

THE FOOT WARMER

Official Publication of the San Diego Region



Jerry Kay's 1967 Mustang. Read the fascinating story inside this month's Foot Warmer and learn why a photo of an old battery, the ever elusive original 24F Autolite battery with the six red caps and red Autolite on the side, makes the front cover. *See page 5*

Also inside, on a not so happy context, an article by Rick Reinstein about his 1951 Chevrolet that was featured in the September 2018 issue.

See page 4

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Don't miss the Celebration!!!

At our February meeting we celebrate the region's 56th anniversary. This is the time to celebrate the members who make this such a great region and their passion for our hobby. Don't miss out on your piece of cake and great region camaraderie.

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.

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:
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2019 Region Calendar

Dates subject to changes

- FEB 4 General Membership Meeting
 FEB TBD Region Tour Event
- FEB 9 Silent Movie - Al Smithson
 619.992.8729
-
- MAR 2 Tour to Anza Borrego * * ***
*** * * Tom McIlravy and Norma Almanza ***
- MAR 4 General Membership Meeting
 MAR 16 Silent Movie - Al Smithson
 619.992.8729
-
- APR 1 General Membership Meeting
 APR 27 Spring Picnic
 Larry & Paula Okey 619.582.9676
-
- MAY 6 General Membership Meeting
 MAY TBD Region Tour Event
 Sam & Debbie Judd 619.449.6618
 MAY 15 Ladies Tea - Susan Woods,
 Betty Holmes & Lynne Heacock
-
- JUN 3 General Membership Meeting
 JUN TBD Day at Del Mar Fair
 Larry & Paula Okey 619.582.9676
 JUN 30 Bar-B-Que
 Bob Gunthorp 619.993.0184
-
- JUL NO General Membership Meeting
 JUL 4 4th of July Coronado Parade
 Al Smithson
-
- AUG 5 General Membership Meeting
 AUG TBD Chicken Fest
 Mike Cooke and Art Cottee
-
- SEP 2 General Membership Meeting
 SEP 28 Desert Tower Tour
 Mark Richards 619.541.1393
-
- OCT 7 General Membership Meeting
 OCT TBD Silent Movie - Al Smithson
 619.992.8729
 OCT TBD Watt's Halloween Party
 Alex & Sandy Watt 619.223.6519
 OCT TBD Edgemore Hospital Car Show
 Doug Clements 858.487.8617
-
- NOV 4 General Membership Meeting
 NOV 10 Annual Banquet
 Bob Gunthorp 619.993.0184
 NOV TBD Silent Movie - Al Smithson
 619.992.8729
 NOV TBD Region Tour Event
-
- DEC 2 General Membership Meeting
 DEC 1 Bells of Freedom
 Bob Gunthorp 619.993.0184

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I hope everyone had a pleasant Holiday Season, and are prepared for another fun year. Sandy and I had a quiet Christmas, and were all set for a quiet New Year's. We did take the Aston out the last Saturday of the year and attended a cars and coffee event with Bob Gunthorp.

At the cars and coffee event we were approached by a new friend and asked if we would be willing to make our DB4 available for a James Bond Themed New Year's Party at the San Diego Yacht Club. As we had nothing planned, and the Yacht Club is less than 2 miles from our house we agreed. I had 2 days to get all the Bond accessories updated and added to the car. First was the tracking system which had to be re-wired, and "re-calibrated" to show the Yacht Club. Then it was installed beneath the dashboard. Next was repair the gadget control console and the tyre slasher. In the past I had always added the slasher once we were parked, but this time I decided to put in on ahead of time. This was to be the first time I would drive the car with the slasher in the extended position. My only concern was that I would encounter a 60's Mustang and I would try to replicate Bond taking out the tyres... Luckily we were parked at the Yacht Club before I saw a Mustang.

There were 3 cars on display and the plan was to offer rides in the 2 new cars and let the guests get behind the wheel of our car for a photo-op. Great plan, but as Robbie Burns, the famous Scottish poet wrote, "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft a-gley" This time it was heavy rain and most guests rushed past the cars set up at the entrance. Still it was a fun evening despite the rain, and Sandy and I are always willing to accompany the car when it gets invited to a special event.

Most of you know that I work part-time for FEMA on disaster recovery, and this time I am heading to Florida to work on the Hurricane Irma recovery efforts. I will be turning over the President's duties to Beth Kind until I get back, so please assist her.

The next "official" event for the club is the Hillcrest Classic Car Show on January 19th from 1pm to 4pm. Call Kimball Vincent or Tom McIlravy for the exact location. I look forward to seeing pictures of the event and a write-up in the next Footwarmer.

