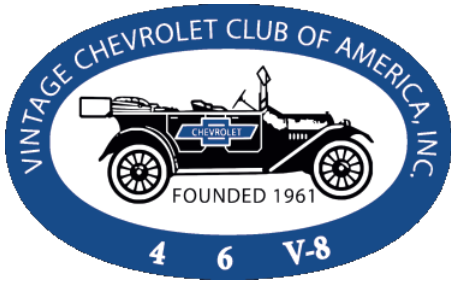


M a r c h 2 0 2 4

CHEVY CHATTER




Lower Michigan Region



In Memoriam

Robert "Bob" Sovis passed away on February 27th, 2024. He joined the VCCA in 1965. In 1967 he served as Region Director for the LMR as well as Chairman of the 24th Central Meet in 1987.

Between February 9 & 11, the Dort Financial Center in Flint was transformed from an ice rink into a car show. LMR member John Sayer showed his Chevelle and The Granger twins' brother, Marvin, showed his S-10 Blazer. Below are images of their vehicles on the floor in the ice rink. 



Important Announcements

Our **FIRST MEETING** of the year will be at the Junction of Hope Restaurant in Layton Corners on **MARCH 17TH**. We hope to see you all there!

Our **ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET** will be on April 20th at the Brookshire Inn & Golf Club in Williamston MI More info can be found on page 2 of this newsletter! We will have a special honor for anyone in Michigan who has been a VCCA member for at least 55 years.

The **DUSTOFF TOUR** will take place over 2 days (May 10/11) in the Grand Rapids Area. More details are on page 6

The 61st Central Meet will take place in Strongsville OH on July 24-27. Meet registration is now open. The registration form will be included in April Chevy Chatter or Janice Carter for info on registering. (centralmeet2024@gmail.com) or (440) 338-3097



Lower Michigan Region - VCCA
Annual Awards Banquet
Saturday, April 20, 2024, 11:30 a.m.
Brookshire Inn & Golf Club,
205 W. Church St., Williamston, MI

You will have your lunch choice off a varied, limited menu. Most entrees will be less than \$20 per plate; drinks, tax, and tip will be extra. Payment is directly to the restaurant.

Social time at 11:30; bar is available.

Lunch at noon.

We will honor our 55+ year
VCCA Michigan members
(LMR and non-LMR) as our special guests.
Please RSVP no later than April 10 to:

Pat Mehl

Phone: 269-217-1253

E-Mail: Pat.M.VCCA@gmail.com

Or mail form below to:

P.O. Box 20, Paw Paw, MI 49079

Yes, I (we) will be attending

Regrets - I (we) will not be there.

Member Name _____

Guests _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____



Lower Michigan Region, Vintage Chevrolet Club of America, 2024 Spring Banquet

Lower Michigan Region, VCCA 2024 Calendar

March

1-4	Detroit Autorama Hot Rod Show, Huntington Place (COBO)	Detroit, MI
17	LMR St. Patrick's Day Meeting, Junction Resturant	Layton Corners, MI
17	Eastside A's Swap meet, Russ Milne Ford	Macomb, MI

April

14	Monroe Swap Meet, Monroe County Fairgrounds	Monroe, MI
20	LMR 2024 Kickoff Banquet, Brookshire Golf Club	Williamston, MI

May

4	VMCCA Great Lakes Region Swap Meet	Fowlerville, MI
10-11	LMR-VCCA Dustoff Tour – Location & Specifics TBD	
18-19	Bearing Burner's Swap Meet and Car Show, KofC Picnic Grounds	Shelby Twp, MI
19	Back to the Bricks Promo Tour	Flint, MI
26	Festival of Cars Car Show, Rochester Municipal Park	Rochester, MI

June

9	Cars "R" Stars Car Show, Packard Proving Grounds	Shelby Twp, MI
9	Blue Water Region, AACA Car Show, Marysville Park	Marysville, MI
7-12	Back to the Bricks Promo Tour	Flint, MI
22-23	Sloan Musuem AutoFair Car Show	Flint MI
	LMR Membership Meeting – 1pm	
24-28	VCCA 4 Cylinder Tour	Great Falls, MT

July

13	LMR Summer Picnic – Location & Specifics TBD	
22	Iola Swap Meet	Iola, WI
25-27	VCCA 61th Central Meet – host: Cuyahoga Valley Region	Strongsborg, OH

