



THE **DRIVELINE**

JULY • AUGUST 2026



My 1999 Mercedes CLK 320

A 26-year-old antique automobile.

Beloved by my family. Thousands spent on upgrades and maintenance over the years.

And now, for me, a car club with members who love antique cars and antique car shows.

“To this day, I still don’t understand how I could have received such an Award. Did someone pay off the judges?”

– Frank Blaha

Story continues on page 9.

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Appointed Positions

MEMBERSHIP/Photo DIRECTOR

Michael Fecchino

EVENT & TOUR DIRECTORS

José Gonzalez and Neil Labbe

The DRIVELINE Editorial Designer

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The 1999 Mercedes CLK 320

Frank Blaha ponders his good fortune.

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Finish Line is the last section of **The DRIVELINE** newsletter. It features our AACA Las Vegas Region Club activities and events. "If you receive an award somewhere for yourself or your car, email a photo and details about you and the event to me, and we'll consider including it on the special FINISH LINE 'Winners Circle' page."
-Michael Fecchino



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Underlined text and many page images are hyperlinks to view additional Internet media and info. Click on them when viewing the newsletter on your mobile phone, tablet or other device.



the-driveline.org



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AACA LAS VEGAS REGION is a 501(c)7 Non-profit Association



President's Message

THE DRIVELINE



To All Las Vegas AACA Region Members,

Welcome to almost the END of Summer!

Our pinball event at the McCormick's as usual was a lot of fun and entertaining. The new games were especially interesting although certainly not new (just classic) but they sure looked like new, they were in beautifully restored condition. Thank you so much to the McCormick clan.

Our club has not had very good luck with boat rides. 5 years ago, we scheduled a boat ride in Lake Las Vegas for our national event in a private yacht. two days before that event the engine blew up on the boat so that would be the end of that. As you know, August 2026, wasn't much better. We find out a couple days (more like a day and a half) before the event that the boat is in for engine repairs and no boat ride! We won't give up though, someday in the future our club will get to go out on a boat.

This November we will be going on a train so we can look forward to that. Next month we will be visiting Sheri Goldstrom at her Nostalgia street rod Museum which is an amazing collection of cars and a quite large collection of memorabilia, both men and women enjoy that.

Please welcome our new members as mentioned on the membership page where you can find new members listed in each newsletter.

The fall is coming soon so we can give our thermometers a break, I think we're all looking forward to that one.

A humongous congratulations to Richard and Gay Scheen, 60 years of marriage!

Looking forward to seeing you all on the road.

Michael J. Fecchino, President

*Antique Automobile Club of America
Las Vegas Region*

Anniversary Couples

(Left) Richard & Gay Scheen-60 Years
Christine & David Ringenbach-50 Years
Laura & Joe Ammirato - 47 Years
...and in their wedding photo
Pam & Michael Fecchino-43 Years.



CO Tour Director

Vice President's Message

THE DRIVELINE



Neil Labbe

*This information is so important for members!
We've decided to print it again this month.*

DO NOT

- Force the victim to drink liquids
- Apply rubbing alcohol to the skin
- Allow victims to take pain relievers or salt tablets

The best way to avoid a heat-related illness is to limit exposure outdoors during hot days. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Air conditioning is the best way to cool off
- Drink fluids, even if you don't feel thirsty, and avoid alcohol
- Wear loose, lightweight clothing and a hat
- Replace salt lost from sweating by drinking fruit juice or sports drinks
- Avoid spending time outdoors during the hottest part of the day, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Wear sunscreen; sunburn affects the body's ability to cool itself
- Pace yourself when you run or otherwise exert your body

Keep Each Other Safe

In your community, please check in on neighbors who are elderly, house-bound or otherwise may be reluctant to ask for help. You can offer to host them in the air-conditioned comfort of your living room on hot days, drive them to a local cooling center, or call relatives or city services to arrange for them to stay cool.

Hey fellow Auto Enthusiast's:

Welcome to Summer in the desert, we hope yours is going well. As we are enjoying the start of summer it is important for us to manage our heat exposure especially our babies including the furry ones and those of us that may be in one of the higher risk categories.