Daryl Holmes was busy at the meeting collecting this year's membership dues, so if you haven't already paid them please get them in the mail to him. We still have 3 "free" memberships to the National Club, so if you know anyone you think needs to join, please let Daryl have their contact information.

Alex (Prez in absentia)

Our January speaker was Doug Shupe from AAA. He gave an interesting talk about various forms of distracted/ impaired driving but focused mainly on mobile phones and texting. Mobile phone usage is



leading to an increase in automobile collisions and fatalities. As AAA's new campaign says: **Don't drive intoxicated, don't drive intoxicated.**

Member Updates:

Colin Fort has had recent open heart surgery. Keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers. He is recovering well. You can send card to him at home: 1053 Passiflora Ave., Encinitas, CA 92024. Let's hope he is back to his old self soon...we need some jokes!

Congratulations to **Sheldon and Sheila Jurist**. Sheldon is now the VP of the Association of California Car Clubs (ACCC), and Shelia is the Secretary.

Address changes:

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JOHN PHLEGAR & JOHN GILL
16434 North 35th Way. Phoenix, AZ 85032

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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Thieves Attack MY '51 Chevy

by Rick Reinstein

Having a garage under my apartment building seemed to be a great, convenient, and relatively safe place to store my beloved 1951 Chevrolet Sport Coupe. I couldn't have been more mistaken. Sometime during the evening or morning hours between September 18 and 19, some moronic idiots decided they were going to steal my car.

When I checked on it the morning of the 19th, I discovered my driver door open, and the sight which greeted my eyes sickened me (to put it mildly). I won't repeat the expletives my dear wife had to hear.

From what I have written so far, one can deduce these pathetic excuses for human beings were not successful. However, in their moronic bungling, they did manage to do quite a bit of damage. Thanks to other measures, they were not able to steal my beloved car. Here are some of my measures and additional tips I discovered in my research. They are:

- A simple \$10 battery disconnect switch was the ultimate save of my car, in my opinion.
- \$20 window alarm (available at Home Depot) installed on each door inside. This noise maker is quite loud and may startle potential criminals and one to another attempt.
- Carlock--a GPS locator. This is a plug-in to later model car o.b.d. connectors. There is also a separate connector which allows one to wire this in to a 12v power source or relocate it to a hidden location. This locator works with a smart phone and can alert you if the car is moved or if any movement or vibration is detected. They are available for about \$100 online. For those without 12v systems, Carlock Portable is available and comes with its own battery.
- Kill switches and fuel shut offs are also great investments. They should be installed in a hidden location not easily found.
- Car boots available online. These are similar to the "Denver Boot" used for parking enforcement by the police.

Keep in mind, all these measures serve to frustrate would-be thieves by forcing them to spend a lot of time defeating these measures. Obviously, a dedicated pro would not be stopped, but most thefts are done by punk idiots. The more time they have to spend, the better the chances they will either give up or be discovered. That was the case in my situation.

Finally, I would caution our members to be savvy and be aware of things that don't look right—especially strange behavior by spectators at car shows. We noticed these things at a car show we attended 3 days before the incident. Watch for folks following you home or taking note of your plates.

Cheers,
Rick

Early last year Gene Calman handed out copies of a six page article published in *Skinned Knuckles* magazine, February 2017. It was a re-print of the article that ran in 2008. It is titled "Is Your Car Really Insured" and focuses on old\collectible cars. It is extremely insightful. In the near future we will have pdf copies available to members. It behooves us all to keep abreast of our insurance coverage.

Speaking of Gene, as you know he handled our "RAP" sessions at the monthly meetings with various items beneficial to us and our hobby. We are happy to welcome our new "**RAP Master**": **Fred Puhn**. This is a great replacement and we all look forward to Fred's vast wisdom in pursuit of our hobby.

Garaged for 50 years earns Gold *Submitted by Jerry Kay*

Jerry Kay a San Diego area resident went to help an elderly friend with a computer problem in Lemon Grove, California. When Jerry arrived he found his 90 year old friend, Andy Canepa, cleaning out his garage. Jerry found this strange as Andy never parked either of his two new Honda's in the garage. Jerry asked why Andy was cleaning out his garage. Andy answered that he was making room for a car his sister was going to give him. He explained that his sister, Florence Johnson, 93, wasn't driving any more and she wanted to give her car to him. Jerry asked what kind of car it was. Andy said it was a Mustang. This piqued Jerry's interest because his first car when he was 16 was a '67 Mustang. Jerry asked what year it was. Andy wasn't sure but he said it was bought many years ago. The next question was, can we go look at it. Andy said sure. It was only about a mile away. Jerry and Andy drove right over to Florence's house. When Andy opened the garage door, there sat a dirty springtime yellow 1967 Mustang 2 door hardtop with 3 flat tires. The car was covered with rugs and boxes. The car looked to be in good shape but it was so dirty it was hard to tell. Jerry told Andy that he didn't need an old Mustang like that and it was meant to be in Jerry's hands as it was just like his first car, except for the color. 289, automatic, 2 door hardtop. There was one other difference. Florence ordered the car new with a bench seat. Jerry looked at the speedometer; 37,113 actual miles with one owner for 50 years. There in the glove compartment was the original warranty card, owners manual and other papers delivered with the car on September 30, 1966. There were even the original keys with the original key cut tags intact on the original dealer key fob from University Ford in San Diego.

