

THE SIDELIGHT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LAKE ERIE REGION, AACA



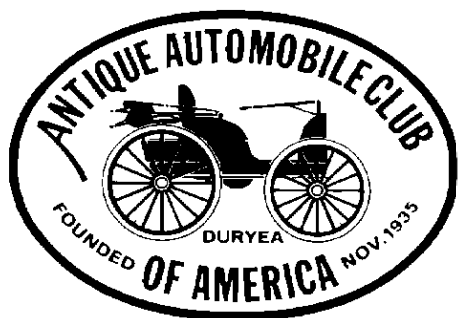
The Polish Falcons were all deck out for Christmas

JANUARY 2026

VOL. 74 No. 1

FEATURES:

- President's Message
- Activities Report
- Banquet information
- February Pinewood Derby info
- Pictures from the Christmas party



LER BOARD MEMBERS & CHAIRMEN FOR 2026

All phone numbers are area code 716 unless otherwise noted

26-28	President	Chuck Weimer	h688-5016 c955-0834
24-26	Vice President	Valerie Wilson	873-6280
24-26	Treasurer	John Haid	674-7351
	(Office)		674-7239
26-28	Recording Secretary.....	Ruth Camann	c513-6363
25-27	Activities Co-Chairmen.....	Karen Schwartz	393-3043 860-7480
26-27	Activities Co-Chairmen	Peggy Ptak	h876-8966
24-26	Membership Chairman.....	Lon Wilson	873-6280
25-27	Sunshine Chairman	Mark Palmer	656-8518 c989-1267
26-28	Policies & Procedures	Barb Noonan	957-3076
25-27	Publicity Chairman	Mike Mesi	810-2610
24-26	Legislative Chairman	Chuck Wolski	h683-0593 c998-6335
26-28	Webmaster	Jerry Ptak	h876-8966 c449-0062
2026	Sidelight Editor.....	Valerie Wilson	873-6280
2026	2026 Show Co Chairman	Charles Facklam	655-0508
2026	2026 Show Co Chairman	Mike Mesi	810-2610
2026	Chief Judge	Barb Noonan	957-3076
2026	Activities Awards Chairman	Peggy Ptak	h876-8966
2026	Split Club	Candace Reed	880-6870
2026	Property Chairman	Charles Facklam	655-0508

Bold type indicates board members/positions

Sympathies

Ken Edwards on the passing of his mother

Get Well Wishes

John Haid



Members who attended the Christmas party were: Isabel Barros (30); Andy & Carol Boulet (30); Dean & Pat Burgstahler (30); George & Ruth Camann (*); Chuck & Mary Beth Facklam (*); Jack & Linda Foster (90); Jerry & Rita Gallagher(10); John Haid (*); Margie Hoefner (10); Ken Knoll & guest JoAnn Gullett (*); Mike & Nadine Kosmoski (60); Robert Mandziak (90); Mike Mesi (*); Bob & Peggy Nash (*); David Nash (65); Barb Noonan & guest Barb Able (*); Daniel O'Connor & Candace Reed (*); Mark & Ann Palmer & guests Crista Scheiten and Louise Meyer (*); Mary-Teresa Platt (85); Jerry & Peggy Ptak (*); Don & Lynelle Schloerb (30); Dave & Ellen Schoenle (60); Cliff Schulz (*); Karl Schurkus & Eileen Wode (80); Jeffery & Karen Schwartz (*); Terry Tredo & guest Dan Tredo (110); Dennis Upton (100); Steve & Kathy Vaccaro (30); Chuck Weimer & guest Karen Weimer (*); Ken Weinstein (60); Lon & Valerie Wilson (*); Charles & Gertrude Wolski (120); Sam & Jean Yanik (*); Mark & Sue Yearke (*); Eddie & D'Lynn Zurek (50); and Julie Dressler for Cornerstone Manor.

Events for 2026

Jan. 24 – LER Annual Installation Banquet – hosted by Karen Schwartz & Sue Yearke
Feb. 15 – Pinewood Derby – hosted by George Camann
Mar. 8 – Mystery presentation – hosted by Chuck Facklam.

*This is a tentative schedule. The dates & locations are subject to change, so check this list monthly for more information and possible changes.

All material and want ads must be submitted to the editor by the 20th of the previous month that material is to appear.

