

Featured Member Stories – Michael Blachut

Michael is originally from the Motor City – Detroit, Michigan. He has been a member of the Vintage Vehicles of Sun City since very early in its existence, at the club's old location. He recalls in the early days, many times during the summer, it was himself and Kevin Cole covering a lot of the afternoon monitor shifts.



Michael Blachut 2023

Michael attended the Detroit Institute of Technology which boasts Henry Ford among its illustrious alumni. After graduating with an engineering degree, Michael set about a varied career that revolved around primarily managing building systems.



For a few years, looking for a change of pace, Michael worked as a Ship's Engineer in Alaska. "The Captain liked that I was able to attend to the substantial amount of refrigeration that kept the salmon fresh on the salmon tendering vessel."

M-V Shelikof, Bristol Bay, Alaska, 1993



McMurdo Station, South Pole, Antarctica

As Michael had a great desire to travel the world, he signed on to the perfect position to do just that. For sixteen years he worked for the National Science Foundation in Antarctica, at the South Pole outpost, providing support as a Refrigeration Technician, as well as, repairing and calibrating scientific equipment.

This position was an eight month, per year, winter position which allowed Michael to travel for four months each year. Over the course of the sixteen years, he was there, Michael visited forty countries; one year taking an “around the world” trip! I am sure that each of those trips over the sixteen years is a story in itself!

In 1963, he had crossed the country, on Route 66, with his buddy George arriving in Los Angeles. Shortly after coming to LA, he purchased a beautiful 1959 Triumph TR3 for \$800. For the next three years, Michael enjoyed the excitement of southern California in the 60's. In 1966, he returned to Detroit to get married and start a family. The Triumph had to go!! In 2010, Michael retired to Sun City and found a Red TR3. This time it was a 1961. After putting a lot of work into the Triumph Michael once again had a beautiful Red Triumph TR3!!

“I still love driving up the coast of California 50 years after my younger days, re-living all my memories, with wind in my hair and the feel of the red beauty in my hands. It's almost like I get to live my dreams again. I would never have been able to complete the work on my red beauty if it were not for being a member of a car club. Car club members are always willing to help!”



Thanksgiving Day 1964, Mike's Aunt Irene took his picture in front of her house in W. Los Angeles.



Michael working on his TR3 in Sun City.



San Francisco's Golden Gate in 2013, Michael and his 1961 Triumph TR3, 800 miles from Sun City.

Car Shows & Club Events

**Spring Potluck/Cruise In/Mini Golf/Games/Car Show in Parking Lot
Mountain View Rec Center
Friday, April 7th**



Brats & Brooms
Grand Center - Shop Cleanup
Saturday, April 8th
Great Turnout, 32 Members Participated!
Brats served afterwards!





**Photos Provided by Joe Warfel
Lunch Provided by Jim & Cheryl Conrad**

Cruise In/Car Show
Marinette Rec Center
Friday, April 14th







Potluck at the VVSC Shop
Tuesday, April 25th



Lots of good eats, 55 members in attendance!

Welcome April 2023 VVSC New Members

Jeff Reisz
Blaine & Janet Allison
Glenn Bethke
Keith Billings
Jimmy Corroo
Chris & Yolly Wright
William Valle

Our Spring Fling 2024 raffle prize is a new 2023 ICON Electric Golf Car. We purchased the golf car for this year's Spring Fling and began to sell tickets. We will sell tickets throughout the year and award the golf car at our 2024 Spring Fling which will be March 2nd, 2024.

We anticipate that this raffle will be a good money maker for the car club. Several people have already been attending events here in Sun City and have started selling the raffle tickets. We can use your help to sell tickets (1 for \$20 or 6 for \$100). Tickets are being sold at the shop where the golf car is located and on line.



You can get your tickets from Roxie Whitney (952-472-4021).