After striking a deal, Florence, 93 years young, came out of the house and stepped a few feet into the garage. She wanted to make sure it was going to a good home. She stated that the car had always been in the garage when not in use. She said it never sat outside and wanted to make sure Jerry had a garage to keep it in. She said it was never rained on nor did she ever intentionally drive it in the rain. The car had been caught in the rain a few times, but she avoided it at all cost. After resting assured that the car was going to a good home and that Jerry would never let the car sit out when it was parked, Florence went back into the house. Two weeks later she passed away at the age of 93. Jerry guesses that knowing that her beloved Mustang was going to a good home was the last of her worries and she was ready to meet her husband and only daughter that passed away many years before her.

Jerry pumped up the tires and pushed the car out of the garage and took pictures of it so he could get insurance on it before taking it home. He then pushed it back into her garage and applied for insurance. The antique auto insurance company that he first applied with said it would not insure such a wreck that was in such bad shape. Jerry called them and explained that the car was in new condition and just said it needed to be washed. They said no way. Jerry, who happened to be a retired insurance agent of 25 years, knew right away he was dealing with the wrong insurance company. He then contacted another antique auto insurance company that looked at the pictures and easily agreed to insure the Mustang for top value and could see through the dirt and dust. Jerry charged up the battery and the car turned over just fine but would not start. The last stickers on the license plate were 2003 so it had been sitting for a long time. Jerry had it towed a few miles to his home, and popped off the distributor cap and cleaned the points and rotor. With a turn of the key it started right away even with the 20 year old gas in the tank.

Then the process of cleaning, cleaning and more cleaning revealed a very good condition, all original vehicle. Florence was 43 years old when in September of 1966 she ordered the new 67 Mustang and she did not molest the car like many young owners did. The only modifications she did were to put San Diego Chargers stickers on the inside of the three rear windows and she put a Saint Christopher magnet on the metal ashtray door on the dash. There was also a State Farm Insurance sticker on the rear bumper. What a joy it was to clean up such an original, unrestored find. Jerry assumed that since there were millions of these cars sold in the 60's that this was not that uncommon to find one in this great condition.

continued

But as he took it to various car shows including Mustang and Ford shows he found that he had the only unrestored Mustang in great condition at the shows.

Jerry took the cleaned 67 Mustang to the National Antique Automobile Club of America car show in Tucson, Arizona and was awarded with the Historical Preservation of Original Features award. It was at that show that there was a member of the Mustang Club of America. He told Jerry that the car was a jewel and he had to take it to the national Mustang show in Georgia next month. They had a special class for unrestored Mustangs and everybody would just love to see such a car. He stated that in all his years belonging to the national club he has only seen a handful of unrestored early Mustangs in such great condition. Being only a month away and Georgia being so far away from San Diego, Jerry passed on the idea. But after looking at the calendar of events for the Mustang Club of America he found the next national show in Lincoln Nebraska 3 months away. That show was a lot closer and would give him plenty of time to prepare.

Jerry first found and called Johnnie Garner, the national MCA judge for his class of unrestored 1964 ½ to 1973 Mustangs and started to ask questions with regard to the class that his car would be in. He also asked who had the finest example of an unrestored Mustang so he could get an idea what he was up against. Johnnie told him of a man in Bend Oregon that won gold last year by the name of Craig Denson. Jerry contacted Craig and eventually took a detailed video of the springtime yellow '67 and send a copy to Craig and a couple of other knowledgeable Mustang restorers, Bob Perkins from Wisconsin and Marcus Anghel from Scottsdale, Arizona. Everyone got back to Jerry with a long list of things that needed replacing: Hoses, clamps, belts, tires and an original battery. The goal is to make the car look just as it did when it left the dealer showroom without any restoration at all.

