

The
BULB HORN

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The Touring Club



THE PURPOSE OF THE VMCCA IS TO PROMOTE TOURING AND ENJOYMENT OF VINTAGE VEHICLES THROUGH THE ACQUISITION, PRESERVATION, AND EXHIBITION OF ALL VINTAGE AND HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT VEHICLES AND ASSOCIATED MATERIALS.

The BULB HORN



The Touring Club
www.vmcca.org

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Front cover: Dave and Toni Neuhaus with their 1911 Hupmobile during the 79th Revival AAA Glidden Tour®. (Photo by Tracy Leshner)

Back cover: Joe Marino's 1928 Hupmobile Roadster on 2025 79th Revival AAA Glidden Tour® in Owensboro, Kentucky. (Photo by Tracy Leshner)

Inside front cover: A 1950 Mercury ad that appeared in the January 1950 issue of the Ladies' Home Journal. (Image courtesy of Tracy Leshner)



*Thank you Mike Welsh for
your service to the VMCCA.*



A Tribute to Mike Welsh



Compiled by Tracy Leshner and Beth Welsh

*Above: In 1979, this black 1939 Buick Special was the first old car that my dad bought. The back story is that mom heard from Doris Gish, a PTA member at Westridge Elementary (I was 9 and my brother Andy was 6), that her husband had some old cars. Colvin belonged to the Kansas City Chapter. Dad bought the Buick from him and was hooked for life.—Beth Welsh
Page 17 top to bottom: Mike sits on the bumper of "Black" with his youngest grandson, Tim Welsh (age 4), at a 2005 car show at Longview Community College in Lee's Summit, Missouri. His grandchildren referred to Mike's cars by color. Mike at the AACA Museum in Hershey, Pennsylvania, in 2005. Mike's caption reads, "Which one is the dummy?"*

I've been lucky enough to call Mike Welsh my friend for over 35 years. Almost 30 years ago, he encouraged and supported me in accepting a role on the National Board, eventually serving as President (an honor for which I'm forever grateful).

Mike is the definition of a "good guy". I never saw him discouraged or down, no matter what life threw at him. He was a loyal and supportive husband to his late wife Judith, through difficult health issues over the years. He never towed, instead he drove his 1939 Buick automobile to many, many faraway rallies and tours. Mike never met an old car he didn't like, and still enjoys tinkering with any make or model he can get his hands on. He ran the very successful 2004 Revival AAA Glidden Tour® in southern Missouri, which included many Branson highlights plus the Laura Ingalls Wilder home, where late in life, she wrote her famous book series.

Mike never said, "No." He'd help with any club task. Mike maintained hundreds of extra *Bulb Horn* issues over his entire term as Secretary, and attended scores of National Board Meetings. He knows so many of our VMCCA members, past and present,

and likely could tell stories about most of us. Don't get him started!

Enjoy your retirement from secretarial duties, Mike. We know you'll never retire from being a loyal VMCCA supporter!

Bob Ehinger
VMCCA President 2005-2006

We have always enjoyed working with Mike as our VMCCA National Secretary and as a friend. Bob and I enjoyed seeing him and Judith on tours and at VMCCA meetings. During my term as VMCCA Activities Vice President, he was always there to answer questions and chat on the phone. We would personally like to say "Thank You" for all your time, work, and efforts you have given to the club. Enjoy your retirement and "See you down the Road!"

Sally and Bob Murray
2017-2022 VMCCA Activities Vice President (Sally)





Mike at work processing membership renewals in 2011.

Mike Welsh joined the VMCCA in 1979, and he's been our national secretary since August, 2006. Mike has been the keeper of our lore, our legends, our logbooks, and our legal documents for over nineteen years.

Mike and his wife Judy toured with the club for a long time in their DeSoto, Plymouth, and Buick vehicles. Judy would proofread Mike's reports and club minutes before official submission. When her illness made that task difficult, Mike recruited several club members to fill in. I got to know my fiancé, Dion Stams, through "competitive proofreading" of Mike's texts. ("Dion noticed that grammatical lapse – how'd I miss that?" "Clare found that punctuation error—how'd I overlook that?"). We specially appreciate Mike for unwittingly playing Cupid.

Mike is an old-fashioned gentleman in the very best sense of the phrase.

He's unfailingly courteous and considerate of members who have questions or challenges about dues, and of officers who forget to turn in timely reports. His outlook is positive and his words are kind even through tough situations. I think Mike looks on us VMCCA members as part of his family. Several years ago he enlisted his daughter Beth to help take care of us, too.

I could not have found my footing as VMCCA Membership Vice President without Mike's experience, knowledge, and occasionally wicked good humor. He taught me where to find information through our membership database along with my predecessor Jim Talbot, and gently reminded me when I was late with annual tasks. He's been my rock and my resource for my term in office. I'm glad that, even though he's retiring from official duties, he's staying with the club to enjoy the tours and the good company. Congratulations, Mike, and thank you for your many years as our VMCCA Secretary!

