

# The Santa Clarita Valley Contemporary Car Club Newsletter



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## Words from the President

By Dick LaGrasta, President

Hello there, fellow car club members...

Cheryl and I just got back from our "whirl-wind-tour." We spent a week of touring Lake Havasu, Phoenix, and The Grand Canyon in Arizona. We then traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada for a little "Investment in Las Vegas" procedure that entitles you to have as much fun as you can afford. Or if you are like Cheryl and I, you go to the shows and leave the "investments" to the professionals, who will gladly deposit tons of their money into the "Bank of Nevada" (aka: Las Vegas) at an unbelievable rate!

I can tell you that after a week of traveling (by car) in 100-degree heat each and every day [it is summer, after all...hot, hot, hot!], it really is good to be home in good old Santa Clarita Valley, traffic notwithstanding. While in our hotel rooms at night [thank God for air conditioning], I would sometimes think about all of you [yeah, I know I really should get a life] and wonder just where this club has been; where it is going; and the future of this club.

After some careful thought and consideration, I can't help but wonder just why we are as successful as we are, and the reason this club can do what it does, month after month, year after year. This is not a bad thing in itself, but as always there is that "perception" that one person has that another person may not share about the same subject. For example, "this soup is too hot, or this soup is too cold, too salty, not salty enough." You get the idea here that we all agree that it is soup, but we all like to tailor the soup to fit our own taste. What is my point? Glad you asked. Just bear with me for a moment more and I hope that you will see what I mean. Just read on.

After the last Route 66 Car Show a few Saturday's ago, George Thomas the restaurant owner received a phone call from a person who was at our show that night and won a trophy for "The Best of Show." To say this person was excited was a total understatement. He was really almost beside himself because although he has won a few trophies before, his car has never won "Best of Show" at any car show that he had entered. His car was a beautifully restored 1941 Lincoln Zephyr Town Sedan that he



*"We may not be the biggest car club, but we sure as hell are the best!"*



**1941 Lincoln Zephyr  
Route 66 "Best of Show" Winner**

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Volume 1, Issue 7

July 2001

### Cruise Nights:

- **Auto Spa**—  
First Saturday
- **Route 66**—  
Second Saturday
- **Burger King**—  
Fourth Saturday
- **Fuddruckers**—  
Every Saturday

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## Words from the President

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drove up to SCV from Granada Hills.

His son drove a 1941 Lincoln Continental coupe [although in fair shape, not trophy material]. Anyway, this gentleman's name was Bob Schell and he was responsible for actually starting the Contemporary Car Club. Many years ago at that time, he talked another person into being the Club President. That person was Harry Greer, who along with his wife Ginger pretty much ran things until they decided that this club was growing away from what they "perceived" was the ideal way that this club should be run. Their perception was that this club would soon "fold up" because it did not follow "old club values" and allowed cars in that were modified and did not follow CHVA rules to the letter.

Well, Bob Schell could hardly believe how we have not only grown, but how "professional" this club was run; how organized we were in every thing from our registration procedures to our parking lot procedures; and most surprising our judges; and the procedure that they follow when considering the trophy winners for the night. Mr. Schell went on to say that he was very proud that the judges picked his car (not knowing who he was), because they actually took the time to ask questions about the car, and that they understood what a rare and special car that this was. Mr. Schell has shown his cars in all kinds of shows, from one like ours (local type) to the Grand Daddy of them all...The Pebble Beach Concours 'D Elegance. To win "Best of Show" that night was one of the most rewarding things that has ever happened to him in the last 35 years of showing his car(s) all over the United States!



**Bob Schell receiving his "Best of Show" trophy**

now, see what I mean.

Some people may have looked at this 1941 "car" and not seen anything special about that old car. But,

some member of our club took the time to actually look over this "car" and see it as a "work of art." Their perception was that this car should be in contention for the "Best of Show Trophy," and the car was a unanimous choice and in fact was chosen as the "Best of Show" that night.

