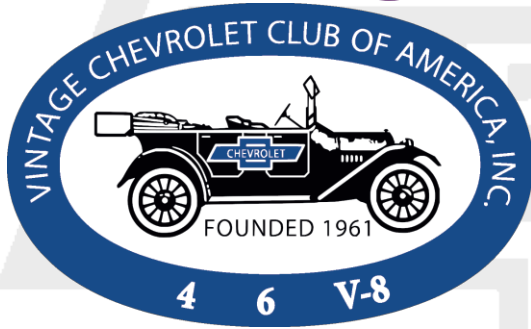


# CHEVY CHATTER



## Lower Michigan Region



### In Memoriam

**Darrell Dowdy** (VCCA #:2895) passed away on March 22, 2022. He was a proud Veteran of the US Marine Corp and is laid to rest at Great Lakes National Cemetary. He joined the VCCA in 1967.

## The Great Lakes State's Great Licence Plates

Story by Tim Reinke

With the re-release of the "Water-Winter Wonderland" license plate by the State of Michigan on Dec 2 2021, I thought I would write an article on the history of the license plate in



First official Michigan Licence Plate. Courtesy: Wikipedia (Zcarstvnz)

Michigan. I will admit that I am no expert on the subject and did most of my research in the past couple of months. If I got something wrong or you have information to add, please write me a note and I will print the new/corrected information. I know we have some license plate experts in this club.



The new Water-Winter Wonderland Plate

plate in 1910. Until then, residents had to provide their own plate of some sort. The very early state issued plates were porcelain. In 1915, the state switched to aluminum and started using embossing. In 1920, they would switch back to steel until 1973. All plates would be aluminum starting with the 1976 Bicentennial plate.

Michigan started requiring automobiles to be registered with the state in 1905. The state issued it's first license



Issued for the US's 200 Birthday!

From 1910 until 1926, the letters "MICH" would be found on the left side of the plate. From 1927 to 1963, the plates included the entire word "Michigan" at either the top or bottom of the plate. In odd years, Michigan was on the bottom of the plate and in even years the state name was on the top with the exceptions of 1930, 1941 and 1942. Since 1963, the state name has always been on top. 1939-1941 & 1965-1967 plates only used the letters "MICH".



Continued on pg. 2



## Important Announcements!

April 24th is our **First Meeting** of the year. The meering will be at the Junction of Hope Resturant in Layton Corners. **12:30pm** Board Meeting. 2pm General Membership Meeting.

A visit to the **Joyce/Pinky Randall Collection** is scheduled for April 30th. We will leave the Lakeside Resort & Conference Center in Houghton Lake @ **1:00pm**.

Registration is open for the **60th Anniversary Meet** in Bowling Green Kentucky. You don't want to miss this event. See the Generator and Distributor for more information.

# Licence Plates continued

In 1983, the state stopped stamping new plates every year and issued the blue background with white lettering plate. It said "Michigan" on the top and "Great Lakes" on the bottom. This was also the first year the state used reflective paint for the white lettering. The paint had glass beads in it to make the plates easier to read at night. The plate was valid until 2007 when the plate was retired and all



Top: Standard plated (2007-2013)  
courtesy: www.15q.com

Bottom: Current plate  
Courtesy: State of Michigan



plates needed to be replaced. The new plate used the white reflective paint as the background with blue lettering, a practice that still continues on base plates to this day. This plate included the state's website "www.Michigan.gov" at the bottom. The plate would be revised slightly as a part of the Pure Michigan campaign in 2013 to the base plate used today with "PureMichigan" at the top and the less menacing "michigan.org" website on the bottom. The blue banner was also moved from the top to bottom.

Over the years, Michigan has issued 6 "optional base plates" all since 1996, starting with the "World's Motor Capital" plate which featured the seal for the "American Automobile Centennial 1886-1996" and the outline of a brass-era car on the background. This was the plate my parents had on their 1995 Chevy Astro Van and the first plate I remember seeing. Other optional base plates included 3 different sunset/sunrise over the Mackinac Bridge, a plate that featured the forest, all 5 Great Lakes and skylines from the largest cities in the state (Detroit, Grand Rapids, Lansing and Flint). This plate was retired in 2021 and replaced with the new "Water-Winter Wonderland" plate.



