

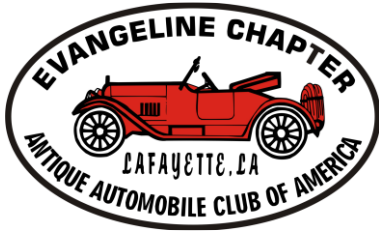
The Cajun Rally

April 2026– Volume 69 – Issue 4

Evangeline Chapter – Louisiana Region AACA

Celebrating 69 years AACA Membership

Editor – Brenda Derouen



Meeting
April 16, 2025 – **6:30**
Lagneaux's
445 Ridge Rd, Lafayette, LA

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The President's Message

Hello all!

The longer days have sure been to our advantage. I know it's harder when we have to drive to meetings after dark so the extra hours of daylight are appreciated. The more the merrier I say, and that's just what happened at our last get together. It's nice to visit after the formalities have concluded. So, here's to the days of spring that allow us to do just that!

Jim Ortego was our 50/50 man this month, subbing for Andy Slovacek, while he and Susan were out of town, caring for their grandkids. John Young won the 50/50 but Mrs. Glenda Young provided the money! So, Great job once again, Jim, and congrats, Glenda!

Doc Bacque has a sick car. His big beautiful Marauder is down but not out! Best of luck, Doc, and we hope your beautiful machine is on the road again soon.

In closing, a quick reminder for you all to check the upcoming events Brenda has posted in the newsletter. It's always more fun when we get together to represent the Evangeline Chapter so please try to be there whenever possible! The Louisiana Tour deadline for registration is April 15th. The number for the Clarion In is 225-285-4614.

We'll see you at our next meeting, Wednesday, April 15th, 6:30 pm, at Lagneaux's.

Until then, DUST 'EM OFF AND DRIVE 'EM!

Bart Guidroz

MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING OF THE EVANGELINE CHAPTER AACA

The Evangeline Chapter AACA held their monthly meeting on March 18, 2026 at Lagneaux's in Lafayette, LA.

Bart Guidroz called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. 43 members signed in.

Perry Richardson gave the invocation, and John R Young led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ron Sonnier motioned to accept the minutes printed in the Cajun Rally and Louise Ortego seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Judie Alleman gave the Treasurer's report. Ted Bertrand motioned to accept the report and was seconded by Leisa Lass. Motion carried.

Bart wished everyone Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to all members who celebrated one in March.

GUEST

John Hebert's grandson Nash Hebert.

SICK MEMBERS

Brenda told us she heard Charlie Froehlich broke his hip. He is doing better and is going to physical therapy. They do plan to attend the Thanksgiving tour.

SICK CARS

Dr. Bacque's Mercery Marauder is having fuel pump issues.

PAST EVENTS

Lagniappe Chapter hosted the Drive & Dine at Feezo's in Broussard on March 14th. There were 66 Region members in attendance. Some members even had to sit on the outside patio.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1st is the Louisiana Tour hosted by the Baton Rouge Chapter.

May 14th – 16th is Cruisin Cajun Country in New Iberia,

June 13 is Drive & Dine in Ville Platte, September 18th – 19th is the Fall Tour hosted by CENLA,

October 4th – 11th is Cruisin the Coast, November 17th – 22nd is the Thanksgiving Tour December 2nd is the La. Region Christmas party & Board Meeting.

TRIVIA QUESTION

In 1965 what car sold more than 1 million units and still holds the record today?

1. Ford Galaxy
2. Plymouth Fury
3. Chevrolet Impala

50/50

Roy Carraway won the extra tickets for driving his antique to the meeting.

The winner of the \$62 50/50 was Glenda Young.

TRIVIA ANSWER

Chevrolet Impala

Our next meeting will be April 15th at Lagneaux's in Lafayette.

James Lass made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by John Reaux. Motion passed.

