

THE FOOT WARMER

Official publication of the San Diego Region



ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB
OF AMERICA



DECEMBER 2021

Club Website: www.sandiegoregion.aaca.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/SanDiegoRegionAACA

SAN DIEGO REGION ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET



November 7, 2021
The Handlery Hotel

The *Foot Warmer* is the official newsletter publication of the San Diego Region of the AACA. Published approximately monthly, it's free to members of the Region. (That box in the masthead is an antique foot warmer.)

President's Greeting

Dear San Diego Region AACA members,

This is a car club. It takes so many people to make a club like this work, to be enjoyable.

We continue off of a legacy of members before us: Lloyd and Hanna Wentworth, Jerry and Grace Wright, Ralph Harms, Larry and Virginia Larkin, Jim Grube, Paul Foley, Gene Calman, Dave Finney, Virgil Woods, Larry Okey, and so many more. Bob Hayward and Bette Hayward with the Footwarmer, Daryl and Betty Holmes, 20+ years as membership chairman. These men and women dedicated a lot of their time into making this club fun, with the goal of enjoying the hobby of antique cars

For me, what brought me to the club and what keeps me here is my love for these old cars, the historical beauty. Don't ask me about horsepower, or gear ratios, engines or transmissions, what year this feature was on this model or what model had those headlights. I'd be staring back at you like a deer caught in the headlights. Others like my brother-in-law Darrell can look at a car and tell you what year, model, engine, transmission and how many buttons were on the seat upholstery.

This club is made up of so many people from every walk and economic lifestyle. Yet the common denominator is the cars. These cars are what unite us, it is the motivating factor that brings us together to put hours of our lives out there to plan tours and activities, so we have an excuse to drive our cars and show them off to others and to the general public.

Today I want to thank those who in this past year have taken their time to make this club work, function and be more enjoyable. And in the coming year, I offer encouragement to take some time and schedule an event, Even if you have never done one, you don't have to do it alone, either I will help or there are many in our club who you can team up with to host an event.

I look forward to an awesome year of activities and events together.

Tom McClavy, President 2022

December 6 General Meeting at the Joyce Beers Center

The San Diego Region monthly general meeting was held at the Beers center in Hillcrest. Brad Zemcik provided a presentation on the history of the Studebaker Company. Art Cottee won the hotly contested nametag drawing; the coveted \$20 prize was presented to Art by Treasurer John Boyd.

Fall-themed cookies and drinks were provided by John and Barbara Boyd. Photos by Bob Gunthorp



San Diego Region Info

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: **TOM MCILRAVY** (21-22)
 VP: **MARK RICHARDS** (22-23)
 SECRETARY: **SUSAN WOODS** (22-23)
 TREASURER: **JOHN BOYD** (22-23)

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

NANNETTE CLARK (22-23)
BARBARA FOLEY (22-23)
BOB GUNTHERP (22-23)
KIMBALL VINCENT (21-22)

KEY PLAYERS

PROGRAMS/SPEAKERS: **ALEX WATT**
 MEMBERSHIP: **MARK RICHARDS**
 TOURS: **TOM MCILRAVY**
 REFRESHMENTS: **DIANE RICHARDS**
 ANNUAL BANQUET: **BOB GUNTHERP** AND
SUSAN WOODS
 ANNUAL AWARDS: **ALEX WATT, ART**
COTTEE, ROYCE DUNN, DARYL HOLMES,
JACK HEACOCK
 CORONADO PARADE: **AL SMITHSON**
 ACCC REP/LEGISLATION: **SHELDON JURIST**
 CLUB PHOTOGRAPHERS: **BOB GUNTHERP,**
BETTY HOLMES, TOM MCILRAVY
 EDITOR: **JOHN BOYD**
 (SEE CLUB ROSTER FOR CONTACT INFO.)

Anniversaries

December

Royce	Frances	Dunn	18
Mike	Robin	Judd	18
Paul	Francy	Priser	23

January

Mike	Cindy	Williams	8
Jack	Lynne	Heacock	13

It's membership renewal time again! Please send your check for \$25 made out to AACA SD Region to Mark Richards along with any address or phone number changes to be made to the roster. Mark's address is 1474 Merritt Dr., El Cajon 92020. Thanks for your continuing support for the club. And remember to renew for the AACA National club as well!

Region Calendar

Dec 6	Regular Membership Meeting
Jan 3, '22	Joyce Beers Center
Feb 7	3900 Vermont Street, San Diego
Jan 15	Great Autos car show, Normal and University, noon to 3:30 pm.

San Diego Region General Meetings

are held the first Monday of the month at the Joyce Beers Center in Hillcrest, 3900 Vermont Avenue. Social hour begins at 6:30 with the program starting at 7:00. Members and guests are always invited. Refreshments are served after the program.

Birthdays

December

Harry	Mcgill	5
Jack	Heacock	8
John	Phlegar	12
Rachel	Evans	14
Ron	Walling	15
Cathy	Cibit	16
Carol	Ross	16
Darrell	Christian	20
Charles	Hylton	21
Kimball	Vincent	23
Margaret	Puhn	26
Steve	Ross	27

January

Ken	Evans	2
Claire	Cooke	3
Mike	Judd	6
Archie	Ackroyd	10
Richard	Reinstein	10
Wayne	Doyle	11
Jim	Zopfi	12
Janet	Finney	13
Barbara	Foley	14
Gary	Jarvis	14
Sheldon	Jurist	16
David	Smithey	16
Deborah	Judd	24
Ruth	Wahl	31

Awards Banquet Photos

Portraits by Bob Gunthorp









Awards





Member Correspondence

TC Krentz would like to sell her classic car. She writes “1960 AMC Rambler American for sale \$5K. Good running condition, no body rust/no accidents. 51,600 original miles. TC 818/269-5956.”



