

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....

Well everyone, summer is officially here. Spring has gone the way of the Edsel [sorry, you Ford guys out there, it just popped into my mind, ahem] and of course that means some fun cruisin' time is around the corner and just "down the road apiece" for the Contemporaries.

At this month's club meeting/club picnic we had discussed perhaps setting up a weekend day car club trip to a location that was not too far away; but close enough that we could still be back in time on a Sunday afternoon to enjoy some daylight. Well, that is exactly what we did. Boy, I have to tell you, I was surprised at the really decent turnout of club cars and people to head its way North to Santa Barbara for the day. I won't go into detail on the trip, because there is another club member that has taken on that duty [thankfully, I might add...thanks Dave!]. I am just going to touch on how good it was to see so many friends, that I don't get to see too often. They were all having a good time and enjoying themselves on that beautiful Sunday afternoon. Thank you for showing up with your "Pride and Joys" no less! I hope to be able to do this again in the not too distant future. Maybe, I'll actually be able to join you with my car [if I can just remember what it looks like?], just kidding folks. I hope to be getting the 409 Impala back from the paint shop by the last Friday in June, so that I can hopefully prepare it for the 4th of July trek to the Fillmore Car Show. I guess we will just have to wait and see. But, I do have plans on taking the car all the way to "Hot August Nights" in Reno, come the first the week in August.

Last Friday, I took a "double trek" down to Bob's Big Boy in Toluca Lake and then drove over to "Flame's" in Northridge to check out the cruise action. I was not disappointed! It was really fun watching people enjoy themselves with their cars, and friends [of course]. That got me to thinking about how few of us really get a chance to show off our "pride and joys" in a way that keeps us in touch with what is happening all over the USA. This time of the year is special for us California "car people." By that, I mean the other states have very cold winters with snow, ice, storms, etc., while we are blessed here in good old Southern California with mild temperatures that allow us to sneak a car drive whenever the mood hits us, anytime a year. That is really cool! Now that it is officially summer, the whole U.S.A. is getting ready for this time of the year when everyone can participate in that phenomenon called [ready?]..."The Cruisin' Days and Nights of Summer!"



"America's love affair with the car has changed all of our lives."

Volume 2, Issue 6

June 2002

Cruise Nights:

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

Inside this issue:

<i>Words From the President</i>	1
<i>Sunday Cruise to Santa Barbara</i>	2
<i>Car of The Month - Triche's Charger</i>	4
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	5
<i>Board Member Contact List</i>	5

(Continued on page 2)

Words from the President (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

I hope all of you out there can “get involved” this year, in one way, shape, or another; and get the “old J-lop” out of the garage and go somewhere with it that makes you smile and brings nothing but “good thoughts.” America’s love affair with the car has changed all of our lives. We just wait for that Friday night, or Saturday night, or maybe even that Sunday morning when we can cruise to anyplace that our hearts desire, driving an American Icon [insert your favorite model car here] that we have the pleasure of owning. You can have one heck of a fun day or night touring all of Southern California or just that portion you really want to see. Yeah, life is good when you can cruise. So, don’t miss out on anything that this club can put together to get you “on the road again.” Chances are that you will enjoy the time away from your daily routine, by getting behind the wheel and being with some really great people who share that dream with you. Think about it.

Here are some things to keep in mind and food for thought. Life is way too short to be spending all of your time doing something that does not bring you just a little bit of happiness. I cannot think of anything that I would rather do than be with the one I love the most in this life, my wonderful and very cherished wife, Cheryl. It only makes life better when I can share my time with her, behind the wheel of our car, headed out

somewhere, anywhere, with a feeling that we are both enjoying the freedoms that we have worked so hard for (We have been married 31 wonderful years this coming July 31st). So, set some time aside for yourself or someone you’d like to be with, and come join us on the 4th of July. Or maybe join us at the next club’s monthly cruise with your “pride and joy” hittin’ on all 8 cylinders with a tank full of high test gas just ready to cruise yourself into a couple of hours of fun and enjoyment. I think you will be glad you took the time away from “reality,” spending the time doing something that makes you feel good about yourself; and thinking about what you have accomplished in life behind the wheel of “your pride and joy.” You have earned this time on the road, so use it!

Hope to see as many of you as possible in the coming months. Don’t forget that the August Route 66 Car Show will be the 3rd. Saturday, instead of the 2nd. Saturday. This is because some of the club’s members are heading out for Reno’s “Hot August Nights.” I will be reminding everyone in the newsletters and the upcoming club meeting on July 24th., at Coco’s in Valencia, at 6:30 pm. So, please plan accordingly and try to make the club meetings if at all possible. Even if you are on a diet [ahem], you can order something light or don’t order anything at all. But, be there and help support your car club. You’ll be glad you did!

Sincerely, *Dick*

Sunday Cruise to Santa Barbara

By Dave Zelman

Sunday, June 23rd, dawned clear and cool for a cruise up the coast to Santa Barbara. Those in the group included: Dave and Veronica Zelman in the '56 Del-Ray, Dwight and Jodi Emerson in their Mach 1 Mustang, Darrell and Carol in their Mustang, Rich, Jane and Nick Soto with friends Keith and Patty Seery in their '55 Chevy, Brian White and fiancé Reesa with Johnny Khanoo in Brian’s '57 Chevy, Jay Triche in his Dodge Charger, Larry and Ruby Boord in their Toyota, and Phil and Janet Arnold in their green Mopar, chauffeured by Dick and Cheryl LaGrasta.

