

**THE VINTAGE MOTOR CAR CLUB OF AMERICA
MINUTES OF THE
85th MEMBERSHIP MEETING
GULF OF MEXICO, ABOARD THE GTS *RADIANCE OF THE SEAS*
FEBRUARY 9, 2024**

OFFICERS PRESENT:

President	Duane Copley
Secretary	Mike Welsh (by Zoom)
Treasurer	Elaine Johnsen
Membership Vice President	Clare Oestreicher
Activities Vice President	Liz Lindig
Technical Vice President	Steve Fitzgerald

PAST PRESIDENTS PRESENT:

2017-2018	Don Knight
2019-2021	Ray Maxfield

REGIONAL DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Bonneville	Bob Shilkett (by Zoom)
Florida	Tom Jevcak (by Zoom)
Great Lakes	John Zimmerman
Kentucky	Clare Oestreicher (for Cliff Tibbitts)
Mid-Atlantic	Carl Worstell (by Zoom)
Midwest	Mike Welsh (for John Nikodym) (by Zoom)
Mountains & Plains	Randy Carlson
Northwest	Carl Edem (by Zoom)
Southwest	Mert Houdek (for Owen Cotton)
TexOma	Ken Blake
Upper Mississippi	Dave Edmonds (by Zoom)
Western	Dion Stams

President Duane Copley called the meeting to order at 8:27 a.m. CST.

The Secretary called the roll and declared a quorum.

Opening Remarks: Duane Copley

Duane noted that Dennis Holland had stepped down as Publications Vice President, and announced that Traci Leshar, who edits the AACA's *Horseless Carriage* and another publication, would take his place full time after the March/April issue is published.

Treasurer's Report: Elaine Johnsen

Elaine thanked Duane and Trish Copley for arranging the cruise, and thanked Robin and Mike McGrath for reviewing reports and professional advice.

Elaine mentioned last year's dues increase to \$48, and noted the importance of communicating the reasons for that increase. She asked the audience to encourage other members to renew. Elaine noted the Board's ongoing discussions about lowering club costs, including ideas for making Bulb Horn production more cost-effective, the switch to a new credit card processor that charges lower fees, and investigating the possibility of making member donations more useful to the club.

Membership Vice President's Report: Clare Oestreicher

Clare noted that membership is going down, though she had not heard complaints about the dues increase, and urged members to be salespeople for the club. Clare recommended asking sellers to report sales to the National Secretary who can then extend the free membership to the purchaser, rather than waiting for the purchaser to request the membership.

Activities Vice President Report: Liz Lindig

To All VMCCA Members:

It has been an honor to serve as the VMCCA Activities VP for the past two years. I have enjoyed working with those of you and your committees who have hosted National, Regional, and some local tours during these two years.

In addition to assisting tour hosts as needed, I also participated in the

1. "Road Ahead Initiative"
2. Updating the "Officers Handbook" (twice)
3. Updating the "VMCCA By-Laws"
4. Sending tour budgets, tour registration forms, and tour flyers for each National Tour to the VMCCA Officers for review and approval.
5. Updated the VMCCA website, Membership, Member Resources Section for tours. All sections of the VMCCA Officers' Handbook pertaining to hosting tours and meetings were compiled into one document, along with all the approved forms. This organized information should assist with facilitating tours and meetings.
6. A VMCCA Activities Committee was established with members Liz Lindig, chair, Randy Carlson, Judy Wright, and John Zimmermann. This committee used emails for discussion purposes.
7. An article was written for each issue of The Bulb Horn. The VMCCA Officers also served as proofreaders of each issue.
8. I have shared "Behind the Scenes" information with incoming VMCCA Activities VP Trisha Copley. I wish Trisha a successful and fun tenure as Activities VP.

Thank you for the privilege to serve as the VMCCA Activities VP. I enjoyed working with the Board of Governors, current and past, and I wish you all success in keeping the VMCCA family healthy and strong. Beautiful Day, Gone Touring!

Technical Vice President Report: Steve Fitzgerald

This past year has been interesting for me as my first year as the VP Technical. I think some of my technology stopped around 1939. But I'm trying to cope with it with the help of a wonderful wife and a wonderful granddaughter.

