

# THE FOOT WARMER

Official Publication of the San Diego Region



The Swan cars elaborate carved and gilded coach work rides on a fine 1910 Brooke 25/30 h.p. chassis. The Swan Car was commissioned by Scotsman Robert Nicholl Matthewson, who lived in India in the early 1900s and sought to emulate the opulence exhibited by some of the maharajas. Built to draw attention, the car is modeled after the majestic bird and equipped with very special features: eyes that illuminate; a beak that opens, closes and sprays steam, and an eight-tone horn. Draw attention it did: the Maharaja of Nabha soon purchased this creation, built a miniature Cygnet as a companion to it, and the pair remained with his family for more than 70 years. The Cygnet (photo on page 3) is believed to be the oldest Indian-made automobile in the world.

APRIL 2019  
Volume 57 Issue 4

## April Spring Picnic - Saturday – April 27th

With all of the rain we've had this year, Spring should be bursting with abundant color. Our venue is Summers Past Farms in Flinn Springs. Aside from their beautiful gardens they have several small shops specializing in unique home and garden items, a nursery and a specialty soap store.

Our cars will be parked on an open grass field. You must bring your own lunch and chairs. If you prefer you can purchase hot and cold drinks at *The Coffee Bar*, on site.

We will meet at the Sears parking lot in El Cajon at 8:45 to 9:00 and depart at 9:15 for a beautiful, scenic drive on old Highway 8. This is a great road for our old cars leading to a beautiful spot and camaraderie with fellow club members.



Learn more about Summers Past Farms at: [www.summerspastfarms.com](http://www.summerspastfarms.com)

Please let Larry or Paula Okey know you'll be attending. 619.582.9676

## Tour to Anza Borrego and Lunch at the Holmes'

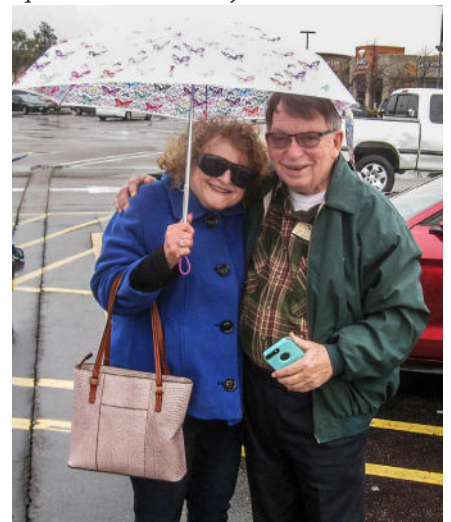
by Tom McIlravy and Norma Almanza. Photos by Betty Holmes, Bob Gunthorp, and Tom McIlravy

First we want to thank **Daryl and Betty** for opening their home for us and to enjoy the desert flowers. Thanks to daughter, **Jerri and Bob La Prade, Daryl Jr and wife, Charlie, and Art and Phyllis Cottee** for getting everything ready for our visit.

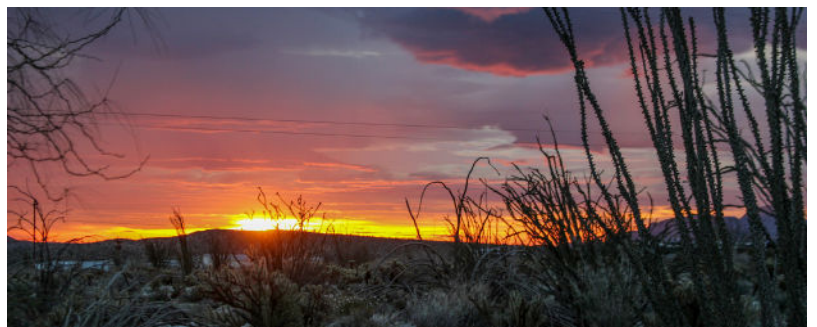
On March 2nd **Tom, Christopher, Norma and Al** sat in the Target parking lot in the rain hoping others would brave the cold and rain for this tour. **Sheldon and Sheila Jurist** were the first to show, quickly behind them **Charles Hylton, and Mark and Diane Richards**. Last to arrive right before departure was **Bob Gunthorp and Jeanette Hay**. Rain was sporadic, and the fog was thick - so thick that we missed our turnoff at the Golden Acorn Casino for a rest break. But as promised (and hoped) as soon as we were over the mountains, the sun came out and it was a spectacular day.

