

THE VOICE OF THE SEDONA CAR CLUB—PUTTING DEAD TREES TO GOOD USE

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**H**ere it is, the end of the year and the end of my term as president, and I can't think of anything profound to say, other than I hope each and every one of you enjoyed your Thanksgiving dinner and that you have a grand and glorious holiday.



I want to thank all of this year's board members for doing a magnificent job in keeping the club on an even keel and instigating several changes, hopefully for the better. My particular thanks go to two long-standing, outgoing board members: GREG ZUCCO for doing a wonderful job of creating and publishing our monthly publication, Tire Tracks, and to ED PITTMAN for organizing some very interesting tours. You two guys will be missed at next year's board meetings.

I hope to see you soon at the Christmas party. And don't forget to bring a toy for the kiddies.



Al Moss,  
*President*

## SCC Fall Elections Bring Peaceful Transition of Power

**I**n what most believed would be a highly contested election, it was anything but. Mirroring the recent National elections, a couple new members were swept into office on the promise of change. (Ralph Blankenship, John Gain) Other powerful incumbents held on to their seats. (Sam Pietrofitta, Martin Glinsky, Bob Van Steenburgh) However, several changes remind us of that infamous line from the old Woody Allen movie "Bananas". In one scene the leader of the guerilla forces assembles his war torn stinky troops in the jungle for an important announcement. Having gone for months without bathing, the troops are informed by their leader that they get a change of underwear this particular day. With that announcement, the leader then says Miguel can change with Sergio, Ricardo can change with Pepe and so on. Well, in the SCC election, Lombardi changed from Secretary to President, Wadsack changed from Historian to Secretary, and Moss changed from President to Tours. So there you have it, a board that has changed, but retained enough of the old to navigate the jungle of Car Club Life. —Editor

**Volume 28**



**Number 11**

# CLUB CLIPS



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## Club Calendar

December 11 - Hwy 89 Trash Pickup

14 - Christmas Dinner

**Congratulations !  
On Your Anniversary!**

No Anniversaries This Month



## PROGRAMS

**Christmas Dinner Including Entertainment by the David Lombardi Singers**

*Tire Tracks*

Tire Tracks is published 11 times a year by the Sedona Car Club and contains information on events and activities of interest to members. It is compiled and edited by Greg Zucco. Distribution by Gene Mai. All submissions are due by the 22nd of each month. Send to:  
50 Ranch Rd.  
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# HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Well informed readers will know by now that the New Year marks a transition for Tire Tracks™. Ralph Blankenship has agreed to acquire all the assets, copyrights, and proprietary interests of Tire Tracks™, leaving the staff and former Editor/Publisher to fend for themselves.**

**The Editor/Publisher, released a statement (to Tire Tracks™) that it has been a great run for six years and he is looking forward to joining the ghosts of former Board Members past. Further, it has been fun and a pleasure to have made a contribution. Thanks for the memories. —*Editor***

## New & Renewing Members Help End Year On Positive Note

Let's welcome these new members to their club:

- ⇒ David & Pat Shryock
- ⇒ Chris & Janice Gruneberg
- ⇒ Bruno & Caroline Gilberti
- ⇒ Jon & Lynn Orr
- ⇒ Don Schaefer
- ⇒ Suzanne Owens
- ⇒ Rick Lamont
- ⇒ Bob Zimmerman & Shari Walter
- ⇒ Ellie Haga\*
- ⇒ Bill & Joyce Fobair\*

\* Returning members

# Modern Era Car Club Caballeros Visit Desert Caballeros Museum



The Museum spares no expense in crafting very lifelike exhibits as seen here with this early American pioneer Davey Crockett wannabe.

Concerned Club Caballeros(as) focus on Sharon Blakenship's fine looking leather hat and wonder if they hadn't just seen it in one of the museum displays. Ralph defends his wife and swears she won it at the same poker game he won his at.

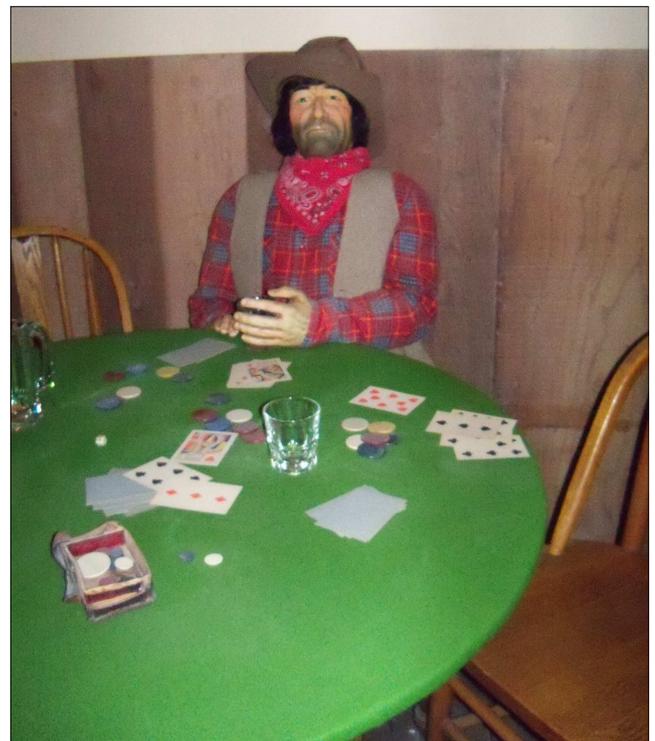




Standing in front of this gun display for about 30 minutes reminds us that the Curries seem to have a strange fascination with firearms.



