

November 2019

The Chevy Chatter

Lower Michigan Region



The 2019 LMR Mothball Tour

Submitted by Bill Anderson, with Photos from Tim Reinke

The October 5, 2019 Mothball tour is now history. Many great memories had by the 18 members driving 9 cars. Attendees included: Dave and Phyllis Rickabus; Robin, Tim Dennis, and Bonnie Reinke; Don and Corrine Frasure; Lloyd and Margie Henige; Andy, Rebekka, Jacob, and Hanna Mehl; Ken Beaver; Dave and Joyce French; and Trip Captain Bill Anderson.

We departed the Super 8, Canton at 8:15 AM, headed to the John and Dorothy Grace car and bicycle collection in two large buildings in nearby Plymouth. We spent about 90 minutes being entertained by our hosts who gave us detailed histories, significance of many of the vehicles, and unique features of antique bicycles in their collection. Some vehicles, while in unrestored condition, (a 1903 Curve Dash Olds, a 1960's vintage French made Panhard, among many too numerous to remember) had character reflecting their history and past usage. Others were stored in the warehouse for friends, and other car enthusiasts. We had opportunity to see a rare (only 6 made, 4 known to exist) 1905 Ford Model B made at the Ford Piquette plant in Detroit.

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Don't forget!

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

From the Driver's Seat

Lately I have noticed the leaves changing and my neighbors packing their cars for their trips to warmer parts of the country. This tells me I need to get my cars stored for winter.

We had a wonderful meeting on Sunday the 20th. I was glad to get the elections completed and I wish the new officers elected a successful year ahead. We missed the sunshine lady, only to find out that she was involved in an accident and suffered some serious injuries. I wish Denise a speedy recovery.

I will not be at the Awards dinner as I will be on my way back from Tennessee with Verna, her sister Georgia and husband Jerry.

I want to thank you all for the advice and service to the club, and for all of those who planned the tours and picnic. It made my job easier, it made for easy tenure. I want to thank Tim and Robin for planning the Trip to Hersey. It was a great week and some of our members unloaded a lot of their treasures and made some cash too!

In closing I want to thank you all for your support this year and I thank you that I wasn't even impeached! I want to thank Tim for accepting the position. Blessings to you for a successful year.

~Jim Schott



November Birthdays

1st	Dale Gambill
4th	Dennis Reinke
4th	Bill Jusela Sr.
6th	Thomas Hall
6th	Mike Nelson
14th	Loretta Jackson
17th	Paul Pawlosky
17th	Carol Buller
20th	Ross Vincent
23rd	Jeff Bladow
24th	Michael Sparks

Our longtime member and current Sunshine Lady, Denice Thomas, was involved in a serious auto accident in October. After some time in the hospital, and a surgery, Denice is now in the Rehab unit at Hurley Medical Center, One Hurley Center, Flint, MI (Phone (810) 262-9000). A get-well card was sent to her on behalf of all the members of the LMR.

Here is Rod's (Thomas) latest report on Denice: They moved her up to the sixth floor Rehab unit last Friday evening. She is coming along pretty well with some pains. She is having rehab three times a day, an hour each time. She still needs help moving around but she is doing more on her own. I guess a 40 lb. cast on your foot doesn't help.(it sure looks like it weighs that much) Visitors are certainly welcome. I would suggest afternoon- early evening as she has two sessions in the morning and one in the afternoon at about 2:00- 3:00 pm. So before or after that would work best. Also I suggest calling her first at 810-620-9606.

If you need further information, please contact Pat Mehl at 269-217-1253.

MOTHBALL TOUR – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Being a working collection, some vehicles were unrestored survivors, in process of restoration, and others complete.



The bicycle collection had some truly unique examples of 2 wheeled works of art dating back to the late 1890's. The Grace daughters demonstrated a high wheeler and a special scooter with an eccentric rear wheel.

Moving down the road 10 miles, we arrived as the Fisher Antique Stationary Engine Show was ramping up. This once-a-year event features stationary engines used in the 1800's and early to mid-1900's for propulsion at saw mills, for power generation, water pumping, and anything requiring a power

assist. Most were single cylinder units with flywheel pulleys ranging from 1 foot to 10 feet in diameter. The smaller units, capable of transport by trailer, were brought from locations in Michigan, Northern Ohio, and Indiana. Watching the sequence of events during startup of the larger engines was definitely a treat enjoyed by all in our group.

The collection is housed at a once-active 20 acre greenhouse farm facility. The now retired 3 antique boilers in the power house were absolutely breathtaking, being easily 10 feet high by 20 feet long, a reminder of the effort that was expended in years past, to keep tender greenhouse plants comfortable in cold weather.

While we were in attendance at the show, other local car enthusiasts showed up with their collectors' cars, most notably three owners driving their Willys-Knight and Stearns-Knight vehicles. Another special treat.

Leaving Fisher's show was difficult, but our road tour was ahead of us, and while the foliage wasn't in full Fall color, the tree lined secondary roads were smooth and relatively free of traffic, allowing us to cruise at a speed most comfortable for the four early 30's Chevys on the tour. As luck would have it, Bill Anderson's '32 was attacked by the Electro-lock gremlins 3 times on the trip, necessitating a field hot wire of the ignition which was equivalent to an electronic Band-Aid.



Lunch in Chelsea at Thomson's Pizzeria was great after our 46 mile trek. There were many very tasty items on the menu, so no one went hungry. (The pizza was exceptional!)

