



# *The Windshield View*

April 2021

## Did you know?

The dashboard originated with horse drawn carriages. It was a piece of wood that kept mud from splashing the driver.

## The Behind the Wheel

Time flies when you're having fun and another busy month is behind us.

Thank you for the great participation at both social and shop events. We had a number of drive throughs or visits to senior care facilities from Peoria to Surprise where residents, some being able to escape their rooms for the first time in a year all enjoyed seeing our cars and doing a bit of reminiscing. Delicious lunches were served to both residents and club members. One facility even had a live 50s - 60's DJ! He and his wife were great entertainment.

I know I said this before but the new shop is very near to completion. We have been able to have input regarding location of power outlets, compressor pad size, location of water power and air drops in the main shop. At time of this writing, the back area had concrete poured under the canopy area and the rest was paved. Hopefully by the time this is read the move will be on. If not, look for an email request soon for help in organizing and setting up the new shop. An Equipment Committee headed by Troy is researching and prioritizing equipment needs for the new shop. Thank you for your efforts. We have also received a donation of a nice set of quality old school mechanic's tools, enough to make one big set and supplement other sets. Thank you to those who have been packing and preparing for the move under Ed's direction. Some have been labeling things to match locations on the drawing, some have been painting the rolling shop benches, others have been cleaning and organizing. Before you ask, we don't yet have a move-in date but will be letting everyone know via email when we do. For those still here, we will need your help on moving day(s) so please contact the shop when you hear of the plan to see how you may help.

There will be much organizational work to be done in order to open up the new shop. Work flow tested out, new monitor training developed and implemented. All monitors will be required to go through training on the new shop operation prior to operating at full capacity. Due to the scope and size of the new facility, it will likely require three monitors to operate safely. With the covid threat ramping down this should prove to be doable. Yes, there have been many times this winter that we weren't able to staff two positions but that is no excuse for cutting safety short. Those responsible for shop operations will be working to make this a smooth transition.

Don't come in telling the monitors or shop management how much you know, how long you've been operating a shop and that you shouldn't have to take this training. Take the training seriously and be a part of making this work.



This is a picture of a donation we received from Sol Flower Café & Dispensary on 99<sup>th</sup> Ave just South of Thunderbird. This is a place we have been gathering Sundays from 10:00am to 1:00pm. These are priced at 159.99 each + tax and they donated two, twenty-gallon portable oil lift drain tanks to the club. The nice thing about these is you don't have to wrestle the tank to drain it into the recycle barrels. Air pressure will push the oil out of this tank into the barrels. Thank you, Dean at Sol Flower.

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, RCSC will have opened up the recreation centers back towards normal to allow clubs which have not been able to enjoy their hobbies to do so again. Of course, this comes at a time when a good portion of those club's members are heading north to cooler weather but, it's progress.

There are a lot of "Snowbird Farewells" going on now that it is warming up. Many of those fleeing the heat are covering and storing their winter cars for the long hot summer and when they get home will be dusting and shining their summer cars for the northern show season. Hopefully the world will be opened up enough to have a great summer in either place.

Procedures Director Glen Mester will be assembling a nominations committee this October so please consider helping with this committee or, better yet, running for a board position. Our Rules and Regulations state that all positions are open every year for new talent. Please see your R&Rs on the website for more information about the positions. And no, I won't be offended if you want my job.

There has been some rumbling about a change of Wednesday night cruise in venue from the McDonalds on Bell and 99. Food and service have generated the most complaints. There is an option to go to the parking lot behind the DQ on Grand and 108<sup>th</sup> Ave. There is shade under the walkway near Royal Café and there are more choices for food with DQ, Filiberto's Mexican, The Speakeasy Bar, Popeye's Chicken, Starbucks and KFC/Taco Bell just across 107<sup>th</sup>. Let Connie know if you have a preference.

If you know of a member who is suffering or celebrating some life event please contact the Cheers, Tears and Pit Stops committee. I want to thank you ladies for taking this on.

Thank you all, we'll see you in October.

Les

## Cheers, Tears and Pit Stops

Please keep your ears open and if you hear of one of our members suffering or celebrating some life event (e.g., operations or hospitalizations please contact one of these ladies and they will run with it!

- Yvonne Ahrens, 217-899-7842, or y.ahrens@gmail.com
- Marilyn Miller, 509-279-4952, or bob-marilyn@q.com
- Nancy Oyler, 480-558-6717, or nancynascar@outlook.com

### Cheers

Happy April Birthdays to Glen Mester, Kim Elliott, Ken Bergeron, David Cochran, Doug Swartz, Sherri Laurin, Ron Spindle, Jane Swartz and Troy Janicki

Marilyn Miller will be celebrating her 80th Birthday party Saturday May 1st 4pm at her home

### Tears

Our Condolences go out to Bob & Lynn Cummings on the passing of his sister (Carol Hanselman) December 7 2020.

