

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...

This September 2001 is certainly a month, in a year that we will never forget. As proud Americans, we were all shocked by what happened in New York City and Virginia, (The World Trade Center buildings, The Pentagon, and don't forget "Flight 93"). These are truly trying times that we are now living in. I am not going to dwell on these incidents because we are already in an "overload mode" what with the news media telling us everyday just what is happening all over the world. No, I am going to tell you of an interesting thing that happened to me while attending school last week. I hope that you find it as interesting as I found it to be. Somehow it makes us all realize how very blessed we are to be living in the U.S.A. today.

I have been attending North Valley Occupational Center, in Mission Hills, for the last few years taking various courses in Automotive Technology. General Motors has allowed us to take courses as part of a special "UAW/GM contract agreement" for GM employees that have been "displaced" when their job is sent to a foreign country (such as the Camaro/Firebird car line) like Mexico or in my case, Canada.

While at school, I've had a chance to take such courses as Tune Up/Smog Certifying, Body Shop/Paint/Restoration and other such classes that pertain to automotive skills and interest. GM is obligated to (by contract) allow us to complete these courses as long as the contract is valid (total of four years at a time). I am truly "having a ball" going to school on General Motors behalf. While in this semester's class, which is Automotive Restoration (right up my alley, I might add), I had a chance along with other GM employees to bring in our "babies, significant other, hot rods, mistresses, etc., etc." to school during "show and tell week" (every Friday it seems). Sometimes we get a very special crowd that may come from other sections of the Los Angeles education system, such as "West Valley Occupational Center" or educational centers that may not even be from the U.S.!

We have had students from all over the world come in and admire our "handiwork" on a Friday afternoon. They ask us a bunch of questions about our cars and how we have transformed them from stock to modified or modified to stock, which ever might be the case. Last week I had the pleasure of showing some students around the shop. These were not your ordinary group of college or



"Somehow it makes us all realize how very blessed we are to be living in the U.S.A. today."

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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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high school students. They were from a land where transportation is usually done by foot and a car, any car is certainly an oddity if not a downright unthinkable means of ever "getting around," at least for these students.

The students that had the pleasure of coming into "our world" were from Pakistan, and they were here in L.A. visiting when the World Trade Towers etc. were destroyed on September 11th. They were caught up in this "mess" and were quite concerned how things would work out for them. They had many concerns and the least of which was how we built or maintain our "hot rods." They were more interested in why we even have such a vehicle at all!!!

Trying to explain to them our culture and how over the years it has developed into what it is today really "taxed my abilities." You all know how I love to talk (to almost anyone), this really had me going in circles. In a country such as Pakistan, they told me that there were very rich people and the pleasures that they have were granted to them by "a higher authority." The students were told they should not concern themselves with these "temporary earthly possessions." Just go to school and continue your education. Well, that is well and good for some people. But for us "kids" that grew up in the good old "US of A," the "baby boomers" if you will, I find it hard to even think of not being able to open up my garage door on any given day; jump into my GTO; fire it up; and head out somewhere just going through the gears and thinking to myself, wow, what a great feeling to be free. What a great feeling to be able to travel almost anywhere I want, whenever I want (money, time and of course transportation readiness permitting). What a neat way to live. I know that we are very lucky to have this "way of life" and I do thank God that this country is what it is today. You should have seen the look on those foreign students faces when I opened up the hood on my GTO. I was impressed that I have such a

possession, but the students just shook their heads in disbelief. They could not figure why anyone could get any enjoyment out of something that uses so much gas; makes a lot of noise; smells funny (exhaust, not inside the car); cost way, way too much money; and is used for the sole reason of "self indulgence," is just not even within their ability to comprehend. BUT, they do understand how much pride and talent goes into building one of these "chariots of indulgence?" They were impressed with our abilities to repair and restore a vehicle that was "so very, very old" (only 38 years, young). I did see a "glimmer of excitement" on more than one student when he sat in the driver's seat of "The Goat" and "shot a few revs" that bounced the tach almost off redline in neutral (yikes!). Oh well, it was a very interesting exchange of ideals and cultures that day. It is one day that I will never forget. It really made me give thanks to the "American way of life." I shall forever be grateful though, that I met people from a land far, far away and gave them a chance to see just a very small part of "our American automotive heritage". We "Boomers" get to enjoy it at our leisure, whenever the feeling occurs, whenever the call of the open road hits us; whenever we can get away from it all with some good friends on a Saturday morning, or maybe a Sunday afternoon. Isn't life grand!? I guess that we are all "proud to be an American". 'Nuff said.