Bob Gunthorp reports that he saw **Alex Watt** at a cars and coffee event last week. He is recovering from his surgery and expects to attend the monthly General Meeting on December 6!

Ron Walling reports a successful toy drive in the Mount Zion neighborhood November 13.

Thanks to all the members and friends that came to our event on November 13th. The food and toy donations were a spectacular success. Our host is already discussing putting on another similar event early in 2022 and asked for our assistance. More than 300 pounds of food and household items were collected. All are now headed for the San Diego Food Pantry for distribution. As for toys, 100+ were counted and are now headed to a variety of children's aid organizations here in town. Not the least of which is the Aid to Military Families Organization. Check out some of the cars that came by plus some familiar faces. (Photos: Mark Richards)





Wieghorst Museum Tour

Paul Johnson contributed some photos of the Region's tour to the Olaf Wieghorst Museum in El Cajon on October 31. Betty Holmes and Grace Schlesier put together a visit to this museum of Wieghorst's western-themed paintings. The artist moved to El Cajon in 1945 and spent the rest of his life there working on his art. Below are some photos of the event. Thanks, Betty, Grace, and Paul!



On Driving Old Cars – A Rather Sad Story

By John Boyd

“It’s always something!” Roseann Rosannadanna, *Saturday Night Live*, 1978

Barbara and I registered for the 2021 Special Western National Meet in Tempe, Arizona, hoping to enter our 1936 DeSoto to compete for a Senior award some time ago. The plan was to rent a U-haul car hauler and tow the car with our aged, but fairly low mileage, Ford conversion van. The day of departure arrived, November 12, and I washed the truck and headed over to pick up the trailer after dinner. On hooking up the trailer, we discovered there was no signal on either turn signal from the van. It worked fine last July when we drove it to Stockton with a rental trailer, but now: nothing.

It was dark, 7:30 at night, and we had to leave the next morning. We thought of two options. Cancel the trip or drive the DeSoto. Some of you have seen the car – it’s “fully restored”, meaning I had fixed a lot of stuff. The engine is rebuilt, the transmission’s been gone through, good radial tires, not prone to overheating. Moreover, we previously drove the car to an Imperial Club meet in Atascadero, about the same distance as Tempe from San Diego. We decided to drive.



Off we went, leaving about 8 in the morning, up Interstate 8 to Alpine and beyond. Santa Ana winds were blowing that day, and the drive across the mountains was a bit uncomfortable, but we made it fine. The car ran well, except for a minor glitch near Gila Bend, which Jerry Kay kindly saved us from. I'm hoping he writes that up for the next Foot Warmer issue.

The meet was successful, if simple. Judging took place the next day in the Hilton Garden Inn parking lot. Jerry's 67 Mustang was certified HPOF, and the DeSoto was granted a Senior Award with a trophy. The yellow-shirt national award judges went over the car also, and they indicated it was nominated for a National Award. Whether it wins anything is up to the awards team; we won't know for several weeks.



After a fun reunion with San Diego friends who moved to Arizona several years ago, we set off for home. We cruised along in light Sunday traffic, stopping for gas at a truck stop in Gila Bend. The DeSoto was getting rather bad mileage.

After filling up, I turned the key to continue our drive home. Nothing. Well, the gauges moved and the lights worked, but the starter was silent. Jumping the solenoid with a test lead and then with the classic screwdriver short that some of you understand didn't help. Not a click, no motion at all.

I had a full tank of gas. It was 273 miles home. I calculated a full tank on this car was good for about 140 miles. That might get us to El Centro, Yuma for sure, but not home. But to get it started! We both leaned on the car to roll it away from the pumps. Two truck drivers saw two old people pushing a car and ran to help. "Get in and bump start it!" one yelled. I did, and after I remembered you have to lock out the overdrive to get the wheels to turn the engine over, it started right up. Away we went, careful not to kill the engine at a stop light.

We made Yuma easily and (don't tell anyone this part) found a full truck stop with space at the last row of pumps, far from observers. I filled the tank without shutting off and bought a 4-gallon gas can and filled that too. Fantastic! That was enough gas to take us home! If we didn't kill the engine. At the Ocotillo exit I pulled over and emptied the gas can into the tank. In another 10 miles we were at the 2000-foot elevation sign, right under Desert View Tower. I know, because that was where vapor lock stopped us, and when I looked up the cliff from the side of the road, there was the tower.

Airflows are known for vapor lock issues if fed gas with ethanol in it, particularly the Chryslers. This DeSoto Airflow had never had any issues with vapor lock, and although I had purchased a 6-volt electric booster fuel pump, I had never installed it and it wasn't in the car. But it definitely had an issue now. I thought maybe I could bump start it again in reverse after the fuel line cooled down, but a couple of tries convinced me that would never work on this hill – the gear ratio in reverse is lower than in low, and there wasn't enough torque to crank the engine. It was time to call Hagerty.



After standing by the car for 20 minutes or so we remembered the car-show lawn chairs in the back seat and deployed them. The truck arrived from Chula Vista after a couple of hours, and we were home in time for dinner. It wasn't too bad an afternoon, although at least 500 RVs and pickups pulling sand vehicles roared past us up the hill every hour. As Miss Roseannadanna (played by Gilda Radner) said after every one of her *Saturday Night Live* laments, "It's always something."

Epilog: I pulled the starter the next day to have a look. The solenoid was my strong suspicion. The solenoid plunger on this car is pinned to a lever that engages the pinion with the flywheel ring gear and then switches high current to the starter motor. Sometime in the past, the pin had been replaced with a metric bolt and nut (with no Loctite), which had worked loose and fallen out. A simple fix, but more than I could manage on the side of I-8 with my limited tools!