The last half of the year was spent doing the awards, more than 200 hours because I had a lot of incomplete nomination forms. Thank you, Trish, for doing a great job with the forms. I spent a lot of time contacting people and getting pictures, but I went on six tours myself and took a lot of pictures. I had to do a lot of research and unfortunately I didn't have access to the membership portion of our website. Hopefully that's going to be resolved soon.

People talked me into doing The Old Spanish Trail Tour number four. I've got number two coming up soon, number three is in November, and number four is in 2025. Liz gave me some dates for that already.

On the six tours I went on, people asked me to reduce the cost of the tours. I switched the hotels for the two tours I'm doing this year, and I've cut the banquet costs by switching to available restaurant buffets.

I don't know most of the people whose names are on some of our awards. I'd love to know more about these people and where these awards came from. We had one award dropped last year, but that sponsor picked up a different award.

Publications Vice President Report: Randy Pullen

My Article in the Jan-Feb Bulb Horn was my swan song as I am stepping aside as your VMCCA Vice President of Publications. Our club is fortunate to have very qualified individuals in the wings to continue the work. I regret that I am not able to attend the meeting to pass the baton but will be there in spirit.

Once again I would like to thank Dennis Holland-Bulb Horn editor, Ray Maxfield-Touring Chronicle editor, John Lang-Website, George Chapman-BH Classified, and John Pendergast-Advertising Manager. These individuals were the backbone of Publications and made my job easy.

The new Vice President of Publication will be elected at this meeting and will oversee the Bulb Horn Magazine, The Touring Chronicle, Website, and support personnel into the future. Thanks for the opportunity to serve as your VP of Publications.

Secretary Report: Mike Welsh

First of all I would like to thank everyone who sent me a card or spoke to me during last year with regard to my surgery for Colon Cancer. It was a wild ride but now I am almost back to 100% - excuse me, I forgot about how old I am. I will never be at 100% but any of those numbers near to 100 are very acceptable.

I must give my daughter Beth a real big THANK YOU for helping me in my recovery and especially all of the work she did in my office to keep things afloat. I try not to look at the monitor while she is working at my computer because it makes my head spin... but she is up-to-speed on my daily duties.

Dues collection is coming right along. Quite a few chapters and regions send dues in as a group with one check which does lighten the load of dealing with numerous checks. Many members

send in their dues with the blue form and a check, some list their credit card info, and the rest go to the website to pay their dues with a credit card. The new company we are using to process credit card payments is working very well, better than using PayPal and a credit card machine.

Southwest Florida Region members agreed in December 2023 to dissolve the Southwest Florida Chapter in Punta Gorda. I am sure that many of you know Lee Royston, the wife of the late Don Royston, who started the region and chapter in Punta Gorda. Lee was really looking forward to be on the cruise but was struck with an infection and is now in a rehab facility. I spoke to her this last week and called my brother who also lives in Punta Gorda and asked him to take her some flowers.

2024 Officer Election Report: Ray Maxfield

On December 31, 2023 an election ballot was sent to 1,379 VMCCA members with an email address listed in the official VMCCA database. Specifically, this list is made from the column containing a membership expiration date of 12/31/2023 or later.

On January 31, 2024 the election results report from the ballot were reviewed. Seventy-six (76) of the ballot emails bounced meaning that they were not deliverable. All percentage calculations are made from the 1303 ballots that were delivered.

There were 873 ballot emails opened. That number represents 67% of the number of ballots delivered. A reminder election ballot was NOT sent to 403 VMCCA members who had not opened the original election ballot.

Each ballot had provisions for 2 household members to cast votes for each of the seven candidates separately. There were 267 ballots cast from the First House Hold Member and 156 ballots cast from the Second House Hold Member for a total 423 ballots cast when the election closed at midnight January 31, 2024.

The following Candidates for 2024 VMCCA Officers are elected by the VMCCA membership and the results are declared official.