Sincerely, Dick



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Otis Chandler Museum Tour

By Les Williams, Cruise Director

The Otis Chandler Collection, Oxnard California is an hour drive through the green hills of Fillmore/Santa Paula. Otis Chandler himself greeted the 18 members of our club and was available to answer questions. Number 1 question. What happened to the 50 plus Muscle Cars?? (He had the biggest collection of Hemi Convertibles, he had big block Chevys - 454 Yenko Camaros, Chevelles LS6, etc., a rare Trans Am convertible, and my favorites a Plymouth Superbird and a Dodge Daytona, big wings and all.) The answer to the question was the ex wife got them. I don't know - 50 muscle cars or divorce the wife - hmmm, what would you choose??

The current focus is on the great classic and antique automobiles from 1907 through the early 1940s. Duesenbergs, Packards, Lincoln and big ole Caddys filled the main floor. We had to drag Dick away from the Callaway Corvettes next to the rare Porsche 959 (one of 2 to be certified for the US and at its price peak was going for a million bucks). The second floor held a great collection of additional rare Porsches and other high performance cars.

Among the many automobiles, we were treated to other great collectibles, including vintage and classic motorcycles, bronze statues, tapestries, wildlife dioramas (yes that is spelled correctly), a full size 1800s



The Otis Chandler Collection

Baldwin Steam Locomotive and much more.

We of course finished off the trip with lunch. We are one club that travels on their stomachs.

We will be re-running our trip to the Orange County Swap Meet and Car Museum and Lunch at Knotts Berry Farm on November 10th. There will be more details to come.

Happy Cruising, Les Williams

September Cruze Nuze

By Dave Zelman, Special Events Coordinator

September was one of those months where things went right when it looked like it was going to end up in the dumpster. We started the month with a cruise to Fat-Burger, in Lancaster, where Phil finally ended a drought with the trophy for "Best Racecar."

Sunday, the following day, we took a cruise out to Santa Paula for a brunch cruise. The Williams broke down and pulled into a gas station to make repairs to a radiator hose. Dick in the mean time had parked in the back of the Chili-Hut Restaurant, where we were going to eat. The majority of the group had hit a red light and had no idea where he was. After about 10 minutes, Dick and Phil walked out front looking for us. In the meantime, Les and Linda had not showed up so we sent out a search party for them. Les made temporary repairs and thinking we had gone on to Ojai, went home. The dining ahead was to prove quite unique to say the least. We sat out in the back patio where it was rather on the warm side with odors waft-

ing in and out that were very distinctive. I won't say anymore about this. The Chili Hut was understaffed and under supplied for some of the food items requested by members of the club. After what seemed like hours and it was, we had finished eating and did not receive the promised discounts mentioned on the phone. Some haggling got monies returned to those who sought them. This by the way was not one of those things that went right. On the way home going through the Industrial Center, Darren ran out of gas and had to be pushed off the road to safety. I drove home and brought back a couple of gallons of gas so he could make it to the nearest gas station.

The following Saturday was our car show, which we competed against the Saugus Speedway for participants. By 4 pm we had like 4 cars in the lot. Normally we would have had more than 30. Larry and I decided we needed to visit the watering hole in the restaurant.

After calming down (me that is), we went back

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Car of the Month (Brian White's '57 Chevy)

By Brian White



I have been a car enthusiast ever since I was kid. Even my current career is designing cars for Ford Motor Company, I can't seem to get enough. As soon as I could drive, I was buying sports cars. But, there was also a desire to restore an old car from the ground up.