Now I realize that we may never agree on things that this club does all of the time. I also realize there are club members who really do not care to become involved in this car show, which we host once a month. That is just fine. They certainly have the right to not get involved. It may not be their "cup of tea." But perhaps those people who do not attend the show may have other beliefs and may help out the club in different ways. That is the beauty of this club and that is what holds this club together. We each perceive that this club is a good thing (or else we would not be in this club, I would think). Just what this club does for each of us depends on how much time or effort we want to put into being a club member. Only you as an individual can decide how much time you can afford to spend on the club. Many of us have jobs that are very demanding and does not allow enough time to be spent doing club functions. Some may feel this club is too demanding at times of some individuals, so be it.

Making choices at the monthly club meeting has, at best, not been easy and sometimes things can get a little "crazy." But, through it all, things still get done. Just the fact that people are attending those monthly meetings and getting involved shows me that we care about the SCVCCC. We are taking the time to "ask questions" and expect answers in return. To become involved, is what is most important; and to have faith that most of the many ideas that are brought up at the meetings can and usually are used after we put it up for a vote (most of the time). Again, if you like an idea vote for it, and if you do not think it is for the good of the club, then by all means vote it down. You have that choice.

Let me close this month's letter by saying that I want to thank each and everyone of our club members for your help and support by caring enough to "get involved." Perhaps, "pat yourself on the back" for being the type of individual who cares enough to give a little bit of yourself every time this club has needed your help. This is what makes this club special among other car clubs that call the Santa Clarita Valley their home too. We may not be the biggest car club, but we sure as hell are the best! That is no one's perception, but is just plain fact. Just ask Mr. Bob Schell, I think that he will agree with that statement and in fact I know he will. See you around.

*Sincerely, Dick*

## The J. B. Nethercutt Tour

By Les Williams, Cruise Director

The J. B. Nethercutt Collection is displayed at San Sylmar, which is a unique building located in Sylmar, CA. The small group of us that visited San Sylmar, were treated to an elegant tour of some very outstanding antique,



**The Grand Salon**

classic and special interest automobiles. The cars are displayed in the automotive Grand Salon, with its beautiful marble floors and columns, crystal chandeliers and gold leaf painted ceiling. On the mezzanine level, they had the Nethercutt antique desks with beautiful inlay work. They also had a big collection of hood ornaments and auto mascots that were fascinating.

They concluded the tour with the trip up the stairway to heaven and got to see and hear their collection of Mechanical Musical Instruments. These range from Musical pocket watches to nickelodeons, phonograph players and exquisite reproducing pianos. The highlight of the collection is the mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ. We were told everything that the Nethercutt collected are functional fine art.

We finished our visit with a self-tour of the Nethercutt Museum across the street from San Sylmar. It's a new 60,000 sq.

ft. building that contains over one hundred beautifully restored automobiles. Rolls Royce, Pierce-Arrow, Duesenberg, Packard and Mercedes were just some of the few that were magnificently displayed there.

It was a good tour and I'm sorry a lot of you missed it. You also missed a treat. We went to Dr. Hogly Wagly's Tyler, Texas Bar B Q for Supper. Nobody asked, "Where's the Beef?" We all left full and with bags and bags of delicious leftovers.

See you on the next tour in August.

*Les Williams*

## Upcoming Events

- August 11th - Route 66 Classic Car Show - 5 pm to 9 pm
- August 18th - Automotive Road of Dreams Museum in Orange County at their fairgrounds
- September 29th - Otis Chandler Museum in Oxnard
- October 7th - The Annual Verdugo Vintage Vehicles at La Crescenta Park

## Our New Website

I am happy to say our website is now on-line at [www.contemporarycarclub.org](http://www.contemporarycarclub.org). I've worked long and hard to get our website up and running, but it all has been a labor of love. That's because the subject matter is near and dear to my heart. I love doing it and the website can only get better with time. Thank you all for all the nice compliments. I'm glad I surprised you with the content and I hope it's something we all can be proud of. The website is exciting to me and I hope it is for you too!

In case you didn't know, this is the first website that I have created, so it's been a learning experience. I want to thank Mark Reece for taking the majority of the photos you see on the site. I also especially want to thank my wife, Jane, for putting up with the long hours I've spent going to school and staying up to the wee hours of the night on the computer.

Again, if you want your car story on our site, let me and I'll be more than happy to post it.

