



EMCC E NEWSLETTER

July 2026

"WELCOME TO THE BEST LITTLE CAR CLUB IN ARIZONA"

"President Thoughts"

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Presidents Thoughts

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Owning a classic car or hot rod is one of life's great adventures. While most people simply get into their modern cars, push a button, and drive away, classic car owners enjoy a much more exciting experience. Every trip begins with a small ceremony of checking fluids, listening for unusual noises and hoping today is the day everything works exactly as intended. A classic car has personality sometimes more personality than its owner. It may rattle, squeak, or occasionally decide that starting is merely a suggestion (with Lucas ignition) rather than a requirement. Yet those little quirks are exactly what makes it special. Unlike modern vehicles that seem to look alike, a hot rod or classic car turns heads wherever it goes. Complete strangers will strike up conversations at gas stations, parking lots, and traffic lights. Suddenly you're not just a driver; you're a curator of automotive history. Of course, owning a classic car also teaches patience. What starts as a simple Saturday afternoon tune-up can mysteriously transform into an all-day project involving three trips to the auto parts store and a search for a wrench you were holding five minutes ago. But when the engine finally roars to life, every scraped knuckle and every dollar spent feels completely worthwhile.

The real joy comes from the smiles. Children point, adults reminisce, and fellow car enthusiasts give an approving thumb-up. Whether cruising down the highway or showing off at a local car meet, a classic car creates memories that modern transportation simply cannot. It's not just about getting from one place to another-it's about enjoying the ride, celebrating craftsmanship, and proving that sometimes the most fun thing on the road is a machine that's older than your smartphone.

Sincerely,

Paul Masla
President



Alex and Mary, a Young Couple from 1966

56 Years Later, "He Still Keeps the Red Alpine & His late Wife Chose"

When Alex and Mary Gabbard won a \$1000 prize from a radio mystery contest in 1966, the young couple knew exactly what they wanted to do with part of the money: buy a brand-new car.

At their local Chicago Sunbeam dealership, Alex immediately fell for a white Tiger Mk. I. But Mary's eyes were fixed on something else entirely: a bright red Sunbeam Alpine V with a removable hardtop.

"I've always wanted a red sports car," she told her husband.

And just like that, on May 6, 1966, they drove home in the little red roadster that would quietly become woven into every chapter of their lives. At the time, they were just teenagers starting out together, making monthly payments of \$72.79 and dreaming about

the future. The Alpine was freedom, youth, and adventure wrapped into one small British sports car. On warm Sunday afternoons, the couple would head to local drag races, where Mary became well known at the track and even earned a class championship title. The fun-loving young woman who insisted on the red car quickly became the "drag-on queen" of her class.

But life changed suddenly when Alex received his draft notice during the Vietnam War.

Before reporting for duty, Alex and Mary packed their belongings into the Alpine and drove Route 66 from Chicago to Albuquerque in 1967. The trip became one of those memories that grows more precious with time, two young people, uncertain about the future, driving west together in the car they loved.

For the next four years during Alex's Navy service, the Alpine served as their only transportation. It carried them through some of the most uncertain years of their young marriage. Then, in 1969, the little red roadster took on an even more meaningful role: it brought their newborn son home from the hospital for the very first time.

As the years passed, life moved on. Alex returned to college after leaving the Navy, responsibilities grew, and eventually the Alpine was placed into storage in his grandfather's barn. Dust settled on it for decades, but the memories attached to it never faded.

More than 40 years later, the car was carefully restored to life. Alex and Mary dreamed of retracing their Route 66 journey together one more time, hoping to relive a small piece of their youth. But by then, Mary's health had begun to decline, and the trip they planned never happened.

Instead, the couple spent their later years attending local car shows and taking occasional drives together. Even after owning several other Alpines and Tigers throughout their marriage, nothing ever meant as much as that first red Alpine Mary had chosen all those years ago.

