



# *The Windshield View*

*April 2024*

## **Featured Member Spotlight – Len Manning**



Len was born in Chicago, Illinois. In the following years, his family moved to Eugene, Oregon, and Santa Barbara, CA, before returning to Chicago, when he was 11 years old. He lived in the Village of Lombard, with his two sisters and a younger brother. Len's father owned a Texaco Full Service – Service Station. Len learned all about automobiles from his father and hands on

experience. From changing oil to rebuilding engines, Len did it all. When Len was 15, his father had a heart attack and Len quit school to operate the family business.

Following working in the family business, Len was in the Navy, as part of the Seabees, the Naval Construction Force. While in the Navy, Len spent time at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina, as well as, time in Vietnam where he was injured while removing booby-traps. Len spent 4 months in the hospital and 5 months recovering. Len, we thank you for your military service! It has been 55 years this month that Len was discharged from the Navy.

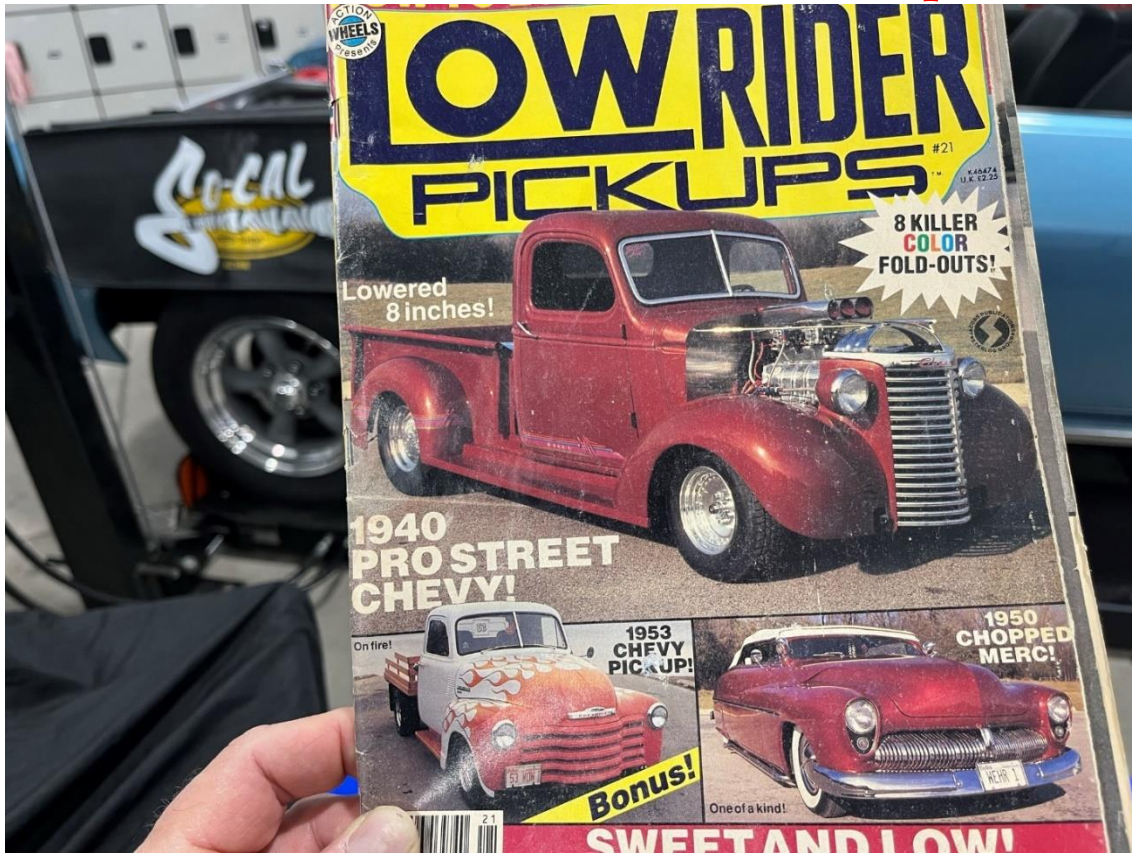
After Len returned from the Navy, he quickly found a job as a mechanic. Later Len worked as a Special Agent investigating fraudulent insurance claims, in addition to, his time as an Insurance Adjuster.

