

THE FOOT WARMER

Official publication of the San Diego Region



ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB
AMERICA



JULY 2026

President's Greeting

Hi San Diego Region AACA Friends,

What a month it's already been! Independence Day found us out in force for Coronado's Fourth of July Parade down Orange Avenue — a fitting way to mark the parade's own decades-long tradition and America's 250th anniversary in the same afternoon. Thanks to Al Smithson for keeping our entries organized and rolling smoothly, as always.

June kept us just as busy. The Silvergate Car Show drew a great turnout up in Rancho Bernardo, with Newell Booth's 1917 Milburn Light Electric taking top honors in the People's Choice judging. Charger Steve pulled off a small miracle keeping El Cajon's Main Street Cruise Night alive for another summer, where Mike Cooke and his son drove home Best of Show in their Camaro convertible. And our Summer Picnic at Bob Gunthorp's "Mercedes Ranch" was a real highlight of the year — the Horseless Carriage Club and San Diego Mercedes Club joined us for an afternoon of great cars, great barbecue, and even better company.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars: August 3rd brings our General Meeting and Hobby Night, and on August 22nd Keith Wahl is leading a bus tour to the Peterson Automotive Museum. Details to follow.

Until we meet again, Happy Motoring.

Tom McIlravy
President, San Diego Region AACA



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.)



Coming Events

Date	Event
July 6	No general meeting in July
July 18	CCCA Tour of Evans Garage
Aug 3	General Meeting; Hobby Night
Aug 22	Bus tour to Peterson Museum — Keith Wahl
Sep 7	Pizza Party at Beers Center
Sep 12	Sunset Cliffs Auto Show
Sep 26	Campo Train Museum
Oct 5	General Meeting
Oct 10	Mt. Miguel Car Show — John Boyd
Oct 24	Lindo Lake Picnic — Ricky Logier
Nov 2	General Meeting
Nov 15	Awards Banquet — Bob Gunthorp
Dec 7	Sunset Cliffs Car Show

Birthdays

Jerry Kay	July 6
Bill Gersten	July 7
Jannice Shaffer	July 30
Susan Christian	August 1
Len Pistoria	August 6
Jim Woolsey	August 8
Paula Okey	August 13
Marilyn Clements	August 15
Sheila Jurist	August 17
Jeri Ibbetsen	August 20
Luke Kensen	August 20
Doug Clements	August 21
Mike Williams	August 28
Dr. Susan Woods	August 30

Anniversaries

Joe & Cathy Cibit	July 9
Don Chaplin & Andy Hunt	July 10
Keith & Ruth Wahl	July 30
Jim & Catherine Woolsey	August 16

San Diego Region News

No General Meeting in July!

August 3: The General Meeting, 7 pm, will host Hobby Night. Present and discuss *your* hobby, other than your antique automobiles! Display space on tables will be provided. Come prepared to describe what you do and answer questions.

July 18: CCCA invites AACA and other groups to join them for a tour of Evans Garage, 4953 Pacific Highway. Drive your Classic to a tour of the Garage, then a scenic drive through Mission Hills — home to beautiful Craftsman-style houses and the Victorian homes moved to Old Town by Nick Fintzelberg and his father.

We'll finish with lunch at Bull's Smokin' BBQ, 1127 West Morena Blvd, with parking reserved for our group.

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026, starts at 10:00 AM. The \$10 per person entry fee will be covered by AACA for AACA members. RSVP by July 10 to Charlie Hylton - hyltonbrostrees@sbcglobal.net - 619-548-7060. AACA members may also RSVP to Tom McIlravy at mcilravyt@gmail.com.

To all AACA, Studebaker Car Club HCCA members, and any others.

I would like to inform you about an auto show I am involved with that might interest you. Tom McIlravy was there last year and will have two cars there this year. The event is the Sunset Cliffs Auto Show on **September 12th**. It is a paid entry event, not a “just show up” event.

