

THE

# SIDE LIGHT



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LAKE ERIE REGION, AACA



“♪ Won't you let me take you on a sea cruise? ♪”

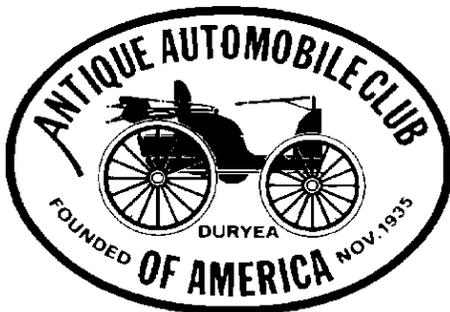
These boats are ready to sail.

**FEBRUARY 2026**

**VOL. 74 No. 2**

## FEATURES:

- President's Message
- Activities Report
- February Pinewood Derby info
- March meeting info
- Banquet photos



**LER BOARD MEMBERS & CHAIRMEN FOR 2026**

All phone numbers are area code 716 unless otherwise noted

- 26-28 President ..... Chuck Weimer** [REDACTED]
- 24-26 Vice President .....Valerie Wilson** [REDACTED]
- 24-26 Treasurer ..... John Haid (Office)** [REDACTED]
- 26-28 Recording Secretary.....Ruth Camann** [REDACTED]
- 25-27 Activities Co-Chairmen.....Karen Schwartz** [REDACTED]
- 26-27 Activities Co-Chairmen .....Peggy Ptak** [REDACTED]
- 24-26 Membership Chairman.....Lon Wilson** [REDACTED]
- 25-27 Sunshine Chairman ..... Mark Palmer** [REDACTED]
- 26-28 Policies & Procedures .....Barb Noonan** [REDACTED]
- 25-27 Publicity Chairman ..... Mike Mesi** [REDACTED]
- 24-26 Legislative Chairman ..... Chuck Wolski** [REDACTED]
- 26-28 Webmaster ..... Jerry Ptak** [REDACTED]
- 2026 Sidelight Editor.....Valerie Wilson** [REDACTED]
- 2026 2026 Show Co Chairman ..... Charles Facklam** [REDACTED]
- 2026 2026 Show Co Chairman ..... Mike Mesi** [REDACTED]
- 2026 Chief Judge ..... Barb Noonan** [REDACTED]
- 2026 Activities Awards Chairman ..... Peggy Ptak** [REDACTED]
- 2026 Split Club ..... Candace Reed** [REDACTED]
- 2026 Property Chairman ..... Charles Facklam** [REDACTED]

Bold type indicates board members/positions

**Events for 2026**

- Feb. 15 – Pinewood Derby – hosted by George Camann**
- Mar. 8 – Mystery presentation – hosted by Chuck Facklam.**
- Apr. 12 – Annual year in review slide show – hosted by Barb Noonan & Lon Wilson**

\*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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**



**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**



*Get Well Wishes*

Laurie Gee, John Haid, Peggy Ptak & Gertrude Wolski



Members who enjoyed a Sea Cruise themed dinner were: Gary Alt, Sr. (15); Isabel Barros (15); Andy & Carol Boulet (15); George & Ruth Camann (35); Jeff & Linda Cryan (15); Tim Cryan (15); Chuck & Mary Beth Facklam (15); Allyn Kain (15); Ken Knoll & Guest JoAnnn Gullett (15); David & Amy Lombardo (15); Ross & Gail Martin (15); Linda McCaffery (15); Mike Mesi (35); Bob & Peggy Nash (15); Barb Noonan (35); Daniel O'Connor & Candace Reed (15); Mark & Ann Palmer (35); Mary-Teresa Platt (15); Jerry & Peggy Ptak (35); Cliff Schulz (15); Jeffery & Karen Schwartz (55); Chuck Weimer & Guest Karen Weimer (35); Lon & Valerie Wilson (35); Sam & Jean Yanik (15); and Mark & Sue Yearke (35).