Anyway, a 1957 Chevy 210 that my uncle purchased in 1958 was unexpectedly for sale. This car was also owned by my grandfather and two cousins and had been sitting in a garage for ten years. I also remember riding in this car when I was very young. So this car had some sentimental value, and was also a cool car too. It seemed like the forgotten treasure in a barn, that many car nuts hope to find some day and bring home while nobody was looking.

I then flew to Idaho, rented a truck, bought the car for pennies, and towed it home. The truck proceeded to break down in the middle of nowhere, so I had two vehicles that did not run. I finally made it home.

The next three years were spent restoring it back, to the original condition. The next three years were spent taking out the original mechanicals and replacing them with hot rod stuff. (This of course is an ongoing project).

Features:

- 57 Chevy 210 2 door Sedan
- 350 Crate Small Block, (soon to be something else with more horse power)
- Edelbrock intake, 650 carb, vintage valve covers
- Hooker Headers
- Moon Finned Air Cleaner
- 700R4 / 2200 Stall
- Power Disk Brakes
- Lowered
- Boyd's, Halibrand style wheels 15X8, 15X7

- Sway Bars
- Soon to be 373 gears, power steering, and more

I have been going to various car events with my '57 for a couple of years now, and have met some great people along the way. One of my friends Darren, who is a member of SCVCCC, was going to many of the cruises with the club (in which I would tag along). This went on for over a year. That is how I meet everyone at SCVCCC and I decided to join the club (I was going with the club on most of their cruises anyway). I'm sure they were wondering if I might want to join the club.



I look forward to more cruises with everyone in the club in the future, and I do appreciate the warm welcome to SCVCCC.

*Brian White,
Proud owner of a 1957 Chevy 210*

September Cruze Nuze

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outside and lo and behold, the cars started rolling in.

We had 72 registered cars and 5 or 6 who did not bother to be judged. The week before, Santa Clarita had a deputy killed in the line of duty, so we dedicated



Guest Singer Belts Out a Song in Honor of Deputy Jake Kuredjian



The Route 66 Crowd Wipes Their Tears as They Listen to the Songs Dedicated to Deputy Jake

the show to Jake and handed over our complete share of the money for a scholarship fund in his name. Songs were dedicated and sung to him. After, there was not a dry eye in the house. Trophies were handed out and every one went home happy. This was one of those good things.

The fourth Saturday cruise to Burger-King was very eventful, even though only a few of us went, that being my self and Veronica, Tom and Ryan Gilley with Mark Reece showing up about 20 minutes later. What appeared to be a large explosion was a very terrible traffic accident between a MBZ and a Toyota. The Toyota was knocked 200 feet across the street facing the wrong way. Ryan and I ran over to the car and looked inside. The driver appeared to be dead, as he had that look on his face. Being a trained Medical Care giver and Ryan an Explorer Paramedic, we soon had the young man conscious again. We rendered first aid to his bleeding head and arms until the Paramedics got there to relieve us. They air-lifted him out to Holy Cross Hospital, due to the extent of his injuries. This brought back memories of Viet-Nam, a real flashback to say the least. This was one of those good things, saving a life. Mark won his first trophy at Burger king for "Best Hot Rod." I guess good things do come to those that do good. I had no intentions of buying a raffle ticket for a BMX bike that night, but bought the last one sold. Yes I won the bike and now Grandson Cody has a new bike.

This coming car show at Route 66 is our last of the year and I hope to make it a good thing despite a very bad thing that happened to our country 9-11-01. Along with SCV Safe Rides, who will be handing over half of their money, we will be handing over our proceeds to the Red Cross. The show will be dedicated to those killed and the Police and Firemen who gave their lives to save others. We will have some special raffle prizes, so do come out and give as much if not more.

Dave

Upcoming Events

- October 13th - Route 66 Classic Car Show - 3 pm to 7 pm
- October 14th - Road Kings Car Show at Santa Anita Park
- October 14th - Santa Clarita Corvette & Chevy Show at Valencia Chevrolet
- October 20th - Old Town Street Faire Vintage Car Show in Tujunga
- November 10th - Tour of the Automotive Road of Dreams Museum in Orange County at the Fairgrounds
- December 15th - SCVCCC Christmas Party

See You Later Darren

By Jane Bettencourt-Soto

“Good Bye” seems so permanent. Darren Simonds is one of our club members who recently moved up North to Stockton. Darren is a young guy with a good heart and will be missed by many of us.

