

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....

Once again, fall is upon us. As if we did not know, the weather is now starting to change and I am already thinking, what in the heck am I going to do when it starts raining and I can't drive my "hot rod" around? I won't even think about taking the Impala out in the rain. That is really a "no-no," and not because it will "shrink" or turn into a pumpkin; no, we do not drive our "babies" in the rain for other reasons.

Many years ago (in the Jurassic Age, according to my kids) when all our beloved cars were brand spanking new and serving people that bought them new, they were driven all over town each and every day because that is what they were built to do. In their day, they did this routine quite well, day after day, year after year. The car's worth back then was solely for transportation to and from work; to and from the store; to and from school; and to and from the racetrack in some cases.

Over the years, we have realized that these cars mean something special to each and every one of us. We have found they have become worth much more than the sum of their parts. For instance, in 1962, my Chevy Impala cost about \$3600.00 (not cheap back then, considering that it has only 5 or 6 options...but they were the most expensive options on the books). Over the years, it has escalated in value to almost 10 times that much! Of course, what a car is worth to each of us varies greatly (AS IT SHOULD) because in most instances we would not even think about selling some of our cars. It would be like selling a family member (although the thought has crossed my mind...which family member would I would most likely trade in for another shot at "my most favorite car ever"). But for most of us, we are very pleased with our choice. The car we drive to car shows, cruise nights and just around town makes us feel good about what we have in our possession. It is an object of art that makes us feel good and gives us that feeling of pride of ownership. It is especially true, when people glance our way, giving us the thumbs up, or nodding their heads in approval of our choice of cars.

How many times have we heard that someone say, "I used to own one of those; I wish I still had it today; and what memories that car brought me!" I guess sometimes we are trying to recapture our long lost youth by owning a piece of the past; a car that we can enjoy today whenever the mood strikes us. We are very fortunate we can still drive these "feel good vehicles," even though there are



Thank you all for helping make the summer of 2002 a very memorable summer for the 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 (Continued)

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many well-meaning groups who would just as soon take each and every one of our “keepsakes” and have them sent to the wrecking yard for disposal (meaning “crushed”). I feel as long as we keep a vigilant eye on the “lost souls” in our government and keep them at bay, we can truly enjoy these cars as they were meant to be enjoyed.

Oh, and about driving my “pride and joy” in the rain, my point there was that although my Impala can drive quite nicely through the rain (if I keep my right foot from going into the second carb too deep on acceleration), I don’t worry about how the car is going to take to the water, but that some stupid, non caring, speeding, cell phone stuck in the ear, screaming at their kids in the back seat, non car loving-caring individual is going to slide through some intersection (going way too fast for the road conditions), and end up somewhere in my trunk or through the side of my car taking expensive, hard to find parts with it. While I sit there looking at all of my hard work going down the sewer, the individual that hits me gets back on the cell phone to call his insurance company, to tell them that he just hit “an old wreck from the Jurassic Age,” while going on down the road to his kid’s soccer practice. He says, so please hurry and take care of matters. I’ll fill out the police report later after my meeting with the head coach...he thinks my kid will be a soccer star someday!!!

Think that this can’t happen, well think again. I watched something very close to this happen some 10 years ago at the corner of Bouquet Canyon Road and Seco. A friend of mine got hit (in the rain) in his really neat 1965 yellow Pontiac GTO ragtop. What a mess! And yes, the person that hit him was in a hurry, going to a soccer match with her two kids. And yes, she was driving too fast in a Jeep SUV. And yes, she could not figure out what all the fuss was about and why a grown man was almost in tears looking at his bent in half, parts scattered all over the intersection, totaled ‘65

GTO. After all, it was just a car. Couldn’t he just go out and find another one, just like it? Oh sure, they are all over the place. Each dealer in the SCV has one or two on their lots for a “quick sale”...NOT!

As the story goes, he was paid for his wrecked “pride and joy” (not nearly enough though...he should have insured it for double what it was said to be worth), and with that money he did find another car to his liking (well, sort of). He moved away from California and took that car on a trailer, far away to another state where perhaps it would be safer than it would be here. There is no moral to this story, just a thought that had crossed my mind while I drove home from the Burger King Car Show in Palmdale last Saturday night, in the rain, on I-14, while being passed by people doing at least 70 to 75 mph. They were all in a hurry to get to wherever it is that they are late to already. Let me say, I really don’t care to do that again for a while.

Your mind thinks of all kinds of things under these conditions. But, mostly you just want to get home safely and put the “baby” in the garage, safe and sound and under a cover (after you have wiped it all down, nice and clean again, whew!). We do this so it will be ready for the next time it is called upon to “make you look good, and feel good” while cruising the streets of Southern California; searching for our long lost youth, but doing it in style. How cool is that!

Happy Fall everyone. I hope to see many of you at the Valencia Towne Mall on Friday, November 15. Also, I hope to see you at our last Route 66 Car Show of the year, where the “Best of the Best” will be crowned and a really beautiful trophy given away to some lucky individual. Thank you all for helping make the summer of 2002 a very memorable summer for the Contemporary Car Club. It is one that we all can be proud of and one that will remain “one for our history books!” Take care, everyone.

