

THE FOOT WARMER

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Mark and Diane Richards and their 1962 Ford Thunderbird - story on page 5

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HALLOWEEN BBQ AT THE WATT'S

by Alex Watt

This year's Halloween BBQ was once again held at the Watt's home, and there were numerous ghosts, witches, ghouls, and skeletons in the front yard welcoming the club members when they arrived.

People started arriving a little before 11am, and included Nannette Clark and Ken Munson, Susan Woods, Beth Kind and Bob, Larry and Paula Okey, Diane and Mark Richards, Royce and Frances Dunn, Tom McIlravy and his friend David Melendrez, Bette Hayward, Nick Fintzelberg, Rachel Evans, Doc McAllister, Brad and Michele Zemcik, Art and Phyllis Cottee, Jack and Lynn Heacock, Judy Masek, Bob Gunthorp, Janette Hay, and Cy Conrad.



These were to only two normal people there. Everyone else came in a costume to look like a club member.

If I missed anyone, I apologize as I was busy initially giving tours of the garages, and then cooking burgers, brats and hot dogs on the grill.

Sandy was kept busy organizing the food as it arrived and also giving tours. Nick showed up in one of his vintage cars and was whitelined on the back driveway where it created quite a stir. The "dining area" in the back yard was kept filled with people partaking of all the excessive amount of food, and thanks to our wonderful potluck providers, our serving tables with so many delicious choices, many of us made several trips back to sample more.



Chef Alex with his magic Food Wand

Several people tried on the "Hogwarts Sorting Hat", and I know that Al was selected to join me in Hufflepuff. We have to thank everyone for coming and hope to continue the tradition next year.



Al Smithson and the talking hat!



The hearty attendees

Above - Alex wielding his other Magic Wand creating a good time for all

Right - two folks working hoping to get some of the good food for pay



Just a small look at the workshops and the restorations under way



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time you are reading this I will be off on another deployment and Tom will be covering for me at the meetings. This time I will be gone for about 2 ½ months, and you'd never guess where I'm going, but a hint is "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas". I get to spend Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's in South Dakota.

The last month has been a busy one for Club members with the awards Banquet being held the day after the Fallbrook National Meet finished. Congratulations to our members who received National Awards.

Thanks to members who ensured that our Banquet was another success, and thanks to those who contributed to the Bell's of Freedom donation box that was out during the Banquet.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the Bells of Freedom event, but I look forward to getting a full report from Sandy.

I know that I am leaving the Club in very capable hands while I am gone.

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Alex (In absentia again)

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.

Nick Fintzelberg
drove this
captivating 1924
Dodge Brothers
roadster to the
Watt's Halloween
BBQ.



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

NOV	23	Silent Movie - Al Smithson 619.992.8729
DEC	2	General Membership Meeting VERY IMPORTANT PLANNING meeting - Please attend
DEC	8	Bells of Freedom Bob Gunthorp 619.993.0184

2020 Region Calendar

JAN	6	General Membership Meeting
JAN	TBD	Region Tour Event
FEB	2	General Membership Meeting
FEB	TBD	Region Tour Event
MAR	2	General Membership Meeting
MAR	TBD	Region Tour Event
APR	6	General Membership Meeting
APR	TBD	Region Tour Event
MAY	4	General Membership Meeting
MAY	TBD	Region Tour Event
JUN	7	General Membership Meeting
JUN	TBD	Del Mar Fair
JLY	-	NO General Membership Meeting
JLY	4	Coronado July 4th Parade Al Smithson
AUG	3	General Membership Meeting
AUG	TBD	Chicken Fest Mike Cooke
AUG	TBD	San Diego HOT AUGUST NIGHT

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 \$25.00 per year. **Our San Diego Region Membership Chairman can help you obtain both memberships.**
Contact: Mark Richards my1955ford@aol.com 541.517.1393

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714.273.9705

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Art Cottee 619.885.0704
Royce Dunn 619.781.8339
Daryl Holmes 619.840.0797
Jack Heacock 760.390.4220

