

Tire Tracks

Sedona Car Club

Photo: Jim Thomas

January 2024

Vol. 43

No. 1

President's Letter

Happy New Year to everyone!

A New Year and a new president after 12 years, talk about a new beginning!

I'll take this time to introduce our family. My wife Leigh was born in the Philippines and emigrated to the US after high school. She started college, but ran out of money and joined the Air Force. She served four years and saved her income to return to college and finish her degree. She successfully achieved her goal and graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelors degree in Nursing.

I joined the Air Force soon after high school. The small town I grew up in had zero job opportunities. There was an Air Force base close by, so I was vaguely familiar with the Air Force.

We met at a former base named Chanute AFB, a training base, now closed, a good thing. Skipping a lot of details, we were married in Tucson in 1988, and have been together through five major moves. We added our son Kristofer while in Utah, he's 29 and still lives there today. We continued to serve until I had accumulated 26 years of service.

My love for cars began at an early age with a 1967 Chevrolet pick-up. It progressed to Camaros, a Corvette, a couple Mercedes, and then a few Porsches. At first I didn't have the money to pay a mechanic, so I learned to work on my own cars. I thoroughly enjoy working on my cars even today. But realistically my car wrenching days are dwindling as I age.

You can expect me to be open and above board on all club matters. I'm a firm believer in transparency. My military background will creep into normal conversations, feel free to interrupt me for clarification. I will always be approachable and open to new ideas. This term as president of our club will not be something for Don's ego, but whatever is best for the club.

What are my plans for the future of our car club? First I'd like to increase active participation in club activities. We have over 180 members, and if more than 30 show up for an activity, it's considered a success. There are

Some very interesting events planned for 2024. Second, I want to document, in writing, all the processes the club accomplishes within the year. We have had a car show for twenty years, but we have no documentation on how to host the show. Finally, I'd like to have fun, if its not fun, why should we do it?

That's me in a nutshell. If you want more details buy me my favorite beverage (Diet Pepsi), and I'll fill in some details. If this article creates "buyer's remorse", I think the deadline is passed. I'm looking forward to a great year as your president.





January Birthdays

Sam Pietrofitta	01/06
Amy SueqDeTar	01/06
Linda Lukas	01/10
Patty Reski	01/10
Jim Higman	01/12
Diane Carson	01/17
Elliott Garcia	01/17
Stephen Holst	01/17
Linda Warren	01/18
Arlette Levitan	01/19
Angela Thomas	01/23
Joe Veliz	01/23
Craig Haberler	01/28
Cyndy Mortensen	01/30

January Annivesaries

Angela & Jim Thomas	01/11
Gayles & Jim Higman	01/21
Patricia & Stephen Holst	01/25

Editor's Note

Keep your story suggestions coming.

Send stories or ideas to:

raymond.michalowski@gmail.com

Thanks to Jim Thomas for technical help and banner photo.

Upcoming Events

Next Regular Meeting:
Tuesday, January 9

Saturday, January 6
New Year's Lunch 12PM
Eden Restaurant
Cottonwood

Thursday Feb 8
Pima Air and Space
Museum

Members drive separately
to Tucson

Overnight in Benson
Make your own reservation
at the Comfort Inn [http://](http://www.comfortinnhotelsbensoaz.com)
[www.comfortinnhotelsbensoaz](http://www.comfortinnhotelsbensoaz.com)
[.com](http://www.comfortinnhotelsbensoaz.com)

Friday, February 9
Group tour of
Kartchner Caverns.

Please reserve cavern tour
through Craig at
craigster62@sbcglobal.net
Or cell/text(415)385-6937

Upcoming Activities

Next Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 9

7:00 PM, Sedona Library

Speaker: Joyce Petrowski

R.O.S.E.: Resource/Outreach to Safeguard
the Elderly

Save the Dates

Saturday March 16

Sedona St. Patrick's Day Parade 10:30 AM

No-host lunch following at Jose's

Cars and Coffee in the Verde Valley

1st Saturday - Firecreek Cafe, Mingus Ave, Cottonwood

2nd Saturday - SuzyQ Market, Main St, Cottonwood

3rd Saturday - Annie's Restaurant, Mingus Ave, Cottonwood

LAST Saturday - The Collective, VOC Sedona

2023 Sedona Car Club Christmas Party



2023 Sedona Car Club Christmas Party



**David treats
everyone
To a Spanglish Night
Before Christmas**



2023 Sedona Car Club Christmas Party



Honoring David and Rachel for Their Many Years of Service to the Club.



Driving British Cars in REAL Winter

Patty Reski

In 1965 I started my first full-time chemistry teaching position at North Dakota State University in Fargo, and I was very excited to see that faculty parking was in pretty close, not half a mile away on the wind-swept prairie.

Husband Jon and I had a new British Racing Green MG 1100 Sports Sedan, a new model for BMC. Pretty revolutionary at the time, it had a cross-mounted engine, hydrolastic suspension, front wheel drive, and even seat belts, although they weren't the retractable kind. We were making payments, of course; I was just 22 in 1965, but I actually had a salary now.

At the end of each bitter winter day I would brace myself to go out to the parking lot, then open the MG's bonnet, unscrew the dashpots on the two SU carburetors, rush back inside to a bathroom where I could run hot water over them, then dry and go outside to re-install. Then it would start and run. I got plenty of stares.

That winter we decided to drive to California during a two week Christmas break. We left Fargo very late on a Friday night, a fully loaded little car, and it was -35°. We got as far south as the South Dakota border when the first flat tire happened. The spare was under a platform in the trunk, but the trunk was totally full of our gear and Christmas presents for family in California. So: unload everything alongside the road in the dark, changed the "tyre", no small feat, put it all back. Did I mention it was 35 below? Several hours later, another flat tire. Wazzup?? Well, these tires had inner tubes made of butyl rubber which does not keep its elasticity at those low temperatures. By then it was daylight and slightly warmer and we actually were able to find a place in that SD town to buy new inner-tubes (and for 12 inch wheels. Try that today!)

So on we went to California. While there, someone alongside us at a stop light asked what the thing was on the back window.

Huh? I said a North Dakota university parking sticker. No, they said, that big clear oval thing. Oh, he had never seen frost shields. We in the frozen soybean steppes driving cars with minimal heaters would stick these on our windows to keep them from getting frost encased.

A year later I had gone just across the river from Fargo to Moorhead, MN and started a position at (now) Minnesota State University Moorhead. After several clutches and other issues, the MG 1100 was replaced with an older (real) Mini Cooper S, the kind with just rubber bushings for suspension and sliding plastic for side windows. So it was another year of Patty doing late winter afternoon dashpot and carburetor service in the parking lot.

We lived in an apartment, second floor, and to keep the Mini warm enough to start and run we ran an extension cord out the apartment window to the uncovered parking spot below. We had installed a block heater for the engine and an interior electric heater as well. Every

time it snowed, the wee Mini was the only one in the parking lot in the morning all shiny and gleaming, not loaded with snow, as all on it had melted overnight. The normal Mini heater was useless, of course, so in driving the few miles from apartment to classroom it would be very cold inside.

Cars came and went in those years, much like Jim and Elaine and David and Rachel describe, and I don't remember them all. A year or so later in spring I was driving an MGA, heading in a hurry across town for an interview, and I drove through a puddle of melted snow. The MGA stopped dead. You guessed right, those famous Lucas electrics! The prepared driver of British cars in the 1960's always carried towels!



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

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