



The Windshield View

February 2024

Featured Member Spotlight! – Ralph Robbin



Ralph grew up on Long Island, New York. In 1966 he moved to the San Francisco Bay Area, and married in 1969. Shortly thereafter, his daughter was born.

Ralph worked in automotive parts sales, mostly German autos – Volkswagen, Porsche, etc. After having great success in his field due to his excellent salesmanship skills, hard work, and business operation management abilities, Ralph became an Automotive Business Consultant.

Due to his business dealings with a large customer base of automotive shops, he found there were many auto repair shops, whose operations, he could help to become more successful and profitable.

In 1981, Ralph was able to purchase an inventory of used Mustang parts and in addition purchased the name “Mustang Ranch” from a gentleman for the grand sum of \$10.00. Ralph and a partner were in the Mustang renovation business!

Ralph built the Mustang business up - developing sales, adding lifts and inventory. Mustang Ranch was a full-service Mustang renovation shop. They excelled at mechanical, upholstery, trim detail, and coordinated bodywork and painting. Due to Ralph’s experience, they were known to always have the needed parts in stock. Ralph had a philosophy; he would suggest to renovate rather than perform a full restoration. You could get 85 percent of the restoration at 35 percent of normal cost. They were very busy! Ralph was an excellent operator and Mustang Ranch was well respected by customers and suppliers alike. Every customer received a free license plate frame that read “I have been well serviced at the Mustang Ranch.”

After ten years Ralph sold his interest in the Mustang Ranch.

Over the years, Ralph has owned quite a list of vehicles. A few that came to mind were a rare 1937 Cadillac coupe; 1954 Cadillac Fleetwood; 1954 Cadillac Eldorado; 1956 Continental Mark II; a 1954 Mercury Monterey Hardtop (he was drawn to the Mercury Monterey because “the interior still smelled original”); a rare 1963½ Mercury Comet Convertible with a 260 V-8, power steering, and a 4 speed - a powerful car that he purchased from a grandmother; a 1966 Shelby Hertz Model, white with gold stripes and a 289 HiPo engine, complete with a giant red bow – with which he surprised his

daughter for her 16th birthday. With her Shelby, she was the center of attention at her high school. Ralph commented that during the ten years he owned the Mustang Ranch, it was hard to pass up an inviting classic car when he had an 18,000 sq. ft. shop and five on staff mechanics at his disposal! At one point he owned 14 cars that required renting half of a barn for storage.



Ralph Robbin's beautiful light green 1956 Cadillac Sedan DeVille

An interesting point on the Continental is that the Continental Mark II was considered an ultra-luxury coupe that was sold by the Continental Division of Ford for the 1956 and 1957 model years. The first (and only) product line of Continental, the Mark II was developed as the worldwide flagship vehicle

of Ford Motor Company. The 1956, and 1957 Continental Mark II, during this time, were not identified as Lincoln Continentals, but simply as a Continental with Ford requiring its' dealers to erect a pylon sign with just the Continental name.

In 1999 Ralph and his wife moved to AZ. Unfortunately, Ralph's wife passed away in 2011. Ralph moved to Sun City in 2019 and joined the VVSC Car club around the same time.

Currently, Ralph owns a beautiful light green 1956 Sedan Deville Cadillac that is a recent addition, as well as, a pristine red and white 1955 Ford Crown Victoria, that he has had for 15 years.



Ralph Robbin's pristine 1955 Ford Crown Victoria

What You Need to Know

Attention Welders: There will be a charge in the shop for welding starting December 1st. If you have any questions, please contact Ed Gordon.

Long Term Shop Projects: Long term projects in the shop need to be finished. See Ed Gordon or Thom Kron for details.

Car Show Workers: When working at the Car Shows (Spring Fling), please wear your **orange shirts** and VVSC nametag.

Ongoing Food Drive – please bring non-perishables to the Shop, Car Shows, Potlucks, Meetings.

2024 Board Members – see the Org Chart at the end of this Newsletter for a list of names, some positions have changed.

Spring Fling Car Show – March 2nd, 2024 – We still need your help!!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!! SIGN UP TODAY ON THE SIGN-UP BOARD AT THE SHOP!!!! – Here is where you can help!

| | Helpers Needed | Signed up | Needed |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------|--------|
| T Shirt Sales | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Parking | Many | 2 | Many |
| Raffle Table, 50/50 | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| Golf Cart Raffle | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Coffee & Donuts | 6 | 0 | 6 |

Please contact **Alan Lund** – email alund@corebms.com or call 248-496-9844 if you have questions, or can help with other needs.