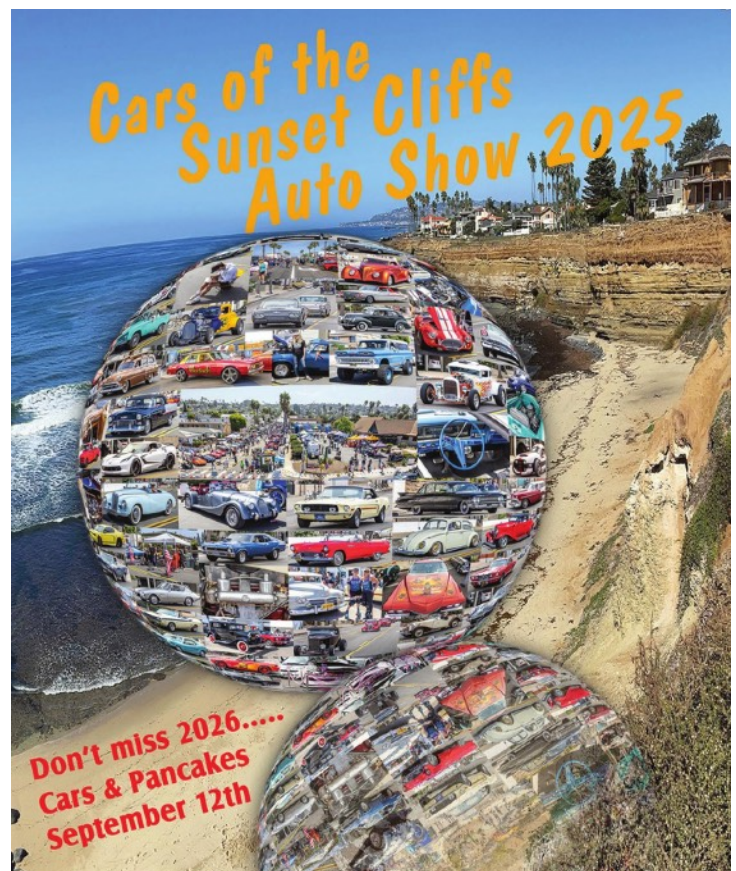
The show could benefit from more classic and antique cars. There are plenty of hot rods, modified cars, etc. We are limited to space because of the city, not by choice. At best we will have 10 vehicles per class. Just by entering does not guarantee that your car will be selected. It would be nice to have some Studebakers!

This year there will also be a pancake breakfast on site. More details: www.sunsetcliffsautoshow.com.

You can see photos from last year at bzemcik.smugmug.com/SunsetCliffsAutoShow2025

Questions? zman92107@yahoo.com

Respectfully, Brad Zemcik



Silvergate Car Show 2026

Thanks to Ricky Logier and Mark Richards for details and photos.

Silvergate in Rancho Bernardo held a fun car show on Saturday, June 20, inviting cars from AACA and friends. The weather was perfect, and there was a good turnout of interesting cars.

Tom McIlravy led a group of cars from Mission Valley up the 15 to Rancho Bernardo without a hitch. Silvergate let us all park in a circular drive just outside their grand entry.

Twenty cars were there for the show, representing AACA, the Horseless Carriage Club, and San Diego Volvo Sports. There were good opportunities to mingle with the Silvergate residents and other club members.

Lunch was served in the courtyard with BBQ chicken, hot dogs, and burgers. Assorted drinks were provided, including a special “High Octane” mixed drink. Live music by Country Jam entertained the group, and there was even a little dancing.

Ricky Logier adds: The food and open bar were outstanding. The main entrées were hamburgers, bacon-wrapped grilled hot dogs, and BBQ boneless chicken thighs. After lunch, winners of the People’s Choice car show judging were announced. First place went to Newell Booth for his 1917 Milburn Light Electric, second place to Brian Smith for his 1962 Amphicar, and third to Bob and Mimi Halgren for their 1941 Hupmobile Skylark. This show was thoroughly enjoyed by both Silvergate residents and participants — so much that a date has already been set for next year’s event. We hope you can join us on June 19, 2027.



AACA members and friends gather for the show.



1st Place: Newell Booth's 1917 Milburn Light Electric



2nd Place: Brian Smith's 1962 Amphicar



The People's Choice winners with their medals.

Main Street Cruise Night, El Cajon

For years, El Cajon's Main Street merchants have sponsored — and tolerated — three blocks packed with collector cars of every stripe. Lately, though, that goodwill has worn thin, and the event looked all but doomed. Thanks to Charger Steve's efforts, another season was granted for summer 2026, and AACA claimed June 10 as our date.

Seven cars flew the club's colors, including Al Smithson's black coupe. A guest, Robert, added a rare 1941 Packard business coupe to the mix. Bob and Mimi Halgren were on hand with their 1941 Hupmobile Skylark, a crowd favorite that never fails to draw one of its own. And in a category all its own, a black Mercedes wagon turned funeral coach rolled through — velvet-lined rear compartment, skull ornament and all. Not one of ours, but impossible to miss.

Best of Show went to Mike Cooke and his son, who took the trophy in their red Camaro convertible.

Ricky Logier swapped out the traditional potluck fried chicken dinner for sandwiches this year, picked up from Bread & Brew in Santee, along with drinks, snacks, and a batch of his homemade brownies. Mark and Diane handled the club's table, trash can, and advertising displays, keeping our presence known to the crowd passing through.

Thanks to Tom McIlravy for the rundown and photos.



