



Vintage Times

Volume 45 Number 4 April 2026 ♦ A monthly publication of the Treasure Coast Region



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Upcoming Meetings

The April General Meeting will be on **Thursday, April 23rd**. Please see the announcement on page 4 for details.

April showers bring Spring flowers....

We sure could use some rain as we are experiencing drought conditions, but on the plus side, the humidity is still low and that helps to make the car show experience more enjoyable.



As predicted, March was chocked full of classic car activities. We took a trip to San Juan, PR, but more politically correct- Guaynabo for the AACA Special Nationals. I mistakenly identified the show site as San Juan and was quickly reminded that it is Guaynabo. I suspect that is like calling Sewall's Point, Stuart. See my write up on the details of our trip in this newsletter along with links to many pictures.

We were barely home for a couple of days and I kicked around the option of going to the AACA winter nationals in Cartersville, Georgia, but since the AACA Canaveral Region was having their show and it featured 100 years of Pontiac, the shorter 2 hour ride seemed much more appealing. It was quite a show with 480 cars that included 108 Pontiacs. It was a nice opportunity to connect with some old friends who I hadn't seen in a while.

So, last pres says, I got distracted and forgot the part where I mention a few tidbits about that month's meeting organizer. So stepping back in time for a second, our March meeting was planned by Jay and Jo Ann Smith. They have lived in Stuart for many decades with Jo Ann having lived in Palm City when it was way way out. Jay had a nice career in the parts department at Bill Reddit Ford and is an avid Ham Radio guy. You might see them enjoying their 1963 Midget or its modern-day counterpart a 1990 Miata convertible. They have both held many officer positions including president with Jo Ann holding the title of president back-to-back during the covid era.

President's Report Continued...

That brings us to April and board member Sally Franklin and Larry Atkins. They have been long time members and of course many know Sally has been dutifully producing the newsletter and affectionately known as "Information Central". She has also been club President and held other officer positions. Larry, on the other hand, prefers to speak with his hands and has turned wrenches on many club member's cars. They are mostly a Ford family and although it pains Larry to work on my Pontiacs when I know I will be in over my head, he still accommodates me. □ That's that Tennessee southern hospitality. Sally is a long-time resident of Stuart having inherited her childhood home. Her mom worked at WSTU back in the day so you might see one of those old radio station license plates from the '60s on her car. She and Jo Ann can tell you many stories of the old days of Martin county. See you at her meeting in April.

Well, that's all for now.

Andre



Jay & Jo Ann

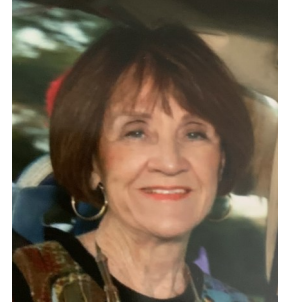


Sally & Larry

Secretary's Report

Treasure Coast Vintage Car Club/AACA General Membership Meeting – March 22, 2026

In the absence of President Andre Rayman, the meeting was called to order by First Vice President David Brown at 12:56 PM at the American Icon Restaurant in Vero Beach, FL. The meeting was preceded by a tour of the Indian River Citrus Museum & Heritage Center, Vero Beach, organized by Jo Ann and Jay Smith. Guests were: Lisa Left and Kelly Sears, friends of the Smiths; MaryAnn Penkova, sister of Nancy Ferrauto; Jill Pearson and Ron Hewitt, family of the Hoffmans.



Secretary Molly Hoffman, Secretary, reported minutes are posted in the Newsletter. Minutes approved by acclamation.

Treasury Barbara Joyce, Treasurer, stated the club's treasury is in good shape.

Membership Sandee Searle shared the club has 89 family memberships totaling 163 people. Recent new members are Phil and Rose Marie Migliore. Rosters for 2026 are printed and available from Sandee.

Newsletter Editor Sally Franklin was unable to attend the meeting – no report.

Website Bob Ridle, webmaster, was unable to attend the meeting – no report.

Special Events Denny Dahle was unable to attend the meeting – no report.

Club Store Rosemary Rayman was unable to attend the meeting.

Legislative Jay Smith stated there is nothing to report this month.

Sunshine Rosemary Rayman was unable to attend the meeting. In her place, David Brown informed the group a get well card has been sent to Ann Ridle and informed the group of the passing of long-time former member Joseph Vicini.

