



# On Your MARC

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

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3rd Quarter  
Visitor Count

249

## *Donors respond generously to fund-a-need appeal*

MARC patrons attending the Summer Soirée fundraising gala responded to the organization's fund-a-need campaign with great enthusiasm and the utmost generosity. Thanks to the \$11,000 raised with this appeal, repairs and renovations have already begun at Wright Tavern. We are hopeful these funds will also make us eligible for additional grants to be awarded soon.

Built in 1816, the Rockingham County Historical Society excavated and restored Wright Tavern in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In 1971 the tavern was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and it is noted as one of the finest examples of dog-run architecture in North Carolina.



Photo credit: F. Waynick

The United States Postal Service leased the southeast wing of the tavern in 1981 and vacated the premises in 2015. Unfortunately, they left the building dirty and in need of repairs.

Since the Soirée, MARC has replaced two of the three 40-year old heating and air systems in the tavern, so the tavern will remain open throughout the winter. We have also completed extensive

cleaning in the Post Office area. The old rubber mat has been removed from the front porch to reveal the extent of damage caused by heavy mail carts, and we are researching the original materials and materials used during the first restoration process to determine the appropriate way to proceed with further repairs.

Wright Tavern is a significant location in Rockingham County, both for its architecture and for the role it has played as a home and social center in the heart of the county seat. We are most grateful for the stewardship of our members and friends, whose gifts make it possible for MARC to fulfill our obligation to preserve this historic landmark.

P.O. Box 84, Wentworth, NC 27375 (336) 634-4949  
 MARCconnection@gmail.com www.themarconline.org  
 Physical Address: 1086 NC HWY 65, Reidsville, NC 27320  
 Follow us on Facebook: Museum & Archives of Rockingham County

## *From our Director, Jordan Rossi*



Friends of the MARC:

We are so overwhelmed by your support at our annual Summer Soirée in August. Overall, the event raised \$18,000 net for operations and over \$11,000 for the Wright Tavern restoration project.

For an event like our Summer Soirée to be successful, it takes a village of people dedicated to our mission to save Rockingham County's past. In the weeks and months before the gala, volunteers planned the overall event and decorations. They solicited live and silent auction items and sold advertisements. On the other end of those transactions, businesses and individuals found it in their hearts and budgets to support the preservation of our history through pecuniary gifts and donations of goods and services.

The night of the event, the MARC relied on volunteers to greet guests, monitor and answer questions about the auctions, and receive payments. Meanwhile, our guests enjoyed the evening among good company, bid on the auctions, and supported the museum in many ways. With the help of our volunteers and donors, the MARC held our most successful Summer Soirée yet.

Again, thank you. Your philanthropy keeps MARC in operation day to day. It enables us to offer programs and exhibits, and to serve as a resource for history, culture, and preservation in the county.

Jordan



Above: Auctioneer Richard Craney, MARC Executive Director Jordan Rossi, Bill Horsley, and MARC President Tilda Balsley

### *Blind auction results*

Bill and Jeanne Horsley's blind bid for Mel Steele's original painting, *Rustic Italian Still Life*, won them ownership of this beautiful work of art. It was created specifically for auction at the MARC gala. MARC is thankful for the generous bids received from our patrons. We are also deeply grateful for Mel Steele's desire to donate his time and notable talent to support MARC. In addition to this painting, he also donated another original painting, *St. Mark's Square, Venice*, for the live auction.



## *Volunteers make it happen!*

### *Combined efforts create memorable occasion*

This year's Summer Soirée, "La Dolce Vita," was held Saturday, August 13, at Deep Springs Country Club in Stoneville. We offer sincere thanks to the dedicated, gifted, and generous members and friends who gave freely of their time and talents to create this special event. It was truly an evening of beauty and elegance to celebrate the work of the Museum and Archives of Rockingham County.

