

The Santa Clarita Valley Contemporary Car Club Newsletter



Rich Soto
Newsletter Editor
Contact at:
(661) 263-9397
richsoto@mediaone.net

Words from the President

By Dick LaGrasta, President

Hello there fellow car club members....

So here it is, December already. Christmas is almost upon us and I still have yet to do any Christmas shopping. My oh my, where has this year gone to? It seems that each year, the summer has been getting shorter and shorter. This of course is because I do love my summer time. Boy do I love the summer! I do respect all four seasons though, but in the summer I just seem to thrive on how much I can get done around the house, mostly because it does not get dark till way past 8 o'clock. Now with it getting dark (and cold) by 4 o'clock, I find I spend more time in the house and less time either working outside the house or worse yet, spend less time "tinkering with the GTO!"

This last statement about the car is what really gets to me. I feel like I am being cheated or something, because when it rains or when the weather turns to "garbage," I long for a balmy day or evening when I can just get away for a few hours. Perhaps I could go to Bob's Big Boy in Toluca Lake on a Friday evening cruise night; or get the car club together for a Saturday evening drive out to Burger King in Palmdale; or maybe attend one of the several Pontiac car shows that are available to "Poncho" lovers throughout Southern California. Ah yes, summer time in good old Southern California is really a blessing for all of us. But, we are going to have to be patient and just make the best of Autumn, Winter and Spring before we can enjoy those balmy evenings once again.

So now that I am "stuck in the house," I might as well make the best of it and share some of my "observations" with you fine folks. Sit back for a spell, relax and read on while I share some thoughts here. In the month of November, the car club's few "crazy but happy" group of men decided to wander out to LACR (Los Angeles County Raceway) to do some serious "goofing off" at the track with "The Toys" we brought with us. I won't mention any names because that would just have the sane people in the club pointing fingers at us wondering "what in the heck are those boys thinking!" The day started off really weird because the weather report said we were suppose to have fair skies, but nope, no way did we. In fact, it rained while we were at Denny's eating breakfast [you know we have to eat before we attempt any kind of club function] and that sort of put a "dampener" on that day. Wet day, wet cars, wet track, might as well head back home.

But wait, the weather at the track was "DRY," and the race was on to get there before the next "storm cell" hit later in the afternoon. Long story short, we



"So far, I see a real bright future for this club and its Members."

Volume 1, Issue 11

November 2001

Cruise Nights:

- **Auto Spa**—
First Saturday
- **Route 66**—
Second Saturday
- **Burger King**—
Fourth Saturday
- **Fuddruckers**—
Every Saturday

Inside this issue:

<i>Words From the President</i>	1
<i>Board Member Contact List</i>	2
<i>Car of The Month</i>	3
<i>Automotive Road of Dreams Museum Tour</i>	4
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	4
<i>November Meeting Minutes</i>	4

(Continued on page 2)

Words from the President

(Continued from page 1)

had a really great time at the track because of a few important reasons. We had the ability to enjoy the time together, the ability to share moments, and the ability to help each other out in some small way. One of the guys came really prepared by bringing his "work truck" (a high cube van) filled with all sorts of "neat stuff," from tools to a small Hibachi Bar-B-Q. We barbecued our lunch [right after breakfast? Oh well!], which consisted of hot dogs and trimmings that go along with this "meal fit for a bag lady." These guys brought along an "EZ-up" cover to protect us from the sprinkles while we ate and "bench raced" until the track dried and allowed us to make another run down the track. As we sat by the club member's truck, under the awning and out of the light rain, I was really pleased we had a chance to all sit a spell and just get to know one another. You see, some of the members that went that day were new and I was hoping they would not think that we "seasoned members" were truly out of our minds. I didn't want them to think we were crazy doing this kind of thing on a Sunday morning, with wet weather looming; cool winds blowing; a whole lot of noise all around us; and worst of all, we only had hot dogs (etc.) for lunch to eat! Not to worry.

