

RUSTY NUTS

September 2024 Issue No. 107 Ellen Zacko - Editor

AUTOMOTIVE/RESTORATION CLUB OF SCW

**Our busy Webmaster
Lee Partridge (#684)
works on his
1970 El Camino**



Story on Page 4

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

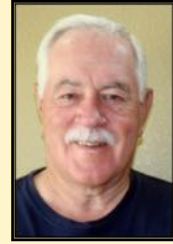
The Hot Rod Deuce Monthly
by Craig Landers, President



Welcome back from a nice long HOT summer here in Arizona. We have been really busy in the shop all summer, with short and long term work being steady just about every day. For all of you snowbirds coming back and planning to work on your vehicle long term, I suggest you get a hold of me and plan on getting on the waiting list. 209-769-6771. Coffee 'N Cars has been going on through the summer with great turnouts despite the heat; it is still held on the last Saturday of the month. Western State Bank will resume their car shows and pizza on the third Friday of the month starting in September. Raffle car ticket sales were slow during the summer but hopefully the sales will get better with the better weather coming. A group of us are going up to the Payson Car Club show in October with the raffle car. We always sell a lot of tickets there, so if anyone is interested in helping us sell tickets at the show, get a hold of John Kunch or me. Our next general meeting is September 17 at 2 p.m. in the Social Hall. With the good weather coming there will be lots of car shows, cruises and events to go to, so again if you would like to help sell raffle car tickets, please contact us. Hope everyone had a great summer...Enjoy!

ARC General Meeting
Tuesday, September 17, 2 p.m.
RH Johnson Social Hall

Founder's Focus A Column by Herb Clark



Where Would We Be Without CARS???

No matter your age you will have to agree the world has changed so much because of the invention of the automobile! Think about how cars have changed the way we live. Back in the 1800s we either lived in the city and worked in the city, or we lived in the country and were farming/ranching. Today our lives are not dictated by where we live. The car has made us mobile and many people work in the city and live in the country. This wasn't really practical when horses were the main way to travel.

The way we vacation has also changed dramatically. The invention of cars has allowed more and more people an opportunity to visit many of the great attractions all across our country. When Congress approved the way for Route 66 in 1926, it opened up the entire country for exploration via the automobile. It was the first paved road from Chicago to Los Angeles. With this new paved road came "Gas Stations." Prior to this, most gas was sold at drug stores or general stores. Soon after, "Hotels" were replaced in many areas with "Motels." Prior to Route 66, most hotels were located downtown near the railroad station. Next came the "Fast Food" industry. People traveling wanted to keep moving and didn't want to take the time to stop at "sit down" restaurants. Also along many of the highways the states and towns developed "roadside parks." This allowed you to stop at a rest area and eat your own food at the picnic tables provided.

The automobile has allowed us to visit many sites and National Parks all around the country. Prior to the automobile we mostly just heard about them, or looked at pictures. Families now flood our National Parks every year. From coast to coast, and state to state, we have traveled...mostly in a car. My wife and I have kept track of the states we have visited. We have been to ALL 50 states! Mostly by car! What states have you been to? What is left on your "bucket list?"

We now use cars for our main transportation whether we are going to the local grocery store, or to visit friends and relatives miles away. The automobile has done so much to change our lives, our jobs, our way of living. Where would we be without our cars?



Lee Partridge (#684) by Ed Zacko

Lee Partridge (#684) grew up in the steel town of Youngstown, Ohio. His interest in cars was fostered by his uncle Chuck Russell, who was a VP for Chrysler Corporation in charge of developing their "Mopar High Performance / Racing Program" during the '60s and '70s. "My first car was the family's 1966 Coronet that I bought from my father for \$600. By age 16, I was pretty much paying my own way and it was what I could afford."

Upon graduation from high school, he traded the Coronet in for a 1970 VW, moved to Columbus, Ohio, and enrolled in the electronics program at DW De Vry Institute. This began a working career that encompassed positions in service, production, commercial aviation, computer networks and IP phone installations.

His favorite car was a 1974 AMX. "74 was the last year they were produced. That car was fun to drive! It was very light and maneuverable. I kept it for years but it was never licensed in AZ. When I sold it, there were only 36,000 miles on the odometer. I should have kept it!"