Permission is hereby granted to other club publications to reprint material from "The Sidelight" provided that credit is given. All phone numbers listed in the Sidelight are area code 716 unless otherwise stated.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



David & Ellen Schoenle - 28

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Gerald Aquilina - 2
 Susan Sayles - 4
 David Szachta - 4
 John Birtch - 4
 James Zak - 11
 Marie Boron - 11
 Christine Smyczynski - 12
 David Pera - 15
 William Nichols - 16
 Ellen Schoenle - 17



Debra Suggs - 20
 Joe Momot - 21
 Barbara Noonan - 24
 Pamela Riester - 24
 Lisa Coughlin - 25
 Jeffrey Cryan - 25
 Timothy Cryan - 25
 Jerry Gallagher - 25
 Mark Palmer - 25
 Patricia Ryan - 28

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our December board meeting turned into two meetings as we were able to conduct the reorganizational meeting after our regular meeting. Peggy Ptak stepped up to take the vacant board seat so now she is an official board member and can vote! She has been a regular at meetings as she has been the Activities Awards Chairman and keeping track of members' points. She will also assume the Activities Co Chair along with Karen Schwartz. She has big shoes to fill and I think she is up for the challenge. Chuck Weimer & I swapped positions and he will now lead this club through 2026 (and perhaps beyond). The other board members whose terms were up have agreed to reup for another three years. I feel confident we will have another great year as a few events are already in the works.

Once again, we had a fantastic Christmas Party. With a little snow on the ground and the Bills game in the background we sat down for a delicious meal. Barb Noonan decorated the tables with another unique table favor for each person as well as a poinsettia plant and bottle of wine. After dinner, the tables competed in a trivia game. We had to write down our answers on a card and race to turn them into Barb's assistant, Barb Abel, who then tallied the scores. I happened to sit with a very knowledgeable group and we came out one point ahead of

the rest. Way to go Backseaters! (We had to use a car part to name our group). Everyone was a winner as Barb had a box of chocolate bars for each table. Different colored dots on the back of each candy bar indicated who would win the plant and wine. Yet another great way to let member go home with a gift.

More thanks go out to Lynelle for her part in making this a great afternoon, as Julie from Comfort House was also there to receive the many gift that our members donated. I am sure that each and every item will be greatly appreciated.

Candace Reed again made a terrific basket, filled with a ton of goodies, which one of our new members won! Along with two talking snowmen figurines and the split club, Candace had the perfect ending to wonder day. If you missed this, you missed a great time. But you can still have another great time if you attend the banquet as it will also be an event to be remembered.

I can't believe we are through another year already. They just seem to fly by. We are gearing up to have a good 2026, starting with a banquet. I know Karen Schwartz & Sue Yearke have things up their sleeve relating to the "Sea Cruise" theme. They always do such a terrific job!

Valerie - your lame duck President - Quack!

SIDELIGHT TREASURES

These ads can also be viewed at www.lakeerie.aaca.com. Ads are free for members. Ads from non-members must be submitted by a current member. Ads run for at least 3 months. Phone numbers are area code 716 unless otherwise noted.

AUTOS FOR SALE

'65 Sting Ray Corvette, red hard top conv, 81000 + miles, 4 speed, 250 HP 327 Cubic



Inch engine, new battery, fiberglass good condition, been in family since 1973, additional items: extra set of wheels (Cragar SS), extra head light motors, carburetor, distributor, \$60,000 or B/O. Contact Paulette 716-908-0377. Lead from Sue Yearke. (3)

'68 Chevrolet Chevelle Conv., stock 327 cid/275 horse power, automatic, 3 owner, AACA 2nd Jr, call Kathy 716-625-8029 (1)

AUTO MISC FOR SALE

VW radio, 6vt, Saphire 1 by Bendix, with faceplate, does work, make offer Lon Wilson 716-873-6280 (1)

'36 Dodge rims, 4, \$125; '55 Studebaker rims, 4, \$125; '72 Ford tailgate, excell cond \$200, Mike Kosmoski 716-208-1167 (12)

'58 Ford rear glass \$75 Mike Kosmoski 716-276-9696 (1)

'12 Mercedes Benz orig, stock wheels with snow tires, \$1000/BO Rick 716-220-2272 please text (1)