**Event chairs:** Tilda Balsley and Bill Horsley

**Planning committee:** Dan Mosca, Jordan Rossi (Executive Director), Fletcher Waynick (Operations Manager), Debbie Brown (Administrative Assistant)

**Finance committee:** T Butler, Kay Hammock, Dan Mosca, Dennis Paschall, III

**Decorations:** Cathy Baranek, Rebecca Hanson, Heather Patton, Mary Truslow, and many others

**Event sponsor:** Adams Electric Company

**Complimentary beer & wine sponsors:** Bill and Jeanne Horsley

**Violinist sponsors:** Butch and Stephanie Trent

**Venue sponsors:** Barry and Robbin Dodson

**Sugared pecan table favors:** High Rock Farms

**Custom framing donation:** Tilda Balsley

**Special gifts:** Marilyn Que Tucker

**Graphic design and concept:** John Bullock

**Security:** Libby Barrett

**Table sponsors:** Andy and Joyce Anderson, Lindley and T Butler, Barry and Robbin Dodson, Dr. Mike and Jane Haines, Kay Hammock, Marguerite Holt, Bill Horsley, Dan and Beth Mosca, Richard Teague, Dr. Will and Mary Truslow, Bill and Brenda Ward

**Table captains:** Vicky Alston, Jeff and Jean Bullins, Lawrence and Elaine McCollum, Dennis Paschall, III

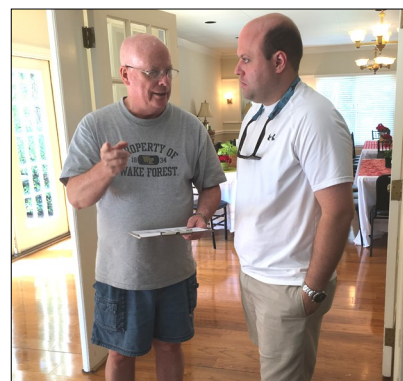
**Registration and Greeters:** Tilda Balsley, Elaine McCollum, Brenda Ward

**Other volunteers:** Jean Bullins, Robbin Dodson, Emily Parker

**Silent and live auction volunteers:** Judy DeRemer, Janelle Johnson, Hazel Puckett, Skip Balsley, Marguerite Holt, Bill Horsley, Ken Norman

**Catering:** Alan and Renee Atkins and staff

**Special thanks to Mel Steele, artist, for painting and donating his *Rustic Italian Still Life* to portray our theme "La Dolce Vita"**



Preparing the venue. Top: Bill Horsley and Dennis Paschal. Center: Tilda Balsley and Marguerite Holt. Bottom: Cathy Baranek and Heather Patton.

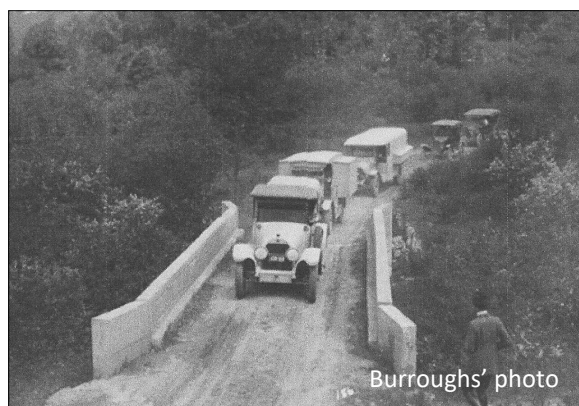
*Photo credits: J. Bullins*

## Feature Article

### “The Vagabonds” visit Rockingham County

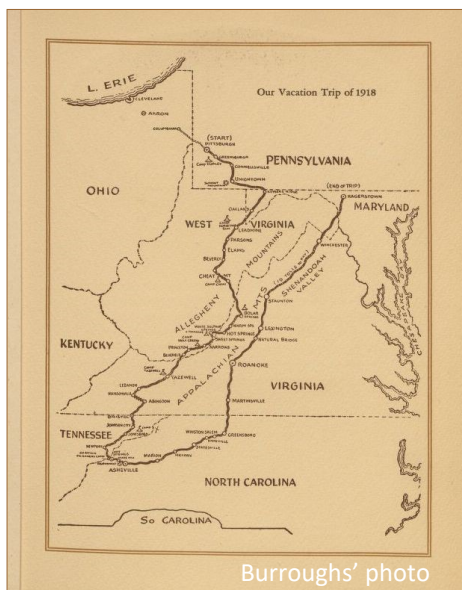
At the time of World War I, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, John Burroughs, and Thomas Edison began traveling the country on camping trips that captured the imagination of the nation. The men referred to themselves as *The Vagabonds*, which of course they were not. They made stops to sightsee, horseback ride, drink at recommended wells, and camp. Their trips began in 1914 and continued until 1924 when their great fame drew such large crowds that they could no longer travel freely.

