

Under the HOOD

The Newsletter of RPM Foundation • Connecting the Dots

Message from the President

Connecting the Dots: RPM's Network Begins to Rev-Up

There are few, if any, overnight successes in this world. Most of what we perceive as such is really the result of unseen methodical planning, relationship nurturing, and good old-fashioned persistence.

Such is true for the RPM Foundation. Building an organization to champion the restoration, preservation and mentorship of the classic car, motorcycle and marine industry requires a game plan that enlists key educators and institutions, thought-leaders, and industry experts to come together to foster the next generation of restoration artisans and craftsmen.

Operating from our two main focal points in Chicago, IL and Tacoma, WA, we began to create an efficient, hub-and-spoke national network of partners to ensure that any student – regardless of their location – would have access to RPM's programs, resources, and grant-funded institutions. The idea was to build a network that perpetuates itself – like an engine, if you will – and would keep running as long as there was fuel to feed it.

This engine is now running on all cylinders as the network begins to grow exponentially; adding horsepower with every new partnership, mentor

engagement, and student placement into the workforce. Building the network in this way allows for “spontaneous combustion” between our different partners, allowing us to reach even more students. For a specific example read “Six Degrees of Kevin” (page 3) a story of one of our scholarship and gap-funding recipients who took a winding road to arrive at his career path in the automotive restoration industry.

The aforementioned “fuel” to this engine are the dynamic students whose lives we interact with firsthand through RPM events like **Off to the Races** and **Shop Hops**. Participation at these events has been incredibly popular as we encourage the appetites of car-crazed young men and women.

Through our engaged industry partners, we are looking at even more opportunities to create special access to car culture events that “connect-the-dots” for career paths in the classic car industry for the next generation of craftsmen.

It is their passion that pushes us onward!

See you along the way,


Diane Fitzgerald, President



Team RPM – Stacy Puckett-Taylor, Cathy Tierney and Diane Fitzgerald

RPM GETS READY FOR LIFT OFF

by KIP LANKENAU Owner, Kip Motor Company, Dallas, TX

RPM Foundation attracts interesting people from all walks of life who have one thing in common: a commitment to the restoration and preservation of collectable vehicles. As a restoration shop owner and friend of RPM, my wife, Debra, and I attended a press conference at Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston, TX, where RPM Ambassador and NASA astronaut, Drew Feustel, and his team were discussing their upcoming mission to the International Space Station.

What a thrill for someone who grew up in the early days of the space race, watching the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo space launches and moon landings. As we were shown around the JSC, passing once cutting-edge technological marvels of the space industry in buildings that seemed like time capsules of the 60s and 70s, the contrast to the module mockups of today's Mission Control seemed strangely familiar, yet incongruous - like Captain Kirk and Jean Luc Picard in the same scene.

We couldn't help but wonder, how did a NASA astronaut become an RPM Ambassador? The press interview made the answer clear. Gone are the days when astronauts were all 30-year-old hotshots. Today's astronauts come from many walks of life, and the Expedition 55/56 crew is no exception – a Russian cryogenics expert, and two Americans, one a teacher and the other a geologist.

To say Andrew (Drew) Feustel is a geologist does not paint a complete picture. Drew started out at a community college and worked as a me-

chanic on classic Jaguars. Fast forward twenty-five years or so, throw in a couple more degrees (BS in Solid Earth Sciences, MS in Geophysics and a PhD in Geological Sciences/Seismology), and you still have an antique car nut who likes to work with his hands.

Drew's first space flight was on a mission “servicing” the Hubble Space Telescope. He's so good at working with his hands that on his next flight NASA had him doing space station assembly work, much of it working “outside” on extravehicular activities. Considering that parts of the International Space Station were first launched almost twenty years ago, sounds to me like they've got Drew on board for NASA's first “restoration” project!



Drew Feustel's selfie, training on board in Baikonur, Kazakhstan. He took off for the International Space Station in March and will be there for 6 months.



PIT STOP – Racing, Education and RPM

One of the most important, and admittedly, most fun, parts of my job as Ambassador for RPM Foundation is networking. I like to think of it as “connecting the dots.” And I’ve been doing it all my life. My career in racing has placed me in front of millions of people through media, organizations and corporations throughout the world, and my two great passions, motorsports and promoting women in sports, have given me incredible opportunities to meet many different people.

My passion for mentoring women goes beyond being a female athlete. First volunteering and later serving in leadership positions with the Women’s Sports Foundation, I’ve been fortunate to learn about the opportunities and challenges women athletes have faced for decades. Attending major sporting events, visiting with government leaders, and meeting Presidents and first ladies at the White House, have given me the chance to listen, learn and share ideas with influential people. We’ve had the chance to educate each other, increase awareness and connect with ideas and people we might not otherwise know.

It was through networking that I first came in contact with RPM. After years of working in the world of racing and supporting women athletes and learning all I could about them, I turned my attention to education and cars. This is exactly the mission of RPM. I use my many contacts in the world of automobiles to support RPM’s mission: linking young people to vintage cars through education.