Sergeant at Arms Curt Francisco had no new report other than he brought the PA system for the meeting, which was most appreciated by all club members.

Tours Update David Brown reported as of this meeting date, twelve cars have registered for the Cracker Tour. He advised there is still time to register but do so quickly by contacting him.

Show Updates Angela Malloy, chair of recently held Spring Forward Show, thanked all for their participation, stated 113 cars were registered, further final numbers forthcoming. Russ Caterinicchio, chair of COOL Show, was unable to attend the meeting.

Old Business No old business brought forward.

New Business Angela Malloy reminded everyone President Andre Rayman's email account was recently scammed and to use caution if receiving anything which appears to be from him.

Upcoming Meeting Information about the April meeting will be forthcoming in the Newsletter.

Thank You Jay and Jo Ann Smith were thanked for hosting March tour and meeting location.

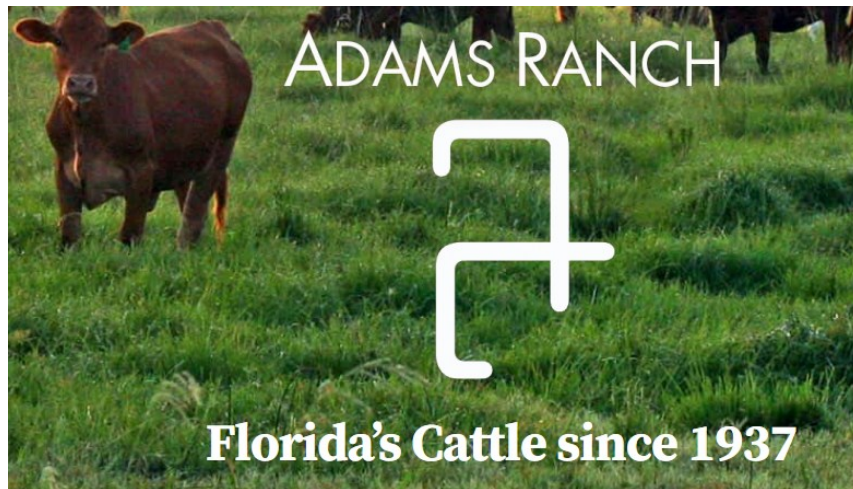
Adjournment Hearing no other calls for adjournment, David proposed adjournment, second by Sandee Searle, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Hoffman

General Meeting Notice

TCVCC April General Meeting

The April 23rd General Meeting is on a Thursday due to the availability of the staff at the location. It will be at the Adams Ranch, 26001 Orange Ave., Fort Pierce 34945. This will be a “bring your own” picnic lunch, so break out the cooler and pack your food and drinks. You will want that cooler to bring home some of their outstanding beef or ice cream from the Sutton Dairy.



Founded in 1937, Adams Ranch is a fourth-generation cattle business operating in St. Lucie, Madison, Okeechobee, and Osceola Counties, headquartered in Fort Pierce. Florida cattle have been an Adams family passion for 4 generations. The ranch today encompasses approximately 40,000 acres of Florida pasture and is now the 15th ranked cow/calf ranch in the country and is ranked nationally in the top 50 seed stock ranches.

We will have a tour of the ranch upon arrival and have lunch in the barn afterwards, followed by our meeting.

We will meet in the Elliott Museum parking lot at 8:00 Thursday 04/23 and leave promptly at 8:15 for a scenic trip up A1A arriving approx. 9:15 AM. Directions will be handed out at the parking lot.

Please RSVP to Sally Franklin by 04/19/2026, as we need a head count for the Ranch.

email: sfranklin_2000@yahoo.com or text/phone 314-324-5192 leave a message.

Upcoming National Events

AACA National & Regional Events

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events! Click [HERE](#) for the full calendar.

AACA Southeastern Spring Nationals
April 11, 2026
at Charlotte AutoFair
Hosted by Hornets Nest Region



AUTOFAIR
April 9 - 11, 2026

Information:
Region Office
704-841-1990
Mon-Thur 9-3

Hornets Nest Region
9307-H Monroe Road
Charlotte, NC 28270
hnraaca@gmail.com

ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB
of America

Vehicle Registrations Will Be Handled
With the Customary AACA Process.

The Volunteer Region
AACA Presents

Southeastern Fall Nationals

June 11-13, 2026

**Historic Oak Ridge,
Tennessee**

SAVE THE DATE!



