1936 Airflow Custom Imperial Sedan that many of you have seen or read about in the Foot Warmer. We made the two-hour drive up to Hershey from Jon's home on Monday October 3 in steady rain and 50-degree temperatures. That's the thing about Hershey the event – weather can be warm, even hot and sunny, or it can rain cats and dogs for days on end. Years ago, the field wasn't paved, and the whole place became a mud field. But people came anyway! Thankfully, the entire show field is now paved. Jon towed his 1968 Airstream Caravel and set it up in one of his spaces, and we huddled inside around the gas heater Monday afternoon. I borrowed his pickup to drive to my hotel, 8 miles away in Middleton.

Tuesday, we expected another friend from AACA and the Airflow Club to arrive with the pop-up tents and tables for our booth. John Wagner is president of the Athens Georgia Region of the AACA, and he has attended and supported this Hershey presence for years. I'll call him Wags for now, since all three of us are Jon or John. Pretty popular name for post-war Boomers! By Tuesday afternoon Wags showed up. It was still raining and there was almost no foot traffic, so we agreed to set up on Wednesday. I should mention that Jon, Wags, and I are all members of the Airflow Club as well as the AACA, and the booth we were setting up represents the Airflow Club of America. Its primary purpose is to meet and welcome current and prospective members of the Airflow Club, although there are also few items for sale.

Wednesday had better weather, and Thursday was lovely: sunny all day, temperatures in the mid 70s. Kind of like San Diego! Thursday night we went to the traditional Airflow Club banquet, 25 miles away in Mount Joy. Jon and I



returned to the Baltimore area Friday afternoon, and Wags headed down the road for a two-day drive home. Enough background! Let's get to what happens at Hershey Week.

### The Swap Meet

For many people, Hershey means the annual swap meet. The Hershey Region AACA organizers claim it's the largest auto swap meet in the world. Space after space is filled with vendors of all sorts. Specialist insurers like Hagerty and JC Taylor have large tents spreading across many spaces. Classic car parts suppliers are there in abundance as well: Coker Tires, Restoration Supplies, and the like also have large displays. Years ago, I found Grain-It Technologies that I used for the DIY interior woodgraining on my Desoto. Then there are the smaller parts vendors, specialized tools, supplies, rivets and screws, Autolite and Delco-Remy reproduction tags, etc. Then hundreds, no, thousands of used parts vendors selling doors, fenders, grilles, bumpers, and junk. In another category, there are organizations who display their special wares, and others who are just there to meet friends, advertise their club or business, maybe sell some stuff. We set up the Airflow Club booth for these reasons every year. Behind us was the Dodge Brothers semitrailer with DB literature and a few parts. In the photo, that's Wags on the left with the white ballcap and Jon on the right, inspecting our neighbor's fire extinguishers. The mix of vendors and displays is reminiscent of the Big Three Parts Exchange our club sponsored for many years, but with many more exhibitors.



### The Car Corral

Extending for a mile or more around the swap meet spaces is the Car Corral. You find a mix of prewar and postwar cars on display marked with asking prices and owner info. Most look wonderful, with bright chrome and shiny paint, and finding one that you admired as a high-schooler or rode in as a child makes them interesting to see. Some sell during the week. But West Coasters caution one another to be careful. There's a lot of winter salt on the roads in this part of the country.



## Food

Vendors and shoppers need food, and the swap meet field provides several opportunities. A line of food trucks can be found in front of the Giant Center hockey stadium that this year included an Oscar Meyer Wienermobile. AACA Hershey also operates a big, walled tent with limited menu for breakfast and, later, for lunch. I had volunteer-served cheesesteaks and a crab sandwich for lunch this year. There's usually a separate set of trucks "across the bridge" on the east side of Hersheypark Drive. There are numerous places to eat off the park grounds in Hershey and nearby towns.



## The Parade

A serious attempt is made to get all the cars onto the show field, arranged by judging class, between 7 and 10 am on show day. Cars queue up and form a parade as they wait to enter the show field, and a crowd always gathers, lining both sides of the street, to admire, photograph, and sometimes cheer for their favorites. Here a Kaiser Darrin cruises slowly by. Occasionally there is a car problem, like stalling or overheating, and spectators cross the fence into the road to help out. I find watching the parade interesting and one of the best features of Hershey week. You can usually find amateur videos of the parade on Facebook or YouTube; here's one for 2022: [Hershey Show 2022 Parade](#).



## AACA Eastern Nationals Car Show

On the last day of Hershey week is the large, judged, AACA car show next to the swap meet field. Hundreds of cars are displayed for regular judging and Historic Preservation of Original Features (HPOF) class. There are also dozens of cars shown in Driver Participation class. The show field is mown grass and in nice weather is a pleasant stroll. This year it was slightly soggy. As at most AACA meets, the judges work quickly, getting the results tabulated in time for awards to be presented at an evening ceremony.