The human body is normally able to regulate its temperature through sweating, until it is exposed to more heat than it can handle. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke can escalate rapidly, leading to delirium, organ damage and even death. In 2023, 294 people died in the U.S. from weather-related excessive heat, according to Injury Facts.

People most at risk include:

- Those who work in the heat
- Infants and young children, especially if left in hot cars
- People 65 and older
- People who are ill, have chronic health conditions or are on certain medications
- People who are overweight

Heat Illness Symptoms: *Knowing the symptoms and proper response to these illnesses can save a life.*

Heat Exhaustion: When the body loses excessive water and salt, usually due to sweating, heat exhaustion can occur. According to the free NSC First Aid Quick Reference app, signs and symptoms include:

- Pale, ashen or moist skin
- Muscle cramps (especially for those working or exercising outdoors in high temperatures)
- Fatigue, weakness or exhaustion
- Headache, dizziness or fainting
- Nausea or vomiting
- Rapid heart rate

Uncontrolled heat exhaustion: *can evolve into heat stroke, so make sure to treat victims quickly:*

- Move victims to a shaded or air-conditioned area
- Give water or other cool, nonalcoholic beverages
- Apply wet towels, or have victims take a cool shower

Heat Stroke: *Seek medical help immediately if someone is suffering from heat stroke. Signs include:*

- Body temperature above 103 degrees
- Skin that is flushed, dry and hot to the touch; sweating has usually stopped
- Rapid breathing
- Headache, dizziness, confusion or other signs of altered mental status
- Irrational or belligerent behavior
- Convulsions or unresponsiveness

Immediately take action: Call 911...

- Move the victim to a cool place
- Remove unnecessary clothing
- Immediately cool the victim, preferably by immersing up to the neck in cold water (with the help of a second rescuer)
- If immersion in cold water is not possible, place the victim in a cold shower or move to cool area and cover as much of the body as possible with cold, wet towels
- Keep cooling until body temperature drops to 101 degrees
- Monitor the victim's breathing and be ready to give CPR if needed



Board Meeting Minutes

THE DRIVELINE

THIRD QUARTER

Antique Automobile Club of America - Las Vegas Region

7/14/2026 10:00 am

President Michael Fecchino called the meeting to order and opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Members in attendance:

Michael Fecchino, Neil Labbe, Joe Olivera, Danny Barnett, Jose Gonzales.

José G. moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting as posted in the newsletter, Danny seconded the motion and the minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Michael F. presented the Treasurer's report by proxy, with a checking balance of \$ 3,322 and savings balance of \$ 12,402 and the expectation of 1 outstanding obligation to pay for 1 additional night of security at our Lake Las Vegas show.

Vice-President's report includes: Nice turn out at the Mob Museum. The venue was a bit busy on the weekend but we pulled it off.

The published tour schedule has been updated to show the replacement of the "Dennis Collection tour" with the Goldstrum Museum collection for our September event.

The Big Wheel Charity Event is scheduled for December 12th, 2026 in Goldfingers' parking lot. This is a fun and entertaining event for a charitable cause to add to your calendar.

Membership Report, Michael F.: The National Show was a great event, we added new members and local

enthusiasts, many already National members, but not members of our local club. We currently have 86 memberships that include 152 members.

Merchandise, José G.: Our Shirt, Hat, and Badge supplier is set with both the old and new logos. José is able to help fill orders to meet the members requests.

A few requests directed to our club suggest we facilitate car shows for such groups like the local Rotary Club. While we want to support our community and be involved, we also recognize that a high level of commitment is required to assemble a successful show. On a scale larger than Celebrity Cars and Coffee weekend meets, we would need the time, a financial commitment and a large contingent of committed volunteers in order to put on larger, free or fee-based events.

An Internet cloud-based service for the club is currently being tested. It will provide personal online login accounts for club members which will replace personal email addresses as the principle means of connecting and communicating with membership. And there will be other services available to members as well. Stay tuned for more information.