**2026 AACA Eastern
Spring Nationals**
May 28-30 • Indiana, PA

Questions?
Nationals Chair: Paul Colligan
724-599-8711, sv26spring@gmail.com

ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB
of America

SWANNOCK VALLEY
REGION OF AACA

Request registration materials
from AACA National



Sunshine & More

SUNSHINE REPORT

A Get-well card was sent to Ann Ridle. A condolence card was sent to the Vicini family. Please pass on information to Rosemary Rayman: email: rrayman03@gmail.com, phone 561-371-5498.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Our Membership is increasing as we add several new members and retain some additional renewals. We now have 91 family-memberships consisting of 166 members.

We welcome back Roy & Cristi Hernandez III, Richie & Diane Tota Leath, and Joseph Massucco and we welcome the following new members who have joined since the beginning of the year: Jim & Cindy Bethman (1966 Cadillac DeVille Convertible & 2000 Chevrolet Corvette Convertible); Chuck Chalmers & Sue Peterson (1964 ½ Ford Mustang Convertible); Timothy Ennis (1968 Chevrolet Chevelle SS, 1972 Chevrolet Monte Carlo, & 1987 Jeep Wrangler YJ); David & Julie Margulies (1954 Chrysler Windsor Convertible); Philip & Rose Marie Migliore (1932 Ford 5-window Coupe B, 1965 Pontiac GTO, & 1967 Ford Mustang Convertible); Christina & Brett Shann (1964 Chevrolet Malibu); Robert & Kathy Springer (1950 Chevrolet Pick-up 3100); and Jerry & Terry Talley (1981 Porsche 911SC Coupe). Please introduce yourself to the new members as well as renewed members that you don't know well. Let's make everyone feel like a valued member in our Club.

Check out the details of our upcoming April meeting elsewhere in this Vintage Times or on our website at <https://treasurecoast.aaca.com>. Remember to RSVP to hosts Sally Franklin & Larry Atkins!!!

Let's hit the road...

Sandee Searle

2026 TCVCC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Andre Rayman

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
Dave Brown

SECOND VP / MEMBERSHIP
Sandee Searle

SECRETARY
Molly Hoffman

TREASURER
Barbara Joyce

SGT. AT ARMS
Curt Francisco

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
Denny Dahle

DIRECTORS
Jo Ann Smith (1 yr.)
Mary Anne Arnone (1 yr.)
Sally Franklin (1 yr.)
Russ Caterinicchio (2 yrs.)
Charlie Ulrich (2 yrs.)
John DeLisa (2yrs.)

ATTENTION: SCAM ALERT

Several members reported receiving emails from other members asking for gift cards or other monetary assistance. Some of the emails are very persuasive and sound very authentic. If you receive an email like this from any club member, please call to verify with them first at the number listed in the Club roster. Do not reply to the email or call any number in that email. This is a common scam and seems to come in waves. Here is an example of a very convincing email I recently received. Fortunately, I was sitting beside Andre when I received it so was able to verify it as a scam immediately.

AACA - Treasure Coast Region

Hi
I need you to get me some gift vouchers (cards) for a charitable cause on AACA - Treasure Coast Region to support veterans receiving hospice care.

I'll refund you the cost as soon as I settle in or I can send you a check to get them if you are low in funds.

I would be glad if you assist, Thank you for considering this.

Andre Rayman
President
[AACA - Treasure Coast Region](#)

VINTAGE TIMES

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Advertising:

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Furnish Business Card or File

Classified ads 50 wds. max.
Members: No charge
Non Members \$20 per issue
Submit copy via email Or MS
Word Doc All ads are for one
month and must be renewed
and/or revised each month.

Upcoming Local Events

LOCAL EVENTS (Courtesy of Jim Serra)

EVENTS FOR APRIL 2026 ONLY

Sat April 4th Annual car show at the Savannah Club, 3150 Crabapple dr. Port St Lucie, FREE EVENT, 10 am to 2 pm, Food, 50/50, raffles, trophies, etc. Bob 814-450-5980 (you can caravan over to this event after the cars & coffee on Johnson Ave in Stuart) - NO RAIN DATE!

