



The Weak Spark

Burlington, NC
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Volume 22, Issue 74
September 2023

President's Message

The Dog Days of Summer may have technically ended in August, but September promises to continue with plenty of heat and humidity! The weather is plenty warm, and there are plenty of opportunities to take our old vehicles out for an evening cruise in or an all day tour! Make sure to air up the tires and top off the tank, and let's enjoy taking a ride while we can.

The annual NC Region Fall Meet will be Sept 16 at the NC Transportation Museum in Spencer again this year. This is always a great venue for a show, and they always have cool train car trophies! Unfortunately, this show is on the same day that we have our tour to the S&T Soda Shop in Pittsboro. Henry will be coordinating the tour on Saturday, Sept 16, and we are scheduled to be there for lunch at the Soda Shop. The ice cream at the Soda Shop is always a real treat after lunch!

The Charlotte Fall Autofair will be Sept 7 – 9 at the speedway, and the New River Chapter Show is Sept 23 in Jacksonville, NC. The annual Hershey car show and flea market is October 3 – 6. If you have never been to Hershey, you should seriously consider it! If you can't find that elusive part you have been looking for in Hershey, it may not exist! Either way, you will definitely get your exercise for the month walking the flea market fields.

We have had quite a few folks in the hospital, physical therapy, and at home with health issues in the past few weeks. Barbara Klutz and Judy Holmes have both been in the hospital and through rehab. Barbara Ivey has been in Wesley Long hospital recovering from a hip fracture. Keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers, as well as several others that need our support.

I hope you are able to get out and enjoy the rest of the nice weather with your old ride! Please send us some pictures of your outings, and we will get them in the Weak Spark and/or on the website.

We'll see y'all down the road!

Rick Holmes

September 2023 Treasurer's Report

It has been a quiet month in the Treasurer's Corner. Many thanks to the Purchells for giving items to Larry Coble to sell for a donation of \$560 to our club! The only expense for the month was the annual fee of \$176 for our post office box. The funds from the sale of our property are safely invested in CDs and money market accounts.

Jeannie Johnson

Minutes from the August 2023 meeting

Next meeting is September 16 for lunch at the S&T Soda Shop in Pittsboro, NC at 11:00 AM. Meet at Carli C's in Graham at 9:45 and depart promptly at 10. Otto Watson needs someone to pick him up for this meeting.

The October meeting will be on the 14th and will include a scavenger hunt. Homeland Creamery is in the plans. On November 11 we will hold a business meeting at the Scout Hut. On December 9th we will have our Christmas Party at the Scout Hut at 5:30.

Car Show Prep:

- Mustang owners get together for a group photo and park together at the show.
- Talk to Burlington about non-profit pricing for our car show.
- Rick Holmes is taking care of the updates to our club website.
- Jerry Purchell donated parts to the club to be sold. Please recognize him for his generosity. Jeannie will send him a Thank You letter.
- There is property being looked at as a potential site for our future clubhouse.

Mike Blalock

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Next Weak Spark Deadline

October Issue 09/30/23

Next Club Meeting

September 16, 2023
Meet at 9:45 AM at
Carli C's parking lot, depart at 10,
807 S Main St., Graham
11:00 AM reservation at
S&T Soda Shop, Pittsboro.

A Knob, a Button, My Kingdom for a Button or a Knob???

On the play *Richard III* by Shakespeare, King Richard has a pretty bad day, fighting for his life in battle after losing his horse; it was a really bad day! Anyway, the other day I felt somewhat like him as my wife and I headed south for another beach adventure. I decided to dial up my favorite 80's station and listen to some tunes but wait, we were in the wife's newer car. Now, this car rides great, handles well (for a about 5000 pounds of machine), and has fairly good acceleration. What it also has is tons of technology. Luckily, I was a passenger because tuning is not so easy. First you spin the selector knob on the console into "entertainment" mode as displayed on the center console. Press the selector and it comes up to a menu displayed on the center display with lots of choices, one being FM.... press the selector knob...again. When you get to FM you can spin the selector knob to the frequency of the station eventually ... press the button down again. If you are lucky the radio will be on the selected frequency. Go back through the menu to get back to whatever screen you want. So, tell me again how I'm supposed to tune the radio when I am solo without taking my eyes off the road to make sure I've selected the right menu pressed the selector knob to finally get to the submenu and tune the radio. Of course, it has lane departure warning so if the car "sees" you wandering while you are trying to tune the radio it shakes the steering wheel to let you know you need to refocus on the road. When travelling my wife is often the driver and I am the systems operator to handle the chores associated with the technology of the car. The GPS in the car is very good IF you set it up before you depart. If there is a change the car's "nanny" will not let you reset the GPS unless you are stopped or going slow. The car does have voice command GPS but I'm not sure what language it speaks; whenever

