

### President's Message

**N**ovember is upon us, and the autumn leaves are painting the Alamance County countryside with vibrant hues of orange, yellow, and red. The backroads are beautiful this time of year, and I hope we can all enjoy some seat time enjoying them. The autumn scenery makes a great backdrop for your antique vehicles, so if you do take that backroad tour, I challenge you all to take at least one picture of your crew and your vehicle out in the wild and send it in for us to feature in the Weak Spark or web page. This month is a busy time for our Club as we have our annual business meeting, prepare our outing plans for next year, elect officers and board members, and lay the groundwork for our 2024 Antique Car Show.

We will meet on Saturday, November 11 at 6:30 pm at the Shiloh Presbyterian Church Scout Hut. We will have a potluck dinner with the membership bringing the entrées and sides and desserts if you can (chocolate pies are always welcome!). Hosts will provide ice and sweet and unsweetened tea. Feel free to bring your own drinks if you have other preferences.

The agenda for this month is our annual business meeting. We will elect the officers and board members, approve our budget for 2024, discuss the planning for next years car show, and other opportunities for outings and activities. Please make sure to be there to make your voice heard and help set the direction for our Club for the new year!

Our November meeting falls on Veterans Day this year. If you are a veteran and would like to share any memorabilia or stories, please bring them to the meeting! There will also be a Veterans Day Parade in downtown Graham Saturday morning at 10 am. The deadline for entering the parade has already passed, but if you are able, please attend to support and honor our veterans.

Municipal elections are also happening on Tuesday, Nov 7 for many of our cities and towns in Alamance County. If you are eligible and able, please be sure to vote. This week's forecast looks like great weather, so definitely take advantage of it and head out for that ride through the countryside! Make sure to take pictures and send them in to us as well.

We'll see y'all down the road!

*Rick Holmes*

### November 2023 Treasurer's Report

**T**he November meeting will be the annual business meeting for our club. Our 2024 dues are \$25 for couples and single memberships again this year. If you would like to pay your dues and also pay for our Christmas dinner at the same time, that would be great. The cost of the dinner will be \$20 per person. A check should be made out to "Alamance Region AACA." The 2024 budget will be presented for approval at this meeting as well.

Hope to see you there!

*Jeannie Johnson*

#### Dear Alamance Region Antique Car Club members,

Hello, my name is Austin Greene. I am a student at Alamance Community College. This semester, I was awarded a scholarship on your behalf. I was just writing this letter as a thank you; scholarships have been such a blessing to me during my time at ACC. I am currently enrolled in the Business Administration program here, and I have just completed my Associates in Automotive this past semester. I am the first in my family to go to college and the oldest of three boys in my family. I aim to one day own and operate my own automotive shop. Thank you so much for your generosity. It allows people like me to chase our dreams.



Thank you,

*Austin Greene*

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Treasurer: Jeannie Johnson  
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Chief Judge: Rick Holmes  
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Webmaster: Rick Holmes  
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Youth Coordinator: Rick Holmes  
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### Next Weak Spark Deadline

December Issue 11/25/23

### Next Club Meeting

November 11, 2023  
Meet at 6:30 PM at  
Shiloh Presbyterian Church  
Scout Hut  
2638 Grand Oaks Blvd  
Burlington, NC

## Silent Spring...Nationals?

**B**efore I begin a big thanks to those who were able to participate in our Scavenger Hunt. The weather wasn't the best, but it stopped raining a few minutes before we started, which was great. The avid adventurers toured some of the more interesting parts of Burlington, Alamance and Guilford County in search of the answers to the questions presented. Some folks told me they did learn some things from the hunt which was the idea all along. We had a few folks join us at the Homeland Creamery in Julian to enjoy ice cream. Elizabeth Coble won the drawing at the end of the hunt. A big thanks to Stearns Ford, David Wescott Buick GMC, Alamance County Historical Museum, Alamance Battle Ground Museum, and Homeland Creamery for their support and cooperation in the Scavenger Hunt! Now on to the topic at hand...

Many of you know I enjoy going to the racetrack. No matter the venue, I enjoy the speed and the thunder of the cars participating in the event. I have often thought about building a track day car for VIR and while the thought about the associated dollar signs keeps that at bay the desire is still there. However, with the rise and rapid progression toward electric vehicles, I wonder how the visits to the tracks might evolve.

If you have never gone to an NHRA race (or any drag race for that matter), you may not understand what "the thunder" actually feels like. In any NHRA race you can walk right up to the pits and watch the crews work preparing their car for the next round. Part of that preparation is test firing the car to make sure everything is good to go. Now keep in mind these cars can have around 11,000 horsepower and they burn nitromethane fuel. When they crank up your insides shake and if you get a good whiff

of burning nitro your eyes will burn along with your nose and throat...the crews don't wear full respirators for the "cool look" I can assure you (I have learned to spot when an engine is going to be fired up and to get the ear plugs in quickly, stand a little further back and move upwind away from the fumes). When the cars leave the starting line (especially four-wide in the spring) the grandstands shake as the cars blast down the quarter mile. VIR is no different as you see and hear the cars screaming down the front straightaway and then downshifting heading into turns 1, 2, 3 and accelerating out of turn 4...truly music to my ears.