The 1918 trip was booked as an outing through the Great Smokies. They moved along in six cars (two Packards for riding, two Model T's, and two Ford trucks) with seven drivers and helpers. Their route started in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, through the Allegheny Mountains to Tennessee, then crossing over through North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland.



The abbreviated itinerary published by John Burroughs in his book, “Our Vacation Days of 1918,” read: “Aug 28 – Arrived Knoxville at noon but passed on to Winston Salem where we had dinner at 3 P.M. guests of the Rotary Club, Forsythe Country Club.

Aug 29 – Passed through Martinsville, Roanoke and rested at Natural Bridge. Then to Lexington and Castle Inn.”



Their map shows them traveling east from Winston Salem to Greensboro then due north to Martinsville and Roanoke. Local traditions, however, claim that *The Vagabonds* came along the Ellisboro Road in western Rockingham County and stopped to drink water from the well of Pleasant Benjamin “Ped” Neal. Also, a Mayodan resident, Harry Martin (now deceased), made mention of the entourage stopping in Mayodan in a conversation documented by Jeff Bullins in 1980. Mr. Martin remembered them asking for water and carbide during their very short stop in town.

The map route to Greensboro as it was published by Burroughs makes little sense. Greensboro would have been well off of a route from Winston Salem to Roanoke and they had to stay somewhere

(Continued on page 5)



## News from the Galleries

### WANTED

#### Relics used at Mineral Springs

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, beginning with Rockingham Springs/Lenox Castle, our county was familiar with the value of mineral water for curative purposes. Even Wentworth had a mineral springs. We sometimes forget that people stayed at Wright Tavern so they could take advantage of the mineral springs. Many a stuffy lawyer, in lieu of a dipper of whiskey in a back room of the courthouse, probably enjoyed a swig of mineral water. We need information about these springs for the archives and relics that might have been associated with them for the museum.

By Charlie Rodenbough

### MARC seeks volunteers to help with collections

The process to identify and catalog the treasures donated to MARC provides a terrific volunteer opportunity!

If you are interested in history and you like to organize objects and data, this is your invitation to donate your time and talent to this important work. A friendly group of accessions volunteers meet at MARC on Fridays from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. For more information, call MARC or email to [info@themarconline.org](mailto:info@themarconline.org).



Photo credit: F. Waynick

A "quack" medical device in MARC's vault. People hoped that electricity would have healing properties, and gadgets such as these were sold in the late 1800's and early 1900's for that purpose.

### *"The Vagabonds" (continued from page 4)*

en route to get to Martinsville the next morning. A more logical route would have been using US Highway 158 out of Winston Salem, north along Ellisboro Road from Stokesdale (following the Atlantic and Yadkin railroad bed) to Madison and Mayodan picking up US Highway 220 (following the Norfolk and Western railroad bed) toward Martinsville and Roanoke. Did they camp somewhere north of Mayodan before they went into Virginia on the night of August 28, 1918?

This story needs research and confirmation of tradition. Can you help? Brenda Payne Roberts has provided the tradition that they did stop and have a drink at "Ped" Neal's well. A photograph of Burroughs, Thomas Edison, and Henry Ford surfaced in 1983 when we were publishing *The Heritage of Rockingham County History* with the note that they were said to have stopped on Ellisboro Road at the Payne Farm. Have you heard a tradition or, better still, do you have any additional documentation about *The Vagabonds* travel in Rockingham County?

Charles Rodenbough



## *Mr. History: Bob Carter, County Historian*

### Plaques to be placed on Wentworth homes

The Historic Preservation Committee of Wentworth is engaged in a project to place wooden plaques on the older homes in the historic village of Wentworth. The signs will designate the builders' names and the dates of construction. A special metal plaque will also be placed in front of the Irvin-Scales-Reid-Reynolds-Gunn house, the residence associated with several families of prominence in North Carolina government.

The Irvin-Scales-Reid-Reynolds-Gunn house was erected in 1858 by Col. James Irvin (1819-1894). A merchant in Wentworth and Madison, he also served as Rockingham County's clerk of court during the early 1860s. His title, "Colonel," came from his appointment as Colonel of the 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the N.C. State Militia in May of 1863. Irvin sold his Wentworth home in 1866 and purchased a farm west of Reidsville.

