



The Duster

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Chapters of the Louisiana Region Antique Automobile Club of America

Baton Rouge AACB Baton Rouge, LA

CENLA Old Car Club Alexandria, LA

Contraband AACCA
Lake Charles, LA

Evangeline AACA
Lafayette, LA

Lagniappe AAC Houma, LA

Louisiana Region AACRA

Officers 2025-2027

President	James Lass 318-308-3582 jameslass@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	Harry Kleinman 337-540-4006 drvette@bellsouth.net
Secretary/ Editor	Lesia Lass 318-201-8683 llass@yahoo.com
Historian/Archives	Susan Slovacek 337-962-2566 lollipop.slovacek@yahoo.com
Web Master	Whitney Richard 504-344-3008 whitney@bavourat.com

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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**

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

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

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

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

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

**August 12-15, 2025 – Eastern Di-
visional Tour – Northern Maine – host-
ed by Maine Region AACA – 207-768-
1033**

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

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

**October 18-22, 2025 – Central Di-
visional Tour – San Antonio to Gonza-
les, TX – hosted by Texas DFW Re-
gion – 214-498-0531**

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

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

ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA



2024 Award of Distinction for regional publications

Bestowed upon

The Duster - Louisiana Region

And in recognition of the efforts of

Faye Drake

Region President

Thyria LeDoux

Editor

For superior achievement in publicizing and informing regional members of Local and National Antique Automobile Club of America activities and generating interest, enthusiasm, and support for the hobby.



Debbie Nolen

Vice-President of Publications

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 re-plated. 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

☒-----☒

Driver: _____ Guest: _____

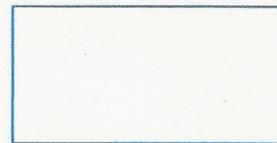
#Children (12-18) _____ Phone: _____ Club: _____

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

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/Guest)

(Last)

Registration Fee: \$65.00

Purchase Extra T-Shirt: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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/guest 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 purchased

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, barbecue. Whatever you want to eat)
There is a barbecue 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



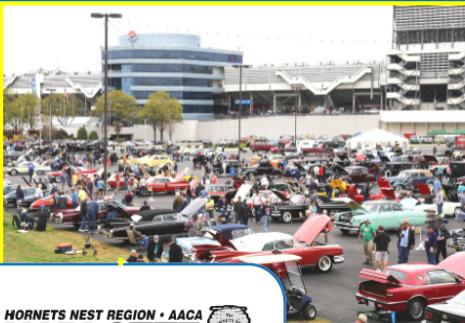
Avantis were originally manufactured by Studebaker Corp. in 1962 and 1963 as a fiberglass coupe. When Studebaker ceased production, **Leo Newman and Nate Altman**, wealthy Studebaker dealers, bought the rights to the Avanti, tooling and stock to continue manufacturing the car in one of the Studebaker 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



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

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



Vehicle Registrations Will Be Handled With the Customary AACA Process

WESTERN SPRING NATIONALS - GRAND NATIONALS



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: tucsonaca.org

Event Coordinator:

Dave Green 520-904-7325 alpdavegre@msn.com

Grand National Chair:

Tom Mulligan 520-325-7247 tmulligansr@aol.com

Western Spring Chair:

Andy Neal 520-405-5490 nihoto560@gmail.com

Registration Chair:

Roy Ireland 520-591-1140 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

Door Prizes!

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

SWEET

CELEBRATING 10th

Anniversary of MayDaze Car Show

May 10, 2025

Many High School • Many, LA

toledocrusiers@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. Spares 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

Lesia Lass, Editor

4046 Old Marksville Hwy.

Pineville, LA 71360

lflass@yahoo.com

