

# Tire Tracks



December 2018

Volume 37 Number 11

## President's Letter

**MERRY CHRISTMAS** to all of you wonderful members, and I hope that you all have a Happy New Year also. I hope that everyone has a great holiday season, and that you all also had a good Thanksgiving holiday. As was mentioned in last month's Tire Tracks it was my birthday over the Thanksgiving weekend. Rachel and I spent the long weekend with my sister and her husband in Lake Havasu City and had a very good time with them.

My sister's birthday is soon, on December 12, and she asked if she could do a turnabout and have her birthday up here with us. We, of course, said yes and asked her to come the day before, on Tuesday, and attend the club's Christmas Party so that I could "show off" my friends. I think you are all worthy of being "shown off".

Speaking of our Christmas Party, it's coming soon and I'm sure it will be fun. The Golden Goose Restaurant is planning some delicious treats for us. Rachel and I have two friends who are both very good singers and they are going to entertain us after our

dinner, together with Rachel, Joe Tulley and myself. I hope you'll like our music.

Next year is going to be a good year for the club so stay active in your membership. Because they are so busy with their personal lives, Loren Hedrick and Barbara Barrett have asked not to be Tour Chairpersons next year. Instead, the board members are going to take turns organizing events. We already have fun outings for several months planned. If you have an idea of a good tour, please step forward and plan a day for us. You will feel proud to have given your fellow members a fun event.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas Party.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



David Lombardi  
President



# Some Stuff:



Barry Levitan	22
Army Messersmith	23
John Ossenfort	15
Sally Peck	8
Karl Sheinuck	12
Chris Shepard	18
Bob Tusso	15
Lois Uihlein	10

## Anniversary Congratulations

Richard and Ayano Croft	8
Bill and Deborah Johnson	12
Ted and Lois Uihlein	23
Marvin and Sharon White	10

## Welcome new members

John and Diane Hatfield

What is this car and who owned it?  
Thanks, David Lombardi



## Club Calendar

Next meeting - Christmas Party at the Golden Goose - December 11  
**PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO BRING A TOY.**  
See page 4.

January 17 Tour - Jerome State Historic Park  
See text box below.

February 21 Tour - Mingus HS Auto Shop  
Lunch 2:00 TBA - Auto Shop 3:30



## Meeting Refreshments

**Note:** Those providing refreshments will be reimbursed \$10. Ground coffee is in the kitchen.

Refreshments:  
**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

## An Adventure in January

Get out your new 2019 calendar and write this down....(or put it in your phone, yes, I know...).

We're going to caravan to the Jerome State Historic Park on Thursday, January 17, and then afterward have lunch at a newly opened place in Old Town Cottonwood.

It will be a self-directed tour of the Douglas Mansion, with its many exhibits, a 30 minute video, some outdoor mining apparatus, and a carriage house with a couple of old vehicles. Take a few minutes now and check out the website: [azstateparks.com/jerome/](http://azstateparks.com/jerome/) Be sure to watch the 6 minute video on that page – it's very interesting!

More specific information next month. \$7 entry fee for the state park.

**DUES ARE DUE  
by January 31  
See page 5**

# NEXT MEETING - DECEMBER 11

Guest Speaker:

**COME TO THE CHRISTMAS PARTY for SINGING!**

For January - CAR RELATED

## Regional Car Events

NOT MUCH GOING ON

(For a complete list of SCC 2018 events, visit our website at [sedonacarclub.com](http://sedonacarclub.com))

### A Discount

If your car is being serviced at Red Rock Precision Motors, be sure to ask for the car club 10% discount.

### Another Discount

Get your precious car washed at Cleaner Quicker Car Wash and get a 10% discount for members.

#### Club Meetings

The General Meetings of the Sedona Car Club are held at 7:00 p.m. 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 July. Please attend and bring a car-loving friend.

#### Board Meetings

The Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at the Christ Lutheran Church. All members are invited to attend.

#### Tire Tracks

*Tire Tracks* is published eleven times a year by the Sedona Car Club and contains information on events and activities of interest to members. It is compiled and edited by Arny Messersmith and posted on the website by Steve Blank before the monthly meeting. All submissions are due by the 1st of each month.

