



# The Weak Spark

Burlington, NC  
Alamance.AACA.com

Volume 21, Issue 67  
January 2023

## President's Message

**H**appy New Year, and welcome to 2023! This past year was definitely a challenging time. We lost several members in 2022, but we will cherish our memories of them, and look forward to better things in 2023.

Our Christmas party was a lot of fun, with Karnac the Magnificent providing insightful prognostication (or was it hindsight?), and a fun gift exchange. Thank you to Shiloh Presbyterian Church and the Klutz family for allowing us to use the Troop 19 Scout Hut again this year.

We are starting the planning for our annual car show on the third weekend in May date, in downtown Burlington. I don't think we have any major roadblocks for this year's show, thank goodness. Our show in 2022 was a great success due to the wonderful job the club members did in selling sponsorships to the show. Let's get started early again this year, and try to match last year's number.

The NC Region AACA Membership Meeting will be held January 13 – 14, 2023 in Raleigh. There will be a National Judging school course, as well as several other technical seminars. It will be held at the Ramada Inn, Raleigh, 1520 Blue Ridge Rd, Raleigh, NC, and is open for all to participate. The Alamance Region and Hornets Nest Region sponsor this meeting, so please participate if you can. Registration is \$20 per person, and we will put the registration information on our Alamance.aaca.com website.

I am planning to attend the AACA Annual Convention in Williamsburg, VA in February this. It is open to all AACA National members, and always has fantastic seminars, judging schools, and a great trade show. I would encourage you to attend at least once. Williamsburg has quite a lot of history, and there will be a number of tours available to take during the convention. The brochure and registration forms are located on the National website at [www.aaca.org/event/2023-annual-convention/](http://www.aaca.org/event/2023-annual-convention/). Unfortunately, there will not be a Pinewood Derby at this years convention, but that means the Alamance Region will retire from racing as undefeated National Pinewood Derby champions!

Our next meeting will be January 14, back at our Clubhouse. Henry will be coordinating a "Show-and-eventually-tell" session. Please bring in one item that is automobile related, and is not easily identifiable. Henry will set up a display of the parts, pass out sheets to enter your guesses on, and ask all members to identify (or guess) what each item is. If you have an unusual tool, or an automotive accessory, or a car part that you think would be interesting, bring it on out! We will have two winners, one male and one female, for the ones that get the most correct. There will be prizes for the winners, and I promise it will not be the infamous Soap-on-a-Rope!

February's meeting will be one week earlier than usual, on February 4. We will meet at Kimber's restaurant in Gibsonville to celebrate Valentine's Day. Details will be in the February Weak Spark.

We are still moving forward with the sale of our club property. I attended the Burlington Planning Board meeting in December, and the rezoning request was approved, and will be put before the Burlington City Council for final approval.

I'm looking forward to a great year and opportunities to shake off the rust and dust from our vehicles.

I'll see y'all down the road!

*Rick Holmes*

## December 2022 Treasurer's Report

I would like to extend sympathy to Ande and Mary Shoe on the passing of Ande's mother, Sylvia Rudd Shoe. Our club sends donations in memory of family members of our club members. Our donation went to AuthoraCare Foundation (Hospice) in memory of Ande's mother. Most of our members have paid their dues for 2023. If you have not sent your dues, it would be great if you could bring the money to the January meeting. I need to send our membership list to National following the January meeting. I plan to have our updated membership list available at the February meeting. If your address or phone number has changed recently, please let me know so I can update your information. I should have our annual financial report available at the February meeting as well.

*Jeannie Johnson*

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## Next Weak Spark Deadline

February Issue 01/28/23

## Next Club Meeting

January 14, 2023

6:30 PM

Alamance Region Clubhouse  
Burlington, NC

Hosts:

TBA

## Car of the Month January 2023: The Gaither's 1966 Mustang 2+2



**OWNER IDENTIFICATION**

Warranty Number 6T09C247192  
 Owner Name Raymond H. Gibson Jr.  
 Owner Address 819 N. Elm St Apt 3  
 Purchase Date 12-19-66  
 Selling Dealer Friendly Ford Sales Inc.  
 Address Greensboro, N.C.

Hair  
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 Nose  
 Mouth  
 Teeth  
 Ears  
 Neck  
 Chest  
 Arms  
 Hands  
 Feet  
 Hair  
 Eyes  
 Nose  
 Mouth  
 Teeth  
 Ears  
 Neck  
 Chest  
 Arms  
 Hands  
 Feet

It all began either 19 or 20 April 1966 at Metuchen New Jersey... the day VIN Number 6T09C247192 was born...an Ivey Green 1966 Ford Mustang 2+2. The car was equipped with black standard interior, 289 2-barrel V8, C-4 automatic transmission, radio, deluxe seatbelts with a seat belt warning light, knock-off style wheel covers and lower panel molding. The car stickered from Ford for around \$3100.00, which in today's dollar is \$28,500.00. The car was shipped to Friendly Ford in Greensboro NC and on 19 December 1966 was purchased by Raymond Gibson, Jr.

For the Gibson's the Mustang was a family car. I talked to Raymond's widow and children and they went everywhere in the car. Raymond and my dad worked together and one day in November 1972 he asked my dad if he would be interested in buying the car for \$550.00. My dad came home and asked me if I was interested and reminded me, I had to pay for it. At that time, I was on my second car, a 1964 Ford Falcon with a six cylinder. Now my dad was asking if I wanted a Mustang with a V-8...the answer was YES! So, the Falcon went away and the odyssey with the Green Car began!

