

# THE FOOT WARMER

Official publication of the San Diego Region

ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB  
OF AMERICA



FEBRUARY 2026

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/SanDiegoRegionAACA](http://www.facebook.com/groups/SanDiegoRegionAACA)

## President's Greeting

Dear San Diego Region AACA members,

Our year is starting off with some great activities, and we are looking forward to a busy year. I hope you can participate in these events!

This Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, we will have our great *Chili Cook-off*. Be there or be square! At our monthly meeting on March 2, Brad Zemcik will be presenting the second half of his tour of the *Louwman Museum* in The Hague, the Netherlands. This museum of historic cars, coaches, and motorcycles is the oldest classic car museum in the world. It was founded in 1934 with the purchase of a 1914 Dodge. Today it comprises about 275 vehicles. We enjoyed Brad's photo presentation, part 1, a few months ago, and this promises to be a very interesting evening!

Then on March 7<sup>th</sup>, Keith Wahl will be leading a driving tour to the *Jeff Phillips collection* near Lake Hodges. Details, meeting place, and driving directions will be provided soon. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, Barbara Foley will be hosting us on a trip to the "*Scary Museum*." Looking forward to that too!

Until we meet again, Happy Motoring.

Tom McIlravy, President AACA San Diego Region



*San Diego welcomes (?) winter rains. Tell me that guy isn't fishing?*

**The Foot Warmer is the approximately monthly newsletter for the San Diego Region, AACA. Member submissions are solicited, welcomed, and encouraged. NO, REALLY: Please email articles and photos of your antique automobiles and related activities to the editor at [drjohn96@mac.com](mailto: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 (26-27)

BARBARA FOLEY (26-27)

BOB GUNTHORP (26-27)

JACK HEACOCK (26-27)

## KEY PLAYERS

**MEMBERSHIP:** MARK RICHARDS

**TOURS:** TOM MCILRAVY

**REFRESHMENTS:** DIANE RICHARDS

**ANNUAL BANQUET:** BOB GUNTHORP

**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

FEB	2	GM —"WAAM Museum" Sheldon Jurist
	21	Chili Cookoff —Beers Center
MAR	2	GM —"Louman Museum" Brad Zencik
	7	Jeff Phillips Collection —Keith Wahl
	21	Scary Museum —Barbara Foley
APR	6	GM —Auto Museum Brad Zencik
	18	Making Music Museum —Sheldon and Sheila Jurist
MAY	4	GM —Bingo Night
	9	Santee Lakes Picnic —Mark and Tracey Rebello
	13	Ladies Luncheon —Susan Woods
	23	Open House at Beth Kind's – B. Foley, M. Cooke

## FEB-MAR BIRTHDAYS:

Luvonne	Harms	FEB	8
Joe	Cibit		9
Keith	Wahl		27
Bette	Hayward	MAR	4
Daryl	Holmes		7
Phyllis	Cottee		27
Catherine	Woolsey		10
Robert	Lasher		30



## ANNIVERSARIES

Mark and Diane Richards	Feb 12
Daryl and Betty Holmes	Feb 18
Mark and Tracey Rebello	Mar 3
John and Barbara Boyd	Mar 16

## February General Meeting

By John Boyd

The San Diego Region gathered, as usual, at the Joyce Beers Community Center in Hillcrest for our monthly meeting — and those who stayed home missed a good one.

Sheldon Jurist treated us to a lively photo tour of the Western Antique Aeroplane & Automobile Museum (WAAM) in Hood River, Oregon — that’s “or’-uh-gun,” not “ore’-ee-gahn’,” I understand. Hood River sits just south of the Columbia River, about 65 miles east of Portland, in spectacular scenery that alone might justify the trip.

WAAM houses an impressive collection of both aircraft and automobiles spanning the 1900s through the 1960s. Among the automotive highlights is a stately 1923 Locomobile and an enviable lineup of Franklins that would make any air-cooled enthusiast pause for a long look. The museum takes particular pride in keeping its vintage aircraft in flying condition — and yes, they actually fly them. Seeing those machines alive and in motion adds a whole new dimension to the preservation of mechanical history.

After Sheldon’s presentation and discussion, we adjourned for refreshments — treats courtesy of the Boyds and drinks provided by the Richards (thank you both!). The business meeting followed, with the February 21 Chili Cook-Off taking center stage. Treasurer John Boyd reported that the club remains on solid financial footing and outlined several proposed budget adjustments for 2026. The membership approved the changes unanimously.

