

June 2019

# The Chevy Chatter

## Lower Michigan Region



## Dusting Off

By Tim Reinke

The 2019 tour season started off in tremendous fashion. The weather was stern but fair for driving. We had a few raindrops Friday afternoon and a lot of rain overnight both Friday and Saturday. Friday saw 21 people, 7 antique cars, and 3 modern vehicles head northwest out of Kalamazoo. We stopped first at the Gilmore Garage Works program and saw the Ford Bronco the High Schoolers built and will raffle off for a fundraiser. Then it was off to the Otsego Historical Society to see their Museum including a new display of cookbooks dating back to the early 1900's. Lunch in Allegan was next with multiple options for food. Due to one restaurant being busy many members overtook the bar area. After lunch, a tour of the Allegan County Jail put a few of us behind bars. Then a short jaunt along Lake Allegan to the Allegan Dam to watch some fisherman have decent success although the sign on the shore advised not to eat the fish. Finally we were off to Dinner at Aubree's in Plainwell where Pat Mehl gave a short but captivating presentation on the automotive history of Kalamazoo.

After heavy rain Friday night, the cars and roads were a little damp Saturday but that did not deter the 8 cars and 17 people that stayed the night as we left Kalamazoo. We headed south this time and our first stop at Dr. Nathan Thomas's house. This was preserved as a stop on the Underground Railroad. We got to see into the attic where slaves headed towards freedom in Canada were hidden, and walked on the same floors they did, while enjoying some of the best donuts in Michigan. Our second stop was Vicksburg Historical Village where the staff used us as their warm-up for the season as we were given tours of a repair garage, a one-room schoolhouse, a family dwelling, sweet shop, and a general store. Lunch was held at Yoder's Country Market in Centreville where everyone ate a little too much after a short photo opportunity at the Langley Covered Bridge.



After lunch, we drove to Rawson's King Mill for a tour of the mill. Sadly our curator did not show, but we still had a great time enjoying the beautiful scenery on the St. Joseph River at our leisure. On our way back to Kalamazoo we stopped for Ashby's Ice Cream at an old Malt Shoppe in Scotts called Scooters, which is housed in an old hardware store and decorated with lots of antiques. Our final stop was at a private car collection in Galesburg called GoGo Classic Cars. The day ended at the Tap House in Kalamazoo, which shares floor space with a large Motorsports store, where we watched a storm roll in as we waited for the Preakness to begin.

A great time was had by all as we traveled more than 150 miles over 2 days around a part of the state we have not seen much of as a club. A special thanks goes out to our tour leader Pat Mehl for all the planning and to Bill Anderson for helping put together nice map/direction packets that made navigation a breeze.

## From the Driver's Seat

The club had a wonderful time on the dust off tour! We visited the historical museum in Allegan, then onto the Jail where I had a picture behind bars. My wife, Verna, said that if I didn't improve my attitude she was going to leave me there! Friday ended up at a Dam site, then Verna and I departed for Bowling Green University for my Granddaughter Dominique's graduation. Sunday we left to meet the group on tour but weather played a part in cancellation of the meeting at Gilmore.

I was sitting in the coffee shop with some of my buddies when one of the members gave me an Auto Trader magazine with an ad for a '51 Chevy 2dr Hardtop near Pawpaw, Mi. On Saturday morning my wife and I started out looking for the seller who was at a car show in Watervliet, Michigan. We drove back to his place and I ended buying the Chevy and talked him into joining the VCCA! He owns a '51 Chevy and a '49 Chevy pickup. Other than that, I hope to see most of you folks at the Sloan Fair.