Clare Oestreicher
VMCCA Membership Vice President

Mike, we want to sincerely thank you for all your years of dedicated service to VMCCA. Your loyalty has made a lasting impact to VMCCA. We truly appreciate everything you did and wish you good health and much happiness as you continue down life's highways.

Jim and Marilyn Talbot
2014-21 VMCCA Membership Vice President (Jim)
VMCCA Club Store Manager (Marilyn)



Judith and Mike at the 2006 Heritage Tour in Springfield, Illinois.



After nearly two decades of extraordinary service as VMCCA Secretary, Mike Welsh deserves a fun-filled retirement from his role with the club. During his tenure, Mike has been the steady hand behind the scenes, responsible for club record-keeping, membership processing, communication with members, and the day-to-day customer service that keeps our organization running smoothly. His attention to detail, institutional knowledge, and quiet dedication have made him an indispensable part of the VMCCA's success for many years.

On a personal note, I have truly enjoyed working with Mike over the last couple of years. He has been unfailingly easy to work with and always willing to help me think through any issue that came our way. About once a month, my phone would ring and it would be Mike checking in. I always looked forward to those calls because they were never just about club business. They were conversations between friends, and I deeply appreciate the kindness, support, and camaraderie he so freely shares.

While he may be stepping away from his official duties, his contributions and friendship will not be forgotten. On behalf of the entire membership, thank you, Mike, for your years of service, your professionalism, and your friendship. Mike, if you don't call me, I'll be calling you!

Tracy Leshner
VMCCA Bulb Horn Editor

I became involved with the Board of VMCCA when I was elected VMCCA Vice President of Activities. At that time, Dick Rigby was the national secretary.

I began to know Mike when he was a region director and was impressed when he came to all the board meetings in person. In those years there were always at least three board meetings at various places across the country. Within a couple of years, Dick retired and Mike was hired as the new VMCCA National Secretary—what a joy! I had the pleasure of working with Mike when I was executive vice president and president. We had many long conversations, and he was a wealth of information when needed.

He and Judith spark plugged the Revival AAA Glidden Tour® in 2004 in Branson—Perusin' the Plateau. It was one of the best.

There comes a time when we need to step down and I, along with the entire membership, will miss him. Good luck Mike, and don't forget all of us "has beens".

Jamie Crandall
2007-8 VMCCA President



Tracy Leshner and Mike Welsh goof around trying to take a selfie during the final banquet during the 2025 Revival Glidden AAA Tour®.



The Kansas City Chapter's "Pate Five", from left: Bob Saderstrom, Jim Clock, Mike Welsh, guest Leon Schoor, Steve Wolff, and Dan Richardson. The five friends traveled to the Pate Swap Meet at the Texas Motor Speedway for many years.

I (Becky) have been working with Mike since 2015 both as the director and the membership person for our Mid-Atlantic Region. He has always been great and patient while answering the multitude of questions I have asked. James and I have enjoyed our conversations about both the club and our families.

Thank you, Mike, for the time you have devoted to our club and enjoy your retirement.

Becky and James Woodall

We have been in the club almost as long as Mike has been VMCCA Secretary. The first time we met in person was when we, the High Rollers, hosted the Annual Board of Governors Meeting. The position of secretary is the heartbeat of the club when done to its fullest. Mike has provided the VMCCA with the utmost service and professionalism throughout the years. I have always enjoyed calling you, Mike, catching up and talking KC History. I have your number and will keep in touch.

Have a long and happy retirement.

John and Judy Pendergast
Display Advertising Manager (John)





From left: Jane Rigby, Judith Welsh, Dick Rigby, and Mike Welsh at the 2006 Western National Tour, "Bluebonnets and Backroads in the Texas Hills."



Mike's 1939 Buick next to the coal scoop of "Big Brutus" at its museum in West Mineral, Kansas, during the VMCCA Kansas City Chapter's annual Lewis & Clark Tour in 1989.

Who is Mike Welsh? I always observed him as the ever-present VMCCA Secretary, hardworking, nose to his job, businesslike, and responsive. But I never spent any time with him until the 2025 Glidden Tour in Owensboro, Kentucky. We (myself, my wife Wenda, and our daughter Sarah) arrived driving modern and met Mike at the hotel to learn he was alone and driving modern. We offered for him to ride with us. Over the next five days we learned to know the Mike behind the job. He is kind, generous, funny, detailed, caring, and helpful. He and Sarah bonded while being both serious and silly. We enjoyed every minute with Mike. We also spent time with Mike in his official



Mike had the magic touch in calming down Tracy Leshler's then 18-month-old Labrador retriever puppy at the 2025 AACA Hershey Fall Meet.

capacity at the VMCCA Tent during the AACA Hershey Fall Meet in October last year. I was there, along with Sarah, as Mid-Atlantic Region Membership chairman. We both were collecting dues and soliciting new members. Several days were cold, but Mike toughed it out from early morning to end of day. We now call Mike our friend. Best of luck to Mike in your retirement from secretary.

Ed, Wenda, and Sarah Wenger

(Photos by Beth Welsh and Tracy Leshler)



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