

President's Message

As we move into May, we are of course preparing for our annual car show, but we are also moving into a new chapter of our club's journey as we leave our clubhouse and start the search for a new long-term home. We have been fortunate over the years to have owned a building to hold our meetings in, store our "stuff" in, and even to restore a certain small, red Austin-Healy as a fundraiser for Hospice. But as the community changes, so do the needs of our club. Over the next months we will take our show on the road, so to speak! We have a number of outings scheduled for our regular meetings, some old favorite locations, some we will visit for the first time as a club. I am looking forward to some exciting adventures over the next few months.

Our car show is less than a month away, and most of our preparations are all set. We still have some sponsor posters at the clubhouse, so be sure to pick up some for your sponsors and to place around the county. We still need to distribute flyers at the remaining local car shows. We have the May 13 Efland show/cruise-in covered, but we still need someone to go to the Red Oak car show (May 13, 12 to 5, flyers are in the clubhouse). Please remember to bring additional canned sodas and bottled water to our May 13 meeting to have for sale at the show. I will pass around a new car show assignment sheet at our meeting. Let me know if you are not able to perform the assignment we have you listed for.

We have several members that are dealing with health issues, so please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Alan Irwin is in Peak Resources in Graham, Larry Coble is recovering from surgery, and Mike Blalock will be having knee replacement surgery in late May.

At our May meeting, we will have a slideshow of some of our previous shows, workdays at the clubhouse, members current and previous, as well as pictures of some of our cars. If you have any pictures of shows or workdays from the 70's, 80's, or 90's that you would like to share, please send to me in an email or text. My email address is rickdeholmes@bellsouth.net. We would love to add to our current collection! Chuck and Lou Ann Smith and Jeannie Johnson will be hosting for the May meeting.

We still have a number of items at the club property that we need to clear out over the next few weeks. We will be scheduling a few evening workdays to load some of the items and move them to our storage location. Watch your email for notices for when we will be meeting.

I'll see y'all down the road!

Rick Holmes

Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow?

As I write this it is Sunday 7 May. A week from today we will have had the last meeting in our clubhouse and in only 23 days the clubhouse will be no more. It is far too easy to lament leaving our home for several years. As I prepared the PowerPoint for our final meeting, I saw faces I had never seen before and some faces I miss very much. We had some great times there, but it is time to think about our present and our future.

In the near term there are folks preparing events for the remaining months of 2023 including visiting some car places, going to some restaurants, ice cream runs, scavenger hunts and our Christmas party. While we may not have a permanent home for now, we intend to not sit in the corner and mope; instead using the time to plan and execute some great events! Always remember you can come up with an idea for an event!

The future is exciting as we begin the search for a new clubhouse. Maybe we will find an existing building that will be just right or perhaps we find that plot of land that calls for us to build...we just don't know. We do know that we must be patient and find the right spot. The last thing we want to do is accept some place that is not the right fit...our new place needs to fit our requirements for a very long-term clubhouse.

For now, let's remember all the great times of the past, enjoy our new memories yet to be made in the present, and dream of our new home that is somewhere maybe just over the next hill!

Until then I'll see you on the road!

Henry Gaither, Jr.

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Next Weak Spark Deadline

June Issue 05/27/23

Next Club Meeting

May 13, 2023
6:30 PM

Alamance AACA Clubhouse
Burlington, NC

Hosted by:
Chuck and Lou Ann Smith
and Jeannie Johnson

Old Cars and Old Friends?

Stories about cars are few for me, I will be honest. My favorite car growing up was a 1971 Buick Electra, "Betsy", part of the family. It was not just the car but the times with family and friends who enjoyed the car with us which made it special. It is like our car club.

Soon we will not be in the brick clubhouse we have enjoyed for many years. It has served us well. We will always remember it and all the wonderful memories it has allowed us to make together every month. It is not the brick and mortar which gave it life but each member. Thank you all for your hard work and upkeep of our clubhouse, especially Richard Holmes. He has done so much behind the scenes since the beginning. I am grateful.

Years ago I joined the car club because my husband met Jeannie and Tal Johnson. God knew what He was doing. It is amazing how small gestures can change the course of your life. I started to appreciate old cars more and began to know the people behind those steering wheels. We've had great car shows, tours and lively, fun and "delicious" monthly meetings. Our members are the key. Over the years I have watched the mechanics get each other's cars on the road, build ramps for those in need and supported each other outside the garages, at home, hospitals, etc. If problems arise, our club members are there. Integrity, faith and friendship fill our clubhouse. I know my life has a whole new chapter because of John. Through friendship comes love and there is nothing more important. Some of my dearest friends have come from our club. I am truly grateful to God. Is it just that quality people like old cars? I do not know, but I want to thank each of you for who you are and what you have made our club. We have lost many members who have passed before us. They were integral to why I love this group and will always be remembered and in my heart.

As you know, this story is not about old cars but about old friends. Thank you, friends. I am honored to be in the Alamance Region AACA club. No matter what building we will gather in, in the future, we will continue to make memories. Keep enjoying your old cars with old friends. I know you will. May God bless you and hold in the palm of His hand.

Gratefully,
Pat Cox

Mike Blalock's 1972 Ford F100 Ranger XLT Restoration

Currently the cab of the truck is on a rotisserie so it can be rotated and needed repairs made. We replaced the cab corners and patched two small holes in the floor pan and it is now ready for paint. The inside of the cab is already painted, so you can see the color.

The bed is ready for final sanding and paint.

On the radiator support and inner fenders one side is black while the other side is painted the same color the truck will be painted. When you raise the hood you will see the body color on the radiator support and inner fenders inside the engine compartment.

Things are progressing slowly but surely!

Mike Blalock



April 2023 Treasurer's Report

Thanks to our members' hard work, we have \$7,800 in sponsor money for our spring car show. These funds allow us to put on a great show and provide scholarships for auto tech students at Alamance Community College. We have 18 cars registered for our show. Please take advantage of pre-registration and enter your car on our website! You will save \$5! The posters for our sponsors are available at the clubhouse so feel free to pick some up and give them to the sponsors you contacted.

Jeannie Johnson

Upcoming Events!

- 3rd Sunday of each month, Liberty Cruise In
- 4th Saturday of each month, The Heat Cruise In at Beacon Baptist Church, Burlington NC
- May 13 – Shenandoah Region Applie Blossom Meet, Winchester VA
- May 13 – Red Oak Car Show
- May 13 – Timeless Cruzers show in Efland/Cedar Grove
- May 20 – Alamance Region 51st Annual Antique Car Show, Burlington, NC
- May 20 – NC Region Spring Meet (Triad Region), Cary, NC
- May 20 – Gettysburg Spring National
- June 3 – Sanford Car Show, Sanford NC
- August 5 – Zooland Car Show, Asheboro NC
- August 12 – General Greene Car Show, Greensboro Farmers Market

Upcoming Car of the Month Articles

June	Jerry & Judy Purchell	1941 Graham
July	Donnie & Rhonda Nance	1965 Plymouth Barracuda
August	Mike Blalock	1972 F100 Ford Truck
September	Larry & Elizabeth Coble	TBD
October	Max Wicker	1965 Mustang
November	Herb Kluttz	1956 Ford Thunderbird
December	TBD	



Ah, those crazy '70s! Yes, pink muscle cars were really a thing, and records show that only 12 Panther Pink 1970 Dodge Challengers were built.

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By Alan & Kathy Irwin

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By granddaughter Lou Ann Smith



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