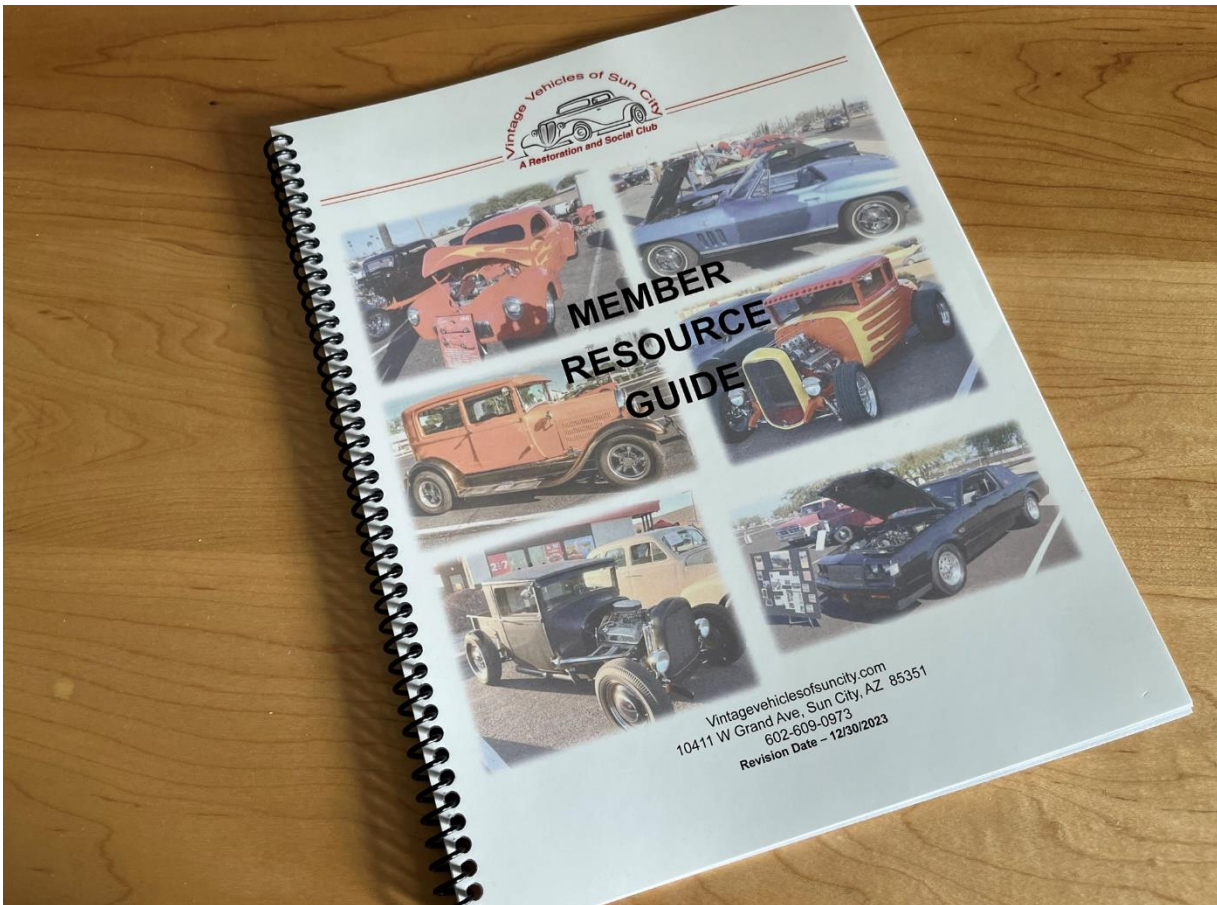
Questions about helping with parking – Stacy Benson – 303-489-0252

More on the website or in the shop about What You Need to Know

Monthly Fun Run

Richard Holcomb is planning a monthly car run to go somewhere fun for lunch. Meet at the Shop at 9:30 (confirm the time), watch for details monthly at the Shop. Sign up at the Shop. First run is Valentines Day 2/14/24, the destination is Road House, Cave Creek.

For more information contact Richard Holcomb – 623-815-9274 or Denise Fitzgerald – 559-232-7703



MEMBER RESOURCE GUIDE

A new information manual has been created and is in the process of being refined as a reference primarily for new members, as well as, existing members. On Monday 01/08/24 we had a test of our first new member orientation. Since the club is growing quickly, we are looking for a comprehensive way to reach and involve all our members in the many activities that the club has to offer. If you would like to be involved in some way, contact Bob DuChene, Debbie Benson, or Alan Lund.



