



# The Duster

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LOUISIANA REGION AACA  
VOLUME 70

ISSUE 2 March/April 2025

Official Website for Louisiana Region AACA [louisianaregionaaca.com](http://louisianaregionaaca.com)

Chapters of the Louisiana Region Antique Automobile Club of America

Baton Rouge AACA  
Baton Rouge, LA

CENLA Old Car Club  
Alexandria, LA

Contraband AACA  
Lake Charles, LA

Evangeline AACA  
Lafayette, LA

Lagniappe AACA  
Houma, LA

## Louisiana Region AACA

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## President's Message

The year 2025 is off to a good start! We have already enjoyed two events. First, we had the Quarterly Drive & Dine in March hosted by Lagniappe. Although the weather kept the number low, we had 42 individuals enjoy the food and fellowship at Feezio's in Broussard. Following that was the Spring tour in Sulphur hosted by Contraband. Although Lesia and I were not able to attend, I understand that everyone had a great time. Great job by the folks in Contraband in putting on this event in such a short time.

That was just the beginning for 2025. Upcoming we have the following:

- April 12th is the Quarterly Drive & Dine, hosted by Cenla at Cajun Catfish in Ville Platte
- May 2nd-4th is the State Tour hosted by Horseless Carriage in Hammond. The Region Officer's meeting will be May 3rd while at the tour.
- June 7th is a regional picnic hosted by the Region at Chicot State Park in Ville Platte. Come bring your own food and drinks while enjoying the fellowship. We will be at Pavilion 1. Lesia and I are going to make a weekend of it and enjoy some camping at the park before and after the picnic. Those that enjoy camping please consider joining us. Contact either Lesia or I for our camping spot number if you would like to get a spot close so we can visit.

That just gets us through the first half of the year. I will mention more to come in future Duster publications.

I strongly encourage members that have not been coming to these events to please consider joining us. These events are great opportunities to get the old cars out and blow off the dust and pollen.

See you soon!

*James Lass*

Regional President



**Louisiana Region 2025 Point Earning Events**

December 1, 2024	Region Board Meeting & Installation of officers 2025-2027
March 21-23, 2025	44th Contraband Chapter Spring Tour Sulphur, LA
May 2-4, 2025	Louisiana Tour hosted by Horseless Carriage Club of New Orleans Tangipahoa Parish

**DRIVE AND DINE ROTATION:**

**1ST QUARTER—LAGNIAPPE DATE SET FOR MARCH 15—  
FEEZIO'S IN BROUSSARD**

**2ND QUARTER—CENLA DATE SET FOR APRIL 12—CAJUN CAT-  
FISH IN VILLE PLATTE**

**3RD QUARTER—CONTRABAND**

**4TH QUARTER—EVANGELINE**

**LOUISIANA TOUR ROTATION:**

**2026—BATON ROUGE**

**2027—EVANGELINE**

**2028—CONTRABAND**

**2029—LAGNIAPPE**

**2030—CENLA**

**2031—HORSELESS CARRIAGE**

**Would you like registration information and materials about any of these  
National Activities?**

**You can:**

1. Fill out the activity request card that came with the last issue of *Antique Automobile* magazine and mail it to us.
2. Sign into the [members only area](#) of the AACA website to print your own registration form and brochure. You can also now fill out your registration online and pay via credit card. You will need your member number and your PIN. If you don't remember your member number and your PIN, give AACA Headquarters a call, and we can provide you with that information.
3. Call us at AACA Headquarters and we will fill out a request for you and mail you the materials. Call 717-534-1910 Mon.-Fri. from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

**REMINDER:**

Your 2025 membership dues **MUST** be paid prior to registering for any 2025 National Activities.