But here’s the important part:

These monthly gatherings aren’t just business meetings. They’re an opportunity to learn something new, see interesting machinery, share stories, and enjoy the fellowship of people who understand why a mechanical fuel pump, a proper carburetor adjustment, or the sound of a straight-eight matters. If you’ve been meaning to come “one of these months,” consider this your invitation. You don’t need to bring a show car. You don’t need to bring anything at all — just yourself. The programs are engaging, the company is welcoming, and you may leave inspired for your next garage session.

We’d like to see a few more familiar faces at the next meeting!



## A Trip to Palm Springs

by John Boyd

For many years the Airflow Club of America Western Region gathered each February at the Big-3 Swap Meet & Parts Exchange in the parking lot of what we still reflexively call Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego. Readers of this newsletter all know about the Big-3: we marked the vendor spaces, staffed the AACA and Big-3 booths, and walked the fields for years!

Airflowers staffed their own club booth, usually parking an Airflow or two nearby to attract visitors, who frequently asked, “What is that?”, and spent the weekend answering questions, recruiting members, and swapping stories — and occasionally parts.

After a long day of “serious” swap-meet treasure hunting, we traditionally regrouped at Casa Guadalajara in Old Town for a buffet dinner and music. It was loud, festive, and just the right amount of chaotic. Good cars, good food, good friends.

As we all know, time moves on. The old stadium aged out, the Chargers left town, and eventually the wrecking balls came. A new, smaller stadium rose for San Diego State, but the sprawling parking lot that made Big-3 possible disappeared. And with it, our long-running February tradition.

Truth be told, the final years of Big-3 showed signs of decline. Vendors thinned out. Attendance softened. No one had unearthed a true Airflow treasure there in quite some time. Still, the ACA Western Region gatherings built around the event were always a success — because the real attraction wasn’t the swap meet. It was us.

With Big-3 gone, the question became: what next?

Someone gently observed that San Diego might not be the geographic center of the Airflow Club Western Region, which runs from the Rockies to the Pacific. Enter Regional Director Phyllis Allstott, who took the bull by the horns and began organizing spring get-togethers in more central locations for our regular participants. And so a new tradition was born.



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### Palm Springs 2026

In early February 2026, the Western Region gathered in Palm Springs for a three-night stay at the Best Western. Jerry and Phyllis handled arrangements, with invaluable local guidance from Frank Wenzel, who maintains a home there.

Members began arriving February 3rd, and by Tuesday evening informal dinner groups had formed, as they always do. One of the pleasures of these events is that nothing feels forced — small groups assemble naturally, conversations resume where they left off, and it quickly feels like a family reunion.

Wednesday: Mountains, Gardens, and Airplanes

Wednesday morning offered options: a ride up the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway for spectacular desert views, or a stroll through the area’s desert botanical gardens. The weather cooperated beautifully. I chose the Tramway.



That afternoon we toured the **Palm Springs Air Museum**, where ACA member Jack Moore volunteers as a docent during the busy winter season. The museum houses an impressive collection of historic aircraft, including a B-17 open for tours.

Barbara and I were especially drawn to the hangar devoted to the **Lockheed F-117 Nighthawk** — the faceted “stealth fighter” that was actually a precision ground-attack aircraft. It flew missions during Operation Just Cause (Panama, 1989) and Operation Desert Storm (Iraq, 1991) before its official retirement in 2008. Seeing one up close is a reminder that engineering audacity isn’t limited to the 1930s.

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Thursday: Frank’s Garage (and Then Some)

Thursday morning, member Frank Wenzel graciously hosted us at his Palm Springs home, garage, and collections. Frank’s stable includes several beautifully restored automobiles — among them two Pierce-Arrows, a ’61 DeSoto, and (no surprise) a selection of Studebakers. Parked outside for our admiration was his low-mileage, highly original Airflow DeSoto SG. It drew steady attention, as Airflows tend to do. Along the front



garage wall and in the house are an amazing collection of automobilia, toy cars, oil lamps, musical instruments, and more! Frank admits he loves collecting.

From there we gathered at **Manhattan in the Desert** for lunch in a private room. The sandwiches were monumental. Nearly everyone departed with a to-go box!



But the day wasn’t over. After lunch we caravanned a few miles to view the car-condo collections of two of Frank’s friends, housed in a large garage complex near the airport. Row after row of beautifully maintained machinery made for an unforgettable afternoon. It’s always energizing to see how others preserve and present automotive history.