One day Lee's next door neighbor introduced him to her friend Janet who drove a Chevy Monte Carlo, and wanted to have a stereo system installed. "That was a pretty cool car back then. It was the car that started it all!"

In the mid 70's, Lee developed an interest in dirt bikes and bought a brand new 1979 Yamaha 750 Special, right off the showroom floor. "It was a great bike with lots of torque and I rode the wheels off that thing, racing at Harescramble and Motocross events and yes, of course, got many tickets." Next came a wind surfing addiction as he (they) traveled throughout the Midwest and Canada in an old Ford Econoline van.

Janet and Lee married in 1981, moved to AZ in 1985 and finally retired in 2016 to a place where: "The HOA maintained the grounds, gave access to pool and fitness facilities, and oh, yes, also had a great car club... Sun City West!"

Somewhere along the way, Lee fell in love with the Chevy El Camino, or to be more precise, the wreck of an abandoned 1970 El Camino. His arrival and participation in ARC has given his restoration a real shot in the arm and he is now beginning to see the light at the end of a very long tunnel.

When not in the shop preparing his dream car for painting, he is at home, working, for the past seven years on ARC's behalf, as the Administrator / Content Manager for our website.

"ARC is one of the best clubs in SCW. I enjoy the variety of cars, personalities and experiences, and the fact that we are involved with many charitable endeavors as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization is a real plus for me!"

FUN IN THE SUN

Club members gathered in the ARC building on July 4th for a potluck afternoon. Several members wore red, white and blue for the holiday and were rewarded with prizes when the membership voted on the best costume. The food, brought by the members, was excellent as always and in abundance. The decorating committee outdid itself in color and Tom Jones made the prizes in the woodshop. Although it is hot in Sun City West in the summer, those of us Hot Birds that stay behind keep cool having fun in the sun. ARC doesn't sleep during the summer months.







Next Cars 'N Coffee,
Saturday, September 28, 7 a.m.
Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
During Cars 'N Coffee on October 26
Look for upcoming information!

Ambulance Service in SCW And More!!!

Did you know you can have unlimited rides to the hospital for a small yearly fee through our fire department (602) 522-1522). Always the best way into the hospital is in a first class ride with the fire boys. We are all trying to feel good and get through these golden years but you just never know what tomorrow might bring. For one member, “Bondo Bob” - better known as Fergie or Bob Ferguson - a surprise heart attack took him to Dell Webb. Now, happily on the mend, Rose and Bob remember the event vividly. Let’s all be aware of how the other members might feel and remember to ask often, “How are you today?” You might get a surprise.



The Fun Run in St. Louis organized by Herb Clark

Earlier this month RPM Ambassador Herb Clark organized a “Fun Run” for students in the St. Louis area on behalf of the RPM Foundation. This event acted as a training exercise for teams planning to participate (or interested in participating) in The Great Race this coming June. A total of 22 teams took place in the Fun Run, of which 15 were student teams! Here's Herb's recap of the race:

On Saturday April 13th, 22 teams enjoyed a spectacular day competing in the Great Race-like competition put on by the RPM Foundation. The 22 cars included 15 student teams representing St. Louis Community College, and joining the competition this year, Ranken Technical College Automotive students and faculty. The “Fun Run” is a tune up for the actual Great Race competition being held this coming June. The Great Race this year will start in Owensville, KY and finish in Gardiner, ME. Last year STLCC competed in the big event and finished a very respectable 4th place in the X Cup Division despite some frequent mechanical issues in their classic 1951 Ford.

The teams met in Columbia, Illinois and traversed along a course designed to be tough, but the main objective was to prepare them for the big race in June. The participants left the “Start” in one-minute intervals following “Course Instructions” around the rural area. Along the way they found three checkpoints strategically placed. This is a time and distance event where the Driver must drive at set speeds, while the Navigator studies the Course Instructions in order to traverse around the course. Object: Be at the checkpoint at the exact calculated second! If you are early or late you are given a penalty point for each second early or late!

