

THE

# SIDELIGHT



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LAKE ERIE REGION, AACA

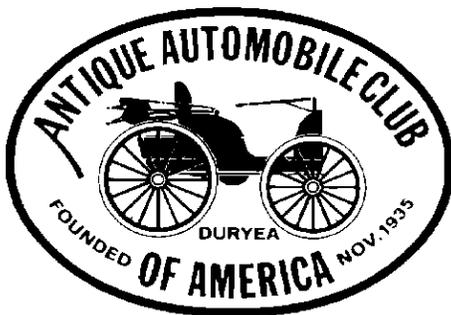


AND THEY'RE OFF!

At the pinewood derby races that is.

**MARCH 2026**

**VOL. 74 No. 3**



## FEATURES:

- President's Message
- Activities Report
- March meeting info
- Annual Car Show Flyer
- Pinewood Derby photos



**LER BOARD MEMBERS & CHAIRMEN FOR 2026**

All phone numbers are area code 716 unless otherwise noted

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

Bold type indicates board members/positions

**Events for 2026**

- Mar. 8 – Buffalo Built Vehicles presentation**  
– hosted by Chuck Facklam.
- Apr. 12 – Annual year in review slide show** –  
hosted by Barb Noonan & Lon Wilson
- May 17 - Rustbuster, hosted by Cliff Schulz**  
and Chuck Weimer

\*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.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**



*Get Well Wishes*

John Haid, & Gertrude Wolski

Dennis Powers, former longtime member of LER, has passed away in Florida. Dennis served on the board and was treasurer for many years. Services will be held this Summer in Dunkirk and Buffalo at a date yet to be announced. Our sympathies to his family.

Members and guests who went to the races were: Dean & Pat Burgstahler (10); George & Ruth Camann (65); Chuck Facklam (25); Ken Knoll (25); Mike & Nadine Kosmoski (10); Ross Martin (25); Barb Noonan (45); Mark & Ann Palmer (45); Tom Pirrung (10); Jerry & Peggy Ptak (45); Cliff Schulz (25); Jeffery & Karen Schwartz (65); Jim & Christine Smyczynski (10); David & Jane Szachta (10); Chuck Weimer (45); Lon & Valerie Wilson (45); Mark & Sue Yearke (45); Sam Yanik (25): Guests: Kate Ptak; Valerie Haseley; Harper Haseley; Hannah Haseley ; Russ Nixon; Allie Nixon; Teddy Nixon; Emily Nixon; Steven Kosmoski; Adam Kosmoski; Tarrin Kuehner; Ray Seigler; Laura Ptak; Carter Sigler; Lucia Sigler; George Camann; and from the Boy Scouts: Dave Meyers, Brett Kennedy, Gary Hyla, & Guy Kulwanski.



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello LER members, I hope everyone is doing well. Good news, we are another month closer to spring! I'm sure everyone's had enough of the snow and can't wait for winter to be over. The Pinewood Derby was a real thriller, the races were very close, especially the adult class. Cliff Schulz and myself were neck in neck for first place in the adult class, Team Buick nudged out Team Jaguar by a very small margin to take first. Congratulations to all the winners and to everyone that entered a car. Huge thanks to George Camann for organizing this event, he puts in a lot of time to host this. Thanks George!

The Board continues to focus on our monthly club events, especially the car show and we are also discussing some ideas on how we can advertise the club and gain membership.

Ken Kaczka and Sue Reville recently attended the Annual National Awards Banquet. Ken was nominated for

a National Award back in December, he won and received the 2025 Corvette Award for his 1962 Chevrolet Corvette. Congratulations Ken! Valerie Wilson is the recipient of the 2025 Award of Excellence for regional publications of The Sidelight-Lake Erie Region and in recognition of her efforts as Region President and Editor. Congratulations Valerie!

At the next two indoor club events we will be passing around the signup sheets to volunteer to help out with the June 2026 car show, please consider signing up, we need all the help we can get. If you're not able to attend any of the meetings and would like to sign up, please contact the Car Show Chairman listed in the Sidelight. Upcoming National events 2026 AACA Special Nationals March 19<sup>th</sup> thru 21<sup>st</sup> in Puerto Rico, then the Winter Nationals March 26<sup>th</sup> thru 28<sup>th</sup> in Cartersville, Georgia. Thanks for being a member!