President, Duane Copley
Executive Vice President, Mark Hamlin
Treasurer, Elaine Johnsen
Activities Vice President, Trisha Copley
Membership Vice President, Clare Oestreicher
Publications Vice President, Ray Maxfield
Technical Vice President, Steve Fitzgerald
(end of submitted report)

Ray added that member feedback noted the ballot's clumsy interface, and explained that was due to Constant Contact, the distribution database, and the design of the ballot. He noted that the electronic ballots are submitted at a much greater rate than when paper ballots were mailed with the Bulb Horn. Ray suggested the electronic ballots could be changed to allow first and second

households to vote with one click rather than two. He said the ballots would be different next year.

Duane Copley congratulated the newly elected officers and announced they would officially begin work at the first quarter Board of Governors meeting in two days.

Storage, Backup, and Inventory Committee Report: Mike Welsh

At the 4th Quarter 2023 Board of Governors meeting, Secretary Mike Welsh was directed to form a committee to evaluate VMCCA's physical assets, currently stored in Kansas City, Missouri in a building owned by Past President Bob Ehinger. The Committee would review the stored inventory and recommend a retention plan in the event of death or incapacitation. Mike selected VMCCA members Bob Ehinger, Beth Welsh, and Jim Clock as committee members. The Committee met on January 26, 2024, at Bob Ehinger's building. It was agreed that, in the event Bob or Mike dies or is incapacitated, the Club materials will stay in the Ehinger building as long as his family permits, or until a new Secretary is hired.

At this meeting, the Committee was notified that the building's top floor would begin renovation the following week. 126 boxes of Bulb Horn past issues had to be moved to a lower floor.

STORAGE INVENTORY

On January 29, 2024, Mike and Beth inventoried the stored materials, listed here:

- 126 boxes (about 6,000 copies) of Bulb Horn magazines, 1946-2023 (not a complete set)
One complete set of Bulb Horns, stored separately in file cabinet
- One 1946 Glidden tour poster in cardboard tube
- One framed glass shadow box of GM Heritage award, 30" wide
- Two large boxes of 8mm film reels, various dates
- One large box of VHS tapes, assorted tour-related subjects
- One box with 27 2002 Glidden Tour VHS tapes
- One box of assorted old Club newsletters, etc.
- One box of financial records, 1980s through 2004
- One box of tour books
- Two large boxes of photo albums from former Technical Secretary Larry Ames
- One new countertop mount for FD150 credit card machine (which the Secretary no longer uses)
- One small and two large boxes of member rosters on 15" x 11" continuous-feed paper, 2004 and older
- 44 3' x 5' vinyl banners, "Vintage Motor Car Club of America" "The Touring Club" with logo
- Stadle Fellowship Trophy plaques of 1959-1967 winners
- Musée national de l'automobile souvenir from 1967 club visit

In Bob Ehinger's walk-in vault:

- An original painting by the late illustrator and VMCCA member Peter Helck

In Bob Ehinger's safe:

- Club incorporation papers
- Old carbons from Club checking account
- Disk drive from former Secretary computer
- Bulb Horn backups on CDs

- Miscellaneous paper files

Material held by the Club's historians will soon need to be moved to the Ehinger building. (This topic is addressed more fully in a separate report.) We estimate there should be space to store this material, but recommends culling unneeded materials already stored.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Bulb Horns

Past issues of The Bulb Horn through 2019 were scanned by Bob Edelman and made available on USB thumb drives. If the Board wants to continue scanning future Bulb Horn issues, copies must be set aside for this process, as the magazines must be taken apart before scanning.

The club holds two complete sets of the Bulb Horn: one set partially library-bound and kept in the Secretary's office, and one unbound set in the Ehinger building. Since this seems more than sufficient for historical records, we recommend the following options for the remaining 6,000 Bulb Horns:

1. Offer the entire or partial collection for sale. We have identified an eBay merchant listing several dozen Bulb Horns who should be contacted.
2. Offer the entire or partial collection, via Bulb Horn advertisement, to any interested parties who are willing to either haul the Bulb Horns away or pay for their shipping.
3. Recycle or shred any remaining copies.