The first multi-year plate.  
Used from 1983-2007.

The Water-Winter Wonderland plate was first issued from 1965-1967 as a revision of the "Water Wonderland" plate from 1954 to 1964. Fun Fact: the 1965 "Water-Winter Wonderland" was the first Michigan plate stamped out of galvanized steel.



Comparison of the old and new Water-Winter Wonderland Plates.

In 2021, there was a lot of discussion regarding a new plate. Originally, legislation was introduced in the State Senate to bring back the blue plate from 1983 for an extra \$100 to help "fix the damn roads" but that proposal was rejected, and instead the "Water-Winter Wonderland" plate was reissued for a much lower fee.



I'll be honest, when I renewed my plate this year, I got the new plate. Am I the only one? 



Left: Motor Capital plate (1996)  
courtesy: Wikipedia (Tontigfox)

Right: Spectacular Peninsular plate (2007-2021)



Left: Great Lakes Splendor (1997-2007)  
courtesy: Wikipedia (Tontigfox)

Top Right: Original Bridge Plate (2013-2014), courtesy: Wikipedia (tplates)

Bottom Right: Current Bridge plate (2015-present)



## This is what clubs are for!

In late December, I was in search for a NOS inner door trim panel (GM part#: 3686115) for my 1948 Chevy 1/2 Ton pickup. My search led me to Pinky Randall who advised me to place a classified in the G&D and to be patient. He was confident a fellow VCCA member would come through.

Story by: Luke Stefanovsky (VCCA# 45707)



My want ad showed up in the most March G&D. A member who lived less than 100 miles from me was reading the articles at the end of the G&D about Pinky and turned to the classified sections, saw my ad and called me stating he had the exact part I was looking for. After some phone calls and photo sharing, I drove the short distance to pick up the RARE NOS door panel.

This happend thanks to Pinky and his advice. 



## The Blue Water Region AACA 29<sup>th</sup> annual Marysville Car Show Sunday, June 12, 2022

Located in shaded Marysville park  
801 E. Huron Blvd, Marysville MI



Celebrating the  
**101<sup>st</sup> Anniversary**


of the Wills Sainte Claire Automobile

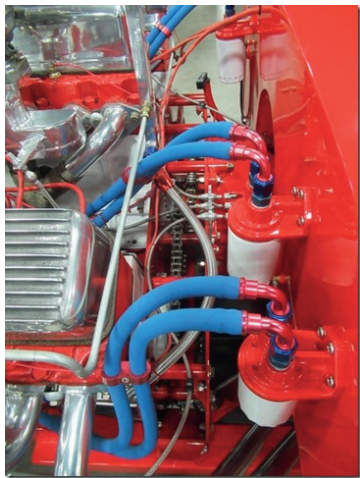
**Featuring the Largest Gathering of Will Sainte Claire Autos in History!**

\*Paid Advertisement - however, we have 3 member-families involved with the Wills Sainte Claire Museum and the Blue Water Region - AACA

# When 2 Stovebolts Aren't enough!

Story and Photos by Bill Anderson

I was at Autorama on Friday March 4th at Huntington Place in Detroit (Formerly COBO Hall). Us Chevy Stovebolt guys were well represented in the basement this year. The owner of the "truck" was not nearby for me to ask questions, from what I could determine, but one engine had the starter attached to it and other had the alternator. 



*Editor's Note: To achieve a displacement of 718 CID using only Chevy Stovebolts, you would need one 216 CID, one 235 CID and one 261 CID engines. Any 2 engines would need to be bored .010" over and the other engine would need to be bored .020" over.*



# CHEVROLET Spotlight

## Robin Reinke's 1942 1 1/2 Ton

In 1942, American's were bracing for war and they knew auto production was over for some time. In Freeland Michigan, a dealer had one 1942 farm truck and the first person with the money would get the truck. That person was Ira Sly. He showed up at the dealer with cash in hand and left with the truck.

