

# 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, I can see by the thermometer on my patio that it is spring already (90 degrees!) and you know what that means, right? Yep, it's time to get ready for a year's worth of assorted car club functions, cruises, car shows, and just plain "doing stuff" with the car club. Now that I got your attention, I'd like to reflect just a little on what the club has already done this year. Yes, it has included some sort of "eating" at a restaurant after a cruise to someplace. That is what the club does, among our other fine attributes!

So far, we have managed to cruise to Vincenzo's Pizza Parlor in Agua Dulce; cruised to "The Hat," an old time restaurant in Simi Valley; cruised to one of the oldest Bob's Big Boy's located in Glendale (a cruise night there was an added attraction, really cool!). Let's not forget doing fun things around Santa Clarita Valley, like showing up at "In-N-Out" Burgers on Bouquet Canyon Road every Wednesday evening (weather permitting) for great hamburgers; and on the last Sunday of every month, meeting at "The Towne Grind" located in Newhall off of Apple Street for some more good old "bench racing" (you know, getting together with fellow car clubs and just enjoying each other's company). Besides, the coffee is great there and the management just loves our company, thank you!

As you can see, the club has been fairly busy, without taking up too much of your personal time and that seems to be working out just fine. The new calendar allows you to pick and choose where and when you want to cruise with the car club. Just check out your calendar for the next available date that you have open and join in the festivities. Special events, such as a club trip to the popular Edelbrock Manufacturing in Torrance will be put on the club's calendar via the club's minutes after the April monthly club meeting. So, be advised to check out your e-mail for times and places of up and coming special events!

Now let's see, oh yeah, our new meeting place seems to have met with just about everyone's approval. Our club attendance has risen dramatically since we have started using Margarita's Mexican Style Restaurant as a place to hold our monthly meetings. The food is decent and priced right. I know that it can sometimes take a while to get your order, but please do make an attempt to come a little earlier if possible on those evenings. Perhaps we can also speed things along by talking to the management and getting more help from the kitchen. But in the meantime, the chips and salsa dip seems to hold most of our hunger back until the main course shows up!



"...always *DRIVE WITH PRIDE.*"

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### Cruises :

- **Auto Spa**—  
First Saturday
- **Route 66**—  
Second Saturday
- **Burger King**—  
Fourth Saturday
- **In-N-Out Burgers** —  
Every Wednesday
- **The Coffee Grind** —  
Every 4th Sunday Morn-  
ing

### Inside this issue:

<i>Words From the President</i>	1
<i>The Old Horse Rides Again</i>	3
<i>My '73 Camaro Engine Installation</i>	4
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	6
<i>Board Contact List</i>	6
<i>March Meeting Minutes</i>	6

(Continued on page 2)

## Words from the President (Continued)

*(Continued from page 1)*

We will be planning on getting as many car club members together for a huge club photo shoot coming up in mid May. So, please keep an eye out for time and place to meet. This could really be a fun turnout if we all just plan ahead for this gathering. This way we can update the club's website with some of our newest members vehicles; and a re-do of some of us who have changed our present rides appearance in some way that might be more flattering to their owners. Things do change and we have to keep up. So, I think this just might prove to be a popular yearly event. We'll have to wait and see how many members want to have their rides updated on a yearly basis. I hope we all can take advantage of this when the time comes.

I would like to offer the car club's condolences to our club cruise director, Miss Rikki Kirchner. Her father, Ron Kirchner passed away last month. Not too many got a chance to get to know Ron very well because he had been fighting a heroic battle with cancer. But, Ron was a true "car guy" and put together a beautiful 1970 Chevelle Malibu Sport Coupe that really draws the crowds on show day. He was an honorary member of our club and in his passing, has willed his Chevelle to his daughter, Rikki. That car will certainly be in the very best of hands from now on, because as everyone knows, Rikki is "The Chevelle Gal." She also is the proud owner of her own 1971 Chevelle Malibu. So, what an honor it must be to have two really beautiful Chevy Chevelles to keep for a lifetime. Thank you, Ron, and may you rest in peace my friend.