Our first stop was at Mile Marker 52, where we had an awesome view of the valley, aka the badlands. The wind was blowing so hard that you had to hold on to your hat! **Ken Munson and Nannette Clark** joined us here.

-- continued on the back cover --



While **Shelia Jurist** and **Al Smithson** were trying to stay dry the sun was rising over the desert (below) at the Holmes house.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, I am almost through with my deployment and I will be back home in time for the next Board Meeting and Monthly Meeting. This has been my longest time away from home, and I'm ready to get back to San Diego, and take over the reins from Beth.

Not being home, I missed the Big 3, but Sandy gave me a report on what I missed. I am also missing the Chickasha Oklahoma Pre-War Swap Meet which is another meet I usually attend. I did hear good things about the Desert Tour, and am looking forward to reading Tom and Norma's write up.

I have been fortunate to be able to attend several Mardi Gras Parades, so don't be surprised if there are "beads" being thrown at the next meeting. I did get hit on the head with a full box of "Moon Pies" when I was at the Mobile Mardi Gras, but I won't have them with me, as I ended up eating them. Nothing like an RC Cola and a Moon Pie...

I was able to track down a local AACA Event. The Spring National in Ocala - I was working that Saturday morning, but was able to attend the Car Show that afternoon as it was only an hour's drive to get there. There were many very interesting cars on display, although the judging was over and several of the cars had left the field before I arrived.

I hope everyone had a fun-filled St Patrick's Day, and I'll see you at the April Meeting.

Alex (Prez still in absentia)



© b. zemcik

The Cygnet

## 2019 Region Calendar

Dates subject to changes

APR	1	General Membership Meeting
APR	27	<b>Spring Picnic</b> Larry & Paula Okey 619.582.9676
MAY	1	General Membership Meeting
MAY	4	<b>Top of the Hill</b> - mining town Sam Judd 619.232.2210
MAY	15	<b>Ladies Tea</b> Susan Woods 858.213.9689 & Betty Holmes
JUN	3	General Membership Meeting
JUN	19	<b>Day at Del Mar Fair - Wednesday</b> Larry & Paula Okey 619.582.9676
JUN	29	<b>Bar-B-Que</b> Bob Gunthorp 619.993.0184
JUL		NO General Membership Meeting
JUL	4	<b>4th of July Coronado Parade</b> Al Smithson
AUG	5	General Membership Meeting
AUG	TBD	<b>Chicken Fest</b> Mike Cooke 619.447.9876
SEP	2	General Membership Meeting
SEP	28	<b>Desert Tower Tour</b> Mark Richards 541.517.1393
OCT	7	General Membership Meeting
OCT	TBD	<b>Silent Movie</b> - Al Smithson 619.992.8729
OCT	TBD	<b>Watt's Halloween Party</b> Alex & Sandy Watt 619.223.6519
OCT	TBD	<b>Edgemoor Hospital Car Show</b> Doug Clements 858.487.8617
NOV	4	General Membership Meeting
NOV	10	<b>Annual Banquet</b> Bob Gunthorp 619.993.0184
NOV	TBD	<b>Silent Movie</b> - Al Smithson 619.992.8729
NOV	TBD	Region Tour Event
DEC	2	General Membership Meeting
DEC	1	<b>Bells of Freedom</b> Bob Gunthorp 619.993.0184

Monthly Membership Meetings  
1st Monday of each month  
6:30 PM - Social 7:00 PM - Meeting  
Joyce Beers Community Center In  
Hillcrest on Vermont Street Ample free  
parking at Ralphs or Trader Joe's.

**President**

Alex Watt 2019 & 20  
714.273.9705

**Vice President**

Beth Kind 2019  
619.985.6718

**Secretary**

Susan Woods 2019 & 20

**Treasurer**

Norma Almanza 2018 &19  
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**Directors at Large**

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Tom McIlravy 2019 & 20  
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Bob Gunthorp 2018 & 19  
619.993.0184

Betty Holmes 2018 & 19  
619.465.0797

Brad Zemcik 2019 & 20  
619.255.0059

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Beth Kind 619.985.6718

**Membership**

Daryl Holmes 619.840.0797

**Tours**

Tom McIlravy 760.429.6565

**Refreshments**

Christopher Di Patre  
619.651.0744

**Annual Banquet**

Bob Gunthorp 619.993.0184

**Annual Awards**

Alex Watt 714.273.9705  
Art Cottee 619.885.0704  
Royce Dunn 619.781.8339  
Daryl Holmes 619.840.0797