## Auction Night

One of the major collector car auction houses, recently RM Sotheby, conducts a classic car auction the evening of next-to-last swap meet day, the evening before the car show. It's a serious auction and typically brings in millions of dollars in sales. Only qualified bidders are allowed in the auction hall, but the cars to be sold are arranged outside the hall and can be viewed by anyone. Each is marked with a lot number and seller, along with an estimate of what the car will sell for. On several occasions, I've met with friends for pizza after the swap meet, then strolled through the cars waiting their turn. Last time we saw a Stanley Steamer touring bus from Colorado, and one lonely '34 DeSoto Airflow. Here's a 1932 Pierce-Arrow Model 54 LeBaron that is still for sale.



## Lectures and Talks

Traditionally, educational activities in furtherance of the old car hobby are planned. Now that the new Headquarters building is finished, right across the street from the swap meet, they were offered in a classroom there. One talk was



about the experience of a member- restorer in resurrecting an original Kübelwagen, a specially equipped World War II-era VW German military car.

### *AACA Museum*

About 6 miles from the park is the AACA Museum. It houses a magnificent collection of cars and other vehicles, including a collection of Tucker automobiles and components, a museum of bus transportation, and special exhibits like the current Orphan Cars collection. It's a great place to spend a few hours while you are in the area. There is often a special coffee and donuts event during Hershey Week to lure visitors to the museum.

Other activities are planned each year to make Hershey Week attractive and useful to people interested in preserving and restoring old cars. A particular emphasis is recruiting younger people to the hobby, even starting with elementary school kids with coloring books, tool training, slot car racing, and the like. These activities are also featured at the AACA Annual Convention, usually held in early spring.



### *October Open House at Alex and Sandy Watts' Home*

The 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, Alex and Sandy Watts again hosted a club open house at their home on Point Loma. Alex was away with his FEMA responsibilities after Hurricane Ian hit Florida, so the major portion of the work fell on Sandy, who did a *fantastic* job! Tom McIlravy and others lent helping hands, cooking burgers, dogs, and brats, and the event was a lot of fun for all who could attend. Landing, as it did, on the fourth Saturday of the month, the picnic displaced the almost-monthly 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday breakfast. Thanks to Mark Richards for these photos!



## Smithson Classics Shown at La Jolla Concours d' Elegance Golf Tournament

I forwarded to Al Smithson a request from Bob Kerner, organizer of the subject golf tournament, for display of some classic cars to set the mood at the golf course. Al, with the help of Mark Rebello, provided two elegant, black, classics. Bob wrote:

Dear Al and Mark,

Thank you again for your support of the La Jolla Concours d' Elegance Golf Tournament. Having your car parked in front of the La Jolla Country Club added to our theme of World Class Cars and World Class Golf venue. I have included a few photos for your enjoyment.

Best,

Bob



## Trunk and Treat

The annual Trunk and Treat event drew black gangster cars (and one red Mustang) as San Diego Region members passed out treats to neighborhood kids. How many of these scary gangster types can you recognize?





**LAST CHANCE!**

**SAN DIEGO REGION AACA ANNUAL BANQUET**

This year's Annual Awards Banquet is less than two weeks away! If you haven't registered yet, you should do so today. Here are the details: Date: Sunday, Nov 13, social hour at noon, meal at 1:00. Place: Shelter Island Bay Club, 2131 Shelter Island Dr, San Diego, CA 92106. Suggested attire is vintage outfits or semi-formal. We are encouraging everyone to drive their antique vehicles. Parking is free in the underground garage and in the street. The menu choices are ROSEMARY CHICKEN, FILET OF SALMON, FILET STEAK, or VEGETARIAN. The cost is \$25.00 per person, with the club covering the complete cost for past presidents, charter members, and honorary members. Please register before November 7; add \$10 per person for late reservations. **Make all checks payable to "AACA San Diego"** and send them to **John Boyd, 1201 Vista Capitan Dr, El Cajon, CA 92020**, with your meal choices. If you have any questions, please email Bob Gunthorp at [badwrench7@cox.net](mailto:badwrench7@cox.net) or John at [drjohn96@me.com](mailto:drjohn96@me.com).

**SAN DIEGO REGION AACA ANNUAL BANQUET – NOVEMBER 13, 2022 – RESERVATION FORM**

	GUEST	MEAL CHOICE			
Member Name	_____	Chicken <input type="radio"/>	Salmon <input type="radio"/>	Filet Steak <input type="radio"/>	Veg <input type="radio"/>
Spouse/Guest Name	_____	Chicken <input type="radio"/>	Salmon <input type="radio"/>	Filet Steak <input type="radio"/>	Veg <input type="radio"/>
Guest Name	_____	Chicken <input type="radio"/>	Salmon <input type="radio"/>	Filet Steak <input type="radio"/>	Veg <input type="radio"/>
Guest Name	_____	Chicken <input type="radio"/>	Salmon <input type="radio"/>	Filet Steak <input type="radio"/>	Veg <input type="radio"/>

List additional guests and meal choices on back.

Total number of meals \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_ Check if past president, honorary, or charter.

**Make checks payable to AACA San Diego and mail to John Boyd, 1201 Vista Capitan Dr, El Cajon, CA, 92020 by November 7. Increase price by \$10 per meal if postmarked after November 7.**