Members who signed the book were:

Bart Guidroz
 Louise Ortego
 Brenda Derouen
 James & Lesia Lass
 Ron & Dianne Sonnier
 John & Donna Reaux
 Russell & Judie Alleman
 Ted & Brenda Bertrand
 Gerald & Linda Tribe
 Anne-Marie Simon
 Robert Hoey & Sylvia Fenning
 Harold Breaux
 John Hebert
 Nash Hebert (guest)
 Kimmy Breaux
 Joey Breaux
 Perry Richardson
 Roy & Liz Carraway
 Calvin Ardoin & Annette Landry
 Frank Bacque'
 Sam & Erica Bacque'
 Ralph & Yvonne Artall
 John R & Glenda Young
 Greg & Jenny Doucet
 Jim & Marguerite Ortego
 Jim & Lisa Ousse

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

7 - Harold Breaux
 14 - Susan Slovacek
 13 - Kerry Jenkins
 15 - Vivian Crawford
 17 - Sam Bacque'
 19 - Sylvia Fenning

**2026 Louisiana Events**

April 15th – Meeting – Lagneaux's
 May 1st & 2nd, 2026 Louisiana Tour – Gonzales
 May 14th - 16th, 2026 Cruisin Cajun Country Cruise In - New Iberia
 May 20th – Meeting - Lagneaux's
 June 13th – Drive & Dine – Ville Plate - CENLA
 June 17th - Meeting - Lagneaux's
 July 11th – Collector Car Appreciation Day cruise to Lake Arthur
 July 15th – Meeting - Lagneaux's
 Aug 19th – Meeting - Lagneaux's
 Drive & Dine – 3rd Quarter – Contraband
 Sept 16th – Meeting - Lagneaux's
 Sept 18th – 19th – Fall Tour – CENLA
 Oct 4th – 11th – Cruisin the Coast – Mississippi
 Drive & Dine – 4th Quarter – Evangeline
 Oct 21th – Meeting -
 Nov 11th – Meeting -
 Nov 17th – 22nd Thanksgiving Tour

- Dec 6th – Region Board Meeting & Christmas Party
- Denotes Point Earning Event

2026 AACA National Shows and Tours

April 9-11, 2026 – Southeastern Spring Nationals – Charlotte, NC
 April 23-25, 2026 – Annual Grand Nationals/Western Spring Nationals
 – Las Vegas, NV
 May 28-30, 2026 – Eastern Spring Nationals – Indiana, PA
 June 11-13, 2026 – Southeastern Fall Nationals – Oak Ridge, TN
 June 15-19, 2026 – Sentimental Tour – Mechanicsburg, PA
 July 23-25, 2026 – Central Spring Nationals – Green Bay, WI
 August 5-8, 2026 – Southeastern Divisional Tour – Flat Rock, NC
 August 19-22, 2026 – Annual Grand Nationals / Zenith Awards
 – Allentown, PA – 717-534-1910
 September 9-14, 2026 – Founders Tour (1932-2001) – Williamsburg, VA
 September 20-26, 2026 – Revival AAA Glidden Tour (Pre-1943) – Dover, DE
 October 6-9, 2026 – Eastern Fall Nationals – Hershey, PA



It is with deep sorrow, that we announce the death of Jewel Marie Slovacsek, nee Bristol, who passed away on February 16, 2026, at the age of 91.

Jewel was born in Henderson, Louisiana, on September 11, 1934, to Paul J. Bristol and Marie Hebert Bristol. She and her parents moved several times throughout her childhood. She lived in Breau Bridge, Mexico, Corpus Christi, Pasadena (TX), Sulphur, Lake Charles, and Crosby to name a few locations.

She met the love of her life, Frankie Slovacsek, during high school in Crosby, TX. Later, while he was stationed in France, she hopped on a ship to meet him in Verdun, where they married – twice! Once by the French government and once by the base Chaplin.

Traveling continued to be a big part of Jewel's life. If her life would be made into a movie, it might be titled "Planes, Trains and Automobiles and Barges and Ships and RVs!" Aside from traveling, her favorite activities included bowling, working jigsaw puzzles, playing bourré and Mexican Train. She enjoyed being a member of the Evangeline Chapter Antique Auto Club of America. In later years, the puzzles and cards games were played on her iPad.

Jewel loved her cats T-Boy and Sassy. And she loved butterflies. She made Rosaries for a church group until her hands couldn't bear it anymore. Her love for the unusual, extended to every aspect of her life. While others might choose a traditional Christmas scene, Jewel's nativity set featured a unique piece of gnarled driftwood for the manger, a perfect example of her belief that beauty could be found in the most unexpected places. This distinctive touch was a source of delight to her and a quiet reflection of her extraordinary character.

