

RUSTY NUTS

February 2024 Issue No. 103 Ellen Zacko - Editor

AUTOMOTIVE/RESTORATION CLUB OF SCW

**Ray and Kathy Helt
with award winning Corvette
People's Choice Award
Las Vegas Corvette Show
"EMTNEST"**



Rusty Nuts is the Monthly Newsletter of the Automotive/Restoration Club of Sun City West, AZ

The Hot Rod Deuce Monthly

by Craig Landers, President



THE BIG SHOW IS ALMOST HERE!!!

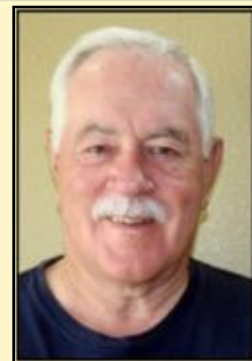
Our annual car show is almost upon us, February 10th. Gary Masak and crew are doing a great job organizing the show.

The car show could not happen without volunteers. It is actually a two-day event with set up on Friday the 9th, then the show itself on the 10th. At the end of the show, we have to have the parking lot cleared by nightfall. SO if you have not signed up yet to help, please do so - we need all the help we can get! The clipboards are at the shop for sign up. If you have any questions about what you can do to help, please ASK. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year along with the drawing for our raffle car (thank you Mike Liberatore and crew!) We still owe a lot of money on the building so PLEASE help if you can. We now have an 8' x 8' office in the shop for the treasurer and membership personnel. Big thanks to Walt Jefferson for constructing it! The new lifts are up and running and the long-term projects are full, so if you plan on working on a long-term project, sign up with the shop managers and get on the waiting list. "Cars and Coffee" has been a huge success for the club. At the last one, around 85 cars showed up...not bad for just a get-together. CnC is the last Saturday of the month. Hope everyone is having a good new year...ENJOY!!

ARC General Meeting
Tuesday, February 20
RH Johnson Social Hall

Founder's Focus A Column by Herb Clark

“Keeping Up with the Jones’s”



I think “Keeping Up with the Jones’s” should be a goal for all of us! Most of the “old-timers” at ARC will certainly know that I am talking about Tom and Suzanne Jones. This couple has done so much for the club it would take a book to tell it all. I hope I can cover just some of the wonderful things Tom and Suzanne and the Jones/Chaney family have done to make ARC a true success story.

When I was trying to start ARC as a club back in 2011, Suzanne and her father John Chaney were right beside me, encouraging me and helping to make the organization a recognized club in SCW. John Chaney was first to step up and say “What can I do to help?” Suzanne was always by his side, and helped me with the paperwork and organizational structure. Suzanne went to numerous meetings with me to talk to the SCW management to work out an agreement. We were told that there was a moratorium on new clubs. All spaces for club meetings were completely full, so we met at Beardsley Park on picnic tables.

Mike Whiting, the SCW General Manager, was great to work with. After several promising opportunities did not pan out, he agreed to provide the land if ARC agreed to pay for the building. ARC got approved for club status, but had nowhere to meet. We started a fundraising campaign, and while I was back in St. Louis for the summer, I got a call from Tom and Suzanne. The Chaney family would donate \$100K for the building project! This was the start ARC needed. Several others stepped up and the building project was on its way. Tom had recently retired and became very much involved. The Chaney’s and Jones’s have not stopped. After my term as President, Tom stepped up into the role. The bylaws limited a term to two years. Tom has served every other term since ARC’s conception.

Suzanne has been the RIGHT ARM for every President. She has carried the administrative load for the last thirteen years!!! I asked her to run for President once but she turned it down. In truth, Suzanne has been the glue that has held us together for so many years! Tom and Suzanne, we owe our success to you!

My challenge to ALL ARC members is to do your share! Try to keep up with the Jones’s! Big shoes to fill! Thank you!

We will always have these moments
to remember the Jones's.
ARC thanks you!



Suzanne in the Sparky Mobile



Tom as the Red Baron



Downshifting Ray Helt (#565) by Ed Zacko

Ray Helt grew up in a farming town in eastern Washington state. As always in small towns, the local hangout was the local gas station and Ray, like many of his friends, worked there part-time. In the summers, he worked on the wheat ranches to make enough money for the coming school year and, of course, buy gas! "It seems like we all had old cars. My first one was a yellow '56 Plymouth Belvedere. That car was a real lemon."

