



APRIL 2025 MONTHLY MEN ENJOYING LEISURE

About MEL, Melmen and their activities



FROM THE EDITOR



This month's feature story is about MEL's visit to the Roadster Shop. And there is more information on the upcoming new activity, "Hiking," as well as coverage of our first miniature golf tournament of the year. And we've got pictures, birthdays, and lots of exciting upcoming events to contemplate.

MEL now has 161 active members and as Ron Meibach recently opined: "I've been in MEL for 11 years and it is better than ever."

Enjoy! Gerry



FOR A MERE FEW HUNDRED THOUSAND YOU, TOO, CAN HAVE A 1936 CORD! - By Gerry Linda

On April 18, 2025, fourteen Melmen had a real treat, a visit to and guided tour of the Roadster Shop on Rte. 83 in Mundelein. We saw one of their two facilities, a 30,000 sq. ft. show room and production center, where steel is cut by a laser machine, and then hand-welded to form chasses, and complete cars are assembled including sheet metal work, painting and installing suspensions, engines, trannies, and interiors, etc. These vehicles are designed to an accuracy of thousandths of an inch, far beyond normal car production values.

On the floors we saw several vehicles almost ready for customer delivery: the above-mentioned Cord, a tricked-out, '63 Chevy Impala, a sweet 1954 Buick Skylark convertible (I want it!) and several others. Their other facility is a 40,000 sq. ft. location from which their cars are shipped all over the world and where chasses are stored (80/month!) for already scheduled customer work.



The Roadster Shop, while not without competition, is the largest of its kind in the US (therefore, probably the world). They have a full-time staff of about 115 including six engineers, who have created complete 2-D and 3-D digital templates for over 200 different models of cars (and more can be added if a customer has an intact

vehicle body to scan). Their success can be measure by a four-to-five-year (!) backlog of orders.

While most of their vehicles look like older production vehicles, the guts include up-to-the-minute, modern engines, electronics, brakes, suspensions, and drive trains. These vehicles can pass inspections as road-worthy. Their typical customer is a high-earning, male in his 40s, who can spend \$200,000 or more for his dream machine. It is not unheard of though for a paint job alone to cost \$100,000.

Al Newman spent so much time with their sales manager, I think he made a down payment.

After the tour, many of us went to Liberty Restaurant, where we burned calories instead of gasoline.



Thank you, Mickey Baim for planning this outing and making the arrangements. Well done!

15 MELMEN MANAGE 90 MINUTES OF MINIATURE GOLF IN THE COLD. NO-ONE WAS INJURED. - By Rich Spitzer

It was the end of April, and low temperatures and high winds could not discourage 15 intrepid golfers from showing up at the challenging Highland Park miniature golf range. Despite the weather, everyone seemed to be having a good time.

But we had a choice. To quote a couple of conversations I overheard: "Let's just go to lunch now". And after nine holes: "I think nine holes is enough". But no one left".

Even though the weather was awful, and the condition of the holes was just as bad, everybody got into the game, occasionally shaking their heads at the strange behavior of the golf balls—sometimes

rolling up, and then back down, and sometimes sideways, on the many hills of each hole. And there were times to cheer. In my group of four, Dave Marcus had a hole in one. However, we all agreed, this was pure luck.

Requiring skill on a miniature-golf course may be a bit far-fetched, but there's still the element of competition. The single low scorer was Bruce Edelson, with a 54 and there was a three-way tie for second with a 55: Dave Marcus, Jack Myers, and yours truly, Rich Spitzer.

A few pictures from the day.



Hole-in-1: Dave Marcus.



I think he's frozen!



It's just miniature-golf.



Play in the c-c-cold or go to lunch?

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



BEST IMAGE

*"Shepherd and Flock" was taken by **Bob Abrams** on 3/12/2025 in rural Sicily with a Sony Rx10iv. "Elderly shepherd returning his flock along a country road."*



BEST COMPOSITION

*"Freedom Rally Cincinnati, Ohio" was taken by **Mike Weiner** on April 5, 2025 in Cincinnati, Ohio. "I photographed and took part in this Freedom Rally outside City Hall."*

MEL PLAYS BOCCE



A NEW WORLD RECORD?



Jerry Ezgur and Stan Ascher beat Al Newman and John Simon in Canasta by 21,000 points!!!!

THE MEL ADVENTURE WALKERS - By Rich Spitzer and Yale Gordon

Get ready, get set, get walking!

The facts:

- The new adventure walking/hiking group begins Tuesday, May 13.
- The schedule will be the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.
- The leaders are Yale Gordon and Rich Spitzer.
- We will walk when it's sunny or cloudy. No walks in the rain. If it rains the day before the walk, we may move it to a location that is paved.
- Walks will begin at 9:00 AM and will last between 1-1 ½ hours.
- Each walk will be 2.5 – 3.5 miles. We can modify distance based on group preference on the day of the hike.



- Other trails include Daniel Wright Woods, Ryerson Woods, Buffalo Creek and Ravinia trail along the train line by St. Johns/Green Bay Rd.

- We will pick the trails at least a week in advance. It might be sunny on the day of the walk, but some trails don't dry out as fast as others.
- All the trails have parking.
- We will send directions, a Google map link, and parking information and a map of the path for each walk.
- Recommendations! Suitable shoes for trails (no need to get hiking shoes). Water. Hat. On the go snack. Sunglasses.
- Please let us know if you plan to attend each of the walks at least a couple days before the walk.

The finale. Eat. Drink



At the end of each walk we will have brunch, lunch or coffee. Restaurant locations to be determined based on proximity to the walk, size of group and if we can make a reservation. Sometimes we'll go for brunch, sometimes we'll just go to a coffee shop for a drink and a pastry.

Let us know if you have questions, suggestions, ideas for favorite walks, etc.

See you May 13! Rich and Yale.



UPCOMING SPECIAL AND SEMI-REGULAR EVENTS

MAY	15	Marriott Theater "Titanic" (Bruce/Walter Brown)
MAY	20	McCormick Place Food Depository Event (Bill Grolnick)
MAY	23	New Member Presentation at Demetri's (Bruce/Sheldon Kail)
MAY	30	Annual Cubs Game (Bruce/Bob Shuman)
JUNE	12	Union Railroad Museum (Bruce)
JUNE	27	Kayak Adventure at Independence Grove (Mike Stricker)
JULY	23	Annual Dinner (Bruce/Bob Greenberg/Dave Marcus)
JULY	30	American Family Field Cubs-Brewers (Bruce/Bob Shuman)
OCT.	8	Casino Night at Beth El Temple (Bob Stein/John Simon/Bruce)



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



APRIL

2	Ansel Ededin	86
7	Richard Horwood	85
14	Jerry Schwartz	78
16	Steven Wolf	72
19	Fred Nathan	87
21	Al Simon	89
25	John Bravos	83
27	Rich DeLevitt	78
27	Ron Sandler	85
28	Bill Keroff	82
29	Stab Ascher	85
29	Peter Cohen	83
29	Lonnie Klein	81