We do not recommend attempting to sell the Bulb Horns on eBay or elsewhere online. A February 7, 2024 eBay search showed 267 listings for Bulb Horns of various ages in single copies or small lots, but only 14 had actually been sold in the past two months. An eBay merchant with almost 30 years of experience was consulted, and advised that the Club would lose money attempting to sell the Bulb Horns, based on observed rates of sales.

Peter Helck Painting

The painting was appraised for \$30,000 in 1994 and for \$18,000 in 1999, and has not been uncrated since then. If the Board wants to consider selling the painting, we recommend a new appraisal.

GM Heritage Award

The Club should contact the awardee and offer to ship it or hand it off at a future tour.

8mm films and VHS tapes

If the Board considers these materials worth converting to modern media, we suggest having a video conversion business evaluate whether they are in acceptable condition to convert, and provide a quote if acceptable.

Old Financial Records

We recommend shredding these documents. IRS regulations require only the most-recent seven years of records to be retained.

Member Roster Printouts

These lists may be stored electronically on old Secretary's Office disk drives. If such electronic versions can be located, we recommend recycling or shredding the paper records.

(end of submitted report)

Duane Copley asked that the above report be sent to the Board for further review, and that a decision be made at the next Board meeting.

An audience member said he thought a vote had been taken at a previous Board meeting to re-appraise and sell the Helke painting, and recommended this action to the Board.

Old Business: Updating Club Flyer

Clare Oestreicher reported she and Bob Murray are sorting through photos for an updated flyer, and noted there are still many old flyers showing out-of-date dues amounts. Clare is also collecting information on the flyer's printing specifications. It was suggested Clare contact Tracy Leshner, the new Bulb Horn editor, for printing assistance.

Old Business: Website Advertising

Ray Maxfield summarized the recent history of advertising efforts on the club website, and noted that there were currently two paid advertisers. Ray noted the club had no website advertising revenue for two years, with the only ads being those offered for free to Bulb Horn advertisers. Ray announced that the club's advertising contractor John Pendergast and club website host ArcSeven helped create a media kit and a cost sheet. Ray noted that the club has eight Bulb Horn advertisers, while AACA has more than 50.

An audience member asked if the club was soliciting advertising. It was confirmed that cost is being offset against paid advertising. The audience member asked what the club's advertising contractors are paid. Ray said contractors are paid a commission based on the size of the advertisement sold. Ray explained that selling website impressions brings in more than selling static website ads.

Old Business: Hershey Tent Management

Liz Lindig reported that the Talbots, the Murrays, and the Woodalls would be staffing the VMCCA tent at the Hershey swap meet in October. Liz commended Marilyn Talbot for her efforts in preparing advertisements for the tent. Liz noted that incoming Activities Vice President Trisha Copley would now be handling preparations for the Hershey tent.

Old Business: 2024 & 2025 Revival AAA® Glidden Tours

Liz Lindig announced that the 2024 Revival AAA® Glidden Tour will be hosted by AACA's Sugarloaf Mountain Region. In 2025, VMCCA will host the tour in Owensboro, Kentucky with Jeff Stumb as tour director, and information will be posted in the Bulb Horn, the Touring Chronicle, and on the VMCCA website.

Duane Copley announced that it was AACA's decision to place tourists who do not book at the tour hotel on a waiting list.

New Business: Historian Retirement and Archive Storage

Duane Copley announced that club historian Barbara Fox was stepping down, and noted that digital records and historic materials must be moved. It was suggested that historic materials be stored in Kansas City with other historic club materials. It was suggested that the club consider donating the historic materials to a library, such as the Detroit Public Library's National Automotive History Collection, for proper storage and access to researchers. An audience member suggested the AACA Library and Research Center as another donation option.

VMCCA Foundation Report: Don Knight

Foundation board member Don Knight explained the independent Foundation's scholarship program for VMCCA members and their families, noting that 54 scholarships to accredited colleges or trade schools have been awarded to date. Board members Jamie Crandall, BD Berryhill, Marion Berryhill, and Don and Cindy Knight meet annually to review the scholarship applications. There are 11 applications for the spring semester, equivalent to \$16,500. Don noted that the scholarships are funded solely by donations.

Bonneville Region Report: Bob Shilkett

Our winter has been mild compared to last year but that still leaves the region hunkered down awaiting warmer weather.