Coronado Parade

Al Smithson 619.992.8729

Car Club Council of SD

Richard Reinstein
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Club Photographers

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Tom McIlravy 760.429.6565

Editor

Brad Zemcik 619.255.0059



Scenes from October
Silent Movie Night



Jack Chidgey had a bad fall resulting in a hip fracture. He is currently in a rehabilitation facility in La Mesa. Doris says he is doing well and would appreciate any calls. His private number is 619.713.1627. You can also send cards to the house. Please keep them in your thoughts.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Harry McGill	5
Jack Heacock	8
John Phlegar	12
Carol Ross	16
Cathy Cibit	16
Darrell Christian	20
Charles Hylton	21
Kimball Vincent	23
Margaret Puhn	26
Steve Ross	27
Jim Grube	30

ANNIVERSARIES

Doris and Jack Chidgey	1
Robin and Mike Judd	18
Frances and Royce Dunn	18
Francy and Paul Priser	23

Where Were You in '62?

by Mark Richards

Growing up in Southwest Washington, 1962 was a year of playing flag football in the yard and hearing music drifting down from the girl next door's upstairs room, songs like "Beachwood 4-5789 and Big Girls Don't Cry". JFK was president, John Glenn had orbited the earth 3 times, top movies were "In Search of the Castaways" with Halley Mills and "The Music Man", and the new cartoon on the TV was "The Jetsons". The World's Fair in Seattle was a marvelous experience of sights, sounds and flavors with space-age displays, international pavilions and futuristic buildings. For my family this year was one of the best ever.

The price of gas was 31c per gallon, the economy was on an upswing, the interstate highway system was filling out and the big three automakers had offerings that made people want to get a new car every year. Ford in particular had some popular cars in their Thunderbird line.

The Ford Thunderbird was originally designed to compete with GM's new Corvette two seat sports car. The Thunderbird though had a steel uni-body and a more finished appearance. I remember seeing a trio of those 1955-1957 "Baby Birds" in turquoise, red and white for sale at a little converted gas station car lot on Leary Way in Seattle in the '80's. Diane liked the red one with portholes in the hardtop. The prices were cheap compared to what they fetch today, but I didn't have room in the garage for another collector car.

The 1958 through 1960 Thunderbirds had a new four seat design and sold well compared to the two seaters. In my opinion, the styling of these "Square Birds" was radical but dated looking. My high school girlfriend's mother, a fan of Englebert Humperdinck and Tom Jones, had a '58. I thought her taste in cars was of the same caliber as her taste in music. In the summer after high school my friend Dwain's uncle loaned us a 1960 T-bird, come to find out the power windows were stuck in the up position which made for a hot, hellish, claustrophobic experience driving on LA freeways. Also, we found out the hard way that the car didn't have a spare tire. So, my memories of 1958 to 1960 Thunderbirds are not all good ones.

1961 through 1963 Thunderbirds are known as "Bullet Birds" for the pointy nose and jet fighter exhaust style taillights. Ford was moving from a sports car image to one of "Personal Luxury". Richard M. Langworth, author of Complete Book of Collectible Cars 1930-1980 has good things to say about these cars, with one notable against statement: Fuel Thirst.

The 1964 through 1967 "Flair Birds" were positioned more towards the luxury market with softer suspension, futurist instrument display and wrap-around rear seat upholstery. A cushy ride doesn't interest me and the stated 10.5:1 compression ratio concerned me because of the requirement for hi-test fuel.



More Thunder for Thunderbird

Good thing these molded foam seats cup so snugly around your back—for now Thunderbird has a new power option. There's 40 more horsepower on tap, and a new cutaway take-off you feel right between the shoulder blades. This is the Sports 161, first developed for the Sports Roadster but now available at extra cost on any Thunderbird you choose. It has the major Thunderbird virtues—massive thrust wrapped in velvet smoothness, raw torque whetted to almost soundless perfection—but with a new emphasis. There's even a special transmission to match, with higher shift points, quicker upshifts. This Thunderbird's polished harmony of power and silence, already unique in all the world, takes on an added brilliance and breath-taking response. If you thought Thunderbird performance was the ultimate, try this! It's Thunderbird—plus!

