

May 2025

CHEVY CHATTER



Lower Michigan Region

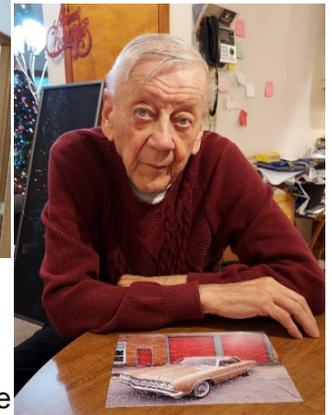
Happy Mother's Day

Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers, Grandmothers, Great Grandmothers that make this club tick.

Our older members still enjoy the hobby!

By Pat Mehl

Recently, Mike Kaskinen, one of our members from Beulah, MI, shared some photos with me. His dad, Arlie, has been living in an assisted living home, and has cognitive difficulties related to dementia.



Arlie loves cars. He and his family had been in the car business for years, and enjoyed driving and maintaining their fleet(s). When the LMR went to Kaleva (MI) as part of our Mothball tour last fall, Arlie was right in the mix of the crowd, showing off his 1939 Chevy. He also attended the Central Meet last year, and was proud to earn an award for the '39.

But as he gets older, he is having a harder time remembering things, and can't work on the car like he used to. So, Mike, being the father of boys who grew up in the age of Legos, decided to try something to keep his excitement of cars going for a while longer.

The photos attached are the cars that Arlie (with Mike's help) has put together. In addition, Mike had a puzzle made of his Chevelle, and he and Arlie enjoyed assembling the puzzle.

If you have a loved one with cognitive issues that struggles with finding things to enjoy, think about the things you or your kids used to do as a child, or: Legos, puzzles, coloring books (Bruce Granger has a great collection of automotive-based coloring pages!), Matchbox or Hot Wheels cars. Enjoy!



Important Announcements!

The Dust-off Tour will be May 9th & 10th. Please see pg. 3 for details. Contact Bill Anderson (248-881-6510) to Register. It promises to be an excellent collections of stops.

2025 Spring Banquet

The day began cloudy and cool, but was perfect for meeting with some of our closest car buddies for our annual Awards Banquet. Twenty members attended: Bill & Sue Anderson, Don & Corky Cushman, Brian Granger and his brother Bruce, Michael Horton, Bill Jusela and his daughter Daria, Jim & Sabrina Karras, Andy Mehl, Gary Mehl, Pat & Tim Mehl, Dave Rickabus, Jim & Verna Schott, and Ken & Nancy Turnwald.



After a casual lunch, Brian and Bill Anderson regaled us with memories of activities from 2024. We remembered also two of our members who passed away this last year: John McMullen and Phyllis Rickabus.



Our guest presenter was Mr. Al Jones, Chairman of the Board of Back to the Bricks (BttB). Al filled us in on all the activities leading up to and including the "Big Event" - Back to the Bricks Auto Show in Flint in mid-August. Several activities throughout the spring and summer help publicize BttB, and energize the public to attend.



Our Awards presentation began with Brian Granger making a presentation to the LMR Board, in gratitude for their service with him over the past 3 years. Pat Mehl then presented the following awards:



Membership Milestones: Bruce Granger, celebrating 50 years as a member of the VCCA-LMR. Bill Jusela, Sr. also received recognition for his unofficial 50 year anniversary (not continuous, but certainly heartfelt).

Appreciation: to Bob Houskamp (host of Dustoff Tour) and Rick and Sandi Kaskinen/Mike and Arlie Kaskinen (hosts of Mothball Tour), and Tim and Pat Mehl (Tour Coordinators).



Our 2024 Board of Directors was recognized:

Director: Brian Granger

Assistant Director: Bill Anderson

Secretary: Tim Mehl

Treasurer: Pat Mehl

Members-At-Large: Bill Jusela, Andy Mehl, Pam Mehl, Denice Thomas

Appointed: Membership – Bill Anderson, Newsletter – Tim Reinke, Sunshine – Denice Thomas, Historian – Bruce Granger



The finale was the introduction of our 2025 Executive Board:

Director: Bill Anderson

Assistant Director: Tim Mehl

Secretary: Daria Jusela

Treasurer: Pat Mehl

Ideas for venues for next year's banquet are welcome. Hope we'll see you at a car show or LMR activity soon!