There are some other things to make note of. We have changed the dates of our club's picnic. It was to on June 19th, but that has moved to June 26th. We will be attending a local car show here in the SCV on the June 19th at La Mesa Junior High. The CHP and a church is sponsoring the show and it is expected to bring in quite a crowd. Our club was asked to participate in this social function and so far, it looks to be a lot of fun. Keep a check on your e-mail in a few months for more details. Make sure that you leave June 26th open on your calendar. The car club picnic will again be hosted by our "now walking tall once again Vice President," and the Queen, Phil and Janet Arnold at their beautiful home in Acton. Last year's picnic was a real success, not just in numbers attended, but because of the great time that we all enjoyed just being together. Oh yes, the food there was beyond description! We all ate until all we could do was just stare at the food and point! It might have been way too much food, but "my-oh-my," it was nothing short of a fantastic layout. You just had to be

there to appreciate this club picnic...and we are going to do it again!

Before I sign off, I would like to let you know that The Route 66/Safe Rides Car Show will again be starting up on the second Saturday in May (the 8th.) in Canyon Country. If anyone would like to participate in the judging (yes, you can bring your "Toy" and register it too!), all you have to do is show up with a sense of fairness and a knowledge of "what's right in that class." Come join the list of judges from our club (and some from the Safe Rides Kids deciding their trophy choice) who have, in the past, enjoyed picking trophy winners from month to month throughout the car show's six-month schedule. We'll be seeing some of you there I know, So, please get ready for a busy and exciting car show year in SCV!

In closing, I would like to thank all of you fine people that have "stayed the course" with club. I know that it is not always an easy task being in a club like this. It seems that we always have "other things" that we can be doing instead of getting in our cars and driving somewhere...just to eat and then drive home again (over simplified a bit, I know). But, with the rising cost of our "finite fuels" (read: GAS) and more than likely a "high test" octane is needed by most of us, it is hard to put aside some cash for our little jaunts about Southern California. But, we have to preserve what I feel is part of our heritage by driving our beautiful and classic vehicles that we all share a whole bunch of pride in. It is something that makes us (our generation) unique to all other countries on the face of the globe! I hope that many of you will be able to join in this year's club's functions and take advantage of what is so uniquely American. That is the ability to jump in our "pride and joys" and head out on the highway, enjoying our well-deserved freedoms here in the good old U.S.A.! Stay well everyone and enjoy your summer. Oh and one more thing...always "DRIVE WITH PRIDE."

*Sincerely always, Dick*

## The Old Horse Rides Again.....



By Rick Rose

For many years one of my oldest buddies and I would read the Recycler, (Gearhead's Bible) in search of the "great deal". We did all of this while on the telephone, yes, every Thursday was "Bible" class for Mark and Me. You see, Mark owned three, yes three, 1966 Shelby GT350's! I knew that someday I would find one that I could afford.....That day never came and Mark and I never have "Bible" class anymore as he had passed away at the very young age of 38. His three Shelby's were quickly stolen, er, purchased by one of his "friends" for \$8000.00 he gave to Marks widow.....that was 16 years ago.

Many years later (10 to be exact) and many Recycler pages read, my Wife and I were riding around looking for that next car project when I happened to have the "Bible" with me. I remembered seeing an ad for a 1966 Mustang Fastback for sale with the good old Shelby modifications. The "Bible" was a few weeks old so I figured it was long gone like most of the good deals but I took a chance and called anyway. Unbelievably, it was still available. We raced over to Burbank and checked it out. The guy had owned the car since it was built in 1965. It was red on red, and rough, VERY ROUGH...But I have this gift, you see, I have "vision". A little sweet-talking to the owner and a quick run to the bank and in a few hours I was driving home the "Beast".

I named it the "Beast" because it looked terrible, had no interior, bald race tires, a Butler Built double

wrap race seat, roll bar, and OPEN exhaust. Yeah...I was in Gearhead Heaven!

The car still sported all of the original sheet metal Ol'Henry's boys made for it....a few dents big and small, but it was all original, oh I almost forgot, lots and lots of Black Widows.

Fast forward a few years, many thousands of dollars, many more thousands of dollars, many trips to the parts house and wrecking yards and it was transformed into my 1966 Shelby GT350 imposter...still can't afford the real thing and they keep going up.

