

THE FOOT WARMER



Official Publication of the San Diego Region



www.sandiegoregion.aaca.com



David Willoughby and his daily driver 1969 Mercedes Benz 280S - see page 6 the for story

September 2019
Volume 57 Issue 9

Chicken Fest Report - by Mike and Claire Cooke



If you snooze you loose. The Okey's and Christopher are not wasting time loading their plates

On Wednesday, August 14th the AACA gathered in EL Cajon for the annual Chicken Fest. **We had 40 people, 13 old cars, 50 pieces of baked chicken, 50 pieces of fried chicken** and more side dishes, salads, deserts and goodies than could be eaten. The food was great, the friendship was great and everyone appeared to have a good time.

The AACA event was part of the EL Cajon Cruise Night that is held weekly during the summer months. We had cars that ranged from a 1914 Model T Ford to a newer '71 Duster and all sorts in between. Cruise Night awards for our AACA (Orange Avenue group) went to the Chidgey's for their '29 Pierce Arrow Limo and to the Schlesier's for their 1932 Chrysler convertible coupe.



Phyllis Cottee leads the pack

Just a few notes about the two award cars.

Chidgey's Pierce Arrow had not been on the road for at least four years. Their son Richard had worked for several weeks on moving a number of cars around in the garage to "dig" the Pierce out of the furthest corner of the building, get it running again and on the 14th chauffeured Jack and Doris to the Chicken Fest. The next day, Jack reported to me that the car ran great and they had no problems. Well Done Richard!!!



Schlesier's Chrysler, on the other hand, had spent its previous four years being restored by Bob.



In fact, August 14th was the first time out for the car to attend an event according to Bob.

During the car show set up when all the cars were being parked, it was noticed that fuel was leaking out of the top of the gas tank. On further investigation, Bob had over filled the tank and parked the back of the car on the down slope toward the curb of the street causing the leakage. It was quickly determined that if the car were moved across the street with the front end on the down slope, the fuel would not leak out. After that minor parking adjustment, no leaks.

There was an award ceremony in the Main Street promenade area where awards for those cars from the various areas were given out. BUT the awards did not end there, as it turns out, one car was selected out of the 9 area winners of awards to be the "Best of Show." Who could it be? It turns out that the Best of Show winners will be invited back on October 23rd to be put in the Best of the Year award judging for all of the various Best of Show winners. Who could it be?



Art Cottee invited Newell and Gladene Booth to our Chicken Fest, they drove their 1922 Hupmobile coupe.

Sam Judd brought his 1914 Model T Ford tourer



photo by Betty Holmes and Tom McIlravy
continued on pages 7 & 8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to **Mike and Claire Cooke** and **Art and Phyllis Cottee** for hosting another successful Chicken Fest. We had about a dozen vintage cars on display, and two were selected to receive awards: **Bob and Gracie Schlesier's** 32 Chrysler CP8, and **Jack and Doris Chidgey's** 29 Pierce Arrow Limousine. From what I have heard after the event the Schlesier's were also selected as Best of Show. Congratulations to both families.

Our next tour is the Old Highway 80 and Desert Tower Tour at the end of September, and I hope that the temperature is back down to more comfortable level by then allowing more of the "non A/C" cars to participate. **Mark and Diane Richards** have set up a very interesting route and should be a fun road for our older cars.

I want to thank **Tom McIlravy** for his help last week. I was ready to reinstall the body of the Aston back on the frame, and he was kind enough to come over and assist. It's not a massive job, but too large and awkward for Sandy and me to handle by ourselves. The next step is to get it bolted in place. I am still waiting to get the rods back from babbiting (It's been almost a year, but I've been told I'm now at the top of the list). Once they are back I can get on with the reassembly of the engine. I just hope I can remember where all the parts go.

Remember we will have a general meeting on September 2nd, even though it is a Federal Holiday, and the following month is the Auctionpalooza, so gather up all those items and let's have a fun and profitable evening for the Club.

Happy touring, Alex

Since its inception there has been something about the sight, sound, and feel of the automobile that stirs the imagination and the desire to experience the freedom of the open road. Whether it's the clatter of the single cylinder brass era car or the heavy thumping of big block Detroit musclecars that fuels the addiction, we are all kindred spirits. Vintage cars, trucks, buses, and motorcycles are our bond.

