



# *The Windshield View*

November 2021

Did you know?

The original Henry Ford Company later became The Cadillac Motor Company.

## The Behind the Wheel

Dang, it is hard to believe that another month has slipped by. With most of us snowbirds back and active, the shop has been a busy place. If you haven't been by, please do stop in for a tour and get signed up for monitor/safety training. Along with that lets see some new projects or at least an oil change and

service on your daily drivers. Many medium/long term projects have moved out of the shop so there is very little waiting for lifts or floor space right now.

One of the things I love most about this club is the variety of rigs people own and work on. The other is the variety of backgrounds of our members. The knowledge and skill levels of our members is truly mindboggling. There is rarely a day that goes by where I don't learn something from one of our members. Don't be bashful, jump in to the social events or shop scene and meet some fantastic people and their cool rides. The more we know about each other the more opportunity we have to help someone out with their project. With new and returning members who have taken part in the monitor training, we have been able to be open many afternoons and some Saturdays.

Some of you may not be aware or remember that the club took on a project truck to do a mild restoration as a fundraiser. This truck was purchased in the summer of 2019 and while much has been done, there is still work to do. Covid did affect the progress but we are open now and wanting to get remotivated on it. The main remaining needs are minor body work and sanding in preparation for paint which we will have done outside of our facility. So, if you possess body work skills or at least a willingness to help get this project on the road please check in with Ed Gordon.

Are you hungry? Then "Get out in that kitchen and rattle those pots and pans" while whipping up a great dish to share with members at our monthly shop potluck on the last Tuesday of the month Nov. 30th. October was a great success with nearly 90 members going home with full tummies. A couple of us are planning to smoke a couple of Turkeys so please bring something to accompany that. This is also a great opportunity to get away from those pesky relatives who have been helping themselves to your beer stash while sitting or sleeping in your favorite chair all week. Your friends in VVSC would never do that.

Plans are being made to get back to hosting our annual car show AC (After Covid) at the Sun Bowl on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This is a fund raiser event where we have drawn about 300 cars. The committee could use your help, particularly that day but lots of prep needs done prior to the event too. Thank you in advance for your help.

I just learned of the loss of one of our members to complications from COVID. Jerry Oyler had been a strong and active member for many years. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Nancy during this horrible time.

Les Litzenberger

## 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 or Nancy Oyler, 480-558-6717, or nancynascar@outlook.com

### Cheers

Birthday cheers go out to the following VVSC members:

November: Ed Gordon, Mike Neal, Monita Kalas, Chuck Louthan, Deb Benson, Denny Lockman, Bob Cummings and John Fast

December: Nancy Oyler, Herb Carson, Len Kalas, Gwen Casura and Holly Kutner

Happy Anniversary cheers go out to the following VVSC members:

Al & Carmen Janicki and Jeff & Gwen Casura

### Tears

Jerry Oyler passed away on November 20th. He will be missed by all. Our thoughts & prayers are with Nancy & his daughter Emilee.

### Pit Stops

Continued thoughts & prayers go out to Verna Simmons as she goes thru treatment  
Troy Janicki is awaiting an MRI proceeding additional back surgery hopefully by end of year

Al Janicki continues doing strength therapy. His balance issues are improving.

Ron Whitney is recovering from hip surgery and doing well

Richard Marone is recuperating from heart surgery

Larry Duvanel is hospitalized for heart problems

We have a new address for Len & Monita Kalas  
1030 Scott Dr. C11  
Prescott Az 86301



## Welcome New Members

### August New members

David	Johnson
Curtis	Zeeb
Marty	Morris
Christa	Morris
Jim	Perrin

### September New Members:

Virgil	Scott
Todd	Follendorf
James	Vesper
Joseph	Meinhardt
Bill	Imray
William	Clark
Tom	Gibbons
Edward	Abramowitz
Kathy	Abramowitz
Michael	Vaughn
Jim	Conrad
Cheryl	Conrad
Brian	Hampson
Warren	Darling
Rex	Krusell
Dean	Lenseigne
Roger	Imes
Mary	Springer
Jim	Fitzpatrick
Mary	Laine
Ralston	Laine
Arthur	Thomas

