

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, here it is January 2002 already [and you thought 2001 went real fast, just wait], and we have had our first club meeting already! I would like to express how pleased I was that we had such a good turnout at last Wednesday's gathering at Coco's Restaurant. We all seemed to be in pretty good spirits and it was good to see all of you since our last meeting at the club's annual Christmas dinner in December. Speaking of food....I want to thank some very special people who helped make this year's Christmas dinner a resounding success.

First of all, without the help of Ruby Boord and her "amazing array of professional and beautifully made serving trays and warming dishes," we might have been eating "cold cuts on paper napkins" instead of delicious and well prepared assorted foods served "hot & tasty!" Thank you, Dave and Veronica Zelman [now here's a great team]. Dave got the food ordered and delivered again on time and to the right place and helped with the setting up of various dishes. Veronica, Cheryl (my lovely wife) and last but not least, your "Prez" set up tables, chairs, and decorated the "club house." While we listened to the lovely Christmas tunes coming from Ruby's portable "boom box," we all worked feverishly to get the place ready "on time and ahead of schedule" for the club's yearly Yule Feast. I tell you, it was poetry in motion.

While I have been thanking various people for helping this club by "getting involved," I would like to thank Les Williams for his wonderful Christmas Tour of Lights. Once again, he has proven he is the "master of coordination" when it comes to getting a large group of people and their vehicles in and out of some small areas (aka: cul-de-sacs). We also, all enjoyed the "refreshments par excellence" after our Tour of Lights, at "Ristorante de Keating." Thanks to Rich, Eileen, and yes, "Papa Ernie" too, who set a beautiful table full of all sorts [what else?] neat nibblers and hot and cold liquid refreshments!

Who do I thank next? That's easy. Thanks to all of you wonderful people who participated in the festivities by bringing not only your wonderful "dishes of delight" to the Christmas table, but your warmth and fellowship that night. Playing that "game of chance and mystery", the gift exchange, brought smiles and cool calculations to a lot of club members, who "jumped right in with both feet." They played the game well and ended up with some really interesting gifts. I for one always get a kick out of watching people enjoy themselves at this time of the evening when it's "every man/woman for himself/herself," and "to the victor, go



"... hope that 2002 will be the best year ever for the Santa Clarita Contemporary Car Club."

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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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the spoils!"

Seriously folks, I really appreciate all club members who can find a little time in their very busy schedules to help this club maintain its integrity and at the same time enjoy themselves being a SCVCCC member. It just can't happen without your loyalty and support.

You have proven year after year that you give both willingly, and that is just a part of what makes this such a unique and fun club to be in. I thank each and every club member for your loyalty and your support and hope that 2002 will be the best year ever for the Santa Clarita Valley Contemporary Car Club.

Sincerely, Dick (aka: "Da-Prez")

Modern Day Bonnie and Clyde Video Shoot



Modern Day Bonnie and Clyde Co-Stars

Country Superstar, Travis Tritt shot his new video for "Modern Day Bonnie and Clyde" on the edge of the Mojave Desert in California, December 11th thru the 13th. "Modern Day Bonnie and Clyde" is the fourth single from Travis' Platinum selling album, Down The Road I Go. In an unprecedented occurrence, Academy Award winning actor Billy Bob Thornton starred in the video.

While Billy Bob has been asked on numerous occasions, he has never before starred in another artist's video. When Travis asked, however, he said yes right away. Seems Billy Bob is an admirer of Travis' music and reportedly loves the new song. He also felt he could wrap himself around the role of Travis' Clyde, a renegade outlaw on the lam after holding up a convenience store with his girlfriend.

SCV Contemporary Car Club member, Charles Griffin's blue 1967 Pontiac Firebird is featured in this video. It happens to be Billy Bob Thornton's getaway car used after holding up the convenience store somewhere in Tennessee with his girlfriend. Charles spent

the 11th, 12th and 13th in Lancaster with his car for the entire video shoot and got to meet both Travis and Billy Bob. Below are a few photos taken on location.



Charles Griffin with Billy Bob Thornton



Travis Tritt & Billy Bob Thornton with Charles' Firebird in front of The Four Aces Motel in Lancaster.

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Modern Day Bonnie and Clyde Video Shoot



The Firebird gets prep for a scene where police tow away the vehicle.