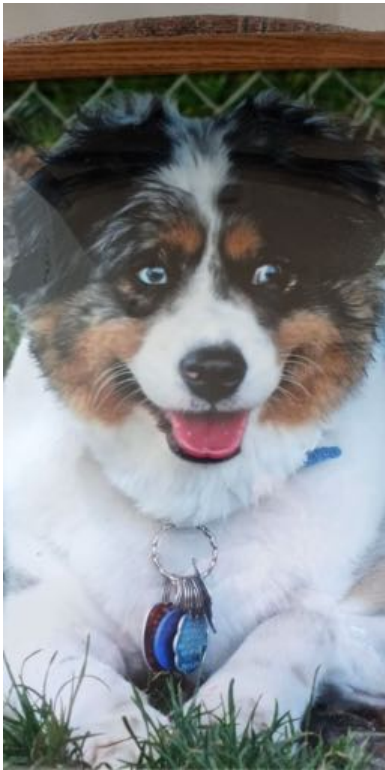
The group met after the competition at a restaurant in Columbia and shared stories of their adventures of the day. The top three place winners are, listed as Driver and Navigator:

- 1st - Nathan Depelhuer and Will Van Kirk
- 2nd - Mike Whitcraft and Ella Whitcraft
- 3rd - Larry Beyler and Jim Denny

We were pleased to have several others join us in the competition! Dr. Julie Fickas, STLCC President, was the Navigator for Don Kloth (Great Race veteran) in Don's well traveled 1930 Model A Speedster. Three members of the Missouri Valley Model A Club joined the group: Bill Schafer and Gene Roehl teamed up, and Don Pfitzinger and a friend were competing in Don's "Pickle" Speedster.



This month we lost ARC member Bonnie Robinson, wife of Randy. They have been important ARC members since its inception. Our thoughts go out to Randy and his family at this difficult time. Bonnie will be missed by everyone.



Club members know Bonnie's service dog



Heads up for the Latest The Parking Ticket Scam by Ed Zacko

You come back to your parked car and find a parking ticket on your windshield. The ticket directs you to a website to pay the fine by credit card except, the Internet address, while it APPEARS to be a legitimate MVD website, has been subtly changed by perhaps only ONE LETTER, which channels not only your payment for a non-existing fine but also your COMPLETE card information to the scammers.

This scam has become NATIONWIDE! So, be extremely careful. Study the ticket and payment website MOST CAREFULLY!

Here is one example of the scam

The ticket tells you to pay by card at:

“calgaryparkplus.com”-----this address is bogus.

The actual, legitimate address for violations is:

calgaryparking.com/tickets OR parkingtickets.calgaryparking.com.

If a ticket is found on a vehicle’s windshield, owners are encouraged to first contact their area’s parking enforcement division or state DMV to verify whether the parking ticket is legitimate. Do not go to the website listed on the ticket before making sure it is the real deal! You found out here on Rusty Nuts.

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.

