

Automotive Restoration Club of Sun City West

RUSTY NUTS

September 2026 Issue #121 Terri Kerr Wiedel, Editor

WELCOME BACK!

Our Arizona summer is coming to an end so it is time for all the snowbirds to begin their migration home. In this issue of Rusty Nuts you will find photos and stories from members who traveled far and near. Looking forward to connecting and reconnecting!



Got Tickets??? Raffle Car for the 2027 Car Show! Stop in the shop to buy your 6 pack and a chance at a \$200 gift card

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THANK YOU!!! To ALL ARC members who showed up in any way to help us clean out the entire shop in preparation for our new floor!! And again, to EVERYONE who showed up to help us put it all back in place. You will see some improvements beyond the floor. Members cleaned, painted, installed a new sink and diamond plate backsplash and new Route 66 thermometers in several strategic locations throughout the shop. Can you spot them all?? Come in to find out and see what we've been up to.

From our President: **Craig Landers**

Welcome back to the Rusty Nuts from a long HOT dog days of summer... As most of you know, we now have a new floor in the main part of the shop. We were closed for 3 weeks but it was well worth the wait. Most of you might know but for the ones that don't, the floor that was replaced was the original floor from 11 years ago, unfortunately for us when they did the original floor it was not properly done. This time the contractor completely sanded the whole floor to bare concrete, put down a sealer first and then installed an epoxy mix over the sealer and let it cure for 10 days before we could even walk on it. BTW it did not cost ARC anything, the Rec Center paid for it all, close to 50k. Many thanks to the Rec Center.

Now that the hot days are winding down more and more events will be happening for the club and around us, so keep an eye on dates and times. If you are not getting an ARC email please contact Terri Kerr Wiedel at the club for future emails, I believe she has an email sign up sheet on the peg board. There will be a lot of information on what has been going on at the club over the summer at our September general meeting 9/15/26, 2pm in the social hall...BE THERE...bye for now.



Craig

It's Time To Remember

By

Dan Kuhl, Member # 891

It's time to remember the straight eight engine. It was the heart of performance in the days of old. I was reminded of this by Jim Richardson, a journalist in Hemmings magazine.

Jim is my favorite writer in that magazine; I became acquainted with him when he wrote for Classic Car magazine. I was so impressed I even exchanged communications with him, and today I only subscribe to Hemmings to read his articles.

In his current article Jim describes the virtues of the straight eight engine, namely lots of torque and lots of speed. The best example is the 1931 Duesenberg Model J that could do 89mph in second with a top speed of 119mph, quite a feat weighing in at 5000 pounds. At this same time, Studebaker was doing quite well, using a flathead straight eight in its Indy 500 race cars. See the photo of the engine compartment. This car's top speed was 140 mph and is on display the Studebaker National Museum. In 1936 Buick used its straight eight to push its newest model the Century to 100mph. By the 1950s most manufacturers were looking at the V8. But there were a few holdouts like Pontiac, Buick, Packard, and, in Europe, the Mercedes 300 SLR, powered by a straight eight. It was untouchable on the track.

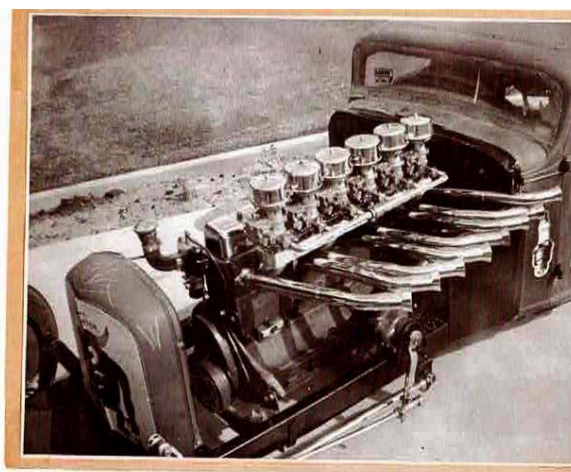
In 2013 while searching for local information about the Studebaker drag car named the Whistler, I was introduced to J.R.Bloom, a gentleman retired in Cottonwood, AZ. It turns out

that he was a drag race photographer who toured the drag strips in the Southwest to take his photos and race his Buick powered drag car. The engine in this modified Model A drag car was of course a straight eight out of a 1941 Buick Roadmaster and the transmission was out of a '38 Buick with first and reverse removed. It was completely original, with over 100k miles on it, except for the six Stromberg 97 carbs, an Iscky cam, and eight chromed exhaust headers.