Ray somehow talked a local Chevy dealer into taking that Plymouth in trade, and ordered a brand new 1965 Chevy Impala SS two-door coupe. "It was maroon with a white interior, small block with a four-speed. Wow! What a beauty." Ray met his soon-to-be wife, Kathy Birr, while in high school and in 1963 they married.

Ray's introduction to the Corvette world was, in itself, quite the adventure. "I was just 27 years old, and saw an ad in a local newspaper for a '67 Corvette. I immediately called and ran right over to see it. The owner was not at home but his wife led me to an unlighted garage and showed me the car, all covered with dust. I gave her \$100 and told her I would be back tomorrow to give her the balance. When I arrived the next day, the owners were not home. As I stood on the front porch in a state of shock, I saw a red Corvette coming down the street. WOW! They had taken it out for cleaning and a car wash. As we filled out the papers, another guy arrived and said he had called the night before and offered to buy the car. I was crushed but the owners said that he had not put down a deposit and since I had given his wife \$100 yesterday, before he called, then I was entitled to the car. The owner's wife took me inside to complete the transaction while the two men remained on the porch locked in a heated argument. She gave me the keys and I drove away as fast as I could and never looked back!"

Ray still had that Impala SS well into the mid '70's, when their family now included two boys, Dale and Dean. "We all fit into the Impala well enough but, as much as I loved that car, I sold it to pay for a babysitter!"

In 1982 Kathy and Ray formed their own company, H&N Sales, serving as factory representatives for "electrical building materials for construction and utilities." H&N was headquartered in Seattle and eventually grew to include franchises in Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Alaska. "We began by representing only one manufacturer and eventually grew the company to seventeen employees, whose sales and marketing expertise represented twenty companies producing \$15,000,000 in annual sales."

Ray finally sold the red '67 Corvette, replacing it with a yellow '73, then a maroon '78 until finally, "As our business grew I said goodbye to the '78 and purchased a brand new C5, 2004 Coupe in bright yellow. Although I made some minor changes along the way, it was time to drive! The car odometer now reads 77,000 miles, 50,000 of which were multi-day trips with our Washington State Corvette Club."

Sadly in 2010, Kathy and Ray lost their youngest son to colon cancer and shortly after sold the business. Through the years, the Helt family had been vacationing regularly in Palm Springs but by 2012, deciding "California is just not for us," they moved to Sun City West full-time.

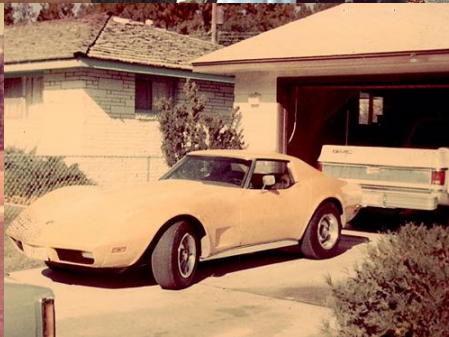
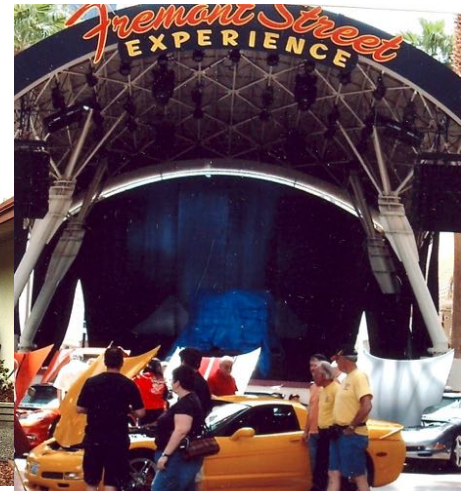
Kathy and Ray have been married for 60 years and their family has grown to include eight grandchildren, most of whom live in Washington state. Ray has seen many cars and trucks come and go but, "Kathy and I still have that 2004 Corvette that I bought new. One of my fondest memories is being center stage at the Las Vegas Corvette Show receiving the "People's Choice Award," out of 200 cars in the show. To date, "EMTNEST" has won over 100 awards in nineteen years of showing the car.