But how would it be if the cars were electric...would it be the same... I think ABSOLUTELY NOT! I guess I'm just an old guy, but I cannot imagine paying money to listen to the "sound" of an electric "Top Fuel" (maybe Top Volt) dragster or Funny Car going down the quarter mile or a car screaming down that straightaway at VIR...how dull is that? Where is the thunder? I know that electric vehicles are fast, and Ford has built a 1400 horsepower electric powered Mustang drag car that is really, really fast. But will the speed alone keep fans interested...I'm guessing the jury is out on that one. Perhaps as us old dinosaurs move on to green pastures young folks can accept EV racing with its silence on the track. I guess maybe they can feel the thunder if they get too close to that electric powerplant. Only time will tell but I'm really glad that for now, my insides will shake, and my nose will burn from burning nitro, and engines will howl as they turn high RPM at VIR... oh what a feeling!

Take care out there and I'll see you down the road...or the track!

*Henry Gaither, Jr.*



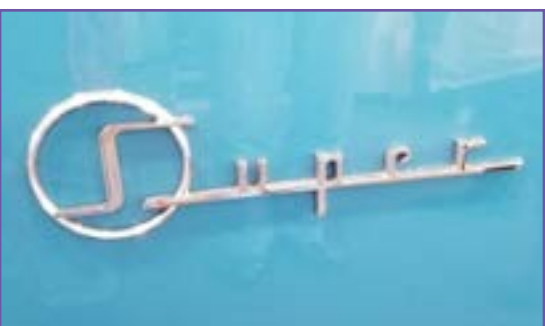
## Cool Car Trivia—Test Your Knowledge!

1. What color was the first Chevrolet Camaro to come off the production line?
2. What 1940 Chrysler was built as a publicity stunt? How many were made?
3. How many Plymouth Hemi Barracuda/'Cuda convertibles were ever made?
4. Where were the Corbitt trucks manufactured?

*Look for the answers elsewhere in this issue!*



Photos from our October Scavenger Hunt!





## Car of the Month: Herb and Barbara Kluttz' 1956 Ford Thunderbird



**I**n 1960, I went with my Father to his friend's house to help with a project. When we arrived, we had to go into the basement garage, where I saw a 1956 T-Bird. A few years progressed and my father mentioned the owner (his friend) had passed away. I asked the whereabouts of the T-Bird, in which my Father informed me the owner willed the car to his Nephew, Jerry Thompson. I went to High School with Jerry, and we drove "fast cars" together when we were young.

The years passed, I got married, had children and the memory of the T-Bird faded in my mind.

Fast-forward to 2006, Jerry's Dad (Mr. Bill) and my aunt started seeing each other at the tender age of 89! The following year I went to my aunts 90th birthday party and Mr. Bill was there. I was talking with him and asked if Jerry still had the T-Bird; he informed me that Jerry still had the car stored in his tractor shed. My next question was, "would he sell it?" To which, Mr. Bill said, "he probably would". I told Mr. Bill to have Jerry call me if he was interested in selling the car. Jerry called me the next day and said he would sell it.

The car needed some TLC but overall was solid and complete. In December 2006 we arrived at a price, and I went back a few days later with a truck, trailer, and money to get the car. The car

started and we drove it onto the trailer to transport back home to Burlington. The car sat in my garage for 10 years at which time I told Barbara, "If I am going to restore this car I have to get started because my birthday's are coming faster than they did when I was young".

The project begins, I completely disassembled the car and took the body off the chassis. I put the body on a rotisserie for ease of cleaning and body repairs (which were very minor). I rebuilt a wooden dolly to put the body on when we took it off the rotisserie. I took the chassis to Carolina Chemstrip to be dipped which made it look brand-new. I had the 292 CID bored .060 over and I rebuilt it completely. I had Rick Sorrel rebuild the transmission. The chassis was painted and all new brakes plus suspension was installed. Body was painted by Woody's Body Shop by Kevin Pope. He does excellent work!

After one-year and six-months the car was finally back together, running, driving and stopping! This was a great project that took a long time to complete and "all of my money." However, seeing the completed car is truly remarkable.

Thank you,

*Herb & Barbara Kluttz*

### Cool Car Trivia—Answers Below

1. The very first Chevrolet Camaro off the assembly line was painted black
2. Chrysler's publicity stunt build in 1940 was the Newport Dual-Cowl Phaeton, and they only built 6
3. 14 HemiCuda convertibles were built in 1970, and only 7 HemiCuda convertibles were built in 1971
4. Corbitt Trucks were built in Henderson, NC

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