



# CHEVY CHATTER

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LMR Vintage Chevrolet Club founded in 1965

## For Bob Gardner, it all started in 1980 . . .

"I went to an auction sale in my neighborhood in 1980 to bid on a 1927 Capital Coach two door Chevy sedan, with 27,000 miles on it," explained Chevy Club member Bob Gardner of Vermontville.

"After my bid was accepted, my friend [*the late*] Francis Burns told me that I better join the Chevy club. So I did. That was in January of 1980."

Since then, Gardner has restored 19 vehicles, 18 being Chevies, and displays the 11 that he keeps in a special garage. "Everyone of my cars is totally stock," he added. "The only part of the restoration that I will not do myself is the upholstery and pinstriping."

One of Gardner's unusual finds turned out to be a real bargain. "It was 1983 when I called about a 1958 Bel Air four door in the local paper. It cost me \$750, and the wheel fell off when I was taking it home, but it was in really good shape, especially the interior."

Is he done collecting? "Nope!" Is he done restoring? "Yes!"



(top) Chevy Club member Bob Gardner sits in his latest, and maintains, last Chevy restoration, a 1957 Sport Coupe. "This was my nineteenth restoration that I just finished in April."

(bottom left) Four of his oldies but goodies include his first restoration, the black 1927 Capital Chevrolet Coach he found at an auction. He found his Chevies in all types of conditions: some were just rusted heaps of metal pieces, others were totaled due to car accidents.

(above) Heads turn when Bob Gardner takes any one of his three red "Vettes" for a spin. He has a 1955, a 1964, and the coveted 1963 C2 with the hood vents and the two-piece backlight (split window). A recent article in September's 2013 *Hagerty* by Yoav Gilad says it best: *All of the surfacing and details were designed to make it look like the gutsiest, fastest race car on Earth...that defined what a Vette is.*

## October

8 - 12 (Tuesday - Saturday)

2013 Fall Meet, Hershey, PA

17 - 18 (Thursday & Friday)

Annual LMR Mothball Tour  
(details on page 3)

## November

17 (Sunday)

Business Meeting including nomination of officers to be held at Layton Corners, Junction of Hope Restaurant, 2 p.m.

## December

7 (Saturday)

Year-end banquet at Best Western Plus, 6820 South Cedar, Lansing, MI: cash bar 1-2 p.m.; dinner 2-3 p.m.; meeting 3 p.m. \$21 per person. Details in November Chevy Chatter issue.



# from the driver's seat . . . Verle Wetherwax

810-547-1768 or sharonwetherwax@comcast.net

If you like old Chevies and the people who drive them, you would enjoy one of the tours different VCCA Regions plan each year. I just participated in a 6 Cylinder Tour in the beautiful state of Vermont; now I can hardly wait for the one next year! Five LMR members, Ve Conrad, Jerry and Vivian VanBrundt, and my wife Sharon and I represented the club in this tour. It was great fun! There are three different tours sponsored by VCCA each year: a 4 Cylinder for cars between 1913-1928, a 6 Cylinder for cars between 1929-1954, and a Happy Days Tour from 1955-1985. Participating in one of these tour categories is an event many of you would enjoy so watch the *G&D* for more info.

I felt it necessary to again discuss our very successful Central Meet. I'm not sure if everyone is aware that we actually came out a little money ahead instead of going in the red. We can thank an anonymous donor who generously and kindly contributed \$1,000! For all of us, I say THANK YOU for your generosity!

The next meeting will take place at Stahl Museum as the final activity of the Mothball Tour, which is set for October 17 - 18. Please plan to attend as it involves the nomination of new officers. LMR needs your cooperation and help so volunteer for an office. We have openings for Director, Secretary, Treasurer and three Board members. When you belong to an organization such as this, it is like a savings account: the more you put into it, the more you get back. PLEASE get involved.

## Minutes from past LMR meetings

- Minutes from both the August 6 and the August 26 meetings were read by Secretary Marge Henige. Brian Granger motioned to accept the August 6 minutes and Sharon Wetherwax seconded. Lois Gardner motioned to accept the August 26 minutes and Ve Conrad seconded. Both motions were approved.
- Membership director Ve Conrad said there are 118 members as of the Sept. 15 meeting. She will retire after 12 years of service and Mary Samulski will be her replacement.
- GMC Truck is petitioning for membership into the VCCA. Our LMR region agreed to have it join.
- Mike McCarty made a presentation on the October Mothball Tour.
- New Chevy Chatter editor Barb Sparks was introduced.
- An anonymous donor gave the Club \$1000 during the Central Meet.
- The Paul Hammond Award is being replaced by the Most Outstanding Member of the Year Award. The

recipient will be determined by the LMR Club Director.

Sunshine News: Get well cards were sent to Norma Clark, Ed McFarland, Joan Tylka. A sympathy care was sent to the Walt Arvoy family because of the death of Carol's brother.

(below) The Forties were well represented by LMR members Donald Gale of Farmington Hills with his 1946 Chevy, Jim and Jo Carpenter of Linden with their 1948 Chevy, and Verle and Sharon Wetherwax of Clio with their 1941 Chevy.



## Golden Oldies Day at Flint's Sloan Museum



(above) LMR member Clarence Straus of Swartz Creek entered his 1915 Chevy.