Jewel was preceded in death by her husband of nearly 59 years, Frankie Joe Slovacsek, Sr. and by her parents, Paul Bristol and Marie Bristol Cormier.

She is survived by her daughters - Corinne Duplessis (the late Anthony) of Jefferson, LA and Debra Cruse (Buddy) of Pearland, TX and her sons - Frankie "Joey" Slovacsek, Jr (Honey) of Tucson, AZ, Andre "Andy" Slovacsek (Susan) of Broussard, LA, and Chris Slovacsek (Joanne) of Houston, TX; seven grandchildren – Joshua Cruse (Lindsey) of Casper, WY, Naomi Palombo (John) of Pearland, TX, Lauren Peschier (Michael) of Magnolia, TX, Noel Bourgeois (David) of Broussard, LA, Rachel Schoen (Chris) of Houston, TX, Shelly Nussbaum (Colin) of Fresno, TX, and Theresa Herrera (Jesus "Chuy") of Milton, LA; and 13 great grandchildren – Devin Cruse Bergeron (Ryan), Therese Cruse, Cecile Cruse, Parker Peschier, Michael Peschier, Emmerson Bourgeois, Dominic Palombo, Cohen Bourgeois, Beau Palombo, Emory Schoen, Evelyn Bourgeois, Vera Schoen, and Isaac Nussbaum and one great granddaughter Herrera on the way. She is also survived by beloved cousins - Lee Anna "Boo" Spicer, Anna Lee Trahan and friends – Lois Comeaux, Sr Carmelita Latiolais, Raymond Comeaux, Brad Spicer, and Rita Davis.

She leaves behind a legacy of adventure, a reminder to seek out the strange and wonderful, and a life lived fully and without reservation. She will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. We were not ready for her to go... but she was. She sometimes asked God, "Why am I still here?" In her last days, she said she finally got an answer from Him. "Because it's not your turn." Her turn finally came.

A memorial service will be held at St Pius X Catholic Church, 600 Kaliste Saloom Rd, Lafayette, LA 70508 on April 10, 2026, with the rosary at 9:15 am followed by mass at 10:00 am. Immediately following mass, interment will follow at Lafayette Memorial Park Cemetery, 2111 W Pinhook Rd, Lafayette, LA 70508.



THE 2026 LOUISIANA TOUR

MAY 1 ST & 2 ND 2026

The tour will be based out of the Clarion Inn 1500 W. Highway 30, Gonzales, La. 70737 (225) 285-4614 Request room rate for 1844 LA Regional Antique Tour of \$92.00 plus tax per night Friday and Saturday dinners served by Mike Anderson Restaurant on site

FRIDAY: We plan to line up around 1:30 pm and convoy over to SUGARFIELD SPIRITS located in Gonzales for a tour of the facilities and tasting for some of the spirits they produce on site. You can return the Hotel (if you can drive) at your own pace. Then meet with friends and rest up for dinner. Please chose your dinner meal on the attached menu and return to Wally before April 15th, 2026.

Saturday: We plan to line up and leaving AT 9:00am and will travel to Tiger Stadium for a tour of the working of Tiger Stadium. After the tour we will head South on

Hwy 30 to have a Dutch Treat lunch at Istrouma Eatery and Brewery in St. Gabriel, La. After lunch we will hop over to River Road to Carville, to view the National

Hansen's Museum and then take a driving tour of the facilities. After which we will return to the hotel so the Region's board can hold their semi- annual meeting

while the rest up or enjoy the hotel facility and or the Mike Anderson's Bar.

Please chose your dinner meal on the attached menu and return to Wally before April 15 th , 2026.

Please Print all the follow required information:

Drivers Name: _____ Age: _____ AACA member No. _____

Address: _____ City, State & Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Passenger 1: _____ City, State, & Zip _____

Passenger 2: _____ City, State, & Zip _____

Passenger 3: _____ City, State. & Zip _____

YEAR: _____ MAKE: _____ Body Type: _____ Color: _____

Auto Insurance Co. _____ Policy # _____

AACA is dedicate to the preservation of antique automobiles. For this tour All years 25 years and older and countries accepted.