Lower Michigan Region VCCA Dust-Off Tour May 9 & 10, 2025

Tour Overview:

This year's Dust-Off Tour is a 2 day tour visiting five venues on Friday near Monroe, Michigan and three attractions in Manchester - Grass Lake area on Saturday.
\$10 per car Tour Donation covers a donation to the Lost Railway Museum in Grass Lake.
Recommended Hotel: Country Inn & Suites, 665 Tecumseh St. Dundee, 48131, 734-529-8822
Advertised Room Rates less than \$100 plus tax. No room block is reserved.

(Breakfast available at Hotel)

Departing at 9:00 AM.

Friday Venues:

1. Antique Bicycle Collection, New Boston
2. USA Trailer Car restoration and sales facility

Lunch: Farmer's Cafe in Carleton

3. Ken & Mary Havekost Nash cars & parts in Monroe
4. Calder Farm Dairy, Carleton (Ice Cream Stop)

Saturday: Venues

1. RA Engineering car restorations, Manchester

Lunch: Jerry's Pub & Restaurant at Wampler's Lake (Brooklyn)

2. Lost Railway Museum, Grass Lake

Maps and Directions will be supplied on the day of the tour.

Questions?

Contact Bill Anderson
248-881-6510

old50grit@comcast.com



From Behind the Steering Wheel

with Bill Anderson



Dandelions are in full bloom, car tires are on the ground, frosty mornings are almost gone, and the outdoor swap meet season is in full swing.

I know many of you missed it, but our Monroe, MI VCCA/LMR recruitment table was busy greeting VCCA friends from Michigan and Ohio.. Prospective members were attracted to the candy dish. I imagine if we had a bucket with \$100 bills, we'd have more takers.

VCCA friends Chris and Dave Cufur, and Andy Jurski from Ohio's Glass Capitol Region stopped by for some spirited conversation with Pat & Tim Mehl, Bill Jusela, and myself. Mike and Rick Kaskinen from Buela and Kaleva on Michigan's western edge made a big day of it, by visiting our booth, treasures in the swap meet, and joining us for the club general membership meeting at nearby Monroe County Community College.

Although the meeting was lightly attended, we covered several topics, including:

Swap Meet Member recruiting: Kalamazoo: 1 New Member, Monroe 2 prospects

April 26 Banquet plans in place. 23 signed up. Look for photos and review elsewhere in the newsletter.

Dust-Off set for May 9 & 10. One day attendance ok. Tentative 6 cars, 12 attendees. See flyer for details. Give me a call if you are coming.

Discussed need for new Sloan Museum liaison to relieve Jim Schott of that responsibility.

Membership list update for beginning Spring/Summer season.

Photo Roster is expanding.

In the immediate list of NON-LMR activities we have:

May 1 Pontiac Transportation Museum Lecture, 7 PM, in Pontiac. Free/Donation

May 3 Bill Millikens' Points & Condenser Meeting, 8 – Noon, Free

MAY 3 Fowlerville Swap Meet 8Am – 3 PM \$5 entry

May 17th Dust'em Off Swap Meet, 10 AM – 5 PM GM Heritage Parking lot, I475 at Hill Road, Free

May 18th Dust'em Off Car Show, 11 AM – 4 PM, GM Heritage Center, I 475, Free

One more item.

If anyone would like a copy of the year in review slide shows from the Banquet, I will make them available at the Dropbox.com website. You need to let me know your email address so I can set-up permissions.

My email: old50grit@comcast.net.

Bill Anderson
Director & Membership
248-881-6510

In Memoriam

A celebration of life in honor of Phyllis Rickabus will be held on June 13th, 2025 at St. Paul's Methodist Church in Rochester, Mi. This celebration coincides with what would have been Phyllis' 80th Birthday!

2025 Monroe Swap Meet Booth



Happy Birthday!

4 Deb Schultz-Pawlosky 14 Judy Oswald
 5 John Vass 15 Bonnie Reinke
 11 Tim Mehl 17 Richard Koker
 11 Jennifer Klock 24 Lowell Rothert
 14 Doug McFarlen 25 Joyce Randall
 14 Maria Jusela 29 Dan Koker
 14 Daria Jusela

Happy Anniversary!