Since 1935, AACA has had one goal: The preservation and enjoyment of automotive history of all types. From National Meets and Tours to Regional events, AACA is here to bring enthusiasts together through exciting National activities, friendship, and Antique Automobile... an award winning 100-page full color magazine.

You don't have to own a vehicle or know how to turn a wrench. You can be involved at any level you wish, the possibilities are endless.

So, spend time with us and others sharing your passion. Join up. It's less than the price of a tank of gas and lasts all year.

2019 Region Calendar

Dates subject to changes

SEP	2	General Membership Meeting
SEP	28	Old Hwy 80 and Desert Tower Tour Mark Richards 541.517.1393
OCT	7	General Membership Meeting
OCT	19	Watt's Halloween Party Alex & Sandy Watt 619.223.6519
OCT	25	Edgemore Hospital Car Show Doug Clements 858.487.8617
OCT	26	Silent Movie - Al Smithson 619.992.8729
NOV	4	General Membership Meeting
NOV	10	Annual Banquet Bob Gunthorp 619.993.0184
NOV	23	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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Pam Kay	3
Betty Holmes	6
Peggy Spitz	6
Yolanda Hylton	7
Norma Almanza	9
Frances Dunn	17
Brillo Licari	18
"Doc" McAllister	18
Al Smithson	20
Paul Johnson	23
Bob La Prade	25
Christine Hartwell	26
Paul Priser	27
Sam Judd	30

ANNIVERSARIES

Bob Wagner and Bob Lasher	15
Darwin and Patricia Ludi	16
Bob and Jerri La Prade	25

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Alex Watt 2019 & 20
714.273.9705

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Beth Kind 2019
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Susan Woods 2019 & 20

Treasurer
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Betty Holmes 2018 & 19
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Brad Zemcik 2019 & 20
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Daryl Holmes 619.840.0797

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Tom McIlravy 760.429.6565

Refreshments
Christopher Di Patre
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Annual Banquet
Bob Gunthorp 619.993.0184

Annual Awards
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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
802.363.0605

ACCA Rep/Legislation
Sheldon Jurist 858.279.8285

Club Photographers
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Editor
Brad Zemcik 619.255.0059



SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

OLDE HWY 80

TOUR TO DESERT VIEW TOWER

Route 66 gets all the attention, but right here in our backyard is a highway that has a real old time feel, is significant to the history of the area and is perfect for a leisurely Saturday drive. There are spectacular vistas, major changes in terrain ranging from pine forests to high desert, and the Desert View Tower, which is unlike anything you'll see on Route 66.

Hwy 80, stretching from Savannah GA to San Diego, was one of the first transcontinental highways that was recognized as a numbered route by the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads in 1927. Colonel Ed Fletcher (Fletcher Hills) was a major proponent in developing this eastern route to the city and helped fund the plank road through the Imperial County sand dunes. Much of the original paved road in eastern San Diego County remains intact with only small portions under the newer I-8 freeway.

We will start our tour in the town of Alpine, right next to Hwy 80, so that we can avoid the problem of keeping a group together through traffic. From there we will go through Willows, past the Viejas casino, Descanso, Guatay and then a stop in Pine Valley. In the town of Boulevard there will be a stop at the Wisteria Candy Cottage, famous for chocolate turtles, truffles, fudge and lots of other goodies. From there we'll go through Bankhead Springs over the original 16 foot wide roadway from 1933 and on through Jacumba, where Hollywood stars such as Marlene Dietrich and Clark Gable once came to enjoy the hot springs and relax. The Desert View Tower is just a few more miles up the road. True to its' name, the Tower has vistas clear to the Salton Sea, a quirky souvenir shop and some fun rock sculptures.

After the Desert View Tower we will have lunch at Jacumba Hot Springs Spa and Resort. Then you may like to have a massage, a dip in one of the pools or return to San Diego, either by freeway for some different views or by the old route.

From Alpine to Desert View Tower is about 45 miles, with some gentle curves and no major grades. The intent is to travel at speeds appropriate for our older cars. There is not much traffic on this route anymore so we should be able to stay together, that's what a tour is for.