In 1980, Len, “being stupid”, was injured in a motorcycle accident. Len had an opportunity to work in the automobile suspension industry which required extensive travel. It was during this time that he lived in South Elgin, IL.

Over the years Len had visited his parents many times in AZ, so when he decided to retire in 2003, he moved to AZ as well.

After a relaxing year of playing golf, in 2004, Len started an auto restoration business. He partnered with his lifelong friend from IL and now AZ. They had locations in Peoria and Bellemont, AZ. The shops were called “Sweet Ride Restoration,” and “Grand Canyon Classics.” Len’s friend and partner also owned Grand Canyon Harley Davidson in Bellemont as well.

The cars that Sweet Ride Restorations built were high end cars, starting at \$150,000. Sweet Ride Restorations did all the work in house except, upholstery. The Peoria shop employed 2 technicians, while the Bellemont location had a staff of 4. Many cars were built in the two locations; a couple of examples were a 1964 Chevrolet Impala SS, and a 1972 Chevelle. All the cars they built, had paint work with a mirror finish. Len built 3 “Street Beast” brand kit cars, a 1941 Willys, a 1933 Ford Vicky, and a 1934 Ford Cabriolet.



Len Manning's 1940 Pro Steet Pickup featured in Low Rider Pickups magazine

Len's pride and joy was a 1940 Chevrolet Pro Street Pick-up, that was featured in "Low Rider Pickups" magazine, it featured Auto Meter gauges. Auto Meter Competition Instruments was so excited about Len's Custom Pick-up that they had a full-size photo of it on the wall in their facility in Sycamore, IL. Len "never lost a show" when he entered his '40 Chev Pick-up.



Len Manning's beautiful light blue 1968 454 Chevrolet Nova.

Len's current project, that many of you have seen at the VVSC Shop, is a beautiful blue 1968 Nova that Len has owned since 2017. Len describes the Nova as a "Lightweight" model which Chevrolet made for racing with a 4-cylinder engine, 3-speed on the column, and no insulation. The 4-cylinders and transmission are generally removed. When Len bought his vehicle, it had a 350 engine which he has replaced with a Chevrolet 454 cubic inch engine producing 540 hp on the dynamometer. He also has the newest model Tremec TKX, 5 speed transmission.



Installing Len's 454 Chev engine.  
Photo Courtesy of Matthew Staske.



Pristine black interior on Len's 1968 Nova.



Len Manning's Chevrolet 454 540 hp on the dynamometer.

Len has had several health issues, no doubt, at least partially, stemming from his exposure to the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, as well as, his contact with Agent Orange during his time in Vietnam.

In 2015 Len had cancer of the liver diagnosed with a proposed treatment being a liver transplant. Unfortunately, his Cardiologist felt his heart was not strong enough to withstand the fourteen-hour proposed operation. Len has continued to battle cancer to this day with additional planned radiation soon. Len, you are a strong individual. All your friends are hoping for the best possible outcome. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Due to his health issues, Len operated his restoration company until 2016, at which time he retired. Len has two children - 2 girls, one resides in IL, while the other is here in AZ.

Len has been a member of the VVSC Club since nearly its beginning. Over the years, Len has generously donated many tools, parts, and equipment; and donates his time as a Foreman at the shop.

Len, thank you so much for all that you do, and have done, for the VVSC Club!

**Spring Car Show and Pot Luck**  
Friday April 5<sup>th</sup>, Mountain View Rec Center  
Car Show was in the SE parking lot  
Pot Luck was in the Auditorium