Club members hold down the curb as the cars roll in along Main Street.



Best of Show: Mike Cooke and his son with their 1968 Camaro convertible.



Bob and Mimi Halgren's 1941 Hupmobile Skylark



Bob Gunthorp's Mercedes wagon, done up as a funeral coach

San Diego Region Summer Picnic

Three car clubs gather at Bob Gunthorp's

The AACA San Diego Region held its annual summer picnic on June 28, under a classic sunny San Diego sky, at the Nestor neighborhood home of member Bob Gunthorp — a property longtime friends know affectionately as “Bob’s Mercedes Ranch.” True to its nickname, the setting gave guests a chance to wander through Bob’s large and varied Mercedes collection, spanning decades of the marque, while they caught up with old friends and made a few new ones.



Al Smithson's coupe drew a crowd of its own.

This year’s picnic was very much a joint affair. AACA San Diego Region members were joined by the Horseless Carriage Club San Diego Chapter and the San Diego Mercedes Club, turning what has sometimes been a single-club get-together into a full afternoon of cross-club conversation — plenty of stories swapped among and between owners of very different eras of automobile. AACA President Tom McIlravy welcomed the visiting clubs, and host Bob Gunthorp welcomed guests to his home.

The joint format was a highlight in its own right. Members who had never met before struck up conversations across club lines, and the tables stayed full long after plates were empty, with stories and old car histories carrying the afternoon. It was also good to see a few familiar faces who hadn’t made it out to a club event in a while, back among friends for the day.

Guests didn’t just come to admire Bob’s collection — many arrived in collector cars of their own, and the driveway and back yard parking filled out into an impromptu show of their own, spanning marques and eras well beyond the Mercedes theme of the day. It made for plenty of trading stories between owners on top of the usual picnic conversation.

Lil’ Piggy BBQ of Coronado catered the picnic, keeping everyone well fed with a delicious classic barbecue spread throughout the afternoon. Rick Logier rounded out the meal with a box of Bundtini minis from Nothing Bundt Cakes, several dozen of them — Chocolate Chocolate Chip, Lemon, Red Velvet, White Chocolate, and more! Carrot Cake? Raspberry? — that were a hit with the crowd. It was, above all, an afternoon built around good food and good conversation rather than a formal program.

A strong turnout

Between the three clubs, 86 members and guests turned out for the event: 47 from the AACA San Diego Region, 30 from the Horseless Carriage Club San Diego Chapter, and 9 from the San Diego Mercedes Club.

Bob’s Mercedes Collection

Before the food arrived and after the meal, we all toured the parking lot and Bob’s huge collection of several dozen Mercedes of varying vintage. These three drew extra attention, but there were dozens more!



Bob's Mercedes-Benz collection on display



Classic Mercedes models parked at the ranch



Always wanted one of these!

An Amazing Picnic Parking Lot!



Guests' own collector cars lined up for the day



A gold Studebaker Golden Hawk among the guest cars



Guests enjoy a ride in a vintage convertible



A gorgeous '57 Thunderbird, front and center



Guests gather at the tables



A full house under the shade tents



Digging into barbecue and a Bundtini mini

Thanks again to Bob Gunthorp for hosting, and to everyone who came out to make this year's summer picnic a memorable one. And a special thanks to Ricky Logier, Tom McIlravy, and others who contributed photos for this article!



All smiles at the picnic



Ricky Logier's Bundtini minis from Nothing Bundt Cakes

Annual Coronado Independence Day Parade

Coronado's Fourth of July Parade

A Coronado tradition, decades in the making

Coronado's Independence Day parade has rolled down Orange Avenue for more than 75 years, one of the oldest Fourth of July traditions in San Diego County. Organized today by the all-volunteer nonprofit Coronado Fourth of July, the parade runs from Orange Avenue and First Street to Churchill Place and Ocean Boulevard, part of a full day that also includes the Crown City Classic run and fireworks over Glorietta Bay.

AACA San Diego Region has been part of that tradition for years, bringing members' cars down Orange Avenue alongside the city's marching bands, floats, and community groups. Al Smithson has long served as the Region's point of contact and parade organizer, coordinating our entries and keeping our participation running smoothly year after year.

This year's parade carried extra weight, marking America's 250th anniversary of independence. Here's a look at the cars and members who turned out for it. Always a good time!



A 1956 DeSoto staged and ready on the parade route



A Volvo P1800 coupe in the lineup



A Mercedes 450SL dressed in red, white, and blue



A Packard convertible leads the way down Orange Avenue



A Nash Metropolitan makes its way down the route



A Buick and a Mercedes roll through the parade together



AACA members catching up before the start



Spectators find a curbside seat for the show



All smiles ahead of the parade