Email them to: [jan@messersmith.name](mailto:jan@messersmith.name).

## 2019 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President  
1st Vice President  
2nd Vice President  
Treasurer/Membership  
Program Chairman  
Secretary  
Historian & Website  
Tours & Events  
Highway Cleanup  
Newsletter Editor  
Ex-Officio Member

David Lombardi  
Avrum Cohen  
Steve Van Derveer  
Sam Pietrofitta  
Mike Clark  
Patti Reski  
Steve Blank  
**VACANT**  
Phil Wadsack  
Arny Messersmith  
Larry Currie



**Sedona Car Club**  
**PO Box 748**  
**Sedona, AZ 86339**

For club information by phone, call David Lombardi at 928-203-9007

By email send a message to Steve Blank at [info@sedonacarclub.com](mailto:info@sedonacarclub.com)

VISIT US AT: [SedonaCarClub.com](http://SedonaCarClub.com)



[facebook.com/sedona.carclub](https://facebook.com/sedona.carclub)



# Annual Christmas Dinner

Join us for an evening of dinner and fun.

Tuesday, December 11, 2018  
Golden Goose Café  
2454 W. 89A

**6:00 pm Cocktails – *NO HOST BAR***

*Appetizer Table*

Heirloom Tomato Bruschetta  
Mixed Nuts  
Stuffed Mushroom Caps

**7:00 pm Dinner**

*Choice of:*

Braised Lamb Shank  
Certified Angus Prime Rib  
Orange Roughy topped with Bay Scallops in a Lemon-Butter sauce  
Portobello Mushroom (stuffed with quinoa and roasted vegetables -  
vegetarian option)

Entrees are accompanied by a holiday salad, bread basket,  
mashed or loaded baked potato, chef's vegetable de jour,  
non-alcoholic beverage, dessert, and coffee.

**Desert**

Salted Caramel Cheesecake

Cost per member is \$30.00 payable to Sedona Car Club.  
Cost per non-member is \$40.00.

Kindly mail your check by December 3 to:  
Larry Currie at 230 Coronado Trail, Sedona AZ 86336  
or sign up at the November 13 meeting.

Remember to bring a new, unwrapped toy which will be donated to  
the Sedona Community Food Bank.

**SEATING IS LIMITED  
RESERVE EARLY**



# **Snow, What Snow?**

## **Al Moss Remembrances**

### **By Ed Pittman**

I met Al Moss after he moved to Sedona, Arizona. He was active in the Sedona Car Club and we became good friends. He thought my British cars (Austin Healey and Jaguar) were too modern. He favored the old boxy stuff. Al had the 1948 MGTC, which he had owned since new. He also had a 1934 Morgan Super-Sport, a three-wheeler, which he mostly drove in vintage races. Late in his life he had a 1928 Austin Seven Chummy.

When he moved to Sedona, he brought a 1948 Morgan 4-4 in boxes. He owned it over 20 years before he started restoration. Al ended up hating that car. The restoration required total replacement of the wood frame. These pieces had compound curves that drove him crazy. The car was attractive and drove well, but he didn't keep it long.

When he went to register the car it had no title, but Al did have a bill of sale showing the VIN number. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) inspected the car and could not find a VIN number. Al knew there was no number stamped anywhere because he had cleaned, painted, and assembled every piece. ADOT told Al that if they could not find the VIN number then he would have to post a \$5000 bond to be held by the state for five years. They asked him to remove the transmission to expose the frame where they "knew" a VIN number would be stamped. They made an appointment to visit his shop to inspect the car. Al exposed the desired surface, stamped the VIN number, then smeared a little dirty grease in the depressions. The state inspector came and said, "See I told you there would be a number there."

Al was known to be a practical joker. A group of Sedona folks went to Mesilla, NM for a three-day British car show. The first evening, my wife and I invited the group to our room for libations prior

to dinner. As we were leaving the building, Al said, "Let me have your key. I forgot something in your room." I gave him the key. When we returned to our room after dinner, we had no toilet paper or tissues. Al, the phantom, had struck. I had to track down an attendant and beg for more toilet paper.

The next morning I set my alarm for an early rise. Then I went to the parking lot and proceeded to wrap the twin vee cycle engine hanging on the front of his three-wheeler with so many yards of TP that it became a cocoon.