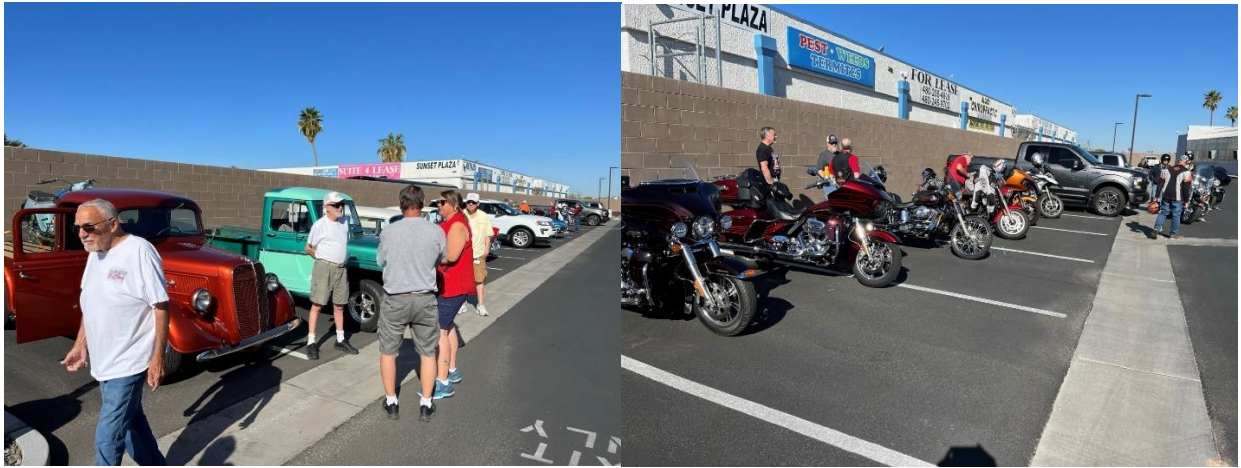




Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> Potluck at Mountainview. The Club supplied the Broasted Chicken which was very good!



## Vietnam Memorial Wall at Lake Pleasant Tour



Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall at Lake Pleasant on April 11. The Retreads and the Vintage Riders together left VVSC at 9:00 am to ride to Lake Pleasant. There was a guided tour for the group at 10:30. It was a moving experience for many attendees,



Some of the group had a picnic lunch at Paloma Park following the tour.



General Membership meeting April 16.

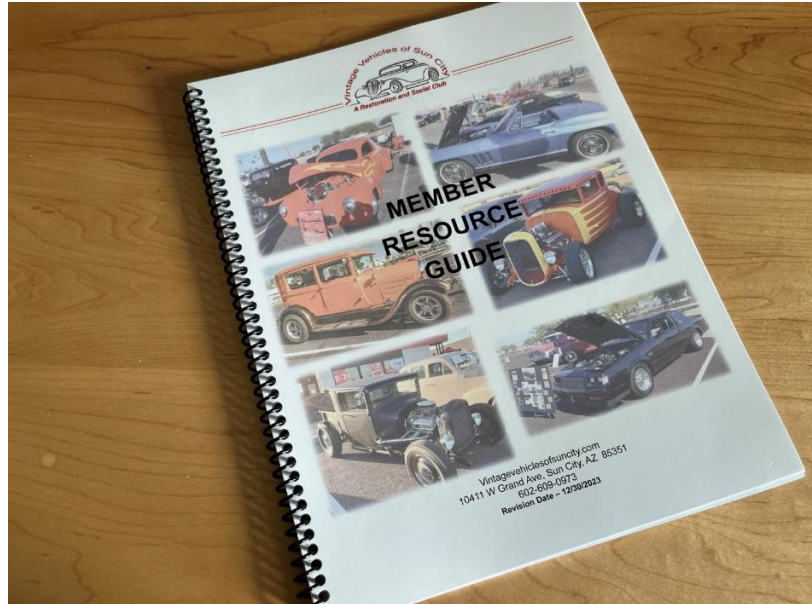
## What You Need to Know

**Attention Welders:** There will be a charge in the shop for welding. If you have any questions, please contact Ed Gordon.

**Ongoing Food Drive** – please bring non-perishables to the Shop, Car Shows, Potlucks, Meetings.

**2024 Board Members** – see the Org Chart at the end of this Newsletter for a list of names, some positions have changed.

**More on the website or in the shop about What You Need to Know.**



## **MEMBER RESOURCE GUIDE**

A new information manual has been created and is in the process of being refined as a reference primarily for new members, as well as, existing members. Since the club is growing quickly, we are looking for a comprehensive way to reach and involve all our members in the many activities that the club has to offer. If you would like to be involved in some way, contact Bob DuChene, Debbie Benson, or Alan Lund.

----- **NOTICE** -----

There was a mix-up at the Spring Car Show and Pot Luck Friday April 5 at Mountainview Rec Center. Is this your Insulated Food Carrier? Carol Reiman is missing her Royal Blue Insulated Food Carrier and ended up with this one instead. Look inside if you have a Royal Blue Food Carrier, Carol had her name on the label like you see inside here. You can reach Carol Reimann at 406-661-6173 or at rboysinmt@hotmail.com.