August

3	Red Barn Spectacular Car show and swap meet, Gilmore Car Museum	Hickory Corners, MI
5-10	Back to the Bricks Tuneup week	Flint, MI
17	Back to the Bricks, Downtown Flint	Flint, MI

September

7-8	Old Car Festival, Greenfield Village	Dearborn, MI
15	Sloan Museum Golden Memories	Flint MI
	LMR Membership Meeting – 1pm	
28-29	LMR-VCCA Mothball Tour - Location & Specifics TBD	

October

7-11	AACA Eastern Fall Meet Swap Meet and Car Show	Hershey, PA
20	LMR-VCCA Meeting @ Junction Restaurant	Layton Corners MI
	1pm Board, 2pm General Membership	

1931 Chevrolet Thermostat Spacer Reproduction

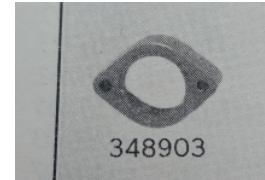
By Tim Reinke

In 1931, A thermostat was a dealer installed accessory for Chevrolet. The original thermostat was designed to open at 140°F and stood 2 ½" tall with a large coil spring to open and close the valve which sits in a top-hat shaped housing.



An original thermostat, courtesy of

The height of the original thermostat necessitated the addition of a spacer block between the water outlet and the head. *Please note: modern thermostats are much more compact and can be installed without the spacer* These original spacers were used from 1929 to 1933 and are very difficult to find and if you can find one they tend to be in very rough shape from the water/antifreeze flowing through them.

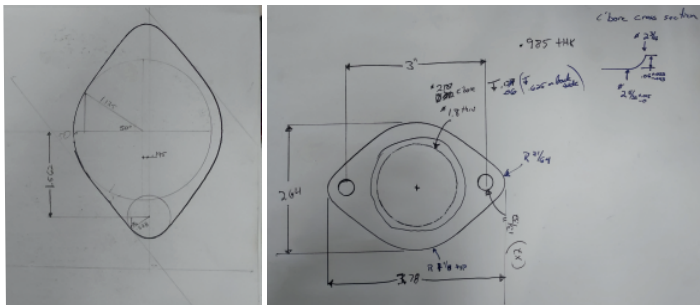


Bob Beam and an image of the spacer from the parts book



Above: Original spacer off my dad's car. Notice the rough outer surface. This would not be recreated on the new part.

I decided that I wanted to put a thermostat and this spacer on my car, just to show what it looks like but my car never had one so I was going to reproduce it. The first step in reproducing a part is to find an original that is in good enough shape to reverse engineer. Luckily my dad's 1931 Cabriolet had one on it in very nice shape. The 2nd step is to measure all dimensions on the original and figure out how it was made originally. The original is cast iron and if you



*Above: hand drawing of the original part. These were used to create the new part. *note some of these dimensions were wrong and needed to be adjusted later.*

a cast part is tapered so that it will release from the mold. As a machinist, the easiest/cheapest way for me to make this part would be machine it, this would mean it wouldn't have all the tapers that the original had, but it would be "good enough" and the average person wouldn't even notice.



Above: stack of bar ends, these would be used to make my reproductions.

from the long bars of steel we use and I was able to find a few 4" diameter slugs that were just long enough. I primarily run lathes in my shop so the center-line features (through hole & thermostat pocket) were the easiest stuff for me to do so I started there. I chucked my round slug in my lathe, drilled out the through-hole and used a boring bar to bore the thermostat pocket in.

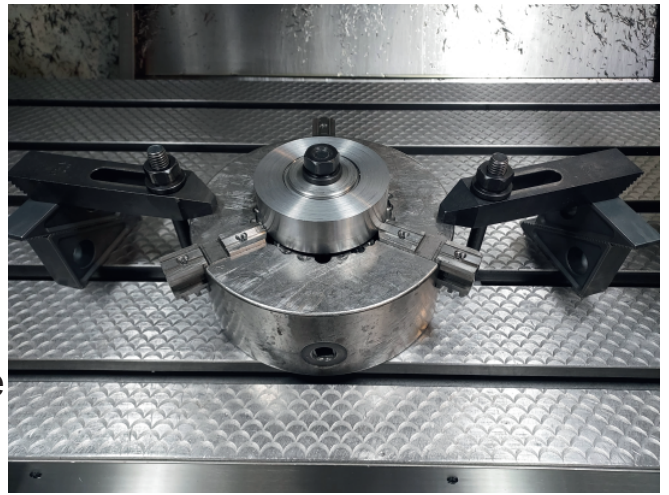
Once I had all my measurements, I set out to work. Luckily my shop saves all the slug ends