The "Beast" sports a mild 289 with 351 heads. A Norris camshaft and a few other mods had to be slipped in as well. The Top loader trans worked fine and the 8" limited slip brought up the rear. The 8" inch found its way into another one of my projects (65 Falcon) and I replaced it with a 9" Detroit Locker. I have not finished the car on purpose. All of my finished cars end up being sold. I want to keep this one, in fact, I (we) have owned this car for 10 years. I have a hard time keeping cars longer than 10 months. It's a disease and my wife understands, I think.

I hardly ever drive the car but when I do, I always think about my friend Mark and wish he was around to see what my "vision" produced from the old "Bible", that and about 10 years work and many more thousands of dollars that I would like to remember. Yes, like I said in the beginning...The old Horse rides again and there is no cure for the disease us "Gearheads" have. Maybe someday they will find the cure but for the time being I am spreading it to my two boys.

## My '73 Camaro Engine Installation

By Rich Soto

March 14 was going to be a big day for me, because it was the day I was finally going to install the engine in my '73 Camaro. This is a project I started back in June of 1999 and now that big day had arrived. My intentions were that I was not going to impose on any car member and with a couple neighbors I was going to attempt to install this engine by myself. After all, I had done everything else myself up to that point. For almost 4 years, I had parts everywhere scattered in the garage. Even though I was somewhat organized, I would always end up searching for a lost part, a misplaced bolt or wrench and every task seem to take more time than it should have. Being over 50, didn't help matters either because sometimes I can't remember what I ate for breakfast, let alone remember where I left that wrench.

By chance and by godsend, Jay Triche happens to stop by to see how I was doing with my restoration and finds out I'm going to attempt to install the engine. So, he stays to help and I think he leaves 4 or 5 hours later after being so very instrumental in helping me and my neighbors install the engine. Dick Lagrasta also comes by and to his surprise also finds out what I'm doing. After we were finished for the day, I had to say to myself, "I should have invited the group of guys (Dick, Jay, Darrell and Dwight) who are always willing

to lend a hand to a club member in need of a helping." After all, I helped with these guys in the past, so I should not have felt like I was imposing by asking them to come by. But, I felt so disorganized that I felt I would take too much of their time and I just wanted work at my own pace. But, I learned a valuable lesson here. Get a group of smart experienced club Gearheads and everything gets done quicker. This is what belonging to a car club is all about!

So, on April 4, I invited Dick, Jay, Darrell and Dwight to be present when I was going to start the car for the first time. Jay couldn't make it that day, but help a couple hours on the Friday before with an ignition problem I was experiencing. He solved my problem after we had our heads under the dash and our noses in the car's wiring diagrams. Also, I asked Rick Rose lots of questions prior to the install and he always gave me the right advice, which I put to good use and was always successful. Rick came over when I was having problems with the inner mechanism of my steering column and he fixed that problem for me. I just want to say to all of you who have been so helpful and instrumental in getting my baby back on the road, "Thanks again, Dick, Jay, Dwight, Darrell, Rick, and Mike and Alan (my neighbors). I especially want to thank Jane for being so tolerant with a garage full of car parts and sometimes grease stains on the carpet.



Here Jay shows us the correct way to attach the engine stabilizer to the engine. This will make the installation easier, since I'm installing the engine with the tranny attached



Jay, myself, Alan and Mike ease the engine in place. This operation took some time since the radiator support was in place.

## My '73 Camaro Engine Installation (Continued)



Here is a picture of the engine installed with all work complete and it sitting pretty.



The work crew on March 14. Clockwise are Dick, Alan, Jay, Mike and myself



Darrell and Dick adjust the carburetor's idle speed and fuel mixture. The engine almost immediately started up on first try. A make-shift exhaust system with mufflers attached keeps the noise level down.



Dick fills the transmission with vital fluids, as Dwight and Darrell look on.