I’ve been able to connect the dots in a variety of ways: introducing the idea of restoration curriculum at East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) in Mesa, AZ; working with SportsCar Vintage Racing Association



Lyn St. James and SVRA member Peter Giddings with RPM students in the paddock at Watkins Glen in Upstate New York.

(SVRA) to support “Off to the Races with RPM” at Road America, Watkins Glen, Sonoma Raceway and Circuit of the Americas; and introducing a number of racers from the vintage racing community to RPM students – a great opportunity for the next generation to meet their future customers.

I believe we always need to keep our ears and eyes open to find ways to connect people to opportunities they might not be aware of. Through education, awareness and networking we can truly make a difference.



Shop Hop Arizona at Vintage Iron with Dana Rapoport’s “Bucky”, a 1955 Buick Century.



Drivers show off their rides at the launch of The Drive Home III, starting at Jason Wenig’s The Creative Workshop in Dania Beach, FL



Future restoration craftsmen visit Fall-Line Motorsports as participants of Shop Hop MiRPA in Illinois.

DEFINING SUCCESS: NETWORK AND NETWORKING

In the world of the RPM Foundation, the words “network” and “networking” are not simply throwaway terms; they have specific meanings that are the fundamental pillars of our success.

Network /'net.wərk/ [noun] are the partners in our mission. They are the high schools, tech schools, community colleges, colleges, instructors, collectors, restoration shops, car clubs, ambassadors, racing teams, celebrities, museums, auction companies, automakers, OEM suppliers, publications, journalists, governmental agencies and foundations that

interact for our mutual benefit and to fulfill RPM’s mandate to provide career pathways for the next generation of automotive, motorcycle and marine restoration craftsmen. The network is geographically broad and diversified to afford career mobility to students nationwide.

Networking /'net.wə-kiŋ/ [verb] is the specific act of providing students with access to RPM’s network partners, so that they may achieve their career goals in the restoration field. With basic business introduction skills (business cards, professional attire and polite attitude) students are enabled to put their best foot forward in hopes of securing a job lead, internship placement or full-time employment through an RPM partner. Successfully-placed students are then asked to act as RPM ambassadors, giving back-to and strengthening the network and continuing to draw upon the network relationships to further their professional careers.

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Kevin Kyle

What He Didn't Know He Learned Through Networking... Kevin Kyle's story.

by BILL HALL Collector, Elkhart Lake, WI

Two years ago, Kevin Kyle had never even heard of the Automotive Restoration Technology program at the Pennsylvania College of Technology. Growing up only a few hours away in Hatfield, PA, the 19-year-old was planning to study high-performance motorsports technology at another school. Long story, short, Kevin is currently in the final semester of his Associate Degree program at Penn College. (see box below)

Along with taking on side-jobs in bodywork and paint to help pay the bills, Kevin enjoys working on his daily-driver 1991 Chevy S-10 pickup truck and his 1970 Chevrolet Camaro, which he is restoring to look like the Trans-Am racers of the early Seventies.

Thanks to a gap-funding scholarship from RPM, he completed a 7-week summer internship with K&T Vintage Sportscars of Allentown, PA. K&T's Ken Beck works closely with Penn College and the local car clubs to support young people getting into the restoration industry. "It's hard for a young person to break in," said Beck. "They can't get a job without experience, because you can't run a business and be a training facility at the same time. We rely on the schools to give them at least some techniques to make them useful in the shop."

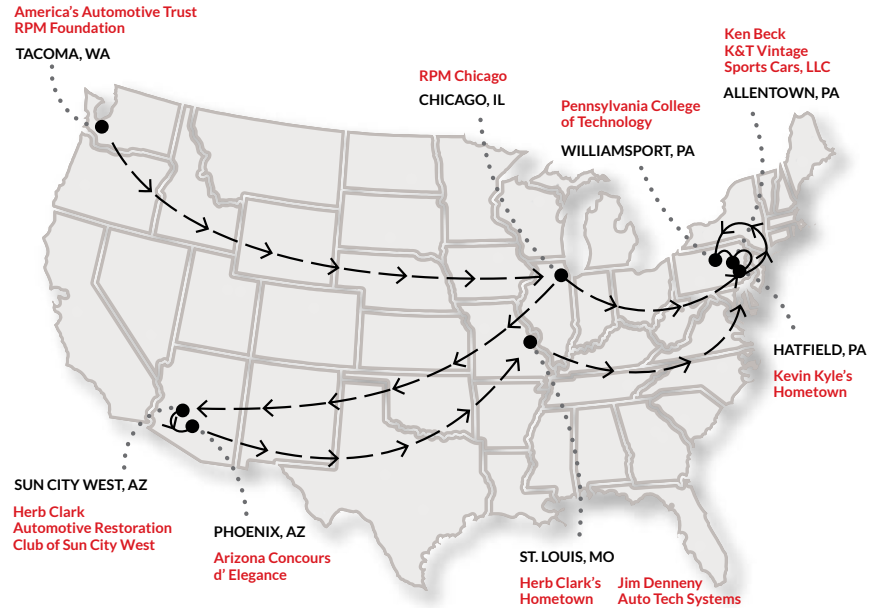
"The youngest guy in the shop is 25 years old. The rest of the guys are 65 or older. So, you can see the need for what RPM is doing. There is a wealth of experience in the shop for the right young person to draw from," added Beck.