Nitromethane was pumped by hand from the tank next to the driver. (J.R. claimed it was the only self-starting nitromethane race car). The rpms were boosted from a stock 3700 to 6000. It was estimated the stock horsepower was raised to 500hp. Oh yes, there is one other modification; an air scoop fashioned from the top half of a spotlight. It was mounted above the driver to give him fresh air when the nitro fumes got too unbearable.

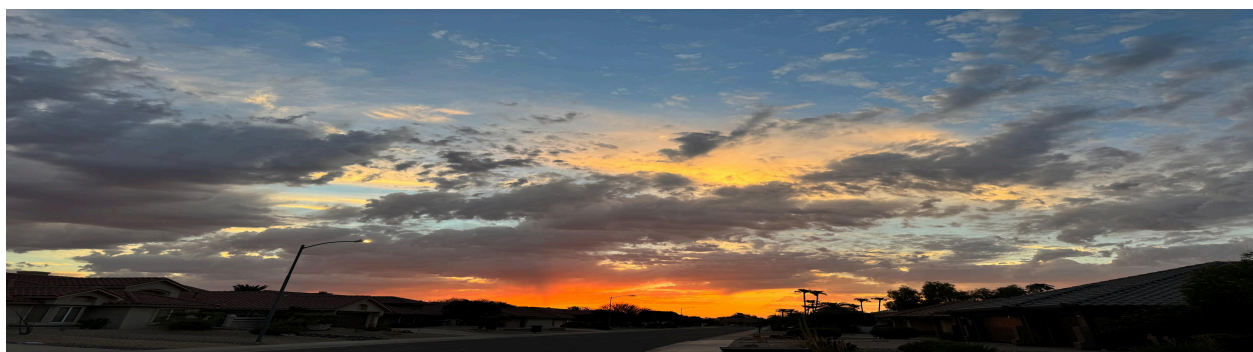
Racing his Buick powered race car in the 1950's, J.R. Bloom made quite a name for himself. Engineers came from the Buick factory in Flint to see the car perform. How did it perform, you ask? Well, J.R. took home 28 trophies from 32 races that he entered. His Buick engine set records in five different classes on four different drag strips. His crowning achievement was 123 mph at the Tucson Drag Strip. In 1958 his racing days came abruptly to an end with nitro fuel banned from drag strips (it came back in 1964). He continued to take racing photos into the early 70's. J.R. was inducted into the Arizona Drag Racing Hall of Fame in 2002 and the International Hall of Fame in 2009. Sadly, he passed away in 2017 and is now racing with his car buddies in the clouds over Arizona.

After communicating with J.R. in 2013, I knew I had the bug to purchase a Buick straight eight. In 2015 I made the plunge, buying a 1953 Buick Special with a 263 engine and a three speed stick transmission. Boy did that car have pick up, and of course, lots of torque. The car was sold in 2024; it was too difficult to take care of in Maine. C'est la vie, yes it was a difficult decision, but I still have my love of Studbakers, and of course my '40 Ford.



References:

- Beckman, Andrew, (January 2025) Off The Record.
- Turning Wheels. 57(1), p.p.6-9.
- Richardson, Jim (June 2026) Silent Service.
- Hemmings, 73(6), p 84.
- Numerous listing on the web to include a listing of drag strips in Arizona and the Obituary for J.R. Bloom.
- A biographical narrative provided to me in 2013 by J.R. Bloom.

“In For Repairs”**by 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 stevelinda2004@earthlink.net. I will be in contact with the individual by e-mail and also 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.

We hope that no news is good news and that all of our members are having more feel-good days than feel-bad days.

We do have a number of members battling cancer as well as other serious and minor health issues right now. Take care of yourselves and reach out for support if you are feeling alone, you are not! WE are family!

ARC Angels



There is a **NEW** procedure for accessing help from our wonderful ARC Angels. You can call or stop into the shop to complete the request form seen here. This way we can keep better track of how much support we are providing. Kudos to Gene, Dan, Randy, Tony and anyone else who steps up to support our community in need! Call the shop @623-544-6054 and request ARC ANGEL Support. Thanks to all our Angels!