Al said, "I couldn't believe that you handed over your room key."

I replied, "Knowing you as I do, I can't believe that I gave you the key."

Al added, "I would have short sheeted you if I had more time."

On another trip, once again happy hour was in our room. I watched Al like a starving hawk watching a gopher. He was sitting at the head of the bed. I saw him sneakily set the alarm. I didn't say anything, but checked later. The alarm was set to go off at 3:30 a.m.

Al was always available to help club members with British cars. The speedometer went out on Larry Currie's E-type Jaguar. Al helped him remove it and suggested that it be sent to a repair shop in New Mexico. When the speedo came back he took it to Al's house and installed it. When Larry started the car a great billow of smoke erupted from under the dash. The car had to go into a shop to have part of the wiring harness replaced.

Shortly after getting the car back, Larry drove it to a car club event, Mother's Day brunch on the patio of a restaurant. While Larry was enjoying his meal one of the servers announced, "There's a white Jaguar with smoke coming from it in the parking lot."

Larry jumped up, joined by Gary Carson. Larry nearly had a heart attack running to the parking lot. No smoke could be seen. Al Moss had enticed the server into making the announcement.

Al owned a Miaguar, a Mazda Miata on which Al had removed all Mazda identification. He had

added Jaguar insignia including a leaping cat on the nose and a Jaguar-head shift knob. People were always asking what model of Jaguar it was. Al entered it in a British car show in Phoenix; the woman running the show was not pleased. She kicked Al out of the show and banned him from future shows. Al said that her eyes flashed like solar flares. He apologized, but she was having none of it. He later called and again apologized. She softened when he said he would bring his newly restored 1948 Morgan next year.

Al was part of the "Gang That Couldn't Shoot Straight," who played pool together twice a week. One of the guys purchased a new pool table. Al had a trick cue ball that was weighted off center. At slow speed it rolled erratically. Al slipped that cue ball into the middle of a game. After a shot it made tight circles near a corner of the table.

Al said, "Looks like there's a low spot in the table." On the very next shot the cue ball just happened to end in the same area and made more circles.

Al said, "There's definitely a low spot in the table. I think you got a bum table, Herschel."

Soon, other players expressed their belief in a flawed table. Then Al pulled the crazy cue ball and the game was back to normal. The owner of the table spent hours trying to find the low spot on the table.

Al was famous for just waving his hands under the bonnet of a British car that wouldn't start. He never seemed to do more than touch a wire or two and the car would start. We kidded him about his magic hands.

Ellie Haga, in the car club, owned a 1924 Bugatti Type 35, which Al worked on occasionally. She organized a Bugatti get together in Sedona. A half dozen or so Bugattis participated. The owners wanted to take a local driving tour making a loop from Sedona through some pretty country using two-lane roads to the southern edge of Flagstaff then down Oak Creek Canyon to Sedona. Al trailed along as the "wrench" in his 1948 MGTC to handle any mechanical emergencies that might arise. He offered me a ride and I accepted.

We started mid-morning from Sedona, which is at about 4500 feet elevation. This was spring-time so the temperature was comfortable, although we took winter jackets. As we reached higher elevations it got cloudy and colder. We had lunch at a lodge on Mormon Lake. The Bugattis attracted a lot of attention as exotics; but Al's beautiful MG enticed many lookers because they could relate to it.

Near Flagstaff at 7000 feet a few flakes of snow peeled from gray clouds. Al was known for never wanting to put the top up on his MG. It had to be an absolute frog strangler before he would reluctantly raise the top. He always said, "If you're moving you don't get wet."

It started snowing harder. Snow was sticking to the windscreen. I said, "How about turning on the wipers?"

Al said, "They don't work. You might want to wiggle them a little."

I grabbed the handle and started scraping snow from the windscreen. The buildup was to the point that the wipers were hard to move. We watched kamikaze snowflakes hurl themselves at the windscreen. We crept along with visibility next to nothing, but we did see a herd of elk sheltered in the ponderosas.

I said, Al, let's put the top up. It's snowing hard."

Al replied, "Snow, what snow?"

I realized that Al would put the top up when a pig sang an aria. The top never came up.