## 2013 Lower Michigan Region Vintage Chevrolet Club of America Officers

Director: Verle Wetherwax sharonwetherwax@comcast.net  
 Asst.Dir: Brian Granger grangerb59@yahoo.com  
 Secretary: Marge Henige mhenige57@centurylink.net  
 Treasurer: Leon Eisemann leoninmi@frontier.com  
 Historian: Wayne Jackson waylojac@aol.com  
 Sunshine: Marge Henige mhenige57@centurylink.net

Sr. Board member: Jerry VanBrunt Jvvb12@aol.com  
 Sr. Board member: Gary Mehl realbrowneyes@yahoo.com  
 Sr. Board member: Dennis Clark ClarkdennisA@AOL.com  
 Jr. Board member: Mike Sparks powerstroke50@hotmail.com  
 Jr. Board member: Jim Morningstar jmpartstar@yahoo.com  
 Jr. Board member: Ken Turnwald 989-845-2134

Ex-Officio Board member: Pinky Randall 989-302-0866  
 Chevy Chatter: Barbara Sparks chevychattermi@gmail.com  
 PO BOX 353 Saranac, MI 48881  
 Membership: Venessa Conrad veconbob@att.net  
 3530 Bergman Ave. Lansing, MI 48910-4604  
 517-882-6975

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 vehicle is not a prerequisite for membership. Lower Michigan Region dues are \$20 per year. To become a member, an applicant must be a National VCCA member in good standing. Yearly national dues are \$35.

# october tour: *the* **MOTHBALL**

by LMR club member Mike McCarty, tour organizer

*This two day tour will provide an interesting comparison of more than a century of automobile manufacturing technology and includes visits to three National Historic Landmarks.*

The tour begins at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, October 17, at the Holiday Inn Express in Troy, followed by a drive to the GM-Hamtramck Assembly Center, where the Chevrolet Volt plug-in electric vehicle is built. **NO open-toed shoes or skirts are permitted at the GM plant!**

After touring the plant, we drive a few miles to the Ford Piquette Avenue Plant, which is the first of the three National Historic Landmarks. The Piquette Plant is a well-preserved historic auto factory that operated from 1904 to 1910. It is the birthplace of the Model T. A docent will provide a walking tour of the plant showing assembly tech-

niques that provide an interesting contrast to procedures used in the present day Volt Plant.

After lunch, we will take a docent led walking tour of the historic Milwaukee Junction/Piquette Plant area. The Milwaukee Junction (railroad intersection) was the high tech area of Detroit in the early 1900's.

Then we drive to the General Motors Headquarters in the Renaissance Center for a docent led tour of the building. Dinner is on your own in the Renaissance Center, which has about 31 different places to eat. Then you will return to your hotel.

Friday begins with a drive at 8 a.m.

from the Holiday Inn Express in Troy to Meadow Brook, which is the second National Historic Landmark. A docent will lead a tour of the gardens. Meadow Brook, which is the fourth largest mansion in the United States, was the former estate of John and Mitilda Dodge.

Then we head to the Packard Proving Grounds, which is the third of the National Historic Landmarks, for a docent led tour of the historic facilities.

After lunch, we will drive to the Stahl Automotive Foundation in Chesterfield. We will have a VCCA/LMR meeting at Stahl's after touring the facility.

The cost of the two day event is \$28 per person plus lodging and meals.



(above) The Ford Piquette Avenue Plant, the birthplace of the Model T.

(right) The Packard Proving Grounds.



(left) Meadow Brook, the historic mansion and grounds of John and Mitilda Dodge.



(left) General Motors Headquarters located in the Renaissance Center.

**The Start of the Mothball Tour:**

**Troy Holiday Inn Express**

400 Stephenson Highway  
Troy, MI 48083  
248-583-1900

Exit SB at Exit 65B14 Mile Road West. Go 1 block west, turn right (N) on Stephenson Hwy, go 1/4 mile, hotel is on your right

**Tour begins at 7:30 a.m. to the GM Hamtramck Plant. No open-toed shoes or skirts allowed in the plant!**

**Suggested Hotels:**

**Troy Holiday Inn Express**

400 Stephenson Hwy  
Troy, MI 48083  
248-583-1900

**(VCCA Group Rate: \$110 until 10/2/2013)  
Hot Breakfast available**

**Red Roof Inn**

2350 Rochester Court  
Troy, MI 48083  
Exit SB I75 at Exit 67 & stay right  
248-689-4391

**Rate \$50 -\$54; No Breakfast**

**Tour Reservation Form Due October 10**

**to provide "counts."** Make checks payable to LMR-VCCA for \$28 per person. Contact Mike McCarty 248-528-1273 or michaelrrrmccarty@gmail.com

send to:	Mike McCarty 1764 Hopedale Troy, MI 48085
Names of Tourers:	_____
Phone No. of Tourers:	_____
Number _____ X \$28/person = \$ _____	

# Autos, Parts & Services

LMR Chevrolet Club members may place personal ads free of charge; professional businesses \$5

**For Sale:** 1929 small parts, new & restored. Good running '29 engine, also extra head & block; 1976 Monte Carlo, set of NOS rocker panel moldings complete. A few 1966 Chevelle moldings. Phone 269-327-5522 or cell 269-598-2742 Lew Clark

**For Sale:** 1932 Chevrolet chassis & drivetrain complete, frame, 207 engine, transmission, including freewheeling unit. Asking \$2000. Purchased for street rod project but too good to cut up. Call Skip at 810-869-3707.

**For Sale:** Large accumulation of 1933 Chevy Master parts for 4 door sedan. Too many parts to list. Will negotiate prices. Call Joe at 734-426-3586 or email Scheuring@aol.com. Will send photos.



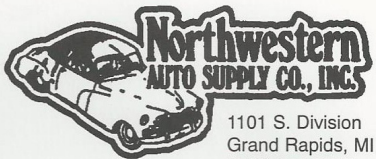
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