

**Minutes
Great Lakes Chapter
Volvo Club of America**

Wednesday, July 17, 2024, 6 PM in the large picnic pavilion between the Classic Car Club of America's Museum building and the depot/restrooms.

Expected to be in Attendance, David (President) and Joyce Irvine, Jeff (Treasurer) and Gwen Von Holten, Al Bulgrin (Secretary), Gretta Van Bree, Paul Fletcher (Webmaster), Nancy Hourigan, Rod Kuznicki, Chuck Benner, Dan Switek.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff reported that we have \$11.09 in PayPal and \$1559.70 in the Comerica account. We have a normal healthy balance after the Volvos at the Gilmore Car Museum X event!

I. **28th St., Metro Cruise - Saturday, August 24, 2024.** Volvo club lead, Jeff Von Holten. West Michigan Saab Club Enthusiast Lead, Theresa Brade

Texted from Theresa Brade, West Michigan SAAB Enthusiasts

Time: 12 noon to 7 pm. David has created an "event" on Facebook and will modify it after this discussion as needed. No changes were recommended, but realize this is a living live event, so any tweaks can be made as needed.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/3912435759037912/?ref=newsfeed>

CAR CLUBS:

- o Volvo Club - Great Lakes Chapter
- o West Michigan SAAB Owner's Group

FOOD UNITS:

- o "Letz TACO Bout It" Food Trucks
- o One more TBD!

CAR RELATED ENTERTAINMENT:

- o Metro-Market, a unique arts & crafts market - with a car theme. Some or all of each vendor's products feature car-related items! From repurposed license plates to beads in car shapes, children's books, jewelry, car air diffusers, car phone mounts, keychains, and more. Shop the 15 local crafters and artisans at this unique feature.
- o Collector Car parking - open to any collector cars! First-come, first-served, no fees or reservations

OTHER FEATURES:

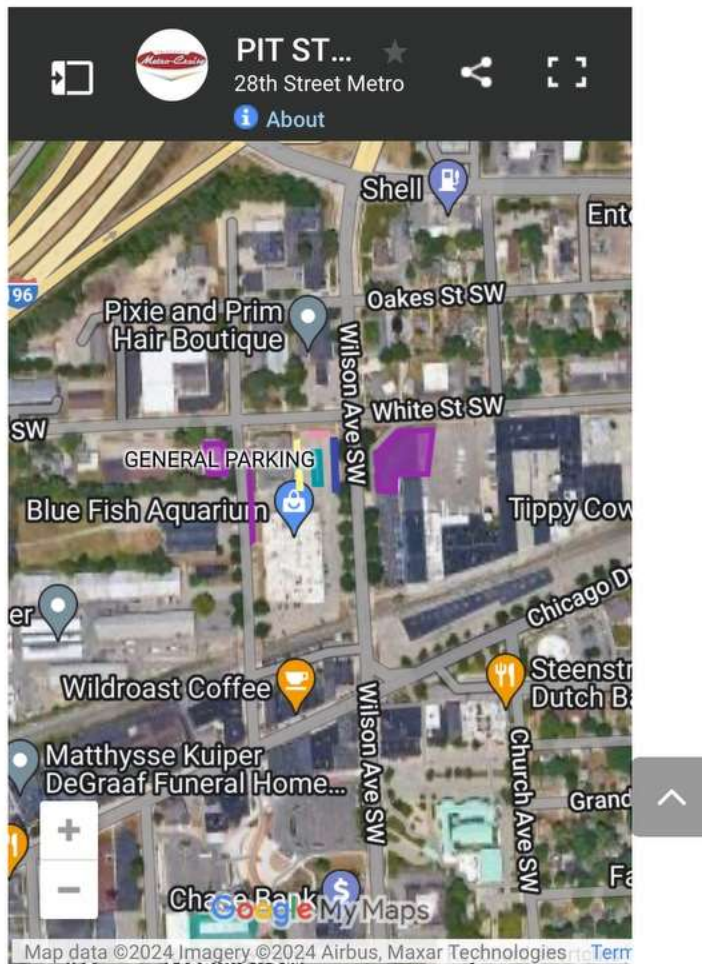
- o Live music – 1 pm to 2 pm by Nobody's Cupcake
- o Live performance – 2 pm to 2:30 pm by Dinkus the Ha Ha Man
- o Live music – 3 pm to 4:30 pm by Frances

8:52



Metro Cruise **PIT STOP** at Grandville Plaza

Come check out our first PIT STOP off 28th Street. Conveniently located on Wilson just north of Chicago Drive. Co-organized by Le Vintage Rose Retro Shoppe. (ADDRESS: 2905 Wilson Ave SW, Grandville, MI 49418)



CAR CLUBS: _____

If interested in attending, please email points of contact Jeff Von Holten jeffvh2000@gmail.com if you want to bring Volvo(s) and Theresa Brade riekt@yahoo.com if you want to bring Saab(s). David will recommend people really contact Jeff/Theresa in the August email blast to try to get numbers to the coordinators.

