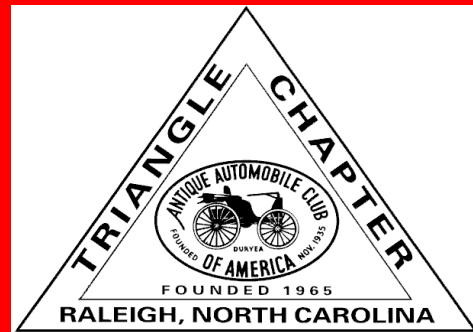




AACA TRIANGLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



June 2026



Bill Werner's
1977 Mercury Cougar

NEWS SUMMARY

- ◆ **Events Calendar – Next Triangle Meeting July 26th, 2026**
- ◆ **President's Message - See Glenn Ott's message.**
- ◆ **Editor's Observations and Notes – Randy's Rant's.**
- ◆ **2026 Triangle Chapter Event Schedule**
- ◆ **Acknowledgements & Announcements**
- ◆ **Central Carolina Community College**
- ◆ **Tom Pruett's Charity Cruise In**
- ◆ **Harlow attends Joe Parson's Invitational**
- ◆ **Woodland Terrace Display**
- ◆ **AACA Nationals in Indiana PA**
- ◆ **Our Annual Car Show October 24th**
- ◆ **Meeting Notes – June 2026**
- ◆ **Triangle Chapter Officers**
- ◆ **Website, Facebook & Instagram Pages**
- ◆ **NC Region 2026 Event Schedule**
- ◆ **Tip or Question of the Month**
- ◆ **The Parting Shot**

EVENTS CALENDAR

Triangle 2026 Events Calendar:

Event: **General Meeting of the Triangle Chapter of the AACA**

Meeting Date: **July 26th, 2026**

Meeting Location: **The Local**

1235 Hurricane Alley Way, Raleigh, NC 27607

Future Meeting Dates: Future 2026 dates to be announced

Most General Meetings of the Triangle Chapter are held on the 4th Sunday of the month at The Local. However, meeting dates may, on rare occasions, be moved to an alternate Sunday due to scheduling conflicts at The Local.

Please check your most current Triangle Chapter Newsletter, Website or Facebook for last minute changes.

Event Schedule:

Arrive 2:00 to 2:30

Lunch/Dinner 2:30-3:45

Meeting and Presentation 3:45 to 5:00

Presentation: To be determined

Welcoming Guests and New Members.

If it is nice Please drive your classic cars!

How are you doing on my challenge to attend all meetings in 2026?

See you on July 26th, make the rest of the year count!

NC Region 2026 Calendar Events Planned –

See details below

AACA National Events Calendar – **UPDATED LINK FOR 2026!**

The AACA National Shows are scheduled for 2026. The 2026 events are listed on the AACA Website at:

<https://aaca.org/events/category/aaca-national-calendar/>

President's Message

By Glenn Ott

There is a lot going on now that summer is (unofficially) here.

Tom and Debbie Pruet hosted their Cruise-in, and the Chapter went to Woodland Terrace.

The Polk House presentation was June 25th, our next meeting at The Local is July 26th.

Don't forget the Dix Park Display on July 11th and Bulls baseball July 18th.

Plans are being made for a picnic at Crowder Park on Sunday August 2nd, and a "parade" for the students at Primrose School in early August.

Finally, there is a possibility to go to Yates Mill later this year. Stay tuned for more information.

Your participation is needed to make these activities successful.

Space is still available to display your car at Dix Park. We have arranged paved parking at Adams Field, with food vendor nearby. Hopefully the sunflowers will be in full bloom.

Also, three tickets are available for the Bulls baseball game at the Durham Athletic Park. Come out to hear the crack of the bats, eat hot dogs, and cheer the Bulls to victory.

In addition, there are some new plans for the October 24th car show which will be announced soon.