Bench seat covers \$199 per car, 4 bbl air cleaner \$75; timing light, compressor tester, 3 gauge, set roof rack \$20 each. Ken Weinstein 689-6888

LITERATURE FOR SALE – Chilton's Auto Multi-Guide (1926-1931) \$20; '35 Chevy Repair Manual Supplement for '36 Manual \$10; Motor Services Auto Encyclopedia 3rd Ed '57 \$20; Motor Auto Engines & Electrical Systems 5th Ed '70 \$20; Saturday Mechanic Tune-up & Trouble Shooting Guide (all makes '74-'79) \$20; '64 Caddy Owner's Manual, Access, and Owner Protection Plan booklets in a Caddy sleeve \$20; '65 Caddy Owner's Manual, Access, and Owner Protection Plan booklets in a Caddy sleeve \$20; '65 Caddy Shop Manual & Body Service Manual \$20; '69 Caddy Owner's Manual \$10; '73 Chevy Vega DIY Service Manual \$10; '90 T-bird / Cougar Shop

Manual w/ Wiring Diagrams \$20; '90 T-bird / Cougar Electrical & Vacuum Trouble Shooting Manual \$15; '90 Ford / Mercury DIY Maint Info \$15; All manuals in great cond & were donated to the Elma Historical Society. Proceeds to benefit the EHS Open to offers. Contact Bill Markowski at billygoat1973@outlook.com or call 716-818-6267. (1)

NON AUTO MISC FOR SALE

Nazi WW2 binoculars \$200, S&H green stamp dispenser \$50, Ken Weinstein 689-6888 (4)

Did You Know?

Lake Erie Region membership consists of two adults. In other words, if you are a member and coming alone, you are allowed to bring a second adult at member price. Any additional adults/guests would be at guest price. Contact any board member if you have any questions about this.

DUES ARE DUE!

If you haven't paid your dues yet, now it the time. Don't forget you need to renew your National dues as well.

If you have renewed, check your mailing label to see that the year your membership ends had been updated.

If you renewed a previous year for more than one year and did not get a renewal form, notify me if there are any changes in your address, or cars.

Lon Wilson Membership Chmn. 716-873-6280



ACTIVITIES REPORT

LET'S GO LER Members: The club needs members to be more involved with future activities, come up with new ideas, host or help with an event. Board members are ready, willing and able to assist. A list of all board members can be found in the Sidelight on page 1. Please remember to sign up early for these events and treat your club mates with respect and consideration.

Sunday December 7th Was our annual Christmas Party. Hosted by Barb Noonan and Lynelle Schloerb. It was a very Merry Christmas at the Falcons, great food, great fun and even some holiday cheers at the bar. The members showed up big for the donations to the Cornerstone Manor, big thanks to the LER members and to Barb Noonan and Lynelle Schloerb for hosting.

Saturday January 24th 2026 Annual Installation banquet at the Classic V on Niagara Falls Blvd in Amherst. Hosted by Sue Yearke and Karen Schwartz. This year's theme will be a "Sea Cruise". This will be an evening event, doors open at 5pm. See the Sidelight for details. Reservation deadline is January 20th 2026.

Sunday February 15th 2026 LER Pinewood Derby Event is back! Hosted by George Camann at the Polish Falcons from 1 to 5pm. George has arranged Scouting America for an afternoon of pinewood derby racing. The Scouts will provide and setup a four lane track, organize the registration, weigh in of the cars and run the heats with a computerized timing system. Entry fee will be \$10 per car, you will need to buy your own car, kits are available at <https://www.scoutshop.org/pinewood-derby> or from the

Niagara Frontier Scout Shop located at 2860 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14225 (Contact George Camann at 716-727-9559 if you have any questions). This will be open to non-member family and friends. See the Sidelight for the flyer, additional details and how to sign up.

Sunday March 8th Hosted by Chuck Facklam, he will be giving a mystery presentation. This will be at the Polish Falcons from 1 to 5pm. Refreshments will be provided. Signup is not required.

Sunday April 12th Will be our annual year in review. Hosted by Barb Noonan and Lon Wilson. This will be at the Polish Falcons from 1 to 5pm. Refreshments will be provided. Signup is not required.

Next open event is the May Rustbuster.

We always need volunteers, helpers and ideas for club-sponsored events. If you are interested in sponsoring, co-sponsoring or helping out at an event, please contact any board member.

