



Burlington, NC
AlamanceACA.org

Volume 18, Issue 41
November 2020

President's Message

Finally - a CAR SHOW!!! On October 17 we participated in the NC Region Fall Meet at the NC Transportation Museum in Spencer. Cars were spaced at least 10 feet apart, masks were required and awards were presented at your car. The Furnitureland Chapter is the group that heads up this show. Their trophies are always in the shape of a train car. The NC Region also has an award called a Red Bird for cars scoring a certain level. We got a 1st place award and a repeat Red Bird Chip. Bill Cox was there helping pick cars for special awards. I helped judge and was Team Captain with Sonny Sain from the Hornets Nest Region in Charlotte. Yes, they are the folks that host Charlotte Auto Fair in the Spring and Fall. Plus they host a National Meet during their Spring event.

The Alamance Region was the Alamance Chapter from it's founding and was part of the NC Region. Some of us longer term folks are still members of the NC Region as well as the Alamance Region. There are 14 Chapters under the NC Region. We have lots of old friends and several new ones in the NC Region. In fact, one of our own, Bill Cox, is a former President of the NC Region. So when you hear me refer to them, you will have a better understanding of who they are.

Please remember that we are planning a drive thru parade at Mebane Ridge Assisted Living in Mebane. We will meet at 1:40 pm on November 14 at Alexander Wilson Elementary School. Take Highway 54 South out of Graham going toward Chapel Hill. Alexander Wilson is at the corner of Highway 54 and Highway 119. Turn left off Highway 54 onto Highway 119 at the Stop Light. Then turn left at the last driveway entrance. This will make it easier to get back onto Highway 119 going East toward Mebane. I will have directions on touring back to the clubhouse for a business meeting. Be sure to drive your old cars! For those not going to Mebane Ridge, just plan to be at the clubhouse at 3:00 pm. Bring a chair, a snack and drink. We will meet in the parking lot. IF RAINING, WE WILL HAVE TO RESCHEDULE.

On the National AACA level --- Moving weeks are here. The new National Headquarters building has been completed (a complete remodel) and the move of staff, equipment and one of the largest automobile libraries has begun. This newly remodeled building has been designed to meet the needs of the club into the future.

I miss all of you and we are investigating facilities where we might be able to socially distance during the winter months.

Elizabeth Coble

October 2020 Treasurer's Report

Now is the time to pay your membership dues of \$25 for 2021! Checks should be made out to "Alamance Region AACA" and can be sent to:

Alamance Region AACA
P O Box 565
Mebane, NC 27302

The Board recommended that our club adopt the same budget for 2021 that was approved for 2020. Our club operated at a loss this year because of Covid 19. Thanks to the generous donation from the Capps family and several of our car show sponsors who paid for this year's show and then said to keep their checks for next year, we came out better than expected. Hopefully, we will be able to enjoy participating in many shows in 2021 and will host a great show for our club in May!

Jeannie Johnson

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President: Elizabeth Coble
336-376-9311
V. President: Rick Holmes
336-592-6861
Secretary: Ray Fowler
Treasurer: Jeannie Johnson
919-563-0184

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Larry Coble, Bob King, Bill Cox,
Billy Mebane, Herb Klutz

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Editor: Bruce Anliker
336-413-7704
Sunshine: Jeannie Johnson
919-563-0184
Membership: Floyd Smith
336-228-1526
Show Chairman: Henry Gaither
336-266-4466
Chief Judge: Rick Holmes
336-578-5334
Webmaster: Rick Holmes
336-578-5334
Youth Coordinator: Rick Holmes
336-578-5334

Next Weak Spark Deadline

December Issue 11/28/20

Next Club Meeting

To Be Determined
AACA Clubhouse, Burlington, NC

Hosts

To Be Announced

Please Volunteer to Host a Meeting!

Stay tuned!

A Light in the Darkness

2020...

a year dominated by Covid 19, people sick or worse, jobs lost, schools challenged by distance learning, lives changed forever. In addition, the worst year ever for car folks: car shows cancelled, driving events cancelled; swap meets cancelled, car club meetings cancelled, VIR races... No Fans! It has been a very dark time for car enthusiasts for sure. But, then there was a light in the darkness! We decided to put together a "Drive Hi" to show our appreciation for our healthcare workers at Alamance Regional Medical Center followed by ice cream at Homeland Creamery in Julian.

The intrepid band departed from the former IHOP parking lot with Herb Klutz in the lead. We circled ARMC waving our signs and beeping our horns in our salute to those that are risking it all every day to keep us safe and taking care of us when things don't exactly work out. From ARMC we headed out for ice cream except Ray who had a problem with his ride so he headed to his house.

Upon arrival at the Creamery we found out we couldn't go inside to order but no problem as the folks there were taking orders outside. In fact, after we ordered and paid the ice cream was brought to us... it was great

except Tal had catastrophic ice cream cone failure and dropped most of his in the dirt. Never fear his ice cream was replaced for free. I do think once again Dave Rich proved to be the most discerning ice cream aficionado as he had what appeared to be a rather large helping!