When we got the car, it had a dent in the driver's side fender so my dad knew a body man who could fix it and paint the whole car to match. I scrapped the money together and the car came back looking great! Shortly thereafter I was in a fender bender so the car was fixed and painted again. The bad thing was the body man worked outside and after he painted the car it rained...the car looked like it was a miniature moonscape with little craters in the finish. So, the car went back and was completely sanded and repainted. Once again, the car looked great!

Being a teenage hot rod wannabe, I saved my money for mag wheels and white letter tires. I wanted that dragster look so shackles were installed in the back until I could afford air shocks. We also installed a JC Whitney dual exhaust with glass packs and the car was right! The car rumbled into Smith High School until I graduated in 1974. During that time there were lots of cruising down High Point Road and stories which do not need to be printed.

After high school, I headed to The Citadel but as a freshman no cars were allowed so the car sat unless I was home on leave until

my sophomore year. 1974 was a banner year for me because I graduated high school, started college, and went out with my future wife to church on Thanksgiving Sunday. From then on we dated in the car and had numerous "adventures." During that time my best friend Scott and I went to Davidson's in Greensboro. On the way out I backed into a large pot hole and it punctured both glass packs...the car sounded even better! However, this now announced my arrival and departure from Catherine's house so her dad new exactly when I left! The neighborhood also knew whenever we had a, well, "disagreement" by the sounds of a snarling Mustang heading home. Eventually I did get new glass packs...

I kept the car until I graduated in 1978 and went into the Air Force. My dad said I needed a better car than an old Mustang so I made the huge mistake of buying a 1978 Toyota Corolla Liftback (zero personality but good gas mileage). My parents sold the Mustang in late 1978. I was gone so I'm not sure of the date. The car went to a dealer who kept the car on an open title until he sold the car to John Hamm of Henderson NC on 18 September 1986.

For many years I regretted selling the car because we had so many fun times with it. I was home on leave in 1987 when I found the 1974 registration from the car. I called the NC DMV and asked them if I could find out where the car was located. They asked if I had the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) which I did. They told me where the car was located and the owner (don't even try this today). I called Mr. Hamm and in 1988 new adventure began...

I called Mr. Hamm and asked about the car and if I could come see it. He said that would be fine but he really wasn't interested in selling. I went to Henderson and there she was... The mag wheels and loud pipes were replaced by Mustang wire wheel hubcaps and a single factory correct exhaust. Mr. Hamm had kept the car in great shape and even showed the car. I looked the car over and the emergency brake handle was still red where I painted the letters "FORD." For years after that initial visit, I would come home and go see the car. Whenever I asked about selling, he would throw this huge unreasonable (at that time) number. Catherine even went with me a time or two. Every time I saw the car the memories would flood back. In 2004 I retired from the Air

Car of the Month January 2023: The Gaither's 1966 Mustang 2+2



Force and we settled in Burlington. In late October of that year, I went to see the car. It was obvious it wasn't driven very much anymore and as I talked to Mr. Hamm, I told him if he was ever interested in selling to please call me. This time, Mr. Hamm said I might be surprised. Very shortly after that visit I received a call from his wife and son, telling me he would be calling and since he did not drive the car very much, he as interested now in the money it would bring. In early November, 2004, I got the call I was hoping for...he was ready to sell the car if I still wanted it.

On 15 November 2004, a new adventure began as the car came home! The dual exhaust came back but not so loud, factory style-steel wheels replaced the hubcaps, and a four-barrel intake replaced the factory two-barrel. We still take the car on adventures but mostly me since the smell of no catalytic converters is strong for compared to today's cars. All of my grandchildren have had photos taken at the wheel of the Mustang

as soon as they were able to grab it. Today a new rebuilt engine (yes still a period correct 289) and four-speed transmission are waiting to replace the original engine and automatic. These will be kept and stored safely away to go with the car if it is ever sold which begs the question will the car ever be sold? That is a question I honestly cannot answer and the reason is simple, you never know what is around the next bend that contains circumstances you never thought would or could happen. But for now, the adventures with the Green Car will continue. I hope to have the car ready for the Hot Rod Power Tour this summer and maybe Run to the Sun Car Show in Myrtle Beach this coming March...I would never want the car to be a trailer queen it is too much fun to drive! Regardless, we will still be making memories!

Take care out there and I'll see you on the road!

*Henry Gaither, Jr.*

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By granddaughter Lou Ann Smith



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# NC Region Annual Membership Meeting

Sponsored by:

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## Friday & Saturday - January 13 & 14, 2023 at the Ramada Raleigh

1520 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh NC – 919-832-4100 - *Special Room Rate!*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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National Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Region/Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to attend the National Judging School? Yes  No   
Are you a current AACA National Judge? Yes  # Credits  No   
Would you like to attend the Apprentice Judging class following the judging school? Yes  No   
Would you like to have your vehicle "judged" following the Apprentice Judging class? Yes  No

### Registration Fee is \$20 per person

Your registration covers all activities and lunch at the Ramada.  
Even if you do not have lunch, registration is required to attend all events.

Mail registration form and check payable to NC Region to: Rod Moore, 4110 Stonebrook Farms Rd., Greensboro, NC 27406.  
*Please* preregister by Saturday, December 31, 2022.

### Ramada Special Room Rate

The Ramada has a special group rate of \$72 for a single king or double queen.  
Use the group name of AACA23 for making reservations.

The Ramada is near various shopping outlets, malls and restaurants. Maps will be available upon request at the hotel.

**For Directions or Questions contact:** Lorrie Oaks at – 910-622-0294 or [loaks@ec.rr.com](mailto:loaks@ec.rr.com)  
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