

THE FOOT WARMER

Official publication of the San Diego Region



ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB
OF AMERICA



JANUARY 2026

Club Website: <https://sandiegoregion.aaca.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/SanDiegoRegionAACA

President's Greeting

Dear San Diego Region AACA members,

The new year is upon us. It looks like it will be a year filled with great activities for our club!

I was unable to be at the January meeting due to being delayed in Miami after a 12-day holiday cruise. Mark Rebello did a fantastic job of running the meeting, and my hat's off to Alex Watt for his presentation that I heard was wonderful.

Until we meet again, happy motoring.

Tom McIlravy

Editor's Choice: A one-off Bentley Special featured in the December 2025 Hemmings Marketplace ads. Starting with a 1949 car, J Buckley Coachwork in UK constructed a new alloy body. [1949 Bentley Special](#)



*For comparison,
here's a stock
1949 Bentley*

The Foot Warmer is the approximately monthly newsletter for the San Diego Region, AACA. Member submissions are solicited, welcomed, and encouraged. Please email articles and photos of your antique automobiles and related activities to the editor at drjohn96@mac.com.

CLUB INFO

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: TOM MCILRAVY (25-26)

VP: MARK REBELLO (25-26)

SECRETARY: SUSAN WOODS (25-26)

TREASURER: JOHN BOYD (25-26)

DIRECTORS AT LARGE:

NANNETTE CLARK (24-25)

BARBARA FOLEY (24-25)

BOB GUNTHERP (24-25)

JACK HEACOCK (24-25)

KEY PLAYERS

MEMBERSHIP: MARK RICHARDS

TOURS: TOM MCILRAVY

REFRESHMENTS: DIANE RICHARDS

ANNUAL BANQUET: BOB GUNTHERP

ANNUAL AWARDS: MARK REBELLO, JACK HEACOCK, MARK RICHARDS

CORONADO PARADE: AL SMITHSON

SILENT MOVIES: AL SMITHSON

ACCC REP/LEGIS: SHELDON JURIST

CLUB PHOTOGRAPHERS:

TOM MCILRAVY AND THE MEMBERS
VOLUNTEER SQUAD

EDITOR: JOHN BOYD

PROGRAMS: Vacant

(SEE CLUB ROSTER FOR ALL CONTACT
INFO.)

CLUB EVENTS

JAN	5	General Meeting — "Aston Martin" Alex Watt
	11	San Diego Excursion — Newell Booth
FEB	2	GM — "WAAM Museum" Sheldon Jurist
	21	Chili Cookoff — Beers Center
MAR	2	GM — "Louman Museum" Brad Zemcik
	7	Jeff Phillips Collection — Keith Wahl
	21	Scary Museum — Barbara Foley
APR	6	GM — Auto Museum Brad Zemcik
	18	Making Music Museum — Jurists
MAY	4	GM — Bingo Night
	9	Santee Lakes Picnic — Rebellos
	13	Ladies Luncheon — Susan Woods
	23	Open House at Beth Kind's — B. Foley, M. Cooke

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Archie	Ackroyd	10
Ruth	Sigler	10
Jim	Zopfi	12
Barbara	Foley	14
Sheldon	Jurist	16
David	Smithey	16
Mark	Rebello	23
Deborah	Judd	24
Terry	Knoepp	31
Ruth	Wahl	31

ANNIVERSARIES

Mike & Cindy Williams	8
Jack & Lynne Heacock	13



January General Meeting

(with thanks to Mark Richards and Mark Rebello for details)

The January meeting was headed up by vice president Mark Rebello and he introduced Alex Watt and his program “Aston Martin 1913 -1988”. Alex spoke about the early racing days and development of the marque. Aston was well known for Gran Prix racing and won at Le Mans for a number of years. Always a limited production car, less than 11,000 were built before 1975. Alex had a nice slide show and also brought model cars representing the primary models, including his DB-4 of course.

Mark Rebello led a discussion of the upcoming Pt. Loma race reenactment on January 11. Maps of the staging areas and routing were provided. Sheldon Jurist reported on the recent legislative committee meeting at SEMA in Las Vegas. There was major disappointment that the assigned state legislator was a no-show. Sheldon also had a story about getting a very undeserved a ticket in Compton while being in a parade.

Luke Kensen brought an assortment of goodies for refreshments; thanks Luke! The badge raffle was won by Sheila Jurist and a photo was taken with a \$200 prize. Whether this was a genuine award is still being discussed. Since the Treasurer wasn't there and no one had a \$20 bill, VP Rebello may have improvised. It could be a gag photo.