Today, Ray serves on ARC's Board of Directors as Treasurer, Accounts Payable. "I'm the guy that spends our money. I enjoy meeting the many members we have in ARC and still, with over 700 members, not a day goes by that I don't say hi to some member that I have not seen before!"

Fremont St Exposition —One of 200 showings and many trophies

Award Winning EMTNEST

The Helt Family



Ray's 1967 Coupe

1973 first yellow 'Vette

1978 maroon 'Vette

ARC Car Show - February 10, 2024

Gary Masak, Car Show Chairman

See Gary to volunteer for the Show

2024 Car Show meetings schedule:

All meetings are Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. in the Sagebrush Room
at Beardsley (watch GroupWorks for any room change)

February 6

Review - February 13

Dave and Gary hard at work
for the upcoming show



Volunteer to judge - We need you

This is the third 'edition' of acknowledging everyone signed up to help judge at the February 10, 2024 show.

So, in keeping with the judging process theme for this year, **simplicity/efficiency/speed**, I'll try to be brief. The two-person teams will pick trophy winners just by determining which cars they liked best **WITHOUT** any scoring or points calculation needed - just separate your favorite three from the pack. Since we can't tell you what you like, there won't be a need to attend any training sessions. This method should be easier, faster, and more fun. We will answer any questions by reply to me and as we assemble outside the Lecture Hall that morning. Historically, we're there around 10:00 a.m. where you'll find your class to judge posted. Remember that judges do not need to be ARC members, so invite friends and family to come along by signing up.

Again, thank you for your commitment. Dave D.

Synchronizers*

Tony Giralamo #1337

Tony has been a very active member of ARC since leaving Chicago four years ago. He is a full-time resident and is currently the assistant shop manager. He was born on Christmas Day. As an adult he worked for three years as an apprentice mechanic for Mack Truck in Chicago. He only used these skills as a hobby once he became a policeman, his lifetime career. His favorite car is a 1970 Chevy Chevelle SS with an LS6 Big Block. His main reason for moving to SCW was ARC. He would like more member involvement and shop space growth in the future. His wife Theresa likes all of his cars, even if they are not all painted!



***People who keep the gears meshing allowing ARC to move forward.**

Rusty Nuts is the Monthly Newsletter of the Automotive/Restoration Club of Sun City West, AZ

Tony Giralamo is active at the club every day as the assistant shop manager



**So many cars
So much coffee
Cars and Coffee, Saturday, January 30**



Photos by Jim Hensch



American Cancer Society 12th Annual Relay for Life Sunday February 18, 2024, 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. Beardsley Park

ARC has a team - "Automotive/Restoration Club of Sun City West". Join our team for a \$20 donation. As a 501(c)(3) organization, ACS Relay for Life is one of the charities we support.

Sign up online at www.relayforlife.org/suncitiesaz or get a form at the shop. Contact Steve (ARC Captain) or Linda (Relay Committee) Victor at stevlinda2004@earthlink.net or 623-214-1090.

Survivors get a free T-shirt and can be part of the Survivor Victory Lap, which is very inspiring! You must register online, and the T-shirt will be mailed to you. Last year ARC had over twenty survivors join in. We know there are many more of you out there, and we would like to honor you. You give hope to so many of us. If you are a survivor, come out to be honored. You don't have to be an ARC member or Sun City West resident to join our team or participate.

For \$10 you can dedicate a luminaria to someone who lost, won, or is fighting cancer! Last year ARC raised \$7,000 - let's top that this year!

ARC will have a mini-car display from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Bring your "ride" and participate in the Relay! A signup sheet is at the shop. The opening ceremony is at 4:00 p.m. followed by the survivors/caregivers lap. Dinner will be provided once again by Sardella's Pizza & Wings for survivors and their caregivers around 5:00 p.m. The luminaria ceremony is at 6:30 p.m. It's worth coming out for! There will be entertainment, raffles and lots going on. We are looking for raffle items to help us raise money for our team. Come for as long or as short of time as you can spare.

How Can I Help?

Join the team - It's a fun afternoon to hang out with your friends.

Get family and friends to sponsor your walk.

Stop by and support your fellow ARC members.