Vince Monaci and Larry Currie examine a display from the mid eighteenth hundreds and comment to each other that from their experience back then they certainly don't remember things quite as portrayed here.



An unidentified club member, (although some believe it to be John Gain) injected himself into a display for a few hands of poker.

**"Importance of Walking"**

***Walking 20 minutes can add to your life.  
This enables you at 85 years old  
to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing  
home at \$7000 per month***

# Cars That Drive Themselves?

By Eric Peters

People seem to like this idea. It makes my flesh crawl. Well, maybe not that extreme. But the idea *does* depress me.

A big part of what makes driving enjoyable is the freedom and control it gives you, the individual. It is your car and you are in charge of directing its course, of deciding how to get there. You can choose your route and proceed at whatever speed seems reasonable to you. If you like, you can stop for a cup of coffee. Or to admire a scenic view. You control your destiny. You are a *driver*.

If cars drive themselves, then you become a *passenger*. A passive pound of flesh transported by the intelligence of and under the direction of someone (or *something*) else. You get there when someone else decides you get there. You travel at the speed someone else (or a machine) determines to be the "right" or "safe" speed. There will be no stopping along the way; no taking the scenic route just because.

The only difference between an automated car and taking the bus is that you don't have some stranger sitting beside you coughing his flu all over your face. But the essential thing is identical. You have surrendered your autonomy; for the duration of the trip, your fate is out of your control. You are now a member of the Mass. One of Many, another sardine to be filleted and packaged and sent on its way.

How is this appealing?

Oh, I know. It is *more efficient*. Automated cars can be slotted in tightly, perhaps just inches away from one another -- and moved in synchronicity at high speeds, getting us there sooner and faster. More people can be moved more rapidly from A to B. There will be fewer accidents. More predictability. And much less joy. Psychologists (and common sense) tell us that an important part of being human -- or at least, an essential part of the human experience -- is the exercise of personal mastery over external circumstances. To be able to do what *you* wish, according to your own lights. To enjoy the satisfaction that comes with learning a skill and exercising that skill. Of being *competent*.

If you like to drive, you will understand what I mean. There's the early thrill of being permitted to climb behind the wheel of a car for the very first time; of learning to shift and work a clutch. For

many, this is a big step on the road from teenagerdom to adulthood. It is one of the first "grown-up" things many of us get to do during our adolescence. Once the basics are down pat, we begin to acquire skills. We get better and better at timing our merges; of learning to judge in our heads just how much room we've got to pull into traffic -- and how much speed we'll need to do it properly.

A smartly executed fast pass or perfectly timed corner exit is a form of art in motion. Knowing you are a good driver -- *that you can handle it* -- is immensely satisfying.

Automated cars would take that all away. In effect, we'd be reduced to the state we were in as young children -- when our parents buckled us in and took us for a drive when and how they wished. Our role

was to sit quietly and await our arrival -- more or less shut down in the meanwhile.

*That's* the Brave New World in store for us -- perhaps just a few short years down the road. The gadgeteers are hard at work. Google -- a new Dark Empire if ever there was such -- has been field-testing driverless cars for months, apparently. Probably many people will welcome it. They're already half-dead anyhow -- sleepwalking through life with reel-loop videos of last night's game (another passive, life-through-others "activity") and a vague hunger for another fast-food meal rolling through their minds as they slog back home to the underwater McMansion from another day being told what to do and how to do it by impersonal others in their cubicles. For them, driverless cars are the logical end point. Why not? But not for me.

If the day ever comes when I am no longer permitted to operate *my* car *myself*, that will be the day I give up on driving -- as such will have ceased to be possible anyhow. Maybe, in tribute to Edmund Ruffin, I will wrap myself in my shop manual and beat myself unconscious with a torque wrench. The New World isn't something I want to be conscious for anyhow.

**Eric Peters** is an automotive columnist and author of *Automotive Atrocities: The Cars You Love to Hate* (Motor Books International). His latest book, *Road Hogs*, is due out in 2010.

*Courtesy - The American Spectator : Cars That Drive Themselves?*



Al Moss is pictured here trying out a four wheel drive off road walker. He has wanted one for years, but could never afford one until he just completed this last year term as President of the Car Club....Hmm!!