ARC
Automotive/Restoration Club Of SCW

**Request for
ARC ANGEL Support**

The Following Information Is Required Before Assigning a Primary ARC Angel

Requesters Name: _____
 Phone Number: _____ Vehicle Status: ☐ Drivable ☐ Not Drivable
 Brief explanation of need: _____

ARC Use Below

Start Date and Time of Day Requested: _____
 Amount of Time Estimated for Completion of Task/Project: _____
 Description of Task/Project: _____

Primary ARC Angel: _____
 Assistant #1's Name: _____ Assistant #2's Name: _____

RESULTS of ARC Angels efforts: _____

Any follow up needed: _____

BUSY IN THE SHOP

Photo Gallery from May-August 2026



Ron Rada VP and Craig Landers President, leave and lock up the shop as we shut down for a few long weeks to have our floor re-surfaced.



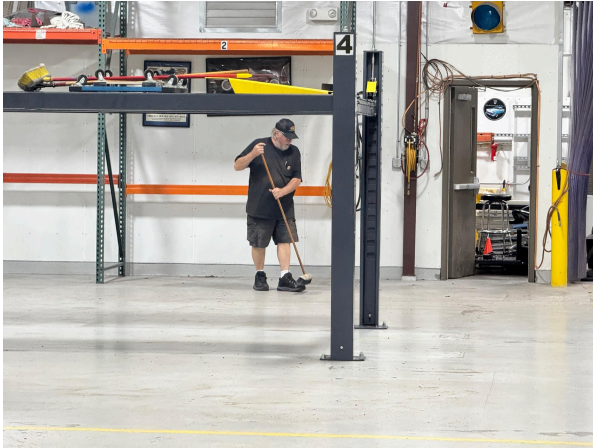
Dave Dunbar #1542. (Treasurer) Sweeping the welding area clean and with Ron Rada #157. (VP/Finance), Craig Landers #634 (President).



**Mark Lovejoy #1739 Dean Lewellen #100
Tony Giralamo#1337 Bill Schimmelman#2171**



**Jim Gallagher #412 at his post
overseeing the shop for safety.**



Our president fastidiously cleans.



Hershel watches Russ help us with heavy lifting and Jim Gallagher #412 directs Russ into a tight spot.



Tom Slezewski#1143 & Micky Sasso#1471.



Dana Crosby#1194 (Manager of Membership)
Daryl Freas#1642 leads, Rick Popp#1866 carry's sledges

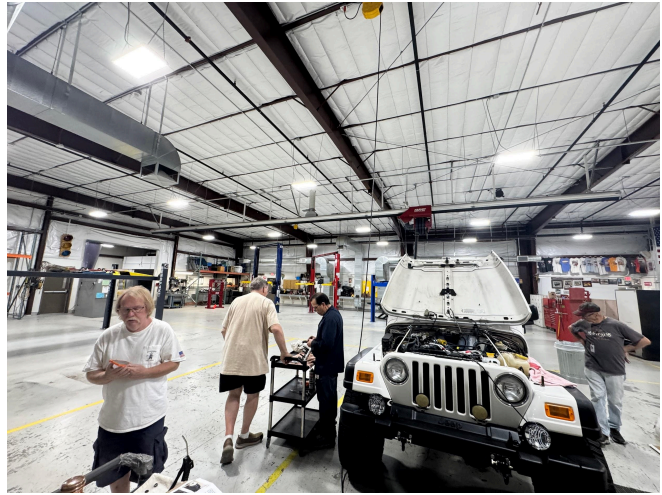


Jeri Oman#74 inspects



A lot of people came to help clean out the shop as we closed for a couple of weeks and had our floors re-finished. Thank you to EVERYONE! We finished in

half the time expected and didn't need either of the Conex boxes. Who knew we could pack everything from the Mechanical Shop into the Paint Shop?!



Tony Giralamo, Shop Manager, got a new ride, his first JEEP! (Just Empty Every Pocket) and is the last man standing on our final working hours in the shop prior to the shut down for our new floor.



'67 GTO by Jerome Solam#1557



Wayne Brand#1534 (Paint shop manager)



The ARC Annual 4th of July Party was a hit! We had more than enough breaded or fried chicken and a plethora of delicious food by ARC members to choose from.



Several ARC members had birthdays over the summer. Here is the cake to celebrate Jack Saylor #1699, husband of Lynette #1730, our fabulous secretary for the past 3 years!



