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CHEVY CHATTER



Lower Michigan Region

60th Central Meet Recap

Photos by Denice Thomas, Corrie Mehl and others

July 19-22, 2023

The Lower Michigan Region was the host of the 60th Central Meet in Kalamazoo and it was a smashing success. You will find pictures throughout this month's Chevy Chatter courtesy of Denice Thomas, Corrie Mehl and others. As stressful as it was, the Meet Chairmen Pat and Tim Mehl did a great job keeping things running. A special thanks goes out to all who assisted in making the meet a success; especially Pat & Tim Mehl - Meet Co-Chairmen, Bill Anderson - Registration Chair, Denice Thomas - Raffle Chair, Corrie Mehl - Meet Photographer, Tim Reinke - Tour Chair and countless others who distributed packets and other items, entrance checked all vehicles, guided traffic, laid out the judging field, judged, tallied or performed any other task no matter how small. This was a group effort. It is never too early to start thinking about where we will host our next central meet.



Top: Drone photo of Gilmore's grounds during our show



Right: Cars on tour at the Avenue of Flags at the Fort Custer National Cemetery in Battle Creek

Important Announcements!

Back to the Bricks will take place on **Aug 19th** downtown Flint. If you would like to use reserved parking on 2nd street, contact Brian Granger (810) 348-5198 or Bob Sovis (810) 629-7790 ASAP.

Sept. 17th will be the annual Golden Memories car show at the Sloan Museum. We will hold a regular business meeting at 1pm in the museum. We are looking for members to serve on board positions for 2024. If interested please contact Brian Granger (Grangerb59@yahoo.com) or any current board member.

Plans are taking shape for the *Mothball tour* to take place on *Oct 13th & 14th* in the Grand Rapids area. Details will be forthcoming in the September and October issues. Stay Tunded!

Central Meet Winners

The 60th Central Meet was a very successful meet for the host region. All-in-All members of the region took home a total of 19 awards as follows.

Member Name	Year	Car	Award
Bill Jusela	1916	490 Roadster	1st Senior
Scott Taylor	1922	FB Sport Touring	Preservation
Steve Hughes	1923	Utility Coupe	CDPC Certification
David Alger	1932	Pheaton	1st Junior
Bill Anderson	1932	Pickup	1st Senior
Tim Mehl	1942	Aerosedan	1st Senior
Luke Stefanovsky	1948	Pickup	CDPC Certification
Rod Thomas	1949	Business Coupe	Preservation
Roy Ellingwood	1951	Station Wagon	1st Junior
Bob Houskamp Jr.	1956	Bel Air	1st Junior
Steve Maveal	1956	3100 Pickup	1st Senior
Jim Lamberts	1959	Impala Convertible	HPOCF Certification
Chip Sweet	1970	Caprice Hardtop	HPOCF Certification
Alyssa Kissinger	1977	Corvette	2nd Junior
Ron Balint	1977	Suburban	CDPC Certification
Tim Mehl	1984	Monte Carlo	CDPC Certification
Gary Mehl	1989	Caprice 4 door	HPOCF Certification
Dave Rickabus	1993	Suburban	2nd Senior
Ella Hughes	1997	Crew Cab Pickup	CDPC Certification

The Following LMR members were recipients of **Best of Show** awards in their respective categories:

Bill Jusela - 4 Cylinder Era



David Alger - 6 Cylinder Era



Steve Maveal - Commercial Vehicles





The Central meet could not have happened without the help from many volunteers. Corrie Mehl took photos of all the cars including the arial photos on page 1 and 4.

Teams of people were needed to perform field entrance check on each and every car before judging could take place.



There were a handful of vendors selling unneeded parts next to the show field.



On This Date in History:

General Motors first solar car August 31, 1955

At the General Motor's Powerama auto show in Chicago, GM introduced the world to their first solar powered car.

The car, called the "Sunmobile" was a 15" model. The car contained 12 photovoltaic cells that produced electricity as light from the sun hit a selenium (a non-metal conductor) surface. A tiny motor would turn the models drive shaft and the model would move. The model was "driven" across the stage at Powerama for vistors to watch. GM had no plans to introduce a car to market with the technology but was just showing that the possiblity was there, as practical photovoltaic cells were very new, having been demonstrated by Bell Labratories only one year earlier.

In 1987, GM would once again show off it's solor powered capabilities by winning the first "World Solar Challenge." The SunRacer beat it's competition in the 1,950 mile race by 2 1/2 days. The car averaged 41.6 mph during the race.

While solar cars have been around for more than 60 years, not one has yet to come to mass market, and no major auto brand has one on the horizon.

Right: GM's first "Sunmobile" in 1955
Far Right: GM's Record Setting "SunRaycer" in 1987



Sun's Light Powers Tiny Car

Scientists race the 15-inch Sunmobile built by GM researchers. Rays striking 12 selenium photo-cells atop the car (above) generate electricity to run a 15-watt motor (right) and spin the one wheel.

In the Sunmobile a forerunner of full-size solar-powered cars? No, says GM. Even 100-percent-efficient cells could produce only 12 hp. for the average car.