Chapter meetings, Christmas parties, and socials have continued as well as formulating plans for the upcoming touring season.

Thanks to Rich Eagle for his article on the Kingston 5-ball carburetor in the current issue of the Bulb Horn.

Also, thanks to the members of the Eastern Idaho Chapter who are offering assistance on this year's final leg of the Lewis & Clark Tour through Washington and Oregon.

Florida Region Report: Tom Jevcak

(combined Membership and 1st Quarter reports)

Earlier this year, I started a plan to foster additional Chapters in the Florida Region. I recently reached out to every Member in this Region. In my letter to them, I listed some of the benefits they are receiving as a National Member. I informed them of my fifty years of involvement with VMCCA and offered my help in creating a new Chapter. I feel that I can more intensely encourage the idea of having Chapter Activities in their area. There are also Members in Major Metropolitan Areas that I anticipate reaching. Larger cities, and their surrounding areas, are more likely to have current members than in more isolated areas. Therefore, these areas will have more Members available to apply for a "Chapter Charter." Additionally, I will ask all that I reach to see if they can provide me with the names of those who are exceptionally active in the antique car hobby and not members of VMCCA. By contacting them personally, I will try to create an interest in the benefits that VMCCA has to offer, especially our National Touring Schedule.

As I have stated in the past, I feel that by having Chapter Activities in public view will expose Non-VMCCA antique car owners to our National Organization. This exposure could then

translate to an interest in VMCCA and would result in having new people join the National Club as well as the local Chapter.

Great Lakes Region Report: John Zimmerman

The chapters had been busy with the balance of fall activities and Holiday events. They reported all events were successful.

At our last GLR meeting, those chapters represented gave reports. Some Chapters have all their meetings and tour plans made for the year ahead.

Summit City Chapter is hosting our Annual Banquet at the Early Ford V-8 Museum, Auburn, Indiana on March 23, 2024. There will be time before the noon time banquet to tour the museum. Members have been contacted by email and snail mail to register.

The GLR is doing its Swap Meet, Saturday, May 4, 2024. Fliers are out and are on the following website: tinyurl.com/GLRFowlerville. The registrar has emailed past vendors the application. Some went by snail mail also. We have received several registrations and money from vendors that attend our Swap Meet regularly. This is our 51st year of conducting this event at the Fowlerville, Michigan fairgrounds.

The 73rd Annual GLR Tour, June 3–7, 2024, Cadillac, Michigan has been filling up rapidly. See the ad in the Bulb Horn.

The Farm Boys Tour in the GLR region is July 24–August 1, 2024, Richmond, Indiana. Registrations will be out soon.

On a sad note, we continue to lose members due to death, illness or other. However, we have gained some new members also. We look forward to touring, working, and sharing ideas with these new excited members.

On a personal note; I have come to the end as Director of the GLR. It has been very interesting and changing as we moved along past COVID and happier roads. There is always touring and fun places to see and go to in our region.

I am continuing to work on the Orphan Car Tour for June 22–27, 2025. Fortunately, I have been blessed with a great group of volunteers. The tour will start in Ypsilanti, Michigan and go to the Tippecanoe Mansion, South Bend, Indiana.
(end of submitted report)

John added that the Orphan Car Tour will be a national progressive tour, and thanked the members who have supported the Great Lakes region.

Gary Miron, who is taking over as region director, announced the 73rd Annual Great Lakes Region Tour “Water, Trees, and Cherries – Pure Michigan Bliss”, June 3–7, 2024, in Traverse City and Cadillac, Michigan, limited to 60 cars. Hosts are Ron Kovacs and Bill Sturgeon from the Brighton Chapter.

Gary also announced the GLR picnic is planned for August of 2024. A Orphan Progressive Tour is planned for June 23–27, 2025, directed by John Zimmerman. Gary reported all the chapters are doing good and have plans for the year.

Kentucky Region Report: Clare Oestreicher (for Cliff Tibbitts)

Winter in Kentucky is a slow season for car touring. We usually take a break after the holidays, and let the cars stay snug in their garages until the weather improves in late March.