**Coronado Parade**

Al Smithson 619.992.8729

**Car Club Council of SD**

Richard Reinstein  
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**ACCA Rep/Legislation**

Sheldon Jurist 858.279.8285

**Club Photographers**

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Betty Holmes 619.465.0797  
Tom McIlravy 760.429.6565

**Editor**

Brad Zemcik 619.255.0059

The Antique Automobile Club of America is a non-profit, national organization founded in 1935 and dedicated to the preservation, maintenance, restoration, and enjoyment of Historical Vehicles

Antique Automobile Club of America National Membership Single or Joint \$40.00 per year.  
Life Membership \$600.00

San Diego Region Membership Single or Joint \$20.00 per year. **Our San Diego Region Membership Chairman can help you obtain both memberships.**  
Contact: Daryl Holmes my1955ford@aol.com 619.840.0797

**Motor Cars of Main Street - Coronado, CA**

**Sunday April 28, 2019 - Rain or Shine**

Limited to 400, Pre-73 Rods, Customs, Antiques, Classics, and Trucks

Where: Isabella & Orange Ave. Hours: Staging 7AM-9:30AM - Show 10AM-3PM  
Entry \$40 per vehicle before April 21 (includes one T-shirt, two drawing tickets, & dash plaque). After April 21 or at the event - IF available, \$45 and does not include a shirt. Entrants who wish to park together must enter together.  
Register ON LINE at: CoronadoMainStreet.com

**Top of the Hill - Mining Town - May 5th**

Sam Judd will be taking the region on another fantastic back country adventure. Details in next months Foot Warmer or you can call Sam for more details at: 619.232.2210

*AACA Ladies' Luncheon May 15, 2019 11:30 AM*



**Peohe's Waterfront Restaurant**

**1201 1st Street, Coronado, CA (619) 437-4474**

Please send a check for \$20.00 to:

Lynn Heacock 266 Caliban Ct. Encinitas, CA 92024 (760) 390-4220

Please call Susan Woods at (858)213-9689 or

Betty Holmes at (619) 992-3930 if you have any questions.

**SAVE THIS DATE Saturday June 29, 2019**

This is the date for the annual "All American Picnic" at my house. This year it will be the same as past years. This is a dual club event with the AACA and the HCCA. Lunch will again be provided by The Wrangler Barbecue of El Cajon. The arrival time will be starting at 11:00 with lunch served at 12:30. There will be more information in the next newsletter. Bob Gunthorp

## Fred Puhn's Car Racing History as told by Fred himself - Part 2

Below are the last two pages covering Fred's unique racing history with old cars. Be sure to check out his book, he never told us about, titled **How To Make Your Car Handle**. It is a well regarded manual in the car racing field and available on Amazon.com. What other secrets is he hiding???

**Honda S-600** - In around 1969 I drove a Honda S-600 owned by Doug Thompson. For some racing wheels I got to drive the car in the SCCA National at San Diego stadium. The Honda did not handle well. Also that year I shared a 3-person drive in the Honda at an endurance race at Riverside, and we had engine ignition issues.

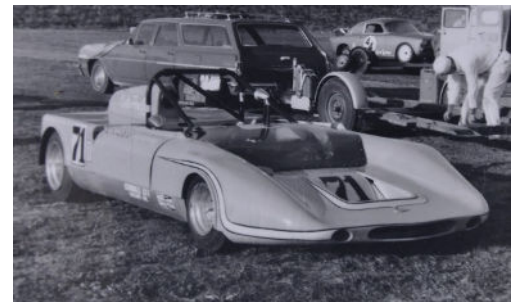


*My first race in the brand new Quasar SR-70 was a win at the Holtville National event.*

**Quasar SR-70** - This was my attempt to design and build a state-of-the-art race car. It took 2 years from 1968 to 1970 to do the job. I raced it in early 1970 at the Holtville National race and won the class. In 1970 I raced it 6 times and won them all (Holtville, Willow Springs, Riverside short and long courses, Salt Lake City, Ontario Motor Speedway). I got lap records for the class in most of the events. **I won the points championship in the SCCA Southern Pacific division with a perfect point score.** The car was tested by Road & Track magazine. I raced at the SCCA championship runoffs in Atlanta and finished 4th.