Charles' car affixed with Tennessee license plates.

Car of The Month (LaGrasta's 1962 409 Impala)



HOW I LOST A "GOAT" AND FOUND AN "IMPALA!"

By Dick LaGrasta

You know life is so very strange sometimes that I really wonder about the person who said, "life is merely a matter of timing" (author unknown). This cannot be truer than when I sold my GTO last December. I had no plans of selling "The Goat" [honestly, really!], but while at Bob's Big Boy in Toluca Lake on a Friday cruise night, I saw a familiar face just starring at my car and then crawling under it to check it out! I recognized the face as a TV actor/comedian named Ryan Styles, who plays on the Drew Carey show. Mr. Styles plays "Lewis" on Drew's show and also plays himself on another Drew Carey show named "Whose Line is it Anyway?" Well, Ryan asked me if this was my GTO and that if it was, he would buy it if he could fit in it! I have had a lot of

goofy "come-ons" with that car, but never had anyone tell me he would buy my car if he could fit in it. Mr. Styles is 6 feet, 4 inches tall [see what I mean], so we exchanged "chuckles" for a half hour and he left Bob's after we exchanged phone numbers. I thought I would never hear from him [you know those "Hollywood types"], but I was very wrong and he called me a week later and said "I have a personal check for \$25,000 with your name on it, all you have to do is deliver it to my door and pick up this check." Okay, I said, "Is he for real or just blowing smoke in my face." Nope, it was for real and I went down to his house with the GTO and pink slip in hand and picked up the check before either he or myself change our mind!

Needless to say, it all happened so fast that I wondered if I made the right choice. Too late Dick, it is

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Car of The Month (LaGrasta's 1962 409 Impala)

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done so "get over it!" I made a promise to myself that if I ever sold my GTO that I would only buy a car that I have never owned. As a kid in junior high school, what I thought was equal to, if not a bit better than the GTO, was a genuine "4 speed, dual quad, posi-traction 409." It had to be a 1962, because that is the car that "The Beach Boys" sang about and really "lit the fire" in my mind.

I looked for a car just like that for a few weeks and found some that were "way over my head, price wise" (\$30,000 plus!). I found one or two cars that were just plain "dog doo doo" and nowhere near in any condition to drive anywhere, except to "Memory Lane" for a useful parts car! I was getting a little "down" when I remembered a doctor friend of mine, who I've not seen for many years, that just happened to have a 1962 Chevy 409 Impala. I knew he owned it for many years, but would he part with it? I called him up and guess what? Yep, he still owned the car, but asked me if I knew anybody who might want it!!! He needed to make room for his new 2003 Thunderbird. Let me tell you. This Doctor has many toys to play with: a '64 GTO, '66 GTO, '57 T-Bird, '58 Corvette, '66 El Camino, '70 Chevelle SS 454, '54 Buick Skylark Convertible and many more "neat cars" [lucky guy I guess, huh?]. I have not seen this Impala since the summer of 1992, at Cruiser's Car Wash in Northridge. In fact, this car has been parked in his garage for almost 10 years (since '92). I was told that I could come over and help the good doctor get the 409 started and we could go out and "waste a little high test gas" for a while. He didn't have to ask me twice. I said, "Lets do it!"

I was really infatuated with this car, because it was pretty honest. It was built at the Van Nuys Plant in the summer of '62 [my Dad worked on this car, he was a plant supervisor back then] and it was sent to Nugent Chevrolet, on La Brea, in Los Angeles. The

first owner only drove it mostly in Southern California. He drove it mainly around Hermosa and Redondo Beach and up the coast. From what I have been told, he raced it only once or twice at a local drag strip [yeah, right], which might have been "Lion's Drag Strip" in Long Beach. I'm not too sure, but then again, who knows? Needless to say, I had to have this car that day!

This 409 was not loaded with options. In fact, it only has the 409 Horsepower dual quad engine; 4 speed Borg Warner T10 close ratio trans; and it "used to have 4.11 gears with posi," but over the years the rear-end was changed to a 3.55 with an "open axle." This is so the car could be driven on the freeway at some sort of reasonable rpm's showing on the factory tach.

