

President's Message

pring has come a bit early this year, and I see flowers and trees blooming, and tree's are already starting to show some green. We always think of new beginnings when we think of Spring, and that is definitely true this year for the Alamance Region. In the last month we we able to find and purchase a piece of property for our Club to build a new clubhouse on!

The location is ideal since it is located in the Village of Alamance, right on NC-62. It will be exciting for us to start the work of designing and building a clubhouse, but it will also require a lot of work. We will need the support and engagement of the entire club to get it all done, but I have confidence in our team.

Debbie, Hannah, and I attended the AACA National Convention in February, and had a great time. Held in Chantilly, VA, the convention had great attendance. interesting seminars, and a really interesting side trip to the Udvar-Hazy Center, which is the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's annex located at the Washington Dulles airport. Touring this facility, you will see an SR-71 Blackbird, the space shuttle Discovery, the Enola Gay, the Gossamer Albatross, and many other historically significant aircraft. I could have spent several more hours there and still not have seen it all! We divided up and attended as many of the seminars as possible. Our friend from the North Carolina Region, Jack Harris was installed as the 2024 AACA National President. Overall the convention was well done, and very enjoyable.

The Smithsonian's Lockheed SR-71
"Blackbird" at the Udvar-Hazy Center.
On July 28, 1976, an SR-71 set two world records for its class — an absolute speed record of 2,193.167 mph and an absolute altitude record of 85,068.997 feet. An SR-71 weighs an incredible 140,000 lbs. loaded.

Our next meeting will be on March 9, at the Shiloh Scout Hut. We will meet at 6:30 pm for a potluck supper, fellowship, and updates. I'm looking forward to seeing you all there!

We'll see y'all down the road!

Rick (Holmes

March 2024 Treasurer's Report

hanks to all our members who are working hard to get sponsors for our spring car show. We have 14 sponsors so far and 7 of those have paid to be on our website as well! This is a great start to getting the sponsors we need to put on our spring show. Last year we had 68 sponsors. Please let me know if you need more sponsor forms. Three people have registered cars for the show. Our online registration on our website will be available soon. The registration form can be found on our website as well.

Jeannie Johnson

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Next Weak Spark Deadline

April Issue 3/30/24

Next Club Meeting

March 9, 2024 6:30 pm Potluck dinner at the Shiloh Scout Hut.

More of Rick's Aircraft Photos from the Udvar-Hazy Center











More of Rick's Aircraft Photos from the Udvar-Hazy Center









News from National!

he 2024 AACA National Convention will be held in Charlotte! More specifically, at the Concord Embassy Suites, just off of Bruton Smith Blvd, at the Charlotte Speedway. This is a great opportunity to attend the convention at a minimal travel cost.

Seven Youth Scholarships of \$1,500 each were awarded this year by AACA! One of the recipients was from North Carolina. These scholarships are available for members or family of members that meet the eligibility criteria for the various scholarships. For more information, go to: www.aaca.org/scholarships

The Military Membership Program is available again for 2024! AACA is making available complimentary memberships for first-time AACA applicants who have served in one of the military branches. More information and the application can be found on the website www.aaca. org under the Membership, then Military Program drop down menus. If you know of a veteran who has an interest, please pass along an application and invite them to one of our meetings!

Rick Holmes



Minutes of February 2024 Meeting

e have bought a piece of land in the Village of Alamance with water and sewer. Now we will start working on plans for a building. It's time to get sponsors for our annual car show. Sponsor forms are available at meetings

and on our website.

We need to be looking for ways to attract new members. If you have any ideas, please forward them to one of our board members.

n last month's Weak Spark I issued a Mustang

Our March outing still remains to be determined. We may possibly visit the Alamance Community College Auto Shop. We provide them with a yearly \$1,000 scholarship.

We may possibly have a potluck dinner at the Scout Hut. For our April meeting we will go to Leland Little's for a show and meeting.

Mike Blalack

A Mustang Memory

Challenge. To continue with that theme, here is one of my favorites... I was attending either the 30th or 35th Anniversary of the Mustang when my Dad and Mom came down to Charlotte for the weekend. There were lots of Mustangs and my dad decided he had to have one. However, it must have all the modern conveniences like A/C, cruise control. automatic and above all be rock-solid reliable. He found an original owner 1990 LX convertible that checked all the blocks. It was also a 7Up Mustang. Seems that 7Up was teaming with Ford to build a special Mustang for a big promotion. They were all a special green color, white tops, white interiors, LX trim with the 5.0 V8. Unfortunately, the 7Up program never happened but the cars did. The owner of this particular car was the original owner who also worked at a Ford dealership. She had every piece of documentation there ever was on the car. Dad and a huge file folder of that documentation that he took to every car show they attended. The car still had the original everything...tires, hoses, battery, paint...everything when they bought it.

Once they bought the car the adventures began. They attended about every Mustang Club of America (MCA) national show east of the Mississippi River and brought home the gold every show. Mom's job was the interior and public relations. Those that knew her know that PR job was right up her alley as Mom never met a stranger. After winning gold they earned enough points to move to the Conservator Class. That meant special parking at every show they attended, and they were awarded a very nice plaque with a special number just for that car. Every show they received another smaller plaque to put on the big one.

Mom and Dad showed the car until her health began her

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decline and she passed in January 2020. Dad had sold the car close to that time...it wouldn't be the same without her. However, Dad and I still talk about all the travelling they did together in that Mustang and the memories that he and Mom made and he will have forever...how blessed he felt because they did travel to so many shows together and how much Mom enjoyed them...especially when their name was announced and she went up to collect another trophy. The picture I have for this article was the Mustang's 50th Anniversary in Charlotte. I was there with the Shelby and Mom and Dad were there with their 7Up. We were getting ready to try and break the world-record for the most Mustangs in one line...you can see their smile. A priceless "Mustang" memory that I never forget...

Mark Greeson, President

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Henry Gaither, Jr.

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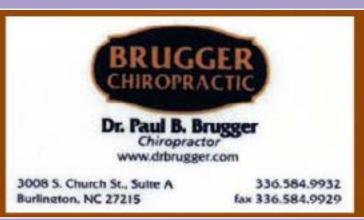


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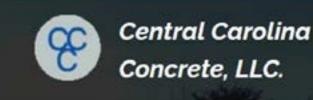


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