EDITOR'S OBSERVATIONS AND RANTS RANDY'S RANTS

By Randy N Robertson

- We sure do, as a club, have a lot planned this summer.
- The Canes did it!
- Happy 250th Birthday United States of America! **and the rockets red flare....that our flag was still there**
- It time to get serious about our car show. Put your name on the line!
- Thanks to all for their continuing support!
- Challenge of the month – Stay cool in mind and body

Please contact me with anything you want published. rnewr2017@gmail.com

Triangle Chapter Event Schedule

July

- 11 Dix Park Display– **Those Trolls are cool!**
- 18 Durham Bulls Baseball Game—**Yeah!**
- TBD Tour to TBD
- 26 Triangle Chapter monthly meeting

August

- 2 Triangle Chapter Family Picnic— Chowder Park
- 5-8 Southeastern Divisional Tour - NC Region Little Detroit Chapter - Flat Rock, NC
- 8 General G18reene Chapter Show - Greensboro, NC
- TBD Primrose Schools Drive through, West Cary
- 16 Triangle Chapter Ice Cream Social
- 19-22 AACA Grand Nationals / Zenith - Allentown, PA
- 27-29 Corvettes at Carlisle - Carlisle, PA

September

- 9-14 Founders Tour - Historic VA Peninsula Region - Williamsburg, VA
- 12 NC Region Fall Meet - Furnitureland Chapter - Spencer, NC
- TBD Falls River Retirement Community Car Display
- TBD Wake Forest Community Partners @ Market of Wake Forest 12217 Capital Blvd.
- 20-26 Revival Glidden Tour - Dover, DE
- 27 Triangle Chapter monthly meeting

October

- 3 New River Chapter Show - Jacksonville, NC
- 6-9 AACA Eastern Fall Nationals - Hershey Region - Hershey, PA
- 10 CCCC Car Show - Lee Main Campus, 1105 Kelly Drive, Sanford, NC
- 16-17 Show, Shine, Shag and Dine - Henderson, NC
- 17 Morehead City Chapter Show - Morehead City, NC
- 24 Triangle Chapter Show - Garner, NC
- 25 Triangle Chapter monthly meeting

November

- TBD Carolina Overlook Friends and Family Day Car Display - Clayton, NC
- TBD Capital Oaks
- 29 Triangle Chapter monthly meeting - elections

December

- 6 Triangle Chapter Holiday Party

January 2027

- NC Region Annual Meeting - Raleigh, NC
- 23 Triangle Chapter Board Meeting
- 24 Triangle Chapter monthly meeting

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 11th is our **Dix Park Display**, in the parking lot adjacent to the Adams Building on Blair Drive. Registered participants should arrive between 8 and 9:30 am with the display from 10 am to 2 pm.

The display is limited to 50 cars, so please return the attached flyer with registration information completed quickly to secure your space. We will be opening registration to the Buick Club also, so sign up soon if you are interested.

There will be food available to purchase

Limited trailer parking will be available in the gravel parking lot on Hunt Drive. Trailered cars should arrive around 8 am to minimize congestion.

July 12th Memorial service for Club Member Herb Tull - 1 to 4pm Downtown Cary Park Event Space

[Herb Tull Obituary \(2026\) - Cary, NC - The News & Observer](#)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 5th Contact David Parker for information on Great Smoky Mountains Region and Little Detroit Chapter of AACA's apple country tour.

Is this the beginning of an interesting story from Dan Fuccella. Tell us more!

Dan with Sister Bunny with the first of six small block Chevy's owned



Tom Pruett reports:

Thanks to the Triangle Chapter of AACA for supporting the Classic Car Cruise In benefitting Transitions LifeCare.

We had a great. Collection of cars and generous guests on 6/13 . We exceeded \$5,000 in donations and had more than 175 cars participating.

Thank you for making this the most successful event to date.

Please share any thoughts/comments concerning ways to improve the event.

Our next scheduled event is June 12, 2027 (2nd Saturday of June).

Please save the date and plan on attending.

Randy N Robertson reports: For those who missed my New Zealand presentation **Shout out to the Southern Kiwi Regional Early V-8 Club** (Planes, Cars and Horses of New Zealand)

Click [here](#) for link to Power Point Presentation



Central Carolina Community College

Reported by Courtney Johnston with photos by Courtney & Glenn Ott

Triangle Chapter Supports the Auto Restoration Program at Central Carolina CC

At the end of each Spring semester, the auto restoration students at Central Carolina Community College (CCCC), hold a car show to present their latest Class Project Car to the local community and to invite area car enthusiasts to bring out their cars to share with the public.