Alfred M. Scales, an attorney and native of Rockingham County, began to purchase property in Wentworth in 1868. He purchased the former Irvin House in 1870. Over the years he served as a state legislator and U. S. congressman. During the Civil War he served as captain of Company H, 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment, North Carolina State Troops. In 1863 he was promoted to brigadier general in the Confederate Army. He was wounded twice in the service.

In 1873, Scales moved from Wentworth to Greensboro to practice law with his brother, J. I. Scales. Alfred Scales served as governor of North Carolina from 1884 until 1889. After Governor Scales died in 1892, his widow, Kate, continued to own their home in Wentworth until she sold the property to Lucile Reid in 1899.

Lucile Reid was married to Reuben D. Reid on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1898. Although Lucile's maiden and married surnames were both Reid, she and Reuben were not related. Reuben was a son of former governor David Settle Reid and Henrietta Settle Reid. Lucile descended from the Wright family who owned Wright Tavern in Wentworth. In 1902, Reuben and Lucile had the home extensively remodeled by adding rooms and a hip roof to the structure.

Reuben Reid practiced law in Wentworth for twenty-five years and served as state senator for Rockingham County in 1907-1908. In June 1909 he suffered a stroke and died from its effects. Sometime later, Lucile moved the family from Wentworth to Spray (now part of Eden).

In 1924 Lucile sold her Wentworth home to John F. Reynolds, a retired Internal Revenue employee from Winston-Salem. Mr. Reynolds and his wife, the former Maude Wall of Missouri, had only one child, also named Maude Reynolds, who served as an art and music teacher at Wentworth High School. Mr. Reynolds served as Rockingham County state senator in 1929. He died in 1936 and his wife passed away in 1940. In 1944 their daughter sold the home to Bruce and Jo Gunn, reserving lifetime rights to reside there until her death in 1980. The Gunns continued to live in the house until their deaths in 2001 and 2002. The property was then sold at auction to the present owner, Lenny Welborn.



The Irvin-Scales-Reid-Reynolds-Gunn house is located on NC Highway 65, approximately a quarter of a mile east of MARC.

Photo credit: J. Bullins



## MARC Business

### Wise choices in money management may benefit both you and MARC!

MARC recently learned about another way for your charitable donations be of great benefit to you as well as to MARC. If you are over age 70 1/2, you might be able to donate to MARC from your IRA required minimum distribution (RMD). By donating either all or a portion of your RMD, the distribution may not be taxable to you. And, you gain satisfaction knowing that you are preserving our county's history for generations to come.

Congress voted in 2015 to permanently exclude from income RMD distributions given directly to charities. Keeping some or all of your RMD out of your adjusted gross income could help you avoid the Medicare high-income surcharge or help to make a smaller portion of your Social Security benefits taxable. Please note that the gift must be written directly from the IRA manager to MARC in order to qualify for the RMD tax-free benefit.

Some limits apply, so **you should check with your tax professional about your particular circumstances** or refer to IRS Publication 590 for more information. We strongly encourage you to investigate this opportunity to invest your money wisely with MARC! We value the support of our friends in the community.



### MARC celebrates Family Day September 18



More than fifty people attended MARC's Family Day activities on Sunday, September 18, coinciding with Constitution Week. Pete Atkins demonstrated fire building and flint knapping techniques. Dr. Lowell Curry (*above left*) shared his collection of Colonial era artifacts and reproductions. The Carolina Colonial Dancers (*above right*) performed and taught willing guests steps for period dances. The DAR, Boy Scouts, and Bob Carter (County Historian and MARC volunteer) were also on hand to consult with guests. It was a great day at MARC!

(Photo credits: L. Barrett)

## Coming Events

### MARC presents "Rockingham County's Melungeon Connection"

Our Programs Committee has scheduled a fascinating program for Thursday, November 17. Julie Williams Dixon and Paul Johnson will present their research and creative works to enlighten us on the Melungeon population traced to Rockingham County. Refreshments begin at 5:30 pm and the program starts at 6:00 pm. Admission is free to members or \$5.00 for adults and \$3.50 for students and seniors.



