

Tire Tracks

Sedona Car Club

Photo: Jim Thomas

April 2023

Vol. 42

No. 4

President's Letter

Hello Everyone,

Good! It's warmer today. Maybe spring is finally coming. No wait...they're predicting another storm next week, possibly with snow. Oh well, it will warm up soon, and then before you know it, we'll be complaining about the heat.

"Hey, David. How's your new Austin Healey doing?" Well, I'm sad to admit that I haven't used it much yet. For one, it's been too cold to take an open car on a pleasure drive, and for another, even though it received a ground-up, rotisserie, restoration a few years ago, something didn't seem right. The whole car had a vibration when running. Not at all right for a car with a 6-cylinder engine. Even a mechanic I took it to was not sure what the problem was. I finally determined that it needed new engine mounts. I suspect that even though the engine was rebuilt, it was reinstalled using the old mounts. The engine was literally sitting on the frame with no rubber isolating it. The mounts were shot.

I read on the Internet that changing the mounts was not an easy job, so I decided to have Henri Bock do it. After all, I got the car for a really good price, and still had money in my Healey budget. I am happy for Henri that he was booked for almost two months, so I decided to do it myself. After all, in 65 years of ownership of my previous Healey, I had *never* taken it to a professional mechanic.

Well, it has, in fact, turned out to be a difficult job. I have been working on it for many, many, hours, but finally I am almost done. Maybe soon I'll be driving it.

On Saturday, April 29th, we'll be having a car display in the parking lot of St. John Vianney Church. I'm hoping that all of our members will bring their car for us to see. In addition, Mike Clark has invited the members of the Model A Ford club to bring their cars. It turns out that quite a few members of the church have cars they will bring, and we are promoting the display to other car enthusiasts. Hopefully it will be a nice car display. It will also be a nice social event for our members. There will even be live music. I hope to see you there. April 29th, 10:00 am. See you there!

David





April Club Calendar

Next Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 11

Refreshments: Sherrie/Phil
Wadsack and Patti Reski. Coffee
Don Hallford

Highway Cleanup
April 15

Car Display at St. John
Vianni Church
April 29

Want to participate in club
events? Contact
Craig Haberler:
craigster62@sbcglobal.net
cell/text (415) 385-6937

Rose Pietrofitta	4-08
Ralph Shelley	4-08
Rick Lever	4-12
Bob Natasi	4-16
Dale Martorana	4-22
Jean Jorgensen	4-23
Gary Kachadurian	4-24
Rita Woelbel	4-24
Pat Wiegand	4-27

Anniversary Congratulations

Gail and Clyde Bangiola 4-01

Editor's Note

Keep your story suggestions coming.

Your story could be about a special car; a favorite drive or trip, an interesting garage moment, or any other car- related wisdom or anecdote. Send stories or story ideas to:

raymond.michalowski@gmail.com

SCC Custom Logo Wear

**Lands End Has Custom
Clothes with the Sedona
Car Club Logo at:**

[https://
business.landsend.com/
store/sedona_car_club/](https://business.landsend.com/store/sedona_car_club/)

Upcoming Activities

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 11

Guest Speaker:

Lonnie Anderson

The Art of Restoration and Custom Builds

Next Month

Roger Naylor

Wildflowers, Wild Horses, and Waterfalls

Authors books for sale for cash or check

SAVE THE DATES

May 10 – Haven of Cottonwood, Display of SCC member cars for residents

May 13 – Mothers Day Lunch, Juniper Bar and Grill, VOC

May 20 – Verde Valley Vettes Car Show, Larry Green Chevrolet

June 13 – Member Picnic, Dead Horse Ranch State Park

October 14 - 40th Annual Sedona Car Club Car Show

Sedona Airport Featured Car: Corvette

Find info here:

www.sedonacarclub.com/2023-carshow.html

Member Story – Don Dickinson

A Textbook Love Affair

In my first job out of college in 1968, my boss was an Alfisti (an Alfa Romeo enthusiast) with a Giulietta Spider and a Sprint Special. I had no idea what an Alfa Romeo was, but seeing those beautiful cars was intriguing, especially since I have some Italian blood on my mother's side. Following his invitation, I got involved in the Portland, Oregon Alfa owners club and became the first editor of Alfa Bits, the club newsletter that continues to this day.

Over the next few years I owned two Alfas, a very rare 1959 Giulietta Sprint Coupe and a 4-door Giulia Super.

Fast forward to 1998 when I sold my interest in my advertising agency and accepted a teaching position in the Portland State University School of Business.

Over the next 15 year at PSU I started writing textbooks because I could not find any books that I thought were worth the student's money.

When I fully retired in 2012, it was time to fulfill a dream of owning a round-tail spider. Coincidentally the royalties from my textbooks were starting to actually amount to something. It took two years of searching before I found what seemed to be a good candidate that was at least a 3.0 on the *Classic Car Condition Rating Guide*.

The car was owned by a small-time collector in Burbank CA who did not have room for it. He wanted \$33,000. I met him at Auto Week where he was selling a couple of cars and he agreed to negotiate on the price, but only if I came to Burbank and personally inspected the car. So, I flew in

to John Wayne airport in April of 2014 and found the car to be as advertised. Then the negotiations started.

I told him my whole Alfa story, how I had dreamed of this car for years and how I was only able to pay what I had saved in textbook royalties. This dollar limit of under \$30,000, I specified, must also include the cost of my airfare and the cost to trailer the car back to Cornville. He ultimately agreed.

My Alfa, in its beautiful Pininfarina Red, was built in Milan in May of 1969. I know it was sold new by a dealer in New Jersey, but the provenance after that is scant until the Burbank owner. Since it has no rust, it is quite likely that it has been a dry weather car for its entire life.

I've had the car since 2014, and have very much enjoyed

doing small things to it to easily bring it closer to a 4.0 rating. It has appeared in three SCC delegations at the Sedona St. Patrick's Day Parade and the October airport show. It's a reliable driver, gets a lot of looks and performs well, in spite of its age.

I continue to write advertising textbooks and as I reflect back on this whole history, it makes me smile how I typed stuff into my computer and out pops a beautiful "coda tonda" which, according to Bohnam's Auction House, is Italian for "round tail." Hope you enjoyed my textbook love affair.

Tlaquepaque, not Tuscany



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.

Submissions are due by the 1st of each month. Email them to: Raymond.Michalowski@gmail.com

Car Sales Advertisements: Only those sponsored by members will be considered for inclusion in **TireTracks**