Here is a QR code that you can scan to order tickets online:



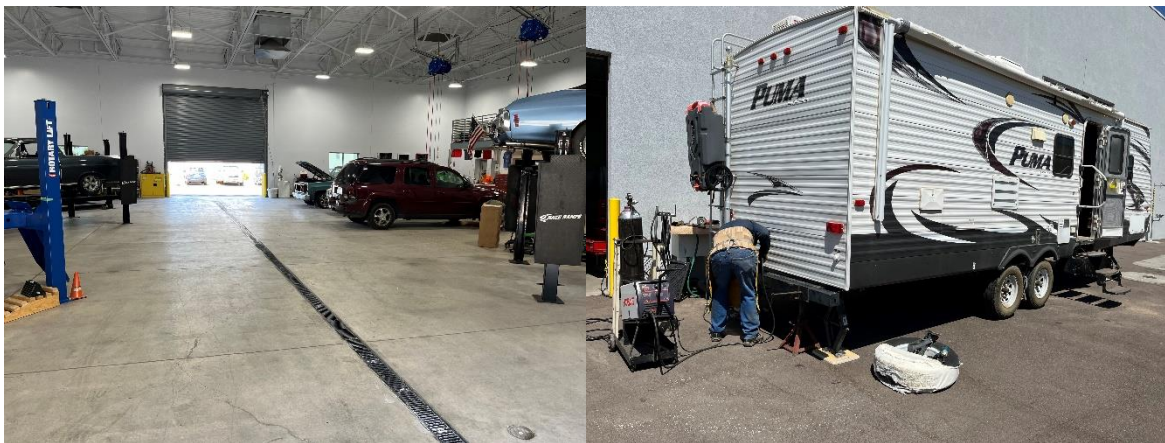
What's Going on at the Shop...





Stacy Benson is working on a 1973 Chev C-10 stepside. It has a 2004 Chev LS Engine paired with a Chev 4L80E automatic transmission.

Other Projects...





Future Events:

May 2023

May Ladies Lunch

When: **May 1st**, Monday, 12:00 pm

Where: Valle Luna

3336 W. Bell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85043

[Valle Luna 3336 W Bell Rd Phoenix, AZ 85043](#)

Please RSVP to Susan Mitchell, mitchellsm1@yahoo.com

The menu is online at <https://valleluna.com/menu/>

May 3rd Wednesday and May 4th Thursday

Grand Center Completely Closed for Pavement Maintenance, Resealing, and Re-striping. Clubs will be closed, no vehicles allowed on property.

Board Meetings

No Board Meeting in May, meetings resume in October.

General Membership Meeting

No General Membership Meeting in May, meetings resume in October.

Potluck at the VVSC Shop

When: **May 30th**, Tuesday 5:00 pm (Last Tuesday of the month.)

Where: VVSC Grand Rec Center – Sonoran Room

Ventana Lakes Car Show (Not a VVSC Club Sponsored Event)

When: **May 27th**, Saturday, 9am-1pm

Where: 20015 N 108th Avenue, Sun City

DJ, Food, Vendors – Free Registration, for registration form contact activities@vlpoa.org; or Olivia Valencia at 623-566-6001

On Going Meetings and Events

Potluck and Social Night – last Tuesday of the month, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Bring chairs, dish utensils, and maybe a table.

Ladies Luncheon – First Monday every month, 12:00 pm at a location TBD each month and published in the newsletter and/or website. Watch for change in dates as well.

Breakfast Social Time – every Tuesday at 7:00 am at Mercer's Restaurant, 9720 W. Peoria Avenue. Any changes in time/location will be noted here.

Arby's Cruise In – every Wednesday, 5:00 to 9:00 pm, 99th and Bell; they are happy to have us come in, one restriction – no parking/sitting in the handicapped parking spaces. Wear your badge to get a Free Treat!

Breakfast Social Time – every Thursday at 7:00 am at George's Café in Bell Recreation Center

Cruise to Culver's – every Sunday at 11:30 am at Culver's Restaurant, 8330 W. Deer Valley Rd., Peoria, AZ 85382

Announcements/Reminders/Misc.

