

# Tire Tracks

## Sedona Car Club

Photo: Jim Thomas

October 2023

Vol. 42

No. 10

## President's Letter

Hello Everybody,

Happy Fall! Yes, I think it is here, but it is supposed to get warm again in a few days. The weatherman I watch in the evenings won't commit to saying if the next few weeks are going to be hot or cool. I'm ready for cool. Since we have a motorhome, people we don't see too often inquire about any RV trips we might have taken during the summer. I'm sorry/ashamed to say we didn't do much traveling during the summer. Maybe after the car show we'll take a trip.

Car show! Yes, the car show is less than two weeks away. I'm proud to say that quite a few members have spent a lot of time and effort to put it on, and many of our members will be helping to assure its success on the day of the show. A strong *thank you* to all of you. I'm sure it is going to be a great show. See you there.

A couple of the items discussed at our board meetings recently require input from members.

Would you like to have our meetings during the day, or perhaps just start earlier in the evening, say at 5:00pm?

Are you interested in our club doing an overnight trip? In the past we did at least one overnighter each year. We had some good times. Craig is planning one now. I hope you'll be interested.

Do you have a suggestion for speakers at our meetings?

These are just a few thoughts. Let me know your ideas. You can write to me at [dandrlombardi@gmail.com](mailto:dandrlombardi@gmail.com).

We have a meeting next Tuesday, October 10th. I hope to see you there.

David





## October Birthdays

Brian Diefenbacher	4
Lyle Branch	5
Jesse Franco	7
Grace Preval	10
Jane Tusso	20
Egon Hagemann	21
Adriene Harris	21
Jim Thomas	27

## October Anniversaries

Susan & Avrum Cohen	2
Edith & Rolf Reinfried	5
Sam and Rose Pietrofitta	14
Grace Preval & Arny Messersmith	15
Susie & Rick Lever	20

### Editor's Note

**Keep your story suggestions coming.**

Send stories or ideas to:

[raymond.michalowski@gmail.com](mailto:raymond.michalowski@gmail.com)

Thanks to **Jim Thomas** for technical help and banner photo.

**Next Regular Meeting:**  
**Tuesday, October 10**

**October 14**  
**CAR SHOW!!!!**  
**Sedona Airport**  
**10:00 AM-3:00 PM**

**October 21**  
**Litter Lifters**  
**Saturday, Oct. 21, 08:30**

**Thursday, October 26**  
**Autumn Leaves Tour to**  
**Payson, Lunch at**  
**Crosswinds Airport**  
**Restaurant**  
**Meet at Burger King,**  
**Camp Verde**  
**10:15 AM**

If you would like to participate in a car club event, contact Craig Haberler at [craigster62@sbcglobal.net](mailto:craigster62@sbcglobal.net)

# Upcoming Activities

**Next Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 10**  
**7:00 PM, Sedona Library**

## **Speakers**

**Steve King, Superintendent**  
**Damien Andre, Shop Teacher**  
**Verde Tech High School**  
**Topic: Auto Shop Curriculum**

## **More Event Details**

**Saturday October 14**

**40<sup>th</sup> Annual Sedona Car Club Car Show**

**Sedona Airport – 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Info at:**

**<http://www.sedonacarclub.com/2023-carshow.html>**

**Saturday, Oct 21**

## **Litter Lifters**

**Scenic Viewpoint on 89A, 1.3 miles NE of Page Springs Rd.**

**Breakfast after at Café Jose, West Sedona**

**Thursday, October 26**

**Autumn Leaves Tour to Payson. Lunch at Crosswinds Airport  
Restaurant**

**Meet at Burger King, Camp Verde at 10:15**

**November TBD**

**Octane Go Cart Racing in Scottsdale followed by dinner at  
White Chocolate Restaurant, Scottsdale.**

# Join The Team

The **Sedona Car Club** is a member organization. This means the club relies on volunteers to bring us benefits like a high profile annual car show, interesting monthly meetings, long and short driving tours (often involving food), a monthly newsletter, and contributions to our local community through such things as scholarships and litter lifting.

The current volunteer leadership of the organization consists of five elected positions, and six additional areas of responsibility overseen by appointed board members. The current leadership team is:

## Elected Volunteers

President -	David Lombardi
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President -	Avrum Cohen
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President -	Steve Van Derveer
Secretary -	Patty Reski
Treasurer -	Don Hallford

## Appointed Volunteers

Tours and Events -	Craig Haberler
Programs -	Angela Thomas
Membership -	Don Hallford
Webmaster -	Steve Blank
Newsletter -	Ray Michalowski
Historian -	Steve Blank
Publicity -	vacant
Member at Large -	vacant

If you would like join the leadership team by assisting in one of the operational areas listed above, or running for elected office, we invite you to join the team. A few of the current board members are doing double duty, and some others would appreciate assistance. So, if one of the areas of participation are of interest to you, please let us know by emailing your interest to Patty Reski, the club secretary, at [pattyreski@gmail.com](mailto:pattyreski@gmail.com). Member involvement is the key to the future of your car club.