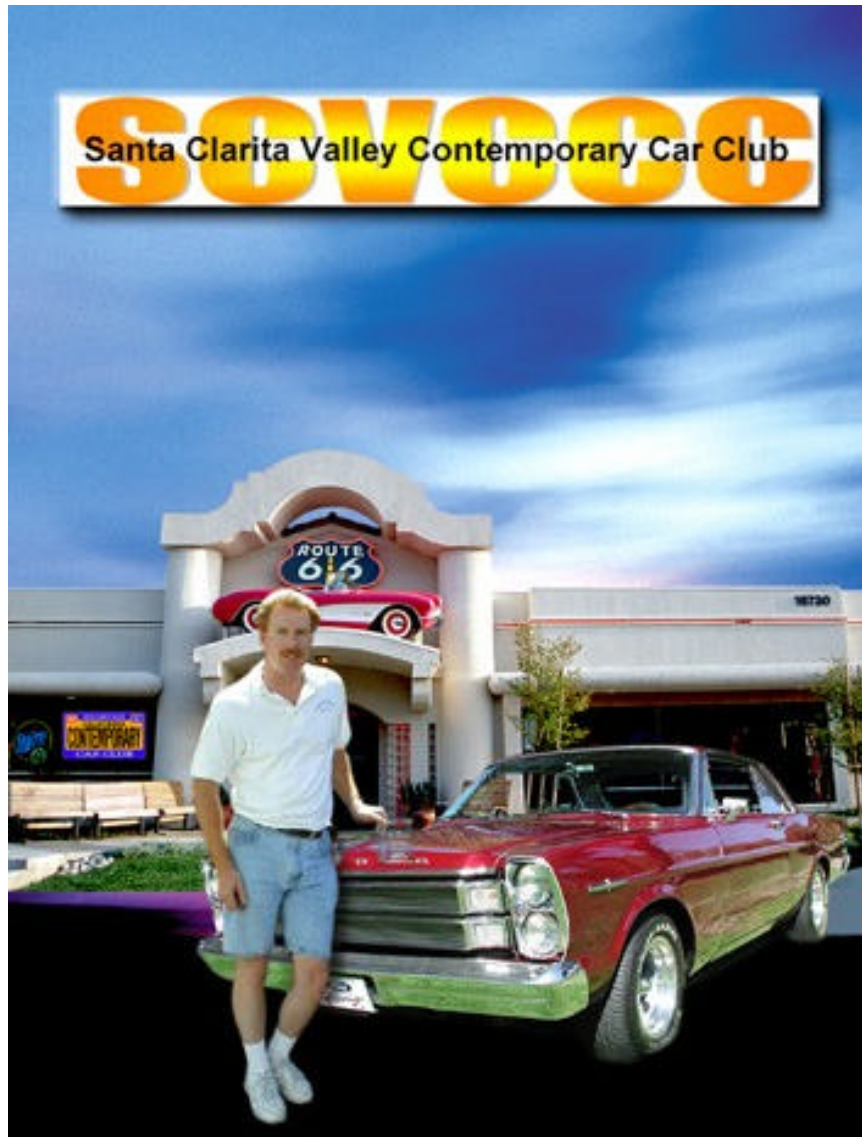
In the past year, Darren was diagnosed with an eye enigma. The particular disease will cause him to go blind over time. Darren has been a hard worker in the health food store business for years. Reluctantly, after being diagnosed, he filed for disability and recently for Social Security. He continues to struggle with the disability “system” as well as losing his eyesight. What part of “Legally Blind” doesn’t the State understand?

He was fortunate to find a vocational rehabilitation program for the blind up in Stockton. The program will train him in a new career field. He has received a lap top computer and a place to live during his training. He is fortunate in that his family lives nearby the training facility. I wish our SCVCCC family were closer to him.