This Survivor example of a true 409 is not perfect, not even close, but shows a lot of promise. Of course, I plan to "fix the old girl up" and have some fun with her! I will be taking it to school where, in my auto restoration class, I plan on taking it down to bare metal and repainting the car the same "Honduras Maroon Red." I will also do some "retro work" under the hood. It will be a "labor of love" [and money, don't forget money], again. I hope to have the 409 "up to spec's" by summer and hopefully it will be ready to go for the "big cruise" [by trailer...not enough gas stations on the way] to Reno's Hot August Nights!

I am learning all about this "blast from the past." It is a very different car from my GTO and I have to admit I'm a little bit in awe of it. I have a lot of reading to catch up on and have been out of the "Chevy scene" for many years. It is all coming back to me now, so bear with me, while I "switch hats" and dive into this "Icon"...the Grand-Daddy of all Muscle Cars; a 1962 Chevrolet 409 cid/409 horsepower Impala; and see "The USA in my Chevrolet!"

Sincerely, "The Dickster" (aka: Mr. 409)

Upcoming Events

- February 7th - 10th - The 42th Annual NHRA Winternationals at Pomona - This the season opener
- February 23rd - J. Paul Getty Museum Trip, leave at 10:30 am, lunch after at Dr. Hoggly Woggly's Tyler Texas Barbeque.
- March 15th - 17th - Super Chevy Weekend at Pomona, for more info go to www.superchevyshow.com
- April 7th - Open House at Cal West Radiators Auto Air & Radiators, 10% discounts during the day
- August 3rd - 11th - Hot August Nights - Reno/Sparks Nevada, register now!

Board Member Contact List

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Les Williams	Tour Chairman	(661) 297-2293	LBW717@aol.com
Dave Zelman	Events Co-Chairperson	(661) 263-6219	TriFiveLvr@msn.com
Rikki Kirchner	Events Co-Chairperson	(661) 287-9964	chevlgal@aol.com
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Eileen Keating	Secretary	(661) 296-7424	keating@earthlink.net

January's Meeting Minutes

Coco's Restaurant
January 23, 2002
By Eileen Keating

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm. The meeting was started with Old Business: (1) Dwight Emerson gave the club's financial report. He stated the balance was the same as the end of last year and that he is working on collecting the renewal of club dues. (2) Next on the agenda was the subject of club shirts. Anyone who needs new t-shirts and sweatshirts for the coming year was asked to submit their order to Phil Arnold. Rikki asked if we would look into getting tank top shirts if they are available. It was also suggested and agreed on that the printer add a small American flag with the club logo on the new shirts. (3) The Route 66 car show was discussed as to whether we will be doing the show during this New Year 2002. It was stated that more help from other club members is needed if we are going to continue to put on this car show. At this point, we will be planning for the car show during this year and will need to do some finalizing on the plans before we commit for the time between March thru October. By our February meeting, things should be finalized.

New Business: (1) It was agreed our monthly cruise would be February 23. We will be going to the J. Paul Getty Museum and eating afterwards at Dr. Hoggly Woggly's Tyler Texas Barbeque. We will meet at the K-Mart parking lot leaving at 10:30am. (2) The Hot August Nights Car show in Reno, Nevada. was discussed and is scheduled for first week in August. We are trying to get some of the car club members to go. So far there are at least 4 couples have signed up, with some leaving at different times. It was suggested that those interested to check the Hot August Night website at www.hotaugustnights.net.

Miscellaneous: (1) Winter Nationals are February 8th, and anyone interested in going should contact Dwight Emerson at 296-6541. (2) On February 9th, the Ventura County Chevys are having a run to Santa Barbara. If anyone is interested, please contact Mike Novins at Cal West Auto Air & Radiators at 254-8499. (3) On March 15th, 16th & 17th is the Super Chevy Show in Pomona. For information, go to their website at: www.superchevyshow.com. (4) March 22, 23, 24 is the Laughlin Run. (5) On Sunday, April 7th, Cal West Auto Air & Radiators is having an Open House with 10% discounts during the day. (6) Club member, Larry Boord won the first trophy of the year at Bob's Big Boy. The trophy was for "Show Stopper." (7) The Auto Spa Car Show is coming up February 2nd.

The Chrome Pot of \$11.50 was won by "the Queen," Janet Arnold.



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