

Bio for Alex West, Candidate for Technical Vice President Position



My name is Alex West. I am happily married to my wife Stephanie, and we have a son, James, who will be a year old in February. We live in Western Colorado, in Grand Junction, where we proudly hosted the Orphan Car Tour in October of 2019. I am a winemaker by profession at our family's vineyard and winery that we built from the ground up starting in 2004. I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Colorado Mesa University in 2010. I studied winemaking techniques in France in 2013 and have used these skills to create a unique wine style from grapes grown in the high deserts of the Grand Valley of Western Colorado.

I have been an antique car enthusiast involved in the old car hobby since 2007, when I bought a 1929 International one-ton truck. I quickly learned that I knew nothing about old vehicles! I turned to members of the VMCCA for help, and members of our local chapter graciously began sharing their tricks of the trade and providing this greenhorn with the knowledge to repair, improve and restore my truck. Like any good hobby, it rapidly expanded to an in-

fatuation and eventually a full-blown sickness. One truck became two, then five, and now, as I sit here at my kitchen table, I can see over a dozen trucks, all International Harvester, in various states of repair, despair, and completed restoration. I love driving old trucks, even though they are slow, lumbering, and as graceful as a rhinoceros. Above all, I enjoy the reaction from people constantly passing me, with a smile on their face and a wave that's usually friendly.

My goal for involvement with the VMCCA has always been one of keeping the old cars on the road so that we may fulfill our motto as a touring club. Without the old cars, the tours are just organized traffic. And without the camaraderie and knowledge to keep the old cars on the road, the vehicles become nothing but garage queens and yard art. It was through the relationships developed within our club that I have been able to hone my skills as an amateur mechanic in my restorations, and learn from those who have the experience to make a repair blindfolded. I wish to continue to gather knowledge and share the collective expertise of the club so that hopefully you won't be the one that has to be towed on our next tour together! I look forward to meeting as many of our members on tour as possible, and seeing you down the road! 🚚

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