People at car shows were often surprised to learn that the Sunbeam had Chrysler roots. Alex enjoyed watching Mopar owners react in disbelief when they discovered the little British roadster shared ties with Chrysler. But for Alex, the car's history mattered less than the memories inside it.

In 2020, Mary passed away.

After her death, Alex received a generous offer to buy the Alpine, but selling it was never truly an option. The car had become far more than steel, chrome, and paint. It was Mary's laughter on summer afternoons. It was Route 66. It was late-night drives, drag races, Navy years, and the first ride home with their baby boy. It was a lifetime of love preserved in bright red paint.

Today, the Alpine remains in the family, cared for by the same son who came home from the hospital in it more than five decades ago. And perhaps someday, the car will once again travel on Route 66, carrying another generation forward while keeping Alex and Mary's story alive.

For Alex, that little red roadster will always represent the greatest adventure of his life, not because of where it went, but because of who was sitting beside him.



Attendance to June Events

EMCC Continues Its Commitment to Community

One of the greatest strengths of the Estrella Mountain Car Club is our dedication to giving back to the community that has supported us throughout the years. During our April Cruiz N To The Hills Car Show at Estrella Foothills High School, that spirit was once again on full display.

The success of this year's event would not have been possible without the outstanding partnership and support provided by Estrella Foothills High School and its Interact Club. The school graciously provided an excellent venue for our show, while Interact Club students volunteered their time assisting with parking, merchandise sales, and numerous event activities. Their enthusiasm and hard work helped create a memorable experience for participants, spectators, and our club members alike.

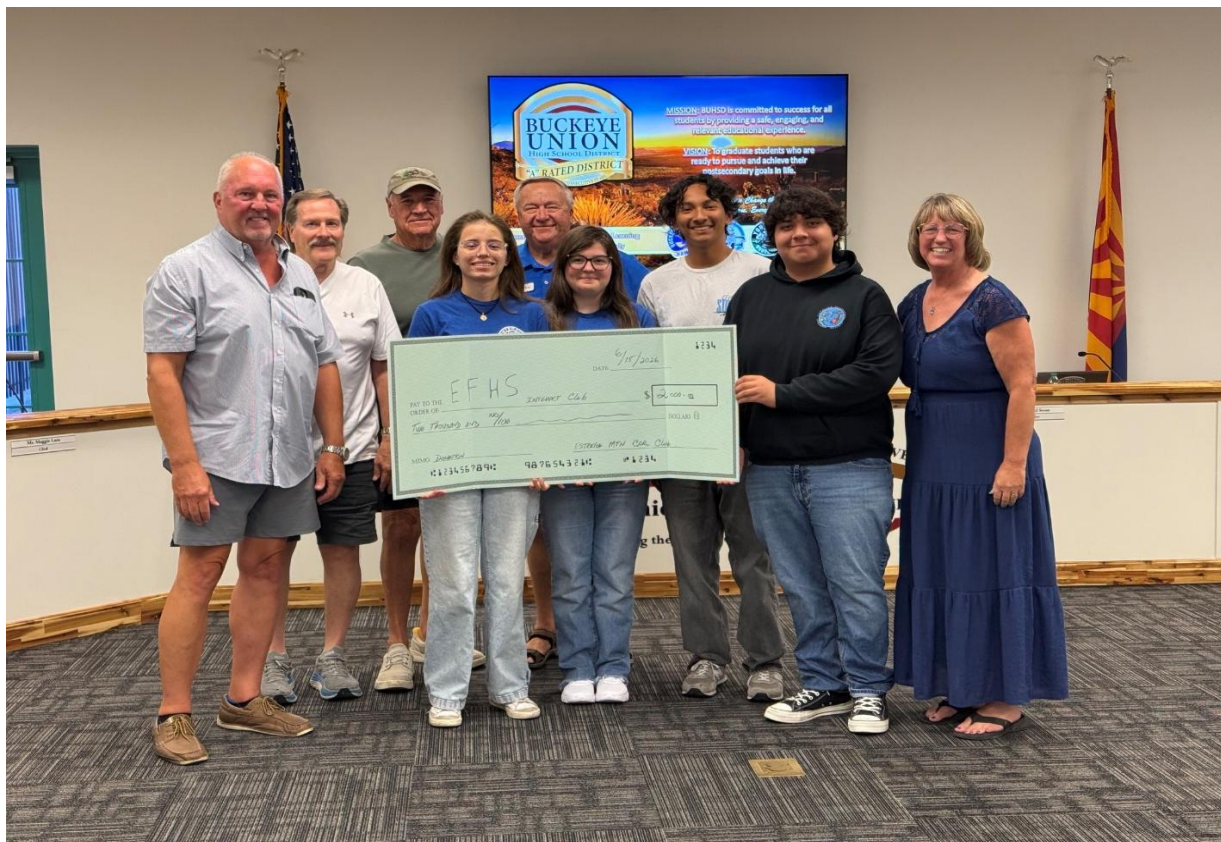
As a token of our appreciation and as part of our ongoing commitment to supporting local youth, EMCC was honored to present a \$2,000 donation to the Estrella Foothills High School Interact Club.