Sincerely, Dick

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Ventura Vintage Rods Car Show in Oxnard



Upcoming Events

- November 15th - Valencia Town Center's 5th Annual Santa's Arrival Parade at 7 pm. Meet at 5:30 pm.
- December 8th - 31st Annual Tree Chop Car Show - Kenny Grove Park in Fillmore.
- December 14th - SCVCCC Christmas Party - Potluck

Auto Detailing Tips

BARE (NON COATED) ALLOY WHEELS: Bare aluminum and alloy wheels need the most care. Aluminum wheels oxidize much faster than other types. The amount of time required to polish aluminum wheels depends on their condition. It is usually easier to polish them more often. To polish aluminum wheels, use duct tape to guard the tire from the polish staining it. The duct tape will not leave any residue on the tire, yet it will stick unlike many other types of tape. Polish the alloy wheels using a cream aluminum polish. Apply using a soft towel or diaper. Polish in the direction of the wheel. Use moderate pressure and turn the towel often. The towel will turn black from the aluminum-polishing residue. A terry towel may be used on severely oxidized wheels to rough them in, followed by a soft diaper to finish. When satisfied with the renovation to the wheel, wipe the majority of the excess polish from the wheel. To final polish and increase the gloss of the polished wheel, wipe the wheel with cornstarch. Cornstarch can be purchased at any supermarket. Dip the clean towel into the box and wipe the wheel thoroughly with the cornstarch. The cornstarch will absorb the excess polish from the pores of the aluminum and eliminate any streaks in the finish. To remove any cornstarch powder, use compressed air. Very severely oxidized wheels may be wet sanded with a very fine wet or dry sanding paper prior to polishing. If you are unsure about sanding aluminum wheels, it is better to consult a professional rather than risk damage to the wheel.

September Meeting Minutes

Coco's Restaurant
September 25, 2002
By Eileen Keating

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm and started with Old Business: (1) The Financial Report was given and we are again, solvent for another month. (2) We took a bath on the Route 66 Show in September though, with only 35 cars showing up, where we usually have anywhere from 90 to 120 cars. There will be more to come, on this, later in the meeting. (3) A review was given on the car club's attendance at the Ventura Vintage Chevy's Car Show in the city of Oxnard. The club went to the Esplanade in Oxnard and everyone had a really good time. Clint Huffman's Oldsmobile was the only trophy winner from our club. Congratulations Clint! The weather was really nice too. (4) We also got the review of our trip to the Ventura Vintage Rods Car Show at the Oxnard Marina Harbor. Club President Dick La Grasta won a 2nd place trophy in the 1959 to 1964 class. Congratulations, Dick. The trip was worth going, as the weather was hot in Santa Clarita and cool there. Everyone enjoyed the day, especially the weather. (5) We had the review of the Route 66 Car show. There were only 35 cars that showed up, the least we have ever had, which made judging a difficulty, as there weren't enough cars to give much competition for the categories. There were two cars that refused to pay the \$5 donation toward the Charity. There was quite a story about George Toures who comes to the Route 66 Car Show. The next day he was trailering his 1954 Chevy Corvette with his Suburban, down the hill in Simi Valley. His Suburban hit a 4 x 4 and it hit the trailer carrying the Corvette, which made the trailer do a 180 degree spin, which threw the Corvette off the trailer and in front of George's Suburban. His Suburban t-boned his own Corvette, leaving parts and pieces all over the freeway. (6) The members at the meeting tonight, were told that the Car Club would not be working the Route 66 Car Show next year, due to medical reasons and because of the need

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September Meeting Minutes (Continued)

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for people that will work the Car Show on a regular basis. We have always received lots of congratulations from people on the wonderful job our club has done. But, due to a lot of considerations, our choice of no longer working the car show was a decision that was made with some regret. There was a long discussion on how the lack of revenue for the upcoming year will impact the financial part of our club. But, it will be made up for in other ways.

New Business: (1) Next on the Agenda was the Valencia Towne Centers Fifth Annual Santa's Arrival Parade, which will be held November 15th (Friday) at 7 pm. The club's participation was discussed and looks like maybe 15 or more cars will be coming from our car club. Any of our car club members who are interested (who were not at the September's meeting) please contact Dick LaGrasta at 661-263-9848 or e-mail him at ibitem@aol.com. We will probably be meeting at 5:30 pm. The exact time will be announced later. (2) The Tree Chop Car Show at the Kenny Grove Park, in Fillmore, was discussed and it will be December 8th. Meeting time and place will also be announced later. (3) More cars shows coming up were discussed and announced. Be sure to check your e-mails for shows, times and dates. Sunday October 20th is the Road Kings 50th Car Show at Santa Anita Park.....50 years of Hot Rod History from 1952 to 2002. The Roman Relics Car Show is coming up October 27th in Moorpark. (4) Another thing discussed is the upcoming Christmas Party, which we have decided to have a potluck this year instead of having it catered. The date for the party is going to be the 2nd Saturday in December. The Board elections will be held the night of the Christmas Party.

Rich Soto was the lucky winner of the Chrome 50/50 pot for the evening. The meeting then came to a close.

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