Chuck Weimer Activities Co-Chairmen



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AACA LAKE ERIE REGION
2026 INSTALLATION BANQUET
SEA CRUISE



Saturday, January 24, 2026

Please join us in the **TERRACE ROOM** for fun, food, and friends.

Classics V
2425 Niagara Falls Blvd
Amherst, NY 14228

Doors Open at 5:00pm
Cash Bar w/Hors D'Oeuvres
6:00pm Dinner

Family Style Dinner will include:
Sliced Ham, Parmesan Crusted Chicken, Pasta Alfredo, Smashed Potatoes,
Caesar Salad, Roasted Vegetable Blend, Strawberry Cheesecake Ice Cream
Unlimited Red & White Wine, Coffee, and Tea

PRICE: \$45 per member/\$55 per non-member

~~~~~Reservation Deadline January 20, 2026~~~~~

Please detach and send with check payable to **AACA Lake Erie Region**

Name(s): _____ # of members _____ x \$45 = _____

Email/phone # _____ # non-members _____ x \$55 = _____

TOTAL: _____

****Please include email address or phone number for reservation confirmation within 5 days. Should you not hear from us please call Karen 716-860-7480 or Sue 716-796-1942***

Send Reservation to Karen Schwartz; 483 Schwartz Road; Lancaster, NY 14086



TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR THE CAR COLLECTOR

Submitted by Nancy Group

I.

Thou shalt not store thy cars out of doors, except for thy wife's modern iron.

II.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's car, nor his garage, nor his battery charger.

III.

Thou shalt not love thy cars more than thy wife and children; as much as, but not more.

IV.

Thou shalt not read thy Hemmings on company time, lest thy employer make it impossible to continue thy car payments.

V.

Thou shalt not despise thy neighbor's Edsel, nor his DeSoto, nor his 1947 Plymouth, nor even his Nash Metropolitan.

VI.

Thou shalt not allow thy daughters nor thy sons to get married during the holy days of Hershey.

VII.

Thou shalt not deceive thy wife into thinking that thee is taking her for a romantic Sunday Drive when, indeed, thou art going out to look at another car.

VIII.

Thou shalt not tell thy spouse the entire cost of thy latest restoration, at least not all at the same time.

IX.

Thou shalt not promise thy wife a new addition to the house and then use it to store cars; thou shalt not store car parts in the attic.

X.

Thou shalt not buy thy wife a floor jack for Christmas.



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LER PINEWOOD DERBY EVENT



Sunday, February 15, 2026, from 1:00pm to 5:00pm

@ Polish Falcons, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew 14043

Your Antique Car may be stored for the Winter, but now it is time to:

START YOUR PINEWOOD DERBY CAR ENGINES

Pinewood Derby Cars are not just for scouts anymore!! Entries are open to all AACA LER members and their families: spouses, children, grandchildren, friends (girls like to design and race too!)

Purchase, design, build and enter your car in the AACA LER Second Biennial Pinewood Derby Race.

Entry Fee: \$10 plus the cost of the Pinewood Derby Car Kit. Kits can be purchased from the Scout America online at: <https://www.scoutshop.org/pinewood-derby>, or the Niagara Frontier Scout Shop located at 2860 Genesee St., Buffalo, NY 14225 (call Chris Matthewson office at 716-512-6212 or cell 716-462-9770, hours: Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm), or from Amazon, Hobby Lobby or other craft stores

If you still have a Pinewood Derby Car from your childhood, enter it in the Antique/Vintage Division.

There are five divisions for the races: Adults ages 16 and over, youth division 1 (age 8 & under), youth division 2 (ages 9 to 15), Hi-Performance (no limitations other than length and width, Antique/Vintage (derby cars built before 1997). Also: Best Design and Best Paint Job.

Scouting America will provide and set up the four-lane track, organize the registration and weigh in, and run the individual heats with a computerized timing system. All decisions are final. SIGN UP & Register Early. We expect this exciting event to have some fierce competition. Space is limited to 75 cars.

Reservation Deadline – February 1st, 2026 - Registration and payment of the \$10 registration fee should be made online directly with Scouting America @ <https://scoutingevent.com/375-104805-241821>

Registration will include rules for building your car along with tips to make your car fast. Once we have 75 entrants, the registration will be closed.