Tears, Cheers and Pitstops

This page is dedicated to provide information about our members that is of interest to other members. Cheers represents the good information that we need to share, such as birthdays, weddings, new grandchildren, etc. Pit Stops represents information about members having difficult times, such as illness, hospitalization, or other difficulties. Tears represents news about members and relatives who have passed away.

If you want something posted in the Newsletter or Website, please contact one of the following Club Services Committee members:

Yvonne Ahrens at 217-899-7842 or email y.ahrens@gmail.com ; Marilyn Miller 509-279-4952 or email bob-marilyn@q.com; Nancy Oyler [480-558-6717](tel:480-558-6717) or email nancynascar@outlook.com with information.

Newsletter Info

If there is something you would like to see in the monthly newsletter, or have a story to tell...please contact us at duchene2@msn.com; or call/text us at [612-418-2103](tel:612-418-2103) Bob, [612-247-4527](tel:612-247-4527) Kathleen.

Monitor Training – “Refresh”

If you are interested in updates to working as a Monitor, another option to Monitoring as a Shadow is to sign up for Monitoring for a “Refresh”. List “Refresh” on the Monitor Sign-up Sheet at the Shop. If you have questions, contact Dan Chopp or Jim Wersching,

Name Badges

- If you have a badge now that has the year punched, you will be receiving a new permanent badge when you renew.
- Lifetime Members – If your emergency contact or phone number has changed, fill out a form with the change, and we will issue a new badge.
- Indicate if you have an email change on your Renewal Form.
- Ask for your new name badge at the monitor’s desk.

Food Drive

Canned food can be dropped off anytime during the year, in the Food Drive Box (near the front door) at the Shop.

License Plates Needed

If you have plates you would want to donate, bring to the shop, and drop in a collection “bin”. Any state, car, golf cart, motorcycle, trailer, RV...any plate! There are “creative ideas brewing” by a group at the club!!

We have the following States already: Colorado, Texas, Wisconsin, Washington, Virginia, Illinois, Minnesota, Arizona, Nebraska, and California.

We need the other 40 States not listed above!

Fun Stuff/Misc.



Car Crash.mp4

Have you ever wondered what the impact of a car crash is at various speeds? Watch 7 BMW's get totaled.

Check out this compilation of “Do-it-your-selfers”

<https://youtu.be/0R3IQwjI50A>

Announcing!!!

**Mark your calendar,
tell your friends!**

3 in 1 FUNDRAISER

Proceeds to Vintage Vehicles of Sun City

Flea Market - Bake Sale - Craft Sale

November 4th, 2023 9am-3pm

**Greenway & 99th Shopping Center
15400 99th Avenue, Sun City, AZ**

Gently Used Items – Tools, Household Goods, Etc.

- Must be clean and in working order
- No clothing or jewelry

Crafts of All Kinds!

We Need Your Help! Let's Make This a Success!

- Donations – Flea Market
- Garages/Space for storage of items
- Need a Co-Chair for Bake Sale – someone with ANSI Food Handlers Certificate of Completion, AZ Dept. of Health Services, Office of Environmental Health Cottage Food Program
- Someone to take on Advertising/Promotion
- Someone to coordinate set-up & take down the day of event

Chaired by Anne Bovo, 925-550-8687 or, abchicdesign@yahoo.com

2024 Spring Fling

Alan Lund will be heading up the 2024 Car Show. We have many of the people in place for 2024. We have had good participation in the past and the show has been very successful. This past year there were lots of cars, great crowds, and the vendors were very happy.

We would like to formalize the operation of the Spring Fling as we go forward much like the volunteers we have in the Shop Operations – we have 10 people that are overseeing Shop Operations. Below is the list of Car Show Volunteers. If you see a space where the positions are listed, that is an area where we need help. Please consider signing up for a position.

Your participation is the key to a successful club!

In addition, we are looking at possibly finding additional volunteers to assist Board Members in their duties.