Registration Fee: Cost: Number Total:

Vehicle and Driver: \$89.00 _____ Each Passenger: \$89.00 _____ Grand Total _____

Make Checks Payable to BRAACA Please also include meal choses from the attached menu for both nights. Mail Checks to: Wally Waguespack 15944 Chickmauga Av. St. George, La. 70817

THE 2026 LOUISIANA TOUR DINNER MENU

Driver Passenger 1 Passenger 2 Passenger 3

Friday:w

House Salad-

Fresh Garden Salad Tossed in House dressing

Main:

Grilled chicken Caesar Salad : Fresh Romaine Lettuce
and croutons tossed in Caesar dressing topped with
Grilled chicken Breast

Marinated Chicken Breasts: Chicken Breast
Marinated Sweet & Spicy, served with Garlic Bread
and Steamed Vegetables

Fried Catfish Plate: (5) Golden Fried Catfish Strips
served with stuffed potato & hushpuppies

Fried Shrimp Plate: (5) Golden Fried Gulf Shrimp
served with stuffed potato & hushpuppies

Saturday:

House Salad- Fresh Garden Salad Tossed in House dressing

Main:

Grilled chicken Caesar Salad : Fresh Romaine Lettuce
and croutons tossed in Caesar dressing topped with
Grilled chicken Breast

Marinated Chicken Breasts: Chicken Breast
Marinated Sweet & Spicy, served with Garlic Bread
and Steamed Vegetables

Fried Catfish Plate: (5) Golden Fried Catfish Strips
served with stuffed potato & hushpuppies

Fried Shrimp Plate: (5) Golden Fried Gulf Shrimp
served with stuffed potato & hushpuppies



2026 Cruise-in
May 14, 15, 16
Early Arrivals May 13, 2026

www.cruisincajuncountry.com

All Entrants are subject to Cruisin' Cajun Country, INC approval
Registration form must be completely filled out and signed by entrant
Please read all information before completing your entry form

Entry Number
For Official Use Only



Please Print Clearly:

Date: _____

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Club Affiliation: _____ Email Address: _____

Primary Contact#: _____ Secondary Contact#: _____

Age 21 or Older? () Yes () No Spouse/Guest under 21? () Yes () No

Insurance Carrier: _____

Vehicle: _____

Year Make Model

Additional Vehicle: _____

Year Make Model

Registration includes one free t-shirt

T-shirts are made from dri-fit breathable material

Please check here if you would prefer cotton: ☐

Cotton available for Pre-registration only

Please Indicate Size Below:

Crew Neck	Ladies	Extra Crew Neck	Extra Ladies
Small	Small	Small	Small
Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Large	Large	Large	Large
X-Large	X-Large	X-Large	X-Large
2XL	2XL	2XL	2XL
3XL	3XL	3XL	3XL
4XL	4XL	4XL	4XL
5XL		5XL	

Registration Fees:

Before April 30, 2026 \$65.00

(must be postmarked by April 30th)

after May 1, 2026 \$80.00

Additional Guest (per individual) \$40.00

(limit 2 additional guests)

One Day Pass \$45.00

Additional Car \$40.00

Additional T-shirt \$20.00

Event Hat \$25.00

Event Total

Please DO NOT send cash

Mail checks orders to: Cruisin' Cajun Country, P.O. Box 10628 New Iberia, LA 70562-0628

Credit Card Information:

Name: _____ Card Number: _____

Expiration Month/Year: _____ Security Code: _____ Zip Code: _____

Signature: _____ Spouse/Guest Signature: _____

Pre-War Cars Capture the Spirit

By Federico Kunzendorf, Miami, FL, fknk@vintageracingcar.com

This is a member submitted article to AACA Speedster

As a little kid, I always remember the stories my grandpa and uncle used to tell me — stories about the races they followed on a portable radio back in the 1940s, '50s, and '60s. They would describe the thrill of the announcer transmitting live from a small airplane, flying above the racing cars on the open roads of Argentina.