Our next Birthday Lunch scheduled at Goldfingers on 8/20/2026.

August 15th is the next newsletter deadline.

The timing of the 2026 Christmas Party is closing in on us. The board voted to approve Pan and Michael's offer to host again this year at their home. Joe Olivera will be recruiting help to facilitate. The board will begin searching for a 2027 location.

The board is working on the calendar of events for 2027.

Meeting adjourned.

Neil Labbe, Vice-President



Upcoming Events

the-driveline.org



THE DRIVELINE

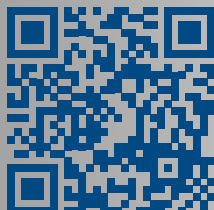
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2026 Tour Event Schedule

JANUARY	Kick-Off Brunch	01/18/2026	Club Officers
FEBRUARY	Springs Preserve	02/14/2026	Club Officers
MARCH	Cornerstone Park Picnic	03/22/2026	Don Arnold
APRIL	AACA WESTERN SPRING NATIONALS	04/23-24-25/2026	Hosted: Officers, Board & Club Members
	Celebrity Car Show	04/25/2026	Sponsored by: Celebrity Cars & Coffee
MAY	Spring Mountain Ranch (Cancelled)	05/17/2026	Michael Fecchino
JUNE	The Mob Museum	06/20/2026	John Ragonese & Joe Oliveria
JULY	McCormick Pinball Collection	07/25/2026	Larry McCormick
AUGUST	Lake Mead Paddleboat (Cancelled)	08/15/2026	Neil Labbe
SEPTEMBER	Goldstrom Nostalgia Museum	09/27/2026	Michael Fecchino & John Ragonese
OCTOBER	Pioneer Saloon - Goodsprings, NV	10/17/2026	Marty & Debbie
NOVEMBER	NV State Railroad Museum-Bolder Hwy	11/14/2026	Neil Labbe & Richard Scheen
DECEMBER	Club Christmas Party-Year in Review	12/03/2026	Club Officers
	The BIG WHEEL RACE-Goldfinger's Grill	12/12/2026	Rich Hall

Schedule Changes are in Blue.



William and Atsuko Fortier, AACA Las Vegas members. William is sporting the regalia of the early 1900s, beside their award-winning 1908 Cadillac and passing out candy to children, at the recent 2026 South Point Casino Children's Charity Car Show.





Membership/Photo Director

Membership Message

THE DRIVELINE

WELCOME ALL MEMBERS!

We have Three new memberships with Six new members!

John & Young Siordia found us at Celebrity Cars & Coffee and has a 1973 Camaro Z-28 and 1990 Corvette

Ronald & Jeannette Prieto found us at Celebrity Cars & Coffee and have a 1966 Corvette Stingray Convertible



Michael Fecchino



CELEBRITY CARS & COFFEE

Some of you newer members may not know this but AACA Las Vegas Region is a participating supporter for the Celebrity Cars and Coffee on Eastern. Celebrity Cars and Coffee is the Sponsor of our Celebrity Car Show and is located at 9500 S. Eastern Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89123 and is free every Saturday, 52 weeks a year from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. (when it gets really hot we leave a little early) with an average of about 300 cars per week.

If you haven't been there come on out, our club has a dedicated space to put our chairs (be sure to bring one) and we have a club sign and table set up to introduce ourselves to the automotive public and sometimes recruit new members.

Cathy & Emmanuel Munoz found us at Celebrity Cars & Coffee and own a 1929 Ford Model A Fordor Blindback

.....
Please introduce yourselves at either Celebrity Cars and Coffee or at our next event. We have name badges, club shirts, hats and jackets you can order: contact Jose Gonzalez, 310-293-2830 / email: joser300@sbcglobal.com. Help everyone get to know you!

PLEASE DON'T throw away your old AACA Antique AUTOMOBILE magazines. I will find a new home for them. I will redistribute them to new or potentially new members at the Celebrity Cars and Coffee Saturday morning car shows.