Community service has long been a cornerstone of our club. In 2025, EMCC donated over \$4,000 to the Interact Club, conducted another successful Toys for Tots campaign, while looking for a partner with The Salvation Army to support those in need throughout the holiday season. These efforts reflect our belief that our passion for automobiles can also be a vehicle for making a positive difference in the lives of others.

We are proud to be known as "The Best Little Car Club in Arizona," but even more proud of the friendships, volunteerism, and community spirit that make our club special. The partnership between EMCC and Estrella Foothills High School continues to be a wonderful example of what can be accomplished when organizations come together for the benefit of the community.

Thank you to the students, faculty, volunteers, sponsors, and club members who helped make this year's car show such a tremendous success.

Together, we're not just showcasing great cars - we're helping build a stronger community.



The Club Luncheon at the "High Tide" never disappoints.

Our June EMCC Luncheon took us to High Tide Restaurant in Goodyear, where 19 members and guests enjoyed an afternoon filled with great food, friendship, and conversation.

One of the greatest benefits of our monthly luncheons is the opportunity to spend time together away from our cars, sharing stories, laughter, and experiences that strengthen the friendships that make EMCC such a special organization. Those in attendance enjoyed an afternoon of camaraderie that reminded us once again why our club continues to thrive.

To those who joined us, thank you for making the luncheon such an enjoyable gathering. To our members who were unable to attend this month, we missed you and look forward to seeing you at a future luncheon or club event. There is always a seat waiting for you among friends.

As always, EMCC continues to prove that while our passion may begin with automobiles, it is the friendships we build along the way that truly drive our club forward.



Cars and Coffee

The 4th Saturday of the month once again brought together the passion, friendship, and excitement that made the Estrella Mountain Car Club such a special organization. Our June Cars & Coffee event was filled with lively conversation, laughter, and admiration for the incredible vehicles proudly displayed by our new and old members plus local automotive enthusiasts.

What made this month's gathering especially meaningful was its timing during the last Weekend before the National 250th Special 4th of July Celebrations.. With more than 17 beautiful automobiles on display, the event showcased some of the finest classic cars, hot rods, muscle cars, specialty builds, and one-of-a-kind vehicles found anywhere in the Estrella Mountain community.

Members and guests spent the morning sharing stories, exchanging automotive knowledge, and appreciating the craftsmanship and dedication represented in every vehicle. From polished chrome and custom paint to roaring engines and timeless classics, the parking area became a living tribute to America's rich automotive culture.

Beyond the cars themselves, the true highlight of the morning was the camaraderie and fellowship shared among friends, neighbors, and fellow enthusiasts. Events like these remind us that EMCC is more than just a car club – it is a community brought together by friendship, passion, and a shared love for the automotive hobby.

