

# Tire Tracks

## Sedona Car Club

Photo: Jim Thomas

June 2023

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No. 5

## President's Letter

Well, here we are in June...already. The year is passing by...no, I'm not going to say quickly, that's too trite. It is going by at just the right rate - fast enough that we don't get bored on the occasional dull days, and slow enough to get full enjoyment out of all of the others.

As I write this Rachel and I are in the last stages of getting ready to leave on a vacation to Arkansas and beyond. We are going to visit our daughter and grandchildren. Our oldest grandson has been a career U.S. Air Force man for many years. He has been taking extension college courses during that time and will graduate on June 10th. The ceremony will be in Washington D.C., but he would rather celebrate it with his family, yes, and grandparents in Arkansas. After visiting family we are going east to pick up the Great Mississippi River Road and travel

along it into Texas, then head west back towards home. Traveling along the Mississippi is something I've always wanted to do.

On June 13th the club will have its annual picnic at Dead Horse Ranch State Park. We've had it there before and it was enjoyed by all of us who attended. If you missed the picnic last year, be sure to go this year. Not only will you enjoy it, but as they say, "the more the merrier". Don't worry about the possible heat. Our picnic area is under cover, in the shade of trees, next to the cooling lake.

July is our traditional "off " month, in which we have no meetings, but don't worry, we'll be back in full swing in August. I hope to see you all then.

Happy Summer!

David





## June Birthdays

Hal <u>Reniger</u>	1
Jo Anne Van <u>Derveer</u>	15
Julie <u>Lafaye</u>	17
Darren Lowes	20
Patrick <u>Tucci</u>	23
Ann Shepard	27
Ferdinand Andres	27

## June Anniversaries

W.M & Jan <u>Stalcup</u>	1
Mike & Victoria Clark	3
Jim & Linda Warren	6
John & Diane Hatfield	13
Bob & Jean Jorgensen	13
Don & Leigh <u>Hallford</u>	18
John & Cheryl <u>Ossenfort</u>	19
Bruce & Terri <u>Heulat</u>	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.

## Upcoming Meetings

**June 13** - Annual Sedona Car Club Picnic at Dead Horse Ranch State

**July** - No meeting

**August 8** - Next regular meeting; Sedona Library

Want to participate in club events? Contact  
Craig Haberler:

[craigster62@sbcglobal.net](mailto:craigster62@sbcglobal.net)  
cell/text (415 ) 385-6937

## 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 EVENT:

### Annual Sedona Car Club Picnic

There is still room to join us on Tuesday June 13, for the Annual Sedona Car Club Picnic, held each June instead of the monthly member's meeting at the Library. This will be our 3rd-year picnicking at Dead Horse, under the shady ramada next to the lagoon. Please bring your own lunch and beverages.

If you would like some extra driving time to "stretch the legs" of your special car, we will meet at 11:00am on Navoti Road (one block behind the Verde Valley Medical Center/Sedona Campus), then depart 11:30am via 89A for Dead Horse Ranch State Park. There is a \$7 per-car entrance fee, payable at the Gatehouse. If you have a State Park Pass, please show that, and you will be able to enter for Free!

**Please RSVP if you plan to attend - [craigster62@sbcglobal.net](mailto:craigster62@sbcglobal.net)**

## Upcoming Events

**August – TBD - Cruise-In/Lunch at G's Burger, Cornville**

**September – TBD - Lunch/Wine Tasting at Cove Mesa Winery**

**October 14 - 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Sedona Car Club Car Show**

**[Info here: www.sedonacarclub.com/2023-carshow.html](http://www.sedonacarclub.com/2023-carshow.html)**

**Oct 25 - Autumn Leaves and Trees Driving Tour/Lunch at Crosswinds Restaurant, Payson.**

**October – TBD – Tour of the Lucid car factory in Casa Grande with possible overnight, and Kartchner Caverns Tour**

## Member Story –Ray Michalowski

### *Turtle and I*

Over the years, I've had a lot of cars, some of them special, some not so much. In my 20s, my daily drivers included a Karmann Ghia, two Fiat 850 Spiders that allowed a poor graduate student to enjoy sporty, drop-top motoring, and once I got a full-time teaching post, a used MG Midget, and then an even more used MGB.

As a mild case of adultering set in, my daily drivers became utilitarian Honda hatchbacks that could haul or tow the materials needed to sequentially restore two houses in Charlotte, North Carolina and one 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. However, I managed to keep full adulthood at bay with a parade of motorcycles, eventually wracking up 100,000 lifetime miles on two wheels.

The closest I came to a sports car in mid-life was a red, 1971 Volvo P1800 that I was considering buying when I returned home from a meeting in Chicago. While I was away, however, my wife, Jill, struck a deal with the seller. As loving as she was, Jill did not buy that car for me. It was *her* car. She did let me drive it... sometimes on long trips...but never by myself. She knew me too well.

Despite the motorcycles and the P1800 in the garage, the desire for my own sports car never went away. So, as 70 appeared on the age horizon, I decided it was time for a sports car. I looked at, and drove a lot of classic and newer candidates in my price range – MGs, Alfas, Fiats, Miatas – but none of them spoke to me. Then, I saw a Craigslist ad posted by the Scottsdale Car Company for a 2001 Porsche 986 Boxster. It was high mileage, but in great

condition with a whistle-clean CarFax . So, I took it for a test drive.

I was charmed by the sweet sound of the flat six engine, much like the one that powered my Gold Wing motorcycle, only more emphatic. Then I heard a soft voice underneath the mechanical music. It said, "You need a sports car, and I am it." There was no more looking around. You can't deny that kind of come-on.

Boxturtle, aka "Turtle" is a first generation Boxster. She is not the slowest 986, having the 2.7 liter engine instead of the 2.5 that powered the first three years of Boxsters. Nevertheless, as a base model with "only" 217 horsepower, she is definitely slower than the same-year Boxster S with its 3.2. liter six and 250 horsepower. That difference translates into a 0-60 time of 6.1 seconds for Turtle, versus 5.2 seconds for

the Boxster S. So, Boxturtle earned her name by being one of the slowest Boxsters made, although quick enough by sports car standards at the turn of the millennium. And that suits me just fine. I am not as quick-reflexed as I once was, and would probably damage myself or others with a more powerful car.

In addition to being a slow Boxster, Turtle's analogue soul suits me just fine. There is a left pedal. There are no fancy electronics. For the most part, just basic gauges with dials, and actual knobs to turn for things like the radio. There's an honest dipstick to measure the oil, rather than only a digital readout. The handbrake is an actual lever with notches you can feel, not a little thingy you push. I couldn't be more pleased. Turtle is a sports car as I remembered sports cars, only faster, smoother, better handling, and more reliable.

At 22 years old, Turtle is almost a “classic,” though not one that was loved by Porsche aficionados when it first appeared. Boxsters violated the basic principle that *real* Porsches had rear mounted, air-cooled engines.

With her mid engine, Turtle harkens back to another maligned Porsche – the 914. And, even worse for the Boxster, it had what serious Porsche-lovers called “fried egg” headlights. However, although it transgressed the image of a true Porsche, Boxsters flew out of the showroom.

They are now credited as the car that saved Porsche when the company’s financial future was far from assured.

Maybe someday my romance with Turtle will wear thin. But after seven years, I still feel no itch for another “special” car. Or maybe someday Turtle will require major surgery to her power train. If that day comes, so, be it. I’ll write the check. We are pals, and pals don’t let each other down.

So, if someday you see a white Boxster with the license plate “Boxtrtl,” know you are seeing a guy out with a friend.



# 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](mailto:Raymond.Michalowski@gmail.com)

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