A PRODUCT OF FORD MOTOR COMPANY



4000 pounds of fireworks Every day is the Fourth of July with Thunderbird's Sports Roadster—do what other cars pack each zip and sparkle, such Roman candle response into a sleek torpedo shape? What other car looks like action even when it's parked? Its contours in four corners practically under the slip-on hood of a lift-off sunroof cover? Best of all, this fire and fur is matched by a marvelous elegance of enthusiasm, a road leveling ability that makes cruising more like coasting. What does 3000 pounds of fireworks feel like? Let your Ford Dealer show you a car as gay as the glitters of its wire-spoked wheels.

Thunderbird
Sports Roadster

So I chose a "Bullet Bird" when looking for a more modern car to replace my 1949 Hudson. As it turns out, there was a special factory limited edition "Sports Roadster" produced in 1962 that included a convertible top, wire wheels, and a fiberglass tonneau to cover the rear seats and give the appearance of a two seater. This model is a little hard to find these days but there was one for sale in Portland Oregon at Monte's Motors.

I had lived in Portland back in the '70's and have fond memories of visiting Monte Shelton's car dealership on Burnside Street to look at exotic sports cars like Lotus, Astons and Jaguars and luxury cars in the line of Bentleys and Rolls-Royces. Monte had an impeccable reputation for quality and honest dealing so I had no reservations about arranging a purchase from a distance. I had an old friend of mine who is a car guy and lives near Portland check out the car for me. The main negative that he could give me about the car was that it had been driven. That is to be expected, I didn't want to have a trailer queen.

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The car was originally shipped to Seattle from the factory and was owned by a businessman there. For much of its life this car was within 100 miles of my hometown in Longview Washington, accumulating only a little over a 1000 miles per year. The primary restoration had been done about 15 years ago by a well-known car collector in Hillsboro Oregon, Vern Howell, who served on the board of the Forest Grove Concours D'Elegance, one of the older such shows in the Pacific Northwest.

The car was shipped to me by trailer earlier this year and I have enjoyed it since. I've probably spent 100 hours working on it so far, much more time than I have spent driving it, but I kind of need a retirement project. And I still need to work on getting the power windows to work.

1962 Ford Thunderbird Sports Roadster Weight - 4471 Lbs Engine - FE V8 390 c.i. 9.6:1 C.R. 300 hp
Transmission - Cruise-O-Matic 3 speed Final Drive 3.00: 1 Production - 1427

AUCTIONPALOOZA at our October meeting was a huge success thanks to the donations of the attending members. This is always a fun meeting because you never know what treasures will appear and you always get items for much less than their actual worth.



Norma Almanza and Betty Holmes sell tickets and rake in the money!



Norma also helped provide the buyers energy with Susan Woods



Tables full of treasured items



Mark "Elvis" Richards wailed...I mean sang.... a tune on the rare 4-string Gourd Harp.



Even Alex the Scotsman wasn't sure what Brad had brought to the auction despite it coming from his home country... this is an antique washing plunger... not normally used on the head!



2019 Annual Banquet

Once again, another fantastic banquet to celebrate this past year and prepare for 2020. The banquet committee, **Bob Gunthorp** and **Susan Woods**, did a great job in making reservations much easier this year and those who received awards deserved them. **Norma Almanza** and **Diane Richards** made some very nice table decorations and **Peggy Spitz** once again baked the individual car cakes. This years she made several flavors as well as some for dietary restrictions. There was also a special recognition of two of our long time members we lost this year: **Virgil "Woody" Woods** and **Larry Larkin**.

The number of cars entered for restoration awards shows that we are a busy and dedicated region to keeping our antique cars on the road. A highlight was the presentation to **Daryl and Betty Holmes** of an **Honorary Membership** in the region for all of their 25+ years of dedicated service to the region.