### Pit Stops

Continued thoughts & prayers go out to Verna Simmons as she goes thru treatment and Denny Lockman as he recuperates from triple bypass surgery

### Welcome our newest members

- Jeannie Stewart
- Charles Thom
- Ralph Hunger
- Richard Schoenbrunn
- Paul & Sonna Graham

## Events

Every Sunday 9 to 2 thru the first 2 weekends in May  
99<sup>th</sup> and Thunderbird Cruise in



Photo from a recent cruise in

Saturday - May 1st 10 AM to Noon (Leave shop at 9:30)

Lifestream Living Center at Thunderbird cruise in

13617 N. 55<sup>th</sup> at Thunderbird

Pls. sign up at the shop or call 509-546-7131 if you would like to be included (12 cars needed - Food and Music provided)

Monday - May 3<sup>rd</sup> 12 AM

Ladies Lunch

P.F. Chang's Restaurant

16170 N. 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (P-83) in Peoria

April 16<sup>th</sup>

Orchard Pointe Senior Living center event

A good time was also had by all at this event. Orchard Pointe had a Disc-Jockey that played good music (from our era) and a barbeque with some delicious barbeque outside.



Top - Club cars lined up and ready to be enjoyed. That bright red 1961 Triumph TR3 is Mike Blachut's baby. Bottom - residents and staff got into the spirit and enjoyed some good old iron and rock and roll.



April 19<sup>th</sup>

Lifestream Complete Senior Living Center Cruise In & Clint Pigg Drive By.



Top left: Don Ahrens demonstrates the proper etiquette for eating a hamburger without using your hands. Top right: Member vehicles on display. Bottom: Connie Sherman, Ed Srsen, Stacy Benson, Ron Whitney, Kevin Cole, Roxie Whitney, Yvonne Ahrens, Martha Cochran, Don Ahrens, David Cochran, Ralph Hunger, Richard Holcomb and Troy Janicki getting ready to go.

Special note from Clint: Clint wants to thank everyone who was able to drive-by the home where Clinton is staying. It really made his day. The one lady who made it out also enjoyed seeing the cars. It was nice talking to Richard at the end of the drive. Clinton is doing fine. Wish we could be more involved with club activities. Maybe one of these days, but it will be a while. Thank you again, may you all be as blessed as we are.

## Featured Wheels



Denny Lockmon's 1964 Studebaker Avanti

In April 1974, when Denny already had two Avanti's in his garage he spotted a 1964 Avanti for sale by a family in the Chicago area. He paid a premium for the car and has owned it ever since. He drove it regularly in Nebraska, Colorado, Indiana and other temperate environments. (It did not come with air conditioning) The car is extremely original although it was repainted the original Avanti Red in 2017, the carb was rebuilt in 2020 and the wheels are Boranni wires that were an option on some 1970 models. Recently some German headlights were added so as to brighten up the night vision. Denny, who is on the board of directors of the Avanti Association of America, is a humble expert on all things Avanti. His car was featured in the 2010 and 2019 Avanti Owners Association International calendar and has also won best in show.

The original story of the Avanti is quite interesting. It started with the appointment of a former McCullough executive as president of the Studebaker Packard Corporation in February 1961. On a business trip that year from Chicago to California he bought all the car

magazines he could find at the airport and began sketching a design for a new car. The sketches were handed over to Studebaker's design team.



In just 10 days a team of designers hid away in a rented house in the Mojave Desert just outside Palm Springs, California produced the design, code named "X-SHE". Incredibly, within a week the four designers had developed a 1/8-scale clay model of the proposed car. The head of design immediately returned to snowy South Bend factory with the model and presented it to the new president.

In 1963 3,834 Avanti's were produced and in 1964 production was limited to 809 by the termination and shut down of auto production in Studebaker's South Bend facilities. The all fiberglass Avanti was marketed as "America's high-performance 4-passenger luxury car." The original 1963 and 1964 Avantis came in \$4,445 R-1, \$4,655 R-2 and \$5,665 R-3 forms. The Avanti was powered by Studebaker's most potent engine, the "Jet Thrust" 289CI V-8. The engine featured solid lifters, a four-barrel Carter AFB carburetor, a dual-point distributor and dual exhausts. In base form the engine produced 240hp at 5,000 RPM. The automatic transmission-equipped car went from 0 to 60 MPH in 8.6 seconds and on to a 115 MPH top speed.