So, to a guy who loves driving his ‘66 Ford Galaxie around for now, I say hang in there buddy, and keep your head up and walk proud. Remember, when we had lunch together in Santa Paula? I said, “You may just find your bride up North.” If she is anything like the ladies in our club, she’ll enjoy your fast car not to mention your kind heart!

Look out Darren; SCVCCC may just be cruising up North someday soon to have lunch with you. See you later.

Your Friend, Jane



September Meeting Minutes

Coco's Restaurant
October 3, 2001
By Eileen Keating

The meeting was called to order at 7pm. The meeting was delayed a week because of the disaster on September 11th and Dick LaGrasta was not available.

The first order of business was the Finance Report. Once again it was reported that we are "solvent", thanks to the Route 66 car shows and yearly dues. "SCV Safe Rides" donated part of their earnings for the evening and Route 66 restaurant donated 20% of their proceeds of the evening towards the "Deputy Jake Kuredjian" Scholarship Fund.

Les Williams gave a cruise review of the Otis Chandler Vintage Museum Trip. The museum used to house a larger "Muscle Car" exhibit, but Otis has had to sell most of them. The museum houses antique cars, large old vintage cars, motorcycles, fast sports cars, plus Otis' prize Big Game hunting displays. The club had a great time and Otis Chandler himself greeted us. After the museum, the club all headed to the most important part of our Car Club Cruises.....FOOD at Marie Callendars in Oxnard. November 10th we will be going to the Orange Co. Car Show/Swap meet.

Dick LaGrasta spoke about the Car Club's trip to the "Ventura Vintage Chevy (sponsored) Show." Those who showed up got a royal treatment even though they arrived late. When the show's sponsors found that they were from the Santa Clarita Contemporary Car Club, they gave them the choice of the prime spots that were left. Our Car Club seems to have a very good reputation among other car clubs and car enthusiasts.

"Miss Rikki" gave a talk on the Sept. 9th Family Car Show XIX in Oxnard, in which Larry Boord won 1st place in the Participant Judging. He also won a set of rims. Dave Zelman gave a talk on the Burger King cruise. After arriving they heard a loud bang, which turned out to be a bad car accident. Dave & Ryan Gilley went and issued first aid and did what they could till the paramedics arrived. The injured man was air-lifted away by helicopter. Mark Reece won the "Best Hot Rod" award. Dave bought the last ticket for a drawing for a BMX bike and he won.

For this coming Route 66 Car Show in October, the Route 66 Restaurant and the SCV Safe Rides are donating part of their proceeds for the evening and our car club will be donating all of our proceeds (less expenses) for the evening to the Red Cross. Veronica Zelman suggested purchasing small American flags, this week, to be handed out to all the car participants that register that day. They will be able to put them on their antennas. The motion was passed to do it. With this being the last show for the year, the 6 previous "Best of Show" winners for this year will be competing for the "Best of the Best" trophy. There will be lots of special prizes for this last Route 66 Car Show of the year.

Next discussed was upcoming car shows. Fat Burgers this Saturday in Palmdale. Leaving at 3pm from the Mobil Station in Canyon Country. The Santa Clarita Corvette Club is having a Corvette and Chevy Show at Valencia Chevrolet on Creekside Avenue on October 14, so bring your Chevrolet or Corvette. Call Bill Jenson at 252-1501 for more information. Dave Zelman will be e-mailing with the meeting time. Verdugo Vintage Car Show is coming up October. 7th. We will be leaving from McDonalds at Valencia and Bouquet at 7:45am.

It was decided the club would get magnetic logo signs for our cars so we can display when we are in any shows or such. New members were introduced tonight: Johnny Kahnno who has a '68 Mustang fast back and Eddie Esaco who has a '68 Chevelle.

Dave Zelman brought up the Christmas Dinner and suggested that there be no business at the Christmas Party and that the Elections for officers be held in November as well as reviewing the By-laws. Upcoming club meeting dates: October 24th and November 28th. Les Williams won the chrome pot \$12.50.



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