Bring your car.

Purchase a luminaria.

Donate cans of food, to hold luminaria down and then donated to Valley View Community Food Bank.

Donate a raffle item.

Give a monetary donation.

Spread the word to your neighbors and friends.

Peoria Nissan is a Presenting Sponsor and Sun Canyon Bank is a Gold Sponsor. Thank you to the Sun City West Foundation and the Recreation Centers of Sun City West for sponsoring this event. You may contact the Victors with questions. Thank you in advance, Steve and Linda Victor

Join the ARC Relay for Life Team!!



West-MEC Car Show

Reminder from Dave Dunbar

Register Here 

**AUTOMOTIVE
POWERSPORTS
SHOW**



More Information
[http://Sites.
google.com/view/
west-mec-
Car-Show/home](http://Sites.google.com/view/west-mec-Car-Show/home)

Kids Activities, Food Trucks,
Live music, and Awards

West Mec Northwest Campus
13201 W Grand Ave, Surprise, AZ 85374
Feb 3rd 10am-2pm

February 3 is the date, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. is the time for the West-MEC car show, handled by the students of the Northwest Campus, 13201 W. Grand Ave ('southwest' corner of Dysart) in Surprise. There's a poster at the shop with a QR code to help you register, or see 'West-MEC Powersports and Car Show' online to register.

AN AUTOMOBILE WORTHY OF ITS NAME

By
Dan Kuhl

Recently, Bob Pratt made available to the Automotive/Restoration Club membership his collection of automotive books. Of course, the author is always looking for new material for his library. The author waited until everyone had a chance at some of the books and then he made his move. To his surprise, on the table was a “nugget”, an autobiography by Eddie V. Rickenbacker.

If you are not familiar with the name, he was the greatest American WWI fighter pilot with 26 victories, compared to the Red Baron, who had 80 victories. (However, the Red Baron started flying for Germany three years before Eddie.)

Following the war, Eddie continued to race cars as he did before the war, at the Indianapolis 500 and other venues around the country. He soon realized that racing wasn't what he wanted to do with his life so he went to New Mexico to visit a friend. There, he purchased a Flivver and camping gear, and embarked on a soul-searching camping trip. It was during this trip he decided to build the perfect automobile, the “Rickenbacker.” He further decided from his racing experience, the Rickenbacker should have a high-speed engine, a low center of gravity, and most importantly, four-wheel brakes. But he realized he did not have the funds nor the expertise to take on such an endeavor. What to do?

Eddie decided to go to Detroit, the automobile capitol, and secure the necessary help. There he contacted Harry Cunningham, an old racing buddy who had ties with the successful EMF automobile company. From EMF he secured the assistance of Barney Everett and Walter Flanders, the man who designed the assembly line for Ford. It is important to note that EMF was purchased by Studebaker in 1910, making the founders of EMF available for other activities.

After selling some initial stocks to raise seed money, work began on the Rickenbacker automobile in 1920. By 1922, the company was ready to display the car at the New York Auto Show, complete with four-wheel brakes. The first Rickenbacker was available for sale in 1923.

Other automobile companies went on the warpath. Studebaker began running full-page newspaper ads disparaging four-wheel brakes, while dealers across the country bad-mouthed the new competition.

In 1927 after more than 27,000 cars had been manufactured, Rickenbacker filed for bankruptcy. Eddie moved back to the track, buying “the Brickyard” which he owned until 1945. But, the real story is four-wheel brakes on American automobiles.

In 1923 only two manufacturers used four-wheel brakes. The Duesenberg introduced hydraulic in 1920, and the Rickenbacker debuted mechanical in 1922. The nemesis of the Rickenbacker, Studebaker, did not get four-wheel mechanical brakes until 1931 and hydraulic in 1935.

In the early Twenties, the author believes, the public was pretty naive to the importance of brakes, because Ford had its best sales year in 1923 without four-wheel brakes. Ford did not get mechanical four-wheel brakes until 1927 and hydraulic in 1940. Chevy followed suit, introducing four-wheel mechanical brakes in 1928 and hydraulic in 1936. On the other hand, Chrysler was proactive introducing hydraulic brakes in 1924. Finally, the first disc brakes came out on the Crosley in 1949.

