



# Tire Tracks



## Happy Valentine's Day!!!

In honor of all those whose love and radiance makes our miserable lives special, the February meeting of the Sedona Car Club will feature a Valentine's Day extravaganza, with roses for the ladies, chocolates for all, and a champagne toast by our President. Be sure to attend.



## President's Letter

**WOW!!** What a great turnout in January. Do you think it might have been the promise of free sparkling wine? Thanks Martin and Lisa for setting this up. Also thanks to David and Rachel for bringing the cheese and crackers and to Ralph and Sharon for bringing the coffee.

Al Moss came through again with the RM Auction on Thursday, January 19. Instead of having to pay \$100 for the admission package, we only had to pay \$20 for admission for two, which included the catalog. I know of at least one person who got in and got the catalog free. All he had to do was use Al's name.



Al, Dan Otts, Bill Fobair, Vicki and Larry Currie had breakfast at Rock Springs cafe on the way down to the auction. Once at the auction we ran into the Hagemanns, the Ossenforts and the Duncans.



Tila, Egon and Vicki



Everybody had a great time and drooled over many of the cars. Plan to go next year. Hope to see you at the Grasshopper Grille Thursday Feb. 9.

*Larry Currie*

## CLUB NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

#### Happy Birthday To:

Chris Gruneberg, 2/27

Lorraine Cousins, 2/26

Gary Lamb, 2/6

Luke Lukich, 2/6

Ed Pittman, 2/17

Joe Tulley, 2/2

Mary Tulley, 2/23

Lon Walters, 2/23

#### Happy Anniversary To:

Karl & Terry Scheinuck, 2/20

Steve & Sharon Blank, 2/28

Gary & Diane Carson, 2/28  
Lon & Margi Walters, 2/11

### LITTER LIFTERS

Luke Lukich has agreed to assume this role in 2012. This is your call to volunteer. Dates will be announced.

### CLUB MEETINGS

The General Meetings of the Sedona Car Club are held at 7 PM on the second Tuesday of each month at the Sedona Library, except in June when our meeting is the Annual Picnic, and in December when it is the Annual Christmas Party. We do not meet in August. Be sure to attend. Bring a car-loving friend!

### BOARD MEETING

The Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month, at 8:30 AM, at the Cousins' clubroom. All members are invited to attend.

## Club Dues Notice

Club dues for 2012 are now **past due and should be paid before February 29th, 2012**, to ensure that your name is included in the club Roster. If you haven't received a Renewal Application, please call Sam Pietrofitta, Treasurer, at 928 282-3801. Thank you for your support.

### OFFICERS AND BOARD

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LARRIE CURRIE

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

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HIGHWAY CLEANUP PROGRAM

LUKE LUKICH

MEMBER AT LARGE

ED PITTMAN



### Reminder:

**Valentine's Day, is also the 100th anniversary of statehood, in Arizona.**

## ... an American auto revival

by Bill Saporito/Auburn Hills

Time, December 19, 2011, pp 36-41.

Synopsis by RLB for Tire Tracks

Ask any of the 11,000 people bustling around the Auburn Hills, Michigan, headquarters of Chrysler Group why the auto maker the US government thought couldn't possibly survive, now can't possibly fail, and the answer is "Because we have Sergio."

Cross the Atlantic to Torino, Italy, and ask a similar question about the future of Fiat, Chrysler's majority owner, and you get this. "Because we have Marchionne."

The boss of Chrysler [Group], Fiat and Fiat Industrial is one very unusual management mosaic: a cigarette-puffing, music-loving, gadget-obsessed speed demon Italo-Canadian lawyer and accountant who has revived iconic but dysfunctional automobile companies on both sides of the Atlantic. Not only has Marchionne restored Chrysler, a bankrupt wreck three years ago, but he's also preserved and created thousands of precious manufacturing jobs in the US. Marchionne explains, "I knew I could help technically. And I had a guy who was willing to fund it."

A guy named Obama. Sales at Chrysler Group are up 23% through the third quarter of 2011 and are expected to hit \$55 billion for the year. Chrysler transferred \$5.9 billion to the US Treasury, paying off the bailout loans six years ahead of schedule [and repurchasing the shares held by US Treasury] and silencing many of the critics of President Obama's auto-industry-bailout plan. "I don't think people understand what the implications would have been of a lack of decisiveness at that point in time," says Marchionne. "It would have been a mess."

That it isn't speaks not only to the bailout's benefits, particularly in the industrial Midwest ... but also to the lasting importance of manufacturing to the US economy. The web of employment tied to autos – from raw-steel and aluminum production to engineering – is not easily duplicated with two-person startups.

Chrysler's success isn't the only good news in the auto industry. Ford and GM [after deep cutting of costs] have also proved that they can compete with Japanese and European rivals ... car and truck sales are up 14% through November. GM, which will sell more cars in China than in the US in 2011, grew about 7% and Ford 13%, in the last quarter, and both will be solidly profitable this year. The Center for Automotive Research ... believes the auto industry (including foreign brands) will add 47,000 direct manufacturing jobs and 120,000 indirect jobs at parts suppliers in the next four years.