After weeks of ordering and installing all of the items there was one item left; the ever elusive original 24F Autolite battery with the six red caps and red Autolite on the side. The search continued but no battery was to be found anywhere from coast to coast. Then 2 weeks before the show in Nebraska, Jerry found what looked like the correct battery on eBay. But it was not for sale on eBay. Jerry found it sitting on top of an old Autolite battery rack that was for sale on eBay. Jerry contacted the seller and said that he was interested in the old battery that was sitting on the rack. The seller said sure, he would sell it. The seller said he owned the old battery for many years. It came from a then closed Ford dealership in Abilene, Kansas. It had sat on the parts counter as a display battery there for over 20 years and when they closed he bought it. The eBay seller stated that he wanted \$85 for the battery. Jerry found it hard to contain his excitement. Jerry paid for the FedEx shipping of the 43 pound battery and had it in a few days. The final jewel for his build was there in his hands for the show next week.

After borrowing an Econoline van and renting a trailer, Jerry drove for 24 hours from San Diego to Lincoln, Nebraska. The car got rained on 3 times during the trip and then twice the morning of the show. He is sure that Florence would not have been very happy to see the car get wet. When he arrived at the show, there were 300 cars in the show to be judged and maybe another 200 that were just there to shown and not be judged.

In the URA unrestored class there were only 4 Mustangs from around the U.S.A.: Craig Denson from Bend, Oregon, Marty Rupp from Lincoln, Jerry Kay from San Diego and Bob Perkins from Wisconsin. These were all the guys that had been helping Jerry over that past few months on what changes to make to help the car to win gold. Two months prior, at the Georgia show, there were no original cars present for the URA unrestored class. It is by far the smallest class at the MCA shows because of the rarity. *continued*



The judging was grueling. On Saturday afternoon three judges spent 1 hour 45 minutes going over every part on the springtime yellow beauty with a 20 page checklist and the owner had to be there all the time to answer any questions the judges might have. The windows had to be rolled up so they could see the markings to make sure the windows were original. The judges also gave Jerry a lot of good pointers on what to do to improve the car and how to do it. But Jerry had to wait until Sunday afternoon to hear the results of the judging.

On Sunday afternoon hundreds of people entered the air conditioned Pinnacle Bank Arena in Lincoln for the results. Then the moment Jerry had been waiting for. The Jumbotron lit up with the following: “next up in URA class a gold award for the '67 springtime yellow coupe, Jerry Kay.” The crowd cheered. Many people walking by noticed the amazing car during the 3 day show. The greatest reward was finally bestowed on the 50 year old garage find.

You need at least 96% of the points to win gold. Jerry had attained 97.5% of the points. He was amused that the judges even deducted one point for the St Christopher magnet on the ashtray as it had not been a Ford dealer accessory delivered with the car. Jerry said he would never remove that piece of history off the dash that was installed by the previous owner. It was amazing to win gold the first time at a MCA national event.

Jerry has taken the car as far as it can go and sees himself as the temporary custodian of this jewel with the chick color springtime yellow paint. He is now ready to part with it and move on. Next, maybe something a little more manly?; Maybe a black 2019 GT500?



As found 50 years in this same garage



38,113 original miles



Judging at MCA National Show in Lincoln, Nebraska



The Gold



For Sale

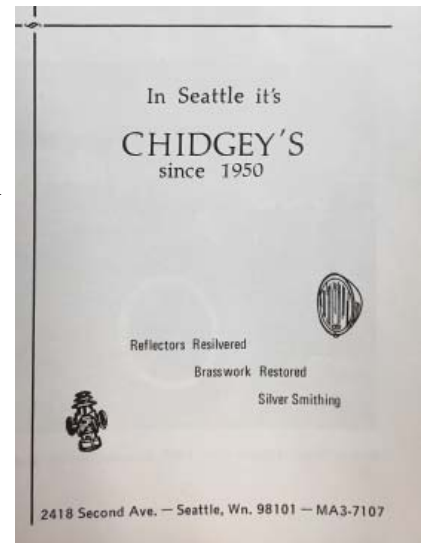


“Modern in it’s time, this classic 1949 Hudson Commodore turns heads wherever it goes. Nice paint, near authentic interior, reliable straight 8 engine keeps chugging along. Over 50k invested. appraised at \$42,300, asking \$36,500. Call me at 541-517-1393 or email at mark_diane@yahoo.com

We all know this car. It is a beauty and can be driven anywhere! It would be great to keep it in the region - Editor



Larry Okey runs the library at the San Diego Automotive Museum and gets to peruse a lot of publications. He recently found this car meet program from 1972 in Washington State. Among the advertisers in the back of the program is an ad from our own region member Jack Chidgey!! We know Jack and Doris have been in the hobby a long time but to find this gem is quite a treat since they are still in business today. Keep up the good work Jack and Doris.



November refreshments provided by **Nannette Clark** and **Luvonne Harms**



December refreshments provided by **Beth Kind** and **Christopher Di Patre**



January refreshments provided by **Diane Richards** & **Michele Zemcik**.



November \$20 winner **Sandy Watt**



December \$20 winner **Doug Clements**



Michele also won the \$20!!