we try to use it the system tries to send us to Maine or California!! As the Systems Operator I always have my phone GPS at the ready plus it is way more accurate and up to date on road conditions than the car system. Finally, I found out the engine has no dipstick. If you want to know the oil level, you once again must go into the correct menu and then submenu and be within the parameters for the car to check the oil level...no I'm not kidding. My wife's car's owner's manual is 303 pages NOT including the supplements.

In my 66 Mustang the left knob turns the radio off and on and controls the volume. The right button tunes the radio and there are a few black buttons you can preset your favorite stations. If it was a stereo system one of the inner knobs would control the balance...since I have an AM only radio, I'm not sure about the balance deal. For navigation I often have a map...you know one of those paper things depending upon where I'm going. I do have my phone GPS too just in case I need a little nudge. When I drive, I look outside at the road, so I don't wander. To check the oil, I open the hood and check the dipstick... The 1966 Mustang Owner's Manual is 76 pages.

Amazingly there are some vehicle manufacturers that have put back some common knobs and switches. One of the most asked for is radio volume and tuning...shocker. Maybe if the controls were easier to use you would not need a lane departure warning system because a driver might actually have to DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE! I fear that is a concept soon to be lost. I don't plan to lose it anytime soon...especially in the 66.

I'll see you on the road!

Henry Gaither, Jr.

Are You "Cool Cool Guy?"

My two-year-old grandson Jack has been learning a lot from his parents (and everybody else) but one of those things he has learned is telling some folks they are "Cool Cool Guys." Being barely two years old he doesn't really know gender differences yet, so his mom and Mimi are cool cool guys...for now. I'm sure one of these days he will have a revelation regarding gender differences. For this article the term "guy" is gender neutral. So, what makes a person cool? So, I went to the internet and here's what I found on "powereofmisfits.com."

According to the website, cool people put others at ease. A really cool person is welcoming and enjoyable to be around. A cool person is authentic...Being cool is being who you are all the time, and you don't apologize for who you are...period. A cool person is independent...they are at peace and genuinely happy. They are laid-back almost to the point that some think they are lazy. Cool people enjoy life. They are willing to try new things with confidence.

Being interested in new things, a cool person is passionate about what they do. Cool people are not judgmental. They are accepting and open-minded towards others. Cool people try to add fun to whenever they can. Cool people live their lives to the fullest. They are brave in situations that may be tough because they have confidence in themselves to pull through. Cool people are not mean, judgmental, rude, or uninterested in activities. So, what about a "Cool Cool "Car Guy?"

So, if you are reading this you are probably in Jack's Cool Cool Club...after all you probably have a passion for cars or someone you know is in the club and interested in cars (that guilty by association deal). You enjoy hanging out with all sorts of people. Cool Cool "Car Guys" like all sorts of cars and are not car snobs. They appreciate cars even those they would never buy for themselves, and they appreciate the owners. A Cool Cool "Car Guy" admires vehicles regardless of condition, make, model, etc. For example, you don't know if the owner driving a beat-up vehicle at the cruise-in



continued next page...

may have inherited it and is working as much as they can afford to fix it up. That vehicle will mean more to that young person than folks will ever know...this is a Cool Cool "Car Guy." Cool Cool "Car Guys" know every car and every owner has a story to tell.