Fiat now owns 53.5% of Chrysler (the UAW owns 46.5%). ... it has all the opportunity to grow the business – 60% by 2014, according to Marchionne's plan. The Fiat brand has been absent from North America since 1983. (Fiat also owns Alfa Romeo, Lancia, Ferrari and Maserati.) It is now returning with the kind of small cars that Chrysler could never produce: the stylish Fiat 500 Cinquecento and its sportier cousin, Abarth. A line of Fiat vans could follow. Chrysler seemed like an impossible turnaround, but Marchionne had figured it out. "I had road tested it already at Fiat," he points out. At Fiat he re-sized the company, flattened the organization and overhauled the product line in record time, launching the Fiat Bravo [a head-on challenger to the Ford Focus] in eighteen months – half the normal development timing.

Chrysler is repositioning its brands, too, so that each stands for something unique ... Dodge becomes a lifestyle brand, from muscle cars with attitude, like the Viper to fun cross-overs like the Journey. Ram is pickups and other trucks ... Chrysler is style and a little luxury. Jeep is king of the off-road and SUVs [It has plans to double Jeep sales by 2014]. Alfa Romeo will also be re-introduced via Fiat dealers.

The first totally new car of the Fiat-Chrysler combination will arrive next year, when Dodge debuts a new C-class car to replace the dopey Caliber sedan. The Dodge Dart will seek to combine Italian engineering with Dodge's sports-car heritage. Based on the platform of Fiat's upmarket Alfa Romeo Guilletta, though wider and longer for American roads, it's all-in-all a much sexier compact than anything Chrysler has ever designed.

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When Chrysler took over the Jefferson North assembly plant, one of the last auto assembly lines left in Detroit, it was a wreck: the roof leaked, bathrooms were falling apart, and one shift had been idled as then owner Cerberus fought desperately to merely survive. Rather than close the plant for renovation, Fiat paid assembly workers to rebuild it. They painted, made repairs and reconfigured all the conveyance systems. Fiat made lots of cosmetic changes too, installing new locker rooms and an atrium break area.

The emphasis [on the work floor] is on safety and increased knowledge, which boosts productivity because workers, not engineers, own the quality-control process. “The people are much more proactive. You don’t see the hierarchy typical of manufacturing, [so] we had very, very strong support from the UAW.”



Chrysler Atlantic Concept Car 1995



Chrysler Turbine Car 1964



Fiat 500 C 2012

## The Taciturn Male ... A Different Kind of Road Trip

### Part Four: Showdown, and Reflection.

Review: While in a creative trance, I was interrupted by my loyal and uncharacteristically impatient wife. I give her a flippant brush-off, and retreat back into my trance. But I am bothered by her comments about my taciturn ways. I wonder if there might be a taciturn character trait passing through many generations. I decide to use "time travel" and scientific "thought experiments" to investigate the question. I begin by looking at a hunting trip, involving me, as a pre-schooler, with my father, but my own emotional memories spoil it for our purpose. So I switch to a piece of family history involving my great-grand parents around 1840, and this proves more productive. Encouraged, I decide to travel back to 1640, when my namesake immigrated to the Virginia Colony. This experiment leaves me somewhat more uneasy. With a queasy stomach, I take on the final experiment ... the most ancient of all my ancestors.

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Graff, a man of his times, sits motionless atop a big rock overlooking a small valley, surrounded by several ridges. He has been here since dawn, watching ... for anything edible to come by. Nothing has, and his self-induced, nearly catatonic state, for that is how he manages solitude and tolerates discomfort, is a welcome refuge. Out along the side of one ridge he senses movement, and slowly the dread figure of Maneater, one of the few surviving members of a pack of nearly extinct Neanderthals who have fallen on hard times, appears. It is clear that he too is on the hunt. Fear grips Graff and he slowly slides down the back side of the rock and crouches low. He knows he is no match for the ferocity of Maneater.

But, what is this? Suddenly there is a loud cacophony, much like a screeching siren competing with shrieks and moans. Graff rises slowly and looks from ridge to ridge ... the sound seems to be bouncing from every direction. And, Maneater, always big on saving his own ass, is making for the nearest pass as fast as he can move. "

Well!", Graff thinks, "whatever that was, it just saved my sorry ass, too." So he settled in atop the rock again, and went back into standby mode.

We leave him there, and turn to Graff's camp, where moments before, his wife, Brtty, turns from doing her daily things, and greets Irrka, a close neighbor from the next ridge on the West. Irrka says, "I hope you can help me out. My grease can is completely empty and I won't be able to cook dinner unless you can lend me a cup of sabre-tooth bear grease. What do you say?"

Brtty assures her that she can have the grease, and invites her to sit for a cup of her special fermented root tea and a little talk. Irrka settles in and the conversation flows, each woman having her say while the other is having her say until they are both interrupted by a screech coming from the East ridge. "It's Irrka, calling." Betty says.