The interior features a wrap around instrument cluster inspired by an aircraft cockpit and aircraft style knobs for controls. The 289CI engine and dual exhaust produces a tone as unique as a lion's growl.





Denny in his VVSC shirt next to his gorgeous Avanti

The Avanti was resurrected several times between 1964 and 1991 by several folks using parts supplied by other manufacturers.

A special thank you goes out to the Avanti Owners Association International from whose website much of this information was obtained (copied).



We are all wishing Denny a speedy recovery from his surgery!

## Shop Talk

The old shop is alive with activity supporting the move to the new shop. The movers stopped by to check things out and measure some equipment. They could not believe how organized our efforts have been. While it is hard to predict an exact date for the move it feels like it is right around the corner. When the move happens the shop will be closed for several weeks to allow for the equipment to be moved and set up in the new shop.

Dan Chopp and I continue work on the large supped up cart which Kevin Cole affectionately refers to as the “clown cart”. Around every corner is a new challenge (opportunity) with this old bird. The good news is the new engine and brakes work. And the steering is fine if you are going in a straight line attached to a railroad track. (just kidding) We are hoping the exhaust system does not vibrate off... again. If it vibrates off again there will be welding torches applied. The wiring has proven to be a bit devilish. All of us have experienced this issue.

David Crose is smiling again after finally getting his Harley back from the shop. It turns out there was a recall on a fuel injection part that had cracked which was causing the RPM to randomly go up and down. To quote Willie Nelson he is “On the road again...”

You should have received an email asking you to vote on changes to our charter to accommodate the benefactor like program in light of RCSC rules. If not please visit the website and cast your ballot.

The owner of the Old Ford shop on Cave Creek road indicated he may be looking for someone to work part time on old fords. His phone number is 602-799-0455 if anyone is interested.

## **Big Bird - Ron & Roxie's 1962 Ford Thunderbird**



The Ford Thunderbird or T-Bird is a personal luxury car produced starting in 1955 to compete with the Corvette. Ron and Roxie's car was part of the third generation of T-Birds. It is a 1962 T-Bird in Venetian Red with matching interior.



The engine is a 390 cubic inch V8. The odometer reads 04184.6. The car features power steering and brakes, a Cruise-o-matic transmission with a 3:00-1 axle, AM radio and the swing away steering wheel affectionately referred to as the fat man steering wheel.

Interestingly, Ford held a contest to name the car with the prize being a \$250 suit. The winner of the contest did not want the suit and bought a \$95 suit and extra pair of trousers from Saks 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue with the money.

Big Bird was acquired from Bud Heintz, a founding member of VVSC. This was his project car. When Ron and Roxie first approached Bud about buying it, they arranged for a test drive. Even though they determined Big Bird needed more work they decided it was too beautiful not to buy. So, they bought it. Since they already have a couple of collector cars, this may not have been their smartest decision according to Ron. Big Bird was registered as an Arizona historic vehicle, but because Ron and Roxie are Minnesota residents, it is currently registered as a Minnesota collector car.

Because of health issues they have it listed for sale on the VVSC website. More details are in the 'For Sale or Wanted' pages of the website.

For extra points on the trivia contest can you name the show and character names that used the 1961 Thunderbird to drive around in?







## *Stars and Their Cars*



**1931 Lincoln Model K Tourer with John Wayne and Constance Cummings**

The guiding hand of the Lincoln Model K was Edsel Ford. The model K was only produced for one year. It had a new 145-inch-wheelbase chassis with a drop-frame design using massive channel section structure with six heavy cross members. Bodies were mounted on brackets on the outside of the frame, below the top of the chassis rail. A revised Model L V-8 engine was used, but it was tweaked primarily by increased carburetion to produce 120hp at 2,900 rpm.



*Stars and Their Cars<sup>1</sup>*



**1931 Duesenberg Model J Derham Tourer with Gary Cooper**

The Model J utilized a 419 cubic inch Lycoming Duesenberg straight 8 with dual overhead cams and four valves per cylinder. The engine produced 265 BHP and 374 Ft Lbs of torque which propelled the 5,291 car to a top speed of 116 MPH using a Warner three speed manual transmission. A total of 8 of these cars were made and one of those was sold in 2016 for \$1,320,000.

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<sup>1</sup> A special thank you goes out to Gary Osier for providing this fascinating piece of car memorabilia.