Bob Gunthorp and Jeanette Hay



Peggy and Charles Spitz



Nannette Clark and Ken Munson



First Lady Sandy and President Alex Watt



Rachel Evans



Gary Jarvis



Beth Kind



Fred Puhn



Daryl and Betty Holmes



Jeri and Bob La Prade



Doc Mc Allister and guest Sandi Smith



Shelia and Sheldon Jurist



Susan Woods



Nick Fintzelberg



Mike Cooke



Lynne and Jack Heacock



Larry and Paula Okey



Diane and Mark Richards



Luvonne Harmes



Judy Masek



Christopher Di Patre



Bette Hayward



Ted Thieman and Kieu Wilkinson



Norma Almanza



Phyllis and Art Cottee



Daughter Patty and Barbara Foley



The Forts: Natalie, Sean-Colin, Caren, Garrett, Suzanne, and Colin



Tom McIlravy



Sam Judd



Royce and Frances Dunn



Al Smithson



Barbara and John Boyd



President Alex Watt presented **DARYL and BETTY HOLMES** with an Honorary Membership in the Region based on their 40 years of continual service to the region. For 25 of those years Daryl was membership chairman.



BETTE HAYWARD SILVER SPOON AWARD: This award is presented annually to a woman who is an active Region member, in recognition of outstanding service to the club. Presented by Susan Woods to **NORMA ALMANZA**



JERRY WRIGHT MEMORIAL AWARD: Awarded annually to a region member or couple in recognition of outstanding service during the year.

BETTY and DARYL HOLMES

HARD LUCK TROPHY: Awarded annually to a member who has experienced the worst luck with his or her car on club tours or activities during the year.

BOB SCHLESIER



FOUNDERS AWARD: Created in 1976 in appreciation of J.R. Drimmel, founding president. Awarded annually to any active Region member for the best non-professional restoration of the year of a completed antique vehicle, ready for the road.

1st Place JOHN BOYD 1936 DeSoto Airflow Sedan
2nd Place JACK HEACOCK 1955 Mercury Custom 2-dr Sedan



PRESIDENT'S PLAQUE: Awarded to the President at the end of his/her years' term.

ALEX WATT



RALPH HARMS MEMORIAL TROPHY: Awarded annually to any active Region member for the best non-professional restoration or for the most progress towards the completion of a vehicle during the year.

1st Place ALEX WATT 1933 Riley Lynx Tourer
2nd Place FRED PUHN 1948 Alfa Romeo 6C 2500 SS touring coupe





A Letter to The Foot Warmer

REFLECTIONS OF THE REGION BANQUET

We just want to thank everyone that put together this event. So much planning goes into it. To **Bob Gunthrop** and **Susan Woods** for finding and organizing this venue. **Norma Almanza** and **Diane Richards** for those beautiful center pieces, **Peggy Spitz** for her thoughtfulness in baking those little car cakes that we all enjoyed. **Alex Watt** for the outstanding job you have done as president, **Al Smithson** for swearing in the new board. Thanks to all who agreed to serve.

To **Brad Zemic** for his coverage of this event and seeing that everyone there had photographs taken. To **Beth Kind** for being Master of Ceremonies. **Bette Hayward** for making the programs. **Nannette Clark** and **Ken Munson** for registration.

Daryl and I were so honored to be made Honorary Members of the region. We are very proud and humbled to receive the Jerry Wright award.

Sincerely, Betty and Daryl Holmes

AACA Western Fall National Meet

San Diego Region was well represented and several cars came away as winners.

Shown are:

John & Barbara Boyd 1936 DeSoto Airflow sedan - 1st Junior

Darwin & Patricia Ludi 1963 Corvette coupe - 1st Junior

Bob Gunthorp 1967 Mercedes-Benz 200D - 1st Junior

Mark & Diane Richards 1962 Ford Thunderbird - 1st Junior

Nick Fintzelberg 1961 Plymouth Valiant - Original HPOF Award

Brad Zemic 1957 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud - Display only

Jack Heacock 1950 Cadillac 61 sport coupe - Preservation Award

Tom O'Hara 1934 Packard 4 dr.sedan conv - 1st Junior

Gerry Kay 1967 Ford Mustang - Original HPOF Award

