

# Tire Tracks

## Sedona Car Club

Photo: Jim Thomas

August 2023

Vol. 42

No.7/8

## President's Letter

Hello Everybody,

Welcome back to our club's activities. I hope to see you at many of them. I also hope that during our month off, you did something fun for yourself, maybe took a vacation, or something.

I'm not even going to say anything about the weather, as I frequently do...except to say that I hope it changes soon. Rachel and I haven't taken any RV trips. Any place within a practical driving distance is still too hot. We did take a trip to Arkansas in the beginning of June to be with our daughter and her family (caused us to miss the club picnic, darn it). Our grandson has been a career Air Force man. During that time he has been taking college courses and graduated in June (Cum Laude!). He decided that instead of participating in the graduation ceremony alone in Washington DC, he would rather be with all of his family and watch it on TV. We are proud of him and it was a great family get together.

Well, after months of owning my new Austin Healey, I finally finished the couple of repairs it needed taken care of, and I am able to use it. I am happy to say that I am really enjoying it. I do not regret selling my other one of 65 years ownership and getting this one.

I am sure that this second half of our club year is going to be great. In just a few days we'll be having our first outing, doing our favorite thing, eating. There's an announcement about it elsewhere in this issue. We've got many more fun events planned, not the least of which will be our car show. It is already shaping up to be a great show. And in just a few days we'll have our general meeting, in which we will have a very interesting speaker. I hope to see you there.

David





Zeda Bailey	2
Steve Blank	5
Raymond Scott	11
Gary Glenn	14
Danette Smith	19
Susan Cohen	26
Barbara Berrett	29

## Anniversary Congratulations

Claudia & James Converse	5
Ann & Chris Shepard	11
Susie & Noel Naumann	12
Lisa & Martin Ginsky	22

### Editor's Note

Thanks to all who sent car stories for August. Please keep them coming. Send stories or story ideas to:

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

## August Events

**Next Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, Aug 8**

Refreshments: Angela Thomas,  
Craig Haberler. Coffee, Don  
Hallford

### Events

August 16, 12:00 Noon

**Lunch at G's LBurger**

Corner of Cornville and Page  
Springs Road. Please back in  
to spot along fence to create a  
display line.

Let Craig know if you CAN  
make it. Cell/text (415)385-  
6937

Want to participate in club  
events? Contact

**Craig Haberler:**

[craigster62@sbcglobal.net](mailto:craigster62@sbcglobal.net)

## For Sale

1987 Mercedes Benz 420 SEL.  
4.2L V8, Automatic, gray paint  
with tan leather upholstery.  
Excellent condition - 131,500  
miles. Asking \$15,000.

**Call Pat Rowe 928 274 0443.**

# Upcoming Activities

**NEXT MEETING – August 16**

**Guest Speaker:**

**Steve Snyder**

**Aviation historian and author of highly regarded**

***Shot Down: The True Story of Pilot Howard Snyder and the Crew of the B-17 Susan Ruth***

**Copies of *Shot Down* will be available for purchase, including via credit card.**

## **SAVE THE DATES**

**Sunday, September 17 11:30am**

**Lunch and wine tasting at Cove Mesa Vineyard  
Tasting Room**

**1210 S Western Drive, Cornville Menu at  
<http://www.covemesa.com>**

**\*\*\*\*Saturday, October 14 \*\*\*\***

**40<sup>th</sup> Annual Sedona Car Club Car Show  
Sedona Airport Featured Car: Corvette  
Find info here:**

# Member Story by Noel Naumann

## SMITTEN

Some cars strike a chord in our hearts (or loins) because of their performance, some appeal to us because of their elegance, and some remind us of a time or event in our youth.

However, there was always the one car that when we first saw it; we were simply smitten.

One winter day many, many years ago, I was driving to the Air Force base 14 miles north of Minot, North Dakota, to start my shift repairing the bombing and navigation systems on B-52s.

I was driving my much loved 1964 Volkswagen bus. It was a wonderful vehicle for a single airman who still longed for his former hippie ways. It was cheap to own and drive. It had lots of room to transport a party keg or drunken roommates. It's greatest asset was that it

almost always started and ran no matter how cold the winter became. The down side of driving a VW bus in the winter is that the marginal heating system was not even up to the task of keeping the windshield clear. I always drove with an ice scraper in my lap to keep a clear spot in the frost that accumulated on the inside of the windshield.

One winter day I was motoring down the highway with the bus's gas pedal pinned to the floor. The heater worked "best" if I achieved the VW's top speed of 58 mph. A blue sedan with a "For Sale" sign in the back window streaked past. A star on the hood explained the speed at which it was traveling. As the blue blur passed by, I noticed the driver wore no hat, or gloves, or a scarf wrapped around his face to fend off the cold.

I was smitten.



I kept the Mercedes Benz in sight (an easy task in the flats of North Dakota), and parked next to it when we reached the squadron building. I learned that the driver inherited the 1958 180A from his grandfather who bought it new in Connecticut.

This vehicle was magnificently styled with bulbous front fenders, red faux leather seats, a four speed shifter on the column, an AM/FM radio, a huge chrome grill upon which the Mercedes Benz star was proudly mounted, and adding to the elegance of the front bumper were twin driving lights. 50 hp generated from its four cylinders waited patiently under the hood. I later learned that the only option the car did not have were fans in the right and left heater ducts.

His asking price was \$600. I sold my bus that afternoon for \$600. At the

end of the day, I handed him a wad of bills in exchange for the keys. Before he turned to leave he said, "Goodbye Grandpa".

Grandpa got me out of the North Country during a raging January snowstorm when my enlistment ended. At five minutes after noon on the day of my discharge, we began a journey away from the cold country to the land of green and rain, the Pacific Northwest. It was almost the perfect vehicle for the time and for the location. Grandpa was content to motor along at the national speed limit of 55 mph, or to roar down the back roads at full throttle with his driving lights blazing a path through the mist.

However, the lack of fans in the heating system proved to be a bit of a nuisance. When air was forced through the heater cores by forward movement, driving the car was a cozy delight. When

letting off the gas to stop, the air flow was immediately reversed and instantly the interior of all the windows fogged over. I became accustomed to the fact that I traded an ice scraper for a damp rag.

One spring day I was enjoying too many beers with a friend who fancied himself as an automobile whiz kid. "Let's paint Grandpa," he said. "Great idea," I slurred. I always thought Lincoln Continental Pale Mist Moonlight Silver would look fantastic against the red interior. We spent the next two months in his garage after work preparing/ sanding/ priming the car for a professional paint job. \$160 later, Grandpa rolled out of the body shop with a sparkle and shine that almost brought me to tears. Man, it was gorgeous!

Grandpa and I got along famously for another few years. One sunny summer

afternoon I had a motorcycle accident that put me out of the labor market. I needed to go back to school so someone would pay me to use my head rather than my back. Just before my last semester, I ran out of money and had emptied the grant and loan "trough". I needed \$1,600 to pay the tuition to complete my degree. I had to sell either my motorcycle or Grandpa to stay in school. I advertised both of them. I was approached by a friend of a friend who knew Grandpa and was also smitten. We agreed on a price of \$1,600 for the car. We traded keys for a check that secured my future and as I turned to leave I said "Goodbye Grandpa".

I remain smitten.



# 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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