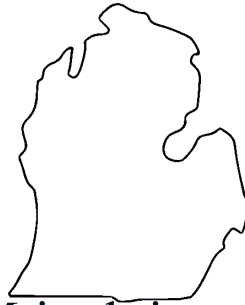
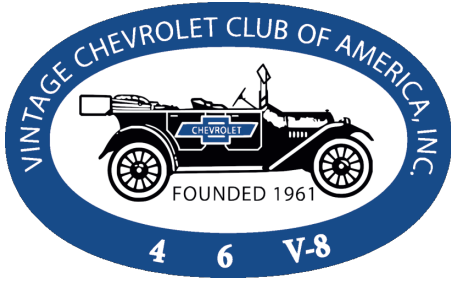


A p r i l 2 0 2 4

# CHEVY CHATTER



## Lower Michigan Region

### In Memory of Bob Sovis

The LMR will be collecting contributions for a gift in Bob Sovis' memory, to be given to the Sloan Auto Fair for the automotive collection at the Sloan Museum. If you are interested in making a donation of any size, please make out your check to: LMR-VCCA, and mail, NO LATER THAN Friday, MAY 10, to:

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

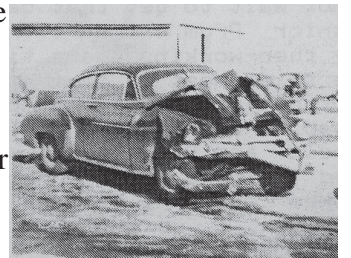
We will be sending all donations, along with a donation from our treasury to the Sloan Museum on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Bob Sovis and His Impact

The history of the Lower Michigan Region of the VCCA is built upon the shoulders of legends in the antique car history including but not limited to; Lew & Norma Clark, Carlton & Wini Crawford, Darrell & Hope Dowdy, Clyde & Ruby Hale, Paul & Rosie Hammond and Pinky & Joyce Randall, but at a local level I am not sure any of those names stand as tall as Bob Sovis.



Bob's history started long before the formation of the VCCA but he was destined to help bolster it. Bob was born in Flint Michigan in 1935 so his home was Chevrolet's home! His father worked for Chevrolet for 42 years in total. In 1944, Bob and his family loaded all their belongings into a homemade trailer pulled behind the family's 1933 Chevrolet Eagle and moved to New Lothrop, where Bob's Uncle owned a repair garage. Bob's dad would work at the garage and Bob would tag along. In 1952, Bob's uncle brought home a wrecked 1950 Fleetline and this would become Bob's first Chevrolet. Bob got the car in March, he made it his goal to have it on the road by prom in May. Well, the morning of prom rolled around and the car was not done. But while Bob was at work at the local supermarket, his dad and uncle finished the car and surprised Bob with it at work. After that 1950, Bob would restore a couple Oldsmobiles (his uncle would become an Oldsmobile sub-dealer), A 1952 & a 1953 Bel Air.



*Cont. on Pg. 2*

## Important Announcements

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 4 of this newsletter! RSVP is required by April 10th. Contact Pat Mehl

The **DUSTOFF TOUR** will take place over 2 days (May 10/11) in the Grand Rapids Area. More details are on page 7

The 61st Central Meet will take place in Strongsville OH on July 24-27. Meet registration is found on pg 5.

Due to space constraints, the meeting minutes from the March 17th Meeting will be included in the MAY edition of the Chevy Chatter.

## Bob Sovis cont.

Cont. from Pg. 1

In 1956, Bob graduated from General Motors Institute (now, Kettering University) and started working for GM Parts Division. In 1965, Bob would meet Pinky Randall and joined the VCCA and the Lower Michigan Region in April of 1965, just 4 months after the LMR was founded. Always a go-getter, Bob quickly took to the club, serving as a member of the Board in 1965 and by 1967 served as the region's 4<sup>th</sup> Director.



The LMR Board of Directors in 1965 with a 29 year old Bob Sovis in the flashy Argyle sweater

In 1967, the Lower Michigan Region hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Central Meet in Flint and Bob Sovis played a huge role in making the meet a success. The Sloan Museum of Discovery (Sloan Panorama of Transportation, as it was called at the time) had just opened the year prior and played host to the car show. As Bob was an employee of Chevrolet, he had been working since he joined the VCCA to get the auto manufacturer to give support to the club. That all culminated at the 4<sup>th</sup> Central Meet with Chevrolet providing the awards for the meet as well as donating 2 important cars to the Sloan Panorama of Transportation. Just before the meet, Chevrolet donated a 1915 Baby Grand as well as GM's 100 Millionth U.S. Built vehicle in a 1967 Caprice.

Bob Sovis would stay very active in the VCCA for the next 57 years until his passing. During that time he would hold many different positions in the LMR including membership secretary and awards chairman for many many years. He would serve as meet co-chair (along with Pinky Randall) for the VCCA's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meet in Colorado Springs in 1976, and chair the 24<sup>th</sup> Central Meet, once again held in Bob's home town of Flint.