Back then, races spanned over 1,000 miles across mostly dirt roads. The cars were European and American models, transformed into open-wheel racers with big straight-eight engines. The drivers were pure adrenaline junkies — passionate people who drove at 100 miles per hour wearing nothing more than a button-up shirt, regular shoes, and a pair of goggles. No seatbelts, no fire extinguishers, no helmets.

That's where the passion came from — and one day, I decided to put that passion to work.



The first car I had in mind was a 1932 Chrysler called Golden Seal (#14). It was among the top five of its time, racing against legends like the Reo Royale, Bugatti Type 35, Mercedes SSK, and Hudson Super Six. The car was originally built by two Italian immigrants in Argentina. It was even invited to race in the 1932 Indianapolis 500 — back when the track was still known as the Brickyard.

I bought a Chrysler Imperial for \$12,000, hired a builder, and started the project. But a couple of months into the process, I discovered that the builder had sold my engine and transmission. Long story short, I had to go all the way back to the beginning

and start over.

Years later, with the Chrysler already finished, an interesting thing happened — I received a message from the grandson of the driver who raced the #14 Chrysler in Indianapolis in 1932. He shared incredible photos and stories about the car and his grandfather. We ended up becoming good friends.

Building that car taught me a lot. I made plenty of mistakes and paid a high price for trusting the wrong people. But I learned, and I kept going. Then, I decided to build a very rare Ford. Once finished, we took it to the Hershey car show in Pennsylvania. We were exhibiting our replica of the Ford Edsel Speedster Model 40 and suddenly, an unexpected visit! Bill Warner came by to check out the car. Bill is not only an amazing person, but also one of the most knowledgeable people in the car world. He had previously found and restored the only known original Edsel Speedster Model 40. His comment meant the world to us. He said, "If I put your car and my car side by side, I wouldn't be able to tell them apart." That moment filled our souls. It made all the effort, all the hard lessons, completely worth it.

We sold the Edsel to an English collector, and we use that "incentive" to keep building more cars. The idea of building these kinds of cars is simply the expression — the materialization — of a passion. Because this idea was born from something I truly love, it gave me the opportunity to put into practice some life principles that, for many years, had remained mostly theoretical.

Doing something where profit isn't the goal brought me a deep sense of peace. It gave me the freedom to focus on what I truly wanted to do — to do it the best way possible, for no other reason than to pursue excellence itself. I believed that if I gave my absolute best to something I genuinely enjoy, the result would have to be good — and eventually, that might even lead to profitability.

I've loved cars for as long as I can remember. I've always been drawn to the simple ones — no sensors, no plastic, no computers. Just gasoline, a spark inside a cylinder, and the explosion that does the rest. I'm especially fascinated by that era when a group of friends would prepare a car and race it on open roads from town to town, while people sat in trees and waved as the cars roared by. Back then, safety was just a few hay bales on the side of the road, and the drivers were true gentlemen.

Pre-war cars capture all of that spirit — the passion, the simplicity, the story — and those are the ones I love to create.

See more of Federico's work with speedsters: vintageracingcar.com

Follow him on Instagram: [@vintageracingcar](https://www.instagram.com/vintageracingcar)

MARCH
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31

APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			 1	2	 3	4
	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Meeting 6:30pm Lagneaux's	16	17	18
19	20	21	 22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

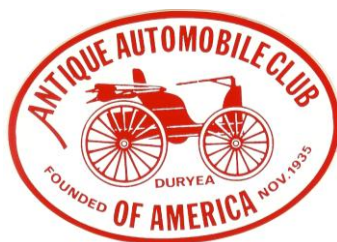
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JUNE
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MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Louisiana Tour – Gonzales, LA May 1 st – May 2 nd , 2026	
3	4	 5	6	7	8	9
 10	11	12	13	Cruisin Cajun Country May Event May 14 th – 16 th , 2026 – Travel & Tour 4Parishes		
17	18	19	20 Meeting 6:30pm Lagneaux's	21	22	23
24		26	27	28	29	30
31						

Louisiana Region
 Evangeline Chapter AACA
 "Cajun Rally"
 Brenda Derouen - Editor
 1404 Center Street
 New Iberia, LA 70560-6113



**The Evangeline Chapter AACA is Dedicated to the
 Preservation and Restoration of Antique Automobile**

TO:

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