## Trivial Pursuit

(A column dedicated to those who love trivia and cars. Answers on last page)

1. The '53 Chrysler Imperial became the first mass-produced car in over a decade to offer this option.
    - A. Air conditioning
    - B. Seat belts
    - C. FM radio
    - D. V8 engine
  
  2. What did Chevy name the Corvette after?
    - A. Former President
    - B. Chevy CEO
    - C. Warship
    - D. Popular Dance
  
  3. What did Ford add to the Thunderbird with the second generation release in 1958?
    - A. Three-point seatbelts
    - B. Rear seat
    - C. Gull-wing doors
    - D. Solid gold steering wheel
  
  4. What was the Ford Fairlane named for?
    - A. One of Ford's sons
    - B. An airplane
    - C. Ford's wife
    - D. Ford's estate
  
  5. What car feature became mandatory in 1964?
    - A. Airbags
    - B. Power steering
    - C. Power brakes
    - D. Seatbelts
-



## Recipes



Tobey's Prize Flank Steak  
from Jane Fast

### Ingredients

1. 1 ½ teaspoons of salt
2. 3 tablespoons prepared mustard
3. 3 tablespoons lemon juice
4. 1 tablespoon Worchester sauce
5. Fresh ground pepper to taste
6. Garlic salt to taste
7. 1 to 1 ½ pounds flank steak
8. 1 large onion, sliced in rings

### Cooking Instructions

- A. Combine first six ingredients and mix
- B. Put flank steak in container that can be covered and pour mixture from A over both sides of flank steak
- C. Cover flank steak with rings of onion and marinate in closed container overnight in the fridge
- D. Remove onion rings and enough marinade to make it easy to grill
- E. Preheat grill to 350 degrees and grill for six minutes on each side
- F. Slice the steak thin on the diagonal



## You've got to be joking<sup>2</sup> -

(Dedicated to some of our favorite car jokes and corny ones as well)

1. What do you get when dinosaurs crash their cars? Tyrannosaurus wrecks.
2. I stopped to pick up a hitchhiker. Turns out he was just telling me he liked my car.
3. My sweetheart is always taking health food crazes too far. Now, it's even affecting my driving. She took the carb-orator off my car!
4. Husband: "Honey, the neighbor is washing the car with his son again!" Wife: "Poor kid! Go over there and tell him to use a sponge instead."
5. What do you say to a frog who needs a ride? "Hop in."
6. I just got 9 out of 10 on my driver's test. The last guy was able to get out of the way.
7. Two old people sit on the porch, chatting. The first guy says, "I hear up in the Seattle it rains cats and dogs!" "Oh!" the second guy answers. "That doesn't sound so bad. I hear in New York City it's hailing taxis!"
8. Two Cadillac drivers got in a fender-bender, got out of their cars, and then started yelling at each other. Within a few seconds, they were in a fistfight. I guess you could say things Escaladed quickly.
9. What do you do with old German cars? You take 'em to the old Volk's home.
10. When you get hit by a guitar truck, is it a fender-bender?
11. Why couldn't the frog find where he parked his car? He'd been toad.

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<sup>2</sup> A special thank you goes out to Ron Whitney for finding these funnies.

## Trivia Answers<sup>3</sup>

1. Answer A: Chrysler stood out from the pack in the '50s when they became the first auto maker in over a decade to offer air conditioning with the '53 Imperial. By 1960, car buyers had caught on to the brilliance of auto air conditioning, and the feature could be found in around 1 in 5 new cars.
2. Answer C: The iconic Chevy Corvette came out in 1953. Early versions of this two-door convertible -- which took its name from a small warship -- were available in blue, red, black or white.
3. Answer B: The Ford Thunderbird personal luxury vehicle was a sporty two-seater when it came out in 1957. The company took a gamble in 1958 by adding a back seat, and the change paid off with more than 200,000 units sold over the next three years.
4. Answer D: The '50s Ford Fairlane was a full-sized vehicle famous for its shiny chrome accents. Named for Ford's Fair Lane estate in Dearborn, Michigan, the car had a characteristic Fairlane Stripe that gave it a stylish two-tone finish.
5. Answer D: Some states had enacted laws before, but surprisingly, lap belts weren't required by federal law until 1964, shoulder belts until 1968 and integrated shoulder/lap belts until 1974. Rising traffic fatalities -- about 50,000 a year in the U.S. at the time -- made them a necessity. Even though there are more drivers on the road today, fatalities have dropped because of safety equipment like the seat belt.
6. BONUS - 77 Sunset Strip. Stu Bailey (Efrem Zimbalist Jr.) and Jeff Spencer (Roger Smith) were the wisecracking, womanizing private detective heroes of this Warner Brothers drama which aired from 1958 to 1964. And don't forget about Kookie (Edd Byrnes).

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<sup>3</sup>*Notice to members: All answers are final and debatable.*

## VVSC Officers

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