Paul Pawlosky & Deb Schultz-Pawlosky
 May 1, 1999

Rod & Denice Thomas
 May 4, 1984

Bruce & Mary Granger
 May 5, 1978

Gary & Pam Mehl
 May 10, 1980

Darrell & Christine Hammond
 May 13, 1989

2025 Board of Directors

Director	Bill Anderson	old50grit@comcast.net	248-881-6510
Asst. Director	Tim Mehl	TLMeh154@hotmail.com	
Secretary	Daria Jusela	Daryajusela@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Pat Mehl	Pat.M.VCCA@gmail.com	

Members-At-Large

Andy Mehl	phantomman69@yahoo.com	
Pam Mehl	RealBrownEyes2@yahoo.com	
Bill Jusela	wjusela@comcast.net	
Jim Karras	JimKarras@aol.com	
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Sunshine	Denice Thomas	Denicet10345@yahoo.com
Historian	Bruce Granger	Brucecdgranger@yahoo.com
	Brian Granger	GrangerB59@yahoo.com
Awards	Corrie Mehl	Mehlon7@hotmail.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 \$50 yearly.

Location: Monroe Community College, following Monroe Swap meet

Attendees: Pat & Tim Mehl, Bill Jusela, Bill Anderson, Michael Kaskinen, Richard Kaskinen

Call to order: 3:13pm, Bill Anderson

Pledge of Allegiance

October meeting minutes approved

Treasurer's Report:

Fiscal Year – Jan. to Dec.

Discussion about Roster line, is it still needed? Used for membership list + board + bylaws. Could this be posted on the website and printed as needed? Yes

Dustoff Donation is a pass-thru amount from participants

Treasurer's report approved

Monroe Swap booth results – some prospects stopped by, took info, no new members today

Kalamazoo Swap booth results – 1 new member that day

Sunshine – Well wishes to Andy Mehl, Regrets to Dave Rickabus

Banquet is set for Apr.26, 11:00am, Brookshire Inn & Golf Club, Williamston, MI

Program was reviewed and approved

Dustoff tour is set for May 9-10, Centered around Dundee MI. Only a handful signed up so far

Looking forward to fall – consider officer positions and potential candidates. Of note, newsletter editor. Tim is completing a 3 year term and a new editor will be needed.

Sloan Museum Liasson – In the past Bob Sovis served this role, more recently Jim Schott, but with ailing health, may need someone else, perhaps one of the Granger brothers since they're already well acquainted with Sloan folks.

Memberships past due – discussion and review of past due membership, Will drop those who have not responded to notices.

Tech Time:

Mike Kaskinen working on 46 trans & corvair

Rick Kaskinen working on 39 Chev, 36 Chev, 27 Chev, Saxon

Bill Jusela working on '20 brakes & wheels

Adjourn: 4:05pm

Tour Invite - Sanford Mi

On May 17th The Cars of the Past Touring Club will have an interesting tour planned with several stops you won't want to miss! Leaving from Nori's in Auburn, MI at 10am sharp, come early if you want breakfast, we'll travel north west for a stop at Maple Hill Nursery. The Servinski family are long time car collectors and have promised to have a couple cars from their collection on site. We will be free to make a brief visit to the store and nursery. Leaving we will continue on to another stop at the JNelson Farms where John Nelson will give us a brief summary of his venture into grass fed beef. Just a few miles up the road we've been invited to take a drive through the property of Fred and Linda Dice, where we will be able to view the beautiful and unique mural on their barn. Moving on we have a special stop planned at the property of Pete and Vicky Fitak, where we will view and hear about Fred's working lighthouse built from a barn silo and corn crib. 45 years of dreaming and 2 years of constructing, you will be able to climb the 49 interior steps if you dare! We will also get a look at Pete's recently purchased '58 Chevy, along with other antique machinery. Leaving there we'll travel to the historic Hope Township hall, our last stop, arriving about 2:00 to enjoy lunch and our highlight of the day. Hope historian Floyd Andrick will narrate a presentation on the 1958 Capitol Airlines plane crash at Tri-City airport. An auto lover and historian, Mr. Andrick may well arrive in one of his own collectible cars!

Even if you don't have an antique driver, please consider riding with someone or driving your daily car to join us and enjoy the day! All of the events and the lunch will be provided at no cost. We would like to get an idea of the number for lunch, if you could text, email, or call me in the next couple weeks to confirm.

Tamie Luty - Tmluty@yahoo.com, or 989-482-2788.

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