### October New Members:

Don	Buxton
Jerry	Oakes
John	Van Bodegon
Donna	Van Bodegon
Bernard	Corbeil
Rick	Lyman
Chuck	Reasoner
Maurean	Fortenbaugh
Eric	Eklove
Mary	Eklove
Kathy	Henye
Les	Henye
Gary	Hansen

Nancy	Crater
Tony	Crater
Susan	Mitchell
Joe	Sepulveda
Edward	Malles
Mike	Davis
Denver	Gullick
Lynn	Kincaid
Russ	Kincaid
Bob	Deines
Carol	Reimann
Lloyd	Reimann
James	Hansen
Sandra	Hansen
Miles	Sidener
Dennis	Mayerchak
Nanette	Mayerchak

### November New Members:

Ganen	LaJoie
Maggie	LaJoie
Dale	Borger
Mike	Robinson
Robert Bruce	Grounds
Lee	Carlson
Fred	Cooley
Cliff	Hook
Bernie	Scheible
David	Hansen
John	Dewey
Jerry	Hall
Gary	Ferguson
Phillip	Rohan
Audrey	Rohan
Michael	McKee
Rob	Renaud
Cinda	Renaud
Thomas	Welsh
Patrick	Heywood
Risa	Heywood
Steve	Bakko
Camie	Bakko
Mark	Connolly
Ralph	Adair

If you run into one of these folks be sure to give them a warm welcome!

**Events**

**VVSC Recurring Events:**

Sundays	99 <sup>th</sup> and Thunderbird	Cruise In	10 am to 1 pm
Tuesdays	Mercer’s Restaurant	Breakfast	7 am
Wednesdays	McDonalds 99 <sup>th</sup> & Bell	Cruise In	4 pm
Thursdays	George’s- Thunderbird	Breakfast	7 am
Fridays	108 <sup>th</sup> & Grand	Cruise In	4:30 pm

**VVSC Special Events:**

Tuesday, Nov. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	General Meeting	Lakeview	1 pm
Saturday, Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Car Show	Bell Center	2 to 5 pm
Friday, January 7	Car Show	Bell Center	2 to 5 pm
Saturday, January 8 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Party	Fairway	6 to 8 pm
Mid January	VVSC open house	Details forthcoming	
Friday, February 4	Car Show	Marinette Center	2 to 5 pm
Saturday, March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Car Show	Sun Bowl	9am to ?
Sunday, March 20 (???)	Car Show & Cruise In	Cross Church	9am to ?

**Area Car Shows:**

Saturday, October 30	ARC Car Show	Sun City West	11am to 3 pm
Saturday, October 30	Ventana Lakes Car Show	Sun City West	10am to 2 pm
*Call Tracy Tauscher 623-566-6001 Events@vitoa.org Sunday			
Sunday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Fire it UP Car Show	Peoria	9am to 1 pm
*Register *www.pffc.org/fireitupregisration			
Sunday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Toys for Tots Car Show	Wickenburg	9am to 1:30pm
Saturday, December 11 <sup>th</sup>	VFW Posts 6310 Car Show	Peoria	10 am to 1 pm
Saturday, February 12	ARC Large Car Show	Sun City West	Early morning start

\*Entry Fee and early morning start

**Check the VVSC website for the latest details**

## Shop Talk

- VVSC has over 80 trained monitors to date! Way to go trainers. More are being trained as we speak. The club is always in need of monitors, particularly in the afternoon.
- Don Puetz taught a class on how to use the metal lathe, the milling machine and the brake lathe to an audience of about fifteen members. Stay tuned for upcoming training.
- The club has an opening for the position of Secretary. This is a great way to get more involved in the club happenings.
- Upholstery capability is coming! Kevin Cole is scavenging for a few more parts and once they are secured club members will have the ability to sew their own upholstery.
- The Sun City Independent reported in their most recent edition that VSSC members lent the use of their cars as props to the Sun City Players for their plays.