-Jim Schott



### Birthdays

3	Bill Tylka
5	Mike McCarty
8	Melissa West
11	Carl Latora
13	Lloyd Henige, Phyllis Rickabus
14	Tim Reinke
17	Michael Lauth
20	Andy Mehl
23	Mary Galbraith, Angela Schrauben
25	Don Frasure

### Anniversaries

June 18, 1955
Jim & Jo Carpenter
June 18, 1960
Norbert & Nancy Kollin
June 30, 1962
Clarence & Marie Straus

# Upcoming Events

**June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sloan Museum Auto Fair  
1pm General Meeting, Crossroads  
Village (23<sup>rd</sup>)**

**July 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 56<sup>th</sup> Central Meet  
Details & Registration in April Chevy  
Chatter**

**July 27<sup>th</sup> Summer Picnic  
Woodland Park, Ithaca, MI**

**August 3<sup>rd</sup> Red Barns Spectacular & Swap  
Meet  
Gilmore Auto Museum – Hickory Corners**

**August 17<sup>th</sup> Back to the Bricks,  
Downtown Flint**

**September 15<sup>th</sup> General Membership  
Meeting  
Sloan Museum; Golden Memories Car  
Show**

**October 5<sup>th</sup> Mothball Tour  
Canton, MI to Grass Lake, MI**

**Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> ACCA Car Show/Swap Meet,  
Hershey, PA - Details in G&D**

**October 20th Board & Membership  
Meeting  
1p.m./2p.m. Board Elections  
Junction of Hope Restaurant**

**November 2nd Awards Banquet  
The Vault Deli, Mason, MI**



## RED BARN SPECTACULAR

**What: Cross-state tour to Hickory  
Corners for KAARC Red Barn  
Spectacular at the Gilmore Car Museum  
When: Friday Aug 3rd- Sunday Aug 5th  
Lodging (Hastings):  
Parkview Motel 269-945-9511  
Holiday Inn Express 269-945-0000**

We will spend Friday morning and early afternoon driving towards Hastings with a number of stops including antique stores and any other interesting place we find. Arrive in Hastings about 3:00 pm. Spend Friday evening relaxing in Hastings. Saturday drive about 45 minutes to the car show at Gilmore and spend the day there. Relax in Hastings again Saturday night. Drive home Sunday.

The route is always smooth back roads at a 35 - 45 mph pace so any vintage car can handle it. Robin, Tim, and Dennis Reinke will leave from Midland Mi and plan a route that allows them to meet up with anybody coming from Flint or farther east and then along the north side of Lansing to pick up anybody in the middle of the State. Contact Tim (989) 513-5129 or Robin (989) 513-0590 Reinke if you are interested in coming along.

## Central Meet

**This is your final call to register for the 56<sup>th</sup> Central Meet in West Lafayette, IN. Registrations are due by JUNE 13<sup>th</sup>. Information is available in the April and May Chevy Chatters, and online at [VCCA.org](http://VCCA.org).**

### **Summer Picnic - July 27th**

We are picnicking in central Michigan, at the pavilion in Woodland Park, Ithaca, MI. Plan on arriving about 11 a.m. Lunch will be potluck – bring a dish to pass, your own drinks, and picnic ware. We will plan on a white elephant sale – the Granger’s will emcee – so bring something to pass along if you’d like.

Also, if you have lawn games, and the weather permits, please bring them along! Stay as long as you’d like, we’ll probably wrap things up about 4 p.m. No registration needed, but a quick phone call or email to Pat Mehl (269-217-1253 or [Jakobs.Grama@gmail.com](mailto:Jakobs.Grama@gmail.com)) would be helpful.

### **Calling all Members!!**

It is not too early to start thinking about volunteering for a position on the LMR board. Nominations are in September, and we will need a new Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, and Members-At-Large (2). We also need folks who are willing to organize one of these events each year: Spring Dust-Off Tour, Summer Picnic, Fall Mothball Tour, and the Winter Awards Banquet. There are other events, such as membership meetings, that can be incorporated into the fun activities above, but are also planned as addendums to other automotive events in Michigan.

We also will be hosting the Central Meet in July 2022, and we will need many hands to make light work of this 3-6 day event.

So please let your Board know where you can help out. If every person volunteered to help with one event (in some capacity) each year, it would make the load light – and enjoyable – for everyone!



**On April 25, 2019, A number of members from the Lower Michigan Region VCCA, Buick Club of America Flint chapter, Back to the Bricks community and others were invited to display their cars at Factory One in Flint, MI. For a meeting of the Alliance of National Heritage sponsored by the Motor City Heritage Area of Michigan. Present were representative from 22 states.**



Photos submitted by Bruce Granger

### **New History/By-Laws/Roster Available**

If you haven’t already received your LMR History, By-Laws, and 2019 Membership Roster via e-mail, we can provide you with those items either electronically or via post. To request a copy by regular mail, we ask that you submit a check, payable to the LMR, for \$10, to cover printing and postage. You can call Pat Mehl (269-217-1253) to order, or mail your check to Pat at 4082 Ivy Street, Galesburg, MI 49053.

