

Triangle Chapter Newsletter



Car of the Month

January 2021

Issue 1

News Summary

(Story list here. See the stories in the matching sections below.)

1. **Event Calendars**
2. **President's Corner** - See Mike Hess' New Year's message.
3. **"Part Time" Editor's Observations** - Denny's notes.
4. **Job Postings for News Correspondent/Editor.** We need a new News Correspondent.
5. **Dues Notice 2021** - Dues notice at the end of this Newsletter.
6. **Triangle Meeting Minutes December 8, 2020.** No business meeting.
7. **Fords In the Family** - A Historic List of Gill Family Vehicles
8. **Triangle Member Tommy Fitzgerald has passed.**
9. **Triangle Chapter Officers - 2021.**
10. **Publication and Chapter Information.**
11. **2021 Dues Form**

1. Events Calendar

During these days of social distancing for Covid-19 Pandemic event schedules are subject to a lot of cancellations and postponements. No one can predict if events can be held until nearer the event dates. Be sure to check before you go.

Triangle 2021 Events Calendar

Date	Event	Venue
January 14	Chapter Meeting 2 nd Thur	Zoom Only
February 11	Chapter Meeting 2 nd Thur	
March 11	Chapter Meeting 2 nd Thur	
April 8	Chapter Meeting 2 nd Thur	
May 1	Triangle Chapter Car Show	Brier Creek Shopping Center

Chapter Meeting Logistics and program Thursday January 14, 2021

Format: Exclusively Zoom (no in-person gathering)

Schedule: 6:45 pm: General Meeting (Mike Hess presiding)
7:15 pm: Guest Presentation
8:00 pm: Final Remarks and Adjournment

Topic: Facility and Program Offerings at the Wake Tech Hendrick Center for Automotive Excellence scheduled to open for classes Fall 2021.

Presenters: Matthew B. Smith, Vice President, Development + Strategic Partnerships
Gerry Egan, Head of the Automotive Systems Technology Program

Summary: The new, state-of-the-art Hendrick Center for Automotive Excellence is scheduled to open on Wake Technical Community College's Scott Northern Wake Campus for Fall 2021 classes. Automotive servicing has changed drastically in the past 10 years. Mechanics work with electronic equipment as well as a variety of tools, and they must understand computer diagnostics along with the basics of vehicle repair. To successfully fix an automobile, the service technician must be able to properly diagnose the problem and then apply their technical knowledge and skills to resolve the issue. The Automotive Systems Technology program equips students for successful employment in the transportation industry, and new, state-of-the-art Hendrick Center for Automotive Excellence is designed to provide the teaching environment, tools, and equipment to meet this need. Gerry Egan, Head of the Automotive Systems Technology Program, joined by Matthew B. Smith, Vice President, Development + Strategic Partnerships will be presenting an overview of programs and facilities at the new Hendrick Center for Automotive Excellence.

Please join us for an informative look at this critically needed addition to automotive training opportunities in North Carolina.

NC Region 2021 Calendar Events Planned

These are the events and planned dates from the NC Region Calendar. Many of these dates are tentative. Flyers and registration forms will be updated in the NC Region Newsletter, and on the NC Region Websites. The NC Region Calendar is updated on the NC Region Website at:

<http://ncregionaaca.com/region/images/pdf/2021%20Event%20Calendar%2011-20-20.pdf>

Date	Type Meet	City	Date TBD
(Postponed)	NC Region Winter Bus. Mtg	Raleigh, NC	Date TBD
March 6	Cape Fear Chapter Car Show	Wilmington, NC	Still Planned
April 15-17	AACA National Convention	Philadelphia, PA	New Date

AACA National Event Calendar.

Below are the AACA National events planned for 2021. Make your plans now and be prepared to change in case the Covid-19 Pandemic continues into 2021. Check the AACA Website (<https://aaca.org/>) and your AACA National magazine for details, schedule changes and Registration Forms.