Chuck Weimer, LER President



Ken Kaczka and Sue Reville recently attended the Annual National Awards Banquet. Ken won and received the 2025 Corvette Award for his 1962 Chevrolet Corvette.

Congratulations Ken!



Kenneth C. Kaczka - 1962 Chevrolet Corvette



Corvette Award

## ACTIVITIES REPORT

We have so many activities planned for you to join us - choose one or all.

**On Sunday, February 15, 2026** we held the Pinewood Derby. George Camann was the host as the Boy Scouts set up a four lane track complete with a computerized timing system. It was a fun filled afternoon of decorative pinewood derby cars and spirited racing.

**On Sunday, March 8, 2026** Chuck Facklam will present The Real Story of Buffalo Built Vehicles. This presentation will be held at the Polish Falcons from 1-5pm and refreshments will be served by Karen Schwartz. Sign up is not required



**Sunday, April 12, 2026** is the Annual Year in Review hosted by Barb Noonan and Lon Wilson. If, by chance, you missed an event last year you can see where we went and how much fun we had – The Year in Review will cover all the events from 2025. Sign up is not required and Karen will again have refreshments.

Our first outdoor event will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2026. The Rustbuster, hosted by Cliff Schulz and Chuck Weimer, will take us to Bill Gacioch's Specialty Museum in Eden. Lunch is at Danny's South and dessert is at Route 20 Ice Cream. Look for the flyer and more info in the next Sidelight.

Peggy Ptak – Activities Co-Chair



## Did You Know?

Cliff's Notes: March 2026

Information Alert: New and Current Lake Erie Region members. We have Lake Erie Region member name tags available to purchase. Our design, as shown below, proudly displays our Club Logo on a white background with your full name. Actual size is 2-1/2" X 1-1/4". The trick magnetic backing holds strong and is gentle on all fabrics. Pricing varies and depends on how many I order at a time. Therefore, we like to order them about twice a year. Current pricing ranges between \$8 to \$10 each. Name tags are the PERFECT way to say "HELLO" to our 300 plus membership. Quite a task to remember them all. Give me a call @ 716-880-0381 or see me at one of our monthly events to order. "Be proud of your name and sing it loud!"

Remember the Name Game Song by Shirley Ellis A 1965 hit single.

*Shirley*

*Shirley, Shirley, bo birley banana Dana to fir'ly, fee tie mo misty Shirley*

*Try it out. Ha Ha that's all folks! Cliff*

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

Polish Falcon Hall - 445 Columbia Ave, Depew

1 to 5 pm

The *Real History* of the

# Buffalo Built Vehicles

## Thomas

## Pierce Arrow

## Atterbury

## Stewart



## 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)



### \*AUTO MISC FOR SALE\*

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)

Collection of nine Hess toy trucks '86 Hess Fire Truck with Ladder, Bank; '87 Hess Tractor Trailer Truck, Bank; '95 Hess Helicopter Transporter with Copter; '15 Hess Fire Truck; '16 Hess Toy Truck and Dragster; '17 Hess Dump Truck and Loader; '19 Hess Tow Truck Rescue Team; '20 Hess Ambulance and Rescue; '24 Hess 60th Anniversary Fire Truck with Car and Motorcycle; All new and in original packaging \$390 for all. Call Lon for more details 716-873-6280 (6)

### NON AUTO MISC FOR SALE

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



Be sure to set your clocks ahead. Don't be late for the monthly meeting!!



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# Lake Erie Region AACA

## 72nd Annual Show!

Como Park Bowen Rd. Grove

3851 Bowen Rd. Lancaster, 14086



72nd Annual  
**LAKE ERIE REGION AACA**  
**CAR SHOW**

June 7, 2026  
COMO LAKE PARK  
BOWEN RD. GROVE

2025 GRAND NATIONAL WINNERS  
1970 BUICK GS • 1962 CORVETTE

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## June 7<sup>th</sup> 2026

WNY's Best Judged Show  
Since 1952!