- Sat April 11th, Car show at Highway Tire, 11 am to 2 pm, 3584 sw Armellini Ave Palm City, food truck, ice cream, bounce house, 50/50. More details to follow, Jim 772-285-3320. Opportunity to caravan from the museum cars and coffee over to this event.

- Sat April 18th, 11 am to 2 pm, First ever car show at Nautical but Nice located at 50 NE Jensen Beach Blvd, Jensen Beach. More details to follow.....

EVENTS THAT REPEAT MONTHLY

- Sat, April 4th, Cars & Coffee on the first Saturday of the month that used to take place at McKees on Jack James Drive will be 851 Johnson Ave in Stuart and will be held using a different format. It will be called a monthly informal cruise in and will resemble the cars & coffee held on Becker Rd in that participants will be responsible for bringing their own coffee and other refreshments and we will not have a trailer with music, 50/50, etc. Event times will remain the same (8 am to 1030 am). Wawa and McDonalds are a short walk from the location and Max's Bagels, Publix and Dunkin Donuts are within a mile for those wanting to purchase "coffee/and" nearby.

- Sun April 5th, Recovery Room Sports Grill Cruise- In is postponed this month because of Easter Sunday. hope to see everyone on Sunday May 3rd .

- Sun April 12th and Sun April 19th, Valencia Cay Cars & Coffee 662 se Becker Rd, 8 am. Free event - Dunkin Donuts and Publix are in the plaza. (2nd and 4th Sunday of the month).

- Sat April 11th Monthly Cars & Coffee at The Elliott Museum 8 am 825 NE Ocean Blvd Stuart. Free event - \$4 buys coffee/donuts/ice water - now featuring Jupiter Donuts. Sponsored by McKees 37. (Repeats on the 2nd Saturday of the month). THIS IS NOW A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT (in case of inclement weather, feel free to come down with your daily driver and we will move the refreshments inside).

- Sun April 19th, 3rd Sunday of the month at Carmela's Coffee Shop, 10308 sw Discovery Way Port St Lucie (in the heart of Tradition) 8 am to 10 am 772-800-5711.

- Mon April 20th, 5 PM – 8 PM T/A Truck Stop Car & Truck Show I-95 & State RD 60,(repeats on the 3rd Monday of the month) Carlos 772-528-4247

- Sunday April 26th, Monthly Cars & Coffee at City Diner 2660 se Federal Hwy Stuart, 772-291-2794, 9 am to noon, music, awards, Dining Discounts, Gift cards and more. Repeats the last Sunday of the month. Carlos 772-528-4247

Upcoming Local Events

LOCAL EVENTS (Courtesy of Jim Serra)

EVENTS THAT REPEAT WEEKLY

-Tuesdays, Weekly Car Show at Lowes, 5 pm - 7:30 pm, 3620 SE Federal Hwy, Stuart, FL 34997. Free for spectators - repeats weekly, hosted by Lew and His Crew, Lew 772-708-3790 (Please have exact change or small bills to expedite entry to the show)

- Wednesdays, Weekly cruise in at Dairy Queen, 9019 US Hwy 1 Port St Lucie at 3:00 pm FREE event and a dining discount for cruisers. Butch White 772-618-3794.

- Thursday nights - WEEKLY EVENT - Lowes Jensen Beach, 4100 NW Federal Hwy. 4:30 pm to 7 pm. \$3 to show a car, spectators FREE. Hosted by Lew & His Crew...Lew 772-708-3790. Please have small bills or exact change.

- Friday nights, Cruise in at Culvers in Jensen Beach 4 pm, located at 4151 NW Federal Hwy Jensen Beach 34957. 954-650-4356 (Brian), dining discounts.

ITEMS FOR SALE

- 4 POST LIFT

- WELDER

- AIR COMPRESSOR

If interested, Hank Peters at 772-260-0727

SAVE THE DATE CAR SHOW & BBQ

8th Annual All Saints' Episcopal Church Men's Fellowship car show and BBQ. Saturday April 11, 2026 11am to 3pm, BBQ lunch \$15.00 children under 12 free. Classic car parking begins at 10 am. Come and enjoy pulled pork BBQ, music and take a tour of the oldest church in Martin County, on the registry of landmarks. All proceeds go to outreach in the community.

All Saints' Episcopal Church
2303 NE Seaview Drive
Jensen Beach, FL 34957



Directions from downtown Jensen Beach:
Head south on Indian River Drive. At the fork bear right (Mobil Station on left). You will see the church sign on the right. Turn right, the church is at the top of the hill.