Date	Event/Location
April 8-10	Southeastern Spring Nationals – Charlotte Autofair, Concord NC
April 15-17	Annual Convention - Philadelphia, PA

2. President's Corner

By Michael Hess

Happy New Year! At least let us hope so. 2021 is starting off with more cancellations or postponements. The NC Region Winter Business meeting that was to be held on January 15-16 is postponed. The annual February National Convention in Philadelphia has been rescheduled for April 15-17. Some other national activities have also been rescheduled. Our Triangle Chapter meet scheduled for May 1 is uncertain at this time. Time will tell whether we will have a show or not. Due to the increasing spread of the COVID-19 virus, it has been decided that future monthly meetings will be by ZOOM only. RallyPoint is on board with our decision and they will be there when we decide to resume face to face meetings again.

As far as work on my toys, I look at the Corvette and still find myself not in the mood to pull the dash cluster out to repair the odometer. The AMX has all new rear brakes (springs, wheel cylinders and brake shoes). I just need good weather to road test and make final adjustments. The next task for the GTX is to spray undercoating in the wheel wells. This is an outside activity as that stuff is nasty. So, it will have to wait for warm weather. I am still undecided what to do with the dual point distributor in the Barracuda. I see many Mopars that should have a dual point distributor replaced with a single point unit. And I think I know why...used dual point distributors are rare and expensive. I saw a couple that I would call a piece of junk for over \$200 at the Chrysler Nationals last year.



I continue to work on the flintlock pistol. Progress is slow but I am getting there. I have included a picture so you can see what I am talking about. German silver hardware (not brass) and a curly maple stock that should look great once stained and finished. It will be fun to shoot.

The fact that you are reading this newsletter tells you that the club still has a newsletter starting the new year. Compliments from Denny. However, the position for Newsletter Editor/News Correspondent to the NC Region remains open. If you have interest or have a family member that might have interest in filling this position, please consider talking with Denny. He can provide specifically what is involved.

Stay healthy, be safe and let us hope to have some fun in twenty twenty-one.
Mike

3. Editor's Observations

By Denny Oestreich

Happy new year!

I am aware that I said I was retired from the Newsletter editor position. However, no one has stepped up yet and I believe that we need the newsletter to help keep our club together until we can have our normal activities again. So, this is a short newsletter. I hope we can resume our normal activities by mid-summer of 2021 when we are all vaccinated, and the Pandemic has waned. In the meantime, take excellent care of yourselves.

I have watched helplessly as we list car show and club activities on the Websites and in newsletters only to have them postponed or canceled. The NC Region Winter meet has been postponed indefinitely and the AACA Annual Convention has been rescheduled for April 15-17. Maybe the Cape Fear Chapter show can be held March 6, all outside. I will be surprised if these events are not rescheduled. Watch the schedules carefully.

I have been cold so far this winter. I was raised in West Central Wisconsin where the current temperature as I write this is 17 degrees F or -8 C. I should feel warmer in Raleigh, but after 35 years here in North Carolina I have acclimated, and I now claim the right to complain about the cold weather and rain. I still see North Carolinians in shorts or are they transplants who think it is warm? Remember when your mother said, "Where is your coat?"

My car project in December was to resolve the issue with my 57 Chevy 4-Door leaning to the driver's side. I changed the rear and front springs with no improvement. However, a simple ¼ inch lowering wedge on the rear passenger side spring balanced everything out. Now, my problem is to get rid of the noisy tick-tick-tick in the speedometer and correct the speedometer reading. I will start with a new speedometer cable.

I really need someone to take over responsibility of Newsletter Correspondent and Newsletter Editor position. I will help you get started. See the Job posting below, please.

Regards,
Denny Oestreich

4. Editor Job Posting

By Denny Oestreich

We need a Region Newsletter Reporter and a Triangle Chapter Newsletter Editor. These are important positions for the Chapter usually filled by one person. Please consider taking this role for a year or more. Here are duties and considerations of these two positions.

News Correspondent to the Region and National Publications

1. The News Correspondent prepares and submits the Chapter's bimonthly activity report and pictures that you see in the Region Newsletter using articles from previous two month's newsletters.
2. The Newsletter Editor prepares a monthly update of the Triangle Chapter activity plans and updates. Newsletter editing includes gathering event schedules news articles, pictures and editing them into a newsletter (format of your choice) and sending the newsletter as a PDF by Email. You can request submissions of stories and articles from club members.
3. The Region News Correspondent is also an officer of the club, along with the President, Vice president and Secretary/Treasurer. See your Members Guide for the By-Laws.
4. The position of Newsletter Editor is paid \$100 per issue by the Chapter to collect articles, edit and Email the newsletter to the members.