While we were there several Model T's showed up at the same time. As good luck would have it, we had a mini car show between our cars and the T's...it was meant to be!

While the cause for the tour was more than worthy, it was indescribable how it was just to see our fellow Alamance Region members, after all it had been months since we saw one another. This event, though small, was a shining light of hope. Hope that one day soon we can meet again as a club, hope that car events will once again reappear, and above all hope that one day soon Covid 19 will be a memory. I look forward to that day but until then, there is always hope and that glimmer of light to remind us that better days are right around the next curve. A huge thanks to those who were able to come out for this event thanking the employees of ARMC for their sacrifices and because you carried the light from the lamp of hope. I'll see you on the road!

Henry Gaither, Jr.



Nominations for 2021 Officers and Board Members

Each year per Club Bylaws, the Nominating Committee is responsible for submitting a slate of delegates for Officers and Board Members for the Club to vote on for the upcoming year.

The delegates listed have all been asked to have their names put on the ballot for the position noted, and have agreed to serve if elected (some arm twisting may have occurred!). This list was presented to the Board of Directors and approved to recommend to the Club for voting.

Nominations from the club members are encouraged and will be added to the ballot. If you would like to add a name to the ballot, please contact one of the Nomination Committee members (contact information is below).

If you will not be able to attend the November Annual Business Meeting, please call Elizabeth Coble or Rick Holmes if you would like to "vote by phone".

RECOMMENDED BALLOT:

President: Elizabeth Coble

Vice-President: Rick Holmes

Secretary: Ray Fowler

Treasurer: Jeanne Johnson

Board of Directors to serve 2021-2022:

Larry Coble

Henry Gaither

Billy Mebane

Other Board members not up for re-election:

Ex-Officio: Tal Johnson

Board Members continuing to serve in 2020-2021:

Herb Kluttz and Bill Cox

The Nominating Committee looks forward to hearing from you with any nominations!

John Cox: 3419@embarqmail.com

Rick Holmes: rickdebholmes@bellsouth.net

Tal Johnson: kyteeman@mebtel.net

A 4 x 4 Mustang?

The first-gen Mustang changed

the course of vehicle marketing and opened the door for plenty

of changes in the type of options offered to the public in all brands of cars. The introduction of an all-electric Mustang Mach-E is just a continuation in a long history of automotive innovation. But one of the more obscure offerings was a bit too far ahead of the times. Would you believe Ford tested a four wheel drive version of the Mustang in 1965?

Ferguson Research in England (funded by Harry Ferguson of Massey Ferguson tractor fame) had developed the first full-time four wheel drive system for passenger cars, as well as a purely mechanical anti-skid brake system. This setup was used on the Ferguson P99 Formula One racecar in 1961, winning a race at Oulton Park with Stirling Moss as the driver. Ferguson wanted to convince automakers to adopt the sophisticated chassis technology for passenger cars, and someone at Ford evidently noticed. In December, 1964, two identical blue Mustangs, both with A-code 289's and C-4 automatic transmissions were shipped to England for trials. One would remain stock for comparison, and the other would be converted to 4WD.

Although it looked just like any other Mustang except for the twin fender-mounted mirrors, and a bit of extra differential showing under the front, it handled much better on all roads, but especially well on slippery surfaces. The Maxaret ABS system was not as sophisticated as our electronic versions, but they did seem to work. The Ferguson Formula 4WD system used a planetary center differential to give a 37:63 front-to-rear torque split. Clutches allowed the front and rear wheels to turn at different speeds, enabling the 4WD to remain engaged all the time. To allow the system to fit, the Mustang had to be modified a bit, including converting the front suspension from coil springs to torsion bars. Although I'm sure it was one heck of a ride, all of the new equipment and modifications most likely made it too expensive for Ford to seriously entertain putting it into production.

The converted Mustang resides in the Tampa Bay Auto Museum.

Source: Hagerty Media, April 17, 2017

(Yes, April 17, as in the introduction date of the Mustang!)



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Chuck Phillips III
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www.sirspeedy.com/burlington



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3008 S. Church St., Suite A
Burlington, NC 27215

336.584.9932
fax 336.584.9929



1250 S. Mebane Street
Burlington, NC 27215
p: 336.227.7485
f: 336.227.7492
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Scott Pulliam
Branch Supervisor

spulliam@womackelectric.com
m: 336.516.2945



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David Simmons II
Sales Manager

Crenshaw Hyundai Inc
330 Huffman Hill Road
Burlington, NC 27215
www.crenshawhyundai.net

Office: 336-584-1144
Cell: 336-380-4072
Fax: 336-343-4776
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Adam Parker, Agent

1183 University Drive Suite 103
Burlington, NC 27215-8315
Bus 336.584.9231 Fax 336.584.9233
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