For questions and help with registration, contact George Camann at 716-727-9559 or email at budcamann@gmail.com

Registration forms will be available at upcoming events where you can pay the fee directly to George Camann.

The registration fee directly supports the Scouting America, Great Falls Council. Thank you for supporting Scouting in Western New York. Your support helps to actively support thousands of families in 11 counties.



Legislative Affairs Info

ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicle) / ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) / Vehicle Choice

The Disturbing Truth About Electric Cars: Electric cars have surged in popularity, heralded as the beacon of sustainable transportation. Often Lauded for their role in reducing air pollution and dependence on fossil fuels, these vehicles represent a significant shift in automotive technology. However, beneath the surface of this revolution lies a series of disturbing truths that challenge the narrative of electric vehicles (EVs) being an unequivocal good. This article delves into these lesser-known and ignored aspects, exploring the environmental, economic and ethical implications that accompany the rise of electric cars.

The Reality of Electricity Sources: The environmental impact of ZEVs depends on how electricity is produced. Where electricity comes from fossil fuels, EVs can still contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, reducing their environmental benefits. To maximize these advantages, electricity must be sourced from renewables like wind, solar, or hydro power. However, the availability of green energy varies by region, limiting the universal validity of EVs' environmental claims.

Lifespan and Disposal of EV Batteries: EV batteries present challenges in terms of lifespan and disposal. Degradation over time reduces performance and range, leading to costly replacements and more material consumption. Recycling remains complex, with only limited materials recovered in environmentally safe ways. Improper disposal poses health and environmental risks due to potential toxic leaks, making battery disposal notably more complicated than that of traditional ICE vehicle parts.

Socio-Economic Implications of EV Production: EV manufacturing significantly affects global battery material supply, especially in developing nations where lithium extraction often involves tough, unregulated labor conditions. This leads to concerns over worker exploitation, impacts local communities, and makes economies vulnerable to instability and social unrest due to dependence on a single industry.

Dependence on Rare Earth Materials: EVs require rare earth materials for batteries and electronics, creating geopolitical and supply chain risks due to market concentration in a few countries. This dependency limits production scalability and challenges industry sustainability, emphasizing the need for alternative or more sustainable materials.

The Illusion of Zero Emissions: The idea that EVs are zero-emission vehicles overlooks their full environmental impact. Significant emissions occur during vehicle and battery production, as well as electricity generation for charging. While EVs emit less during use, upstream emissions contribute substantially to their total carbon footprint. Assessing the true impact requires analyzing manufacturing, operation, and disposal, with regional energy sources influencing overall emissions. Understanding EV lifecycle emissions is essential for informed policies and choices in sustainable transportation.

Technology and Safety Concerns: EVs introduce new technologies and safety challenges distinct from ICE vehicles. Battery fires, although rare, are more intense and difficult to manage than gasoline fires, raising concerns about battery safety, particularly in accidents. High-voltage systems also require emergency responders to have specialized training and equipment. Additionally, extreme temperatures impact battery efficiency and lifespan—cold reduces range, while heat accelerates degradation. Ongoing improvements in battery technology are essential to enhance EV reliability, safety, and public confidence.

Ethical Considerations and Consumer Awareness: The growth of EVs raises important ethical issues, especially regarding transparent marketing. Many consumers believe EVs are entirely eco-friendly, often unaware of their production and operational impacts.