The slug of steel in the lathe once drilling and boring were completed



The next step was by-far the hardest. I had to turn this round slug into a rounded "diamond" shape, for this I would need to use a CNC (Computer Numeric Controlled) Mill. Fancier shops can draw up 3D models of parts and the computer will write the programs automatically but in my shop we write all the code ourselves. When I started the mill, I realized that something didn't look right. After some investigation I realized that way back in step one I got a dimension wrong in my reverse engineering, luckily I had made a set-up piece (an extra piece I am willing to ruin for testing purposes) once I figured out my mistake, I ran my good piece. While in the mill I also drilled the 2 mounting holes.



Above: Turned, drilled and bored slug on the table of the mill.

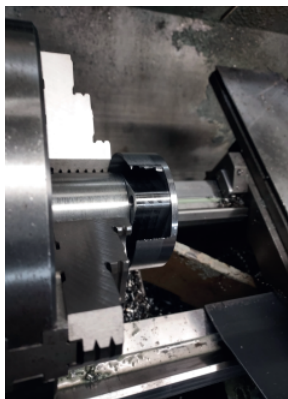
After taking the part out of the mill, I bolted the part to a special fixture back in my lathe to remove the extra material that I used to hold on to in the mill. The last step was to take the finished spacer over to my surface grinder and grind the mounting faces perfectly flat to ensure a good seal when it is finally mounted to engine and water outlet.

Below-left: small portion of the program I wrote to mill the "diamond" shape.

Below-right: Spacer after milling and drilling was completed. Still in the mill.

```

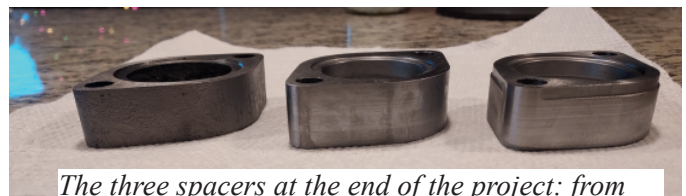
(LN1 01490 (THERMHOUSE
N2 L100
N3 G1 F4, X1.7728 Y0.2513
N4 G2 F4, X1.7728 Y-0.2513 I-0.2108 J-0.2513
N5 G1 F4, X0.8618 Y-1.000
N6 G2 X-0.8618 Y-1.000 I-0.8618 J1.000
N7 G1 X-1.7728 Y-0.2513
N8 G2 X-1.7728 Y0.2513 I0.2108 J0.2513
N9 G1 X-0.8618 Y1.000
N10 G2 X0.8618 Y1.000 I0.8618 J-1.000
N11 G1 X1.7728 Y0.2513
N12 M17
QUICK KEYS, TOOL# 1 -----SPACE BAR FOR NEXT MENU-----
1-DRY RUN          4-SET FIXTURE      7-Axis ZERO      8-CUSTOM MACRO
2-NEXT TOOL        5-SET LENGTH       8-RECALL AUTO
3-ZERO RETURN      6-OFFSETS          9-PUNCH
    
```



Above: spacer bolted back into the lathe showing the "extra material" that needed to be removed after milling.



Right: The final part on the surface grinder.



The three spacers at the end of the project: from left to right: My dad's original, my reproduction, my setup piece (notice the step at the very top)

Below: the 3 pieces that make up the thermostat system, and how they are assembled. This assembly bolts to the head of the engine. These parts were painted by my dad, Robin.



2024 LMR, VCCA Dust-Off Tour May 10 & 11, 2024

Tour Overview:

This year's Dust-Off Tour is a 2 day tour visiting attractions in Grand Rapids area. Emphasis is more on destinations than a driving route. The tour is finding your way to the Hotel.