Show cars at the 4th Central Meet taken from atop the Whiting Autotorium



Ronald Warner (Manager of Chevrolet Flint Manufacturing) donating the 1915 Baby Grand and 1967 Caprice to Roger Van Bolt of the Sloan Museum

Throughout the years, Bob would own many cars and they were all General Motors vehicles. Of particular importance was a 1947 Fleetmaster Convertible that Bob's late son, Ron, bought. Bob and Ron were restoring the car when tragedy struck and Ron passed away. Years later, Bob restored the car in the color Ron picked out. The car is proudly displayed at the Sloan Museum along with a 1939 Chevrolet that was owned by Bob for many years. He also sent his 1973 GMC



Ron Sovis's 1947 Chevrolet, now part of the Sloan Museum Collection.

Motorhome & 1986 Diesel Chevette to the North American Auto & Truck Museum.

Bob's biggest impact was not through the Chevrolet club but through his love of History, Flint and Chevrolets. His personal mission was to keep Flint tied tightly to its Chevrolet roots. He is most well known for starting the Flint Auto Fair, which raises money to support the acquisition and maintenance of the automobile collection at the Sloan Museum. Each year the Auto Fair brings at least 800 cars to the Flint Cultural Center no matter the weather. Bob also served on the Board of Directors for Flint's Back to the Bricks since its inception.


Bob, himself, admitted to be a "purist" and that led him to starting yet another car show, also held at the Sloan Museum, called Golden Memories. He developed the show specifically to celebrate automobiles 50 years or older in original or as-original condition and is extremely popular among other purists in the area.

Bob and his Family at the Donation of his Motorhome and Chevette to the North American Auto & Truck Museum in Auburn Indiana



Bob Sovis and his 1939 Chevrolet, Now apart of the Sloan Museum Collection



Bob's impact on Flint and the antique car hobby is appreciated and his spirit will live on with those that knew him and those that were affected by him whether they knew him or not! 



# Lower Michigan Region, VCCA 2024 Calendar

## April

- 14 Monroe Swap Meet, Monroe County Fairgrounds Monroe, MI  
20 **LMR 2023 Awards/2024 Kickoff Banquet, Brookshire Golf Club** Williamston, MI  
11:30am Social, Noon Lunch

## May

- 4 VMCCA Great Lakes Region Swap Meet Fowlerville, MI  
10-11 **LMR-VCCA Dustoff Tour** - See Pg 7 for details **Grand Rapids, MI**  
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 lola Swap Meet lola, WI  
25-27 **VCCA 61<sup>th</sup> 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

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## More Photos of Bob Sovis



# Reminder of our Annual Spring Awards Banquet

Saturday, April 20, 2024, social hour starting at 11 a.m., lunch starting at 11:30.

Lunch, Awards Ceremony and Guest Speaker, program to end approximately 3 p.m.

Brookshire Inn & Golf Club, Williamston, MI

## Menu Options (order at your table and pay your own bill, including taxes and tip):

**Soup & Salad Bar** – Unlimited trips to the fresh garden bar and soup station Price \$13.00

**Turkey Bacon Avocado Wrap** – with lettuce tomato, provolone cheese, ranch dressing in a flour wrap. Served with Kettle Chips, or substitute fries (\$1.50), Sweet Potato Fries or Waffle Fries (\$2.00) or Onion Rings (\$3.00)  
Price \$10.00

**Classic Brooker Burger** – ½ lb. burger with lettuce, tomato & onion. Additional toppings (\$.50 ea): cheese, black or green olives, jalapeño, mushrooms, sautéed onions or olive sauce; bacon (+\$1.00). Served on choice of pretzel, brioche, or gluten free bun.

Served with Kettle Chips, or substitute fries (\$1.50), Sweet Potato Fries or Waffle Fries (\$2.00) or Onion Rings (\$3.00)  
Price \$11.00

**Haystack Sirloin Steak** – 9 oz. thick cut sirloin topped with garlic herb butter, served on top of shaved haystack onions. Served with house or Caesar salad, along with your choice of side: baked potato, wild rice, smashed garlic redskins, French fries, waffle fries, sweet potato fries or vegetable of the day. Upgrade to soup & salad bar (\$2.00).

Price \$20.00

**Fish & Chips:** 3 pieces of battered & deep-fried cod. Served with hush puppies and French fries. Add house or Caesar side salad (\$3.50), or soup & salad bar (\$4.00).

Price: \$15.00

**Dessert:** There will be a selection of 3 items from Brookshire's rotating dessert menu. Price \$8.00

**Beverages:** Coffee, Tea, Lemonade, and soft drinks available.

Price: \$2.75

Alcoholic drinks available at the club house bar.

**PLEASE RSVP to Pat Mehl at 269-217-1253 or no later than APRIL 10, 2024. Please advise if you have any food concerns.**

SPRING IS HERE. THE GRASS HAS RIZ. I WONDER WHERE THE FLOWERS IS !

April 14th is the annual Monroe swap meet. If you are planning to attend and have a little extra time, call Andy Jurski @ (419 262 0789), before hand, to help at the VCCA booth. I know he would gladly use some help promoting the club.