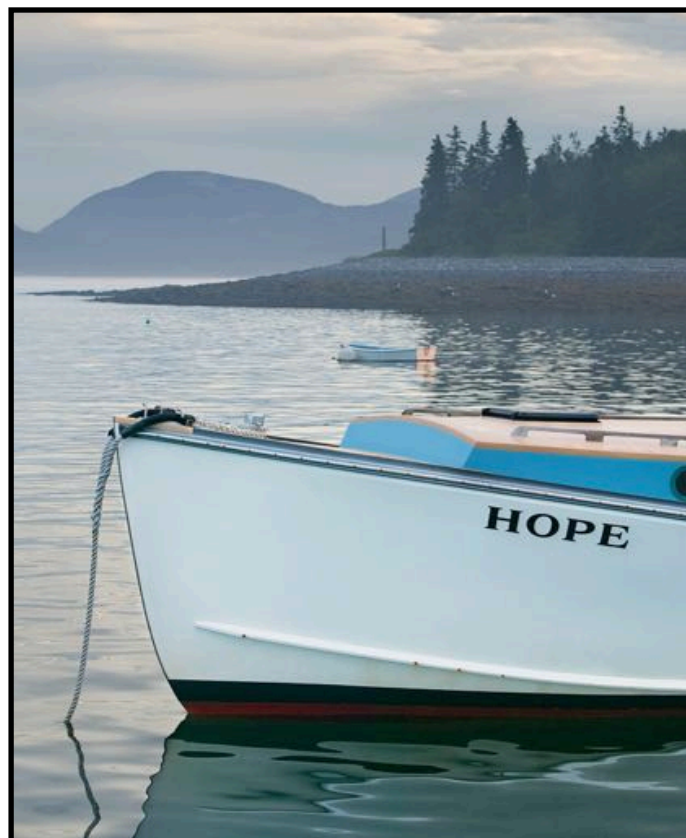
Mike the Moose On Happiness and Hope

To be happy begin by planning one activity per day that will make you happy or give you a sense of accomplishment. This will make you less likely to postpone positive experiences. Be realistic — it can be as small as treating yourself to a favorite snack, reading a few pages of a novel or FaceTiming a friend.

After you've enjoyed that daily moment, close your eyes and recount out loud, in the present tense, where and when you experienced the greatest joy. Home in on details and physical sensations, like the breeze cooling your face as the sun shines. This all might feel hokey, but don't gloss over the specifics, Dr. Meuret cautioned. The idea isn't just to remember how you felt, but to amplify and reexperience it.

Psychologists call the process of identifying and immersing in positive emotions savoring.

“Growing the glow of positive emotions,” as Dr. LaFreniere put it, strengthens your memory of them, and increases your motivation to seek them out going forward. Savoring also helps counteract the very human tendency to focus on and [remember negative aspects](#) of an event: the friend who was 15 minutes late, the thing you wish you hadn't said.



Time to pop into the shop!!!

You never know what you might encounter when you pop into the shop around lunchtime. On Tuesday, August 13, several members feasted on chicken enchiladas, Spanish rice, beans and dessert. It was a fun time - cooks were Gary Masek, Tom Jones and Shelley Giles (July 4 leftovers). You can see who the eaters were. These events somehow just happen but everyone is invited.



2025 Raffle Car Update John Kunch - organizer

The 2025 Raffle Car is a 2004 Ford Thunderbird, Ice Blue Metallic with tan interior and 60,000 miles on the odometer. The color, Ice Blue Metallic, was only offered in 2004 and only around 100 were ordered with the Sand Interior Package, so the color combination is rather rare. It comes with all the normal options along with a power soft top and the optional hard top with the factory storage rack.

ARC held a "Members Only" drawing August 1 for a \$50 gift card to Firebirds Bar and Grill. The winner was ticket number #426 - Bob Krueger. To the date of this publishing 570 tickets have been sold.



ARC is Well Fed and Happy



Always coffee

John monitors



Doughnut table

Popcorn czar



New T shirts

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.

Mike McGuire (#414) Mike, we are saddened to hear that you and your wife are continuing to face difficult health issues. Please know that we are thinking of you and continue sending prayers your way, Mike. Let us know if there is anything we can do for you.

Al Van Antwerp (#839) Al, we are thinking of you as you continue to receive treatments and fight the battle. Keeping you in our prayers for brighter days ahead.

John Donily (#1019) John, we haven't forgotten you. Hope you are having a feel better day. Keeping you in our prayers for more feel good days.

Chuck Ulbricht (#13) Sorry to hear about your fall, Chuck. Wishing you a speedy recovery. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

In Memoriam:

Bonnie Robinson (#399) Wife of our ARC Angel, Randy Robinson, (#138) left this earth after many years of a multitude of illnesses. Randy says, "It was a blessing after all the pain and suffering she has gone through." Bonnie was a fighter and inspiration to those who knew her and will be missed by all of us. Our thoughts and prayer go out to Randy and their family and friends at this very difficult time.

**Subject: Gauge vs horses ass. But you knew that
by Dean Lewellen**

Information everyone is dying to have in their back pocket when the question pops up. This is great and very informative.....

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used?

Well, because that's the way they built them in England, and English engineers designed the first US railroads. Why did the English build them like that?

Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the wagon tramways, and that's the gauge they used. So, why did 'they' use that gauge then?

Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they had used for building wagons, which used that same wheel spacing. Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing?

Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break more often on some of the old, long distance roads in England . You see, that's the spacing of the wheel ruts. So who built those old rutted roads?

Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (including England) for their legions. Those roads have been used ever since.

And what about the ruts in the roads?

Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match or run the risk of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome , they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Bureaucracies live forever.

So the next time you are handed a specification/procedure/process and wonder 'What horse's ass came up with this?', you may be exactly right. Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses. (Two horses' asses.)

Now, the twist to the story:

When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature, of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system, was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's ass.

And you thought being a horse's ass wasn't important? Ancient horse's asses control almost everything.



Around the shop!!



Bill's '56



Buddy gets AC



Cal's new Miata



Craig's Corvette



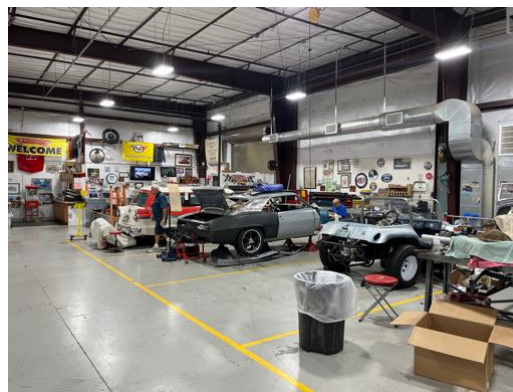
Mike's Cobra



Rich's '32 Ford roadster



Steve's Dune Buggy



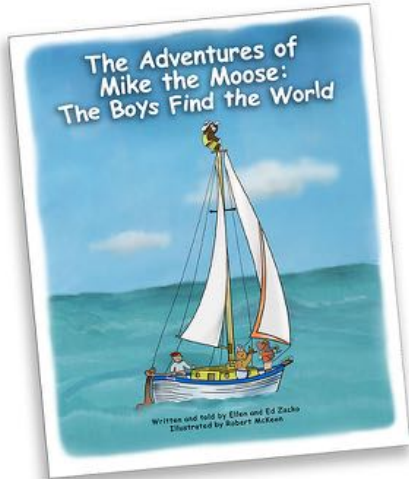
The shop



Wayne's '69 Camaro

The Write Hand - SCW Author Fest
Held just in time for Christmas gift purchases.
"The Adventures of Mike the Moose" is a featured book!!
In the Quail/Coyote Room near the Posse on Stardust
Monday, October 28
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Support our local artists and
do your Christmas shopping early!!

Western State Bank Car Show
Just to let everyone know, Western State Bank has changed their Friday car show to the third Friday of the month. It is not a super big show but comes with free pizza and drinks.



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

Cars 'N Coffee, Saturday, August 31 - 85 spaces filled!!



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 thanks you for all the contributions!



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



Dan Kuhl
regular contributor



Paul Burrier
sends Mike fun ideas from the past



Jim Hensch
extra photos of events



Always helping in the background



Steve Victor - ARC official photographer

Dean Lewellen - entertaining articles

ARC CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION

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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 p.m. at RH Johnson Social Hall

(no meetings in June, July and August)

ARC WEBSITE <https://arcofscw.com>

ARC FACEBOOK Automotive/Restoration Club Facebook

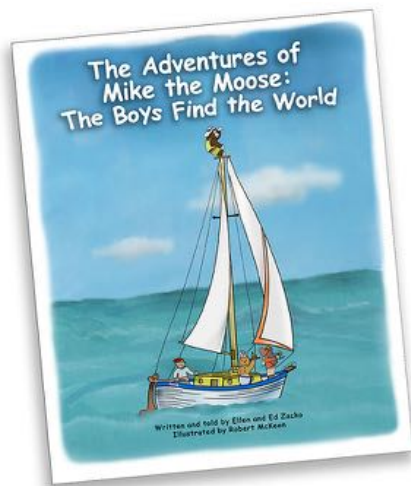
ARC EMAIL ARCOFSCW@gmail.com

ARC Newsletter contact - mikezackaroonie@gmail.com

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

A Message from Mike the Moose

It is no good telling yourself that one day you will wish you had never made that change; it is no good anticipating regrets. Every tomorrow ought not to resemble every yesterday.
Beryl Markham, aviator 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