If you are interested, please contact:

Mike Hess, President at (919-201-3973), or

Jim Gill, Ex-Officio (919-363-2616)

If you want to know more of what is involved, contact Denny Oestreich at 919-846-8163

5. 2021 Dues Notice

Marv Gage, Treasurer

All except 20 member families have paid their 2021 dues. This shows we are hopeful activities we resume in 2021. If you have not rejoined please submit your dues application and payment to ensure you continue to receive our publications. National dues have been increased this year to \$45. Region dues are still \$15 and Chapter Dues are \$10. If you send Marv a check for \$70 made payable to the Triangle Chapter AACA, he will renew your membership in each organization for you. If you wish to pay your National Dues directly, send him a check for \$25 and he will take care of your Region and Chapter renewals.

Mail your check to:

Marv Gage
209 Trotters Ridge Drive
Raleigh, NC 27614

A 2021 Dues Renewal Form is attached to the end of this newsletter for your convenience.

6. Triangle Chapter Meeting Notes December 8, 2020

The Triangle Chapter held an informal Chapter Meeting on December 10, 2020 at the Rallysports venue in Cary. The Governor's Covid Virus prevention restrictions only allowed 10 persons in the meeting room. However, many members attended via a ZOOM connection. This small meeting was held in place of our regular Holiday Party which we could not hold this year due to the Pandemic. There were no business items conducted.

For the program, three ladies made short presentations. Les Tryon demonstrated one of her craft projects, using glass paint and stencils to "customize" wine glasses. She put a stencil design on a wine glass and demonstrated a final product during the meeting.

Jean Soehnlein recounted some of her adventures with driving a 1950 Ford Pickup truck home from our car show and a driving their Porsche. Sometimes driving your husband's treasured antiques, which do not drive like a modern car, can make one anxious.

Andrea Irby presented slides of her challenges to keep one of her Lincolns running and preparing the other to be adopted by a new and caring owner. She has a desire to learn more about automotive repair and restoration. She demonstrated new courage by getting under the car to do cleaning and servicing.

After the presentations some short and entertaining Holiday games were played. Thanks to all who organized this event.

7. All Fords in the Family

Jim Gill's brother was updating their family's history by reviewing pictures and slides and decided to make a list of the vehicles their father had owned. You can see from the list below, Jim's father, Alfred, was a "Ford man". Jim's father and mother had 12 children. With a large family, Alfred often purchased station wagons. On only one occasion the entire family of 14 traveled to a family reunion in a 1959 Ford Station Wagon. You can see from the list that as the family grew the car capacities grew. As the family fledged, Alfred was able to acquire smaller vehicles for himself and his Model T hobby. Alfred's list included 20 vehicles. There is no story anyone can recall about the one Dodge on the list.

Jim reviewed the list his brother made to see if he could recall all the vehicles. Then he created a list of vehicles he himself has owned. Jim's list has 17 vehicles so far. He challenges the Triangle members to create their own list. How many vehicles are on your list? Which vehicles on your list would you like to have back again? Which have you already forgotten?

Automobiles Owned by Alfred Gill		Details of Automobiles Owned by Alfred Gill
1	1926 Ford Model T 2 door Coupe	First family car purchased used. - Needs a complete repaint
2	1930 Ford Model A 2 door Coupe	No details
3	1932 Ford Model B 2 door Coupe	Froze the engine by running out of oil.
4	1938 Ford 4 door Sedan	Bronze color. Frozen engine.
5	1941 Ford 2 door Coupe	Worn bearings on crankshaft and burnt out bearings.
6	1948 Dodge 4 door Sedan	Purchased with a rebuilt Sears engine
7	1951 Ford Country Squire 4 door Woody	First seven passenger Woody. - Exterior wood restored by Uncle Hjalmar
8	1954 Ford Country Squire 4 door Woody	Second seven passenger Woody six cylinder - Purchased with crashed front from hitting a tree - Exterior wood restored by Uncle Hjalmar and Jim - Replaced front bumper, grill, left fender with help from Jim's friends.
9	1959 Ford Station Wagon 4 door	A nine-passenger vehicle with two opposing third row seats. - Blue exterior color - Only vehicle the entire Gill family of 14 traveled in together, to attend a family reunion. - Blown engine on Highway 41 north of Oshkosh, WI.
10	1965 Ford Station Country Squire Wagon 4 door	Yellow interior. Overheated due to a cracked Block.
11	1967 Mercury Cougar 2 door Coupe	Alfred's toy vehicle. - Totaled in accident north of Iola on an icy hill. - No injuries to Alfred
12	1968 Mercury Cougar 2 door Coupe	Baby blue exterior

