

# 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....

I would like to welcome you all personally to that part of the year that we call "Spring." Now, under normal conditions (for people that have no real interest on old cars), is the time to clean up the mess that winter brought [what winter?] and get your life ready for "Spring Cleaning" around the house. Now, at my house the garage is connected to the house. So you would think that means clean the garage too. Ah, nope, just leave everything just where it's at, so I can find just what it is that I need, when I need it [yeah, right Dick]. Of course nothing gets moved unless I move it [wrong again]. Okay, then why is it when I go into my garage to get something that I know I left in just that certain spot, that part or tool is no longer where I "think" I left it... "know" I left it? I can only think there are some very weird things going on in my garage when I am not home; things that happen that I cannot explain. "Stuff" is being moved around and "things" we placed somewhere I would never think to look to find them. But, no one in my family ever touches "my stuff" or uses "my things" to do ANYTHING! So, I guess that I am the only person that has this problem. I think not. According to my "unofficial survey" of neighbors, friends, and even SCVCCC members, all are experiencing the same sort of weird things going on in their garage. Thank God I am not alone!

While we are on the subject of Spring, I know that all of you are itching to maybe clean up the "bucket of bolts"; gas the "old jalopy"; change the oil; air up the tires in the "hot rod"; and maybe get out on the highway and enjoy those skyrocketing gas prices! Well, fellow car club members, you are not alone. I too am itching (scratching?) to do something with my "new toy." But alas, it is "still in the shop" [darn, darn, darn] until it comes home with a new lease on life and a new attitude. You see, I have been adding some "magic" into the 40 year old engine that had its soul removed some time ago by the second owner. He did it so the car could "quietly cruise" the highways and byways of Southern California by not making any of the "right kind of noises" that this engine was noted for. I am attempting to change all of this, by putting back the right camshaft; a little headwork; a change of ignition and timing curve. Then I'm making the transmission (a '62 vintage Borg Warner T-10 close ratio 4 speed) shift, as it should have over 40 years ago by installing the infamous "Hurst-Competition Plus" shifter. The shifter has that "big 'ole white ball" sitt'n on top of a long and hefty chromed steel stick that just begs to be "pulled and slammed" just as hard as you dare to go



*"Don't fall behind  
by not keeping up  
with the clubs  
happenings."*

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### 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 (continued)

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through all four of those close ratio synchronized gears; while using those hardened shift rods that are connected to the T-10. You know the ones. They are unbendable [so I have been told] rods of great strength and agility.

Alas [again], my ride is “stuck” in a shop, just waiting there until all of this “stuff” is ready for the road. I know that many of you have experienced this before, as I have. There is nothing that one can do but wait until the phone rings. The voice on the other end says, “Hey, buddy, your car is ready...so come on down and get this “relic” out of my garage. I need the room for some serious stuff that I can make some money on!” Oh well, I just have to be patient I guess. But, it is oh, so hard to wait sometimes. But, I have been told that the wait will be “well worth it!!!” Okay then, time to move on.

At the last club meeting, we have discussed the opening of the 2002 Route 66 Car Show coming on Saturday, April 13, at 2 pm in the afternoon. I would like to think that we are ready (weather permitting) for this, and that we have “all our ducks in a row.” Well, there maybe an escaped “duck” or two out there, but we’ll round them up before show day. We should also

be ready for an exciting Spring/Summer season for all car club members doing all sorts of things and going all sorts of places. Don't fall behind by not keeping up with the clubs happenings. Be sure that you visit the club's website every now and then and read the club's monthly newsletter. Although I know that many of you lead very busy lives and that time is precious, this club needs your support. So, when you have the time, please feel free to “jump right in” and lend a hand. All support of any kind is always appreciated and this show of support is what makes this club so unique among car clubs here in the Santa Clarita Valley. That is why we can do the things that we do. It's because of its wonderful membership and its ability to work together when needed. No matter if it is a monthly cruise; a car show cruise; a cruise night showing; a club picnic; or a annual club dinner, we somehow always manage to attain our goal. That goal is to stay the best car club in the Santa Clarita Valley. We seem to be “right on the beam,” year after year, thanks to a lot of hard work from this club's members. Keep up the good work, everyone and let's make 2002 the best year ever for the Contemporary Car Club.

