

# Tire Tracks



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## Looking Back, and Looking Ahead: Who Are We?

The featured illustration, this month, was created by Les Peck, quite a few years ago. It portrays Al Moss seated astride the classic tri-wheel racer as he drove in one of his classic racing events. Les served as Club President in 1993 and 1994, and Sally Peck held the same office in 2009. This is a classic Les Peck drawing, in my opinion, and is reminiscent of the character and style that he and Sally shared with us for so many years following their move to Sedona, in 1991.

When they came into the Club, Sally recalls, there were lots of members and lots of good times. Looking through some of Les' illustrations for Tire Tracks, which he and Sally edited for many years, one can see a lot of enthusiasm and good humor. Take a few minutes to look at some more of his drawings on p. 2, and you too will feel that spirit that drew so many new members and held old members close for many years.

This year, the Executive Board and the membership have decided to launch upon a course of changes in response to recent trends affecting car clubs everywhere. Membership levels are dropping and members' ages are rising. Newer generations join fewer clubs, and the romance of older and exotic cars is less appealing to them than the smell of new, fast, luxury cars.

For those who are still active car clubbers, driving tours and other rolling events have less appeal. We are, let's be frank, both older and less active. Does all of this spell the end for car clubs? That is almost certainly the case for some clubs.

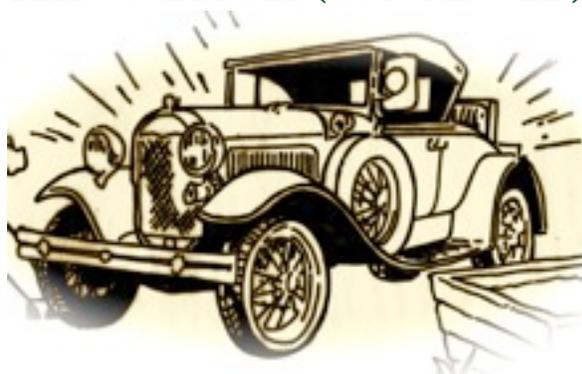
We are not like every other community, so we will always be challenged to many communities, we will continue and others will come here for our life will they join with us, and bring with we will require?



Is it to be our future? Or not? Our demographics tilt toward the older side, replace ourselves more rapidly. But, unlike to attract emigrants, both new retirees style and our bountiful amenities. But them the energy and other resources



### LOOKING BACK (CONTINUED)



(continued from p 1)

That will happen if we allow ourselves to look forward, and to build our club in accord with the realities that prevail.

First, we already have the makings of a good, albeit smaller, Club. We exist, we are fiscally sound, and we can build a program of activities that we like. If we never regain the membership levels of the past, so what? We can still have a good time, and our smaller size is conducive to a more intimate, family-like experience. That is worth preserving, and we can find new ways to make it even better ( if we don't focus on what we do not have).

Second, the Club has operated largely through informal arrangements, which is typical of smaller organizations, and it is appropriate. But, sometimes the tasks and responsibilities become proprietary, and that is not so good. Many members will feel excluded. When an "owner" is no longer there to handle a matter, nobody else may know what to do or how . A volunteer risks disapproval for doing something differently. And, over time, all "owners" will develop feelings of resentment owing to the apparent lack of support. However, this problem is also an asset, because natural attrition always provides openings for new ownership. It will be important for us to encourage volunteers, to be responsive to innovations, and to quit worrying about whether somebody will does a thing "right" or "wrong". Reality teaches that anything can be done in many different ways, and most things do not even need to be done, at all. We must bring others into the operations the way we were all once brought into family roles ... naturally, gently and with encouragement, acceptance and trust. Even if that wasn't your experience, let it be different for our fellow Club members, and good things will follow.

RLB

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**David Lombardi**

Well, spring is here! As I am writing this, it has been warm for a few days and the weatherman says it is going to get even warmer (hotter). On the other hand, I am not quite ready for hot weather, but we are only supposed to be in a heat wave, so we should have a period of just great weather before summer really hits.

