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Volume 24, Issue 92  
April 2025

### April 2025 President's Message

**F**rom the amount of pollen in the air and on our cars, you can be sure that Spring is in full bloom! We attended the National S.E. Spring National Meet at the Charlotte Motor Speedway over the weekend, and although the pollen count was high, the weather was fantastic! The attendance at Autofair was up a bit from the previous year, and the vehicles that were entered into the National show were beautiful.

Our Alamance Region show is coming up quickly (May 17), and we still have a number of things that need to be done:

- Please make sure to finish up selling sponsorships. Final list and payments are due 4/18 to allow time to get the posters finished.
- The updated Show Assignment list will be sent out in the next week or so
- Registration and Judging will be done using a new software package this year. We will need judges that have a smart phone or tablet with cell service.
- There are still show flyers available for distribution at the Troop 19 Scout Hut. Please pick some up and distribute as you can.
- Please bring canned sodas and bottled water to the April meeting for sale at the show.

We will have an opportunity to join an AACA group from the Richmond, VA area on Friday, July 18 to tour from Elon to Victory Junction Gang Camp, the Petty Museum. See the accompanying article for more information.

Our next meeting will be on April 12, at the Shiloh Presbyterian Church Scout Hut, at 6:30 pm. We will have our usual potluck supper, followed by our meeting and program. Hosts are Bob & Jane King, and Pat & John Cox.

We'll see y'all down the road!

*Rick Holmes*  
President

### April 2025 Treasurer's Report

**W**e have 32 sponsors for our car show so far. Twenty-two of those also wish to have their ad put on our website. We are off to a great start but we need MORE! Please consider talking to the companies where you do business and ask them to sponsor our show. It is because of these sponsors that we are able to put on a quality show and provide a scholarship to an auto tech student at Alamance Community College. We have 4 cars registered for our car show so far. Our new online registration program is up and running, so it is easy to register your car. Just go to our website and click on the registration link.

*Jeannie Johnson*  
Treasurer

### News From National

- \$5,000 grants are available to Regions & Chapters that have not hosted a national event in the past 10 years, and will commit to host one in the next 3 years.
- New AACA logo gear is available at the online store.
- Hershey 2025 will still be at the Hershey Entertainment Complex, the first full week of October, starting Tuesday, Oct 7 through Friday Oct 10. The show will be on Friday.



### 2025 Officers

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V. President:	Donnie Nance 336-263-0145
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Treasurer:	Jeannie Johnson 336-213-0799

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Ande Shoe	2025-2026
Scott Wicker	2025-2026
Mickey Kluttz	2025-2026

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Membership:	Floyd Smith 336-228-1526
Chief Judge:	Rick Holmes 919-592-6861
Webmaster:	Rick Holmes 919-592-6861
Youth Coordinator:	Rick Holmes 919-592-6861

### Next Weak Spark Deadline

May Issue 4/26/25

### Next Club Meeting

April 12, 2025  
6:30 pm  
at Shiloh Presbyterian Church  
Scout Hut  
for a pot luck dinner  
Burlington, NC

## Minutes from the March 2025 Meeting

**F**ollowing dinner, President Rick Holmes called the meeting to order. He asked for volunteers to be hosts for the May and July meetings. He noted that members can sign up to host on our website. He has two more complimentary National memberships available and urged members to seek out new members for our club. We have used five free memberships so far. They are available to individuals who have never been members of National. He stated that Mike Blalock, our Secretary had surgery on Tuesday and is doing well.

Rick stated that upcoming shows and car events have been posted on our website. Max Wicker attended the Cape Fear Show and won an award for the oldest driver at the show as well as trophies for his Mustang.

Our car show on May 17, 2025, in Downtown Burlington has been approved by the Burlington City Council. Due to road construction, entry to the show will be on Worth Street this year. The Paramount Theater is closed for remodeling and so their parking lot will be available. There may be other changes in parking cars due to further road construction. Radio Station

WBAG will have a ½ hour show on Friday, May 16, to advertise our show. Herb Kluttz and another member will represent our club. Donnie Nance will investigate using Car Show Pro, a program designed to streamline judging at our show.

Rick then discussed the status of building our new clubhouse. The Board recommended that the club sign a contract with Concept Builders for an amount not to exceed \$300,000 to build our clubhouse using the architectural specifications presented to the Board. He noted that a member has offered to donate \$10,000 to the building fund if the membership will approve that recommendation by the Board. After some discussion, Pat Cox moved that the membership accept the Board's recommendation. Beckie Pickett seconded the motion and it carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

*Jeannie Johnson*  
Acting Secretary for  
*Mike Blalock*  
Secretary

## The Work Benches

**S**ince we moved a few years ago, I have had the pleasure of having two work benches... one in the garage and another in my area of the basement.

For quite some time now my better half has "requested" I clean them off, mostly so I can see if they were still there and not stolen by aliens from outer space. After many excuses I gave up and began the great archeologic adventure.

I started with the basement primarily because I had tossed stuff on that bench when we first moved in and there was really zero room to work on anything. I pulled my trusty trash can up and began. Things got put up or thrown away...I tried for no middle ground. One of the last things I came upon was a large coffee can...like a big industrial one. I have no idea where I got it but I suspect it was a dumping ground for stuff of high value...NOT! It was a catchall that I filled up with the stuff on the work bench from the house we moved from. I dumped it out and began to see what lies within. I was amazed to find some parts of model aircraft that had been built long ago and the big parts thrown away. I also found several small aircraft from an aircraft carrier I had built as a kid. How in the world did these get in there? The finds took me way back to memories of a much younger me. I looked at them for awhile and then pulled the trash can over for their final trip. However, I just couldn't toss them all so I kept one; one that might bring me back to my youth for just a short time. I put it on the top shelf of the workbench safe and sound, finished up and headed to the garage work bench.