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello LER members, I hope everyone is staying warm, I'm sure we all can't wait until spring. With Lake Erie almost completely frozen, maybe we won't get any more lake effect snow from that lake. The Installation Banquet was amazing, from all of the themed decorations on the tables to the back drop for member photos. Many members complimented on the Christine Maria Room, how fitting to the theme that was, as there were and are many ships, yachts and vessels that were named "Christina Maria". Big thanks to Sue Yearke and Karen Schwartz, year after year they have been putting in countless hours to make it a wonderful banquet. How about those gifts that Valerie Wilson gave out to each board member and chairman, a 3'4"x 2'4" size fabric photo of each member's classic car, she really out did herself. Congratulations to the 25- and 50-year member winners, also to all the activity winners. Activities for 2026 are planned, it's great to say that the next open monthly event is February 2027. If you have an idea for an event, please contact either Karen Schwartz or Peggy Ptak, also, any board member can assist. Moving into 2026, I would like to thank Valerie Wilson for the past two years as President, she remains on the board as Vice President. We have filled the one vacant

board member position, I'm sure many of you already know that Peggy Ptak joined the board for 2026 and has taken over the Activities Co-Chairman position, while still handling the duties of Activities Awards Chairman. Thanks to Peggy Ptak for joining the board. The board decided to create an assistant treasurer position in John Haid's absence. Barb Noonan has accepted the position, once John Haid is back, he will resume his treasury duties. Thanks to Barb Noonan for stepping up and assisting.

John Haid is home recovering and doing better every day, we wish him well and for a speedy recovery, we all want him back in his treasurer position. At the next three indoor club events we will be passing around the sign-up sheets to volunteer to help out with the June 2026 car show, please consider signing up, we need all the help we can get. Upcoming National events February 5<sup>th</sup> thru 7<sup>th</sup> is the AACA Annual Convention/National Awards in Chantilly, VA, then the 2026 AACA Special Nationals March 19<sup>th</sup> thru 21<sup>st</sup> in Puerto Rico. Here is your change to get out of the cold!

Thanks for being a member!

Stay warm!

Chuck Weimer, LER President

## SIDELIGHT TREASURES

These ads can also be viewed at [www.lakeerie.aaca.com](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr, call Kathy 716-625-8029 (2)



### \*AUTO MISC FOR SALE\*

- VW radio, 6vt, Saphire 1 by Bendix, with faceplate, does work, make offer Lon Wilson 716-873-6280 (2)
- '58 Ford rear glass \$75 Mike Kosmoski 716-276-9696 (2)
- '12 Mercedes Benz orig, stock wheels with snow tires, \$1000/BO Rick 716-220-2272 please text (2)
- 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 (4)
- LITERATURE FOR SALE – Chilton's Auto Multi-Guide (1926-1931); '35 Chevy Repair Manual Supplement for '36 Manual; '57 Motor Services Auto Encyclopedia 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed; '70 Motor Auto Engines & Electrical Systems 5<sup>th</sup> Ed; '74-'79 Saturday Mechanic Tune-up & Trouble Shooting Guide; '73 Chevy Vega DIY Service Manual;; '90 T-bird / Cougar Shop Manual w/ Wiring Diagrams; '90 T-bird / Cougar Electrical & Vacuum Trouble Shooting Manual; '90 Ford / Mercury DIY Maint Info; All manuals in great cond & were donated to the Elma Historical Society. Proceeds to benefit the EHS \$10 each item. Contact Bill

Markowski at [billygoat1973@outlook.com](mailto:billygoat1973@outlook.com) or call 716-818-6267. (2)

### NON AUTO MISC FOR SALE

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

## Did You Know?

That anyone who attends all 12 monthly events can earn an automatic 150 points? There are a number of other ways to earn points, too. See page 7 for how you can earn those points throughout the year. If you have any questions, contact Peggy Ptak. Make sure you sign in at each event!



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## ACTIVITIES REPORT

OK members - open up your calendars and get ready to pencil in all of the fun upcoming activities!!

**Saturday, January 24th 2026** the Annual Installation Banquet was held at Classic V on Niagara Falls Blvd. in Amherst. Sue Yearke and Karen Schwartz were the hosts on this wonderful "Sea Cruise" themed night.