The person that offers to help this person or give them a compliment on the vehicle is a 100% Cool Cool "Car Guy." Cool Cool "Car Guys" step up to help in many ways and offer advice if when they can. They share their knowledge freely with others even with a busy schedule. Cool Cool

"Car Guys" are kind and considerate. They may have a little mischievous streak, but it is all in good fun...that twinkle of the eye look lets you know something is about to happen. One great thing you don't have to even own a car to be a Cool Cool "Car Guy," just a passion for cars and people!

So, did you make the cut to be a Cool Cool "Guy?" If my grandson says I'm a Cool Cool "Guy" then I am....at least until he becomes a teenager!

I'll see you down the road!

Henry Gaither, Jr.

53 years with a 1969 Mustang Coupe

Cars and Music bring back memories from times past. We often ask what was your favorite car? But do we ask what song holds special memories for you?

For Larry and I, the car is easy — the 1969 Mustang Coupe. As for the song, that would be any Blood, Sweat and Tears song. At Larry's Senior Prom at Southern Alamance High School, the theme was "Spinning Wheel". We met February 6, 1970 and within a couple of months, Larry got the Mustang as a graduation present. The car has never been out of our possession. We drove the car to both our senior proms. He then drove it to Dallas, NC to attend Gaston Community College. We were married in June of 1972 and drove the car on our honeymoon. Eventually, I drove the car to work.

Larry has always been into cars. We went to Mooresville, NC for a 1941 Ford Super Deluxe barn find, before we had been married for 6 months. He got the car serviced at a local service station and he drove it back through the

Uwharrie Mountains to get home and I followed in the 1969 Mustang.

All of our old cars were set up for several years as we raised our two daughters and remodeled our 113 year-old house. One by one the cars came out to be restored or just cleaned up. Most of our cars have sentimental histories. A graduation present - 1969 Mustang; My father's 1956 F100 Pickup; 3rd owner of a 1942 Cadillac; A 1986 Ford truck that Larry sold his father brand new; and a 1967 International Scout that Larry's father drove around his fields to fix fences for his cows. So you see each of our cars hold a special place in our family.

The Mustang has won its Junior and Senior National Awards and its Junior and Senior Grand National Awards. Also, the Mustang has its Red Bird Award from the North Carolina Region, AACA.

It has been a great journey with 53 years of ownership and 51 years of marriage.

Elizabeth Cable



Donnie & Rhonda Nance's 1965 Plymouth Barracuda

I have been looking for a 1960's vintage car for many years. One of my 1st cars was a 1966 Pontiac Tempest (I paid \$50 for it and drove it home!).

My next 2 cars were 1967 Ford Fairlanes (one was a GTA and the other was a GT). Of course, my best friend Rick Holmes found these cars for me. He wanted me to "see the light" and drive a Ford. LoL.

Last August, my dad called me at work, and asked me "Are your ears clean? I need you hear what I am about to say". So, I knew then, Pops had something he was dying to tell me.

Dad's friend, Mr. Eural Clippard, asked if I would be interested in purchasing his 1965 Plymouth Barracuda. Mr. Clippard purchased the car for his daughter from the Plymouth dealership in Mooresville NC. She drove the car in high school, and college. She moved to Texas with the car. Years later she returned to Virginia with her Barracuda. Sadly, Mr. Clippard's daughter passed away, and he received the car to his possession.

In 2000, he had the car repainted, and the interior redone. Many folks in Wytheville Va., remember seeing him driving around town in "that little red Barracuda". Because of health issues, Mr. Clippard is unable to drive, and parked the car in his garage about 6 years ago.

We brought the car home and cleaned it up. We did a few things to make it safe to drive again. A few minor engine repairs, new brakes, and lines, fixed a few electrical problems. We have re-chromed the bumpers, installed new tires and Crager SS rims. The latest addition was a RetroSound stereo and JBL speakers.

The "Red Fish" is a fun car to drive. It has the good ole 225 cid Slant 6, and 3 speed manual on the column. (This is referred to as an "anti-theft device" now a days!). We are still a work in progress with the Barracuda. Many people see the car and are impressed by the large back window, and the rear fold down seats. This gives the car the "fastback" look.

Donald & Rhonda Nance



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