*Rich Soto, Your Newsletter Editor*

## Car of the Month (Stanke's 1964 Buick Riviera)



"Ruby"

By Howard and Kathy Stanke

Kathy and I decided to name our cranberry colored Riviera "Ruby". We acquired the Riviera two years ago through a friend of ours whose mother had gotten to the age where driving wasn't an option any longer. The car had been sitting for about three years under a carport in Friendly Valley undriven. I decided it would make a great project car so we bought it and started the restoration. The engine is a Buick Wildcat 465, which represents the torque. The horsepower rating for the 425 Cu. In. engine is 340.

Dick LaGrasta was requested to come over and help get the Riviera running again which he graciously did. After we got it started, Dick and I went for a little spin and managed to get two flat tires before we went three miles. So one of the first items was to replace the stock wheels with American Racing wheels and the tires with low profile wide radials. From there I was able to take it to Newhall Carburetor to have the AFB rebuilt. Then to the muffler shop to have a complete new dual exhaust system with glass packs installed. Although the car had all the original parts and trim, everything had to be removed and restored or replaced. We replaced the starter, bat-

tery alternator, fuel pump, regulator, brakes and power steering pump. The radiator was taken out and replaced with a new three core. The interior was taken out and the car was completely stripped for bead blasting, body work and new paint (deep cranberry pearl coat).

Meanwhile trim moldings were sent out to have the dents removed and be reformed and then I buffed them out. The interior wood I replaced myself with cherry veneer stained mahogany. The seats went out to be reupholstered in a gray cloth with burgundy piping by the "Upholstery Factory" and we had Riviera embroidered on the front seat backs.

Since the original restoration, Ruby has received a new Offenhauser dual quad manifold with twin Edelbrock 500 cfm carbs, polished Offenhauser valve cov-



ers, electronic ignition, Flamethrower coil and new chrome air cleaners. Ruby has also had all four of her coil springs replaced this last winter (2000) making her a real smooth cruiser.

*Proud owners of a 1964 Buick Riviera,  
Howard and Kathy Stanke*

## July Meeting Minutes

Greenhouse Cafe  
July 24, 2001  
By Eileen Keating

The meeting was called to order without President Dick LaGrasta. He and Cheryl were celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary out of state, so the meeting was "chaired" by Phil Arnold with the help of Dave Zelman. The first order of the Agenda was the Club Financial Report. It was reported we are still solvent with the help of our monthly car show. The next order of business was Rich Soto's explanation on getting our Club website online & working. He

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## July Meeting Minutes

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discussed the cost of the website & whether pre-paying is the way to go. The things that would be on the website were explained. Promoting our car club; selling of member's cars; showing photos of member's cars; posting photos of the monthly winners of the Route 66 car show are some of the items that would be in the website. We would have a two-week trial period to iron out the problems. There were lots of explanations of the website and it will have to be decided by the club if we will go ahead. A motion was made that we try out the website for a year to see how it works out and it was voted on and carried. - Les Williams gave a report on our trip to the Nethercutt Collection tour and museum. It was a wonderful tour and Les told of the admonishment of our group on making reservations for twenty tour openings and only seven of us showing up. - Dave Zelman told of the monthly Route 66 Show and gave a review of the Sespe Creek 4th of July Car show in Fillmore. The club members were selling tickets and helping as much as possible. - Les Williams gave us a report on the future car club cruises. He told of the car shows in Sydney, Australia, which they took in on their vacation. Sept. 29th is the only time the Otis Chandler Museum in Oxnard is available. In the museum they have cars, motorcycles and quite a collection to see. Of course, the food was brought up. Les let us know that it is right next to Marie Callendars. But that will be discussed in the future. Les brought up a question as to whether the car club wants to do a cruise to the Automotive Road of Dreams Museum in Orange County at their fairgrounds. Aug. 18th would be the date. There will also be a swap meet at the same place as the Museum, on the same day. - The October Weekend trip (3rd weekend in October) was brought up and the possibility of going to Las Vegas or maybe Laughlin was discussed. The pros and cons of costs, where, how and when was brought up, but nothing was decided so it was tabled until the next meeting. - The Annual Verdugo Vintage Vehicles car show on Sunday, October 7th at La Crescenta Park was discussed and it was suggested that we all show up. Rich Keating was the winner of the chrome pot. The meeting was closed at 7:25pm.

## Board Member Contact List

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*Now on the Web @  
www.contemporarycarclub.org*