**Sunday February 15th 2026** the LER Pinewoods Derby 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 set up 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 and kits are available at

<http://www.scoutshop.org/pinewood-derby> or from Niagara Frontier Scout Shop located at 2860 Genesee St, Buffalo, NY. (Contact George Camann@716-727-9559 if you have any questions).

**Sunday, March 8th 2026** - A Mystery presentation (Buffalo Built Vehicles) presented by Chuck Fcklam at the Polish Falcons from 1 - 5pm. Refreshments will be served and sign up is not required.

**Sunday April 12th 2026** - Will be our Annual Year in Review hosted by Barb Noonan and Lon Wilson held at the Polish Falcons from 1-5 pm. Refreshments will be served and sign up is not required.

Peggy Ptak – Activities Co-Chair

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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.

**NEW! Reservation Deadline – February 15th, 2026 - Registration and payment of the \$10 registration fee should be made online directly with Scouting America @ <https://scoutingevent.com/375-104805-241821>**

**If you need help with registration, contact George Camann at 716-727-9559 or email at [budcamann@gmail.com](mailto:budcamann@gmail.com)**

Registration will include rules for building your car along with tips to make your car fast.

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

#### Here's SEMA and PRI Advocacy Wrap-up for 2025:

**Preserving Vehicle Choice:** SEMA was at the White House when Trump signed into law a Congressional Review Act resolution that revoked California's 2024 waiver that allowed the state to ban the sale of internal combustion engine vehicles, not only in California but in 12 other states as well. This now gives each purchaser the right to choose what their vehicle will be powered by, ICE, Hybrid, or an EV.

**Ensuring Your Right to Modify:** SEMA secured the introduction of the "ADAS Functionality & Integrity Act" (H.R. 6688) in the U.S. House, marking the first time that Congress has introduced legislation to protect vehicle owners' right to modify. If passed, this bipartisan bill would ensure that aftermarket businesses have the information needed to properly calibrate advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) after the vehicles are modified, which is critical to being able to safely modifying new vehicles, including items like; bike racks, wrapping a vehicle, installing larger wheels and tires, or installing a winch, bull bar or an aftermarket bumper.

**Protecting the Right to Race:** SEMA and PRI have halted legislation in Oregon and Arkansas that would have shut down important local tracks, and in North Carolina and Iowa, helped establish new protections that will enable racetracks to stay open and fight back against nuisance complaints. SEMA & PRI have laid the groundwork for forthcoming action to secure a more sustainable economic landscape for racetracks across the nation via the bipartisan "Motorsports Fairness and Permanency Act" (H.R. 2231 / S. 2462).

**Maintaining Access to Public Lands:** SEMA kicked off 2025 with a win for the off-roaders, as President Biden signed into law the Expanding Public lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act (EXPLORE Act), which improve the permitting process for motorized recreation events on federal lands. In addition the California Supreme Court ruled to uphold a SEMA supported effort to preserve motorized access to Oceano Dunes, the only place in California where off-road enthusiasts can drive and camp on the beach off-roading.

**Telling Your Story About Tariffs:** SEMA used its platform to share with the Trump Administration and Lawmakers how tariffs are impacting businesses. SEMA also met with the Department of Commerce to discuss data collected from their members about how the tariffs were affecting their businesses.

**Helping Small Businesses Thrive:** SEMA helped secure the passage of the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act", which provides tax certainty to American small businesses and will help the aftermarket thrive. The law includes several key provisions that benefit SEMA member companies, including reduced tax rates for individuals and pass-through businesses. The 199a deduction was made permanent. Section 179, expensing cap increased, allowing full expensing for research and development and capital investments, expanded business interest deductions and 100% immediate deductibility of certain investments in new factories and improvements.

**Defense of Classic Vehicles and Collector Rights:** SEMA made significant gains in the fight to modernize California's smog-check laws to help collectors of classic vehicles. This effort, dubbed Leno's Law, earned bipartisan support representing the most progress we've made in California on this sort of bill in decades.

**Protection of Small Businesses from Regulator Overreach:** SEMA backed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposal to overturn the 2009 "endangerment" finding on greenhouse gases and repeal the greenhouse gas standards for light and medium-duty motor vehicles. Our improved relationship with the EPA was never more evident than when EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin visited with SEMA leaders and the 2025 SEMA show in Las Vegas.