**YOU COULD WIN THIS  
\$5000 TRAVEL VOUCHER**



Sales have started for our **2025 Spring Fling Raffle!** Bon Voyage Travel \$5000 Travel Voucher! Tickets were sold at this year's Spring Fling Car Show, and are now available online and at the Shop! Get yours today!

## **ANGRY BIRDS BOWLING**

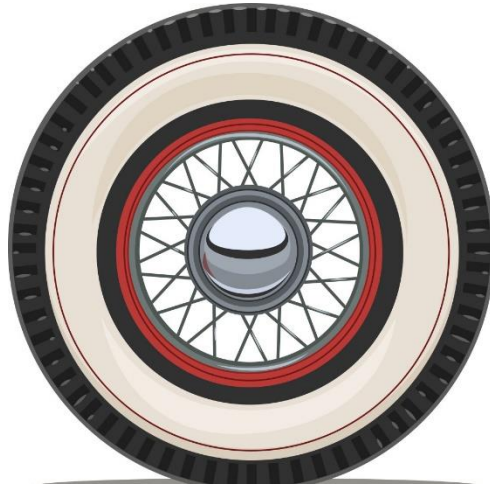


### **Angry Birds Bowling Group!**

Angry Birds Bowling is tied in to the video game. The object on the video screen is to knock the pigs down! In addition, the group also participates in No-Tap Bowling. If you leave a pin in a frame, it still counts as a Strike! The group meets every Sat. at 5:30-8:00. Contact Jan Mock, [janrich72@gmail.com](mailto:janrich72@gmail.com), or 716-510-4864 by 1:00 Sat to participate. Photo Courtesy of Jesse Allen Falls.

SUN CITY RETREADS

LET'S BURN THAT OLD GAS!!



**“The Retreads”  
Monthly car run to a fun destination**

**Next Run:**    Date: Wednesday May 8

Destination: Breakfast run to Yarnell, AZ. You do not have to have a Hot Rod to go on the run, if you do it would be nice...BUT, we will enjoy the run together no matter what kind of car you bring!

Time: Leave at 6:30 am    We plan on leaving the parking lot at the VVSC early to cut down on the need for A/C to be comfortable on the run.

Details: Check at the Shop, there is a sign-up sheet, or contact Richard Holcomb at 623-815-9274 if you have questions.

**LET'S GO HAVE SOME FUN!**

## What's Going on at the Shop

**Repairs have been made,  
All lifts are now fully operational.**



The Shop has a new Lathe and Computerized Milling machine that we received from the Metal Shop when they upgraded.





Bob Cummings putting new foam in the seats in his late model Corvette.



Steve Collins Changing fluids in his Honda Side by Side.



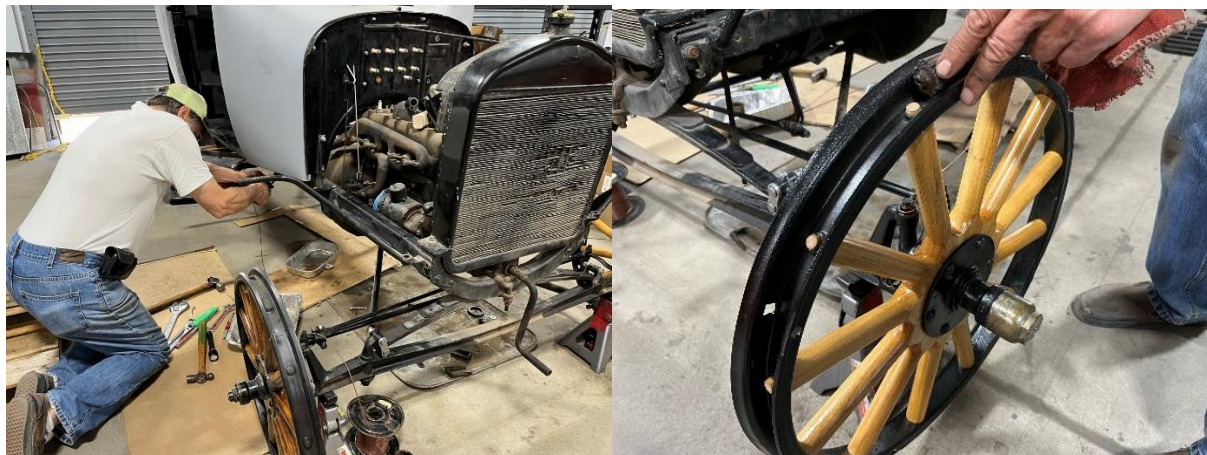
John Fast doing pads and rotors in his Jeep.