The meeting point will be at the shopping center near Willows Road, right by a Starbucks and a McDonalds. There will be a driver's meeting at 8:45 am, then leaving promptly at 9:00. Be there early if you want to get coffee or breakfast before. The address is 2963 Alpine Blvd, Alpine CA 91901, most easily reached from I-8 East to the Willows exit, then a right turn to head back west for about a mile. For questions contact Mark Richards: 541-517-1393 or richardsconsulting@yahoo.com

SILENT MOVIES

October 26th at 6:00 p.m., the silent movie "The Penalty" starring Lon Chaney will be accompanied by the wonderful Greg Breed at the organ. This dark film will prove to be the perfect set-up for Halloween which follows a few days later.

Our final Silent Movie will take place on **November 23rd** at 6:00 p.m., our car show at 5:00. This silent movie accompaniment will be played by Rosemary Bailey. It will be the great Wallace Beery's performance in "Beggars of Life"....a dramatic film featuring exciting footage done on the S.D. to Campo railway which will then be celebrating the 100th anniversary of its completion. There'll be amazing shots of actors duking-it-out while standing on fast-moving freight cars, etc. It's really an interesting, historic piece of our heritage

1917 Dodge Touring \$15,999

Contact Barbara Foley 619.660.6899 or

Eric Berchtold 562 256 6368

ejberchtold@gmail.com

Eric is a friend of Barbara's, not a region member



AUCTIONPALOOZA

It's not too early to begin gathering items for our annual "auction" of items to benefit our region. There will be the normal tables of items where you purchase tickets and then place them in the cup adjacent to the item awaiting the ticket drawing after the auction closes. There will also be select items for the silent auction part.

If you have been part of one of these auctions before you know just how fun it is. This event will be the whole of our October 7th meeting. We all know that one man's "trash" is another man's treasure.



**ATTENTION ALL WIZARDS, WITCHES, GHOSTS,
GHOULS AND MUGGLES**



THE HALLOWEEN EVENT IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH AT THE WATT'S RESIDENCE. DECORATIONS WILL BE OUT IN PREPARATION FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE GREAT PUMPKIN, AND THE SORTING HAT FROM HOGWARTS WILL BE PRESENT TO ASSIGN PEOPLE TO THEIR CORRECT HOUSE - HUFFLEPUFF, GRYFFINDOR, RAVERCLAW, OR SLYTHERIN.

FESTIVITIES WILL START AROUND 11AM, WITH THE BRATS, DOGS AND BURGERS BEING SERVED FROM NOON ON. WE WILL SUPPLY THE MEAT ITEMS, DRINKS AND CHIPS, BUT POT-LUCK SIDE DISHES AND DESSERTS ARE MOST WELCOME. PLEASE PLAN ON BRINGING A SIDE DISH OR A DESSERT TO SUPPLEMENT.

THERE IS NO FORMAL TOUR, JUST EATING, VISITING AND GARAGE WANDERING (YOU CAN SEE HOW ALEX IS PROGRESSING WITH THE RESTORATIONS). PLEASE RSVP SO THAT WE CAN GUESTIMATE FOOD NEEDS. ALEX & SANDY WATT, 3610 DUPONT STREET, SAN DIEGO. 619 223 6519 EMAIL - WWW.TRAILERS@ATT.NET

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Edgemoor Car Show will be Friday, October 25th - coordinated by Doug Clements

The schedule is: 9:00: Car owners sign in, coffee & donuts

10:00-Noon: Residents, staff and patients walk around and look at the cars, talk to owners

Noon: Lunch for car owners & a guest (if they have one)

Most of the car owners arrive earlier than 9:00, but that's up to the individual. We have space for over 60 cars.

Entry is free, but we do ask for an RSVP so we know how many to expect.

