

#### **President's Message**

uly is here, and the summer heat has definitely set in! Sounds like roadster and convertible weather, right? There are plenty of show, tours, and outings to go to in the next couple of months, so dust off the old ride, top off the radiator, and have fun! We had a really fun time at our June meeting at Perry Nichol's garage. His collection of cars and signs was phenomenal. I think my favorite has to be the 1968 Mustang GT500 KR convertible, but there were really too many incredible cars to choose just one! The museum also has a diner, a movie theater, and an arcade populated with skeeball, pinball, and baseball machines from the old Myrtle Beach Pavillion. We were treated to hot dogs and hamburgers, thanks to chef Mickey Kluttz, who also arranged the visit to Perry's

Our meeting for July will also be a fun outing to a local museum, the McCandless Collection (1452 Industry Dr., Burlington, NC). We will meet at the Hospice Thrift Store parking lot (2134 Hanford Rd, Burlington) at 9:15 AM, and leave for the McCandless Collection at 9:30 AM. We will plan for a visit at the museum of about 1½ hrs, followed by a short meeting afterwards. We have planned to have lunch on our own at the Cutting Board restaurant after we leave the McCandless museum, or you can head out from there. We do not have a room set up at the Cutting Board.

Remember to visit our sister club's shows and meets if you can! The Zooland Region in Asheboro has their show on August 5, in the Bicentennial Park. The General Greene Chapter show will be at the Piedmont Triad Farmer's Market on August 12. Fall Autofair is Sept 7 - 9 hosted by the Hornet's Nest Region, and the Furnitureland Chapter will host the NC Region Fall Meet in Spencer on Sept 16. These are always great shows to attend and represent the Alamance Region!

We'll see y'all down the road!

Rick (Holmes

#### **June 2023 Treasurer's Report**

hings are guiet in the treasurer's corner now. No more power bills, property insurance payments or propane bills. The car show income and expenses have been recorded and dues have been paid. Reconciling the bank statement is easy this month. I am enjoying a little quiet time after the rush to get sponsors and car registrations for the show all recorded correctly. Thanks again to all the members who help make our club such a great and caring group of people!



## Jeannie Johnson

#### **Upcoming Events!**

- Every Friday evening Downtown Gibsonville Cruise In
- 3rd Sunday of each month, Liberty Cruise In
- · 4th Saturday of each month. The Heat Cruise In at Beacon Baptist Church, Burlington NC
- · August 5 Zooland Car Show, Asheboro NC
- August 12 General Greene Car Show, Greensboro Farmer's Market

#### **Upcoming Car of the Month Articles**

August Donnie & Rhonda Nance 1965 Plymouth Barracuda Sept. Larry & Elizabeth Coble **TBD** Max Wicker Oct. 1965 Mustang Nov. Herb Kluttz 1956 Ford

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#### **Next Weak Spark Deadline** 07/29/23

August Issue

Chief Judge:

#### **Next Club Meeting**

July 8, 2023 9:15 AM

Tour the McCandless Museum Meet at the Hospice Thrift Store at 9:15 AM

Burlington, NC 27215

#### Henry Gaither's Bucket List—The Hot Rod Power Tour!

s many of you may remember from one of my earlier articles, the Hot Rod Power Tour is a bucket list event for me. The tour consists of five different venues in various regions of the country. This year the tour began at Atlanta Motor Speedway (12 June), then the South Carolina State Fairgrounds in Columbia SC (13 June), then Rockingham Motor Speedway (14 June), then ZMax Dragway (15 June) and finally Bristol Motor Speedway (16 June). The tour purposely goes through the backroads and small towns instead of the interstate though there may be some interstate if it cannot be avoided. Most of the routes are between 170-190 miles each day not including miles to the starting point (Atlanta) or getting home from the ending point (Bristol).

When I saw the tour was going to be so close to home, I signed up as a "Long Hauler." A Long Hauler goes to every venue and gets their credentials stamped. At the final venue (Bristol) you receive a special plaque and certificate signifying your achievement. The plan was to rebuild a motor I already had, convert from an automatic to a four-speed, add front disc brakes, new wheels and tires and get the back early enough to go a proper shakedown and engine break-in Henry and life-long (since 9!) best bud Scott Smith before heading out on the tour... I also arrive at Atlanta Motor Speedway. invited my best friend since we were

nine years old, Scott Smith, to come too. He moved to Wales in 2016 but enthusiastically said he would go! It WAS a great plan, however... Herb Kulttz handled the rebuild getting Brian King to make sure everything in the rotating assembly was good to go. Then "Doctor Mustang" completed the final assembly. Due to other commitments the car headed to a friend of mine's shop in Walnut Cove, Hunter's Specialties. Hunter was slammed but would work on the car in his home shop...the car arrived there 28 March.