So why all of this fixation with good weather? Because it puts me (probably all of us) in the mood for travel, picnics and other outdoor activities. May will be here soon and then many of us will be heading for Colorado on the great trip Al Moss has planned for us.

In June we will have our club picnic. There is a great park right here in Sedona. In the past, we were told we could not use it for a picnic. It is *Chavez Crossing Group Campground*, right across from Poco Diablo Resort, along Oak Creek. Recently I went to the Forest Service Headquarters and spoke with, not one, but three people there. They all agreed that we could use the campground for a picnic, so reservations were made. I think it will be a great place for our picnic.

Besides the location change, there will be another change for our picnic. Instead of paying an outsider to cook our meal (who do we think we are, anyway), Bob Van Steenburgh and I (and anyone else who will help) will be cooking. We will make more announcements about the picnic in the future.

Our next event is a Tour to Rock Springs for their monthly barbecue. See you there!

David Lombardi



## EDITORIAL COMMENT



**Go there, often!**

**RLB**

UNDER THE SHADE TREE  
...AN HONEST PACK OF LIES

After admitting that he had been transformed into a bit of a cynic by his encounter with dire threats, personal loss and special privileges, Bud just slumped, dead eyes cast down and to the left, with a sad and distant set in his countenance. I assumed that the day was about over and started thinking up some way to leave. But pretty soon Bud jumped up and ran into his house, coming back with two cold ones. So I said, "Hey, how did you happen to have to change that motor out, anyway?" And in no time he was back in his old groove.

"Well!", he said, "It all started early that summer. I had just got that '41 Pontiac and my mama said she wanted me to drive her down to Anamosa so she could see my big brother, Fritz, who was enjoying an all-expense sabbatical, courtesy of the State of Iowa. I drove her down and the visit went okay, and the car was running great. Some time after that I was down to Clem Kadiddlehopper's place, way down in Riverview, and we was talking and all, and I told him how good the Pontiac drove and all that."

I had to interrupt him at Clem Kadiddlehopper?"

"Clem," he said, "Is an old up when a cable winch snapped machinery out at the tractor disability pension and he bought Riverview and junked cars and could. He had an old lady and a in a little shack he built out He made his own wine from wild share. So, I dropped by his place



"So when I told him about drivin' mama he said, 'Well, how'd ya like to drive me down to State Center to pick up a Missouri Rack I jist bought?' Well, I said, what's a Missouri Rack and where's State Center? He says, 'You know, a big old truck with a flatbed and wood side racks all around, and it's just down past Dee Moyns.' I couldn't hardly say no after braggin' so hard, and besides, I felt kinda good about his askin' me, just a kid, to do something like that so I said, sure."

"The next morning real early he shows up, but he wasn't alone. He had his old lady and two kids, one still in diapers, so we all piled in and took off. Now, I don't mean to be unkind, but Clem didn't get his name without some cause; he wasn't too impressive in the brains department. And his old lady was a little off-center and looked about half-cooked. I never, ever, heard her speak a word, and the kids was all spooky quiet, too. That baby never even cried, not once! But, in that hot car. when the sun got goin' real good, an all, they had a presence, believe me!

that point. "Who the hell is

guy who got his crotch all tore while he was moving some heavy factory, so he ended up with a a patch of woods down in hustled for a few bucks when he pack of kids, and they all lived of two refrigerator truck beds. grapes and was always ready to ever now and again, you know."

“We made good time for about an hour or so, and the car started runnin’ a little hot, but not too bad. The hotter the day got, the hotter the car ran until pretty soon it was boilin’ and steamin’, so we looked for a farmyard where we could get some water and let it cool some. They all piled out of the hot car and just stood there while I went knockin on doors and beggin for water. Their looks raised some eyebrows, but nobody chased us off, and we got the water we needed. Then we drove on until it boiled again and another farmyard, and so on and so forth, all day, shorter each time and the day kept getting’ hotter and hotter.”