Over 55 Class awards  
( 1st,2nd,3rd ) plus:  
Best 1961 or older  
Best 1962 - 1971  
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Best Modified

Registration from 9:00 to 12:00

Judging starts at 12:00

Awards at 4:00

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## Legislative Affairs Info

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

**SEMA Applauds Nomination of Member CEO to Serve as FTC Commissioner:** David MacNeil, founder and CEO of long time SEMA member WeatherTech, nominated by President Trump to serve on the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. This significant role will ensure the automotive aftermarket and other domestic manufacturers have a prominent ally in the administration. There are five FTC commissioners, each nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate, with a mission to promote competition and protect consumers from unfair business practices. The commissioners also shape policy that governs U.S. trade. The Senate will now consider him for confirmation.

**SEMA Applauds Rescaling of Federal Enforcement for Emissions Tampering:** The January 21<sup>st</sup> announcement by the U.S. Department of Justice that it will exercise its enforcement for Clean Air Act violations related to tampering with onboard diagnostic devices (OBD) on vehicles and no longer pursue criminal charges. However, this announcement only reflects the enforcement of the current administration. The statutes of elimination of such violations go beyond the term of any single president or administration.

“This is a welcome end to overly harsh penalties for violations that are otherwise addressed through civil enforcement” said SEMA President and CEO Mike Spagnola. “SEMA believes in following the law, and federal law is clear with regard to tampering of emissions systems or profiting from the sales of products that enable such behavior.”

OBD tampering is the illegal modification of a vehicle's electronic systems or software to bypass emissions controls or alter mileage readings, violating federal and state laws. Violators are subject to penalties (up to \$37500 for each part or component) and, until this announcement, even criminal prosecution, with possible prison terms.

The SEMA Certified Emissions (SC-E) program is a documented pathway to demonstrating that an

aftermarket part doesn't increase the emissions of a vehicle on a which it's installed.

**Five States Have Taken Pole Position in “Right to Race” campaign to protect Local Tracks:** Nuisance claims made by new neighbors and surrounding development have been a thorn in the side of racetrack owners and the racing community. Wisconsin has introduced Bill (AB) 880 to address this situation and protect long-standing racetracks and their positive impacts to local communities. Four additional States are now on board with newly traduced bills: Indiana (HB 14150, Kansas (HB 2416), Ohio (HB 639), Oklahoma (HB 1195). These bills are important because nationally these local tracks are small businesses and community institutions that annually contribute \$69 billion to the US economy through local jobs, tourism, charitable activity, next generation racers, engineers, and automotive innovators.

**SEMA and PRI Unveil 2026 Advocacy Agenda:** 2025 was a great year for SEMA and PRI as reported last month. 2026 will be an interesting year with a new election cycle, with November midterms, where control of Congress will be determined. They have established positive relationships with the current administration and congressional leadership and have momentum carrying them forward on important issues like the right to modify and land use. In the states, there's a thirst within the car culture to protect collectors' rights and save racetracks by tacking on that mantle in bigger and bolder ways

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

Chuck Wolski,  
Legislative Affairs  
Chair (02/03/26)



March 8



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The men from the Boy Scouts set up the track

# LER's



## Pinewood Derby



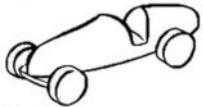
Jeff Schwartz gets his car weighed in with Ruth Camann



Christine & Jim Smyczynki buy raffle tickets as Mark Yearke signs in



Smyczynskis then go to the weigh station with Ruth as George Camann looks on



Jerry Ptak does some pre-race prep on this car before weighing in.



Sam Yanik, Ross Martin, Cliff Schulz & Dave Meyers of the Boy Scouts check out the early registrants.



