

# The Santa Clarita Valley Contemporary Car Club Newsletter



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## Words from the President

By Dick LaGrasta, President

Hello fellow car club members....

I can hardly believe it is already almost May and the weather is finally turning from "dreary to oh so nice!" We are really lucky to be living in Southern California, because now is the time for "garage spring cleaning!" If you are like me (and keep everything you come across that even resembles a car part), you know that hidden in your garage are more than likely enough "parts" laying around to build another "whole car," and still have some parts left over! I found that the best way to really clean out the garage and get rid of unwanted parts, is to have my lovely wife (Cheryl) help me. This does seem "counterproductive" at first, with me saving everything and her throwing everything out. But alas! I was convinced that I did not need that "hot water return valve for a 1971 Monte Carlo 350 V-8." Mostly because I do not own that car anymore (and probably never will own one again...but you never know). Anyway, my point to the guys out there is, if you are really serious about making some room in your garage, just "invite the wife to help." Watch how fast she can make room, you never thought you had



*"The Route 66  
Restaurant Car  
Show/Cruise  
Night (Day) was a  
fantastic success!"*

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## NHRA Motorsports Museum Trip

By Les Williams, Cruise Director

The weather reports can fool ya. With Fritz reporting a possibility of thundershowers, we headed off to the Shrine for all Hot Rodders, the NHRA Motorsports Museum at Pomona. Fritz was wrong, it was a beautiful day. As is the custom of our club, the first stop was for food. We gassed up (that was Dickie) at a fun restaurant in Pasadena called Robins. Robins is known for great Bar-B-Q, (Santa



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Volume 1, Issue 4

April 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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available, for all of the important things in life...like boxes of your child's toys when they were "only three", about twenty years ago! The solutions here are: a) get a smaller car with smaller parts; b) don't save your kids 20 year old toys; c) get a bigger garage with at least 1000 square feet or more; d) win the Lotto and disregard the first three.

Now, with that out of the way, we can go onto something near and dear to the club. The first "Route 66 Restaurant Car Show/Cruise Night" (Day) was a fantastic success! We had over 120 registered car and motorcycles (and many more who came, paid the donation fee and did not register) on that Saturday afternoon in Canyon Country. I want to thank everyone



who took the time to show up and help the club, by doing various jobs that had to be done to make everything "run smooth." This is a "team effort" and I know that not everyone can make it all the time. I am very grateful to any club member who can take the time out of their schedule to help our club help various charities in The Santa Clarita Valley. The response that I receive from charities (such as the "Safe Rides Program") that call me and say how wonderful it is that we can not only have a car show, but still find the time to help a charity by donating money towards a very worthy cause. I once again want to say, "thank you SCVCCC members for your help and support." The next car show/cruise night will be on Saturday May 12th. from about 5pm. to 9pm. The club needs help "parking those classic beauties" from about 4pm to 7pm. That's when it really does "get just a little busy" in the lot. The registration desk could always use another useful pair of hands, helping to sell 50/50 tickets or making sure that everyone who registers a vehicle gets counted and set up for the "judging process." The judges can "do their thing" which, takes some time in itself with so many

cars present at the show. This is truly a coordinated effort by a really hard working group of people. But, it is all worthwhile when the night is over; the trophies have all been handed out; and the winner of the 50/50 heads for home thinking, "did I have a great time here or what!"

As you have more than likely heard by now, I have set up our club meetings for Wednesdays at 6pm. at the Greenhouse Cafe in Saugus. I am hoping that this will work out, although the room is smaller than what we were used to. We'll have to "make due" until something bigger comes along. One more thing, while I am thinking about it. I was hoping that we could get a great SCVCCC turn out on Sunday May 20th., for a club cruise/function to The Sixth Annual Pacific Palisades Auto Show! I have talked to a lot of people about this show and I have been assured that this show is the "Mother of all car shows." I have called the Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce and they told me that they would welcome our club and... "have heard great things about our club through various sponsors and the people that go to OUR SHOW in Santa Clarita." Wow, was I ever elated over that great news! The Chamber sent me twenty flyers and envelopes and I'm hoping to get as many of our club members as possible to come to their show. The weather should be really "cool" and they have enough room for as many as 500 cars. They often fill up all of the streets that are blocked off with that many vehicles! You have to come early though. So, if we are going to go as a "club", I have been promised that we can all park together if we all come together. So please, try to set some time aside for this "special event for our club." I know that we can really have a good time at this show, and there is lots to do when we get there. So "the ladies" should not get bored to tears with this show (hint, hint). In fact, I betting that ladies will enjoy this show as much as the guys will (oh God, please let this be so). In other words, I hope that we really get a great SCVCCC turn out for this show. I am planning on being there and I hope all of you will share in this festive show which, will be featuring MUSCLE CARS as the "Honored Vehicles of the show!"