Arby's Car Show Jan 24, 2024



Brett Baugh of Mecum Auctions stopped by and talked with everyone at great length. He left us some free tickets!

VINTAGE VEHICLES OF SUN CITY PRESENTS THE 7TH ANNUAL

SPRING FLING CAR SHOW



SATURDAY MARCH 2, 2024 | 9AM TO 2PM
SUN BOWL AMPHITHEATRE | SUN CITY, AZ



WWW.VINTAGEVEHICLESOFSUNCITY.COM

NASCAR Cup Series Race March 10, 2024 Phoenix Raceway Car Show

- ✓ **NASCAR** will be bringing a “Phoenix Raceway Show Car” to display at the Spring Fling!
- ✓ NASCAR will have a highly visible designated space for VVSC Cars at the March 10, 2024 Phoenix Cup Series Race.

Spring Fling Car Show March 2nd, 2024 Raffle Prize - 2023 Icon Electric Golf Cart We need your help with Raffle Ticket Sales Events!

Help as an Assistant, or Driver to pull trailer (need 2” ball on truck/SUV) that hauls
Golf Cart

Contact Connie Sherman for more details, and/or if you can help assist or drive the trailer. golfwithlynn@yahoo.com, or 509-546-7131

Help Us Sell Raffle Tickets – Plenty of Tickets Remain to be Sold!!



Friday January 5th Car Show at Bell Center



Ed Gordon, Stacy and Debbie Benson and Scott Donkers.



Membership meeting January 16

Get Involved!
Participate in your Club!
Meet new people!



Thanks to all those manning the booth at the Discover Sun City, New Resident Orientation Jan 17th at Sundial Auditorium, we sold 45 Golf Cart Raffle tickets, about \$900 worth!!!!

What's Going on at the Shop

There has been a lot of activity at the shop. We have many new members, and the shop is seeing a lot of usage.





Replacing the frost plug!



Richard Holcomb installing a new battery in his 1958 Survivor Triumph Trophy Motorcycle.



Membership Director Anne Bovo in her new office on the mezzanine.



Debbie Benson is preparing the goodie bags for the participants of the 2024 Spring Fling Car Show. 350 of each - Bags, rulers, pens, lanyards, can cozies, and coffee cup sleeves – all provided to VVSC courtesy of Jim and Cheryl Conrad. Thank you so much!



Stacy Benson and Connie Sherman hard at work getting the signs and other items ready for the 2024 Spring Fling Car Show.



Brake Lathe Class was conducted by Don Puetz, Technical Supervisor, January 17th, 13 members attended.

Shop Training

February 21st, 1-3pm – Hydraulic Press, Tire Mounting and Balancing Machine – Conducted by Don Puetz, Technical Supervisor. No need to pre-register, just show up at the Shop.

Don Puetz, Technical Supervisor - Training Series

Training (on different subjects) takes place the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 1-3 pm, January, February, March.

Upholstery Sewing Area

Upholstery Sewing Class – We now have two instructors generously volunteering to conduct training classes - Bob Cummings, and Ron Atkinson! Thank you, gentlemen!

- Classes Wednesday and Monday – 9:30 am to 12 Noon
- Two consecutive classes are required to pass
- Sign up at the Shop
- Students must be current on Monitor Status to attend

Bob Cummings and Ron Atkinson are the volunteers that are providing the training for Upholstery Sewing at the shop. Bob has a unique background as he worked with interiors and upholstery in automobile manufacturing. Ron always had an interest to do his own vehicle upholstery so consequently he has been taking upholstery classes at the local community college.

In addition to providing upholstery training classes, Bob and Ron are happy to answer questions and offer advice if you are working on an upholstery project. RCSC rules do not allow VVSC shop members to take on work for compensation, however.



You're Invited!

BIRTHDAY BASH we're throwing for a 100 year old Model T

When and Where:

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – Friday Feb 2 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Vintage Vehicles of Sun City OPEN HOUSE at the Grand Rec Center

Come check out our Club and Facilities

Saturday Feb. 3 1 PM – 4:00 PM

MEMBERS - Grand Rec Center VVSC Car Show

(also open to the public)

Come check out the Car and meet the Car's owner and restorer

**Vintage Vehicles of Sun City Annual Anniversary
Dinner Saturday Jan 27, 2024**



Host Anne Bovo with the nights Emcee Pat Spindle.