Directions from South Ocean Blvd: Heading east go over the first bridge and turn left at the traffic light at N Sewalls Point Rd. Head north for about a mile. Go past the Dolphin Bar Restaurant on the right and turn left on to Palmer Street. Proceed for about a quarter mile and turn right at the roundabout then go straight thru the arches and at the bend bear left (watch for oncoming traffic) onto Seaview Drive. The church is straight ahead. For info call Steve at 772-342-6663. Leave a voicemail or e-mail steve56belair@yahoo.com



Carlin Park – 400 Florida A1A,
Jupiter
Saturday, April 4th
Participants arrive 7-9:30 AM

Member Stories

March 2026 General Meeting

By Jay and Jo Ann Smith

The March General Meeting was held in Vero Beach at the Indian River Citrus Museum. We met at the Elliott Museum at 0930 Sunday morning under bright blue skies and 12 cars left at 0945 for a trip up A1A, picking up Brown's and Joyce's in Ft. Pierce and continuing up A1A north of Ft. Pierce where we were treated with a view of a rocket launch from the Cape.

We gathered 31 people at the Museum at 11;00 A.M. for a very detailed talk about the history of Indian River Citrus by Kathleen, their docent. She answered questions as our group meandered thru the small but interesting museum displays. After sampling the orange and grapefruit juices, we adjourned to the American Icon Brewery Restaurant for lunch where our 31 members and guests enjoyed lunch on the second floor, which we had mostly to ourselves. Our sound system, brought along by Curt, was put into use and David Brown conducted the official meeting in the absence of our President, Andre who was in Puerto Rico for the AACA Show.



Here is the link to the remaining meeting pictures- [TCVCC March 2026 General meeting | Flickr](#)

World Famous Indian River Citrus

By Sandee Searle

The March General Meeting, hosted by Jay & Jo Ann Smith, was an interesting, docent-led talk about Florida's very own World-Famous Indian River Citrus. Twenty-five members and five guests met in the Heritage Center in Vero Beach which houses the Indian River Citrus Museum. Our docent, Kathleen Cunningham, expounded on the ever-changing and challenging history of both the Heritage Center and the Indian River citrus industry.

The Heritage Center, built of Miami Dade pine in 1935, was the City's first community center. During WWII, it was repurposed as a meeting/rec center and USO dance hall for servicemen of the Vero Beach Naval Air Station before reverting to a community center. On 11/1/1944 the building caught fire. Thanks to an observant taxi driver and the durable Miami Dade pine, the fire department extinguished the flames to save the building. We could see the partially charred ceiling timbers.

After years of use, neglect, & disrepair, the Heritage Center was slated for demolition in the '90's. But local citizens formed a non-profit, raised money to save it just five days before the deadline, restored it, and now it is on the National Register of Historic Places.

From whence did citrus originate. The lineage traces from Florida to Spain to Northern Africa, and finally to its origin in China. Spanish & Portuguese explorers traveled with citrus fruit & small trees for medicinal & health reasons, fortunate for us! Florida grows their citrus in 'groves' meaning sacred land. California calls them orchards.

Florida citrus can only be called Indian River citrus if it is grown along the 225-mile Indian River Lagoon & flood plain and it is the best citrus because of its sweetness, high juice content, flavor, and thick skin to protect it during transport. About 90% of Indian River and other Florida citrus is processed for juice; then 80% is sold internationally. Fun fact: ripe Florida oranges have a green to greenish yellow skin unless temperatures dip into the 40's before fully ripened.

California's cooler climate produces more beautiful fruit with thinner skin than FL, but it is less flavorful and less juicy due to lack of sufficient rain and different soil. CA oranges are marketed as fruit; they are not used for juice.

Member Stories

World Famous Indian River Citrus, continued

By Sandee Searle

Indian River and Florida citrus agriculture have had several devastating blows this century. Prior to 2004 there were 12,000 growers; today only 1,500 remain. Growers used to plant 150 trees per acre; now 300 trees are crowded onto an acre. In the 2004/2005 season, Indian River citrus growers lost 80% of their crops to hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Jeanne. The rest of Florida citrus growers lost a third to a half of their crops. Diseases like citrus canker, for which there is no cure, and greening have diminished the crops. Canker-infected trees must be burned to prevent further spread. Greening is treated with insecticides and high nutrients to help strengthen resistance to the Chinese insects. Protective screens are also used to wrap around small trees to decrease the chance of Chinese insect infestation.