**April 3-5, 2025 – Southeastern Spring Nationals – Charlotte, NC – hosted by Hornets Nest Region AACA – 704-847-4215**

**August 12-15, 2025 – Eastern Divisional Tour – Northern Maine – hosted by Maine Region AACA – 207-768-1033**

**May 1-3, 2025 – Western Spring Nationals / Grand Nationals – Tucson, AZ – hosted by Tucson Region AACA – 520-904-7325**

**September 7-12, 2025 – Revival AAA Glidden Tour® (Pre-1943) – Owensboro, KY (VMCCA Hosted) – mister-greTRACE@gmail.com**

**June 1-7, 2025 – Vintage Tour (Pre-1932) – Southern/Eastern Pennsylvania – hosted by Buzzard's Breath Touring Region – 407-261-9318**

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

**June 19-21, 2025 – Eastern Spring National – hosted by Whitewater Region AACA – 304-673-6273**

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

**July 2-5, 2025 – Central Spring Nationals – Auburn, IN – hosted by Crossroads of America Region AACA – 260-925-4710**

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

**July 24-26, 2025 – Grand Nationals / Zenith – Dayton, OH – hosted by AACA National – 717-534-1910**



Congratulations to Faye Drake & Bunny LeDoux on their award of distinction for The Duster publication.



Congratulations to Harry Kleinman & Bunny LeDoux on their award of distinction for Antique News & Views publication.





# 43rd Contraband Spring Tour

## Sulphur, LA

### March 21-22, 2025



Barbara Smith  
Hard Luck Award



Russell & Judie Alleman  
President's Award  
Pontiac Cheftain



Jim & Laura Stratton  
Pre-War Award  
'35 Plymouth



Herb & Teri Comeaux  
Post War Award for their GTO Judge



Wally & Lulu Waguespack  
People's Choice Award for their  
Avanti



*1st Quarter Drive & Dine  
March 15, 2025  
Feezio's in Broussard  
Hosted by Lagniappe Chapter*











## An Orphan Car Story by Lulu and Wally Waguespack

I have been asked the question “why this car” many times since I purchased my 1976 Avanti II. The Avanti was an orphaned car in that its manufacturer is no longer in business and the car was all but forgotten by so many.

My infatuation with the Avanti started around the end of 1962 when, like many young boys at that time, I was obsessed with all things car related and dreamt about driving around town in a fancy new sports car. Looking thru one of my numerous car magazines, I saw an article about an all new car with a short trunk, long hood, racing back, 4 speed transmission and buckets seats. I was intrigued by the pictures of this totally different looking car.



The car was designed and built not by GM or Ford or even Chrysler, but by Studebaker! I immediately fell in love with this NEW car and its different design.

My Father had told me that if I made good grades he would buy me a new car for my graduation from high school. By the time I graduated in 1965, Studebaker had gone out of business. My father refused to buy a car from a company that had gone out of business so my dream of owning an Avanti went down the tube with Studebaker. Dad did live up to his promise and bought me a 1965 gold and black GTO, not a total disappointment.

Years passed and when I retired in 2014, I knew I wanted to buy an old car to tinker with. I looked at many cars but really wanted an Avanti. I looked at ads up and down the east coast of the US and mid America. I drove to Miami to look at what I thought was a good prospect but that didn't work out. Then, I got a hot tip on a car that might just be the one for me. It was like one of those TV shows. The car was a 1976 Avanti II and had been parked and basically forgotten since the owner was deemed too old to drive. It sat in a garage for about 18 years until the family put the car up for sale. The only problem with the car was that it was located on the West Coast outside of Portland, Oregon. I contacted the family's representative who sent me over 70+ pictures of the car. Based on the pictures, I purchased the car in 2016 and had it shipped to Baton Rouge. Watching the driver unload the car off the transport truck was one of the most exciting days in my life. I finally have my Avanti! Watching the driver back the truck and trailer up the offramp to the interstate was another story!

The first order of business was to get the Avanti registered in Louisiana. First problem – the Louisiana DMV said the VIN is not correct. The computers require VIN numbers to be 17 digits. The Avanti's VIN was only 4 digits. After four tries someone at DMV got the brilliant idea to add 13 “0's” to the end of the VIN and all was well. Next, I learned that even though the tires on the car looked good, Goodyear had stopped making that model 28 years earlier! New tires were purchased along with new belts and hoses.