I hope that this last bit of info excites you as much as it did me (!) and that this is a natural for our club and the type of vehicles that we all drive (Detroit Iron, Detroit Muscle and The Pride of The U.S.A.)!!! OK, I'll get off my soap box now and let you get on with the rest of this newsletter, which by the way I must say, has been nothing "short of incredible." We owe Mr. Rich Soto a debt of gratitude for doing such a fine job on this newsletter. Thanks Rich...from all of us, a job well done! So long for now, take care and enjoy this great Spring time.

Sincerely, Dick

## Car of the Month (Novins' '55 Chevy Bel Air)

By Mike (Knuckles) Novins

The bug for a classic car started with a 71 Chevy Camaro, which I inherited from my father-in-law. The car was stored in his garage for at least 10 years. I didn't think this Chevy Camaro was going to start because it was not driven for quite sometime and was not even registered. Anyway, the car started much to my surprise and I drove it home. As I was restoring the Camaro I was looking for a 55 Chevy Bel Air. I sold that Camaro to purchase my 55 Chevy Bel-Air.

How I came to buy my 55 Chevy Bel Air was a club member in the Ventura Chevy Car Club told me about a guy that was looking to sell his mother's and father's car. They were the original owners who actually lived in Pasadena.



So, you can say that a little old lady from Pasadena drove this Chevy for many years. I purchased this Chevy in Thousand Oaks from the son. He was in his 70's and wasn't going to restore it, but, wanted to sell it to the right person who would not turn the car into a Hot Rod. I promised him that I would not, but of course that changed after the first year I had the car. The original paint on this car was Indiana ivory and turquoise. The parents painted the whole car white and they thought the original two-tone paint resembled a taxicab. The car had the original interior and it wasn't the greatest, but it was livable. The car was inspected by two of my friends who were in the body shop business and they said this car is a rare find to have a straight body and no bondo. They told me to jump on this deal because it was a great car and had good potential. I bought the car within hours after seeing it. I had the car flat-bedded to my house, because it was not running quite

right.

The first thing I did to this car was put in a new radiator and cleaned out the gas tank. I drove it for about a year in the original state and I even won my first trophy the first year that I owned it. I was so excited! I was on a cruise with my daughter, on Father's day, two years ago going to a car show when the engine threw a rod. At that point, I

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## Upcoming Events

- May 12th - Route 66 Classic Car Show - 5 am to 9 pm
- May 19th - The Valencia Town Center Car Show - 11 am to 4 pm
- May 20th - The Pacific Palisades Car Show - 10 am to 3:30 pm
- June 23rd - The Annual SCVCCC Picnic-10 am to ? pm
- July 4th - The Sespe Creek Car Show & Regional Chile Cook-off

## Board Member Contact List

Name	Position	Home Phone	E-Mail Address
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## NHRA Motorsports Museum Trip

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Maria Style Tri-Tip and Ribs) great sandwiches, burgers and beer batter onion rings that were to die for. Their "Garbage Burger" was called "THE MOTHER OF ALL BURGERS." I had a Chicken Sandwich that was described as "Large Breasts with Great Looking Buns. And it was. The meal was topped off with a 12" high slice of chocolate cake to celebrate Dwight Emerson's birthday. Happy birthday Dwight (Watch out for the AARP literature).

The Hot Rod Museum was a stroll down memory lane, especially for Phil Arnold and Dick LaGrasta. It took them twice as long to go through it as each car or exhibit would remind them of Lions Dragstrip or San Fernando Speedway and what they were doing back when. There were 409 Chevys, The Melrose Missile (a beautiful 63 Plymouth Belvedere Hemi), Flathead Fords, dragsters and Salt Flat roadsters. There was a room that featured TV Tommy Ivo's Hot Rod (They were showing a video of the movie that he starred in) plus two of his race cars (One was a two Buick engined dragster and the other was a four Buick engined racer. The front two engines put the power to the front wheels and were mounted backwards and the rear two ran the rear wheels). Who said Buicks are just for old guys?

It may sound like a broken record but, the day was a great trip, as we had GOOD FOOD, GREAT FRIENDS, and WONDERFUL WEATHER.