Many ARC members attended the Watson Lake Car Show in Prescott. This year, just like in the past, we took the Raffle Car, sold enough tickets to make it worthwhile, and we will plan to go again next year.



This is the group that sold the tickets.

Thanks to John Kunch #170, for bringing the car. (John is also the organizer and head of the raffle car sales group). THANKS JOHN!



ARC members enjoying the show at Watson Lake!



Herbie goes High Tech!



One of MANY old Hit and Miss engines and a camper like one that Terri KW #2151 would travel across the country in were seen at the Watson Lake Show.



Wayne #1534 comparing body shop ideas with Dennis #1605



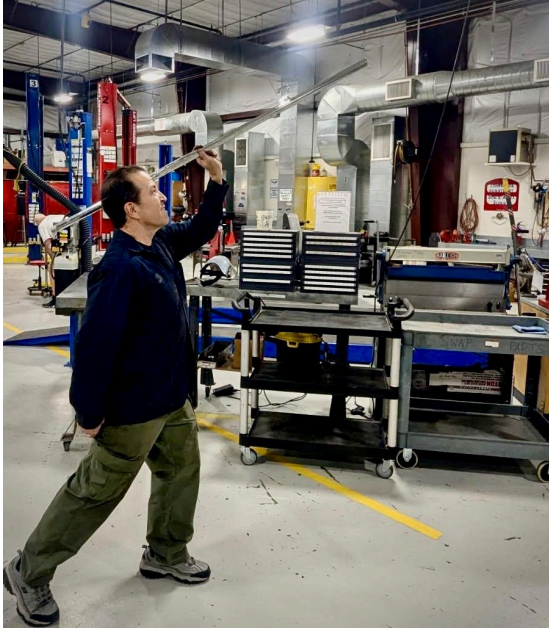
Craig shares wisdom with a newer member, owner of the green



(1948?)Ford(1948?). Our Foodies! Gary Masak#795 and Shelley Giles#1566 preparing and serving up good food to members!



A meeting of the minds...



Tony demonstrates a new club activity, Javelin throwing!



Our VP, Mike Harwell#1540, “ Help I got in and can’t get out!”



Jim Gallagher’s numbers matching 1965 Corvette



Corvette Row at Cars & Coffee
Corvette Row at ARC Cars & Coffee



Cool Truck at Cars & Coffee



Tom Jones #5 with Neil White #581

ARC Members Stories of Summer and More!

It May Not Be a Car But It Has a Motor

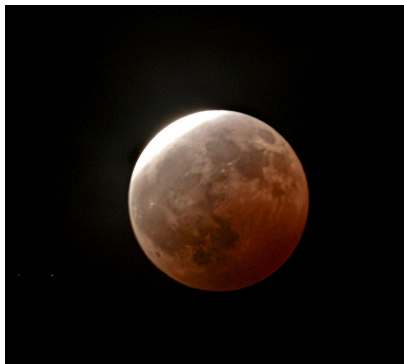
A big thank-you goes out to John Kunch who got Don and Joan Minnick up and walking on their new walking platform. Too hot to go out and walk so now we are able to walk in the comfort of our living room.

Who would have figured that two rubber protective devices kept safety clamps from being tightened. We might never have figured this out without John's help. Once again ARC came to the rescue.

Joan #1827 and Don #1826 Minnick



What happened in SCW in late August? It got very hot and the moon turned rusty-blood red and was partially eclipsed. I took this photo after taking many steps from my lounge to the backyard. **Nap Oyoung #2280**



Our Summer

The first picture is a road trip to Canada.

Next a water trip with benefits.

Finally a vintage road trip on Hagerty Road of the Year 2024, California 33, that I took this week.

Cheers

Kip Stumbough #1760



Philip G and Phil L Peters, both ARC members showing our 1969 Buick Wildcat convertible at **Gilmore Car Museum in Michigan** (largest car museum in US) at a Wednesday cruise in. Parked next to a 1930's GM Futureliner from GM's Parade of Progress national tours (originally 12 units), a rolling vision of the future displaying GM technology. Sorry Elon Musk these vehicles had a center drive position before his 18 wheelers. When in Michigan we cruised the byways with the Buick to numerous car shows.