(continued on next page)

## An Orphan Car Story - Continued

The first real test of my purchase was the 2016 Hot Rod Power tour. The Avanti did great and I completed the tour. I have been very lucky with my long distance purchase and I have had very little trouble with the car - EXCEPT when my wife, Lulu, is with me. It's never anything serious but when Lulu is with me, something seems to go wrong. Remember the new tires? Defective. I think it was that day, sitting on the side of the interstate, Lulu nicknamed the Avanti "Christine". "It hates me!"

I have enjoyed the Avanti greatly and it has won many awards at shows along the Gulf Coast. It won several "Most Original" and "Most Unique" awards. One particular show in New Orleans had over 300 cars entered and the Avanti won the top "Foreign Car" award, you would think they would know better. You would not believe how many people believe it is a foreign car. I have a lot of fun at the car shows and on different tours answering questions about the car. "What country is it from?", "Are they still made?", "How many were made?" Probably the most outlandish question I have had was "is it electric?" even when I had the hood open!

The Avanti is now 49 years old and is all original except for the paint. For Christmas, I had the car repainted "shark metal gray" and had the chrome replated. It is now ready for more shows and tours in 2025.







## 2025 LOUISIANA TOUR

### May 2-4, 2025

#### Tour Headquarters:

- Holiday Inn, 1819 SW Railroad Avenue, Hammond, LA 70403
- Discounted rate of \$119 / night is a standard double queen room and includes breakfast buffet. Discounted rate expires April 11, 2025. For reservations, call (855) 914-1354, May 2-4, 2025 and provide the Group code "HCC".
- Participant cost of the tour includes entry to all venues, lunch, and dinner on Friday and Saturday May 2 & 3.

#### ✓ Friday Early Bird Activities:

Registration: 10 AM to 1 PM  
 Lunch: 11 AM-1 PM Lunch, provided by HCC Members  
 Early Bird Tour: Depart hotel at 1 PM  
 Dinner Included: 6-9 PM

#### ✓ Saturday Activities:

Registration: 7:00 – 8:00 AM  
 Tour: Details provided in Tour book at registration

🚗 Global Wildlife Center, Fleur de Lis Tea, Independence Italian Culture Museum & Red Hill Bee Farm 🚗

Box Lunch Included: Provided at Fleur de Lis Tea  
 Dinner Included: 6 PM Social Hour  
 7 PM Dinner

#### ✓ Sunday Activities:

Socialize, pack and depart for home

**Thank you for participating, we are looking forward to a great tour!**

➡ **Pre-Registration is required and must be received no later than April 8, 2025 using the form below.**

Make checks payable to Horseless Carriage Club of New Orleans, Inc. and mail with registration slip below to:  
 Suzie Lambert, 10062 Hereford Road, Folsom, LA 70437 Questions? Email: [President@HCCNOLA.org](mailto:President@HCCNOLA.org)

✂-----✂

Driver: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_

#Children (12-18) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

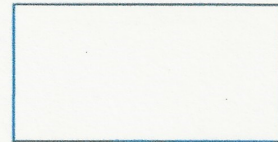
Tour Participants	# Participants	\$ Each	Total
Driver and Car	1	\$119	
Guests over 18		\$104	
Children Age 8-18		\$ 65	
Children under 8		Free	
Totals			

Make Model and Year of Car:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Amount included with Registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_





Entry Number  
For Official Use Only

Cruisin Cajun Country Cruise-In

May 15-17, 2025 New Iberia, LA

Early Arrivals May 14, 2025

[www.cruisincajuncountry.com](http://www.cruisincajuncountry.com)

All Entrants are Subject to Cruisin Cajun Country, Inc. Approval

Registration form must be completely filled out and sign

Read All Information Before Completing Your Enter Form

Please Print Clearly:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(First)

Spouse/Guess

(Last)

Registration Fee: **\$65.00**

Purchase Extra T-Shirt: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Person/Guess: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: 21 or Older? Yes or No: \_\_\_\_ Any person under 21? Yes or No: \_\_\_\_ Insurance Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Extra person/guess included in registration:

Print: \_\_\_\_\_ Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Print: \_\_\_\_\_ Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Print: \_\_\_\_\_ Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle 1 Information: \_\_\_\_\_

(Year)

(Make)

(Model)

Vehicle 2 Information: \_\_\_\_\_

(If Applicable)

(Year)

(Make)

(Model)

Circle Selected One Free T-Shirt W/Registration: (S) (M) (L) (XL) (2XL) (3XL) (4XL) (5XL) Prefer a Cotton T-Shirt Check Here ( )

Ladies V-Neck T-Shirt Size: (LV/S) (LV/M) (LV/L) (LV/XL) (LV/2XL) (LV/3XL) (LV/4XL) Prefer a Cotton T-Shirt if Available Check Here ( )

Circle Selected Extra T-Shirt Size if Purchase @ \$20.00 each: (S) (M) (L) (XL) (2XL) (3XL) (4XL) (5XL) Prefer a Cotton T-Shirt Check ( )

Ladies V-Neck T-Shirt Size: (LV/S) (LV/M) (LV/L) (LV/XL) (LV/2XL) (LV/3XL) (LV/4XL) Prefer a Cotton T-Shirt if Available Check Here ( )

Please Do Not Send Cash: Payment by: Credit Card or Checks or Money Orders Made Payable to: Cruisin Cajun Country, Inc.

Mail To: Cruisin Cajun Country, Inc. P.O. Box 10628 New Iberia, LA 70562-0628

Credit Card information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Secure Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

2025 Event Registration Time and Fees:

Preregistration is from May 15, 2024 thru April 30, 2025 @ **\$65.00** Per Vehicle includes up to two people plus one free event t-shirt

Late Preregistration is May 1, 2025 thru May 14, 2025 @ **\$80.00** Per Vehicle includes up to two people plus one free event t-shirt

Each Addition Person : **\$40.00**

Onsite Registration is May 14, 2025 thru May 17, 2025 @ **\$80.00** Per Vehicle includes up to two people plus one free event t-shirt

One Day only Registration Fee: **\$45.00** Per Vehicle includes up to two people and **\$25.00** for each additional Person **No free t-shirt**

Preregistration packets may be pick up by registrant @ Registration table @ Host Hotel beginning @ 1:00 PM on Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Preregistration & Onsite Registration Packets Will Include:

A Vehicle Registration Card which allows you to enter all schedule events/your free event t-shirt

plus all extra merchandise you may have purchase

Page 1 of 2 Initial: \_\_\_\_\_





**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A GOOD OLD FASHIONED PICNIC!**

**Louisiana Region aaca**

**HOST: James & Lesia Lass**  
Regional President & Secretary  
James—318-308-3582  
Lesia -318-201-8683

**WHEN: Saturday, June 7th**  
11:00 a.m. till ...

**WHERE: Chicot State Park**  
*(Pavilion 1)*  
3469 Chicot Park Rd.  
Ville Platte, LA

**BRING:** \*Your own lunch (brown bag, fried chicken, barbeque. Whatever you want to eat)  
There is a barbeque pit at pavilion.

- \*Your own drinks
- \*Chairs
- \*Playing Cards
- \*Cornhole Boards & Bags
- \*Dominoes

<https://www.lastateparks.com/parks-preserves/chicot-state-park>





# For Sale

## 1988 Avanti Convertible



Avantis were originally manufactured by Studebaker Corp. in 1962 and 1963 as a fiberglass coupe. When Studebaker ceased production, **Leo Newman and Nate Altman**, wealthy Studebaker dealers, bought the rights to the Avanti, tooling and stock to continue manufacturing the car in one of the Studebaker buildings in South Bend, Indiana. They called it the **Avanti II** to differentiate it from the Studebaker produced cars. Other owners and partners continued to manufacture coupes and convertibles under Avanti Motor Corporation until 2006. As the company ran out of most Studebaker parts, they began basing the car on GM production cars.