Our Northern Kentucky VMCCA Chapter had a well-attended Christmas party on December 3. They enjoyed a big meal and gift exchange after a short business meeting and election of officers. To accommodate the new President's schedule, they agreed to change their monthly meeting night from the third Tuesday of each month to the third Thursday.

At the VMCCA-NKY January meeting, members Joanne and Tim Flanagan brought in a large sandwich-style sign for the club to use during shows and displays, and magnetic signs for each member's car. These sound like a great way to create publicity and build identity for the club.

The Bluegrass Chapter had good weather for its annual Polar Bear Run on New Year's Day. After a pleasant drive from Lexington to Erlanger, KY, the group had a fine time catching up with each other and overeating at the Greyhound Tavern's brunch buffet. The Chapter's next activity will be on March 30, when they take a drive from Lexington, KY, to Lawrenceburg, IN, for their turn visiting the '50's Diner that the Northern Kentucky group found last October.

The Central Nickel Age Touring Club and the Grand Indiana Auto Tour Chapters are working on plans for this summer's tours. More information to come later.

Mid-Atlantic Region Report: Carl Worstell

The following region events are planned for 2024:

- Spring tour, May 19 through May 22, Hagerstown, Maryland. This tour replicates the first Mid-Atlantic tour held 25 years ago.
- Summer picnic, July 27, Lynchburg, Virginia
- Fall tour, October 13 through 17, Southern Tier of New York
- Annual meeting, November 2, Vineland, New Jersey

Midwest Region: Mike Welsh (for John Nikodym)

The Midwest region has lost two chapters: the Heartland Road Runners in Harrisonville, Missouri, and Reagan County in Dixon, Illinois. The Missouri Valley Chapter is inactive right now due to the health of the president. The Kansas City Chapter and the Show Me Chapter in St. Louis are both active. I was not able to receive reports of their activities in time for this report. I will submit reports to the secretary as soon as I receive them.

Mountains & Plains Region Report: Randy Carlson

The Mountains & Plains region has gone into winter mode, but we're not by any means hibernating. We have meetings with programs and dinners. Planning for activities and tours are in process for the year, with local chapter tours lined up.

Several changes in chapter officers have been made. The Colorado West Chapter, which had become almost inactive, has been revived with a full slate of new officers. We're glad to see them up and running. Stephen Robbins is the new president, and Steve Fitzgerald is their activities. We have communicated with all the chapters, and have heard back from all but the Pueblo Arkansas Chapter, which is pretty much inactive with an aging group.

We want to congratulate the Gold Dust Chapter on their upcoming 40th anniversary. They will be celebrating that on April 13 with some of their founding members giving a talk about the early days and years of their chapter.

We want to remember our past national treasurer Bob Edelman, who passed away on December 4.

The second Old Spanish Trail Regional Tour is coming up May 12–18, going from Grand Junction to St. George. It's sure to be as interesting as the first leg of that tour last year. There's a good write up in the January/February issue of the Bulb Horn about it.
(end of report)

Randy announced a regional meeting would be held on the ship at 1:30 p.m.

Northwest Region Report: Carl Edem

The 2024 Lewis and Clark Tour registration is out, tour book is in rough draft form. 10 cars are registered so far.

Capital City Vintage Car Club

Membership is down 2 families who did not re-register for 2024 due to health problems. Elections went well, the officers for 2024 remain the same as 2023. The board member's term that was expiring has agreed to remain for the next term. The Christmas party in December had a good turnout, with unwrapped toys for kids donated to a local fire station. Tentative tours for the year were discussed in January and hopefully be place on the calendar for the year at the next meeting. Our annual Valentine's Day tour is coming up on the 17th. Monthly meetings are being held at member's homes this year. First Thursday dinners continue in the new year.

Sequim Valley Car Club

In December the club held a work party to prepare 2 cars of a late member (Helen Gilchrist) to get them into touring condition so they can be sent to her daughter in Phoenix. They have been sitting for 2 years. The club participated in the annual tractor parade in December. Officers for 2024 are President – Bill Barret; Vice President – Dave Milosevich; Treasurer – Debra Flint; Secretary – Lynn Garvin. The annual Christmas party was held with a white elephant gift exchange. A work party also helped a fellow member get his vintage truck up and running. The Ladies of the SVCC gathered on the 23rd of January for a “make your own no-sew ornaments” party. The year started with the every Wednesday Car Club Breakfast.