13	1970 Ford Fairmont Station Wagon 4 door	No air conditioner
14	1989 Mercury Cougar 2 door Coupe	Partially restored interior
15	1997 Ford Sable Sport Wagon	Given to daughter, Linda to drive him back and forth
16	1921 Ford Model T 2 door Roadster	Partially restored and sold to purchase a 2 door coupe.
17	1925 Ford Model T 2 door Coupe	Complete restoration 1984 - Dick & Judi completed interior - Jim completed installing vinyl roof - Sold to Jim in July 2005
18	1926 Ford Model T Snowmobile 2 door Roadster	Overhauled engine-incomplete restoration - Originally given to brother, Russell - Currently in process of restoration by Jim
19	1926 Ford Model T 2 door Roadster	Completely restored built from purchased parts - Sold to brother, Rodney October 2004
20	1927 Ford Model T 2 door Roadster/pickup	Completely overhauled engine on chassis - Purchased parts from various swap meets - Originally sold to brother, Dan in early 2005 - Sold to sister, Judi in May 2016 - Restoration started April 2016 by Jim - Completed restoration in June 2018 - Now owned by niece, Turi

Vehicles Jim now has from his father, Alfreds Gill's, collection that.



#20 1927 2 Door Roadster Pickup



#17 1925 2 Door Coupe

8. Triangle Member Tommy Fitzgerald Passed

In case you missed it, long time AACA and Triangle Member Tommy Fitzgerald died earlier in December. Tommy was a member of the Triangle Chapter for many years. He hosted a charity car show in Clayton, NC at Percy Flowers Store, The Grocery Bag. He attended the Triangle shows and the Chic Filet displays. He attended many of our shows and invited many of us to see his collection of cars and antiques at his home.



Tommy's Model A Camping Vehicle



Tommy Discussing Cars with Jack Agayoff

Obituary: Tommy Fitzgerald

Thomas Clark Fitzgerald, 70, passed away suddenly on December 9, 2020 at his home outside of Selma, NC. Tommy was born in Smithfield on January 12, 1950 to the late Alton and Suzette Fitzgerald. In addition to his parents, "Tommy" is preceded in death by his brother, Duncan Fitzgerald.

Tommy is survived by his loving wife of 27 years, Donna Browning Fitzgerald; son Jeff and wife Deanne of Dobson, NC; daughter Lisa Narron and husband Eric of Middlesex, NC; daughter Ashley Blevins and husband Corey of Smithfield, NC; daughter Amber Smith and husband Wes of Clayton, NC.; Grandchildren, Tyler, Lanie and Paxton Fitzgerald, Raegan, Logan and Jackson Narron, Harper and Calvin Smith, Piper, Andy and Drew Blevins; loving niece, Hayley Hodge of Kenly; sisters Evelyn Fitzgerald of Wilmington, NC; and Jeri Fitzgerald Board of Pinehurst, NC.; and many special nieces, nephews and cousins.

Tommy lived a full life and was loved by everyone who knew him. As owner and operator of the Grocery Bag for 47 years, he met many people, from all walks of life, and made a lifetime of friends. Working alongside his wife Donna was one of his greatest joys. Tommy" semi-retired several years ago, but still came to the store every morning to enjoy coffee, breakfast, and sometimes spirited conversation with the regular breakfast club crowd.

A Marine Corps veteran, Tommy exemplified all the qualities of a patriot. He loved his country, was proud of his military service and lifelong fraternity of fellow Marines, and was supportive of all veterans, regardless of their branch of service.