## Recipes

Cranberry Bread:

1. Sift together
  - 2 cup flour
  - 1 Cup sugar
  - 1 1/2 teaspoon Baking Powder
  - 1 teaspoon salt
  - 1/2 teaspoon Baking Soda
2. Mix 2 tablespoon cooking oil with 1 beaten egg (Enough Orange Juice to make 3/4 cup liquid)
3. Add liquid to dry mix and stir briefly
4. Add 2 cups whole fresh cranberries & 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
5. Bake in greased bread pan @ 350 degrees for 60 minutes

Gobble it up!

## Featured Wheels

1951 Mercury by Gary Osier



Gary and Mary Osier in front of the Merc at the VVSC shop

It was 1990 and I had been searching for a 49 Merc for several years. I was looking through the local want ads and I saw a 1951 Merc for sale for \$2,500. It was in Grand Junction, CO (60 miles away from my home) but we went down there several times a month for shopping so I gave them a call and got the address. We stopped by about a week later and saw this four door 51 Mercury sitting in the weeds next to the house. It had the usual rust in the fenders and rocker panels but the floors and everything else was solid. It had a Grand Junction Motors emblem on the trunk so I figured it had been here all its life. The people said it had been in the family since new so I popped the hood and tried to roll the engine using the fan. To my surprise it rolled no problem. So far so good, I thought. The interior was the old blue and white pillow ticking and it had dark green on the exterior. The speedometer read 60,000 miles, and the engine looked pretty good on the exterior. Mechanically it looked good underneath. It was a flathead with a 3 speed and overdrive. All the chrome was there and the trim, so I kicked the tires a little and offered them \$2,200 for it. They said great and I arranged to be back the next day.



I brought a new 6 volt battery and some oil and gas. We poured a little gas down the carb (a side draft Holly 2 barrel), turned it over a few times, and I'll be darned if she didn't start. She was running good enough that I figured I would try to run her all the way home. I had a trailer just in case so I wasn't too worried. To my surprise she ran all the way home. We spent the next month or so checking everything mechanical. We replaced all the gaskets in the flathead. When I had the pan down, I pulled a main and rod bearings and took a look at them. They looked like they had plenty of miles left and the journals were smooth. Below is a picture of me and the Merc then and now:



#### The Mercs first cross country run

After a couple of runs and a few repairs we decided to take it on a run to my wife's 25<sup>th</sup> high school reunion in Pittsburgh, Pa. That's about 1600 miles one way. So I threw a tool box and few spare parts (water pump, belts, bulbs, fuses, oil, antifreeze) in the trunk and off we went. The first part (over the Rockies on I-70) went a "little slow" (I did get it into second gear). Once we rolled over the continental divide and headed for Denver it was smooth sailing. We did not even have a hiccup going to the reunion. She got about 20 miles to the gallon and we averaged close to 55 mph. Not bad for a 39 year old car! The fun part was all the way across you could see kids in cars passing us asking their parents: "What was that car?" Every time we stopped we had to tell people what it was and they wanted to look. She was no beauty at the time but she would still attract a crowd.

The reunion was at a country club and they had 3 punk kids parking cars. All 3 of them were falling all over themselves trying to get to park my car. I told them I had not driven it 1600 miles just to have them wreck it in the parking lot. They insisted that they had to park it so I asked them a question. I told them if they could answer it they could park the car. I asked them what 3 on the tree meant. As I expected none of them knew the answer so after I told them I parked the car. I figured if push came to shove I would ask them if they knew what "arm strong steering" was. They were all skinny enough that I doubted they could actually park it. In any case we drove it around Pittsburgh a few days before we headed home. We then visited some friends near Ann Arbor , MI. for a few days. As we left Ann Arbor Mary's mom took the picture below.



Gary and Mary Osier, Ann Arbor Michigan circa 1990 and today

We got about 2/3 of the way home and the Merc made a heck of a noise so we pulled over to inspect it. No fluids were leaking out and the motor was running fine so we finally determined we had lost the overdrive. So with a 3 speed we continued at a slower rate of speed and she ran great all the way home. When we got home we pulled the tranny down and found the sun gear was gone but nothing was chewed up inside. So I ordered up a new sun gear and put it in with a new clutch, pressure plate and throw out bearing.