If anyone has suggestions to where we should go on our monthly cruise, let me know. We have been talking about trips to:

1. The Getty Museum
2. Long Beach (Take a tour of the Queen Mary and the Russian submarine tied up next to it. There is also a new aquarium and places to EAT close by)
3. The Hollywood Observatory and Travel Town in Griffith Park.
4. Tour NBC Studios in beautiful downtown Burbank.
5. Gene Autry Museum
6. Solvang

A Fun Day for All, Les

## Car of the Month (Novins' '55 Chevy Bel Air)

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had to now restore my '55 Chevy. I started with, of course, the engine. I brought a new 350 H.O. crate Chevy engine from the GM Dealership and had a friend who worked for GM install the engine for me. I had the car painted back to the original colors at Valencia Body Shop in Santa Clarita and they did an excellent job. The transmission in this car is a turbo 350 that I am going to change soon. I installed a Custom Autosound radio and CD changer. The next thing I did was the interior. I could not go back to the original, because the material was too expensive, so we settled on a beige interior. I also bought new tires and American Racing wheels. I installed an air conditioning unit and after long HOT days sitting at car shows, I just flick the switch and be cool. I am now in the process of installing a lot of new chrome parts under the hood. There are many more things I could mention about "my baby," but I'll end it here.

All the parts were installed at Cal West Auto Air & Radiators and can be purchased at my shop.

Proud owners of a '55 Chevy Bel Air 2-Door Post Sedan, Mike & Sharon Novins



**Tommy Ivo's Four-engine Showboat**

## April Meeting Minutes

by Eileen Keating

Please Note: Our Club Meetings are always the fourth Tuesday of every month, at 6:00 pm, and now at the Greenhouse Café in Saugus. If you plan on eating before the meeting begins, try arriving early and ordering your meal.

Greenhouse Cafe  
April 25 , 2001

Dick Lagrasta called the meeting to order at 6:30pm at the new, possibly temporary meeting place of the Greenhouse Cafe. It was mentioned, a letter from Mr. Carl Schmidt was sent to the Arnolds. The letter complimented our car club for the work at Route 66, saying what a great cruise/carshow. Phone calls were also received by Dick complementing our club on the Route 66 great cruise/car show in Canyon Country.

Old Business: 1) The financial report was given, mentioning what the car club's portion of the proceeds from the Route 66 Car Show. 2) Les Williams gave a report of the car club's cruise to the National Hot Rod Association Museum. Club members stopped at lunch in Pasadena at Robins. The food was outstanding and plenty. The museum had an Antique Car Show and also a Horse Show that day. Parking was nice and close. The museum is a good size museum, with lots to see. There was a large selection of really nice cars. The exhibits are changed often, similar to how they change them at the Peterson Museum. The Club members in attendance decided they would like to go to the museum again toward the end of the year. We probably will stop by Robins again as a "roar" of approval was heard when it was mentioned. 3) Dave Zelman gave a report of the Route 66 Car Show. The raffles took too long, was one of the things discussed and will be changed at next months car show. It was also remarkable that a trophy that was won last year, but not picked up, was held by our club and awarded to the man when he showed up this year. They brought out the trophy making the award to him and many people remarked that it was almost unheard of for a group to hold a trophy for someone for over a year. Saferides will be the charity for the rest of the year. This is mainly because they work so hard during our previous car shows to help their club by selling raffle tickets and having bake sales. The raffle tickets from the show were discussed. Also the trophies were discussed and refining the voting of awarded trophies.

New Business: 1) Discussed a tentative list of future club events with the SCVCCC cruise to the Valencia Town Center on Saturday May 19th. Dave will call to give everyone the time and meeting place. May 20th is the Pacific Palisades Car Show featuring Hot Rods Muscle Cars. It was said to be the Premier Car Show place. The show goes from 10am to 3:30pm. So we will probably leave from Sears at 6am., then meet up with the Rod Fathers to caravan down with them. If you have any questions, call Dave Zelman or Dick LaGrasta for more information and for registration forms. The 4th of July Show in Fillmore is still up in the air as of this time. Dave will be contacted before then with information. The Edelbrock Museum is going to have to have a head count as to who is interested in going. Edelbrock is going to furnish the lunch and they need to know how many will be going. 2) Les will check out the possibilities of maybe going to Lake Arrowhead for the special show called the Wooden Boats and Car Show. More suggestions were given for future places to tour and see, such as maybe the Queen Mary; The Getty Museum; and places of interest. 3) The Car Club Picnic is scheduled for Saturday June 23rd. The time is scheduled for 10am. at Bouquet Canyon Park on Wellston. At the next meeting in May, the menu for the picnic will be discussed. 4) Veronica Zelman volunteered to check out different restaurants for different menus for the Christmas Party.

The Chrome Pot was won by Cheryl LaGrasta. Everyone will be notified where the club meeting will be held in May. The meeting was closed at 7:30pm.



*Santa Clarita Valley's Finest  
Car Club*