Northern Lights Antique Auto Club

Not a lot of activity going on with the high of 30 below and lows of 50 below. Main action until spring is the monthly meeting.

Southwest Region Report: Mert Houdek

Albuquerque Chapter is large and has two meetings a month, a club meeting and a breakfast meeting. Hummingbird Chapter has not reported recently. Valley Roadrunners in Phoenix has a lack of structure and needs to have a lunch get-together.

We recently lost Jane Rigby, the wife of past president, Richard Rigby. Jane was very visible in the club and made the President and the Secretary look good.

The Western National Tour is at the end of the year in Tucson, sponsored by the Partmans.

TexOma Region Report: Ken Blake

The five chapters in Texas had Christmas parties and are holding regular club meetings. However, the Bexar Touring Club and the Antique Car Touring Club have yet to schedule any upcoming tours. This is primarily due to the age and health reasons for many of the club members, however four members of the Antique Car Touring Club are also members of the Fredericksburg Vintage Car Club and are attending their tours.

As of now, the Oil Burners club has planned six tours and will shortly be starting the planning for their participation in the County Fair in early September and their annual swap meet at the end of September. The club is also planning another fundraising event for the VMCCA Scholarship Fund.

The Fredericksburg Vintage Car Club has planned several tours for the year, with the first tour in January visiting Heartland Enterprises a machine shop which takes heavy metal castings and turn down on lathes parts for jet engines and large industrial compressors and using the machines to create cast iron skillet. Their next tour in February will be to Mason, TX to explore the Historical Seaquist Mansion and in April, several members will be attending the Orphan Car Tour and the Chrome Glidden Tour.

The North Texas Chapter is busy finalizing the Orphan Car tour being held in Decatur, TX, April 8th to April 12th. On the eighth a couple of activities have been added, a Total Eclipse watch party and a tour of a private car collection. The registration numbers are down, and they have decided to open the tour to any car 25 years and older.

Planning is continuing for the 42nd Chrome Glidden Tour based in Clarksville, AR April 28th to May 3rd hosted by Raymond and Sammie Sue Harrill and Ray and Carol Maxfield with assistance from TexOma Region members. There will be daily tours driving through rural, residential, and mountainous areas to historical venues that tell the story of Arkansas's history. This is the first time since 1963 that there has been a National tour in Arkansas. The Annual Meeting of the TexOma Region will be held during this tour.

I requested an update on the membership in the TexOma Region from Mike Welsh and was disappointed to see fifty-one members, 24%, of our previous membership, have not renewed for 2024. These include three from Oklahoma, one from Louisiana and forty-seven from Texas. I along with Texas Chapter Presidents will be contacting these members to find out why they have not renewed their membership and to encourage them to renew.

In closing, I would like to encourage other chapters and regions to consider holding meetings as a fundraiser for the VMCCA Scholarship Foundation to help fund the increasing request for scholarships.

(end of submitted report)

It was announced that the orphan car tour has been opened to all ages of cars, and that 26 cars were currently registered.

Upper Mississippi Region: Elaine Johnsen (for Dave Edmonds)

Dave Neuhouse deserves praise for being our most ambitious member. So far, he has planned two tours this summer in eastern Wisconsin. One was a long weekend in Door County. We had a shorter tour to replace that one, because the hotel for the first one burned down. Dave is already working on re-planning the long weekend tour.

Western Region: Dion Stams

The Western Region has one chapter, the High Rollers in Las Vegas, Nevada. High Rollers enters 2024 with 48 memberships (76 individuals), down five memberships (nine individuals) from last year's numbers of 53 memberships (85 individuals). Hopefully late renewals will reduce that 10% drop.

In 2023, High Rollers held its first scholarship fund raising via a charity Show and Shine Car Show, with proceeds going to the Automotive Restoration Technology Program at McPherson College. A total of \$2,697 has been raised, with one pledge still pending. McPherson has said it will distribute the funds to a student for the Spring 2024 semester.