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The Best Part

As enjoyable as the tramway, aircraft museum, private garages, and deli lunches were, the true highlight — as always — was the camaraderie. These gatherings remind us that the Airflow Club isn’t just about cars. It’s about friendships formed over shared enthusiasm, maintained across miles, and strengthened by time spent together.

Sincere thanks to Jerry and Phyllis Allstott for organizing, to Frank for his extraordinary hospitality, to Jack for guiding us through the museum, and to everyone who made the effort to attend.

[This article is based on a similar report by the author published in the January-February 2026 *Airflow Newsletter*.]

## SDACC Meeting Report

Ricky Logier, our representative to the San Diego Association of Car Clubs, attended the February 3 meeting and provided this report:

The first 2026 SDACC meeting was held February 3rd at Testo Pepesto Italian Restaurant private room in El Cajon. It was mentioned that the 3 top car clubs in San Diego area were the Corvette, Mustang & Low Riders. Their car shows have 200+ cars registered and usually sell out early.

The SDACC is requesting sponsorship/donations from car clubs for the 2026 El Cajon Cruise. The El Cajon Chamber of Commerce is no longer funding events in the city.

The SDACC has modified their Car Show Calendar into 3 categories.

1. General Car Show Calendar
2. Lowrider Car Show Calendar
3. Reoccurring Events Calendar

The following car events/shows were presented at the meeting by the Car Club representatives.

Auto Swap & Car Show, Pechanga Arena Sports	Arena Blvd February 16th
El Cajon Cruise Nights	May 6th to August 26th.
Motor Cars on Main St. Coronado	May 3rd
Fathers' Day Car Show Belmont Park	June 21st
"Wild Rides" Pacific Beach car show	August 15th
Conservative Autobody 7079 Mission Gorge Rd SD car show	September 6th.
The Greatest Show on Turf with South Clairmont Family Day	Date to be sometime in September.

For more car events/show go to calendars at [sandiegoassociationofcarclubs.org](http://sandiegoassociationofcarclubs.org)

The next SDACC meet up will be on April 7th at Pernicanos Italian restaurant parking lot. Trophies will be given out. There will be a raffle to give away \$500 to a charity of the winning car club's choice.



## Coming to San Diego This Summer!

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.**

Did you know? The former Xfinity Series, with new sponsorship, is now the NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series. This series is mostly the developmental stage of NASCAR racing. NASCAR Cup Series is the big show, the premier level, with 20 more HP allowed, 5-speed sequential transmissions (O'Reilly have 4-speeds), independent rear suspension, 18-inch wheels with a single lug nut. And different bodies of course. The sophistication of Cup cars usually makes for better behavior – O'Reilly races are sometimes more entertaining – more body roll, more sliding, more throttle control. Thanks to Chat GPT we understand the differences, which are likely to (mostly) be accurate.

There is a very cool video of the planned Coronado 3.4-mile track on NASCAR's site at

<https://www.nascar.com/news-media/2025/10/21/san-diego-race-course-revealed-for-naval-base-coronado/>

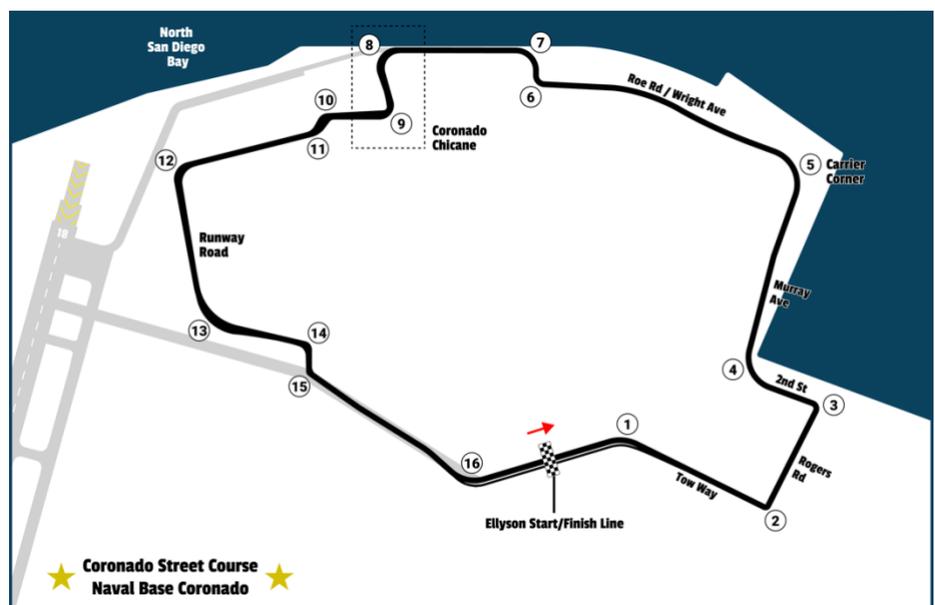
Show below is the Wikipedia version of the course.