Irrka stands up and starts screeching back, and then Brtty joins in too. For the next ten minutes or so, the air is filled with loud shrill "conversation". Each woman seems to be talking independently, yet the sum adds up to a kind of compressed, distinctively female communication. Eventually the strain on their vocal cords tells, and the 3-way

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conversation, which began as a screech, closes as a whimper. Irrka excuses herself and Brtty resumes her daily chores.

Hours have passed without a sign of food, and Graff, noticing the low angle of the sun, stirs, stretches and heads for home, where he looks around. He takes no notice of the small pack of kids lurking around the edges of the camp, and little more of his mate. Brtty says nothing of his empty game bag but starts to fill him in on the events of her day. Graff begins his evening trance. His pulse slows, his breathing rate drops, and his senses go on standby. That is, until he hears Brtty say. "Irrka dropped by and while she was here Ilka called, and we all had a nice chat ..." Alert at once, he nods to himself, understanding now what had transpired in his close encounter with Maneater. He slips easily back into his trance without comment. Soon Brtty walks over to him, looks closely at his slouching form, and demands, "Are you alright?! You haven't said a word. You've been gone all day. Surely something must have happened. Why do you never share with me? All you ever do is ..."

Graff stirs slightly, mutters, "Mmmmpfh.", and goes catatonic again. In his stilled mind, the thought slowly forms: "She'd never understand. Pity."

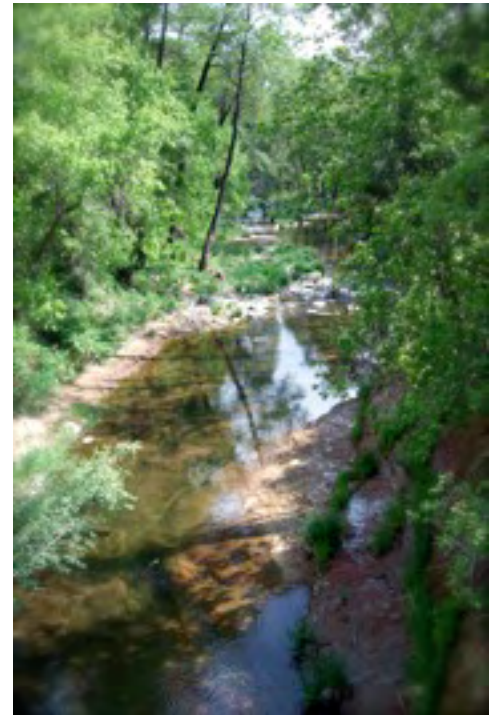
Back to the present. I slow in my pacing, breathe deeply and, with a tired sigh, think, "Well! There it is! Everything changes!. Nothing changes! I started out on this trip to, let's be honest, justify my withdrawn personality on some biosocial pretext. If I had found a long line of ancestors who were like me, then I must be OK! Right? But what I found was a lot of ancestors who were too much like me, and I don't want to be like them!!! Is there truly no hope? Am I destined to follow the well-plowed furrow to the same inevitable end? Can't I do something, at least try something, maybe change something?

My mind stills, and I start to drift back into the old daze. But suddenly, I sit up with a start! "No! Not that way!" Something enters my mind. It's just a shred of an idea, but I grab it and struggle to give it form.

At last I call out to my wife, who comes at a run. "What on earth is going on?", she cries. "I haven't heard a peep from you for days, then you scream my name like a ..."

"I, I want to talk to you.", I stammer. "But I don't know how to begin. Mmmphh ... Ahh... Let me tell you what I've been thinking about, for awhile? I'd really like to know what you think about it. Have you ever heard of "thought experiments"?"

RLB



## Upcoming Events, Tours and Meetings

Plan to attend the general meeting at the Sedona Library, Tuesday, February 14th, at 7 PM. This special Valentine's Day lovefest is not to be missed!

On Thursday, February 9th, we will meet for lunch (once again) at the Grasshopper Grille, located at Casey's Corner, near Cornville. Meet at Navoti Drive, in back of the Sedona Medical Center. Departure time is 11:30 AM. I hope to see you then.

On February 17, 18 and 19, the National Drags will take place at Firebird Raceway, in Chandler. We will trek down on Friday (17th), when general admission prices are lowest and the crowds are fewest: \$36 at the gate or \$33 in advance. Please let me know if you plan to attend. I'm going, for sure! Al Moss

### Scheduled Activities for Early 2012.

Saturday, March 3rd, participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Sedona.

Sunday, March 11th, watch for the Wheels of Britain.

Saturday, March 24th, the 6th Not Very Annual Garage Sale Rally.

Friday, April 6th, off to the Asylum in Jerome, for the Full Moon Tour and dinner.

Saturday, April 14th, come to the Annual Southwest Unique Little Car Meet; A fun event in Phoenix!

Saturday, April 28th, the Second Annual Car Display, at Basha's, in Sedona.

Sunday, May 13th, the Annual Mothers' Day Brunch, at Junipine. Don't miss this gathering in the cool Canyon.

## TIRE TRACKS

Sedona Car Club

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Sedona, AZ 86339

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