Goins Indian School

Photo used with permission Rockingham County Public Library.  
<http://library.digitalnc.org/cdm/ref/collection/ncimages/id/5901>

The Melungeons are a group of mixed ethnic people living throughout the Appalachians who are of interest to their neighbors, census takers, historians and genealogists. Goinstown in the northwestern corner of Rockingham County was home to a similar community. Residents there were variously classified as black, white, and Indian over the course of a century. The Goins Indian School survived until all county schools were desegregated in the 1950s. In recent decades the community has dispersed, and descendants remaining in the area have assimilated into either white or black identity.

Julie is a filmmaker and photographer from Raleigh who has been documenting the Melungeons for almost two decades. Paul is the author of the book, *Pell Mellers: Race and Memory in a Carolina Pocosin*.

### On display at MARC

November 17 through December 4

### 'PEOPLE and their People'

A portrait project

by Julie Williams Dixon

From the exhibit creator:

Witnessing people share photographs and stories of their ancestors with such joy and pride moved me...I sensed that there were layers of meaning to find in photographing 'people and their people.'

### Celebrating 200 years of Christmas at Wright Tavern

During our annual Christmas gathering at Wright Tavern on Saturday, December 3, we will note this is the 200th year of the tavern's history. Dr. Lindley Butler, County Historian Bob Carter, Todd Southard, and Charlie Rodenbough will all be available during our celebration from 1:00 to 3:00 pm to discuss the history of the tavern. The Carolina Colonial Dancers will perform period dances, and traditional 1816 decorations and refreshments will put us in the holiday spirit! You are our guests at this free event!

### Pearl Harbor Day Dinner & History is scheduled for Wed., December 7

This year's commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day will feature a program by Bonnie Williams Connelly as she shares artifacts and interviews of her father, the late Bouse Williams of Mayodan. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor at the time of the bombing. Jacob Vaughn and the Bethany School chorus will provide patriotic music. Dinner begins at 6:00 pm, followed by the program at 7:00 pm. Advanced dinner reservations must be made by calling MARC at 336.634.4949 by Saturday, December 3.



## *Recent Events*

Our sincere thanks go to these businesses and individuals  
for supporting the gala as donors and advertisers:

### **Adams Electric, Greensboro & Charlotte—Event sponsor**

Annie Penn Hospital Gift Shop, Reidsville  
Arthur's Jewelry, Inc., Reidsville  
Bake Me Happy Bakery, Madison  
Barry Dodson  
Barry Z. Dodson CPA, PLLC, Madison  
Bill Horsley  
Brenda Ward  
Burke Manor Inn, Gibsonville  
Burlap & Beans Furniture & Gifts, Mayodan  
Cathy Smith and Justin Smith - Raymond James, Madison  
Chateau Morrisette Winery, Floyd Virginia  
Colonial Funeral Home and Chapel, Madison  
Cone Health Annie Penn Hospital, Reidsville  
Dan and Beth Mosca  
Dr. Will and Mary Truslow  
Eden Oil Company, Rentz Oil Company, Reidsville  
Elizabeth Boles Artist, Reidsville  
Fair Funeral Home, Eden  
Felts Printing Company, Reidsville  
Gildan, Eden  
Glamour Salon & Spa, Madison  
Grove Winery, Gibsonville  
High Rock Farm Country Wine, Gibsonville  
High Rock Farms, Gibsonville  
J Michael Fargis & Associates, Reidsville  
Jeanne Horsley  
Los Establos Boutique Inn, Panama  
Maddrey Etringer Smith Hollowell & Tooney, L.L.P., Eden  
Madison Dry Goods, Madison  
Malcolm N. Clark, CPA PLLC, Eden  
Marguerite Holt  
Mel Steele  
Morehead Memorial Hospital, Eden