Sincerely, Dick

## The Commemorative Air Force Museum Trip

By Les Williams, Tour Chairman



The weather was a little threatening and we hit a small amount of rain running through Fillmore on the way to Camarillo, but it did not dampen any of our spirits [bad pun]. But, the sun came out upon our arrival at the Camarillo Airport for our visit to the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Museum.

The CAF Museum occupies two hangers that they moved into about 6 months ago. We were greeted by a couple of volunteers who gave us a grand tour of the place. They had volunteers at the hangars working on the aircraft.

Their volunteers were very knowledgeable about their collection of WWII airplane and had a real love



This is the C-46 Transport, “Tinker Belle”

for their machines and parts. While some of their planes were out at an air show, they still had a couple of Navy training planes [Rich flew in one like they had on display, when he was in service]. They had a B25 Bomber, which they are restoring, along with a C-46

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## The Commemorative Air Force Museum Trip (continued)

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transport that is called, "Tinker Belle." Last, but not least, was a "brand new" 1954 Convair C-131D "Samaritan." Its interior is outfitted to represent the four uses of the plane, during its tenure with the Air Force: VIP staff transport; navigator/bombardier trainer; medical evacuation transport; and general cargo transport. We were there about 1-½ hours checking things out and also got to see one of the Navy training planes get towed out and then take off.

Because of some traffic and time limitations, we did not make it to Gallup & Stribling's home farm, which occupies 48 acres along the central California coast, just south of Santa Barbara. We will have to make it on another trip and spend the rest of the day in Santa Barbara (checking out the Mission, shopping, etc.

and eating of course).

Speaking of eating, we finished the day at Chef Franco Italian Restaurant, in Fillmore. This is located inside the William L. Morris Chevrolet showroom. At 5:00 p.m. they lower the lights, put on some music, and set up the tables with red-checked tablecloths. For those who did not make it, it's worth the drive to Fillmore for a great Italian meal. You are sitting in-between the autos and hearing from Chef Franco tell us about how fresh the food is [no frozen chickens for him or Foster Farm] and how he makes the salad dressing in house [it was delicious] and lasagna that was to die for. He was better than a floorshow. Everyone had a good time.

Hope you can make the April trip to Fort Tejon.

Happy Cruising, Les

## Car of The Month (Huffman's 1964 Oldsmobile)



By Clint Huffman

### "This was my Father's Oldsmobile"

Although the saying goes, "This is not your Father's Oldsmobile", that is not the case with this car.

My Dad was looking for a cool car in October 1963. He thought he wanted a GTO, but fell in love with the 1964 Cutlass after taking it for a test drive. He ordered the car on January 2, 1964. He requested the car to be equipped with a four-barrel carburetor, four speed and dual exhaust. At the time, this equipment package was called the police apprehender package. Dad picked up the car in April of '64, when I was four months old. Days after he received the car, Oldsmobile began to call this performance package the 442. So, in a sense, this is an early 442 without the badges.

My dream came true in 1982 when Dad gave the car to me. I drove it for a couple years and parked it,

with the hopes that my Father and I would someday restore it. However, my Dad was forced to sell it in 1996. We contacted the buyer in 1998, who informed us he had sold the car the previous year to a third person. We were able to locate the third owner, who was thrilled to show us the extensive work he had done on the car. Dad and I fell in love with the car all over again, but the car was not for sale.

In July of 2000, I was able to purchase the car back. After a few personal touches, the car looks like it did when Dad drove it in the sixties. That same month, my Father was diagnosed with cancer. We were fortunate enough to go cruising a few times in "Dad's Oldsmobile." It thrilled him to know that his car was "BK HOME" as the plates state. My Father lost his battle with cancer that October. Needless to say, the memories are something I will always treasure.