I really enjoyed myself. Although your "Prez" has a thing or two to learn about driving his car on the drag strip [been a long time since I drove a 4-speed car on track], watching the lights [I waited for the green before I left the line...dumb, bumb, dumb], I could not get myself to wind out the "38 year old, 180,000 plus mile driven, 389 original engine" past 4500 rpm. I still had a great time [along with a lot of regrets] and maybe someday I'll return to the track with a fresh engine and a whole bunch of courage to "do the right thing. I'll just put the pedal to the metal and just let it happen" for 1320 feet of race track, a quarter mile at a

time! I hope sometime in the not to distant future to get more of us out to the track for a fun day. It really is a "hoot" and the time spent together is truly priceless.

So, what is my point? I know that you are all wondering to yourselves just where "Da-Prez" is going with this, and I have an answer for you. Being the President of a club is not an easy task. You have the responsibility to all of your club members to "lead the way," and sometimes be "the adhesive that holds the group together" in rough times. What makes my job just a little bit more rewarding is the wonderful people I have on the Board to help me when I need a little guidance. I need them when I stray off the beaten path or whenever I get stuck trying to come up with new ideas for the club. Sometimes we take these people for granted, and assume that they will always be there for us. So far, we have been very fortunate with this great group of people. I do know I can always count on them to "do the right thing" and have the club's best interest always in mind. Sometimes we may not always agree on what is the right path to solving a problem, but we do have the ability to think, and determine what is best for the club. This same principle can also be applied to all of the club members who take the time to attend club meetings and club functions. The more involvement we have, the better this club will become. So far, I see a real bright future for this club and its members. I hope that you share in this vision and enjoy being a member as much as I do.

Sincerely, Dick.



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
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
Dwight / Jodi Emerson	Co-Treasurers	(661) 296-6541	dwightemerson@earthlink.net
Rich Soto	Newsletter Editor / Historian	(661) 263-9397	richsoto@mediaone.net
Eileen Keating	Secretary	(661) 296-7424	keating@earthlink.net

Car of The Month (Keating's 1959 Lincoln Continental)



By Rich & Eileen Keating

Our 1959 Lincoln Continental is like a big "HUGE BOAT." It resurfaced Friday, November 16th, the night of the Santa Claus Parade at the Town Center. Some of the car club members remarked that they had been in the club for 3 or 4 years and have never seen our car. Some of the remarks about the car were: "Look at the size of the trunk!" and "Look how long that car is!" and "Is that two cars put together to make one?" It was a fun time to get out and about with the Lincoln and the car club.

We have some "cosmetic" work that needs to be done to the Lincoln, which one of these days will get done. But as of now, it is up and running and we are enjoying taking it out again, although when you have such a big wheel base, the turning radius is like turning the Queen Mary.

We've had the car since 1992 and it's a Lincoln Continental Mark IV, 2 door hard top convertible. We are the 3rd owner of the car. It has a 430 cubic inch V8 engine, power everything (though some are not in working order at present). It has a curb weight of 5800 pounds (almost the weight of the Queen Mary). The length of the car is 227 inches, its wheelbase is 131 inches and it's 80.1 inches wide. We've been told it is one of 17,000 Lincoln Continental Mark IVs made in 1959. The original owners manual says it should get 10 miles to the gallon, so we are glad the gas prices are going "down." We are looking forward to having it out on the road again. So when you see a "HUGE BOAT" come "sailing" down the road, wave, it'll be us. Bon Voyage!

Features:

- 1959 Lincoln Continental Mark IV
- 2 door hard-top convertible
- 430 cubic inch V8
- Everything Original (some shop-worn)
- Drum brakes all around
- 227 inches long
- 131 inch wheel base
- 80 inches wide

*Richard & Eileen Keating,
Proud owners of a 1959 Lincoln Continental*

The Automotive Road of Dreams Museum Tour

By Les Williams



Good weather, good traffic, good food and great company would describe our Saturday (November 10th) jaunt to Orange County. After meeting at Mickey D's and driving the 90 minutes to Costa Mesa, we managed to get parking 50 feet from the entrance of the Orange County Swap Meet. We promised the ladies that they could have 2 hours of shopping, while the guys checked out the museum and the freshly made churros.