Philip G Peters #1077 Phil L Peters #1294



Ed and Ellen Zacko spent April and May with their boat **Entr'acte in the Sea of Cortez**. They trailered down and back and spent most of their days near Conception Bay on the Baha side of the sea. **Ed #29 & Ellen #899 Zacko**



We took a **3 day trip** to see some other Snowbirds from the north side of Phoenix, at their home in Northern Wisconsin. They had a trip planned through their Model A Ford Club to see the Kovac Planetarium. Not having a Model A of my own to drive, it was an experience to travel 100 miles that day in his 1929 Model A Pickup. Our friend has an overdrive, but we took it easy and drove around 50 miles per hour. He had just put the engine in this spring when he got back to Wisconsin, and it ran perfect. It was a great day and we really enjoyed our trip. **Victor Eirschele #198**



Apache Trail and Luke AFB Auxiliary south towards Ajo. Apache Trail easy though several freaky Drop-offs. Access for military south of Luke Auxiliary can be obtained for military type to venture into government lands to view petroglyphs.

I'll be in Mayo from the 3rd four 4? days.... repeat low back surgery to correct another providers failures 18 months ago. 100% P&T VA Service connected... military jet seats, thousands of hours. Thanks, Boeing 😊

David Parker #734



Jack and I have so much to be **Thankful** for and many, many family events to celebrate in 2026. This year we were blessed with our beautiful first great grandchild, one grandson retired with 22 years service in the US Navy, our daughter and her husband both retired from many years service in law enforcement, Jack celebrated his 80th birthday and in November we will be married 60 years! Jack and I decided to renew our vows too so we rented a house on the river running into Lake Coeur d-Alene ID and our entire family gathered there for a 3 day celebration. Woo hoo!! Most of the family live in the Spokane area and the rest flew in from Italy, Nashville, Seattle, Bellingham WA and Phoenix. Holy Moley, did we celebrate!! Our entire family gathered to watch the old folks promise to stay married - all 18 of us. To say we are indeed blessed is indeed an understatement. And yes, he's still the one!

Jack #1699 & Lynette #1730 Saylor



Family - Darin Bonnicksen #2248

With 10th grandchild and sisters 11th grandchild is born a girl, with her sisters



Family Reunion Mason Lake, WA



A Visit to Son's Restoration Garage

EVENTS coming up

- **Every Monday.** 6:30 am Hole-n-One, Breakfast Group
- **Corvette Tuesdays.** Calling all Hooligans: Take Over the Shop Parking Lot!
- **Nancy Perry Cruise in @Mixteca. Sat.** Eves 67th & Bell
- **General Club Meeting Tuesday SEPT. 15th 2-3pm Social Hall @ RH Johnson Recreation Center**
- **Western Bank Mini Car Show Friday Sept 18th 10-12**
- **ARC Cars & Coffee and GRAND RE-OPENING! Saturday Sept 26th 6:30-9:30am**

Future Events for your Planning Pleasure

SMILE... YOU'RE ON CANDID CAMERA

Presented By The Broadcast Club &
Your Community Radio Station, 103.1 KSCW

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 2026
7 - 8 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6:00

Peter Funt, the son of Alan Funt, the creator and longtime host of Candid Camera will be at the Palm Ridge Rec Center.

ONLY \$5.00 Per Person (Minimum Donation)
CASH AT THE DOOR

BOTTLED WATER AVAILABLE \$1.00 (Per Bottle, Minimum Donation)

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
St. Mary's Food Bank

THIS EVENT IS FOR SUN CITY WEST REC CARD HOLDERS & THEIR INVITED GUESTS. SCW REC CARD REQUIRED AT THE DOOR.

Sponsored By **CENTENNIAL** LEASING & SALES elscars.com

Board Members

President	Craig Landers
1st Vice President	Ray Helt
2nd Vice President	Mike Harwell
1st Treasurer	Dave Dunbar
2nd Treasurer	Ron Rada
Secretary	Lynette Saylor

Other ARC Volunteer (non-voting) Positions

Shop Operations	Tony Giralamo
Asst. Shop Operations	vacant
Paint Shop Manager	Wayne Brand
Asst. Paint Manager	vacant
Membership Manager	Dana Crosby
Web Content	Daryl Freas
Email & Rusty Nuts	Terri Kerr Wiedel SCWARCmail@gmail.com
Social Activities	Shelley Giles
Pop-up Foodies	Gary Masik & Shelley Giles

ARC Website: Arcofscw.com

ARC fb: Automotive/RestorationClubfb

ARC Phone: 623-544-6054