“Forget about makin’ good time! State Center, ended up being more than a hundred and fifty miles, and we was lucky to even get there at all, but it was late afternoon when we finally did. By then that motor was knockin’ hard and there was no way that old “41 was gonna get me home on its own.”

“Clem took off to get the Missoura Rack and left me to watch his bunch. We had spotted an old abandoned railroad loadin’ dock. I had to clear out a big pile of old fence wire and trash that had been piled there to keep anybody from usin’ it. When Clem got back with the truck we backed it up to the dock and loaded the Pontiac onto the flatbed. It was dark then, so Clem, his old lady and the baby slept in the cab and his spooky boy and I crawled into the Pontiac for the night. I said to myself, ‘ This here’s a Misery Rack, for sure!”

“Next mornin’ we headed for home an’ made it around noon. We drove the car off on a levee down near Clem’s place, He paid me ten bucks for the ride, and I drove off to home, limpin’, but still under power, you might say. Everthin’ was alright! It was allll-OK! I was home, you know!”

“Well, I pulled the car in the garage. I shut it down, an’ I jus’sat there for about an hour, or more, jus’ thinkin’. I had my ten bucks from drivin; Clem, and I could hit up Big Bud for some work at the car lot, washing’ cars maybe, or even drivin’ to the auction maybe. And it’s smarter to drop another engine in than to tear this one down. Cheaper, faster ... takes less tools, too. Nate’s probably got what I need ... Yeah, that’s it! I had me a plan! So I went on up to the house.”

I hardly knew what to say. I needed to think. I could see now that Bud had been telling me more than just some little stories about his old car and the summer when he was fifteen years old. The things that happened that summer added up in some way. I mulled it around in my mind and I began to see something. About then Bud started humming some old tune, popular around the time of his stories. It was one of Hank Williams’ angrier tunes; I could just hear it, that reedy, whiney voice, and the words came back to me ...

“I done wore out  
a brand new trunk!  
Packin and unnn  
packin my junk!  
Ya gone too far!  
I done got peeeee-ved!

Things is gonna change.  
or I'ma gonna leave!"

I couldn't believe it. You see, I had just been reading some Greek history and I had discovered the word, "pyrrhic". That's what this was about! A long, pyrrhic summer! A long, slow, deliberate war dance! Building. Building and building ... to what? I knew that ,in his own time, Bud would let me know. I can wait.

All I could say was, "Lord God a' Mighty! That was sure some summer!"

RLB

## Songs About Cars

### Who Can Remember the Most Songs About Cars?

Even the most tone-deaf person I have known still liked to belt out one or two car songs. Remember "Little Deuce Coupe", or "Hot Rod Lincoln"? Your editor would like to propose a contest among our members to find out who among us recalls the most of these Americana Classics, or maybe the worst of them? A cash prize could be offered and presented at the June picnic. Any ideas or suggestions about rules and conditions will be welcomed. Please call Ralph, at 282-2890. The details, once determined, will be announced in the May issue of Tire Tracks.

### Classifieds: Car for Sale

A few years ago Sharon and I bought a 1998 Mazda Miata MX-5, a base model with very low miles and a somewhat rare automatic transmission. We have enjoyed driving it occasionally, but we decided that it was time to exchange it for a M-B CLK, which is much easier to enter and more suitable for road trips. The Miata has been nicely refreshed for sale to a discriminating buyer. It is ready to go. If interested, please call Ralph at 928 282-2890, or 866 245-1459, for details.

### Acknowledgements

Sally Peck must be thanked for agreeing to share so many of Les' drawings and caricatures. The spirit that is expressed through this art work is powerful, and it is part of the heritage of the Sedona Car Club. Let her know how much you enjoyed seeing these pieces again.

