

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 Hope all of you have been staying dry, [This IS winter. I have to keep reminding myself after just having a few weekends of summer-like weather] and hopefully the rain won't be with us too much longer. A few weeks ago some members of the SCVCCC decided to get in their cars and head out for a Sunday drive during a warm spell that graced us here in "sunny California." What made this trip so enjoyable was the fact that we all got a chance to get away from the daily routine that we are so accustomed to in our lives. Taking this "time away" and heading out on the highway on a warm Sunday afternoon, made me realize how much fun you can have with an "old car and some friends" and just a few dollars in your pocket. There really is something magical about "an old car." Name your year or model, it really does not matter. Whether it is an old muscle car, or an old pony car, or even an old "whoopee," the magic is you are driving a "piece of automotive history!" You are using up our depleting oil supply as it was intended to. You are feeding a high compression V-8 engine without any smog control devices affecting the gaseous outcome from the dual



"You are driving a piece of automotive history!"

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Ronald Reagan Library/Museum Trip

By Les Williams, Cruise Director

We could not have asked for a better day to take our cars and loved ones for a drive. The weather was Chamber of Commerce like, we had a good turn out (20 people), and the food was delicious and abundant. (Nobody went back for seconds).

After meeting at the Sear parking lot, our motley crew headed off to Simi Valley. We arrived at The Hat Restaurant just before the crowds hit and dined outdoors. Where else but Southern California would you hear people complaining about sitting in the hot sun. THIS WAS FEBRUARY. The sandwiches were piled high with pastrami



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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

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exhaust outlets. Ah yes, that is music to the ears!

I know by now you are more than likely saying to yourself, "where is Dick going with this story?" You would be right in asking, so I have what I feel is an interesting answer. Ready? Last week I had a chance to test drive some of GM's most advanced vehicles for evaluation. This was done by a selected group of engineers, stylists, designers, and automotive enthusiasts that were assembled here on the West coast. This was a "drive into the future" showing of prototype vehicles that GM will be actually putting into production in the not too distant future (about 2 to 4 years away) for all of America to see and purchase.



These vehicles were so "sanitary" that they were capable of fantastic cornering abilities while delivering a smooth ride. These vehicles have super braking abilities with a "hands off" approach that does not require you to grab the steering wheel to stop in a straight line during a "panic stop." Even on icy or slippery road conditions, the car steers automatically left or right to maintain an on road status at all times. Then if that were not enough, these vehicles can achieve gas mileage that would make a Chevy Metro proud to achieve (around 35 to 50 miles per gallon). They can do all of this and still be considered a "ULEV" (Ultra Low Emission Vehicle). This means they are "clean as an internal combustion engine can be"...almost zero emissions from the tail pipe. They run on natural gas, propane, butane, etc., and can still "burn rubber into the sunset" when pressed too!

All of this visual excitement was great fun, and I am truly impressed that our future here in the USA is in great shape. We have such a wonderful group of young people working to save our natural resources for all generations to come, all the while making our vehicles faster and better handling; faster stopping; and more crash worthy; and safer in an accident. BUT, the cars that I got to test drive were all missing something, and that something was "SOUL!" They just did not have the "personality" or the ability to ever be considered "a classic" in the not too distant future.

When I got home from my test drive, the first thing I did was to go into my garage, look at, no make that "stare at" my old 1964 Muscle car for a few moments. I then put the key into the ignition, pump the gas a few times, then "lit her off." I waited for that "smell" that tells you to pull it out of the garage before your eyes start to water (from the toxic fumes). After it warmed up a spell, I then slipped it into first gear [ah, the sounds of a Borg Warner T-10 close ratio trans] and got it on through the gears, letting the tires "bark in all four gears." The best thing of all is having people, of all ages, smile and give the "thumbs up...cool ride, man!" Yep sure is, and best of all...it's from "our generation." It's not a copy of anything...it was an original the likes of which we will never see made in the USA again. Of course that is understandable I guess. But, in the mean time, when I get a chance to "cruise with the club" or just drive my vintage car somewhere, anywhere, I am reliving my youth. I can do it with some of the best people that you can hope to find, anywhere. I guess that is why I really do enjoy being in the Contemporary Car Club. I find that I am surrounded by a wonderful group of friends that for the most part share my enthusiasm for "Detroit Iron" from our past, while enjoying the fellowship of some really great people!

I can't wait for spring to arrive. I am really looking forward to a great year of cruising, hosting car shows, going to car shows and most of all...finding a really great place to eat while doing all the above with the SCVCCC members. Looks like it is going to be an interesting year, oh yeah!

Sincerely, Dick

Car of the Month (Simond's 66 Galaxie 500 XL)

By Darren Simonds

Before I tell you a little about my car, I just want to tell you how much I enjoy knowing you all and being in the club. The club members are so down to earth and very friendly.

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Car of the Month (Simond's 66 Galaxie 500 XL)

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Anyway, now the story about my car. I have owned my car for 24 years. I bought it from an old boss of mine when I was 16. When I saw the car, I loved the looks of it and the body lines. Even though it was a very big car, I saw potential with it. I also thought it had a similar style to the 65 GTO, which I have always liked. A couple of years after I bought the car, the stock 390 engine and C-6 tranny were getting a little tired. A guy I knew had a built up 289 and C-4 tranny all detailed and sitting on an engine stand. He wanted my 390 for a truck he had and wanted to trade me with installation included. So being the smart teenager I was [yeah right], I said OK and got the new engine for my old one. It ran great, but I was a little disappointed because in my big car it did not have enough power. Back then, we would go out to the 1/4 mile straight away on Friday and Saturday nights and my Ford just wouldn't keep up. A few years later, I wanted to go back to a big block and did a little reading on engines. The 460 had alot more torque and for the big car that is what I wanted. I found one in a wrecking yard and they installed it and my car came back to life.