Area Hotel: Comfort Suites Grand Rapids, South [\(616\) 301-2255](tel:6163012255) 7644 Caterpillar Ct SW, Grand Rapids, (\$125/night)

Friday, May 10

9:00 AM Depart from Comfort Suites for Terrytown RV Sales
11 AM – 1 PM Lunch
1:30 -3:00 PM GR Auto Gallery to see their classics cars for sale
3:30 – 5 PM Gerald Ford Museum
6:00 PM Dinner

Saturday, May 11

9:00- 11AM Dom Federico Collection
11:30 – 1PM Lunch
1:30 PM Meijer Gardens (\$20 admission)
Trip ends at your leisure

Grand Rapids Maps and driving directions from the hotel will be supplied on the day of the tour.

=====

REGISTRATION FORM

=====

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Additional Participants:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Send this information to:

Bill Anderson 3301 Saddle Ridge, Highland, MI 48357

Cell: 248-881-6510

Email: old50grit@comcast.net.

The Farmer's Almanac states Spring 2024 will be warm. March appears to be coming in like a lamb. I believe it has already started. Last week, I found a lone dandelion blooming in my front yard. Have not seen a Robin, but I have been told of their sightings. I have also seen some motorcycles and collectable vehicles out and about.

From Behind the Steering Wheel

with Brian Granger



March has many special days during the month. Here are a few you might want to jot down on your calendar: March 10 - adjust your clocks/lose an hour of sleep, March 14th - Pi Day, March 15th - Ides of March, March 17th - St. Patrick's Day, and March 19th - Spring Equinox.

March 17th is the Lower Michigan Region's first meeting for 2024. This will be held at the Junction of Hope located in Layton Corners. The regular club meeting will start at 2:00 p.m.. For new members, come meet the new officers for 2024 and many members of the region. Come early or stay late and enjoy the wonderful food served at the Junction of Hope.

Tim Reinke, "Chevy Chatter" editor, has listed in the newsletter the club calendar of 2024 events. I hope many of you can make many of these events. If you know of an interesting site or collection, in your area, let the Board or myself know about it for future outings.

Happy Birthday to all you March babies and Happy Anniversary to those March brides and grooms.

Happy Birthday!

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Jill Anderson | 18 Theresa Maveal |
| 2 Marth Bamfield | 19 Mary Samulski |
| 3 Jim Schott | 20 Mable Beam |
| 4 Matt Dickinson | 22 Gary Mehl |
| 5 Darrell Hammond | 22 Victor Pitcavage |
| 10 Pamela Nagy | 24 Diane Latora |
| 11 Gerry Bryce | 26 Bob Beam |
| 14 Bill Anderson | 27 Mary Jo Klock |
| 15 Mike McFarland | 29 William Bissell |
| 16 Cathy Sweet | |
| 17 Bob Gardner | |
| 17 Jo Carpenter | |

Happy Anniversary!

- Mike McFarland & Mary Samulski
March 4, 2000
- Bill & Sue Weinberg
March 26, 1955

2024 Board of Directors

Director	Brian Granger	Grangerb59@yahoo.com	(810) 348 - 5198
Asst. Director	Bill Anderson	old50grit@gmail.com	
Secretary	Tim Mehl	TLMehl54@hotmail.com	
Treasurer	Pat Mehl	Jakobs.grama@gmail.com	

Members-At-Large

Pam Mehl	realbrowneyes2@yahoo.com	
Bill Jusela	wjusela@comcast.net	
Andy Mehl	phantomman69@yahoo.com	
Denice Thomas	Denicet10345@yahoo.com	
Ex-Officio	Vacant	
Membership	Bill Anderson	old50grit@gmail.com
Chatter Editor	Tim Reinke	treinke@gmail.com (989) 513-5129
Sunshine	Denice Thomas	Denicet10345@yahoo.com
Historian	Bruce Granger	Brucegranger@yahoo.com
	Brian Granger	GrangerB59@yahoo.com

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
LMR Chevy Chatter

www.LMRVCCA.org

*Follow the VCCA on Instagram @VCCA_Official
and visit the VCCA facebook page often!!*



Printmill
printing | graphics

4001 Portage Street

Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Phone: 269-382-0428

www.printmill.com

Richmond, MI 48062
29900 33 Mile Rd
Chevy Chatter Editor