Manufacturers and marketers should inform buyers about these complexities. As adoption increases, ethical consumerism and informed choices become essential to ensuring both environmental and social responsibility in the shift to EVs.

Reflecting on the Complex Reality of Electric Cars: Battery production, ethical concerns, and socio-economic issues make EVs more complex than their zero-emission image suggests. A balanced understanding and responsible choices are essential; tackling these challenges is key to making greener innovation both sustainable and socially mindful.

Law and Order – Federal Update:

ZEV 2035 Mandate: The EPA is reviewing California's "Advance Clean Cars Act" (ACCII), which requires all new vehicles sold in the state to be zero-emission by 2035, permitting up to 20% hybrids. Starting in 2026, 35% of new cars, SUVs, and small trucks must be ZEVs, with sales targets increasing annually to 2035. ACCII implementation depends on an EPA waiver. In September 2025, the U.S. House passed HR1435 to block this waiver, sending the bill to the Senate.

Right to Repair: The U.S. PIRG and iFixit petitioned the FTC for formal right to repair rules. SEMA responded, stressing consumer choice in vehicle repair and parts use, and continues to support HR 906 (REPAIR Act) before the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The REPAIR Act aims to grant access to essential information and tools for automotive enthusiasts, manufacturers, and repair shops as technology evolves; it has 50 bipartisan co-sponsors. SEMA is also working to expand the bill's protections for vehicle modification, collaborating with committee members on relevant amendments.

The above information is from SEMA (Specialty Equipment Market Association) Advocacy, and an Article from Science Recent.

Chuck Wolski, Legislative Affairs Co-Chair (12/02/25)



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LER Christmas Party – 12-7-2025



Lynell Schloerb & Barb Noonan were our hosts for the party.



Margie Hoefner, Mary-Teresa Platt and Candace Reed sell split club & raffle tickets.



Some of the nice items donated to help out Cornerstone Manor.



Chuck Weimer listens as George Camann gives a report on our February event.

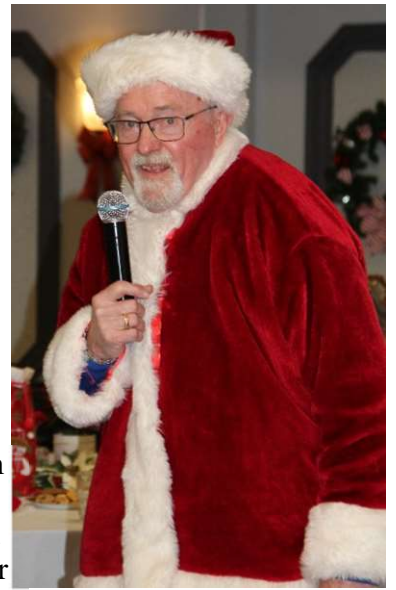


Above: Jean Yanik, Lynelle & Ruth Camann share a laugh. Left: Pat Burgstahler talks with Rita Gallagher as Dean Burgstahler talks to Jerry Gallagher.



Below: Terry Tredo & brother in law Dan Tredo smile for the camera.





Left: Julie Dressler from Cornerstone Manor; Above: Karen Weimer, Cliff Schulz & Mark Brylinski are all smiles. Right: IT'S SANTA! (Dennis Upton) our MC for the game. Below right: Barb cues up the next question on the computer



Above: Mark Yearke, Chuck Weimer, Sam Yanik & Jeff Schwartz enjoy some conversation. Right: the crowd listens to the next question. Below: D'Lynn Zurek, Mark Palmer & Dan O'Connor turn in their answers to Barb Able.



Right: D'Lynn again is ready with her answer card along with Chuck Weimer & Mike Mesi.



Right: Eileen Wode, Karl Schurkus, Mike Mesi & Dan Tredo are ready to answer the next answer.

Photos by Lon Wilson & Dean Burgstahler



Left: Barb Noonan gives the answer to one of the questions. Right: Barb Able marks down the points for that round. Below left: The table favor looks like a big wrapped piece of candy and the candy bar for all the winners (everyone was a winner here). Below: new member Andy Boulet was a big winner, taking home the large basket of goodies Candace Reed put together. Right: Peggy Nash wins a talking snowman.

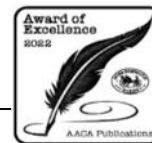


Left: new members Eddie & D'Lynn Zurek & Carol & Andy Boulet had a good time at their first LER Xmas party. Right: John Haid won another talking snowman



FIRST CLASS

The Sidelight



JANUARY	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18		20	21	22	23	
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	1		3	4	5	6	7

Calendar of Events

Jan. 1 – New Year's Day

Jan. 19 – Martin Luther Jr. Day

Jan. 24 – LER Annual Installation Banquet –
Hosted by Karen Schwartz & Sue Yearke

Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day

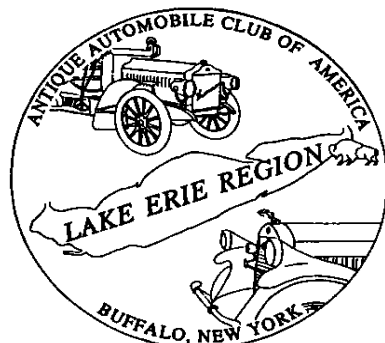


Valerie Wilson – Editor

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