Eddie V. Rickenbacker was a visionary. He realized that what he had learned on the race track driving a Duesenberg race car would be important to driving safely on the public roadways of America.

In closing, the author would like the reader to visit YouTube to see Eddie's most incredible creation, the Rickenbacker Eight Super Sport Sedan. His creation has fenders that turn with the front wheels, an Auburn boat-tail, and an angled windshield, and lacks running boards. Between fourteen and seventeen were manufactured, and only one remains. This Super Sport spent a great deal of time in the Harrah's Reno collection before that was dissolved, and it was once on display at Pebble Beach. It currently resides in a private collection that can only be accessed by appointment.

References:

Rickenbacker, Edward V. (1967) *Rickenbacker*, Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.

YouTube: "1926 Rickenbacker Eight Super Sport at the Claremont". (Notice the special radiator ornament.)

Numerous websites concerning Rickenbacker history and brake development.



Welcome to "In For Repairs"!

Linda Victor

If you know anyone who needs a little cheering up or who is going through a difficult time, ARC wants to know. We are one big family, and we care about one another. Please contact me at stvelinda2004@earthlink.net or call 623-214-1090 with the information. I will be in contact with the individual by e-mail, and will follow up with a card and special note from ARC.

We know that many of our members are facing some challenges right now but wish to remain private. We are thinking of all of you and wishing you brighter days ahead. Don't forget to let me know if you hear of someone I should be in contact with.

John Austgen (#313) Recovering from back surgery. We are thinking of you and hoping you are on the mend, John.

Verda Bell (#609) Hope you are getting around much better now, Verda. Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.

Gordon Monten (#55) So sorry to hear about your fall, Gordon. Glad you are home and healing. Hope you are having a feel good day.

Randy Robinson (#138) Thinking of you and Bonnie, Randy, as you go through many health issues. We keep you in our thoughts and prayers and hope things look brighter for you both.

Don Holman (#330) We are sorry to hear about your latest diagnosis and want you to know that we are here for you. Keeping you in our prayers at this difficult time.

Mike McGuire (#414) Mike, we are saddened to hear that you are facing difficult health issues. Please know that we are thinking of you and sending prayers your way.



**2024 Raffle Car
2016 Mustang Convertible
Tickets in the shop
1 for \$20 / 6 for \$100
Call Mike Liberatore 815-263-8686 for tickets**

To date, we have sold 2500 tickets!
In less than two weeks, we will give the Mustang away.
Get your six tickets for \$100 today!
The Wickenburg Fly-in and the MAG Auction pushed us over 2500 tickets.
Thanks to everyone that is helping - I couldn't do this without your help.
- - Mike Liberatore



Wickenburg Fly-in



ARC Angels

The ARC Angels are a group of ARC members, led by Randy Robinson and Dan Kuhl, who quietly go around helping SCW residents who are in need. They don't ask or look for recognition or praise. Occasionally someone who has been helped lets us know. Thank you to all of the ARC Angels for your continued service to the SCW community.

**Tickets now available at the monitor's desk in ARC or
from Ellen Zacko 623-374-3056
Tim Kliphuis and Jimmy Grant
GYPSY JAZZ DUETS
"In Conversation"**

Only two hundred tickets will be sold!!

Tuesday, February 20 7:00 p.m.

Sun City West Christian Church

20803 N 151st Ave, Sun City West, AZ 85375

Ticket Price \$20 - cash please

Award-winning violin legend Tim Kliphuis (Holland) teams up with America's rising star on gypsy jazz guitar Jimmy Grant (LA) to celebrate the music of famed musical duo, Stéphane Grappelli and Django Reinhardt.