At the 2022 Christmas Party and Awards Banquet, John Pendergast retired as our longest-ever serving club President, having taken on the role in 2011. He spent 2023 trying to be Past-President, and couldn't take it. As 2024 begins, John Pendergast is again President of High Rollers, in addition to continuing as High Rollers Membership Chair and being the advertising sales rep for VMCCA.

High Rollers explored changes to monthly touring in 2023. Some members cannot handle the length of some of our past one-day tours, while some others would prefer longer tours. So for 2023, we mostly held two events per month, with a short one close in to town and a long one heading further out. We got both positive and negative feedback from the membership. The negative was mostly that, if the club holds two events per month plus the monthly dinner & meeting, then as a good club member you are supposed to attend all of them. You don't. Some members hadn't understood that you could pick and choose the events you attend. High Rollers decided to maintain the planning for two events per month. Holding both longer and shorter

events, to suit the range of capabilities of attendees may be something other Regions or Chapters might want to try.

The events High Rollers held in 2023 were as follows:

In January, 23 people in seven classic and three not-yet-classic vehicles participated in the Dust-Off tour to Jean, Goodsprings, and Sandy Valley, NV.

In February, 16 people and four vintage cars headed to the Techatticup Mine and Ghost Town, then eight people and four classic cars went to brunch at the Paiute Golf Course, northwest of Las Vegas.

In March, seven of us in six classic vehicles participated in the 2023 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

In April, 20 people drove about 120 miles to a private car collection in Washington, UT, and we had a good turnout of members and cars for the Annual Las Ventanas Car Show at an assisted living home.

In May, 32 people showed up at the Annual Picnic at Don Ahern's Orchard.

In June, High Rollers had a tour of a private pinball and jukebox collection at Las Vegas, and 16 people went to a tour of Jim Marsh's private auto collection at his two car dealerships as well a behind-the-scenes tour of his dealerships' facilities.

In July, more than 20 gorged at the Annual Pizza Run, 29 people toured the private collection in Las Vegas of the late Phil Maloof.

In August, 18 members went to the Ice Cream Social, and several members attended the charity South Point Car and Truck Show, indoors and on carpet instead of sweltering in Vegas in the summer heat.

In September, twelve members travelled the 120 miles St. George, UT for the annual Tuachan play ("Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" this year), and 17 of us toured the private car collection of another car dealer.

In October, High Rollers held its charity Show and Shine Car Show to raise scholarship funds for McPherson College, and the High Rollers assisted Durango High School by providing convertibles driven by members as floats for the high school royalty in their Homecoming Parade.

In November, we toured the Corn Creek Visitor Center of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge.

In December, we participated in the nighttime Parade of Lights in Boulder City, NV, and held our Annual Christmas Party and Awards Ceremony.

For 2024, the High Rollers club held its Dust-Off brunch on January 20 in Boulder City, NV, and is planning a brunch at the Paiute Golf Club northwest of Las Vegas in February, plus Laps for

Charity at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Henderson, NV, and a spectacular hosted by a local Las Vegas car dealer, all in March.

Member Comments

Audience members were invited to share comments.

A Board member suggested publishing notice of upcoming Board meetings held on Zoom in the Bulb Horn and the Touring Chronicle so that members who want to attend could notify the Secretary to send them the Zoom link. It was suggested that future meeting dates be announced earlier.

A member from the Mountains and Plains Region reported that their chapters had been sent questionnaires to gauge interest in an online Bulb Horn, and that some people would like that option.

A member from Missouri suggested that the membership renewal form include a box to check if the member wants to receive the Bulb Horn digitally, and their membership dues then reduced to \$45. There was discussion on the per-copy cost of printing the Bulb Horn, and uncertainty of the actual amount. A cost breakdown was requested, and will be compiled.

A member from the TexOma region suggested creating an appreciation award for Dennis Holland in consideration of his long service to the club, both as a past president and as the Bulb Horn editor. The proposal will be presented to the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m. CST.

Mike Welsh
Secretary