The next thing was paint. I did not want it to be the stock dark flat green. I had a good friend that did body and paint work so I went down and started to pour over his paint books. I finally decided on an emerald metallic that was nice but not overpowering. It seemed like it might look pretty good on the car. I then asked my buddy if he would do the body work and paint it. He said no because his bread and butter was insurance work so he could not afford to have my car taking up a stall for 6 months while he worked on it. I knew I wanted him to do the work so I gave it a little thought. I asked him whether I could bring him one piece at a time so he could do it piece meal. When one piece was done I would pick it up and bring him another so it would not take up stall space. He thought about it and agreed to do it for about \$5,500. The deal was that he would make all repairs to the panel, prime it and shoot the final color on the edge so when we got it all back together everything would look good. It took almost a year to get it all done but it ended up great.

Along the way, the Merc has had at least the following work done to it:

- ✓ Rewire with JC Whitney kit which is still going strong today.
- ✓ Converted to 12 volt with an alternator
- ✓ Added electric wipers and washers
- ✓ Added an overflow on the radiator, and an electric fan
- ✓ Added genuine accessory turn signal switch and turn signals
- ✓ Added chrome reverse wheels with baby moons on them
- ✓ New glass on the side windows by Bell windows (They did a great job)
- ✓ Custom Fulton visor from Ebay custom painted by local shop which I then painstakingly installed

The interior needed to be redone (it was originally redone in Colorado in about 1995) so we talked with Manny at Bell Upholstery. We looked at fabrics and colors and Mary choose them to match the color scheme. (Great job Mary!) The interior is not intended to be stock but it looks original to the average person. We had all the interior metal painted to complement the upholstery by another local guy I met at a car show. He did a great job. The photo on the right shows the interior Mary picked out.



Finding parts...

The thing I've learned about finding parts is you never know where you will find the next thing you need. Mechanical parts are still easy to get for the Merc but body parts are another thing. I was looking for the stainless steel covers for over the front running lights. I happened to be going to Salt Lake City for work, and on my way over in a little town called Wellington, UT. Just as I was coming into town I saw this chopped 51 Merc sitting in a little shop. I figured that since it was a custom they may be willing to part with the stock parts. I couldn't stop that day but I figured I would stop on my way back through in a couple of weeks. On my way back I stopped at the shop but no Merc was there. I asked the guy if I was seeing "things" and he said the car belonged to Bo Huff in East Carbon, UT. He told me how to get there and I rode on down and found the general store that was his shop. It was piled to the ceiling on shelves with parts and sitting in the middle of the floor was a custom 49 Ford convertible. No one was there so I started calling and hunting for someone and found the Merc over in another part of the building with several other cars. I waited around for about an hour and finally a white bearded guy comes in and says he is Bo Huff and can he help me. I told him what I was looking for and we talked about Merc for a while. He then he said he thought he had a pair around somewhere. We spent the next 45 minutes searching the shelves and we found 1. He said I know I have another one here somewhere so if I've got the time we would look again. We started around again and in about 15 minutes found the match to the other one. They looked great to me and with a little polishing would work fine. I asked him what he wanted for them and he said give him \$20. I was thrilled and glad to meet a kindred soul that I would hopefully stop and see again. In the mean time I found out he was quite the custom car guy and like most car guys a really nice guy to boot. He has since passed on but I will never forget him!! His son has taken over and I may need to stop there some time to see if he has some parts I need.

When I went looking for the washer nozzles I figured if I could make them if I could see a picture of them. I could not find a single picture readily so I put a post on a Ford forum to see if anybody out there had a set they could send me a picture of. A day or so later I got an email from a guy in Florida which said he would give me a set if I would send him postage. I did not hesitate to send the postage they came in the mail and looked great. They have been on the car ever since.