If you have an interest in helping, please contact Alan Lund by email. alund@corebms.com

Email addresses are online on the member list and on the website under contact us.

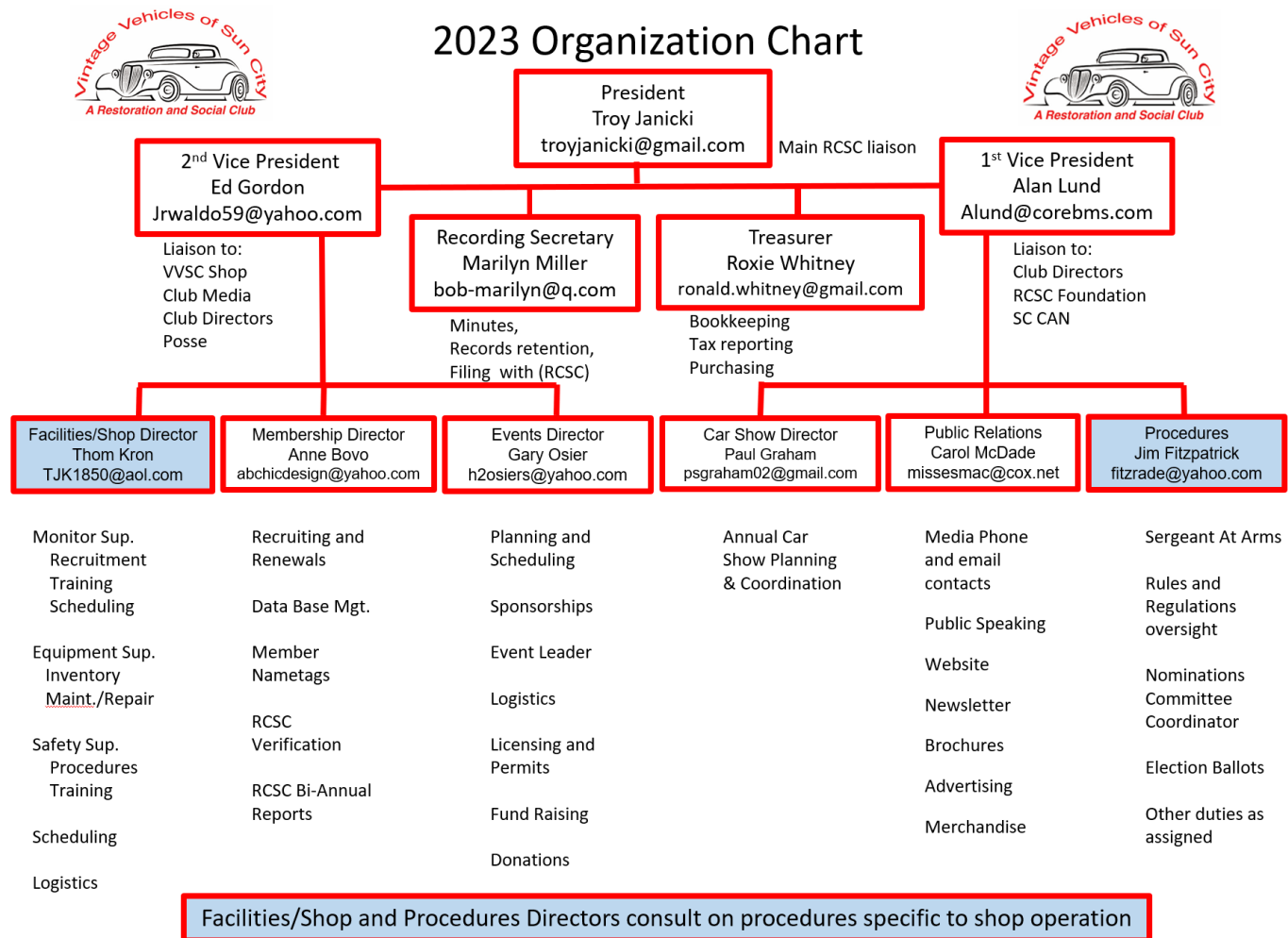
Orientation – New Member Packet

Connie Sherman and Anne Bovo are working on another avenue to help make the operations and activities clear to new members and existing members. Watch for it, it will be coming out soon!