The above information is from SEMA (Specialty Equipment Market Association) Advocacy, PRI (Performance Racing Industry)

Chuck Wolski, Legislative Affairs Chair  
(01/06/26)



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Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>

Polish Falcon Hall - 445 Columbia Ave, Depew

1 to 5 pm

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# Buffalo Built Vehicles

## Thomas

## Pierce Arrow

## Atterbury

## Stewart



## ACTIVITIES AND YOU

The club has a year full of fun activities planned by our members for our members. The success of these activities depends on your participation. The members planning the activities work hard to come up with new ideas and to keep costs affordable. We would like to invite all members to join us at all the events indoor and outdoor. The indoor meetings are free and are held once per month at the Polish Falcons starting at 1pm on Sunday afternoon. Now you have something to do since you can't be enjoying your classic car. These meetings include an activity or guest speaker and snacks. When May comes along and the

weather is nice, we have our cruises and outdoor activities. We go places we may not have been, learn something we may not have known, and eat places we may not have eaten. These activities are planned for all members and your participation is what makes it special and all worthwhile. We are always looking for new ideas and would invite each of you to contact us with those ideas. We can help you with the planning and guide you along the way. Feel free to contact either Activities Co-Chairs Peggy Ptak or Karen Schwartz, or any board member. Let's make 2026 a great year and plan ahead for 2027.

### Activity Awards Points by Peggy Ptak

Happy New Year to all our members!! Is one of your New Year's resolutions to achieve our clubs Activities Award? The Activity Awards Points schedule below will help you find a way to do that. You can keep track of your points but I do that too! When you reach 150 points or more you receive a chip for the year acknowledging you reached

your goal. In addition, those earning the most points receive a special gift at the banquet. To ensure you receive credit for attendance; please make sure you sign in at EVERY meeting – that's all I ask of you.

If at any time you want to go over your points, or have questions please let me know.

Event	Points	Per
Attend January Annual Meeting	15	Person/Couple
Attend LER monthly meeting / activity	10	Each meeting attended
Bring an antique car to an LER tour / event	10	Each Event attended
Enter a car in LER annual car show	10	20 point max
Work at LER annual car show	10	Person/Couple
Judge at LER annual car show	10	Person/Couple
Attend an AACA national meeting / activity	10	Each event attended
Judge at an AACA national meet	10	Person/Couple
Enter a car in an AACA national meet	10	Person/Couple
Chair / Co-chair an LER event / activity	20	Each event chaired/co-chaired
Sign up a new member	10	Each new member
Write an article for <i>Sidelight</i> / Website	10	Per each article published (see note*)
Submit a recipe or puzzle / game for the <i>Sidelight</i>	5	Per item published

Serve on LER Board	20	Per Year
Serve as <i>Sidelight</i> Editor	20	Per Year
Serve as Website Editor	20	Per Year
Serve as LER Car Show Chair	30	Per Year
Serve as LER Car Show Co-Chair	20	Per Year
Serve as LER Car Show Chief Judge	20	Per Year
Serve as LER Car Show Registration Chair	20	Per Year
Serve as LER Car Show Field Marshall	15	Per Year
Serve as LER Car Show Parking Chair	15	Per Year
Serve as Split Club chair	15	Per Year
Serve as Activity Awards Chair	15	Per Year
Serve as Policy & Procedures Chair	15	Per Year
Special Member Contribution	10	Per contributions made (eg. Car show DJ)
Article for <i>Sidelight</i> / Website Notes: Article must be written by the person submitting the article. Copyright laws apply to all non-original material.		

# Installation Banquet - January 24



Relaxing in deck chairs: Candance Reed & Dan O'Connor; Below: Jeff & Linda Cryan



Peggy Nash & Jean Yanik chat before dinner.



Jerry Ptak & George Camann talk while Ken Knoll & JoAnn Gullett smile for the camera



Jean & Sam Yanik were presented with 25-year membership pins, not present: Kevin & Kristen Smyers who also achieved 25-year membership & Jeff & Linda Cryan are 50 yr members.



Chuck (AKA Gilligan) and Cpt. Mary Beth Facklam are ready to cruise!