## 2019 Lower Michigan Region VCCA Officers

**Director:** Jim Schott  
james.schott@outlook.com  
**Assist. Dir:** Andy Mehl  
phantomman69@hotmail.com  
**Secretary:** Mike McCarty  
michaelrrmccarty@gmail.com  
**Treasurer:** Pat Mehl  
jakobs.grama@gmail.com  
**Historian:** Bruce Granger  
brucedgranger@yahoo.com  
**Sunshine:** Denice Thomas  
denicet10354@yahoo.com

**Membership:** Phyllis Rickabus  
daphyrick@yahoo.com  
LMR VCCA Membership  
2894 Island Point Drive  
Metamora, MI. 48455

**Ex-Officio Board Member-**  
Brian Granger  
granger59@yahoo.com

**Board Members**  
Richard Beach  
rbeachs3@aol.com

Lloyd Henige  
mhenige57@yahoo.com

Pam Mehl  
realbrowneyes2@yahoo.com

Bill Anderson  
old50grit@comcast.net

**Chevy Chatter**  
Corrie Mehl  
ChevyChatterMI@gmail.com

The purpose of the VCCA is to promote interest in the preservation and restoration of vintage Chevrolet manufactured vehicles, 25 years old, or older. Ownership of a vintage Chevrolet is not a prerequisite for membership. LMR region dues are \$20 per year. To become a member, an applicant must be a National VCCA member in good standing. National dues are \$40 yearly.

## Minutes of the April 28, 2019 LMR Membership Meeting

Submitted by Mike McCarty

The April 28, 2019 LMR Membership Meeting was held at the Junction of Hope Restaurant in Layton Corners, MI. The meeting was called to order by Director Jim Schott at 2:18 pm. There were 32 members in attendance including new member Jeff Salz (51 Chevy Styleline 2 Dr) and guest Brian Webb from Florida. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by members. The minutes of the October 20, 2018 LMR Membership meeting were approved as published in the November 2018 Chevy Chatter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Pat Mehl submitted the 2019 LMR Budget. Although it is healthy there is concern that we are over spending by a few hundred dollars each year. The printing and postage for the Chevy Chatter is one of our biggest costs. New members should only get the newsletter by email or a black & white handout copies at meetings. Members are encouraged to identify ways to generate new revenue sources. Suggestions included: Contact businesses that may be interested in advertising in the Chevy Chatter. (Pat can provide a sample solicitation letter.) LMR members could assist other car clubs with their swap meets and share the proceeds with the LMR. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

**Sunshine:** Condolence cards were sent to the families of Leon Eisemann and Keith Major.

**Membership:** Phyllis Rickabus reminded members to only use membership renewal forms that are dated 2019-2020 to be in agreement with recent policy changes.

**History:** Bruce Granger – The LMR has received an additional G&D magazine donation to fill in missing issues of the club collection. A number of VCCA/LMR and Buick Club members were invited to display their cars at Factory One in Flint for a meeting of the Alliance of National Heritage sponsored by the Motor City Heritage Area of MI. Representatives from 22 states were present. Pictures are available from Bruce.

**Chevy Chatter:** Our new editor Corrie Mehl is doing a great job! She welcomes member and business ads as well as articles.

**VCCA Board:** Pat/Tim Mehl encourage LMR members to take advantage of the free Bidder Passes at Mecum Auctions. There are 2 upcoming auctions that are nearby: Indianapolis may14-19 and Chicago October 24-26. These also represent good recruiting opportunities.

The national board is entertaining a logo design change for the VCCA. One of the ideas was shown. The Board plans to publish their draft(s) in a future G&D for comment. They ask that members give them feedback.

**50/50 Raffle:** Won by Richard Beach.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 pm.

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*Chevy Chatter Editor*  
11431 Four Mile Road  
Battle Creek, Michigan 49015