Cars are judged by the students and presented with plaques made by the students. As a student in this program, I drove Harlow down to the car show in Sanford, to support the program and show Harlow to the students. Harlow seemed happy to be going as she purred down US1-S to CCCC's main campus on a beautiful morning.

This year's project was a Belly-tank Racer, a post WWII car that took the belly tanks, used to carry extra fuel for fighters on long range missions, from their fighters and turned them into racers, due to their small size, light weight, and excellent aerodynamics. Belly-tank racers were mainly raced in the Bonneville Salt Flats, where they went after land speed records from 1949 through the '50s. Cramming, engine, transmission, steering, braking, electrical and everything else into that small tank is a next-level engineering project, requiring a lot of ingenuity and experience. Instructor and Lead of the Belly Tank Racer project, Kiel Rhodes has both in abundance and handled every problem in stride to complete this racer.

This was the 9th year of car shows for the Auto Restoration students at CCCC, and I believe it was the best year so far. Over 100+ cars of many classes and types came out on a beautiful, clear day to look at cars and talk with their Care Providers (owners).

The Triangle Chapter was well represented with Glenn Ott bringing his split-window Vette, and Andrea Irby bringing a cute '67 Mustang the same color as her pants. We parked together and had a good day meeting the other drivers, several of them from the San-Lee Chapter of AACA. Harlow was the only car from the '30s and was well received all day. The students especially enjoyed sitting in her back seat to experience her roominess and art deco styling.

As judge of the pre-war cars, I naturally gravitated to Anthony's 1914 Cadillac with brass cylinders and Greg and Gina's 1922 Buick, the only one I've seen. Both cars are immaculate and in San-Lee Chapter. Pictures are provided.

We started handing out the plaques around 01:45 and were done shortly after 02:00. After helping break down & load all the tents and stuff used for the event, Harlow and I enjoyed a pleasant ride back to Apex.

The students of the Auto Restoration program at CCCC wish to Thank Glenn Ott and Andrea Irby for sharing their cars with us and for supporting our program.

Central Carolina Community College

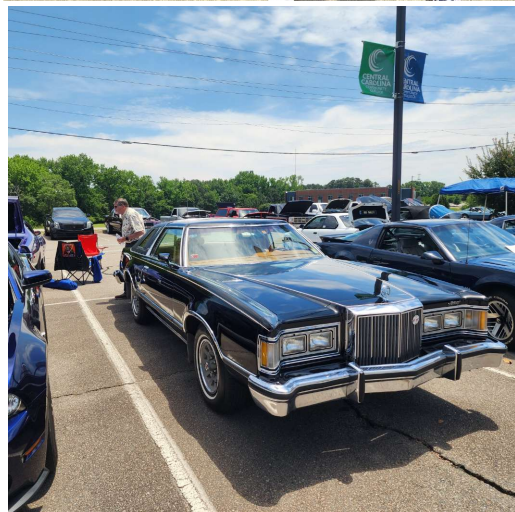
Reported by Courtney Johnston with photos by Courtney & Glenn Ott



Top left– 2026 Class project: Belly Tank Racer with Cindy, Top Right– Jay with Nam-era jeep, Middle left–Ray with MGA, Middle right– Anthony’s 1914 Cadillac, Bottom left–Greg & Gina’s 1922 Buick Touring Car, Bottom right– Ava posing with Harlow

Central Carolina Community College

Reported by Courtney Johnston with photos by Courtney & Glenn Ott



Top right– Triangle members Courtney, Andrea & Glenn, Top left–Glenn’s vet with Harlow to the left and Andrea’s Mustang in the rear, Middle left–Greg & Gina proudly show off their Best Vintage car at the show award, Middle right–CCCC students relaxing in Harlow’s back seat, Bottom–Bill Werner’s 1977 Mercury Cougar

Tom Pruett's Charity Cruise In

As reported by Brian Wingler with Photos by Brian Wingler

Triangle Chapter vice-president Tom Pruett and wife Debbie hosted their annual Charity Classic Car Cruise-In at their home in Durham on June 13, 2026.

Proceeds benefit Transitions Life Care.

Over 175 cars participated and over \$5,000 was raised to benefit the charity.