The 2026 freeze, one of the most destructive in Florida history, has caused a \$3.1 Billion agricultural loss across the State, with citrus reaching a \$675 million loss. Four or more hours at 28 degrees causes the fruit to freeze and drop. At 26 degrees, citrus trees explode and split open, ruining the entire tree. Growers pick as much ripe fruit as possible before it freezes. It sounds counterintuitive, but they flood groves and use overhead irrigation which helps insulate the trees during a freeze. Local growers lost 50% of their crops this year. As a result, look for orange, grapefruit, and lemon juice prices to increase. Even so, citrus growers will suffer monetary loss this year.



Valencia oranges are the juiciest and they are ripe and ready in Feb-Apr. If you are craving a nice orange now, please support a local grower, like Al's Family Farms on Kings Hwy in Fort Pierce or Schacht Groves in Vero Beach.



2026 AACA Special Nationals Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

By Andre Rayman

Back in 2022, 4 of us had attended this event- Myself, Rosemary, Sally Franklin and Larry Atkins. It was unique show that combined a regular AACA show on Friday, and a Grand National show on Saturday with winners from Friday advancing. I missed 2024, which was a regular show, and attended by Larry and Sally and Vinnie and Sarah, but was eager to return in 2026 which was just a traditional AACA one day show.

Day 1- Travel Day

We made our plans for a 7:30 am Thursday morning departure, and off we went to catch a 2.5 hour flight from Fort Lauderdale. This happened to coincide with spring break week, and spaces in the parking garage closest to our departure terminal were a premium forcing us to park 2 terminals away. The line for the ground transport was abysmal, so we made the 14 minute walk to Terminal 3.

Despite not being paid, TSA seemed fully staffed, and we breezed through the Pre-Check line in minutes. After boarding and push off from the gate, our jet got caught up in some FAA boondoggle that had us on the ground for an extra hour which included sitting still and then meandering along the taxiways until we finally were allowed back in line for take off.

By 3:30 pm we found ourselves resting in our room at the Marriot host hotel. I recognized a few familiar faces from 2022, but there was not much time to socialize before we would be boarding the bus to La Marquesa Park.

As we loaded up I was fortunate to find myself chatting with Meredith Jaffe, owner of a Kaiser Darrin. She had classic cars in her blood having gone on many adventures with her dad, and eventually inheriting his classics. And beyond all that she has authored the book "The Phantom Corsair" How fortunate for me!

We arrived at the park and rode the cable cars across the "jungle" and ended at the welcome pavilion where we were serenaded by many colorful birds including parrots. No one got pecked. That was followed by a nice dinner of Paella and all the Pina Coladas that you could drink. (that's the national drink)

At our table Meredith introduced me to Constance "Connie" Smith. She is a retired GM engineer and has written "The Women of General Motors" and "Damsels in Design" That's a serious heavy hitter! We chatted with various people and soon it was time to return to the hotel.



Member Stories

2026 AACA Special Nationals Guaynabo, Puerto Rico



We were excited to receive one numbered unframed print per couple. If you had not heard, the hospitality that is bestowed upon the mainlanders is first class by this club, and is head and shoulders above what any other club does for National Events.

That ended the night fairly early as we had a big day ahead of us.

Day 2- Judging school-

Judging school was held from 12-3 at the show grounds, and we bussed over there. Having made a mistake before, we made sure to have a hearty brunch as last time we were fairly famished during judging school. School went smoothly and there were snacks and drinks. I picked up a CJE (continuing judges education) We then received our judging shirts, and then rode back to the hotel for what we thought was a 6:30 pick up time to view the senate building and dinner.

Apparently we didn't get the time change email, and when we came to the lobby at 6pm (1/2 hour early), we found we were just in time to get onto the fully loaded buses. (Yikes)

A short drive later, we entered the senate building. We took a group picture on the stairs. I think there were 50 of us from the main land, and then we split into 2 groups for a tour of the building and then we reconvened for dinner. Pedro Campos who founded this chapter in 2000, received an award and a framed print. (200 copies).



