

President's Message

Our 50th Annual Antique Car Show was a great success! We had 88 beautiful vehicles on the show field, lots of enthusiastic visitors and car owners, great weather, and lots of fun! As usual, our club members stepped up to complete all of the tasks, fill all of the gaps, and made this show a really fun event! I give a special thank you to our judges and those who helped park vehicles. The heat made these jobs a bit more challenging than usual.

As we move into summer, there are plenty of opportunities to attend car shows, tours, and cruise-ins in the area. Be sure to represent the Alamance Region by wearing your club shirt and/or nametag! We receive lots of support from our neighboring clubs, and we want to make sure to show our support for their activities when we can. And remember to take lots of photos while you are out and about. Send photos to Bruce or me so we can put them up on the website and include some in the *Weak Spark*.

We received the sad news that O.T. Smith passed away May 16, 2022 at the age of 84. O.T. and Sylvia were long time members of the Alamance Region AACA, and sure enjoyed the extended family of the club. O.T. leaves behind his son and daughter-in-law Tommy & Kellie Smith, as well as his brother and sister-in-law Floyd & Elsie Smith. We will certainly miss O.T.'s company and his bright smile!

One of our founding members, Pauline Hancock also passed away on May 29, 2022, at the age of 93. Pauline was the wife of George Hancock, and she served the club in many capacities over the years.

On a happier note, we want to wish Larry and Elizabeth Coble a very happy 50th wedding anniversary June 4! They are celebrating their anniversary with a cruise on the Mississippi River. Best wishes for many more years to come!

Enjoy this beautiful weather if you can, and we'll see y'all down the road!

Rick Holmes

May 2022 Treasurer's Report

Our 50th anniversary car show was a great success! We had 88 cars on the show field on a beautiful, though hot, day in downtown Burlington. We had 67 paid sponsors for our show and 32 of those also placed a business card sized ad on our website. Thanks to all our members who worked so hard getting great sponsors! We had one vendor and our 50/50 raffle split \$320. Our drink sales brought in \$175.

I do not have all the bills for show expenses yet but our cost for putting on a car show runs about \$3,000. This show may be the best show financially that we have ever had. This will certainly help make up for having to cancel our show during Covid. I have sent funds to Alamance Community College for our annual scholarship for an auto tech student. Donations have been sent to the charity of their choice in memory our members who have passed away this year: Dave Rich, Wallace Compton and O. T. Smith. I will have a more complete financial report when all the bills for the show have been turned in.

Jeannie Johnson



Young Cam here is intently focused on the steering wheel in Richard and Judy Holmes' Model A at our recent show. Cam kept his grandfather Tavarez Corbett at the show for more than FOUR hours! Sounds like we have another old car fan in the making! Thanks so much to the Holmes for making their Model A available for this young man to enjoy up close and personal. Keep those eyes on the road Cam!

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Next Weak Spark Deadline

July Issue 6/25/22

Next Club Meeting

June 11, 2022

6:30 PM

Alamance Region Clubhouse
Burlington, NC

Hosts:

Les Joyner Award Winner



Our adventure began on Tuesday, August 17th, 1965 when I was 2 years old. Mom, Dad, my Aunt Naomi, and my cousins Lorene and Joanne drove Mom and Dad's '57 Chevrolet to Cooper-Harris Ford in Pittsboro, NC to buy the first new car my parents ever owned. Our Wimbledon white 1965 Mustang coupe. Back then buying a new car was a big event. I was totally attached to the Mustang from that day. Back then the dealership actually had new license plates and I became angry at the salesman when he was putting on the license plate. I told him that was my car. I guess I really didn't want him to even touch it.

Dad drove the car every day to work in Burlington to Western Electric and later to Bell Labs in Greensboro. He drove it every day until 1974. When the gas crisis hit that year, me and Dad flew to Texas and bought a 2-cylinder 600cc Honda car from my Uncle Bill. It got 55 mpg, so the Mustang was parked for a couple of years. In the spring of 1976, Dad decided it was time to spruce up the Mustang a little bit. We stripped all the paint off the car from front to back with stripper. After we got it all to bare metal and put a little primer on it so it wouldn't rust, we carried it down Hwy 49 to Marvin Cole and he repainted it for the unbelievable price of \$300. You can't even buy the paint for that price today. After putting the bumpers and the rest of chrome back on, Dad started to drive it some to work again.