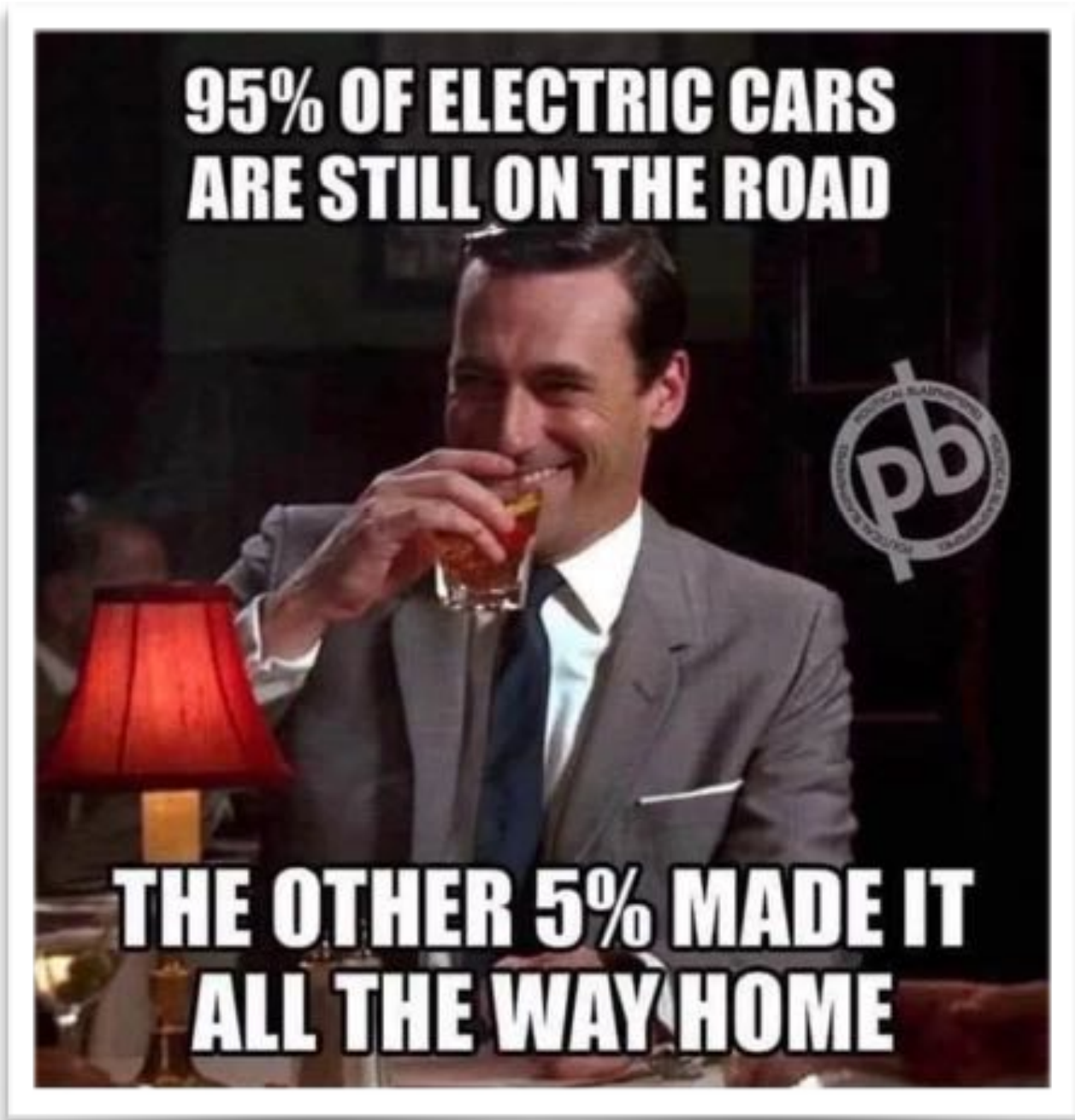
Re-creating the 1930s in Paris, and drawing inspiration from current-day classical and folk music as well, they alternate moments of dazzling interplay with melancholy and sheer exhilaration, in an inspired conversational journey. This is an evening concert not to be missed!





**We love
living in
Arizona!!**





For Sale
ARC Logo Items
Caps
ARC flags and license plates
Breakaway lanyards
Come to the shop and have a look!

NOTE NEW TIME**L'ARC Breakfast****Thursday, February 15****8:00 a.m.****The Village Inn****No need to reply, just come****and enjoy fellowship****with other ladies of ARC****Remember no****frangrances please**

The inventory is lower than usual and the prices have been going up! This is a great time to sell your home or to buy a new one!

Please check us out on our website: www.ArvidKay.com. We can give you an estimate of what your home is worth today.