We all met at the Shell Station on the Old Road. We got under way at 10:15 or so, after waiting for Dick to exit the boys room after consuming a very unhealthy looking hamburger. The drive up was pretty much uneventful, driving under gray skies in Ventura. By the time we got to Santa Barbara, the sun was out and cool temperatures were prevailing.

After taking the group on a side trip, off the free-

way with a u-turn, we reached our destination, The Be-Bops 50’s Restaurant. The Ventura Hot Rod Club beat us up there and had the front parking lot pretty much occupied, although Dwight and Brian and myself found a spot in the front lot. We decided to eat first. So, in we went and ordered all kinds of sandwiches and accoutrements. After 45 minutes or so, we left for the boardwalk on the beach. We took in the cultural sights of crafts, slightly clad men and women, and cars on the streets.

We left for home after a few hours of browsing. Some of the group had already departed as they had other places to go and stuff to do. The remaining group, made up of the Zelmans, the Lagrastas, the Arnolds, and the Sotos and friends cruised down to Santa Paula to the Red Barn fruit stand, for what else, goodies to munch on. The next stop was to be for ice cream in Fillmore, but the ice cream parlor was no longer in business. We had to skirt around the back of Fillmore to avoid a traffic accident on Hwy 126 about 2 miles out of town. Of course, our next and final stop was at Dairy Queen in Saugus, in

(Continued on page 3)

Sunday Cruise to Santa Barbara (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)

I'm looking forward to the 4th of July show.

the OSH shopping center, for ice cream and other goodies.

Your Cruze Dude, *Dave*

I want to thank every-one who showed up and

Photos by Dwight Emerson



Dick says, "what do you mean this burger looks unhealthy?"



Brian & Jay say, "That was good eating!"



Johnny & Reesa with the rest of the SCVCCC crowd behind them



Dave & Veronica with Phil & Janet enjoy their Be-Bop burgers



Janet Arnold & Jodi Emerson say, "what's for dessert?"



Rich, Dick, Cheryl & Darrell are all smiles 'cause their stomachs are full



Ventura Hot Rod Club's cars outside Be-Bops



Dwight & Jodi's Mach 1 parked on one side of Be-Bops' parking lot with the other Fords



SCVCCC's Pride & Joys parked outside Be-Bops

Car of the Month - Triche's '66 Dodge Charger



By Jay Triche

In March of 1973, I bought my first '66 Charger from my Step-dad. Throughout 1975 and 1976 I was buying parts for the Charger at an all Mopar junkyard in Sunland called Last Stop. One day in 1976 (while at the junkyard) I was "shootin' the breeze" with one of the guys there, talking about changing my 318 automatic Charger into a 383 4-speed. The guy told me a fellow that use to work there had such a car and might be interested in selling it. He said the guy (Terry Williams) now lived in Northern California, but was coming home for Thanksgiving. I was able to hook-up with him and decided to buy the car, although he was not ready to part with the car at that time. He brought it back a few weeks later and it became mine in December 1976 for an even one thousand dollars. In 1966, Dodge built 37,000 Chargers, of those, 2800 were 383 c.i. with a 4 speed transmission. I've always felt lucky to get this car.

The car was in pretty good shape. In 1978, in preparation for taking the car cross-country (to visit friends & family on the east coast), I fixed up the engine and transmission and put a cheap paint job on the car. In order to have enough money for the car and the trip, I had to move back with my parents. During that time, my mom had been having a very attractive young friend over (from work) to visit on the weekends. Hearing of my pending cross-country trip, she volunteered to go along and help with the driving. She had never seen much of the country east of the Rockies. A few days into the trip, Carol and I became more than just friends. That was August of 1978. As far as "helping with the driving," as soon as she took over (as in, immediately), the speedometer drive gear broke. That was the end of her helping with the driving (a ¼ mile). She was just too nervous driving "my baby".

In 1979, with the gas shortage, my commute had me filling up at the gas station every other day, since I couldn't make it 4 days on a tank of gas (remember the odd-n-even filling days during the shortage?). In May of 1979, Carol and I each bought Ford Fiestas. Mine was silver and hers was orange (yes, the one we still have). I sold mine in '81 to pay for our honeymoon in Hawaii and went back to driving the Charger. The commute at that time was much less and the gas shortage was over. The car was again my "daily driver" up until 1985.

(Continued on page 5)

Car of the Month - Triche's '66 Dodge Charger (Cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

The car sat garaged 'til we moved here in '88. After sitting for 3 years, almost never driven, it didn't want to run very well. After cleaning up the gas tank and brakes, the car was on the road again in '89. It was some time in '89 that Harry Greer (one of the founding members of our club) noticed the Charger and left a note on the car. I joined the club shortly thereafter. Being around a bunch of nice cars inspired me to start fixing up the car. In 1992, I restored the interior and then in '94, I took the car completely apart and had the body done. The restoration of the body took about a year. I have been enjoying the car every since.

Jay & Carol Triche

Upcoming Events

- July 13th - Route 66 Classic Car Show - Music by The Legends - 5 pm to 9 pm
- August 3rd - 11th - Hot August Nights - Reno/Sparks Nevada, register now!
- August 17th - Route 66 Classic Car Show - Music by The Legends - 5 pm to 9 pm
- September 14th - Route 66 Classic Car Show - Music by The Legends - 5 pm to 9 pm

Board Member Contact List

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