In May of 1978, Dad and I, Leonard Wolfe, Bobby Summers, and a few others drove our Mustangs to Kingsport, Tennessee to one of the first shows the Mustang Club of America ever held. To this day, I have never seen as many 65 and 66 Mustangs in one place in my life. Going to that show planted the thought in our minds. Maybe we can compete in one of these shows one day.

We drove the car occasionally but not on a regular basis like we should have. The first big mistake. In October of 1988, I drove it to work in Durham. It ran well, but on the way home, it overheated three times. I stopped and cooled it down and added some water and got it home. We decided that afternoon it was time to do some work on the car and make sure it was a little more reliable. I got home about 6:30 pm and before I got into bed that night, we had the engine sitting in the floor of the garage.



The original plan was to rebuild the engine and clean up and paint under the hood. Well plans change sometimes! Not long after removing the engine, we removed the front fenders, and we replaced the left front inner fender apron and the radiator support. Battery acid had eaten away at them. After that, we decided we've gone this far so no need to stop now. We took it completely apart and Bobby Dodd and Dennis Frances of Danville, VA helped us get it painted all over. Top and bottom. Over a four-year period, we replaced all the chrome and things that had gotten a little worse for wear. We added power steering on it. In September of 1992, with the help of a lot of people and great friends, our car was completely restored.

In October of '92, we took it to Lynchburg, VA for our first show, an MCA National. We had to borrow a truck and a trailer to get it there. On Friday night before the show on Saturday. That is a story in itself. At 7 pm that Friday night, we had no way to get to Lynchburg. We didn't know what to expect. We cleaned the car the best we knew how. The judges went over the car and we waited for the awards ceremony that night. Got a little anxious. We were hoping we could get a top 3 finish.

Awards time started, they called out the 3rd and 2nd place finishers and we didn't make it. Well, maybe next time we thought. They announced that there was a tie for 1st place. They announced, 1st place goes to Teddy Bolling and tied for 1st place Max Wicker. We were in total shock!

Les Joyner Award Winner

From that day on, things began to snowball. In December of 1992, we bought an enclosed trailer from Cooper-Harris Ford where the car was bought new. Then bought an '83 Ford F-250 diesel truck from a family friend.

The passion had just begun to grow bigger. We showed our car from October of 1992, full time, until October of 1995. Dad went to some AACA regional shows in '97, '98, and '99. Then the shows stopped. Dad drove it occasionally but not regularly. Second big mistake. In April of 2017, Dad called and said the Mustang won't start. I went over and worked on it a bit and got it running pretty good. Got us a carburetor kit and rebuilt it. Then it would not run at all. We stopped working on it and ordered a new fuel tank and fuel pump. The gas tank was full of rust. My health got sort of bad in 2018. In May of 2020 we started working again. Got the fuel tank and fuel pump replaced and got it running good.

My plan was to get it running and let Dad drive it some when he wanted to and I was done. Sitting at home one night, it hit me that all the time and money we had put into it over the years shouldn't go to waste.

The Mustang had been under a cover for over 5 years and the cover sweated and ate away at every piece of chrome on the car. The back bumper was green. From May of 2000 to present, we have replaced and repainted parts and pieces. We decided we would show it again.

Our first show back was the NC Region AACA Fall Regional in Spencer, NC on September 18th of 2021. We really didn't know what to expect. We didn't know it at the

time, but Elizabeth Coble of our club was one of the judges at Spencer along with Johnny Garner of Rock Hill, SC.

When awards were given out, Dad's name was called as a first place winner. Again, we were blown away. Then Dad's name was called as the recipient of a special award. The Les Joyner Memorial Award for best restored Mustang at the fall regional. At the time we did not know the significance of the award. But through Larry and Elizabeth Coble we found out how special it really is. Larry and Elizabeth's Mustang has also received the honor of the Les Joyner Award.