A wonderful plated meal was catered by Classic Catering.



Anne Bovo and her crew of helpers did a great job putting on the event. This involved, fundraising, planning, coordinating, hosting, set up and take down - 139 people attended. Once again, Anne, and all involved, you did a terrific job! Thank you all! A special thanks to Pat Spindle for being the Emcee!



VVSC Lifetime members were recognized for their contributions to the club along with Roxie Whitney and Bill Senter for their many years of service. (Bill, unfortunately, was not able to attend.)



A Good Time Was Had by All!!

Future Events

February/March 2024

Car Shows, Etc.

February 2nd – Friday, Vintage Vehicles of Sun City Grand Rec Center Open House 4 - 6 pm Open to the Public (The shop has asked our members not to come during this time due to the limited parking and large crowds)

February 3rd - Saturday, Car Show and Cruise In, 1 pm. – 4 pm. at the Grande Recreation Center North and South parking lots (Birthday Bash for our 100-year-old 1924 Model T. Come check out the Car and meet the Car's owner and restorer)

February 10th – Saturday, Sun City West Car Show, 12th Annual, 8 am. – 3 pm. 19803 RH Johnson Blvd., See ARC at arcofscw.com, Pre - Registration Recommended *

March 2nd – Saturday, Vintage Vehicles of Sun City Spring Fling Car Show, 7th Annual, Sun City Sun Bowl parking lot 9 am. – 2 pm.

*Not a VVSC sponsored event

For more detailed information on Car Shows - flyers, car show registrations, waivers, etc., check in the shop or go to the VVSC website: www.vintagevehiclesofsuncity.com

Club Meetings & Events

February

February Ladies Lunch

When: February 5th, Monday, 12:00 pm

Where: Babbo Italian Eatery, 16433 West Bell Rd., Surprise, AZ 85374

Please **RSVP** to Susan Mitchell, mitchellsm1@yahoo.com to be added to the count.

Spring Fling/Events Meeting – 2nd Tuesday of each month

When: February 13th, Tuesday, 10 am – 12 pm

Where: Grand Rec Center, Sonoran Room

We need your help, ideas, and input for our club events! Everyone is welcome to attend!

Board Meeting – 2nd Tuesday of each month

When: February 13th, 1 – 3 pm

Where: Grand Rec Center, Sonoran Room

General Membership Meeting

When: February 20th, 1-3 pm

Where: Lakeview Rec Center, Social Halls 1 and 2

Potluck at the VVSC Shop

When: March 27th, Tuesday 5:00 pm (Last Tuesday of the month.)

Where: VVSC Grand Rec Center in the shop

March

Events Meeting – 2nd Tuesday of each month

When: March 12th, Tuesday, 10 am – 12 pm

Where: Grand Rec Center, Sonoran Room

We need your help, ideas, and input for our club events! Everyone is welcome to attend!

Board Meeting – 2nd Tuesday of each month

When: March 12th, 1 – 3 pm

Where: Grand Rec Center, Sonoran Room

General Membership Meeting

When: March 19th, Tuesday, 1-3 pm

Where: Lakeview Rec Center, Social Halls 1 and 2

Potluck at the VVSC Shop

When: March 26th, Tuesday 5:00 pm (Last Tuesday of the month.)

Where: VVSC Grand Rec Center in the shop

On Going Meetings and Events

Potluck and Social Night – last Tuesday of the month, 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Bring a dish to share, dish utensils, and maybe a chair.

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 Willow Creek Golf Course – snack shop. Located at 10600 W. Boswell Blvd. Any changes in time/location will be noted on website.

Arby's Cruise In – every Wednesday, 4:30 to 7:00 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!

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/Membership Forms

- 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, they are in the Badge Box at the Shop for pick up. We do not mail out Badges.

- Renewals for 2024 – you can renew Membership until January 31st, 2024; at which time those that have not renewed will be deleted from the Club Roster.
- Please, please, please write legibly when filling out Membership Forms. If we mis-interpret your writing, your info may not be accurate.

Food Drive

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

Org Chart/Position Responsibilities



VVSC Officers for 2024

| 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 | Susan Mitchell | 303-406-3079 | mittchellsm1@yahoo.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 Supervisor | Alan Lund | 248-496-9844 | alund@corebms.com |
| Public Relations Supervisor | Jesse Falls | 239-470-2294 | vintagevehicles.publicity@gmail.com |
| 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 |
| Mike Fitzgerald, Shop Foreman: | 559-232-3713 |
| 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 |