Mike Elliott hard at work on a project in the Welding Shop.



The Model T was in pieces when the VVSC got it. It has come a long way due to the hard work of many people.



Jim Moren hard at it on the Model T. The spindles on the left front wheel have been replaced with new hickory spindles.



Jim Moren with the steering wheel. It received a coating of Linseed Oil and three coats of Spar Varnish. It is beautiful!



Lori Suddarth's 1951 International. Lori has owned it for 20 years, it was a gift from her late husband, Devon. He bought it for her because she loves old trucks. They used to love driving it around in the desert.





Lori Suddarth

Don Puetz, Lori, Earl Bell, and Kevin Cole.

Lori and the crew, working on getting the 1951 International running.

## Shop Training

### Don Puetz, Technical Supervisor - Training Series

Training (on different subjects) takes place the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 1-3 pm. **Classes have concluded for this season.**

## Welding Classes

- Wednesdays 9 – 11:30
- 2 Students per class
- Welding Instructor – Ed Gordon
- See Fee Schedule for Welding Supplies
- Sign-Up at the Shop

**Classes have concluded for this season.**

## Upholstery Sewing Area

**Upholstery Sewing Class** – We now have two instructors generously volunteering to conduct training classes - Bob Cummings, and Ron Atkinson! Thank you, gentlemen!

- Classes Wednesday and Monday – 9:30 am to 12 Noon
- Two consecutive classes are required to pass
- Sign up at the Shop
- Students must be current on Monitor Status to attend
- Sign up in the Shop

**Classes are available on selected dates through the end of the year**

Bob Cummings and Ron Atkinson are the volunteers that are providing the training for Upholstery Sewing at the shop. Bob has a unique background as he worked with interiors and upholstery in automobile manufacturing. Ron always had an interest to do his own vehicle upholstery so consequently he has been taking upholstery classes at the local community college.

In addition to providing upholstery training classes, Bob and Ron are happy to answer questions and offer advice if you are working on an upholstery project. RCSC rules do not allow VVSC shop members to take on work for compensation, however.

## Future Events

### Car Shows, Etc.

**For detailed information on Car Shows** - flyers, car show registrations, waivers, etc., check in the shop or go to the VVSC website: [www.vintagevehiclesofuncity.com](http://www.vintagevehiclesofuncity.com)

## **Club Meetings & Events**

### ***May***

#### **May Ladies Luncheon**

When: May 6th, Monday, 12:00 pm

Where: JD Campbells, 9098 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd., Peoria, AZ (623)-825-9500 We will be on the patio this time.

Please **RSVP** to Susan Mitchell, [mitchellsm1@yahoo.com](mailto:mitchellsm1@yahoo.com) to be added to the count.

#### **Events and Show Planning Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month**

When: May 14<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 10 am – 12 pm

Where: Grand Rec Center, Sonoran Room

We need your help, ideas, and input for our club events! Everyone is welcome to attend!

#### **Potluck and Social**

When: May 28<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 5 p.m. – 8 p. m. (Last Tuesday of the month.)

Where: Grande Recreation Center - Sonoran Room

## **On Going Meetings and Events**

**Potluck and Social Night** – Last Tuesday of the month, 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Bring a dish to share, dish utensils, and maybe a chair.

**Ladies Luncheon** – First Monday every month, 12:00 pm at a location TBD each month and published in the newsletter and/or website. Watch for change in dates as well.

Angry Birds & No-Tap Bowling- Every Saturday, 5:30-8:00 Contact Jan Mock [janrich72@gmail.com](mailto:janrich72@gmail.com) or 716-510-4864 by 1:00 Sat to participate

Breakfast Social Time – every Tuesday at 7:00 am at Willow Creek Golf Course – snack shop. Located at 10600 W. Boswell Blvd. Any changes in time/location will be noted on website.