Cpt. Valerie & Lon Wilson are ready to set sail!



Carol & Andy Boulet; Below: Candace Reed & Mary-Teresa Platt are cruising buddies



Linda McCaffery, Linda & Jeff, Chuck & Ross Martin enjoy some munchies



Chuck Weimer discuss car issues

Activities Awards Chair Peggy Ptak gets the presentations started

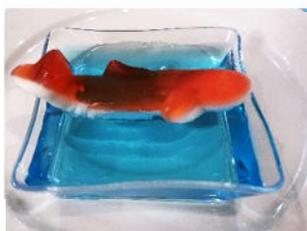


Mike Mes &



Karen Schwartz & Sue Yearke as well as Chuck Facklam received gift certificates for hosting a monthly event.

Shark infested waters! Actually, a shark gummy in blue Jello. Karen & Sue had a great idea for this special little treat.





Barb Noonan & Lon Wilson hosted a "Year in Review" & November Movie Night



Other event hosts were Ken Knoll & Mike Mesj, Mike with Chuck Facklam; Chuck Weimer with Cliff Schulz. Right George (& Ruth) Camann with Jerry & Peggy Ptak, and Barb Noonan (with Lynelle Schloerb) also hosted events.



Peggy also presented a gift card to her husband, Jerry, for doing the website



Valerie gets a gift card from Peggy for doing the newsletter



In no particular order, the top point getters were: Ken Knoll, Mike Mesj, Chuck Facklam, Tim Cryan, Sam Yanik & Chuck Weimer. Other 150-point winners were: Ruth & George Camann, John Haid, Ray & Barb Noonan, Dan O'Connor & Candace Reed, Ann & Mark Palmer, Peggy & Jerry Ptak, Valerie & Lon Wilson, Cliff Schulz, Jeff & Karen Schwartz, and Mark & Sue Yearke

Far left: Mark (& Ann) Palmer achieve enough points for the first time, so they get a board & the year chip. Left: Chuck Weimer gives his final Activities Report



Right: A row of boats ready to "launch". They are gifts from outgoing President Valerie. Below: Chuck, Ruth Camann, Karen Schwartz, & Peggy each receive one.





Board members Mark, Barb, Mike, Jerry, Chuck along with Candace Reed (split club Extrodinar) all saw they ship come in, too. John Haid & Chuck Wolski's ships will come into port at a later date.



Boat recipients were surprised to find inside the "water" under the boat was a lap blanket with a picture of their car!!



To finish off the wonderful evening, outgoing President Valerie presents incoming President Chuck Weimer with the "Official" gavel. Chuck presented Valerie with a commemorative gavel for her years of service.



Above: Palmer's car  
Right: Palmers with their boat.  
Could a cruise be in their future?



The Nash clan, Peggy, Bob & Barb

Photos by Lon Wilson



♪ Feel like jumpin' baby won't ya join me please ♪  
Karen, Sue, Peggy & Linda revel in the music, right: Peggy & Isabel Barros enjoy some swing time



# FIRST CLASS

# The Sidelight



<b>FEBRUARY</b>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1		3	4	5	6	7
		9	10	11	12	13	
			17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

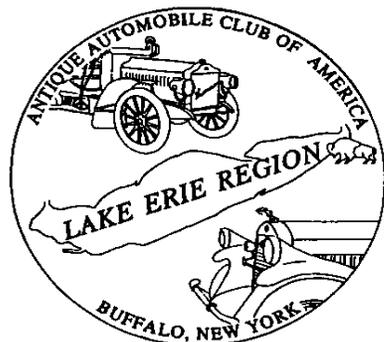
## Calendar of Events

- Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day
- Feb. 8 – Super Bowl
- Feb. 14 – Valentine’s Day
- Feb. 15 – Pinewood Derby – hosted by George Camann
- Feb. 16 - President’s Day
- Mar. 8 – Mystery presentation – hosted by Chuck Facklam.
- Apr. 12 – Annual year in review slide show – hosted by Barb Noonan & Lon Wilson



Valerie Wilson – Editor  
 235 Villa Ave.  
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# FIRST CLASS



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