Over this past winter we bought another enclosed trailer and a diesel truck. Show fever has hit us again. We took the Mustang to Charlotte on April 9th of this year and were fortunate to win its First Junior Award. Dad always wanted to be able to get the junior award.

We're not trying to brag and I will explain. Our car has won 2 MCA Grand Nationals, 9 MCA Nationals, 7 MCA Regionals, 5 best of shows, 6 AACA Regionals, 1 AACA National, 1 World of Wheels, and Gold at the 30th anniversary Mustang celebration in Charlotte in 1994. 27 shows total. We have been blessed and fortunate that the Mustang has never lost a show.

Now I will brag a little. It's not all about the car. It's the people we have met and everybody that has helped us accomplish the things we have over the years. We have gained so many friendships and learned so much. That is priceless.

Scott Wicker

2022 Alamance Region Show



2022 Alamance Region Show



Minutes of the May Meeting

Rick Holmes called to meeting to order and thanked Pat and Sam Burke, Chuck and LouAnn Smith and Judy Purchell for hosting. He recognized Dan Lucas, Richard and Judy Holmes son-in-law, as a guest. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes from last meeting as printed in *The Weak Spark*. Henry Gaither made the motion to approve as written and there was a second by Judy Holmes. The minutes were approved.

Jeanne Johnson said that we had the most Sponsors ever for our Car Show. She also said that we had around 45 cars pre-registered. She said that she had made a memorial donation to AuthoraCare in Memory of Wallace Compton. She has requested that Wallace's sister receive the acknowledgement.

Rick reviewed recent and upcoming shows. Elizabeth Coble reported on the Charlotte Show. Max Wicker won his First Junior National Award with his Mustang, Dave Dodge won his DPC designation with his Chevy Nova and Larry Coble won his repeat preservation with the 1956 Ford Truck. Henry Gaither reported that July 25-30 will be the last Mustang Week at Myrtle Beach.

Rick recognized that Larry and Elizabeth have won their 50 year pins from AACA for their Membership in the club. Larry said that he would check on Otto Watson's years.

Rick thanked everyone that brought drinks and water for the show. Hospitality reminded everyone to bring individually wrapped baked goods for the day of show. Beckie Pickett said that she had 100 biscuits coming from Biscuitville. Rick asked who could bring ice for the drink sales. Chuck Smith, John Cox and Dave Dodge volunteered. On Friday before the show, Herb Kluttz and John Cox will go to WBAG for their talk show from 10:30

am to 11:00 am. Rick will purchase batteries for the walky-talkys. All items will be loaded on Friday and taken to the Depot. The loading will start at 4:00 pm. Burlington has sent notifications to all Downtown Vendors. Larry and Elizabeth Coble donated 5 fire extinguishers to go with 2 that we already have. These will be sold for \$20.00 each. Larry and Scott Wicker will have extras of their own if someone needs to borrow one. Rick asked that the Registration Crew stay after the meeting. A roster of assignments are on our Website.

Trophies will be given at 3:00 pm. Elizabeth reminded those giving the trophies to try to meet people and keep them from having to walk down the steps.

The next order of business concerned the sale of property beside us and the rezoning for General Business - Limited Use.

That use is being proposed to be an Apartment Complex by Lucas Construction. There were some question and Rick answered what he could based on the information that he had gathered. Brown Investments has also contacted Larry Coble and Rick Holmes concerning the sale of our property. Rick said that no decision would be made at this meeting.

O.T. Smith had been admitted to the Hospice Home. Also, Lynn Pickett said that one of our sponsors had a 1960 F350 Truck that he needs wheels. The current ones have rusted. Scott Wicker suggested contacting Coker Tires as they now stock wheels in addition to tires.

Henry Gaither made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Jerry Purchell.

Submitted by *Elizabeth Coble* for *Mike Blaylock*

The *Weak Spark* is brought to you thanks to these fine sponsors!

Mark Greeson, President

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by Jim Shaw*

*In Memory of
Walter R. "WR" Smith, Jr
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