Field views of the variety of cars. Bob Gahl and Tom Pruett in mini Hot Rod. (my grandson's favorite)

Harlow Attends Joe Parson's Invitational

Harlow was honored on June 6th, 2026 by being invited to Triangle Chapter member **Joe Parson's Invitational Car Show** held at **Prestonwood Country Club**. This is the most selective and exclusive car show of the season because Joe spends all year going around the state meeting incredible cars and their owners. Joe knows every car and owner and invites the cars that best represent their era and type of car. No lemons or rust buckets at this show! The diversity and range of cars invited were incredible. Classics to super cars and everything in between. Harlow was in the Antique class, a separate parking lot for the older or more exclusive cars.

When I saw Joe, he was in "tall cotton", excited about the diversity and quality of the cars that came to his show. **Ray Bader** and his Studebaker joined Harlow in representing the Triangle Chapter. Later in the day Chapter Officers **Jim Gill** and **Tom Pruett** came by from other car shows.

When Joe came by, it was a good time for some photos.

Harlow & I had a great time, seeing the other cars and meeting their drivers.

This car show is well worth coming out to see.



Courtney, Joe, Tom, Jim & Joe with a couple of my favorite cars— Photos by Courtney Johnston

Woodland Terrace Display

Seven Triangle Chapter members participated in a Father's Day weekend display at **Woodland Terrace** retirement community in Cary, NC on June 20, 2026.

The residents and staff were excited to view and talk about the cars on display and the participants enjoyed free doughnuts, coffee, and pizza furnished by Woodland Terrace.

Ray Bader- 1954 Studebaker Champion
Dan Fuccella- 1950 Willys Station Wagon
Courtney Johnston- 1943 Dodge WC51 Weapons Carrier
Keith Townsend- 1925 Ford Model T
Glenn Ott- 1963 Chevrolet Corvette
Bill Werner- 1977 Mercury Cougar
Brian Wingler- 1957 Ford Thunderbird



AACA Nationals in Indiana PA

By Mike Petersen

Mike continues his extraordinary adventures in AACA judging!

The first picture is of Jordan Lay and Mike Petersen from the AACA Nationals in Indiana, PA. It was taken after the Friday evening program that included the band "The Belairs" from Pittsburg, PA.

Jordan is one of our younger AACA national judges, has 31 credits, has served as a team captain, and is planning to attend all AACA Nationals in 2026. She has a 1929 Jordan convertible that is awaiting restoration.

The second picture is of "The Belairs". They performed all 50's and 60's music. These fellows were great and appeared to be "of the era". I calculated that one of the performers is 90 years old. Some AACA folks "dressed the part". I wore my high school letterman sweater and penny loafers with 1955-D pennies. My accessories included vintage pen and mechanical pencil. I also wore the 1945 watch my father bought in Switzerland right after the war (WWII, the big one). It continues to run like a Swiss watch and adds tone to my ensemble.

AACA Nationals does not always have Friday night events but when they do they have been great. Over the years there has been a swing bands, Elvis impersonator, dinner cruise on a show boat the Mississippi River (with a great show), four comedians impersonating the "Rat Pack" from Las Vegas (Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Joey Bishop, along with Peter Falk), and many others.



A really big shoose!

Our Annual Car Show October 24th

It's time to step up. Have you volunteered? Last years show was a success because of you!

We will adding information in each newsletter, email blasts from Dean, Facebook and our website as we head to the big date.

Thanks to our early volunteers

Ted Brooks

Dan Fuccella

Glenn Ott

Randy N Robertson

Dan Fuccella

[Click](#) on link to see list of opportunities attached to this Newsletter



TRIANGLE CHAPTER MEETING NOTES

AACA Meeting Notes – June 28, 2026

Action Items

- July 11 – Display at Dix Park, Raleigh, 10-2
- July 26 – Our next meeting at The Local.
- Aug 2 – Chapter picnic – see below
- Aug 8 – General Green Chapter show in Greensboro.
- Aug 16 – Tom Pruett's Ice Cream Social, 3520 Carpenter Pond Rd
- Sept 12 – NC Region show at Spencer.
- Oct. 24 – Our annual car show, same location as last year (Mojo's in Garner)

Meeting Agenda Items:

We had over 32 members in attendance. It was good to see members Ron and Eileen Fournier with us. Guests included Jeff Csire (friend of Bob Gahr and Dean Tryon) and Greg and Gina Palazzo (Sanford, NC) who became members at the meeting. They have a Mustang and 2 Buicks (1912 and 1922).