Herb often told me that what holds up a project are the little things that pop up or are broken or don't fit or need to be ordered or whatever. Hunter told me the same thing and the truth was no doubt. I had a hot line to National Parts Depot in Charlotte ordering parts. I thought I had everything, but those little things just kept biting the project. Hunter worked hard and the car was finally ready to come home on 5 June. But then another hold up; the rear tires were very difficult to find and only through the hard work of Jason at Wilson Tires did they finally arrive on Thursday 8 June...less than two days before we departed for the tour.

So, departure day arrived, Sunday 11 June. We had less than 100 miles on the car since getting it back from Hunter so the trip to Atlanta was our break-in. As we prepared to depart the driveway Scott noticed we were really REALLY close to the rear fenders with our brand-new larger rear tires...like WAY LOW! We had the car loaded up with us, our luggage, spare parts, extra fluids, and enough tools to rebuild the car if we had too. We pushed the back of the car up and down and it was going to rub...BAD. So, we began offloading to get the car back up to an acceptable ride height. Almost everything came out including the spare tire. Catherine was motivating us to get on the road, we were good to go! So, we began our adventure at 0920/11

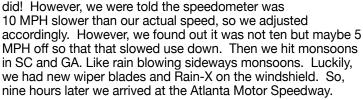


Arriving at Atlanta Motor Speedway for the start of the 2023 Hot Rod Power Tour.



June (Was I nervous you ask...Hmmm... YES!).

We had planned a trip down to avoid the interstates which we



As the tour began, we learned a lot. First, there were more than 6000 cars on the tour. That is not a typo—more than 6000! After the first day we decided leaving early was the way to go. We got to go on the route, see some folks and scenery along the way but avoid most of the bumper to bumper of day 1.

My best friend Scott was the navigator, and he was spot on throughout the event. He identified every turn point from the paper map and kept me informed how far to the next turn, what to expect. It was fantastic having him be part of this event. He arrived with a problem with his sciatic nerve, but he never complained one time though the days were pretty long.

The venues were really cool especially the tracks. There were all sorts of activities going on and some Motor Trend TV celebrities were there too. But the real stars were the cars, the scenery along the tour, and the folks you met along the way. There were participates from everywhere: Canada, Australia, and almost every state. You could start up a conversation in the parking lot with total strangers but who shared the love of cars so they were a stranger no more. The cars were amazing!

#### Henry Gaither's Bucket List, continued...

You saw some that looked pure stock but then the hood revealed a supercharger or turbo and often a big block! Some of the vehicles were sheer feats of automotive engineering. I had no idea how it came together but they did, and they ran. The scenery was some of the most beautiful I had ever seen, especially in the mountains. The trees often bent over the road making a green tunnel. The curves and twists added to an already memorable driving experience. Besides having my best friend along for the tour, Catherine and my oldest son Spencer joined us at the final venue, Bristol Motor Speedway. So here I am, with my high school car that my wife and I dated in for five years, my wife, my oldest son, and my best friend at the last stop on the Hot Rod Power Tour...does it get any better?

On Saturday 17 June Scott and I hit the road to head home. Catherine and Spence departed in her BMW X5 and home via the interstates. Scott and I planned another scenic route, and it took our breath away as we travelled through small towns and narrow rods before eventually meeting Highway 421 and home. We checked the mileage as I shut the engine down in our driveway. The odometer said we travelled one thousand three hundred eighty-six point one miles in our journey. A journey that started with a old Mustang 2+2, no air conditioner, no power steering, no power brakes, no disc brakes and a drivetrain with less than one hundred miles.

I could write volumes about the Hot Rod Power Tour but unless you go, you will never know. Will I go again...I'm already planning for 2026...the tour seems to be on a three-year cycle for the southeast. I will see you there!



The Bang-Shift Cougar from Roadkill Garage.



Henry hanging with David Friberger and Steve Dulch and the Cougar from Roadkill Garage.



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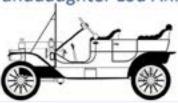
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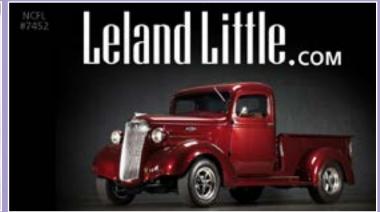
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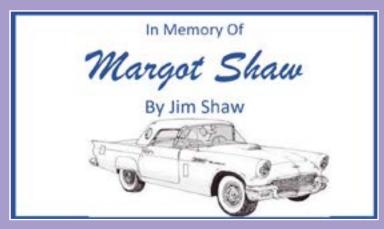


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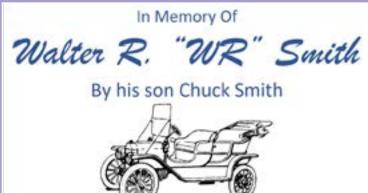
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