I bought the truck in February of 1986 after seeing it sitting on the lot at Terry Misner Ford in Freeland. The truck had 47,677 miles on it. Terry Misner Ford had bought the truck at the Sly Farm auction the previous summer, so if dealers don't count, I am the 2nd owner of the truck.

In later years, I would stop at the original farm and speak to Ira's son, Don and granddaughter Marie Wylie. Don said that his dad never actually drove the truck, but preferred the horses. Don drove the truck the most, even backing it into a tree smashing up the fender and running board. He reminisced on that accident when he saw the damage still on the truck.



Since buying the truck, I have put on new brakes, re-covered the seat and rebuilt the engine. The truck's maiden voyage with the rebuilt engine was the LMR's visit to Michigan International Speedway. Other than that, the truck is all original. It received it's HPOCF certification at the 2011 50th Anniversary Meet.



*Editor's Note: I hope to make Chevrolet Spotlight a regular feature of this newsletter, but I need your help. Please send me info on a car you have owned. Maybe your first Chevy or a car you wish you still had!*

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# Lower Michigan Region, VCCA 2022 Calendar

**April 24th:** Spring Meeting – Junction of Hope, Layton Corners – 12:30pm Board Meeting/2pm General Membership Meeting

*Please note: Change in start time for the April Board Meeting*

**April 30th:** Tour of the Joyce & Pinky Randall Chevrolet Collection – Lakeside Resort Conference Center – Houghton Lake, MI – 1:00PM

**May 21st:** Dustoff Tour

**June 25th/26th:** Sloan AutoFair– Flint Cultural Center – 6/26 @ 1pm General Membership Meeting in the Sloan Museum

**July 17th:** Picnic

**July 29th/30th:** VCCA Central Meet – Bowling Green, Ky

**July 31st – August 5th:** VCCA 60th Anniversary Meet – Bowling Green, Ky  
See G&D for details

**August 20th:** Back to the Bricks – Saginaw St., Flint MI

**September 18th:** Golden Memories – Flint Cultural Center – 1pm General Membership Meeting in the Sloan Museum

**October 15th:** Mothball Tour

**November 5th:** Banquet

\*\*\*Note: All dates are tentative and subject to change\*\*\*

## From Behind the Steering Wheel

with Brian Granger

Spring is here. The grass has riz.  
I wonder where the flowers is!

A lot has happened this past winter and the Board has been working hard, during this time, for you and the Region. We still need someone to be the club secretary. Do I have a volunteer? In the past, Joyce & Pinky Randall had invited the region to come to Houghton Lake to see their collection. Well it's going to happen April 30, 2022, those that want to go, will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the Lakeside Resort & Conference Center, 100 Clearview Dr., Houghton Lake, MI 48629. For more details, contact me. From there, all will drive about a mile down the road to Pinky's Plaza (on M-52). Their shop/storage barn is located behind the plaza. For many, this will be the first and/or last time, the collection will be seen before being sold. It's about a two hour drive, from Flint to Houghton lake, so Bruce & I are driving up the night before.

April 24th is our first meeting of the year at Junction of Hope, 4136 Peet Rd., Chesaning, MI 48616 (Layton Corners). The Board will start their meeting at 12:30 p.m. because we have a lot to go over. The regular general membership meeting will start at 2:00 p.m., but you are welcome to sit in on the board meeting. See you there. Happy Easter !



## !!! Important Central Meet Info:

Due to price increases at the original hotel, The 2022 Central Meet will now be taking place in Bowling Green Ky. The host hotel of the Anniversary Meet will also be host to the Central meet July 29th & 30th.

If you made reservations at the hotel in Radcliff, please cancel them. You should be able to extend your reservations in Bowling Green back a couple of days and keep the VCCA rate.

The Central Meet car show will take place at the Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green Ky on Saturday July 30th. Judging starts at 10am.

Field Entrance Check is:  
Thursday 7/28: 6:30pm - 8:00pm  
Friday 7/29: 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Saturday 7/30: 8:00am - 9:00am

There will be an awards banquet 10am on Sunday 7/31.