The Automotive Road of Dreams Museum is about a 60-car collection of classic and vintage cars, with a few hot rods thrown in. They have set it up in di-

oramas of different decades. At the entry to the decade represented, they had all sorts of pictures of Orange County during the time period. Dick fell in love with a Baby Blue 63' Pontiac Bonneville Convertible with a 421 cubic inch engine with a factory 4 speed. This baby had every option on it that Pontiac offered (Buckets, console, air, power everything, etc.). The museum was free of charge and they threw in Vintage Car NADA Price Books for us guys.

After getting shopped out, we jumped on the freeway and headed for Knotts Berry Farm for lunch. After spending a total of \$38.00 for parking the last time, we decided to park our cars at the Holiday Inn down the street from Knotts and pile in to the Keatings nice van. We figured one parking fee was better than 3. As it turned out we found a parking space very close to the restaurant and it was FREE. As always Knotts served up great meals with plenty of food. Some of us had to get doggie bags for the chicken and boysenberry pie. We were so full that we passed on dinner when we got home.

I hope to plan a trip to the Getty Museum in January or February. If anyone has suggestions of additional places to go visit and/or good eating places, let me know. We are open to any help in planning our monthly trips.

Happy Cruising, Les

Upcoming Events

- December 9th - 30th Annual Tree Chop Car Show at Kenny Grove Park in Fillmore
- December 15th - SCVCCC Christmas Party at the Racquet Club on 27055 Rio Bosque in Valencia - 5 to 10:30 pm
- December 22nd - SCVCCC Christmas Lights Tour

March's Meeting Minutes

Coco's Restaurant
November 28, 2001
By Eileen Keating

The meeting was called to order after everyone had ordered their food and most had eaten. Coco's seems to be a great place for our meetings, lots of choices of food & desserts with food being an important part of our club.

The meeting was started with Old Business. Dwight Emerson gave the club's financial report. He stated again that we are solvent after paying off all our bills.

(Continued on page 5)

March's Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 4)

Les Williams gave a rundown on the October cruise to the Automotive road of Dreams Museum of Dreams and the Orange County Swap meet at the Fairgrounds on November 10th. The weather was good and it was a great trip. After spending \$38 in parking costs the last time out, we decided to park further away and climb in the van and drive over. But we found a free parking space just 100 feet from the restaurant at Knotts Berry Farm. A great time was had by all & much thanks to Les Williams for all his work in setting up these great monthly cruises.

Next on the Agenda was a discussion of the Club's By-laws. President Dick LaGrasta read through the By-laws, and a discussion on suggested changes took place. Minimal changes to some of the By-laws were voted upon and approved by the club members present.

Nominations for Board members for the year 2000 were made and approved by the club members present. The Officers elected were: Dick LaGrasta as President, Phil Arnold as Vice President & Sgt. at Arms, Les Williams as Tour Chairman, Eileen Keating as Secretary, Dwight and Jody Emerson as Co-Treasurers, Rich Soto as Editor of the Newsletter & Historian, Dave Zelman and Rikki Kirchner as Events Co-Chairpersons.

On December 15th, we will be having the Christmas Dinner Party at the Racquet Club on 27055 Rio Bosque in Valencia. The party will start at 5pm and we will be eating about 6pm. Spaghetti, lasagna, tri-tip, bar-b-que chicken, and caesar salad will be the meal catered. Members whose names start with A thru L will bring desserts and the M thru Z crowd will bring the appetizers. A maximum expenditure was agreed upon for the catering. The gift amount for the Gift Exchange was agreed to be \$15.00. The gift rules are: the male members will bring a male gift and the female members will bring a female gift and there will be no "uni-sex" gifts.

The Christmas light tour will be on December 22 and we will be meeting at a parking lot with the time and place to be decided by Les Williams. The club members will be notified at the Christmas party.

The Canyon Country Holiday Musical Parade will be this Saturday Night, December 1st. The club will meet at 4:15pm, at the K-Mart parking lot, from there the club members will be caravanning out to the Food 4 Less parking lot in Canyon Country where they will stage for the parade.

Lisa, a guest of Bryant White, won the Chrome Pot. The amount was \$13.00.



Now on the Web @
www.ContemporaryCarClub.org