Tom Pruett's charity car show on 6/13 was highly successful with over 175 cars and \$5000 in donations to Transitions Life Care (plus another \$5000 contribution). This annual event will be June 12, 2027.

Glen reported on his visit to the Polk House in Raleigh to let the 18 young girls in the program experience an antique car up close. All were delighted. Riley Reiner has done this in previous years.

A new venue will be tried in July – Dix Park. Display only, no charge. There is parking for 50 cars and we have invited other clubs to join us. Let Glenn know if you can attend. Potentially this site could be a future show location for us.

Courtney Johnston has set up a chapter picnic on **8/2**. The location is Crowder Park (Cary-Apex area – Ten-Ten & Holly Springs Rds), 10-2, bring your own food/beverages. We have a pavilion.

Our Oct 24 show at MoJo's needs volunteers to both chair and support various activities. See Glenn. We need more sponsors (in Garner area especially) if you know of businesses interested. No judging as in previous years, but will have a Peoples Choice award and door prizes.

Durham Bulls game on 7/18 has 2 tickets left. Pay Ken Powell if you are interested.

The memorial service for member Herb Tull will be 7/12 in Cary.

Tom Pruett is looking for program ideas. All of us must have something of interest in your past to share.

Denny Oestrich has free tickets for the auction in Greensboro 7/23-25. He also needs your stories for our website please.

Bob Gahr did an interesting presentation "Ohio Turnpike Safety Driven" about the construction of the Ohio Turnpike. It was built by 10,000 workers over a 3 year period and opened in 1955. Bob was heavily involved in the safety aspects of the operation and reconstruction of it over many years.

Contacts:

Glenn Ott 609-658-8322 gott976@gmail.com

Tom Pruett 919-422-4761 tomjpruett@gmail.com

2026 TRIANGLE CHAPTER OFFICERS

Officers

President – **Glenn Ott** (609-658-8322)
Vice President - **Tom Pruett** (919-422-4761)
Secretary/Treasurer – **Ken Powell** (919-638-0756)
Region News Correspondent – **Brian Wingler** (919-362-9303)
Ex-Officio – **Jim Gill** (916-363-2616)



Board of Directors

2025-2026

Ted Brooks 919-605-5825
Les Tryon 919-215-7588
Bob Gahr 440-867-4722

2026-2027

Jim Aldrich 919-676-3131
Ray Bader 919-418-0977
Keith Townsend 919-481-9072

Triangle Chapter Administrators

Awards: **Glenn Ott** 609-658-8322
Chapter Car Show Committee Chair: **Position Open Please volunteer**
Newsletter Editor: **Randy N Robertson** 919-422-9487
Youth Coordinator: **Dan Fuccella** 919-349-5911
Triangle Chapter Webmaster: **Denny Oestreich** 919-846-8163
Facebook Administrator: **Position Open Please volunteer**
Social: **Position Open Please volunteer**
Triangle Chapter Members Guide Editor : **Caryl Ott** 919-528-1528
Holiday Party Trivia Contest Creator: **Glenn Ott** 609-658-8322
Notice Email Distribution: **Dean Tryon** 919-562-4660
Membership Meeting Minutes Recorder: **Dean Tryon** 919-562-4660
NC Region BOD: **Denny Oestreich** 919-846-8163
Chapter Events Coordinator: **Courtney Johnston** 919-931-4337

WEBSITE, FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

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 <https://triangleaaca.org/>

Be sure to check out Denny's well organized Triangle chapter history back to 2013

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

Facebook Pages

For the latest updates please check out our Facebook page

Triangle Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TriangleChapterAACA>