Proud Owners of a 1964 Oldsmobile Cutlass,  
Clint and Jeanine Huffman

## Board Member Contact List

| Name                  | Position                      | Home Phone     | E-Mail Address              |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Rich LaGrasta         | President                     | (661) 263-9848 | ibiltem@aol.com             |
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## Upcoming Events

- April 13th - Route 66 Classic Car Show - Music by The Legends - 2 pm to 6 pm
- April 21st - Monthly Club Cruise to Fort Tejon - Civil War Re-enactment
- May 11th - Route 66 Classic Car Show - Music by The Legends - 5 pm to 9 pm
- June 8th - Route 66 Classic Car Show - Music by The Legends - 5 pm to 9 pm
- July 4th - The Sespe Creek Car Show - Fillmore
- August 3rd - 11th - Hot August Nights - Reno/Sparks Nevada, register now!

## A Cross-Valley Connection

(Article excerpt from The Daily News, Sunday, April 7, 2002, Author - Heather MacDonald)

Local Santa Clarita civic leaders declared Golden Valley Road open to the public Saturday, April 6, and a dozen antique and vintage cars roared down the long-awaited thoroughfare in an inaugural trip. Golden Valley Road, from Sierra Highway to Redview Drive, cost almost \$30 million to build. It provides access to the soon-to-be-built Golden Valley High School and the new Centre Pointe Business Park, a site expected to bring more than 5,000 jobs to Canyon Country.

The Santa Clarita Valley Contemporary Car Club and the Santa Clarita Valley Antique Auto Club provided wheels and a back-to-the-future flavor for the celebration of the 2.5 mile, four-lane roadway completion. The Santa Clarita Valley Contemporary Car Club members who participated were: Dick LaGrasta in the Emerson's 1970 Ford-Mustang Mach 1, Dwight Emerson in his 1964 Plymouth Barracuda, Rikki Kirchner and Charles Griffin in her 1971 Chevy Chevelle Malibu, , Eddie Esaco in his 1968 Chevy Chevelle Super Sport, Mark Reece in his 1948 Ford Anglia, Dave Zelman in his 1956 Chevy, and Johnny Khanoo in his 1968 Ford Mustang Fastback.

## March Meeting Minutes

Coco's Restaurant  
March 27, 2002  
By Eileen Keating

The meeting was called to order and started with Old Business: (1) Jodi Emerson gave the financial report and stated we are in good financial shape with most of the yearly dues in already. (2) Les Williams gave the report of the monthly cruise. He reported we arrived at the Commemorative Air Force Museum a little later than scheduled, due to an accident on Hwy 101. There were planes, jeeps and memorabilia on display that were donated by the owners, so all the visitors could enjoy them. The museum was so interesting, we didn't get away in time to go see the flowers in Carpenteria. So, we went onto the William L. Morris Car dealership, where we sat among antique and modern cars, while we ate our delicious Chef Franco Italian dinners. (3) The Burger King car show in Palmdale, was enjoyed by all who went. The show's 50-50 was \$290, which was a nice prize to win. Charles Griffin won some Krispy Kreme donuts. (4) Vice President, Phil Arnold took over and passed out the club shirts and the sale and orders of new shirts. The new shirts have an American Flag on it, with the club logo and they look really nice. (5) Dick LaGrasta introduced Victor Bayless, who is owner of Sierra Auto Body & Paint and is considering joining our club.

New Business: (1) The Route 66 Car Show is going to be starting on April 13<sup>th</sup>. It was decided the show would go from 2 to 6pm. The Show's startup committee will be there earlier, as most show cars start arriving much earlier than 2pm. Starting in May, the shows will be starting at 5pm. (2) The Sespe Creek, 4th of July Car Show in Fillmore was then discussed and applications were passed around. (3) On April 7<sup>th</sup>, from 9 to 11am, club member, Mike Novins and his Cal West Radiators will be having an Open House. (4) A few more of the car show pamphlets were discussed and passed around for those who were interested. (4) Les Williams let us know that on the 21st of April, the monthly club cruise will be to Ft. Tejon, for the Civil War Re-enactment. The times and particulars will be sent out closer to the time of going, by e-mail

Cheryl LaGrasta won \$10.50 in the 50-50 pot for the evening. The meeting came to an end at 7:40 pm.



*Now on the Web @  
[www.ContemporaryCarClub.org](http://www.ContemporaryCarClub.org)*