## Member Story – David Price

### Finally, A *Fairlady Z* for Susan

A brand new Datsun Z painted in Light Blue Metallic, code 305, first caught Susan's attention in her neighborhood in San Jose, CA, in 1977. The lines were sleek, the profile sporty and she could imagine herself in the driver seat.

Wow, what a car! She liked everything about it. But there was no way a 280Z with a \$6,999 base price fit in the budget for her first car. The deal with her parents was a used car upon graduating high school and attending college. Instead, she chose a used 1973 Opel Manta, also a nice looking 2-door coupe, with an original base price 1/3 of the Z and a used price way, way lower.

The Opel lasted through college and its proceeds funded a Volvo wagon as we started our careers and family. As our family grew she transitioned to mid-sized

SUVs; practical and perfect for hauling kids to soccer practice and dogs to the vet, but not vehicles that made her heart pound and satisfied her inner speed freak (though she always pushed every vehicle she owned to its maximum performance).

Automatic transmissions and power windows and remote key fobs and navigation systems and satellite radio were no match for the innate beauty of Nissan's grand touring competitor in the global sports car market, the S30 Fairlady Z, branded a Datsun 280Z for the macho American market. So, every time she caught a wistful glance of one for the next forty-plus years she would again imagine herself behind the wheel, running through the gears with the manual shifter and stepping on the accelerator to demand the

Bosch Jetronic fuel injection rev the 2800cc inline six to near its 5600 rpm, 170 horse max power, divining the perfect time to shift, while turning on a dime aided by the Z's rack and pinion steering, independent suspension, stock sway bar, rear Chapman struts and telescopic dampers. These cars were built to compete and win and they did. But alas, just a dream.

Fast forward to 2020 with the kids grown, graduated from college and starting careers and families of their own; our 34-year, 16 relocations military adventure long in the rear view mirror and fading fast and we made a final move to Sedona for retirement; the only place since 1981 that wasn't chosen by the Navy. Time was now available to revisit those old dream cars we could never afford or use in any practical sense.

We began the search.

Some months back we found an extremely low mileage, near-concourse beauty at auction and gamely jumped into the bidding but the price quickly escalated to the Moon. We kept looking. Other S30s came up for sale; 240s and even rare, horsepower-deprived-by-California 260s but the 280s we saw were modified or rusted or more project than we wanted.

Then, in August 2023 we found a Z to fulfill the 1970s teenager fantasy. *Fairlady*, as Susan calls her, is a 1977 280Z in Sterling Silver Metallic 306 over a black interior. She rolled off Nissan's Shatai Plant assembly line in Hiratsuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan in February, 1977, with a 4-speed manual transmission and optional factory air conditioning, one of just over 56,000 of that model year exported to the USA. Her first owner bought the car in

Avenel, NJ in May, 1977 and babied her for 43 years, keeping her in a garage and putting just over 63,000 miles on the odometer before finally passing her on to the next caretaker.

The car's second owner found, had refurbished and installed a very rare set of Black Pearl Edition alloy wheels from that year. In addition to updating all of the service needs of the car, his improvements included an all new exhaust with a Magnaflow muffler. You should hear this baby roar!

The third owner, a vascular surgeon, serious car guy and all around good dude (gotta love that combo!), further updated the mechanicals on the car with new struts and shifter bushings. She starts and drives as smooth as in 1977. We drove to Wichita, Kansas in our truck camper, arriving to pick her up from the owner

on a cloudy Sunday and haul her back to Sedona on a U-Haul trailer. Thunderstorms across the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles and down to Tucumcari, NM, made sure she was no longer clean and shiny but we did get her back without any new chips or scratches. After op-checking the speed governor on the Ford Powerstroke on I-40, we got her home just two days later, gave her a bath and had her tucked into a slot in the garage by Tuesday evening.

Susan is the fourth owner and has already ordered parts and upholstery to bring *Fairlady* from a high #3 near-survivor (she was repainted in 2013) to a solid #2 for the upcoming car shows. Dave has now added Nissan Motorsports mechanic to his nametag. Look for Susan adding a few miles to the original 65,000 about once each week around Sedona.



As Nissan's legendary Yutaka Katayama, father of the Z, counseled,

**“Love cars, love people, love life!”**



# General Information

## Club Meetings

Meetings of the Sedona Car Club are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Sedona Library except in June when our meeting is the Annual Picnic and in December when it is the Annual Christmas Party. We do not meet in July.

**Please attend, and bring a car-loving friend.**

## Board Meetings

The Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the Christ Lutheran Church. All members are invited to attend.

## Tire Tracks

Tire Tracks is published eleven times a year for information on events and activities of interest to members. The editor is RAY MICHALOWSKI. Look for it on the club website before the monthly meeting.

We encourage member stories. Send your submissions to:  
[Raymond.Michalowski@gmail.com](mailto:Raymond.Michalowski@gmail.com)

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