Member Stories

2026 AACA Special Nationals Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

Day 3- Show Day

We were on the bus by 6:30 and headed over to the show field where we enjoyed our judges breakfast. Again, another top notch meal. We then split up into our judging teams. I was assigned to #500. And again, luck was on my side as the chief judge of my team was Pedro Campos. Alas, the morning had not been kind to Pedro, and he had taken a spill which required some bandaging. Our team of 5 was only 3 but luckily, we received Annie Goldman and her team of apprentice judges who were first timers and learning the ropes. Annie is a veteran of AACA judging, and that would become very helpful. We were judging Volkswagens. As the new guy/young guy, I drew undercarriage. They say it's a rite of passage. That means getting down on the hot asphalt. Fortunately, I found an old cardboard box to use as a prayer mat. As we waited under the tent for the 10:00 am start time, Pedro was feeling the side effects of his fall, an a not so good heart, and was whisked away to the hospital. About that time Andres, who was on our team, showed up from his other duty at the gate. If it was just us, admin would have yelled at us cause we really didn't know much about paperwork. Fortunately, we had Annie, and Rafael who was the assistant judge (now chief judge by attrition) on our team, handed over the chief judge duties to her. She was quite patient with both her apprentice judges (3) and the rest of us. We started off slow, but by the end we were a well-oiled machine. We wrapped up our efforts in the judging room and turned in our paperwork and received our "pay" which is nifty tab with the show information on it.

Then I was off to do what I do best- take pictures! After that we bussed back to the host hotel where everyone got cleaned up for the awards banquet.

Somehow, I forgot to purchase tickets, as did Sally, and they were in high demand so we had made reservations at a nearby steak house. It was definitely the right move as the awards ceremony ran till 10:30.



Member Stories

2026 AACA Special Nationals Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

Day 4-On our own in the rain forest.

With a later flight at 7pm we had the day to ourselves, and had a planned excursion into the rain forest. We were joined by new AACA friends Mark and Elana from New York. Our van with our driver/guide picked us up promptly at 8:30 and we were off. We had one stop to pick up 3 more guests and after a twisty turning ride, we were in the rain forest. Guess what- It was raining. Not a hard rain, but just enough to get everything sopping wet. We all had raincoats and umbrellas, so we were okay there. We headed off on a hike that was mostly uphill, and the rain had slowed down.



(Editor's Note: It was halfway up this "gentle" hike that I knew I should have stayed behind with a few of the others! What they failed to mention in the description was the trail was not maintained and made up of rocks and mud, about 2 feet wide and on the side of a mountain. I did make it to the top but had to stop and rest a few times. The downside was much easier, though slippery.)



After that we saw a few more sites in the park and headed back to the hotel. Although our flight was at 7pm we had heard that TSA was overwhelmed. So after a quick lunch, we grabbed our bags and caught a cab to the airport. Lunch was amazing, and although I had left overs, I was told that I could not bring any pork products to the main land. It didn't matter if it was cooked, raw, or in a can. As we arrived at the airport, we were flying out of the first Terminal- A. The line out of Terminal A for TSA must have been a few thousand feet long and snaked through Terminal B and C. I know this because we were dropped off at Terminal C and saw the end of the line as we went to get our bags cleared by USDA APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services). That was easy enough. Sally spotted a uniformed worker, and I asked where did we have to go if we had TSA-pre check. It was less than 50 feet away, and we cleared TSA in a few minutes. All except me, who pulled a bonehead maneuver and forgot a can of pepsi in my backpack which delayed me slightly. In any event, we had 3 hours to kill so we headed to our gate and found some good seats. One of my work-mates happened to be travelling at the same time and I found out from another AACA friend that the TSA line was 3.5 hours long. A lot of people missed their flights.

We were back in Ft Lauderdale by 10pm and I was in bed by midnight.

[AACA Nationals San Juan Day 1, March 19,2026 | Flickr](#)
[AACA Nationals San Juan Day 2, March 20,2026 | Flickr](#)
[AACA Nationals San Juan Day 3, March 21,2026 | Flickr](#)
[AACA Nationals San Juan Day 4, March 22,2026 | Flickr](#)

Sponsors & Classified Ads

Please keep our sponsors in mind when looking for a service or goods.

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 Color Copies and much more...



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Member Larry Ankrom is missing a folding chair similar to this one only green in color. It has the TCVCC logo embroidered on it with his initials. If you have it or seen it, please contact Larry.