Arvid and Kay Peterson

623-308-2316 or 623-760-7367

arvidpeterson@awardrealty.com

ARC Members



Order Your Car Dash Display Plaque

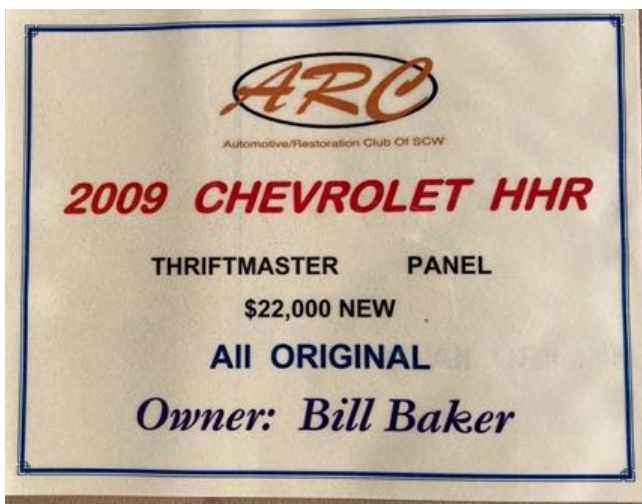
New Display Plaques for your car, golf cart, or bike? It is good for you and fund raising for the club. Get rid of your old, torn, dog-eared displays! The new ones are made with champagne-beige color paper and are laminated with thicker, UV protection pouches.

Price: \$15 each... or \$20 for two if it has exactly the same content.

Obtain the order form(s) at the Monitor's Desk and pay ARC desk monitor

Get yours today!

Especially if you are in any of the many car shows!!



Car Dash Example



Every car needs a Car Dash Display

The team keeps growing.

Join us - write mikezackaroonie@gmail.com with your contribution or ideas.
The Rusty Nuts Team and Mike the Moose
thank you for all the contributions!



Deborah Ray - proofreader, Ellen Zacko - editor, Ed Zacko - assistant editor



Dan Kuhl
regular contributor / sends Mike fun ideas from the past / new feature-Synchronization

Paul Burrier

Jim Hensch



Always helping in the background



Steve Victor - ARC official photographer

Dean Lewellen - entertaining articles

ARC CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION

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ARCOFSCW@gmail.com

ARC Club

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Sun City West, AZ 85376-5034

Craig Landers, President

Ray Peterson, 1st VP

Gene Wojtyna 2nd VP

Lynnette Saylor, Secretary

Ron Rada, 1st Treasurer

Ray Helt, 2nd Treasurer



ARC meets monthly the 3rd Tuesday, at 2:00 at RH Johnson Social Hall

(no meetings in June, July and August)

ARC WEBSITE <https://arcofscw.com>

ARC FACEBOOK Automotive/Restoration Club Facebook

ARC EMAIL ARCOFSCW@gmail.com

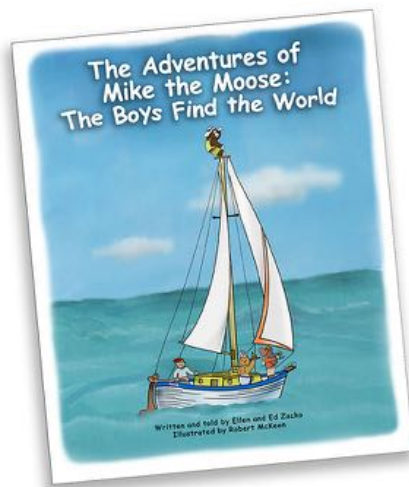
ARC Newsletter contact - mikezackaroonie@gmail.com

or Ellen Zacko 623-374-3056, to leave a message

A Message from Mike the Moose

Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions. The more you express gratitude for what you have, the more likely you will have even more to express gratitude for.

Zig Ziglar and Mike the Moose



Mike's book is available at the PORA store on Camino Del Sol - stop in and shop for gifts made in Sun City West!!

Rusty Nuts is *your* newsletter. Thank you to all the member contributions. Keep them coming. Everyone has a story and yours is important to the membership. Send your contribution to: mikezackaroonie@gmail.com
Your stories make this newsletter!

Special thank you to Deborah Ray, my friend and proofreader. I couldn't do this job without her special help.
Ellen Zacko - editor
Ed Zacko - assistant editor