Odd Wheels and Unusual Auto Stories from 2025

Even in a year dominated by EVs and advanced driver tech, 2025 gave us some delightfully strange and memorable automotive stories—perfect fodder for anyone who loves cars with character.

One of the most talked-about quirky events came from the **2025 Woodward Dream Cruise**, where alongside the usual parade of muscle and classics were truly oddball machines. Among the favorites were vehicles like a dramatically-painted **BMW Isetta with a V-8 engine** bolted to the back and ludicrous custom trucks festooned with rockets and military surplus lights. These creations show the creativity (and sense of humor) still alive among gearheads. [Car and Driver](#)



The year's **weirdest automotive news roundup** also featured plenty of unexpected stories. From viral automotive moments and amusing driver antics to the strangest vehicles and builds highlighted online, 2025 kept us entertained as much for the unusual as for the automotive achievements. [Le Guide de l'auto](#)

On the concours scene, even Pebble Beach—the pinnacle of automotive elegance—had its share of intrigue. The **2025 Best of Show winner**, a beautifully restored **1924 Hispano-Suiza H6C Nieuport-Astra Torpedo**, drew attention not just for its pedigree but for a *funky custom exhaust* that had commentators scratching their heads and sparking a lively debate about form versus function in vintage restoration. [The Drive](#)



In the world of concept and future cars, 2025 continued pushing boundaries. Unusual designs ranged from highly limited electric hypercars and quirky urban EVs to radical retro-inspired revivals that seemed more art installation than road car. These wild designs served as a reminder that automotive creativity still has plenty of room to surprise—even if some ideas never make it past the concept stage. [Car Service Marbella](#)



The new Ford Capri (with VW drivetrain)

For lovers of tradition and the unusual alike, 2025 was a good year to appreciate the breadth of car culture: from historic classics and odd conversions at grassroots events to high-tech concepts that make us wonder what's next. Whatever your taste, there's always something fascinating rolling down the road.

San Diego Excursion

The commemorative tour of Balboa Park to Point Loma is fast approaching. Organizer Newell Booth reminds all that although the participants are limited to pre-war through 1942 models, if your car does not qualify, you are welcome as a spectator. You will see cars including the following vintage brands: Austin, Bentley, Buick, Cadillac, Chalmers, DeSoto, Dodge, Ford, Gotfredson, Hudson, Lincoln, M.G., Maxwell, Michigan, Model A, Model T, National, Packard, Pierce-Arrow, Plymouth, Pope-Hartford, Rambler, Rolls-Royce, Seagrave, Stoddard-Dayton, Studebaker, Triumph, Velie, and White. You will see a wide variety of vehicles, including race cars, touring cars, roadsters, convertibles, coupes, fire trucks, speedsters, runabouts, phaetons, limousines, trucks, depot hacks, and pickups.

Coming to San Diego

San Diego Auto Museum announces:

In June 2026, NASCAR will hold all three of its major races; the Craftsman Truck Series on Friday June 19th, Xfinity Series racing

on June 20th, and the NASCAR Cup Series being the feature event on June 21st. These NASCAR race events, being held at the Coronado Naval Base, coincide with the 250th anniversary of the United States Navy.

And also, If you'd like to nominate a car for display at the San Diego Automotive Museum, send your information and some pictures of your car to: jacqueline@sdautomuseum.org. The car will be displayed in the main gallery of the museum for one month.

SAN DIEGO EXCURSION VINTAGE CAR PARADE AND CAR SHOW CELEBRATING THE 1915 POINT LOMA ROAD RACE



SUNDAY JANUARY 11, 2026
PARADE 10:30 - 11:30 AM
CAR SHOW 12 NOON - 2 PM



More than 100 Vintage Cars



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REGIONAL GROUP**

Sponsors

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Horseless Carriage Club, San Diego Group
Model T Ford Club, San Diego
HCFI Automotive Library, La Mesa
San Diego Automotive Museum, Balboa Park

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SAN DIEGO EXCURSION SUNDAY JANUARY 11, 2026

Balboa Park

DRIVER REGISTRATION
& PHOTO SHOOT
7:30 - 9:15 AM



Mission Hills

VINTAGE CAR PARADE
9:15 - 10:00 AM



Point Loma

VINTAGE CAR PARADE

10:30 - 11:30 AM



Liberty Station

CAR SHOW

12 N - 2 PM