**Lotus Super Seven** - In around 1971 I drove this Lotus owned by the Li brothers. I only ran a couple slaloms and never won anything.

**Quasar SR-70B** - This was an aerodynamic rebody on the SR-70 Quasar. I shared the driving with Carter Penley in 1971 and drove at Riverside (1st) and Laguna Seca (2nd). We both qualified for the SCCA Runoffs in Atlanta. He drove the car in Atlanta and spun off on the first lap. I sold the car to Bill Hobbs in Atlanta for \$7000. He raced it with success. I later bought it back from a car dealer in a trade for 2 cars (Chevy Nova SS and Datsun 240Z).



*The Quasar SR-70B was modified at the rear to reduce drag and lift.*

**DeSanctis Formula C** - In 1972 for a deal on a set of wheels I borrowed an old Formula C car to run in the SCCA National race in New Mexico at the end of the season. The purpose was to make a FC class (minimum of 2 cars) so that Carter Penley could win the points championship with his FC car. The FC car had a Sprite engine so was not fast. I carefully ran the minimum number of laps required and finished 2nd. This was my last SCCA race.



**Tanner T-1.** About 1974 I got introduced to vintage racing. I put out a wanted ad and selected the Tanner T-1 from several cars offered. I paid about \$1200 with a trailer. I raced it at the 2nd and the 3rd Monterey Historic races. Also I raced it in a vintage event at Riverside. Then I bought an Abarth 207A Boano Spyder for \$5000 and sold the Tanner to a San Diego man for \$8000.

*I am coming down the famous Corkscrew turn at Laguna Seca.*

**1955 Abarth 207A Boano Spyder.** I saw this car race at Torrey Pines as a teen ager in 1955 and fell in love with it. By luck I purchased this very rare car from Homer Tsakis in about 1975. After 20 years I finally got it restored and raced it in the 22nd Monterey Historics at Laguna Seca. I also raced at the first vintage race at North Island, and both hillclimbs in conjunction with the Torrey Pines concourse put on by Bill Evans in San Diego. The car was too slow and too costly to race so I sold it in an auction for about \$90,000.

*The Abarth 207A at the Torrey Pines hillclimb*



**1962 Santee Super Sports.** I found this car in a small ad in a racing newsletter in about 1975. I designed and helped build this car in 1962 when I was Chief Engineer at Santee Automobiles Inc. I bought it for about \$2000 and it sat in storage for decades. I finally had enough money to pay Charlie Wallace to restore it for me. I raced it at Coronado in about 2005 and again in 2006. It was very fast and fun, but I realized I was too old to race any more so I retired from the sport.

*Ready to load the car for the race*



*Tech inspection at Coronado 2005*

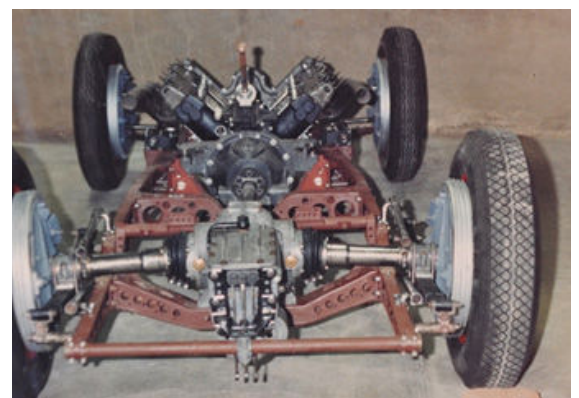


*Fred had a blast racing the Santee SS at Coronado*

**1935 Maserati V8-RI Grand Prix Car.** I discovered this 1935 race car in a barn in the mid-1980s and bought it for \$1500 as a long term project. After decades of research and tons of money I have it about 90% restored. I took it to several displays, the last of which was at the Monterey Historics at Laguna Seca in about 2014.



At this event I got to 'drive' it for the first time after a photo shoot on the track. They towed the non-running car to the top of the hill at the track and I coasted downhill into the display area. Making it run is a retirement project on the bucket list.