Instagram Accounts

<https://www.instagram.com/triangleaaca/>

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



NC REGIONAL 2026 CALENDAR

NC Region AACA 2026 Event Calendar

Dates Received from Chapters as of 05-22-2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type Meet</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>City/State</u>
July 23 - 25	AACA Central Spring Nationals	AACA National Headquarters	Green Bay, WI
August 5 - 8	AACA Southeastern Divisional Tour	Great Smoky Mountain Region	Flat Rock, NC
August 8	Chapter Meet	General Greene	Greensboro, NC
August 19 - 22	AACA Grand Nationals / Zenith	AACA National Headquarters	Allentown, PA
September 9 - 14	AACA Founders Tour (1932 - 2001)	Historic VA Peninsula Region	Williamsburg, VA
September 12	NC Region Fall Meet	Furnitureland	Spencer, NC
September 20 - 26	AACA Revival AAA Glidden Tour	AACA National Headquarters	Dover, DE
September 26	Chapter Meet	Southeastern NC	Mount Olive, NC
October 3	Chapter Meet	New River	Jacksonville, NC
October 6 - 9	AACA Eastern Fall Nationals	Hershey Region	Hershey, PA
October 17	Chapter Meet	Morehead City	Morehead City, NC
October 24	Chapter Meet	Triangle Chapter	Garner, NC

For Cancellations /
Changes

Contact: Zach Simons
zacsim@aol.com

(252) 626-0286



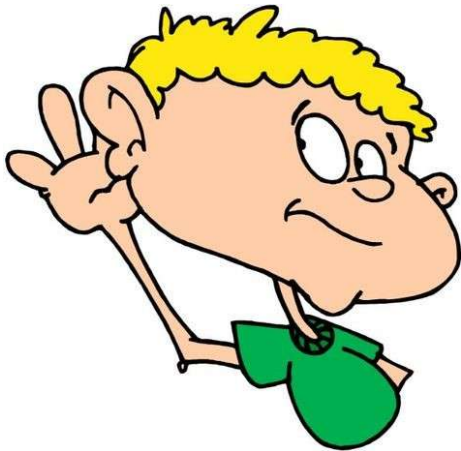
TIP or Question of THE MONTH

We can all use a little help around the garage or shop!

Send me those tips or questions



Now that works!



Without further ado, Mike Petersen is back with more sage advice

Many people use a weight distributing hitch on their trailers. This type of hitch has two bars that act like the handles of a wheel barrow and level the trailer by transferring weight to the front of the tow vehicle. The bars are of two types: trunnion and round. The trunnion bars usually attach to the hitch bar on each side of the shank of the hitch ball. The round bars attach to the hitch bar under the shank of the hitch ball. Both types of bars attach to the trailer frame with chains. A link in each chain is selected to shorten the effective chain length and provide the desired lift to level the trailer.

The advantage of the trunnion bar is that it does not protrude below the hitch bar. Trunnion bars are great for vehicles with a hitch bar that is low to the ground and will provide the same ground clearance as the hitch bar. The round bars protrude below the hitch bar. The disadvantage of the trunnion bar is that it can contact the hitch ball shank in a tight turn and damage the threads of the shank as well as the snap-up bracket attached to the trailer frame for the chains.

I discovered this the hard way when, after over 45,000 miles of towing with trunnion bars, I had to make a very sharp turn. The arms contacted the shank of the hitch ball, damaged the threads, and destroyed one of the snap-up brackets. This was my fault as I had not tested the limits of turning my rig. The fix was simple: cut the shank off close to the nut to permit the bars to move underneath the shank. A new snap-up bracket was installed and I was back in business.

At a recent AACA Nationals I examined two rigs with hitch bars identical to mine. In each case the hitch ball shank protruded only a few threads beneath the nut providing for clearance of the trunnion bars. I could have avoided the problem with my rig by disconnecting the trunnion bars before attempting a tight turn. I also discovered that my safety chains were too short and jammed themselves under my adjustable height hitch bar. I now have longer chains and a shortened hitch ball shank.

Pay attention to the trailer tongue weight. While weight is distributed to the front of the tow vehicle do not believe this is a proper way to reduce the effective tongue weight of the trailer.

Mike “I usually learn the hard way” Petersen

Pro Tip:

Understand your weight load

Take a trip to the nearest weigh station with your maximum load.

THE PARTING SHOT



Herb Tull 1955-2026

ZOOM ZOOM

Till next month Randy N Robertson