THE GM SUNRACER, General Motors' entry in the World Solar Challenge 1985, will race that will begin Nov. 1 in Australia, was presented at Hagler's Aircraft's Corporate office in Chicago before being shipped to Irvine, where it was assembled Sept. 10 at GM. Team members attending the preview, who contributed to Hagler's development and building of the power system for the solar car, are, from left, Rex Oswald, Carol McQuary, Dave Rose, Sam Baggett, Ernie Adler, Howard Wilson, Sam Kramer, Jim Gentry, Dick Cheng, and Joe Fisher. All are Space and Communications Group employees except for Mr. Wilson, who is Hagler's vice president in charge of GM Projects and overall Sunracer project manager for the company.

Every attendee of the Central Meet had the opportunity to have their picture taken in front of Gilmore's iconic Shell Station. Including the youngest attendee, Braxton Lascallett from the Glass Capital Region and his 1957 Bel Air!



During the Central Meet, club members had lots of time to relax and visit at the grounds of the Gilmore Car museum.



On display during the car show, was a 1931 Chevrolet exhibit setup by Robin and Tim Reinke. It included Robin's Cabriolet, their accessory board and Tim's fully restored running gear for his sedan.





The Central Meet ended with an awards luncheon hosted by Traveller's Cafe at a replica Texaco Station. The inside of the station was a roomy hall decorated with all sorts of automobile items.

A pasta bar was served and enjoyed by all.





Photos from the Central Meet tour on Saturday July 22. Stops included: Bill Parfett's personal car collection, which included, 4 Auburns, 1 cord, 2 Dusenbergs, 2 seaworthy wooden boats and many brass-era cars and the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary.

CHEVROLET Spotlight

Not Mine, But seen on the road

By Tim Reinke

For Independence Day, My wife (Lizz), my dad (Robin) and myself drove across the country to Locust Grove Oklahoma (about 1 hour east of Tulsa) to visit my aunt Tina, my dad's eldest sister.

One day, my aunt was driving us around the area, just showing us things and we happened by an auto repair place that has an old truck sitting out front on display. Of course we had to stop and get a closer look. The truck turned out to be a 1929 Chevrolet fuel tanker. We were unable to tell if the truck was originally a tanker or was restored thus. The truck was in very solid shape with almost no rust.



Please send me a short story about a car you have come across to help keep this column alive.

From Behind the Steering Wheel

with Brian Granger

I have been a teacher all my life. As such, I want you to re-read my remarks in the July issue of the "Chevy Chatter", as a review. Done ? Good ! Now you can continue with my remarks for August.

The Dog Days of August are upon us. Hopefully, Mother Nature will be kind, this month.

The 60th VCCA Central Meet was fun, but ask Bruce what happened, on the way home, after he dropped me off. Corrie Mehl, Tim Reinke, Denice Thomas and others took many picture and many have already been posted on the VCCA facebook page.

Our next big region get together will be Saturday, August 19th, parking on 2 nd Street, west of Saginaw Street, Flint, MI, for the 19th Annual Back to the Bricks Car Show. Please let Bob Sovis (a founding BttB committee member) or myself know if you plan on attending, as soon as possible. The Club parking is limited to about a dozen vehicles. Bruce and I will be on site at about 5:30 a.m. to park you, as we have for the last 19 years.

The Region will hold our next regular meeting at 1:00 p.m., on September 17th. Location will be at the 29th Annual "Golden Memories" Show, Sloan Museum of Discovery, Flint, MI. Nominations of officers for 2024 will be opened during this meeting. Volunteers are needed. The jobs are not hard. The club only has four regular meeting a year : April and October at Junction of Hope, Layton Corners, MI and June and September at the Sloan Museum of Discovery, Flint, MI. There are two Board Meetings before the regular meeting in April and October. The Board has held zoom meeting, in the past, to cover items that could not wait. I'm not talking to just the male members of the Lower Michigan Region, either. Currently and in the past, many positions have been held by female members of the Region.

Next year, the 61st VCCA Central Meet will be hosted by the Cuyahoga Valley Region. Dates are July 25-27, 2024. The host hotel will be the Best Western Plus located at 15471 Royalton Rd., Strongsville, OH. Mark your calendar ! More details will be forthcoming.

The Fall Tour is scheduled for about October 13/14th (after Hershey). If you have an idea of a place to visit and/or want to host the event, Contact Bill Anderson.

Happy Birthday to all you August babies, of all ages and Happy Anniversary to those of you who tied the knot/ jumped the broom in August.



Welcome Aboard!

Richard and Holly Andersen

of Empire, MI with their 1982 C10 Diesel

Rick and Sandy Kaskinen

of Kaleva, MI. They have a: '27 Canopy Express, '35 Coupe, '36 Coach & '47 Fleetline

John & Lee Sayer

of Flushing, MI with their 1972 Chevelle

Happy Birthday!

2 Diane Bullard	17 Corinne Frasure
2 Luke Stefanovsky	21 Traci Alger
2 Corrie Mehl	21 Bekka Mehl
6 Suzi Macaluso	23 Sharon Roberts
12 Jim Johnson	25 Jennifer Bladow
16 Bill Bullard	29 Steven Maveal
16 Helen Hall	

Happy Anniversary!

Luke Stefanovsky & Martha Bamfield
August 1, 1987

Don & Corinne Frasure
August 13, 2011

Stu & Mary Galbraith
August 22, 1959

Tim & Pat Mehl
August 24, 1973

2023 Board of Directors

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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.

Thank you to the following sponsor of the
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