Harper, Hannah & Valerie Haseley pick out some split club tickets



Peggy Ptak signs everyone in while Valerie Wilson sells split club tickets, Decorations & candy courtesy of Candace Reed



## THE CARS

4 categories  
 Group A & B – Adults  
 Group V – Vintage cars  
 Group 1 – age 8 & under  
 Group 2 – Ages 9-15



A-13 Ellie Camann; A-11 Chuck Weimer; A-12 Neil Haseley;  
 A-10 James Smyczynski; A-9 Karen Schwartz; A-8 Cliff Schulz

A-7 JerryKate Ptak; A-5 Allison Nixon; A-4 Tarrin Kuehner; A-3 Neil Haseley; A-2 George Camann,

B-13 Valerie Haseley; B-11 Valerie Wilson;  
 B-10 Dave Szachta;  
 B-9 Ray Sigler;  
 B-8 Jeff Schwartz;  
 B-7 Laura Ptak



B-12 Mark Yearke;  
 B-5 Barb Noonan;  
 B-4 Ross Martin;  
 B-6 John Preister;  
 B-3 Mike Kosmoski;  
 B-2 Georgia Marie Camann; B-1 Dean Burgstahler



V-3 Russ Nixon;  
 V-2 Ruth Camann;  
 V-4 Peggy Ptak;  
 V-1 George Camann



1-1 Adam Kosmoski; 1-2 Emily Nixon; 1-3 Teddy Nixon; 2-3 Carter Sigler; 2-1 Hannah Haseley; 2-2 Harper Haseley; 2-4 Lucia Sigler



Harper sorts and counts the ballots for the "Best Design" voting



Guy Kulwanski gets help from Georgia Marie

Camann in setting up the next race, meanwhile Peggy and granddaughter, Emily Nixon, watch as her grandson, Teddy Nixon, spins the tickets.



On your mark....  
 Left: Ellie Camann's FedEx truck; Cliff Schulz's Jaguar; John Preister's #76 and Georgia Marie's Silver Alien are ready to roll.

Right: Dean Burgstahler's Sponge Bob; Georgia Marie's Silver Alien; Valerie Wilson's Batmobile & Ray Sigler's red racer are set to compete.





Ruth Camann with her police cruiser; Georgia Marie & the Silver Alien, Harper & Hannan Haseley prove it's a family fun!



Above: the crowd enjoys this event while Sam Yanik says "Did you see that?"



Left: Jerry Ptak & Dean Burgstahler are really focused on the next race.



**THE WINNERS CIRCLE**  
Left: Russ Nixon – 1<sup>st</sup> in Vintage class, Emily Nixon & George Camann: Right: The Boy Scouts: (L to R) Dave Meyers, Brett Kennedy, Gary Hyla, Guy Kulwanski with George in the middle



Photos by Lon Wilson



"Holy cow, Batman – it's the Batmobile"

Above: Carter Sigler – 1<sup>st</sup> Division 2  
Below: Georgia Marie – 3<sup>rd</sup> in Adult Division

Above: Adam Kosmoski - 1<sup>st</sup> Division 1  
Below: Cliff Schulz – 2<sup>nd</sup> in Adult Division

Above: Valerie Wilson – Best Design  
Below: Chuck Weimer – 1<sup>st</sup> in Adult Division



# FIRST CLASS

# The Sidelight



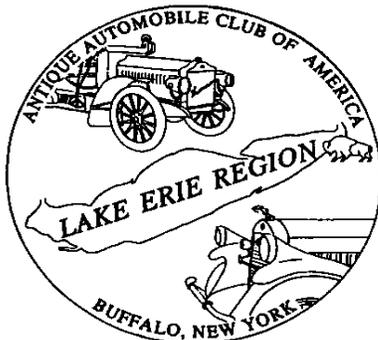
MARCH	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	15	16		18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		30	31	1	2	Good Friday	4
		6	7	8	9	10	11

Calendar of Events	
Mar. 8	– Daylight Savings Begins
Mar. 8	– Buffalo Built Vehicles presentation – hosted by Chuck Facklam.
Mar. 17	– St. Patrick’s Day
Mar. 20	– Start of Spring (Spring Equinox)
Mar. 29	– Palm Sunday
Apr. 12	– Annual year in review slide show – hosted by Barb Noonan & Lon Wilson
May 17	– Rustbuster, hosted by Cliff Schulz and Chuck Weimer



Valerie Wilson – Editor  
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# FIRST CLASS



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