## Upcoming Events

- **April 25th** - Coastal Valley CHVA - 15th Annual Spring Car Show for Guide Dogs of America - @ Gene Autry Museum of Western Heritage - 4700 Western Heritage Way, Los Angeles (across from the LA Zoo in the grass) - 10:00 am to 2 pm - no pre-registration - \$10.00 @ the gate - registration from 8:00 -10:00 am - space is limited, so arrive early. Full lunch available thru the Autry Museum
- **April 27th** - SCVCCC Monthly Dinner Meeting @ Margaritas Restaurant - 6 pm dinner, 7 pm Meeting
- **May 8th** - Route 66 Classic Car Show - 5 pm to 9 pm.
- **May 25th** - SCVCCC Monthly Dinner Meeting @ Margaritas Restaurant - 6 pm dinner, 7 pm Meeting
- **June 6th** - Pacific Palisades Auto Show - 10 am to 3:30 - Pre-registration \$20.00 - check in 7 to 9 am
- **June 12th** - Route 66 Classic Car Show - 5 pm to 9 pm.
- **June 19th** - Car Show at La Mesa Jr. High - 6 pm to 9 pm.
- **June 26th** - The Annual SCVCCC Picnic & Meeting @ The Arnold's Home (Tentative)

## Board Member Contact List

Name	Position	Home Phone	E-Mail Address
Rich LaGrasta	President	(661) 263-9848	ibiltem@aol.com
Phil Arnold	Vice President / Sgt. at Arms	(661) 269-8115	pjsbaby57@aol.com
Rikki Kirchner	Tour Chairman	(661) 287-9964	MzChevelle@aol.com
Dwight / Jodi Emerson	Co-Treasurers	(661) 296-6541	dwightemerson@earthlink.net
Rich Soto	Newsletter Editor / Historian	(661) 263-9397	richsoto@comcast.net
Eileen Keating	Secretary	(661) 296-7424	keatingre@earthlink.net

## March Meeting Minutes

Margaritas Restaurant  
March 23, 2004  
By Eileen Keating

The evening started with lots of chips and salsa; then the drinks came; and last but not least the food. Dick Lagrasta, presented Rikki Kirchner with a mantle size plant with a beautiful cup and saucer in memory of her father Ron Kirchner who passed away last month.

Old Business: (1) We started the meeting with the financial report from the Emersons and as usual we are financially ok. (2) The next discussion was updating the club website and where the club member's car pictures will be taken. A place with scenery as a background and trying to find a place and time to get many shots of

each of the members' cars was discussed. These pictures will eventually be put on the website. Sometime in May was chosen, with the date to be announced at a later date. (3) The next discussion was possibly ordering new car club shirts and maybe choosing a new color instead of the previous white. Getting new club jackets was discussed too; where and how much; and updating them along with the shirts. (4) The Car club cruise to the Hat in Simi Valley turned out to be a great abundance of food and a good time had by all who attended. A cruise to Bob's Big Boy in Glendale was another fun time. Rikki Kirchner won a trophy with her father's Chevelle and Larry Board won a trophy for his Chevelle. At the Jewell City Car Show at Verdugo Park, Larry won another trophy and so did Rikki both with

*(Continued on page 7)*

## March Meeting Minutes (Continued)

*(Continued from page 6)*

their Chevelles. The Town Grind has a "get-together" the last Sunday of every month.

New Business: (1) Carl Schmidt, a CHP officer, is help planning the first annual car show to be held at La Mesa Jr. High. A name of the show has yet to be chosen. They are planning on having a band; In-N-Out burgers; prizes; trophies; and the date is June 19, from 6 to 9 pm. More details will come later. (2) Being our club picnic had been chosen for the June 19th, a poll of the members at the meeting agreed to move the Car Club picnic to June 26<sup>th</sup>, so we can attend this show. The Club picnic is to be

held at Phil & Janet Arnolds. (3) Some flyers were handed out for upcoming car shows. The first Route 66 Car Show will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in May and Auto Spa will be starting their 1<sup>st</sup> car show of the year Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. (4) Be sure to check out the monthly calendar to keep up to date with all that is going on. Your calendar can be found on the car club website. (5) A trip to Tom Sparks' Museum to see his car collection was discussed with a date to be chosen at a later date. Tom Sparks worked for the studios and has a great collection of cars. We have a prospective new member, named Alen Raymond and he has a '72 Camaro. The meeting came to a close with the announcement that Todd Carb won \$10.50 in the 50-50-pot drawing tonight.

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ContemporaryCarClub.org