II. National VCOA Meet, Poland Springs, ME – September 20-22, 2024. Jeff Von Holten reported that he and Gwen will be going and that if anyone has questions, to look up details here: <https://vcoa.org/2023-national-meet/>

III. Ideas for a fall color tour or a gathering, proposed date Saturday, October 19, 2024 times TBD. Fall and future ideas... tour with hints, stops of interest, treasure hunt, diorama with a model railway. Prizes, get together, and if you got so many points, you got a prize.

Fall color tour, a turnkey idea is to meet at Sweetwater Donuts in Plainwell at 10 am, at 10:30 am, drive up to Gun Lake for a color tour, then down to the Gull Meadow Farms apple orchard at 11:30 (buy apples, cider, more donuts ☺), and then to lunch at the Old Mill in Plainwell around 12:30-1 pm. Finish at 2ish.

IV. Volvo at the Gilmore XI - Saturday, June 20, 2026, 9 am to 4 pm

* find old checklist and put on Google Docs. Includes a checklist such as having walkie-talkies, Al bringing the signs, etc. who does what there is a document we need to find it. David found SIX documents Bill Bailey helped formulate from a 2015 National Volvo Club of America list. Have combined all seven in the attached document. Clean up and upload to Google Docs by the September meeting.

V. Other – Nick LaCasse, the new Director of the Gilmore Care Museum, was walking by and we invited him to stop to meet our group. He spent some time meeting with us, talking about his background, and learning a bit about our club/members. An

information email/press release with his background is at the end of these minutes.





Members went around discussing anything new. A relatively new member, Chuck Benner, who is involved with many types of cars, talked about his V70 wagon. Dan Swantek mentioned he is thinking of selling his 1973 Volvo 1800ES. Information and his contact information is below:

Purchased in 1985 in Dallas, Texas. Very straight clean rust free body. Painted in 1988. 97k miles. Mechanical maintenance always done. Never completely reassembled but driven often. Suspension upgrade in progress-new shocks and bushings.

Have new dash to install. Have extra parts including roof rack. (616) 430-2118 Cell. theswiteks@comcast.net.



The next meeting will be Wednesday, *September 11, 2024*, 6 pm. There was DEEP conversations with lots of options. It was voted to have the next meeting at Four Roses, 663 N. 10th St. Plainwell MI 49080. <https://www.fourrosescafe.com/>. We did discuss having our March meeting in Texas Corners, west of Portage and Southwest of Kalamazoo. Places mentioned included "Bold" <https://bolddining.com/> and the Texas Corners Brewery which is in an old church! <https://www.texascornersbrewing.com/>

November will be a virtual Zoom meeting. We are looking for a presenter to talk for 15 minutes or so. Possibly the VCOA president? Elections if new people wish to get involved will be that month. January we have no meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm. There were a RECORD 1148 cars at the Cruise in!

LaCasse brings extensive non-profit and leadership experience and will usher in a new chapter rooted in the Road Ahead Sustainability Plan.

Hickory Corners, Michigan, May 28, 2024 - The Gilmore Car Museum announces today that Nick LaCasse will join the team as the new Executive Director. He replaces current Interim Executive Director Michael Spezia, who will stay on for a period of time to ensure a successful transition.

With the departure of Spezia, the Gilmore Car Museum conducted a thorough and comprehensive search for a new Executive Director to ensure the Museum was poised for continued success going forward. "I've greatly enjoyed my 19 years at the Gilmore Car Museum, and I am very proud of many of the things we were able to accomplish. I depart happy, knowing the Museum is in more than capable hands. I'm confident Nick and the team will expand the reach of our mission," added Michael.

LaCasse spent the last six years as the Director of Marketing and Guest Experience at the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum in Birmingham, Alabama. Originally from Minnesota, LaCasse started his career after receiving a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Since then, he has over a decade's worth of combined experience at the US Space & Rocket Center and the Greenbrier Historical Society prior to his role at the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum. A major contributing factor to LaCasse's decision to head north was his shared dedication for telling American history through the lens of the automobile. Nick stated, "I am extremely excited to start this new chapter, especially with a nationally renowned museum such as the Gilmore Car Museum. I look forward to bringing a different perspective to the team, with the singular goal of advancing the Museum's mission."