As we reflected on the upcoming Holiday, I ask you take a moment to remember and honor the brave men and women who served our country and made America what we take for granted & enjoy possible.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the June Cars & Coffee another outstanding success. We look forward to seeing everyone again next month for more great cars, great conversations, and great memories.

– Estrella Mountain Car Club 🚗



Future Events

Hot Rods & CLASSIC CARS Social

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 2026

3-6PM

at The GOLF CLUB of ESTRELLA
11800 S. Clubhouse Drive • Goodyear, AZ 85338

\$10.00 DONATION OF CANNED FOOD GOODS TO DISPLAY A CAR

All donations benefit local food banks. Thank you for your support!

50/50 DRAWING

DJ MUSIC

FOOD & BEVERAGES AVAILABLE AT THE CLUBHOUSE

Great Cars Great People Great Time!

PRESENTED BY ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN CAR CLUB

Cars & Coffee

ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN CAR CLUB
Proudly Hosting • 4th Saturday of Every Month

Join us for a relaxed Arizona morning of great cars and even better company. Bring your pride and joy — or just bring your coffee and enjoy the view. All makes and models welcome.

📍 **Estrella Mountain Safeway Parking Lot**
9890 S. Estrella Pkwy, Goodyear, AZ

📅 **4th Saturday of Every Month**
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Where Estrella Enthusiasts Gather.

Holiday PARTY

FOR ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN CAR CLUB

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2026

3PM – 6PM

AT STARPOINTE RESIDENT'S CLUB

\$60 PER PERSON

CASH BAR

FOOD **DOOR PRIZES** **50/50 DRAWING** **MUSIC** **DANCING**

and Holiday Cheer!

EMCC Luncheon

AT THE ROOFTOP IN JULY

Thank you for showing your club support... Looking forward to you joining us at the "The Rooftop Restaurant"!

4370 S., N. Miller Rd., Suite 101
Buckeye, AZ 85326

WHEN: WEDNESDAY 7/15/2026
RSVP BY 7/13 ON EMCC WEB SITE

MEETING AT THE RESTAURANT AT 12:00PM

DOUGLAS AND PAM AT THE LEAD:
971-533-5158

The Estrella Mountain Car Club
The Best Little Car Club in Arizona

ESTRELLA FOOTHILLS HOMECOMING Parade

SAVE THE DATE! SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

PARADE STARTS AT 6PM

CALLING ALL MEMBERS OF THE ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN CAR CLUB!

WE NEED YOU TO VOLUNTEER!

CONVERTIBLE CARS NEEDED!
Convertibles especially welcome to help make our parade shine!

ALL MEMBER'S CARS ARE WELCOME!
Whether you drive a classic, modern, truck, or specialty car—we want you in the parade!

Let's show our club pride and make this a parade to remember!

- 7/11 Club Business meeting at the Estrella Mountain Golf Course 8:00am **"NOTE NEW SUMMER START TIME"**
- 7/15 EMCC Luncheon at The Rooftop, Buckey 12:00pm RSVP on EMCC website for Reservations
- 7/25 Cars and Coffee @ Safeway Parking Lot 8:00am to 10:00am
- 9/12 Home Coming Parade "Estrella Foothills Hight School "More Soon"
- 10/17 Hot Rods and Classic Car Show at the Estrella Mountain Golf Course "More to come"
- 11/29 Christmas Holiday Party at Starpoint "More to come"

Please Note: Event Details Maybe Listed on EMCC Web Site; <https://estrellamountaincarclub.com/event>

"Together, we don't just attend events—we shape them. Every member brings something valuable to the table, and when we share our time, ideas, and talents, the results are richer friendships, stronger events, and a club we're all proud of."

It is with hope we see you at our upcoming events!

EMCC Board of Directors



Members Names

Richard Leicht 7/1

Franco Cammarata 7/2

Karen Lundy 7/9

Paula Forgey 7/11

Joe Marano 7/14

Rich Cucharo 7/20

Shermaine Napier 7/24

Carl Brandenburg 7/27

Sally Barns 7/29

The provided information is sourced from the club's roster. Kindly inform us of any errors or omissions so that we may rectify them promptly.

