

A Ford Expedition goes barreling down Centre Street. Heads are turning. Phones are out. Arms are waving. Smiles grace faces.

All these smiles over some old SUV? Well, no, not quite.

"Captain" Ed Glascock might be putting pedal to the metal in an Expedition, but that's not what the world sees. To the unsuspecting tourists of Amelia Island, Glascock mans the helm of a sky blue 21-foot Scorpion 210 – a Chris-Craft boat that towers over the Expedition's motor and frame.

"When it's a weekend or a holiday weekend, it's totally bizarre. There are so many people, and it's just hysterical. It's like a one-vehicle parade, almost," Glascock said. "All the responses I've gotten, all but maybe one, have been extremely positive. When you can see somebody that's even homeless going by, and all of a sudden they're ear to ear smiles and waving, you made them forget what was bothering them."

After his father passed away, the semi-retired Fernandina Beach resident wanted to honor his wishes and splurge on something indulgent with the small inheritance left behind. And with that, Glascock went on the hunt for strange vehicles.

For a man who carries around a gimmick wallet that lights itself on fire, a boat car is, unsurprisingly, the logical indulgence.

"My friends kind of freaked out when I came up with this, but my father had passed and one of his wishes to all of us were to take part of the money and do something for yourself," he said. "And thus, the boat car."

His first boat car discovery was from a man in Atlanta; however, the owner refused Glascock's offers, claiming that he wanted it to stay in the family. While that boat car didn't exactly end up in a family member's hands, it did go to the coastal king himself, Jimmy Buffett, for a hefty \$55,000.

Not one to allow a little setback deter him, Glascock managed to find someone in Florida who modified a Ford Expedition into a boat car.

"He had already gone through the court battles or whatever. And, because I bought it in the same state, he already had paved the way for me and there was no big deal," Glascock said.

As one would expect, this pet project didn't go over swimmingly with his wife at first, but the charm of the boat car could rub off on even the most reluctant riders.

"My wife wasn't on board, no pun intended," Glascock said. "But after she rode a couple times, she had so much fun. She said her arm got tired from waving at people, because everybody was waving."

In fact, Glascock can hardly go from one stop sign to the next without honking his horn and offering a wave to onlookers. He's only been the captain of this ship for five months, but word travels fast on this island and Glascock has unwittingly become the hometown hero.

"If I feel like I can't put on a good, enjoyable response for people, I don't want to give them a negative image of me at all. Negative carries so much faster and longer than a positive one," Glascock said. "Worst mistake you could do is not talk to people. I'll take it to the grocery store, and I have to worry about my ice cream melting because somebody's going to want to talk to me about it."

Almost by accident, this personal present for his own enjoyment enabled Glascock to bring forth a goodwill that he's always yearned for, whether that be with family, co-workers or neighbors.

"I dreamed that if I was ever going to be a boss, I was not going to be like the bosses I had grown up and

worked for, because so many of them rode an ego and had anger issues,” Glascock said. “I’ve always had a good attitude. It just seems like karma. If you’re going to be a negative type person, don’t expect much because it’s going to come back at you the same way.”

Glascock is currently looking for affordable options to restore the boat car and get it ready to pass down the family tree. He’s hoping that with a fresh paint job, new motor and maybe even a top cover, the boat car can go for a nice chunk of change and provide his family with funds for their own pet projects.

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