Anne Monaco, CTRS Recreation Therapy Supervisor

655 Park Center Drive Santee, CA 92071

Anne.Monaco@sdcounty.ca.gov Desk (619)596-5581 Cell (619)454-9594

Please let Doug know also if you will be attending - 858.487.8617



Western Fall Nationals Fallbrook, CA
November 6-9, 2019

Chairman: Ron Mintle, 909-224-3045
AACAA@FallbrookVintageCarClub.org

COVER PHOTO by David Willoughby

In 1999, I was using a 1960 Mercedes-Benz station wagon that I had purchased over twenty years earlier as my daily driver. In 1986, it had received a complete cosmetic refurbishment. After thirteen years of commuting to work and numerous long road trips, it was starting to show wear. In addition, parts prices for a Mercedes that old had been climbing steadily. I was also aware that its coachbuilt wagon body made it a very rare car, and I wanted to preserve it, so I was looking for a replacement.

I was on the phone one day with Bob Gunthorp and he mentioned that he had a 1969 280S sedan that was “equipped the way ‘I like it’ for sale. It had a manual transmission, a sunroof, and no other options except power steering and air conditioning. It was in nice shape cosmetically and worked well mechanically, except for a broken sunroof cable mount. The previous owner had sold it to Bob as a junker when it needed a valve job that was going to be too expensive. Bob prepared a spare used head that he had on hand and installed it. His price was right, so I bought it.

For the next couple of years I used the 280S for commuting to and from work. In late 2000, I was on my way to work when I was caught between a Mazda Miata and a pickup truck. The impacts were well absorbed, the frame was still straight, but a lot of body panels were seriously bent. My insurer totaled it out for exactly twice what I had paid for it. After conferring with a body shop owner, I bought the car back from the insurance company and had it repaired and repainted in the original DB834 Moss Green Metallic using the remainder of the insurance settlement.

The main reason I bought this car to use as my regular driver is that I love the way it drives and handles. Mercedes-Benz cars from this era feel more like a modern car than most American cars of this vintage, and they are very comfortable on long trips. I prefer to shift my own gears, and it's almost impossible to find a modern car this spacious and comfortable that handles this well, and is available without an automatic transmission and lots of gadgets that I'm not particularly fond of.

Another reason that it makes a good daily driver is that Mercedes-Benz cars of this era were over-engineered and exceptionally durable. The most important considerations in using an older car regularly are: knowing where to find a good mechanical repair shop with experts on the marque, and the availability of mechanical parts at what are usually fairly reasonable prices. Mercedes still makes most mechanical parts for fifty-year old cars available, though they increase the prices as their stock dwindles. It also helps that this car has an absolute minimum of options like power windows or power seats.

I have to give myself a bit of credit: I keep my cars maintained “by the book” and get anything mechanical that goes wrong fixed at the earliest possible opportunity. I'm also very sensitive to changes in the sound and feel of my cars, and usually spot potential problems before they become failures.

I've done a lot of minor mechanical work on the 280S myself over the years, like pulling the radiator and having it reworked and replacing electrical components, but I leave the heavy stuff like replacing the engine or completely rebuilding the front suspension to Bob's shop. It has generally been a very reliable car and has only broken down in ways that required towing twice in the twenty years I've had it. The four- and five-year-old Ramblers that were handed down to me by my parents when I was young were less reliable than my 50-year-old Mercedes is now.

I retired at the end of 2001, but I have continued to use the 280S as my daily driver, split between local and frequent road trips to Northern California. An assortment of mechanical issues have come and gone, from installing a manual steering box when the power steering box developed a problem, to replacing the entire engine with a freshly rebuilt one when coolant started leaking between passages in the aluminum head as it aged and became porous.

E-mails from the previous owner indicated that it probably had just under 200,000 miles when I bought it, and I've put another 200,000 miles on it; an average of just over 10,000 miles a year during the 20 years I've owned it

I was in a minor accident in 2010, and while the damage was covered by insurance, the paint had been deteriorating and the interior was showing its age. I removed the windows and the interior and exterior trim myself and found an excellent body shop to fix the damage and give it a good paint job, again in the original color. I had the seats recovered and I refinished the dash wood and repaired and replaced other interior trim myself.

I still have my 1960 Mercedes 190Db station wagon having owned it for over 42 years and it has over half a million miles on it. I hope to get started on its second cosmetic refurbishment later this year. “The Turtle” has its own page on the Mercedes “pontoon” website at <http://www.mbzponton.org/pax058/people/willoughby/willoughby.htm>.



