



**AKRON, OHIO,
THE RUBBER CAPITAL OF THE WORLD,
WARMLY WELCOMES THE 39TH ANNUAL
NATIONAL DESOTO CLUB CONVENTION**
Craig and Christine Lane, convention co-chairmen

We are very excited to welcome everyone to our hometown of Akron, Ohio! We have been working very hard to put together a week of exciting experiences to share with everyone, first of which is the convention host hotel, the DoubleTree by Hilton, located at 3180 W. Market St, Akron, OH 44333. The hotel is holding rooms for us at a special reduced rate of \$169/night plus tax and fees. You may choose from a single king or two double bed room. A buffet breakfast is included in a private room during official convention days. The NDC rate is good up to 3 days before and 3 days after the convention. You can make your reservation by calling the hotel directly at (330) 867-5000 (be sure the mention the NDC to get the group rate) or you may use the reservation link on the club website (www.desoto.org/events) - click the Special Rates button and enter the group code NDC. Please book your room early. Reservations are already coming in and the cut-off date is June 10, 2025, with a cancellation policy of up to 24 hours prior to the reservation, or 12:00 a.m. of the day preceding your reservation. Also, there is space available to park your trailer.

Please feel free to bring swimsuits. There is a really good pool space with tables for eating, which we will also use for the welcome dinner event. It is a great space for everyone to congregate during down times and evenings. They have a great restaurant there, Beau's Grille, if you would like to eat there on either Thursday or Friday night. We will also provide a list of our favorite tried-and-true restaurants if you would like to venture out, as well as other attractions if you want to come a day or two early or stay beyond the convention.

On **Wednesday, June 25th**, the Hospitality Room will be open at 2:00 p.m. for registration. There will be a welcome reception at the hotel starting around 5:30 p.m. The reception will be held in the outdoor meeting space at the hotel and will offer a barbeque dinner. Additionally, we will have exclusive use for the pool area for eating, socializing and swimming.



Akron, Ohio, and the surrounding area, is rich in history when it comes to early infrastructure and innovation. The Erie Canal was the beginning of a national transportation system. Ohio saw the importance of the Erie Canal and by 1825, plans to build the system connecting Lake Erie and Ohio River were underway. It was not without obstacles, including geography and politics.



The Ohio and Erie Canal in Greater Akron. Image courtesy of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

The name 'Akron' was suggested by Paul Williams, who settled near the corner of what is now Buchtel Avenue and Broadway. Its meaning is after the Greek word 'Akron' which means 'summit' or 'high point'. The location of Akron is the highest point on the Ohio and Erie Canal.

Soon, the construction of the canal attracted Irish immigrants to the region, then known as the Western Reserve, where they were employed to dig the canal. The stretch of canal between Akron and Cleveland was finished in 1827. Two years later, the commissioner of the Ohio Canal Fund and War of 1812 brigadier-general Simon Perkins founded the city of Akron.

The canal advanced the town throughout the early 1800s. Farmers could bring their crops, especially wheat, to the mills powered by the flowing water, and the resulting flour could then be loaded directly into canal boats to be shipped elsewhere. The location of the canal would go on to prove useful for a variety of goods and industries. Charles Goodyear discovered how to vulcanize (or harden) rubber, constituting the city's primary industry and identity.

Frank Seiberling founded the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. in 1898. The company was named after Charles Goodyear, who is the inventor of vulcanized rubber. Charles Goodyear did not live in Akron nor did he visit the city. However, his innovation was that of great significance in the 19th century. This would eventually lead to Akron becoming the "Rubber Capital of the World." The first Goodyear tires became very popular because they were easily detachable and required little maintenance. In addition to the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, B. F. Goodrich, Firestone Tire, and General Tire were headquartered in Akron.

In addition to the research and development provided by the tire and rubber companies in Akron, Northeast Ohio was instrumental in the development of the transportation industry as a whole. Different modes of transportation were born, such as automobiles, aircrafts, carriages, sleighs, boats and more.

On **Thursday, June 26th**, we'll start our adventure by visiting a couple of historical sites while on a 20-mile driving tour. For our first stop, we will visit and tour Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, the amazing estate of Frank Seiberling and his family. This historic site has an estate that includes gardens, a greenhouse, carriage house, and the main mansion. It is one of the largest houses in the United States and is a National Historic Landmark.

From there we will drive over to the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (CVSR) and ride the train along the Erie and Ohio Canal. The CVSR is a Class III railroad that operates with a diesel-electric and steam-powered engine. Today,



*Above: Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens
Below: Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad*



the passenger train operates excursions through Peninsula, Ohio and in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. We are planning to enjoy a boxed lunch between the two destinations. The evening will conclude with the Membership & Trustee Meeting.

Friday, June 27th will be another exciting fun-filled day as we embark on a bus trip up to Cleveland. What would a trip be without a little culture?!? We will begin with a self-guided tour of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, arriving at 10:00 am when it opens. There will be something for everyone! There are exhibits from Michael Jackson, Dolly Parton, Jimmy Buffet, and Cher, just to name a few. We are making arrangements for lunch that day and then we will be off to the Crawford Auto Aviation Museum.



Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

In addition to the research and development provided by the tire and rubber companies in Akron, Northeast Ohio was instrumental in the development of the transportation industry as a whole. The Crawford Auto Aviation Museum houses over 170 antique automobiles in addition to aircrafts, carriages, sleighs and more. We will then head back to the hotel where we will end our evening with the famous Ice Cream Social, Basket Raffle, Swap Meet, and the DeSoto Pink Ladies photoshoot (simply wearing the pink NDC shirt and sunglasses followed by an informal group picture – for more information regarding the shirt and glasses, contact Christine Lane at (330) 289-6734).

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Crawford Auto Aviation Museum

The main event! **Saturday, June 28th**, DeSotos will flood the show field at Hardesty Park, 1615 W. Market St, Akron, OH 44313. We are currently making arrangements to have lunch on the premises. In the event of rain or wet ground, the show will be held at the mall across from the hotel. The banquet and awards will be held at the host hotel. There will be a cash bar and a buffet-style dinner.



Hardesty Park grassy show field with shade available

Sunday, June 29th, will be our Farewell Breakfast as we say “happy trails” to our friends until next time....

For additional details, see the enclosed registration form.

Phone: (330) 715-4606

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Ladies' Shirt



Men's Shirt

Single-sided 2025 convention shirt design. Artwork by Christine Lane's granddaughter, Allie Greene, age 12.