A long story short, it sat for several years, with me working on it with limited time and money. About three years ago, I decided to go ahead and spend the money and get it painted so I could start enjoying it. Shortly after, I pulled the engine and tranny, rebuilt them, and detailed my engine compartment. I love my car very much and it keeps me sane in this crazy world. I never dreamed I would get the response I have received from it. I wanted something a little different than you normally see. I hear a lot, that they don't see many of these anymore. I think my highlight was last April at Fabulous Fords Forever at Knott's Berry Farm, Jay Leno stopped and talked to me about my car and that was pretty neat. I look forward to more events with the club and meeting people thanks to my car.

Proud owner of a 66 Galaxie 500 XL, Darren

Upcoming Events

- March 17th - The Peterson Museum Cruise - Dining at Cantors Delicatessen. (Just like Momma used to make)
- April 14th - Route 66 Classic Car Show - 1 to 5 pm- Live rock & roll by the Legends
- April 21st - The San Sylmar Car Museum Cruise
- May 12th - Route 66 Classic Car Show
- May 19th - The Hot Rod Museum Cruise - Pomona

Board Member Contact List

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Ronald Reagan Library/Museum Trip

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and a bag of fries could feed 4 people.

We then headed up and moved out to the west and drove to the Ronald Reagan Library and Museum. The Library is a mission style building that you would never know was a 4-story building. It is located at the top of Presidential Drive and what a view! You can see all of Simi Valley, Moorpark and Thousand Oaks.

After paying for admission, we were met by one of the Library docents and we started off with a special 22-minute film on President Reagan. The tour lasted about 1-½ hours and our guide gave us a very interesting history lesson. The exhibits were fascinating and showed a grand collection of memorabilia from Reagan's childhood, through his acting days, and all the way through his political career.

At the end of the tour, we went outside and saw a section of the Berlin Wall, saw the crypt that will be the final resting-place for the Reagans and the great view.

We bid farewell to the Library, and headed up the road for (what else) a dessert break at Marie Callender's. Napoleon's troops weren't the only ones who travel by their stomachs. Pie was had by all.

GOOD FOOD, GREAT FRIENDS, WONDERFUL WEATHER. WE COULD NOT HAVE ASKED FOR MORE!

Les Williams



February's Meeting Minutes

by Eileen Keating

Please Note: Our Club Meetings are always the fourth Tuesday of every month, at 6:30 pm, at the Bouquet Café in Saugus. If you plan on eating before the meeting begins, try arriving and ordering your meal by 6:00 pm.

Cafe Bouquet
February 27, 2001

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m., after everyone had ordered and mostly eaten their dinners. Our president, Dick LaGrasta started the meeting with Old Business: 1) Dwight Emerson gave a financial report and stated the club has sufficient funds for running all the club functions. 2) The collection of the Club dues for 2001 is just about completed with a few outstanding renewals to go. 3) The Club Trip to the Reagan Library was reviewed by Les Williams. Les stated we had about 20 people make the trip. We made our necessary stop for food at The Hat, on Los Angeles Street in Simi Valley. We then went on to the Reagan Library and a very nice docent gave us a tour of the Library. Later, we went outside on the grounds to see the piece of the Berlin Wall. We concluded the trip with a stop at Marie Callender's for pie on the way home. He stated, It was a great time that was had by all present.

The New Business was then discussed: 1) Saturday, December 15 was confirmed for our Christmas party, which will be at the Racquet Club. 2) The following Saturday, December 22 will be the date for the Christmas light tour. 3) The Chevron gas station Grand Opening has been postponed. This puts our participation on hold, until things get a little closer to the new Grand Opening date. 4) April 14 will be the first Route 66 Car Show of the new year. The Route 66 show was reviewed by Dave Zelman. The show will start at 1 p.m. and conclude at 5 p.m. with 8 sponsors for 16 trophies. Anyone else who would like to be a sponsor of a trophy should contact Dave Zelman at 263-6219. The Legends will be the entertainment on April 14 and for some of the shows during the year. Entry is still \$5.00. 5) Rick

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February's Meeting Minutes

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& Darlene Whiteside were introduced as potential new members. They have a 1972 Chevelle, which they use as a daily driver.

A tentative list of event dates are: The Peterson Auto Museum on May 17. We will be leaving from Sears at 11:00 a. m. and stopping at Cantors Deli on the way. Also, there is a possibility of stopping for dessert at Farmers Market (this is still to be decided); The San Sylmar Car Museum on April 21; The Hot Rod Museum in Pomona on May 19; The Pacific Palisades Car Show on May 20; The Edelbrock Tour will possibly be on June 16. At Edelbrock, we will be getting a "goody bag" gift and they will be serving lunch.

Rich Soto asked the Club members to email him their car stories. This info will be posted on our Website. He stated that he hopes to have the Site up and running by early summer.

The winner of the chrome pot 50-50 (\$12.50) was Phil Arnold.



*Santa Clarita Valley's Finest
Car Club*