*The chassis (above right) and the ca at Laguna Seca (left).*

## A WOODIE STATION WAGON FOR ONLY A DOLLAR?

In 1959, even that seemed out of reach for a longing 14-year-old  
by Bob Gunthorp

Most “car nuts” remember their first car more the their first love and I am no exception the that statement. Growing up in Coronado, from as early as I can remember I was always fascinated with automobiles. Also having Bill Gise as one of my best friends also a car “nut”, helped. My father was an engineer and not a car person. To him a car was just a way to get from “A” to “B” so he didn’t share my fascination for automobiles.

In March 1959, when I was 14 years old, the Coronado merchants held their annual “Dollar Days” week. The local Chevrolet Dealer, Robertson-Darnell, had an ad in the Coronado Journal along with many other merchants. Their ad stated that on March 7 at 3 pm they were going to sell a car for one Dollar (\$1.00). When I read the ad I jumped on my bicycle and literally peddled clear across town from 940 Country Club Lane to see the “Dollar Day” car.

The car was a 1947 Ford “Woody” Station Wagon. The wood was dry rotted, the fenders were banged up, and the paint was in poor condition. The station wagon had been used for many years by a couple of house painters so there was a thick layer of multi colored paint on the floor in the back. However, when I first saw the car it was “love” at first sight. I had to have that car.

When my dad got home from work that night I told all about the car. His enthusiasm was nowhere near mine. In fact both he and mom thought that buying the woody was a terrible idea. They were dead set against my buying it. I spent the next several days pleading and begging for them to buy the Woody. Finally, on Friday night, dad reluctantly and agreed to take me to buy the Woody.

After what at that time was the longest night of my young life, on Saturday after noon we went to Robertson-Darnell. When we arrived my heart sank for two reasons. One was that you had to have a driver’s license (ago 16) enter the “FREE” drawing. The other reason was that there over 350 people already there that had put their names in the barrel. With my heart in my mouth I watched as the barrel of ticket stubs was rolled around and ‘round ... and ‘round. Finally, when the name was called, I wasn’t sure I heard it right because I had been hearing the name that was called in my head for hours. “Seth Gunthorp. Come claim your car!”

The 1947 Ford “Woody” station wagon was \$ 1.00, the sale tax was \$ 0.04 and the DMV fees were \$ 13.00. That brought total cost to \$ 14.04 and that’s how I got my first automobile. And my first girl friend good old what’s her name? I’ll never forget her. That’s another story all together.

*Not the actual car*



APRIL BIRTHDAYS	
Jerri La Prade	2
Jack Chidgey	5
Darwin Ludi	5
Bob Gunthorp	7
Ken Munson	13
Beth Kind	15
Gail Manishor	22
Erik Lockyer	30
ANNIVERSARIES	
Susan and Virgil Woods	3
Nannette Clark and Ken Munson	8



The March Meeting drawing winner, Doug Clements accepting the \$20 from “Treasurer” Norma.

*Tour to Anza Borrego and Lunch at the Holmes' continued --*

As we arrived, the aroma of hamburgers on the BBQ got everyone ready to eat. Everything was set out and the rush was on. Pies, cookies, veggies, a home-made pie and more. There was more than enough food for the hungry crowd. After lunch we were treated to a tour of Daryl Jr's place, just a short walk to the southwest of Daryl and Betty's place. What a fabulous day for a tour. The rain for the return trip was less and the fog not as bad. Thanks again for everyone's participation.



Sheldon Jurist, Charles Hylton, and Mark Richards



Janette Hay & Bob Gunthorp pose for Diane Richards



Nannette Clark & Ken Munson



Art & Phyllis Cottee



Norma Almanza



Tom McIlravy & Christopher Di Patre



While Daryl, Jr. (left) was overseeing the burgers, daughter-in-law "Charlie" (above) in white was having people move so fast in the kitchen even the photo is a bit blurry! Below, eating the efforts of preparation and cooking.



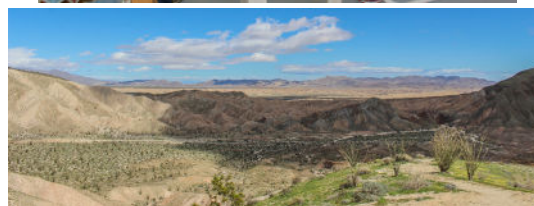
Son-in-law Bob and daughter Jerri LaPrade take a well deserved rest at dessert time.



No matter what, no one is ever lost in the desert!



While Diane Richards savors dessert a photo of the Badlands (right) leaves all with a lasting memory.



Betty Holmes shows a well deserved "V" for a victorious event.