Annual Banquet - November 10th

By Bob Gunthorp

See the reservation form in this issue and send it in immediately with your check.



Frances and Royce Dunn provided refreshments for the August meeting and Frances brought two homemade WONDERFUL desserts!

Bob Gunthorp Photos



Our speaker John Boyd was also the lucky cash winner collecting from Norma and Christopher

Annual Restoration Awards

Every year at the Annual Banquet three restoration awards are presented. Your restoration does not have to be completed but the Awards Chairman does need to know about the work you've been doing.

- ① The Founders Award is presented to the member who has completed the best non-professional restoration of a vehicle ready for the road during the year.
- ② The Ralph Harms Memorial Trophy is presented to the member who has made the most progress toward a non-professional restoration of a vehicle during the year.
- ③ Runner-Up Awards may be presented in both categories as well as Certificates of Merit.

Contact Alex Watt, Awards Chairman, 619.223.6519
www.trailers@att.net



Barbara & John Boyd bringing more food!

Some more of the line of cars: (L to R)

- Okey's 1955 Buick Century 2-door
- Cooke's 1968 Chevrolet Camero convertible
- Ted Thieman's 1971 Plymouth Duster
- Holmes' 1952 Chevrolet Skyline Deluxe
- The Richards 1962 Ford Thunderbird convertible



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Suzanne Fort	1
Tom McIlravy	8
Francy Priser	8
Christopher Di Patre	12
Bob La Prade	16
Colin Fort	18
Fred Puhn	18
Vel Landi	24
Verna Zopfi	25
Barbara Boyd	26
Royce Dunn	29
Robin Judd	31
Jack Simmons	31

ANNIVERSARIES

Carol and Steve Ross	4
Charles and Peggy Spitz	31

I want to thank all the folks that helped with the food area setup, the car area setup and the food preparation, Thank you all. **Art and Phyllis Cottee** helped Claire and I with the planning to get all the pieces of the puzzle fit together. And in particular to thank my **wife Claire** for the e-mails and keeping us all reminded prior to the event. Thanks Claire!!! Please see all of the photos that **Daryl and Bette Holmes, Tom McIlravy** and others that took photos of the people and the cars. Thanks to the photographers.

It seems like I am forgetting something, hum, what could it be???? Oh yes, **Schlesiers did take home the Best of Show award.** And now, you know, the rest of the story.

Thanks again, Mike and Claire Cooke



Sam Judd and Betty Holmes



Paula Okey, Robert Lasher and Robert Wagner



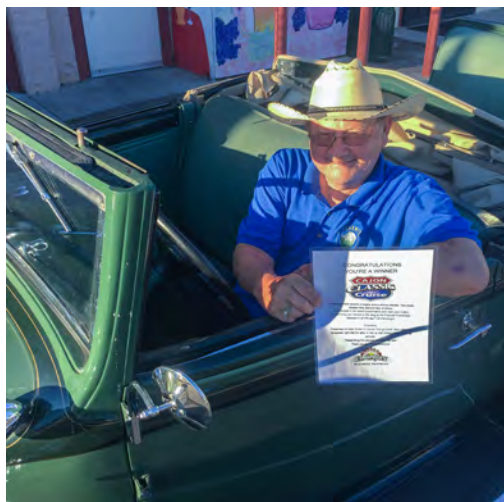
Ted Thieman & Kieu Wildinson



President Alex Watt and Sandy



Team Trouble #1 Art Cottee and Al Smithson. Watch out when these two get together...there could be trouble!...or maybe donuts.



Bob Schlesiser with his Best of Show Award



A very happy meet chairman Mike Cooke. Only thing missing is Claire!

Attendees: Norma Almanza, Mike Cooke, Art & Phyllis Cottee and their guests Newell & Gladene Booth, Daryl & Betty Holmes, Jerry & Pam Kay, Tom McIlravy, Paul & Francys Priser, Mark & Denise Richards, Alex & Sandy Watt, Bob Wagner & Bob Lasher, John & Barbara Boyd, Larry & Paula Okey, Al Smithson, Christopher De Patri, Doc McAllister, Sam Judd, Ted Thieman & Kieu Wildinson, Jack & Doris Chidgey, Bob & Grace Schlesiser.