**WISDOM FROM TRAINING MANUALS**

Only a tiny percentile of the population can fully comprehend the deadly earnest meaning of these!

'If the enemy is in range, so are you.'

- Infantry Journal-

'It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.'

- US Air Force Manual -

'Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword, obviously never encountered automatic weapons.'

- General MacArthur -

'Tracers work both ways.'

- Army Ordnance Manual-

'Five second fuses last about three seconds.'

- Infantry Journal -

'Any ship can be a minesweeper. Once.'

- Naval Ops Manual -

'Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.'

- Unknown Infantry Recruit-

'If you see a bomb technician running, try to keep up to him.'

- Infantry Journal-

'Yea, Though I Fly Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I Shall Fear No Evil. For I am at 50,000 Feet and Climbing.'

- Sign over SR71 Wing Ops-

'You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3.'

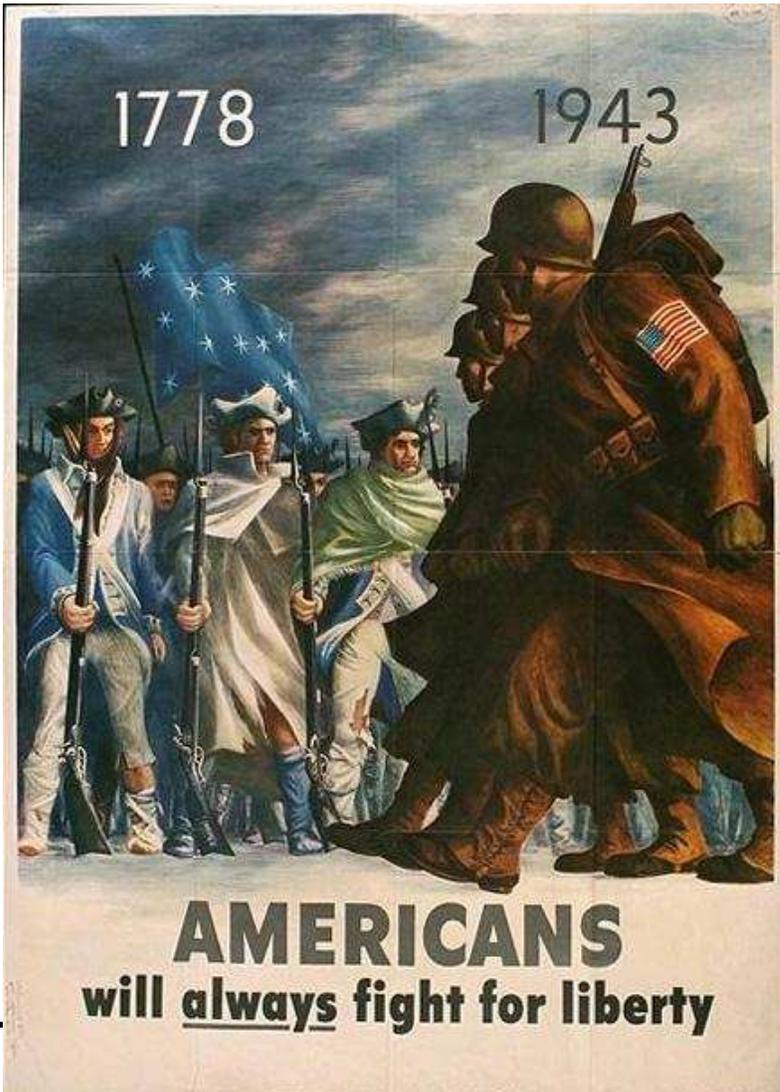
- Paul F. Crick more (SR71 test pilot)-

'The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire.'

-Unknown Author-

'If the wings are traveling faster than the fuselage it has to be a helicopter -- and therefore, unsafe.'

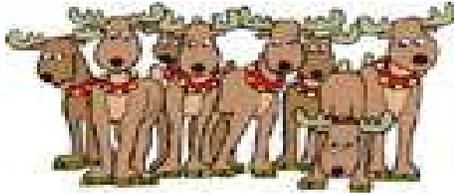
- Fixed Wing Pilot-



World War II Poster

**2010 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

PRESIDENT	Al Moss	282-6974
1st VP/Programs	Martin Glinsky	284-3335
2nd VP	Bob Van Steenburgh	203-258-1905
TREAS./MEM.	Sam Pietrofitta	282-3801
SECRETARY	David Lombardi	203-9007
TOURS	Ed Pittman	204-1326
NEWSLETTER	Greg Zucco	204-5854
HISTORIAN	Sharrie Wadsack	284-2665



Hear Ye!  
Hear Ye!

The next meeting of the Sedona Car Club will be the Christmas Dinner on December 14th, at 6 PM at Radisson Poco Diablo Restaurant.



## ***Tire Tracks***

***Sedona Region AACA  
P.O. box 748  
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