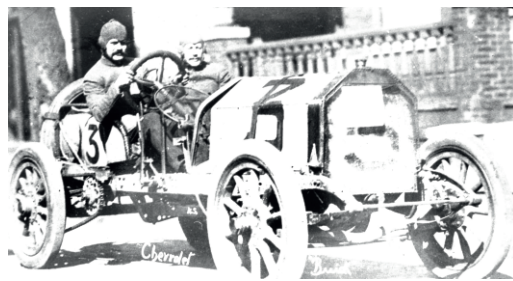
## Help Needed!!

The Lower Michigan Region (that's us) is in charge of Field Entrance Check for the 59th Central Meet July 28th - 30th 2022. If you are called by Tim or Pat Mehl to help with this, or for the upcoming 2023 60th Central Meet (July 19-22 2023), please don't assume there will be someone else to fill the spot. We need all our members who are physically able to help out - and many hands make light work! We ALL lead busy lives, but if you are going to be at any of our upcoming meets or events, please donate an hour or two of your time to make the meets run smoothly. VOLUNTEER! It is what makes our region and our club run like a Chevrolet!!!

Tim Mehl (734-516-9191 or TLMEHL54@hotmail.com) or Pat Mehl (269-217-1253 or Jakobs.Grama@gmail.com)

## On This Date in History: Arthur Chevrolet April 25, 1884 - April 16th, 1946

Arthur Chevrolet was the middle Chevrolet Brother (Louis, Arthur & Gaston). He was born on April 25th, 1884 in Bonfol Switzerland and emigrated to the United States on his brother's (Louis) dime. Arthur Chevrolet raced in 2 Indianapolis 500s, including the inaugural race in 1911. He raced again in 1916 both times dropping out after about 30 laps to engine problems. In 1920 he sustained serious injuries taking practice laps for that year's Indianapolis 500 and would never race again. His brother (Gaston) would win the 1920 Indy 500.



Arthur Chevrolet in his Buick from the 1911 Inaugural Indianapolis 500. He would drop out after 30 laps due to a mechanical issue and finish 36th. Courtesy: Chevrolet.com

In 1942, Arthur would move to Louisiana to work with Preston Tucker at Higgins Industries. After a battle with depression, Arthur took his own life in 1946 by hanging.

He was thought to have been buried next to his brothers in Indianapolis. The racetrack placed a headstone at his grave as a part of their 2011 '100 Years of Chevrolet' celebration. In 2017, however, it was determined that his actual resting place was in an unmarked grave in Sidell Louisiana where he had died. The grave in Indianapolis is acknowledged to be his son's (Arthur Chevrolet Jr.)

### Happy Birthday!

3 Bob Housekamp	20 Mary Granger
3 John McMullen	20 Lizz Reinke
6 Hope Dowdy	21 Lois Gardner
6 Hanna Mehl	22 Jay Amick
8 Robert Jack Pence	22 Kristine Hammond
11 Scott Dodge	22 Harry Snider
12 Pam Mehl	24 Patrick Macaluso
17 Marilyn Henige	29 John McPeak
19 Denice Thomas	

### Happy Anniversary!

Scott & Janet Taylor  
April 1, 1961

Ron & Marilyn Henige  
April 8, 1967

Mike & Susan McCarty  
April 16, 1977

Ed & Judy Oswald  
April 17, 1961

Michael & Carol Buller  
April 24, 1970

Bill & Susan Anderson  
April 24, 1981

John & Sandy Schoen  
April 27, 1979

## 2022 Board of Directors

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Asst. Director	Bill Anderson	old50grit@comcast.net
Secretary	Vacant	
Treasurer	Pat Mehl	Jakobs.grama@gmail.com

### Members-At-Large

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Robin Reinke	(989) 513-0590
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	Brian Granger	GrangerB59@yahoo.com
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*The purpose of the VCCA is to promote interest in the preservation and restoration of vintage Chevrolet manufactured vehicles and GMC manufactured trucks. Ownership of a vintage Chevrolet or GMC 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.*

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