Arby's Cruise In – every Wednesday, 4:30 to 7:00 pm, 99<sup>th</sup> and Bell; they are happy to have us come in, one restriction – no parking/sitting in the handicapped parking spaces. Wear your badge to get a Free Treat!

Cruise to Culver's – every Sunday at 11:30 am at Culver's Restaurant, 8330 W. Deer Valley Rd., Peoria, AZ 85382

## **Announcements/Reminders/Misc. Tears, Cheers and Pitstops**

**Condolences to Rocky Rice and the family of VVSC member Joyce Jones who passed away April 18 from Breast Cancer.**

Let Susan Mitchell know if you would like to be added to our birthday list!  
[Mitchellsm1@yahoo.com](mailto:Mitchellsm1@yahoo.com)

This page is dedicated to provide information about our members that is of interest to other members. Cheers represents the good information that we need to share, such as birthdays, weddings, new grandchildren, etc. Pit Stops represents information about members having difficult times, such as illness, hospitalization, or other difficulties. Tears represents news about members and relatives who have passed away. If you want something posted in the Newsletter or Website, please contact one of the following Club Services Committee members:

Yvonne Ahrens at 217-899-7842 or email [y.ahrens@gmail.com](mailto:y.ahrens@gmail.com) ; Marilyn Miller 509-279-4952 or email [bob-marilyn@q.com](mailto:bob-marilyn@q.com); Nancy Oyler [480-558-6717](tel:480-558-6717) or email [nancynascar@outlook.com](mailto:nancynascar@outlook.com) with information.

## Newsletter Info

If there is something you would like to see in the monthly newsletter, or have a story to tell...please contact us at [duchene2@msn.com](mailto:duchene2@msn.com); or call/text us at [612-418-2103](tel:612-418-2103) Bob, [612-247-4527](tel:612-247-4527) Kathleen.

## Monitor Training – “Refresh”

If you are interested in updates to working as a Monitor, another option to Monitoring as a Shadow is to sign up for Monitoring for a “Refresh.” List “Refresh” on the Monitor Sign-up Sheet at the Shop. If you have questions, contact Dan Chopp or Jim Wersching,

## Name Badges/Membership Forms

- If your emergency contact or phone number has changed, fill out a form with the change, and we will issue a new badge.
- Indicate if you have an email change on your Renewal Form.
- Ask for your new name badge at the monitor’s desk, they are in the Badge Box at the Shop for pick up. We do not mail out Badges.
- Renewals for 2024 – you can renew Membership until January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024; at which time those that have not renewed will be deleted from the Club Roster.
- Please, please, please write legibly when filling out Membership Forms. If we mis-interpret your writing, your info may not be accurate.

## Food Drive

Canned food can be dropped off anytime during the year, in the Food Drive Box (near the front door) at the Shop.



## VVSC Officers for 2024

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>
<b>President</b>	Troy Janicki	480-277-6910	troyjanicki@gmail.com
<b>First Vice President</b>	Alan Lund	248-496-9844	alund@corebms.com
<b>Second Vice President</b>	Ed Gordon	720-447-4045	jrwaldo59@yahoo.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Roxie Whitney	952-472-4021	ronald.whitney@gmail.com
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Susan Mitchell	303-406-3079	mitchellsm1@yahoo.com
<b>Shop Director</b>	Thomas Kron	719-337-8241	TJK1850@aol.COM
<b>Membership Director</b>	Anne Bovo	925-550-8687	abcchicdesign@yahoo.com
<b>Events Director</b>	Gary Osier	970-625-3698	h2osiers@yahoo.com
<b>Car Show Supervisor</b>	Alan Lund	248-496-9844	alund@corebms.com
<b>Public Relations Supervisor</b>	Jesse Falls	239-470-2294	vintagevehicles.publicity@gmail.com
<b>Procedures Director</b>	Jim Fitzpatrick	623-261-8521	fitzrade@yahoo.com
<b>Website Monitor</b>	Rick Miron	623-518-2825	richard-miron@hotmail.com
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Bob and Kathleen DuChene	612-418-2103 Bob 612-247-4527 Kathleen	duchene2@msn.com