And also, *San Diego Automotive Museum* reminds us that if you'd like to nominate a car for display at the San Diego Automotive Museum, you should send your information and some pictures of your car to:

jacqueline@sautomuseum.org. If accepted, the car will be displayed in the main gallery of the museum for one month.



By Jetijones - Naslogo.jpg, Public Domain,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=18600955>



# WEST COAST INTERNATIONAL CAR & BIKE SHOW



**SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST, 2026**  
**10AM-2PM**

**\$25 ENTRANCE FEE FOR CARS & BIKES**  
**DAY OF REGISTRATION ONLY!**

**ALL MAKES & MODELS WELCOME**

**AWARDS FOR ALL CLASSES**

**1ST PLACE WINNER WILL ALSO RECEIVE \$100 IN-STORE CREDIT**



LOCATION OF EVENT:  
**621 EL CAJON BLVD. EL CAJON, CA 92020**

EL CAJON HARLEY | CAR SHOW HOTLINE  
**(619) 444-1123 | (619) 201 8207**

# REGISTER NOW!



NICOLE MEGUIAR'S  
*Benedict Castle*  
RIVERSIDE CONCOURS CALIFORNIA  
CAR SHOW

**MAY 17 2026**

9am to 3pm

Trophies Awarded to a wide variety of  
Show Cars, Trucks and Motorcycles

- ▶ Classics
- ▶ Exotics
- ▶ Kustoms
- ▶ Hot Rods
- ▶ Domestics
- ▶ Asian
- ▶ European
- ▶ Trucks

**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- ▶ Saturday Night Gala - May 16th, 2026
- ▶ Visit with Automotive Industry Legends
- ▶ Nethercutt Collection High Tea
- ▶ Petersen Museum VIP Pavilion
- ▶ Benedict Castle Tours
- ▶ Live & Silent Auctions



2026 GRAND MARSHAL  
**Peter Brock**



Open to ALL Cars,  
Trucks & Motorcycles!  
Trophies for ALL Classes!  
Great Music, Food,  
Fun & More!

## MISSION BEACH FATHER'S DAY CRUISE TO BELMONT PARK

**Sunday, June 21st, 2026**

**\$30**  
PER VEHICLE  
REGISTER ON OR  
BEFORE JUNE 14th  
& GET A  
**FREE**  
EVENT T-SHIRT

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE:  
CARSHOWCALIFORNIA.COM



3146 Mission Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92109  
Show Hours:  
10am - 3pm  
Rain or Shine  
For more details call:  
619-201-8207

LIVE MUSIC BY  
FARMERS SD

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Amt Endorsed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$30 per/vehicle)

Circle FREE Shirt Size S M L XL XXL XXXL  
If no size is marked you will receive an XL. (All complimentary T's are in the same neutral color - NO EXCHANGES)

ADDITIONAL SHIRT(S) \$25 additional ea. shirt  
(There will be shirts of various colors/sizes for sale at the event as well)

CIRCLE SIZE AND WRITE IN COLOR  
Circle ADDITIONAL Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL XXXL  
Additional Shirt Color: \_\_\_\_\_

# PACIFIC BEACH

**SATURDAY  
AUG 15th  
2026**

Enter ON Garnet AT Dawes



**FREE**  
For Spectators!

Open to all year, make, model vehicles



**\$35 PRE-REGISTRATION**  
Commemorative **FREE**  
Dash Plaque if postmarked  
**ON OR BEFORE Aug 10th**  
**\$40 day of registration**

No vehicles will be able to leave  
early under any circumstance  
Load in hours are from 7am to 9:30am SHARP. Show hours from 11am-2pm  
Register Online at: CARSHOWCALIFORNIA.COM  
More info: 619-201-8207

MAKE THE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **CRUISING FOR CAUSES** MAIL TO: PO BOX 710086, SANTEE CA 92072

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the most appropriate category:  
CLASSIC CAR MUSCLE CAR HOT ROD LOW RIDER AIR-COOLED  
MODERN MUSCLE SPORTS CAR TRUCK BIKE DUB IMPORT  
Club Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_