

President's Message

The summer heat has kicked in, and there are plenty of opportunities to get our old cars out and have fun! The Zooland and General Green shows are coming up soon, and I'm sure the Alamance Region will be well represented at both. I always enjoy both of these shows due to the venue and the variety of cars that are there, but I especially enjoy seeing and talking to our friends. In Asheboro I usually get to cruise through the antique shops as well as the car show! And the General Green show is at the Piedmont Triad Farmer's Market, so I always pick up some fresh veggies while we are there. I just need to remember to bring my sunscreen!

Our next meeting will be on July 9 at our clubhouse. Billy Mebane and Dave and Janet Dodge will be our hosts. We will have a short program after our business meeting.

Please make sure to check out our website for the upcoming events calendar, and to verify that the web sponsor list is accurate. If you see anything that needs to be corrected or updated, please send me an email or call me directly. And if you have any ideas for articles for the website or the Weak Spark, contact either me or Bruce Anliker. We would love to get some additional input for both!

Henry is working on a tour to the Alamance County Historical Museum and then to Homeland Creamery. The museum has a wealth of information about our textiles heritage, as well as a 1907 Ford Model S that was donated by Lynne Pickett's father. More details to follow, so make sure your radiator is topped off and ready to roll!

We'll see y'all down the road!

Rick Holmes

June 2022 Treasurer's Report

Things have been quiet in the treasurer's corner this month. I am still waiting on a couple of sponsors to send checks and I am expecting a refund of our damage deposit from the city. We always leave the Depot in good shape! As soon as these items arrive, I will have a final report on our car show. I understand that the audit committee has been meeting to review the books for the past several years. Covid put many things on hold and the audit report was one of them. Please check out our sponsors who have advertised on our website and send business their way! They are a big part of keeping our club up and running.

Jeannie Johnson

The Greatest Days of My Life

On 10 June, I was honored to be the guest speaker for the graduation of the class of 2022 at Rockingham County High School. I was wrapping up my 14 years there and for whatever reason I was asked to speak.

I rambled about this and that then came to my final thoughts, which to me were the most important of the whole deal. One

of these were the greatest days of my life. I told them those days had nothing to do with money and everything to do with the ones I love; memories that money could never buy. I felt it was important because so many young people think they have to be billionaires to have those great days. Sure you can have a lot of stuff but in the end I've never seen a hearse pulling a trailer...we all go out like we came in...with absolutely nothing.



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Next Weak Spark Deadline

July Issue 6/25/22

Next Club Meeting

July 9, 2022
6:30 PM
Alamance Region Clubhouse
Burlington, NC
Hosts:
Billy Mebane,
Dave and Janet Dodge

The Greatest Days of My Life



So what does this have to do with cars...well everything and yet perhaps nothing. For me some of those greatest days have come in a particular car. The green 66 I own now was mine when my wife and I dated for five years way back when. Whenever I sit in that car, I can remember those special days as if they were yesterday. I have also taken pictures of each of my grandkids at the wheel of that car as they are growing up and those days are special. Of course, Caroline's ride from the hospital after she was born was in our 67 GT-350 and I just came across those pictures. So yes, there are some "Greatest Days" that happen to involve a car memory of two.

I hope you all Greatest Days in your rides too...the cars may not be with us anymore but the memories will remain as long as those who were there had their Greatest Days too!

Plans are in the works for an enjoyable tour! We're working out the details and doing our best to avoid potential schedule conflicts with other old car events. Stay tuned for further developments as you won't want to miss this tour!

That's all for me this month! I hope to see you out there on the road and at other car events! Take care out there!

Henry Gaither, Jr.

Freedom Is Never Free

As I write this, it is 1 July so when you read this the 4th will be a memory. However, I believe it is important to remember the price of freedom to those who signed the Declaration of Independence.

First, every signer of the document was a traitor to the crown and the penalty for treason was often death. According to an article by Matthew Spalding, in brief here is what happened to some of the signers:

"Fifty-six men from each of the original 13 colonies signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Nine of the signers were immigrants, two were brothers and two were cousins. One was an orphan. The average age of a signer was 45. Benjamin Franklin was the oldest delegate at 70. The youngest was Thomas Lynch Jr. of South Carolina at 27.

Seventeen signers fought in the American Revolution. Thomas Nelson was a colonel in the Second Virginia Regiment and then commanded Virginia military forces at the Battle of Yorktown. William Whipple served with the New Hampshire militia and was a commanding officer in the decisive Saratoga campaign. Oliver Wolcott led the Connecticut regiments sent for the defense of New York and commanded a brigade of militia that took part in the defeat of General Burgoyne. Caesar Rodney was a major general in the Delaware militia; John Hancock held the same rank in the Massachusetts militia.

The British captured five signers during the war. Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, and Arthur Middleton were captured at the Battle of Charleston in 1780. George Walton was wounded and captured at the Battle of Savannah. Richard Stockton of New Jersey never recovered from his incarceration at the hands of British Loyalists. He died in 1781.

Thomas McKean of Delaware wrote John Adams that he was "hunted like a fox by the enemy — compelled to remove my family five times in a few months ...". Abraham Clark of New Jersey had two of his sons captured by the British during the war.

Eleven signers had their homes and property destroyed. Francis Lewis's New York home was razed and his wife taken prisoner. John Hart's farm and mills were destroyed when the British invaded New Jersey, and he died while fleeing capture. Carter Braxton and Nelson, both of Virginia, lent large sums of their personal fortunes to support the war effort but were never repaid."

I hope while folks are enjoying hot dogs and hamburgers or just a day off work, they remember the true sacrifices made by those fifty-six who knew the costs of their signature on an outlaw document and the moment they signed, they became outlaws.

Freedom is never free. If we ever forget that then there will be no freedom...

Henry Gaither, Jr.



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