More than Yoga, Eden  
Mumbo-Jumbo Imports, Reidsville  
MyEyeDr, Madison  
MyEyeDr, Reidsville  
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Newbridge Bank  
PBJ Boutique, Madison  
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Pier 1 Imports, Greensboro  
Proximity Hotel, Greensboro  
Rakestraw Insurance, Wentworth & Madison  
Reid Square Properties, LLC, Reidsville  
Richard Westmoreland, CPA, PLLC, Reidsville  
Rockingham County Theatre Guild  
Round About Way Gift Shoppe, Reidsville  
Short Sugar's Barbecue, Reidsville  
Skip and Tilda Balsley  
Southern Spirits, Madison  
Stitch Party Studio, Madison  
Suzanne Forbes Howard  
The Knowles Team Century 21, Reidsville  
Tilda Balsley  
Tim Talley Photography, Reidsville  
Town of Mayodan  
220 North Modern Furniture, Stokesdale  
UNC Athletic Department  
Veranda Designs, Madison  
Via Electric Company  
Wake Forest University Athletics Department  
Walnut Cove Furniture, Walnut Cove  
Wilkerson Funeral Home, Reidsville  
Wine Styles Tasting Station, Greensboro



**PLEASE REMEMBER THIS!**  
When you designate MARC as your  
charity of choice on Amazon smile,  
many items you purchase generate a  
donation to MARC at no cost to you!



## Recent Events

### Gala conveys the spirit of “La Dolce Vita”



Photo credit: J. Bullins



Photo credit: J. Bullins



Photos credit: J. Bullins



Photo credit: F. Waynick

Enjoy these photos from this year's Summer Soirée! Guests from all areas of the county came to celebrate the preservation of our collective history.

From the front door of Deep Springs Country Club to each and every table, Cathy Baranek's elegant decorations set the mood for guests to enjoy an evening of "the good life." (*Cathy and her husband, Tom, pose in photo on the bottom left.*)

Alan and Renee Atkins and their staff in the Deep Springs dining room served a deliciously flavorful dinner with creative dishes to coordinate with our Italian theme.

The evening's auctions were conducted by Richard Craney representing Red Apple Auctions, based in Washington, DC. This company specializes in assisting non-profits to raise money for their causes. In addition to his expertise in auctioneering, this Raleigh resident added the elements of excitement and entertainment to the event. As a result of his talents, as well as the generosity of businesses and individuals who donated items and the generous guests in attendance, this was a successful fundraising event. Sincere thanks go to all who participated.



## ***ON YOUR MARC Staff***

Editor & Design: Jean Bullins

Editorial Team: Tilda Balsley  
Libby Barrett  
Bob Carter  
Fletcher Dalton  
Tony Edwards  
Steve Gilliam  
Jane Haines  
Bill Horsley  
Charles Rodenbough  
Jordan Rossi

Contributing  
Photographers: Libby Barrett  
Jean Bullins  
Jeff Bullins  
Fletcher Waynick

## **MARC Hours of Operation**

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 1 pm–6 pm  
Saturday 10 am–4 pm

## **MARC Admission**

Adult	\$ 5.00
Seniors & Students	\$ 3.50
Children	\$ 2.50
Children under 4	FREE
Family Pass	\$15.00
MEMBERS	FREE

**Visit [www.themarconline.org](http://www.themarconline.org) for individual and business membership information and forms.**

## ***MARC Your Calendar***

### **Thursday, November 17—The Melungeon Connection in Rockingham County**

5:30 pm—Refreshments, photo exhibit opens  
6:00 pm—Program

### **Saturday, December 3**

#### **Christmas at Wright Tavern—1:00-3:00 pm.**

Celebrate Christmas and the 200th anniversary of Wright Tavern with MARC friends. Enjoy period decorations, dance demonstrations, and informal discussions about the tavern. This event is free and refreshments are included.

### **Wednesday, December 7—Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration—Program at 7:00 pm**

#### **Catered Dinner at 6:00 (Reservations required)**

Bonnie Connelly shares artifacts and excerpts from interviews with her father, the late Bouse Williams. Mr. Williams was stationed at Pearl Harbor at the time of the Japanese attack.

### **Thursday, December 15—Board of Directors Meeting at 6:00 pm**

Members who receive newsletters by email save the MARC valuable printing and postage costs! You can keep your email address current by emailing changes to [MARCconnection@gmail.com](mailto:MARCconnection@gmail.com)



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1086 NC Highway 65  
PO Box 84  
Wentworth, NC 27375



(336) 634-4949  
[MARCconnection@gmail.com](mailto:MARCconnection@gmail.com)  
[www.themarconline.org](http://www.themarconline.org)