"RPM has been great in connecting students with shop internships. If Kevin sticks with it and accumulates experience, he will do very well in the restoration business," said Beck.



Kevin Kyle and his daily-driver — his 1991 Chevy S10 that he restored. Here he is outside his stepdad's hot rod shop in Hasboro, PA. Wall graffiti was commissioned.

Mapping RPM & Kevin's Network



SIX DEGREES OF KEVIN

One student's story of putting the RPM network to work.

Kevin Kyle's situation was identical to that of countless other young people graduating from high school. Unsure about college but expressing a general interest in cars and the trades, Kevin was at a crossroads — until an extraordinary sequence of conversations at car events and programs brought him into the RPM Foundation's network and set him on a career path as an automotive restoration craftsman.

The story has its unlikely beginnings in the retirement community of Sun City West, AZ. Resident Herb Clark had set out to organize an effort to construct an automotive restoration facility on the campus of his community's recreation center. Applying for a grant through the RPM Foundation, he was denied (RPM's grants target vocational education and career pathways, not hobbyists). Nonetheless, he remained in the orbit of the foundation — eventually being recruited as an RPM Ambassador due to his exceptional networking and organizational skills, and his passion for classic cars and helping young people.

Herb introduced his friend, Jim Denny, to RPM at the Arizona Concours d'Elegance. Jim owns and operates Auto Tech Systems in St. Louis, MO, which sells car lifts and caters to the classic car hobbyist.

Enter Bobby Mudd, a college-age car enthusiast and neighbor of Herb Clark at his second home in St. Louis. Bobby was introduced to RPM

by Herb, and brought on as an intern to represent RPM during Arizona Car Week. That week gave Bobby a chance to meet and network with a number of RPM's industry contacts, one of whom — Jim Denny — offered a summer internship to Bobby at his St. Louis car lift company.

Jim Denny was so impressed with RPM's national program of finding and placing vocational students with "heritage in the heart," that Jim started spreading the word about RPM on his own.

Still following? One of the people Jim spoke to about RPM was his sister, Carol Clark, and her son, Kevin Kyle in Hatboro, PA. Although accepted to an automotive program at Ohio Technical College in Cleveland, OH, he had reservations about leaving his hometown. Carol and Kevin contacted RPM to review other schools' automotive restoration programs, and attended a VIP tour of nearby Pennsylvania College of Technology along with three other families arranged by the RPM Foundation.

"I didn't have a clue that this program existed until the RPM Foundation told me about it," said Kevin. Thanks to RPM, Kevin found that his ideal career path was (less than) six degrees of separation away.

Postscript: Kevin is now nearly finished with the last year of his Associate's Degree program in Automotive Restoration at Penn College and has interned with another RPM partner, K&T Vintage Sports Cars. Herb Clark successfully oversaw completion of his Auto Restoration Club's 6,000 sq. ft. restoration facility in Sun City West. Jim Denny expanded his business to Phoenix, AZ and hired Bobby Mudd full-time after he graduated from college. Carol Clark and her husband own and operate a hot-rod shop.



RPM Scholar, Francis Peet, with a boat project at the Great Lakes Boat Building School (GLBB) in Cedarville, MI. Francis is in his second year at the school and will be graduating in 2018. GLBB is a multi-year grant recipient of RPM, and the Midwest's premier and only school in the instruction of wooden boat building. Their emphasis is in on the traditional hands-on skills used in the building and restoration of wooden boats.

Contributions from our friends at RPM have made a difference for many of our students. Your generosity will help advance our mission of empowering people through education and training.

Emily Hare, Executive Director,
 CCCC Foundation, Central Carolina Community College, Sanford, NC

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- Cathy Tierney, Administrative Coordinator, RPM Foundation (Chicago, IL)

PRESERVE THE PAST. BUILD THE FUTURE.

Who We Are + What We Do

The RPM Foundation supports Restoration and Preservation training programs and Mentoring for the next generation of automotive, motorcycle and marine craftsmen. As the educational arm of America's Automotive Trust, the services, resources and grants provided by RPM safeguard the future of the collector vehicle industry by sustaining hands-on training for young adults. RPM is based in Tacoma, WA with offices in Chicago, IL and Detroit, MI.

Supporting RPM Foundation – Thank You! Help us achieve our goal of raising \$1,000,000! Today, with funding requests more than triple what we are able to giveaway, we need your support. Donations of any size are deeply appreciated.

For more information, contact Diane Fitzgerald, President (diane@rpm.foundation, C: 312-543-5732 Direct: 855.537.4579 www.RPM.Foundation).

Yes! I would like to make a donation of:

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Donations of \$50 or more receive a complimentary membership to LeMay – America's Car Museum, an entity of America's Automotive Trust.

Please send your donation to: RPM Foundation, 2702 East D Street, Tacoma, WA 98421
Or you may make a donation online at: www.rpm.foundation

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