Unlike the basement bench, the garage work bench is in plain sight every time we go in and out of the house. It is made of stainless steel from the kitchen of our previous house where my wife decided her counters need to be stone. The problem I have is whenever I pull out a tool (or tools) plus anything else involved with a project somehow the tools don't put themselves away and the trash from the project doesn't find the trash can either. So, into the depths I began to find the stainless top of the bench. Once again I found stuff that I wondered why do I have this or what in the world is it...car part, electrical parts...I have to figure it out. The garage trash can began to fill up with obvious broken this and that and basically trash. But then, I once again found stuff I just couldn't let go. It might have been a part that I

"just might need some day" or an "Yea I remember that day thing." That of course meant finding a place for these items that I'm sure I will forget where I put them. Fortunately, I have some big cabinets in the garage that are perfect for stuff...especially stuff that really should go away...but maybe not today...

So, was I successful...YES! At least for now, both benches are actually usable and look fantastic. However, there are a few projects I want to do in the basement and in the garage so who knows how long before I lose them again!

I'll see you on the open road!

*Henry Gaither*



## Southeastern Spring Nationals

**C**ongratulations to Jerry and Judy Purchell on winning the First Junior National Award at the Southeastern Spring Nationals on April 5 at Charlotte Motor Speedway. They showed their 1995 Pontiac TransAm. Larry and Elizabeth Coble won a Preservation Chip for their 1956 Ford F100 Truck.



Our club had several members that were Judges: Rick Holmes, Hannah Holmes, Bill Cox, Elizabeth Coble. Richard Holmes was in attendance also.

*Elizabeth Coble*  
Ex-Officio



1947 International pickup. Photo by Rick Holmes.



1966 Galaxie 500 7Litre. Photo by Rick Holmes.



1965 Barracuda V8. Photo by Rick Holmes.



1968 Cougar GT-E 7Litre. Photo by Rick Holmes.



1969 AMC Hurst SC-Rambler. Photo by Rick Holmes.



1969 Camaro 307. Photo by Rick Holmes.



1970 Boss 302. Photo by Rick Holmes.



## Studebaker Brothers Co. Electric Car, 1903

One of the most interesting, and beautifully restored vehicles at the Southeastern Spring Meet in Charlotte was a 1903 Studebaker electric car, owned by Jeffrey Huber. Studebaker Brothers Co. started making autos in 1897, using their own carriage building expertise, and chassis and engines from A.L. Garford. Their first electric vehicle was built in 1902, and was designed by Thomas Edison.



1903 Studebaker Electric



Studebaker advertisement

The Studebaker-Garford runabouts were built on a 61 inch wheelbase, rode on 30" wheels, and used a Westinghouse electric motor. The motor was fed by 40V battery sets, pulled 24 amps, and had a top speed of 13 mph. Drivers could expect approximately 40 miles on a single charge. As with other electric auto makers, the Studebaker runabout was heavily marketed to ladies and city dwellers for its maneuverability and ease of startup. It was the perfect car

for in-town shopping and commuting. By 1912 Studebaker's focus had moved to gasoline powered vehicles, and the electric car was sidelined until just recently.

*Rick Holmes*  
President

## Area Events

Every Friday – Cruise-In at Gibsonville  
2nd Saturdays – Cruise-In at Jimmy's Hotdogs, Mebane

3rd Fridays – Cruise-In downtown Graham  
4th Fridays – Cruise-in at Powerline Church of the Nazarene, 701 Manning Avenue, Elon, NC (starts April 25)

## AACA National Activities Calendar (see [www.aaca.org/events](http://www.aaca.org/events) for full details)

May 1-5, 2025	Western Spring Nationals/Grand Nationals	Tuscon, AZ	July 24-26, 2025	Grand Nationals/ Zenith	Dayton, OH
June 1-7, 2025	Vintage Tour	Southern/ Eastern PA	August 12-15, 2025	Eastern Divisional Tour	Aroostook County, ME
June 19-21, 2025	Eastern Spring Nationals	Beckley, WV	September 7-12, 2025	79th Revival AAA Glidden Tour® Hosted by VMCCA	Owensboro, KY
July 2-5, 2025	Central Spring Nationals	Auburn, IN			

## In Memorium

*Ande & Mary Shoe*  
Thankful for Answered Prayers!



In Memory Of  
*Judy Cox*  
By John & Pat Cox

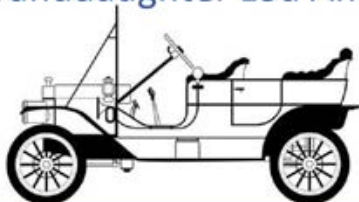


## In Memorium

In Memory Of

*Katie & E.B. Dawson*

By granddaughter Lou Ann Smith



In Memory Of

*Tal Johnson*

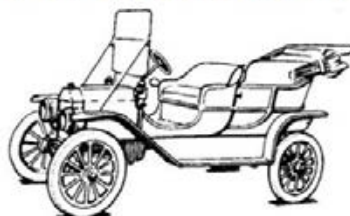
By Jeannie Johnson



In Memory Of

*Jean & WR Smith, Jr.*

By their son Chuck Smith



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In Honor of

*Floyd & Elsie Smith*

By Bob & Jane Smith



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