Be sure to check out our Facebook and website pages too:

the-driveline.org



www.facebook.com/aacalasvegasregion





THE DRIVELINE

Story continued from the Cover...



I purchased the 1999 Mercedes CLK 320 in 2001 from a buddy who had lost his job. It was in near-new condition, a beautiful color, a convertible, and my wedding gift to my new wife. Years later, we bought a Lexus, and I drove the Mercedes and liked it even more. I started to upgrade the car to my liking. I replaced the shock absorbers with Koni competition units. These made the car ride much firmer, like a sports car. I also replaced the 14-inch wheels with 18-inch low-profile wheels.

In November, 2012, we purchased a Tesla Model S. The Lexus had been totaled in an accident, and my wife started driving the Mercedes again. She and I split up in 2017, but we both meticulously maintained the car, spending a lot of money on repairs to the motor and transmission mounts, ball-joint and rubber hose replacements. And when she passed away in 2021, I was still registered on the title; the car was parked in my ex-wife's garage, but I had no interest in having it back.

In March, 2022, my new stepson Felix, a UNLV Engineering student, returned from the Air Force Reserve Basic Training and Tech School. He was planning to get a car; he thought maybe a used Honda or Toyota. I thought about the Mercedes still parked in my ex-wife's garage. So, Felix got a free car.

Felix is a computer science major and into all the techy stuff. The Mercedes, on the other hand, was twenty years old and decidedly old tech: No Bluetooth, GPS navigation, backup camera, or any modern technology. He found a plug-and-play 9-inch touchscreen unit online for less than \$200, installed it, instantly upgrading the car with modern technology. He was thrilled! But the car is a gas hog requiring premium-grade fuel, and eventually I got the car back and decided to sell it.



I like driving with the top down, but the convertible top hydraulics are complicated and hadn't been used frequently enough. Subsequent hydraulics repairs totaled \$5000.00. But the car was running great again, and I loved driving this classic, so I decided the CLK would stay in the family as my fun car.

In 2024, I started attending the Saturday morning Celebrity Cars and Coffee gatherings in Henderson, where I met the car guy group from AACA Las Vegas Region. Considering that I now also had an official antique automobile, I decided to join the group. Our President, Michael Fecchino, convinced me that entering my 1999 antique Mercedes in the Western Spring AACA Nationals here in Las Vegas was the perfect opportunity to participate.

The AACA official judging criteria are strict, emphasizing "authenticity and originality." As a newbie to this process, I became extremely dejected, realizing that the sheepskin seat covers, oversized wheels, advanced tech audio system with a touch-screen, paint flaws, and numerous other "non-original" add-ons probably disqualified the Mercedes as a true antique vehicle. I made a list of all the modifications, and when speaking with the judges, I spent a lot of time explaining the 'cause and effect' for each change applied over the years. So, when my 1999 Mercedes CLK 320 won an AACA National First Award in class 27T, I almost fell out of my chair at the Awards Banquet.

And to this day, I still don't understand how I could have earned such an Award. Did someone pay off the judges? Wink! Wink!

—Frank Blaha



JULY

Lorraine Bergler 7/15
Regina Sladen 7/18
Ron Custer 7/19
Michael Resignato 7/21
Ron Verstraeten 7/21
Ronald Riggs 7/23
Henry Concepcion 7/27
Andrew Nafarrete 7/29
Juliana Ramirez 7/30

AUGUST

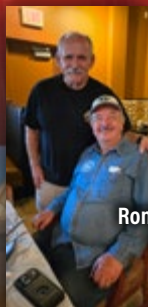
Joshua Marcum 8/1
Kathy Munoz 8/4
Danny Barnett 8/5
Jack Barnett 8/11
Marge Carey 8/13
Julie Wilson 8/13
Marty Greenbaum 8/14
Lee Farris 8/19
Matthew Eddy 8/20
Robert Farris 8/21
William Brower 8/23
John Siordia 8/26
Robert Robinson 8/29
Lloyd Power 8/31

SEPTEMBER

Linda Ciacchio 9/1
Sam Lane 9/8
David Hartson 9/9
Steve Struve 9/9
Juan Wibowo 9/17
Jack Poster 9/20
Rose Gonzalez 9/27
Thomas DeLemos 9/27
Christopher Radtke 9/29
Hal Sheaks 9/29
Raul Capitulo 9/30
Gloria Pope 9/30

Happy Birthday

And Anniversaries!