#### "Final" Touches

I chuckle to myself when I talk about final touches for I know I will always be looking one part or another even when I am not "looking". I recently acquired a new to me restored Mercury trunk lock emblem. I am also looking for the right side grill extension. Mine is in pretty good shape but is scratched and cracked so I'm looking to upgrade. The left side one had a big hole in it but I managed to find one (NOS) at an old Ford parts store in Denver.

Currently I am rebuilding the flathead and putting a/c in the Merc. If you have been to the new shop in the last few months you have seen my Merc sitting there minus the engine. The engine room has some but not all of my engine parts in it. I just got the block back from Ed Smith down at Five Star Engine Exchange in Glendale. I've spent a lot of time with him and I can tell you he is the flathead expert. He has a wealth of knowledge and he has been generous enough to share it with me. He is willing to answer any and all questions I have. When it's finished he said to bring it down and we will run it on a stand to make sure it's right before it goes back in the car. Ed is a wealth of knowledge, not only on flatheads but about everything else as well. I brought him up to the shop and gave him the 50 cent tour. He was impressed.

I will be putting the engine back together in the shop over the next several months. Please stop by and see the progress or just to chat about cars!

## Special Feature - "Can" you do this? <sup>1</sup>



After Albert Torney died in 1998 at age 86 his large collection of model cars made from aluminum cans was discovered. He used to go to all the public functions...especially the picture theaters. And he always carried a sugar bag to collect empty bottles and cans. Everyone thought he was a bit eccentric and kids would tease and hassle him. Then it was discovered that he sold the empty bottles but only some of the cans.

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<sup>1</sup> Thanks Gary Osier for sending this in!

## Trivial Pursuit<sup>2</sup>

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

What date was the first Ford Motor Company founded on?

1. June 16, 1903
2. December 22, 1900
3. March 23, 1865
4. January 1, 1920

How did Henry Ford escape the stress of life?

1. Swimming in Lake Michigan
2. Bicycling around Detroit Michigan
3. Camping in the great outdoors
4. Flying airplanes

What was Ford's motto concerning waste in production?

1. "Reduce, reuse, and recycle."
2. "Return, repair and sell again."
3. "Use used parts to build new cars"
4. "Use new parts to build used cars"

What did Ford decide to do with the mountain of sawdust his factories produced?

1. Sell it as kitty litter
2. Make charcoal briquettes with it
3. Glue it together and use it to make wheels
4. None of the above

What did Henry Ford require his parts suppliers to do?

1. Ship their products in wooden crates of specified sizes and of precise dimensions so he could use the wood to make running boards with.
2. Only sell auto parts to Ford
3. Own cats so they could buy saw dust for kitty litter.
4. Buy charcoal grills to grill with.

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<sup>2</sup> Thanks to Michael Blanchurt for sending in an article about Ford history that formed the basis of these questions.

(Answers 1, 3, 1, 2, 1)

## VVSC Officers

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>
<b>President</b>	Les Litzenberger	509-430-1625	chiefles53@yahoo.com
<b>First Vice President</b>	Ed Gordon	720-447-4045	jrwaldo59@yahoo.com
<b>Second Vice President</b>	Troy Janicki	480-277-6910	troyjanicki@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Deborah Benson	720-338-5407	Dnewton8787@icloud.com
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Lynn Cummings	231-633-2872	Lynn.is59@yahoo.com
<b>Facilities/Shop Director</b>	Stephen Fehn	602-399-9238	sfordman1428@outlook.com
<b>Membership Director</b>	Alan Lund	248-496-9844	alund@corebms.com
<b>Events Director</b>	Connie Sherman	509-546-7131	golfwithlynn@yahoo.com
<b>Car Show Director</b>	Tom Wilber	217-899-6250	Tom31chevy@gmail.com
<b>Public Relations Director</b>	Joe Warfel	610-324-6809	Warfel.joseph@yahoo.com
<b>Procedures Director</b>	Glen Mester	217-415-9326	glen@mesterfamiy.com
<b>Website Monitor</b>	Ron Whitney	623-875-7413	ronald.whitney@gmail.com

**Newsletter  
Editor**

John Fast	970-381- 6831	Jfast24895@aol.com
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