Departing lunch found us on our final leg to the Lost Railway Museum in Grass Lake. When we arrived, our lead scout car, piloted by Dave Rickabus, had arrived about 3 minutes ahead of the pack, and noted that the museum had closed about 1.5 hours earlier as it adopted a Fall Schedule in early September. Our previous reservation and correspondence was apparently forgotten by our museum contact. Ok, time for a group photo in front of the Museum to verify our visit, and then depart for home, the target being that everyone could be home before sundown. Yes, end of a busy, safe, yet, exciting day.

Makes us all look forward to the Dust-off tour next Spring.





VCCA Sports a new Logo!

Any of us who have tried to recruit a new member have often had people comment, "You wouldn't be interested in my cars!" When asked why, the reply often has been: "My car isn't old enough." With further discussion the car that was thought to be "too new" was in fact a car 25 years to half a century old or older! When asked where they got the idea they were unwelcome, a finger would point to the logo. The revised logo will not solve our membership challenges, but it is obvious a logo should help, not hinder our appeal. The National Board worked through several design ideas, and finally came to realize that the bowtie is the one feature shared by ALL our Chevrolets.

Here is further explanation as to the design elements of the new logo:

1. As there will be a time period that the old logo will still be in use, the new logo needs to reflect a similar identity. The blue oval and Vintage Chevrolet Club of America remains.
2. The "4-6-V8" across the bottom of the oval (representing an earlier but not entirely successful attempt to convey our interest in all three eras) has been replaced with our web address, to provide additional exposure to modern communications.
3. "Founded 1961" is retained to emphasize the long history of the club.
4. The Chevrolet emblem that is used is actually the same emblem that has been used on the side of the car of the original logo. This is used to represent the history and vintage of Chevrolet. It also pays homage to the '30's radiator emblem. The use of the two colors - blue and yellow, represents old and new. Blue of course, means Chevrolet. Additionally, the introduction of yellow represents the vintage use in the old "Super Chevrolet Service" signs, and the yellow shade projects Chevrolet into the present as it has been used on modern Chevrolets for years. Finally, the addition of a brighter second color makes the logo become more eye catching, and when reproduced in black & white the bowtie is gray. This improves the image in places where color is not feasible.
5. Overall, the combination of the two colors, the use of a "vintage" Chevrolet logo, and the use of the bowtie takes the logo across the history of Chevrolet, old and new.

The Board stresses that there is no need to junk anything you may have with the old logo – Region Fundraisers, banners, brochures, etc. Going forward we suggest you use the new logo on newly produced items. It is the hope of the National Board that you will embrace the new logo, and use it to your advantage to “brag” about our wonderful club!

2019 Lower Michigan Region VCCA Officers

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Chevy Chatter
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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 October 20, 2019 LMR Meeting Submitted by Mike McCarty

The October 20, 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 2:07 pm. There were 18 members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by members. The minutes from the September 15, 2019 Membership Meeting were approved as published in the October 2019 Chevy Chatter.

New Business: The general membership meeting was suspended to elect LMR officers for 2020. Director Schott presented the 2020 LMR officer nominees: Director - Tim Reinke, Ass't Director - Brian Granger, Secretary - Phyllis Rickabus, Treasurer - Pat Mehl, Board members at Large - Bill Anderson, Pam Mehl, Denice Thomas & Andy Mehl. Appointed positions include: Ex-Officio Board Member - Jim Schott, Membership - Bill Anderson, Sunshine - Denice Thomas, News Letter Editor - Corrie Mehl, Historian - Bruce Granger. A motion was made and seconded that nominations be closed, and the slate of officers be elected by unanimous voice vote. The motion carried. The General Membership meeting was resumed.

Treasurer's Report: - Treasurer absent.

Activities: The LMR Awards Banquet will be held on November 2 at the Vault Deli in Mason, MI starting at 11:30 am. There will be a guest speaker to tell us about her work on the Corvette Engine Program. Time is getting short to register. See details in the October Chevy Chatter.

The LMR calendar and plans for the 2020 tours and activities were discussed.

Plans include:

April 19, 2020 - LMR Meeting at 2:00 pm at the Junction of Hope Restaurant.

May 16-17, 2020 - Dust Off Tour. Jim Schott Chairperson.

June 21, 2020 - Sloan Summer Fair at Crossroads Village. LMR meeting at 1:00 pm.

July 26, 2020 - LMR Picnic and white elephant sale (date tentative depending on Central Meet).

August 1-2, 2020 - Red Barn Spectacular at Gilmore Museum. Robin Reinke to lead tour to Hickory Corners.

August 15, 2020 - Back to the Bricks car show and Woodward Dream Cruise.

September 13, 2020 - Golden Memories Car Show at Sloan Museum. LMR Meeting at 1:00 pm to nominate officers.

October ??, 2020 - Moth Ball Tour (date TBD).

October 18, 2020 - LMR Meeting - Junction of Hope Restaurant at 1:00 pm (Board) and 2:00 pm (Membership). Election of officers.

November 7, 2020 - LMR Awards Banquet (location TBD).

Membership: Phyllis Rickabus reminded members that both National and LMR membership dues for 2019 must be paid by year end. Please send in a new form when renewing your LMR membership. Bob and Lois Gardner will soon receive 35 year membership badges from the VCCA.

News Letter: No report.

Sunshine: Jim Schott to remind Denice Thomas to send a card to Bill Milliken, Jr. on the recent loss of his father.

Historian: Bruce Granger - No report.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

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