Spring Fling - March 2, 2024

Categories	Lead and Assistants	Phone	email
Marketing			
Sponsors & Vendors	Alan Lund	248-496-9844	alund@corebms.com
	Yvonne Ahrens	217-899-7842	y.ahrens@gmail.com
	Deb Benson	720-338-5407	d.newton8787@icloud.com
DJ - Music	Alan Lund	248-496-9844	alund@corebms.com
	Connie Sherman	509-546-7131	golfwithlynn@yahoo.com
Parking	Stacy Benson	303-489-0252	dbenson1937@gmail.com
Golf Carts	Rick Montalto	630-940-8797	ricknontalto@hotmail.com
Signs			
Registration	Tom Wilbur	217-899-6250	
	Alan Lund	248-496-9844	alund@corebms.com
	Glen Mester	217-415-9326	
Trophies	Tom Wilbur	217-899-6250	
	Alan Lund	248-496-9844	alund@corebms.com
Brochures/Posters	Alan Lund	248-496-9844	alund@corebms.com
Food Trucks	Gary Osier	970-625-3698	h2osiers@yahoo.com

Shirt Sales			
Raffle/Donations			
50/50			
Golf Cart Ticket Sales			
Goodie Bags	Deb Benson	720-338-5407	dbenson1937@gmail.com
Porta Potties	Paul Graham	530-306-6920	psgraham02@gmail.com
Posse Attendance	Stacy Benson	303-489-0252	dbenson1937@gmail.com
Coffee/Donuts	Anne Bovo	925-550-8687	abchicdesigns@yahoo.com
	Connie Sherman	509-546-7131	golfwithlynn@yahoo.com
Ice & Water			
Food Bank Donations			
Photographer			



VVSC Officers (thru end of 2023)

Title	Name	Phone	E-Mail
President	Troy Janicki	480-277-6910	troyjanicki@gmail.com
First Vice President	Alan Lund	248-496-9844	alund@corebms.com
Second Vice President	Ed Gordon	720-447-4045	jrwaldo59@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Roxie Whitney	952-472-4021	ronald.whitney@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Marilyn Miller	509-279-4952	bob-marilyn@q.com
Shop Director	Thomas Kron	719-337-8241	TJK1850@aol.COM
Membership Director	Anne Bovo	925-550-8687	abcchicdesign@yahoo.com
Events Director	Gary Osier	970-625-3698	h2osiers@yahoo.com
Car Show Director	Paul Graham	530-306-6920	psgraham02@gmail.com
Public Relations Director	Carol McDade	623-221-3102	missesmac@cox.net
Procedures Director	Jim Fitzpatrick	623-261-8521	fitzrade@yahoo.com
Website Monitor	Rick Miron	623-518-2825	richard-miron@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Bob and Kathleen DuChene	612-418-2103 Bob 612-247-4527 Kathleen	duchene2@msn.com

Volunteer Shop Operations Crew to Keep You Safe

Facilities/Shop Director:

Thom Kron

719-337-8241

Kevin Cole, Shop Foreman:	603-443-1167
Len Manning, Shop Foreman:	623-341-8370
Glen Gormley, Shop Foreman:	602-540-8720
Terry Loniewski, Tool Rm. Super:	219-898-4121
Ganen LaJoie, Safety Super:	317-752-1597
Dan Chopp, Monitor Super/Trainer:	216-870-4478
Jim Wersching, Monitor Trainer:	630-550-8786
Don Puetz, Technical Supervisor:	701-318-0879
Ed Gordon, Welding Instructor:	720-447-4045

Hope everyone enjoys the summer, be safe, and we will see you all in the Fall!!