This Avanti, manufactured under the "Michael Kelly Era" in Youngstown, Ohio, is based on a 1988 Chevrolet Monte Carlo (GM 305CID). It is a reliable and road worthy car with 77,038 miles. It doesn't burn any oil and gets average fuel mileage. It rides on 15" original chrome wire wheels. The interior is in good condition.

AACA National First Senior Award, Naples FL in 2016. Only about 250 Avanti Convertibles ever produced.

**\$25,000 Seller: Fred Duplechin, 985 803-0672**



**Antique Automobile Club of America  
Southeastern Spring Nationals  
April 5, 2025 at Charlotte AutoFair**

Hosted by Hornets Nest Region, AACA  
Meet Email: [hornetsnestregionaaca@windstream.net](mailto:hornetsnestregionaaca@windstream.net)



**Hornets Nest Region**  
Antique Automobile Club of America  
9307-H Monroe Road  
Charlotte, NC 28270

**AACA Southeastern  
Spring Nationals  
Information  
Region Office  
704-841-1990  
Mon-Thur 9-3**



Vehicle Registrations Will Be Handled  
With the Customary AACA Process.



## DUAL IN THE DESERT III

**TUCSON AZ - MAY 1-3, 2025**

Hosted by the Tucson Region - Antique Automobile Club of America

**For more info or to register: [tucsonaaca.org](http://tucsonaaca.org)**

**Event Coordinator:**

Dave Green 520-904-7325 [alpdavegre@msn.com](mailto:alpdavegre@msn.com)

**Grand National Chair:**

Tom Mulligan 520-325-7247 [tmulligansr@aol.com](mailto:tmulligansr@aol.com)

**Western Spring Chair:**

Andy Neal 520-405-5490 [nihoto560@gmail.com](mailto:nihoto560@gmail.com)

**Registration Chair:**

Roy Ireland 520-591-1140 [royireland802@gmail.com](mailto:royireland802@gmail.com)



**2025**

## Dogwood Festival

## CAR AND TRUCK SHOW

Saturday, April 5, 2025

LaCroix Park Pollock, LA

\$20 Registration Fee

Registration begins at 8:00am

Please arrive at the park by 9:00 due to the parade at 10:00

**AWARD CATEGORIES**

People's Choice

Best Interior

Best Paint

Best Engine Bay

Most Original

Best Modern Ride (2001-2024)

Best Truck (1972 & older)

Best Car (1972 & older)

Best Truck (1973-2000)

Best Car (1973-2000)

AWARDS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT 1:00 at the Bandstand!

If interested in riding in the Parade, please let us know ASAP.

For more information contact

Kerry LaCombe (318) 623-2186 or [sbbdogwood@gmail.com](mailto:sbbdogwood@gmail.com)



Door Prizes!

T-Shirts will  
be for sale!



## Anniversary of MayDaze Car Show

**May 10, 2025**

**Many High School • Many, LA**

[toledocruisers@gmail.com](mailto:toledocruisers@gmail.com) • Facebook: Toledo Cruisers • 318-554-8912

\$20 Entry • 9 am to 1 pm • Over 25 Awards

Old Time Music • Goody Bags • Door Prizes • Silent Auction

## Trivia Question!

Q: What was the first car to use power operated seats?

A: They were first used on the 1947 Packard line.



## PRAYER FOR PROTECTION DURING HURRICANE SEASON

BY THE MOST REVEREND MAURICE SCHEXNAYDER  
SECOND BISHOP OF LAFAYETTE

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children.  
The Sea of Galilee obeyed your order and returned to its former quietude; you are  
still the Master of land and sea.

We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control. The Gulf, like a  
provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its  
conventional boundaries, invade our land, and spread chaos and disaster.  
During this hurricane season, we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from past  
tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to  
heal with the passing of time.

O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our Beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son in  
our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated  
with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to  
reach the heavenly Jerusalem where a storm-less eternity awaits us.

Amen.

Louisiana Region

Antique Automobile Club of America

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