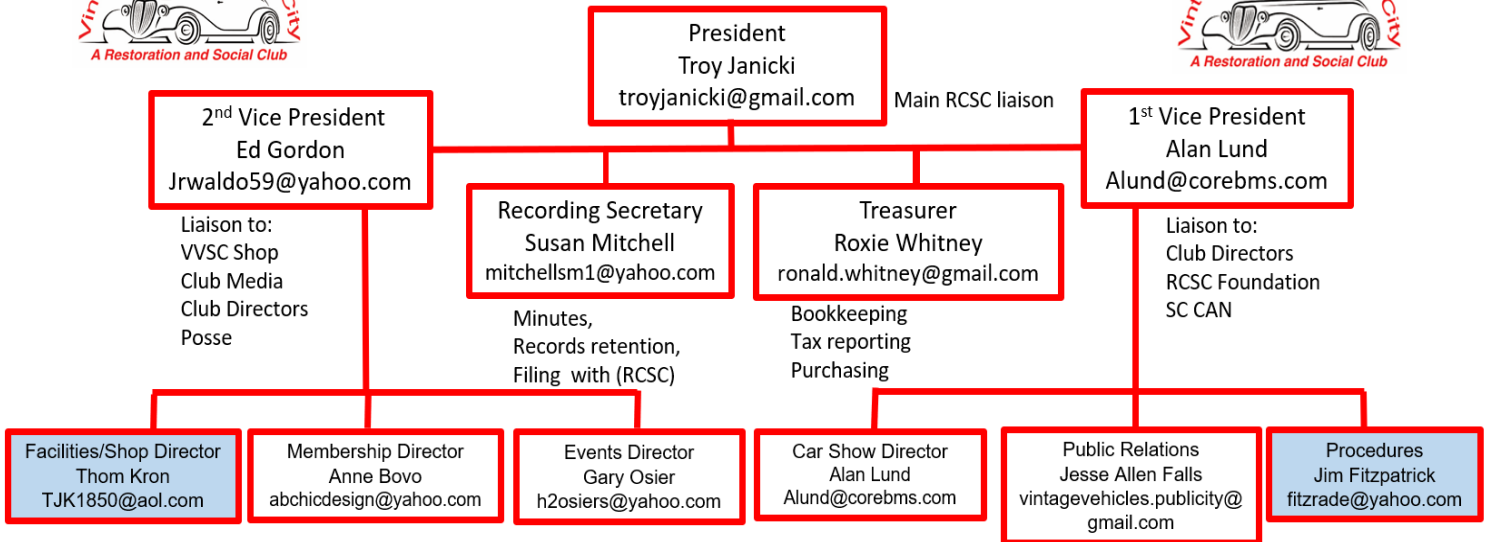
**Volunteer Shop Operations Crew to Keep You Safe**

Thom Kron, Facilities/Shop Director:	719-337-8241
Kevin Cole, Shop Foreman:	603-443-1167
Len Manning, Shop Foreman:	623-341-8370
Glen Gormley, Shop Foreman:	602-540-8720
Mike Fitzgerald, Shop Foreman:	559-232-3713
Terry Loniewski, Tool Rm. Super:	219-898-4121
Ganen LaJoie, Safety Super:	317-752-1597
Dan Chopp, Monitor Super/Trainer:	216-870-4478
Jim Wersching, Monitor Trainer:	630-550-8786
Don Puetz, Technical Supervisor:	701-318-0879
Ed Gordon, Welding Instructor:	720-447-4045

**Get Involved!**  
**Participate in your Club!**  
**Meet new people!**



## 2024 Organization Chart



Monitor Sup.  
Recruitment  
Training  
Scheduling

Recruiting and  
Renewals  
Data Base Mgt.

Planning and  
Scheduling  
Sponsorships

Annual Car  
Show Planning  
& Coordination

Media Phone  
and email  
contacts  
Public Speaking

Sergeant At Arms  
Rules and  
Regulations  
oversight

Equipment Sup.  
Inventory  
Maint./Repair

Member  
Nametags

Event Leader  
Logistics

Website  
Newsletter

Nominations  
Committee  
Coordinator

Safety Sup.  
Procedures  
Training

RCSC  
Verification  
RCSC Bi-Annual  
Reports

Licensing and  
Permits  
Fund Raising

Brochures  
Advertising

Election Ballots

Scheduling

Donations

Merchandise

Other duties as  
assigned

Logistics

Facilities/Shop and Procedures Directors consult on procedures specific to shop operation