JUST A NORMAL DAY IN '64 WOULD BE A CAR SHOW TODAY



Looking Back... While Cruising Forward

As we close this month's newsletter, I'd like to share a photograph from a small American Town in 1964. At first glance, it may appear to be an ordinary street scene—people going about their daily lives, local businesses open for the day, and automobiles parked along Main Street.

But to those of us who appreciate automotive history, that photograph tells a much larger story.

What strikes me most is that nearly every vehicle visible in the picture would likely be a prize-winning entry at a classic car show today. The family sedans, station wagons, pickup trucks, and convertibles that were once simply transportation have become treasured reminders of an era that helped shape America's love affair with the automobile.

In 1964, gasoline cost about 30 cents a gallon, the Ford Mustang was making its historic debut, muscle cars were beginning to capture the imagination of a generation, and families still gathered on Friday nights to cruise downtown and visit with friends. Cars were more than machines—they were part of our identity, our freedom, and our memories.

That photograph reminds us that history often passes quietly. The people in that picture could never have imagined that sixty years later enthusiasts would admire and preserve the very vehicles they drove to work, church, school, or the local diner.

Perhaps that's one reason car clubs like EMCC are so special. We are not simply preserving automobiles; we are preserving stories, friendships, craftsmanship, and a piece of Americana that deserves to be remembered.

As we enjoy the summer months and continue creating memories together, may we appreciate both where we've been and where we're headed. Today's cars may become tomorrow's classics, but the friendships we build and the experiences we share are timeless.

Until next month, keep the shiny side up, enjoy the ride, and remember that every mile adds another chapter to life's journey.

Bill Owen

Editor

In Loving Memory of Friends, We Will Never Forget

There are times when words seem inadequate, and this is one of those moments.

Over the past recent couple of months, our Estrella Mountain Car Club family has said goodbye to three cherished friends and fellow members—, **Kathy Lepore, Diana Kranz and Honorary Member Juanita Koialovitch**. Their passing has left a void that reaches far beyond an empty chair at a social function or a missing car at one of our events. It has left an emptiness in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know them.

Estrella Mountain Car Club has always been much more than a car club. We are neighbors, friends, and an extended family brought together by our appreciation of classic automobiles, hot rods, unique vehicles, and the friendships they inspire. Unlike organizations sponsored by manufacturers or dealerships, we are built by the people who call this community home. Every member contributes something special that cannot be measured by the number of meetings attended or events organized.

Kathy, Diana and Juanita each gave generously of themselves. They shared their time, their talents, their knowledge, and most importantly, their hearts. They helped shape the welcoming spirit that makes EMCC such a special organization. Their leadership, kindness, laughter, and friendship enriched all of us, and their influence will continue to be felt for years to come.

As our membership continues to grow, welcoming new faces and new friendships, we are reminded that while new members strengthen our club, they can never replace those who helped build its foundation. Every member leaves their own unique tire tracks on the road we travel together, and those tracks remain long after the journey has ended.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and every member of the Estrella Mountain Car Club, we extend our deepest sympathies to the families and loved ones of Kathy, Diana and Juanita. We are grateful for the privilege of having shared part of life's journey with them.

May we honor their memory not only by remembering them, but by continuing to build the kind, welcoming, and caring club they helped create. Every cruise, every picnic & luncheon, every car show, and every conversation reminds us that the greatest treasures we collect are not the automobiles in our garages, but the friendships we make along the way.

They will always remain a part of the EMCC family.

"Those we love never truly leave us. They live on in the stories we tell, the friendships they inspired, and the memories we carry in our hearts."

Estrella Mountain Car Club

"Please Note New Earlier Start time for our Summer Business Meetings through September 2026. Meetings will start at 8:00AM at the Golf Course."

Enjoy your family this 4th of July.

Bill Owen

Editor