Contact Bill Anderson @ (248 881 6510) if you have not already, about going to the LMR Dust Off. The club will be visiting some never before seen, by the club, places . I have already made a hotel booking, which I got a cheaper rate cuz I asked. Sometimes it pays to be a senior and/or a veteran.

Our next regular meeting will be June 23rd at the Sloan Museum of Discovery @ 1p.m. Those bringing a show vehicle will park, as we have in the past, in front of the Bower Theater. It is located on the south side of Keasley St. across from the Whiting Auditorium. See you there.

Besides all the club birthdays and wedding anniversaries happening in the month of April, there are 131 other special days taking place. Happy Birthday/Anniversary ! Look them up on Google, for fun.

From Behind the Steering Wheel

with Brian Granger



## 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	trreinke@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 \$25 per year. To become a member, an applicant must be a National VCCA member in good standing. National dues are \$40 yearly.*





**PRE---REGISTRATION REQUIRED for ALL EVENTS**

You Must be a VCCA member in good standing to register for the 61<sup>st</sup> Central Meet

Name (Please Print or Type) \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Event	Quantity	Fee	Amount
Vehicle and/or Family Registration	1	\$65.00	\$65.00
Additional Vehicles (same owner/family)		\$10.00	
Trailer Parking		\$10.00	
Swap Meet Spaces (10 X 10)		\$25.00	
<b>Wednesday 7/24 – Early Bird Reception</b>		\$10.00	
<b>Thursday 7/25 – Choose ONE of the items below for each person:</b>			
Rock & Roll Hall of Fame (includes tour bus fare)		\$45.00	
<b>OR</b>			
Crawford Auto Aviation Museum (includes tour bus fare)		\$35.00	
<b>Friday 7/26 – Ladies Luncheon (Musical Bingo &amp; Prizes)</b>			
Turkey Croissant (Includes drink and dessert)		\$32.00	
Cobb Salad (Includes drink and dessert)		\$32.00	
<b>Saturday 7/27 – Plaque Tour Lunch</b>			
Turkey Wrap (Includes water, chips, fruit and cookie.)		\$25.00	
Italian Sub (Includes water, chips, fruit and cookie.)		\$25.00	
Roast Beef Sandwich (Includes water, chips, fruit and cookie.)		\$25.00	
<b>Saturday 7/27 - Awards Banquet Dinner</b>			
Roasted Chicken (Includes soup, salad, pasta salad, green salad, roasted red potatoes, vegetable, & dessert.)		\$55.00	
Roasted Chicken – Children under 10 years of age		\$25.00	
Roast Top Sirloin (Includes soup, salad, pasta salad, green salad, roasted red potatoes, vegetable, & dessert.)		\$55.00	
Roast Top Sirloin – Children under 10 years of age		\$25.00	
<b>Polo Shirts: Embroidered 61<sup>st</sup> Central Meet Logo</b>			
	SM _____	Med _____	LG _____
			XL
			2XL
			3XL
			4 XL
			5 XL
<b>T-Shirts: 61st Central Meet Logo</b>			
	SM _____	Med _____	LG _____
			XL
			2XL
			3XL
			<b>TOTAL:</b>
<b>Please make a copy of your completed Registration form for your records.</b>			
<b>(US funds) Make payable to CVCC and mail to:</b>		<b>VCCA 61<sup>st</sup> Central Meet</b> <b>Attn.: Janice Carter</b> <b>9100 Kinsman Rd.; Novelty, OH 44072-9673</b>	

**Refunds may be requested up to June 15, 2024.**

**After June 15<sup>th</sup>, refunds will be considered on a case—by—case basis.**



# 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) No block of rooms is reserved.

## Friday, May 10

9:00 AM Depart from Comfort Suites for Terrytown RV Sales

11 AM – 1 PM Lunch Restaurant TBD

1:30 -3:00 PM GR Auto Gallery

4722 50th St SE, Kentwood, MI 49512

3:30 – 5 PM Gerald Ford Museum or Meijer Gardens on your own

6:00 PM Dinner on your own



## Saturday, May 11

8:45 AM Depart from Comfort Suites

9:00- 11AM Dom Federico Collection

2660 28th St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512

11:30 – 1PM Lunch Restaurant TBD

1:30 PM Chief Noonday Car Park

11899 M-179, Yankee Springs, MI 49348.

Terry is host

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

Let me know you are attending.

Send me an email or call me to sign-up.

Bill Anderson Cell: 248-881-6510 Email: [old50grit@comcast.net](mailto:old50grit@comcast.net).

### 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
11 Scott Dodge	22 Kristine Hammond
12 Pam Mehl	22 Harry Snider
19 Denice Thomas	24 Patrick Macaluso
	29 John McPeak

### Happy Anniversary!

Scott & Janet Taylor April 1, 1961	Michael & Carol Buller April 24, 1970
Mike & Susan McCarty April 16, 1977	Bill & Susan Anderson April 24, 1981
Ed & Judy Oswald April 17, 1961	John & Sandy Schoen April 27, 1979
Jim & Sabrina Karris April 22, 2000	

Thank you to the following sponsor of the  
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[www.LMRVCCA.org](http://www.LMRVCCA.org)

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and visit the VCCA facebook page often!!*



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