Ron Verstraeten
standing

Neil Labbe

Dave & Christine
Ringebach
50 Years

Loretta & Ron Riggs
new members from
the Model T Chapter

Sally & Denny Wyatt

Danny Barnett

Laura & Joe Ammirato (taking photo)
47 Years

Karen Farris

Gay & Richard Scheen
60 Years

Joe Oliveira

Michael Fecchino
who is also celebrating with Pam, his lovely wife,
43 Years of blissful marriage (see page 3.)

AACA



ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB of AMERICA
JOIN AACA TODAY!

Learn more about our 4 great AACA Membership options:
 Annual Membership: \$45
 Student Membership: \$12
 Lifetime Membership: \$700
 Military Membership: Complimentary

Visit aaca.org to become a member!

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\$45
 + \$5 per image + shipping

Only available to AACA members.

Showcase your car's history, awards, and unique details with a custom Concours-style car sign from AACA.

Email Jon Curtis, JCurtis@AACA.org, for more details & to get started!

If you are viewing this newsletter on a device connected to the Internet, mouse-clicking on the images or links will take you to a webpage or download a file to your device.

*Official AACA
 Custom Car Show Signs
 Click Here
 to Order Online*

Is Your 2026 Membership Past Due?

AACA membership runs on a calendar year basis January 1 through December 31.

Antique
 AUTOMOBILE



Only paid members receive our award-winning and much beloved *Antique Automobile* magazine. Not to mention that you cannot receive registration materials or register for any 2026 shows or tours without a current membership.

Renewing is quick and easy online. All you need is your member number and pin. Don't remember one of these? No problem! Email or give us a call at 717-534-1910 and we'll be happy to help!

RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP TODAY

**Big Thrills,
 Big Savings**

Get discounts on top theme parks nationwide

BUY TICKETS

**Explore
 Can't-Miss
 Sights**

Save on incredible attractions for the whole family.

BUY TICKETS

Live Events

Save on tickets to local and national events

Sporting Events

Score discount tickets to your favorite games

Concert Deals

Score preferred pricing on tickets to the hottest concerts near you

Amazing Offers This Week

Movie Tickets

Save up to 25% on tickets

Zoo & Aquariums

Save on tickets

Broadway

Save up to 30%

Las Vegas Shows

Save on must-see shows

Ski Resorts

Save on ski resorts and lodging

The Chris & Kathleen Koch
**AACA LIBRARY
 & RESEARCH CENTER**



MCCORMICK Pinball Collection



Finish Line





Finish Line

CELEBRITY Cars & Coffee

Laura Ammirato shooting selfies and making friends with THE PIT BOSS who was selling 50/50 tickets at the Children's Charity. The pot eventually went over \$7,000.00 which Laura did not win.



Jim Tenney and his daughter who is visiting from Ireland.



New members Emmanuel (standing) & Cathy Munoz, Jose Gonzalez and John Ragonese.



Laura & Joe Ammirato, Doc Hawkins, Bob & Jerry Robinson (standing), Richard & Gay Scheen and John



The silver DeLorean, Back from the future, again and parked at C&C.



Two members from when the club first originated. On the left Ed Burke with his beautiful new Oldsmobile, so-to-speak, and on the right HB Calder who has a beautiful 1937 cord. Ed lives in Missouri now while HB has a home here in Henderson and in Michigan.



Joe Oliveira, Michael Fecchino, Jack Camburn, John Ragonese, Richard Scheen on scooter, Larry McCormick (standing), Gay Scheen, Ron Verstraeten, Jack Barnett and Scot Mott

South Point Children's Charity Show