An avid collector of antique and classic cars, motorcycles, war relics, all things gas and oil related, and hoards of other "stuff," Tommy was known by many people throughout the country, who shared his passion for these collectible items. He especially enjoyed touring his old cars with the AACA and Horseless Carriage Clubs, up and down the East Coast, always with Donna riding shotgun at his side.

Playing music and playing golf were two more of his passions, and he would drop whatever he was doing if asked to come join a group of musicians or golfers for a time of fellowship and performance.

For the past 20 years, he saw more of the country through the windshield of a motorhome than most folks will see in two lifetimes. Tommy and Donna shared an interest in travelling and camping, and made numerous friends along the way, travelling with some of these close friends as recently as October of this year.

Tommy was a loving husband, father, grandfather and devoted family man, who enjoyed spending time with his family during holidays, birthdays, all special occasions, and particularly at the family vacation home at White Lake NC. He spent countless hours teaching the children, grandchildren and friends how to water ski, knee board, and surf behind his boat.

Tommy leaves behind a lasting legacy as one who served his country, loved his family and friends, supported those in need, and gave God all the glory for the blessings bestowed upon him.

The family received friends Sunday, December 13, 2020, in the field behind The Grocery Bag (Percy Flowers Store) from 2:30 – 3:30 with a Celebration service immediately following.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made to the Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church, P. O. Box 1955, Clayton, NC 27528 or the Johnston County Veteran's Council, PO Box 1144, Smithfield, NC 27577.

9. 2021 Triangle Chapter Officers

Officers

President – Mike Hess (916-201-3973)
Vice President - Dan Fuccella (919-349-5911)
Treasurer - Marv Gage (919-846-4708)
Region News Correspondent – Open
Ex-Officio – Jim Gill (919-363-2616)

Board of Directors

2019-2021

George Ashley	919-268-5483	gashley1@nc.rr.com
Chet Butcher	919-285-9520	cwbutcher@embarqmail.com
Bob Gault	919-524-0384	rgault@nc.rr.com

2020-2022

John DiPietro	919-847-2395	fieldreams@aol.com
Tom Pruett	919-422-4761	tpruett@lanarc.com
Brian Wingler	919-962-9303	bcwingler@bellsouth.net

Committee Chairs

Awards - Jim Gill - (919-363-2616)
Newsletter Editor - Open
Webmaster - Denny Oestreich (919-846-8163)
Youth Coordinator - Dan Fuccella (919-349-5911)
Car Show Committee Chair – Riley Reiner (919-554-1158)

10. Triangle Chapter Publications

Web Sites

You can see ongoing updates or recent cancellations and reschedules of Triangle and NC Region Activities on our Website or Facebook sites. Both have many more pictures and updates of Triangle activities.

- Triangle Website <http://www.ncregionaaca.com/triangle/>
- NC Region Website: <http://www.ncregionaaca.com/region/>

Facebook Pages

Barbara Werner is now updating our Triangle Facebook page and Helen DiPietro is making updates to the NC Region Facebook page. Please have a look, "Like" the page and give them suggestions or information for the pages.

- Triangle Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NCRegionAACA/>
- NC Region Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NCRegionAACA/>

Instagram Accounts

- NC Region Instagram Account <https://www.instagram.com/nc.regionaaca/>

11. 2021 Dues Form



2021 MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL

Antique Automobile Club of America
North Carolina Region
Triangle Chapter AACA

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Spouses Name: _____ Home Phone No. _____

Email Address: _____ Cell Phone No. _____

Cars Owned (Year/Model) _____

NATIONAL AACA: Annual Dues \$45 (Required for membership in Region and Chapter organizations)

My National number is _____.

___ I have paid my 2021 dues directly to AACA National in Hershey.

NORTH CAROLINA REGION AACA: Annual dues \$15

___ I have paid my 2021 dues directly to the NC Region

TRIANGLE CHAPTER: AACA: Annual dues \$10.

Make Checks payable to: TRIANGLE CHAPTER AACA

Note: Above dues can be combined on a single check.

Mail To: Marv Gage
209 Trotters Ridge Drive
Raleigh, N.C. 27614

Phone 919-846-4708
Email: mkgage@aol.com

Applicants Signature

Date