### Remember These Car Club Tours?



## CLUB NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TOURS AND EVENTS

Both March activities were fairly well attended. We had a nearly-full complement of members' cars in the St. Pat's parade and a fair turnout for the evening trek to Jerome and dinner at The Asylum followed by a return home under a full moon.

On Saturday, April 2nd, we will once again attend Hogs'n Heat at Rock Springs Cafe. This is a fun event with lots of neat cars on display (including ours) plus plenty of good bbq and beer. All you can eat...\$12 per person. Meet at Bell Rock Plaza to leave at 11:45 am.

On Saturday, April 30th, we have been invited to display our cars in Basha's parking lot, from 11 am to 2 pm. Please be prepared to sign up at the April meeting, or let me know by email if you plan on showing your car.

On Sunday, May 8th, we will celebrate Mother's Day with another Junipine Brunch. As this falls prior to the May meeting, please be prepared to sign up at the April meeting, or notify me by email, so I can make advance reservations. We will depart from the Uptown parking lot at 9:30 am.

May 16-19 are the dates for the Colorado Car Museum trip.

President Lombardi has reserved the Chevez Crossing campground for the annual Club Picnic. June 14th, our regular meeting date.

Al Moss

### PROGRAM

Martin Glinsky has arranged for us to hear from a financial professional, from Sedona, only to learn that he will join us in May, instead. So, Plan B. Marty will finalize negotiations with another speaker and send out an Email with the details. See you all at the April meeting, 4/12/2011.

### LITTER LIFTERS

Twelve volunteers offered their time and energy on March 12th, and our mile of 89A is in great shape, again. Bob Van Steenberg has been doing a great job of signing up volunteers. Our gratitude goes out to Bob and all of his volunteers. The next Lifting will be scheduled in June, so stand by, and stand up!

### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

"April. Come she will." Its the time for having babies and weddings. Happy birthday to:

Suzanne Owens, Jean Jorgensen, Judy Gain, Rica Soltero, Rose Pietrofitta and Becky Anderson.

Happy wedding anniversary to:

Robert and Teresa Van Steenberg, John and Susan Baumgart, and Gail and Clyde Bangiola.

### BOARD MEETING

The Board will meet at the Cousins' garage at 8:30 AM, Tuesday, April 5, 2011.

Club members are welcome to attend.

#### *OFFICERS AND BOARD*

*PRESIDENT*

*DAVID LOMBARDI*

*FIRST VICE PRESIDENT*

*MARTIN GLINSKY*

*SECOND VICE PRESIDENT*

*BOB VAN STEENBERG*

*TREASURER / MEMBERSHIP*

*SAM PIETROFITTA*

*SECRETARY*

*SHARRIE WADSACK*

*HISTORIAN*

*JOHN GAIN*

*TOURS & EVENTS*

*AL MOSS*

*NEWSLETTER EDITOR*

*RALPH BLANKENSHIP*

# Upcoming Events, Tours and Meetings

**April Tour: Saturday, 4/2/2011, Hogs n Heat, Barbecue n Beer, Rock Springs, Meet at Bell Rock Plaza to leave at 11:45 am.**

**April general meeting: Tuesday, 4/12/2011, 7 PM, Sedona Library.**

**April Event: Saturday, 4/30/2011, Car display at Basha's, details to come.**

May general meeting: Tuesday, 5/10/2011, 7 PM, Sedona Library.

May Event: Sunday, 5/8/2011, Mothers' Day Brunch, at Junipine. Details to come.

May Tour: Tuesday thru Thursday, 5/16, 17, 18 & 19/2011, Gateway and Grand Junction, CO., Details to come.

June Event: Tuesday, 6/14/2011, The Annual Picnic, at Chavez Crossing. Details to come.

Summer Hiatus, 6/14/2011 to Saturday, 8/20,2011.

Fall information will follow in later issues.

## TIRE TRACKS

Sedona Car Club

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