

THE FOOT WARMER

Official publication of the San Diego Region



Sep-Oct 2026

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/SanDiegoRegionAACA

President's Greeting

Dear San Diego Region AACA members,

What a great day we had last Saturday! Many of us caravanned through the San Diego County countryside to Campo for a ride on the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum's train, then headed over to the Golden Acorn Casino for a fine group lunch. There's a full report elsewhere in this issue, so I'll just say thank you to everyone who came along.

Looking ahead, the Mount Miguel Car Show is October 10th, and the classic car club has invited us to join them on a back country Driving tour. Check your email for details. The tour to the Bob's home has been postponed. Our annual Awards Banquet is November 15th, so keep that date open.

Until we meet again, Happy Motoring.

Tom McIlravy

President, San Diego Region AACA



Bob Gunthorp's 1966 Mercedes-Benz 200D hearse
— a rare German-coachbuilt survivor from the 1960s

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.

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: LUKE KENSON and MARK RICHARDS

TOURS: TOM MCILRAVY

REFRESHMENTS: DIANE RICHARDS

ANNUAL BANQUET: BOB GUNTHORP

ANNUAL AWARDS: MARK REBELLO, JACK HEACOCK

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

September Anniversaries

15 – Robert Wagner and Robert Lasher

30 – Darren Farnesi and Len Pistoria

October Anniversaries

4 – Steve Ross and Carol

25 – Jason Clement and Ted Booth

COMING CLUB EVENTS

OCT	5	General Meeting — Beers Center
	10	Mt Miguel Car Show — John Boyd
	—	The Bobs - postponed
NOV	2	General Meeting — Beers Center
	15	Awards Banquet — Bob Gunthorp
DEC	7	General Meeting — 2027 Planning

Birthdays

September

6 – Betty Holmes

7 – Yolanda Hylton

9 – Norma Almanza

17 – Frances Dunn

18 – Robert Mcallister

20 – Al Smithson

21 – Barbara Parker

23 – Paul Johnson

27 – Paul Priser

27 – Tom O'hara

30 – Sam Judd

October

1 – Suzanne Fort

8 – Francy Priser

8 – Tom Mcilravv

18 – Colin Fort

24 – Vel Landi

25 – Ted Booth

25 – Verna Zopfi

26 – Barbara Boyd

28 – Robert Lancaster

29 – Royce Dunn

31 – Jack Simmons



September 7 — Pizza Night!

Mark and Diane Richards once again served up a delicious collection of Round Table pizza for our annual Labor Day Pizza Night at the Beers Center. Ricky Logier brought a rich, almost decadent fudge, and there were drinks and cookies for all! Brad Zemcik contributed a slide show that set the tone for the evening



Sunset Cliffs Car Show

By Tom McIlravy

On the first cool day of the summer, The Inn at Sunset Cliffs hosted the Sunset Cliffs Car Show. Several members of our club — including Bob and Mimi Halgren, Joe Cibit, Bob Gunthorp, Mark Rebello (driving a car for Al Smithson), and Tom McIlravy — joined Brad Zemcik on this beautiful day. It's a very diverse show, with cars from many of the different clubs in San Diego.

Bob Gunthorp took second place in the Unusual Car category for his Mercedes hearse. It was definitely a showstopper, with many people really enjoying it.

As we were escaping the sun underneath the hood of the '55 Caribbean, a lady commented that we were "the boys in the hood!" Took us a second to catch the pun.



Notes from Members

From Keith Wahl, forwarded by Tom McIlravy: I have a single garage for rent in Talmadge — 49th Street and El Cajon Boulevard. It will accommodate 1 car. A little bit of room to do very small tasks but no major work. Alley access, very convenient to freeway. \$300 per month. Renewable 6-month lease. Professionally managed by Harland Property Management. Contact me at [858 518-2190](tel:8585182190) if you would like to look at it.

SAN DIEGO BRITISH CAR DAY 2026

By Alex Watt



This year the SDBCC was held on September 13th at Tideland Park in Coronado. There were over 200 British Cars on display, including 10 Rolls Royce, 5 Bentleys, 23 Aston Martins, 13 Land Rovers, 10 Lotuses, 31 Jaguars, 4 Morris Minors, 5 Morgans, 32 Triumphs, 23 MGs, 27 Minis, 12 Austin Healeys, 2 Sunbeams, 2 TVRs, 1 Jensen, 1 Ford Cortina, 1 Wolseley, 2 DeLoreans, and 1 Peel P50. There were several cars that hadn't been displayed before as well as marques such as the Peel which is the smallest production car being a one seater that is 54 inches long and is powered by a 50cc engine.

All the cars were in place prior to the 10am start, with judging being conducted by all the car owners. All the voting ballots had to be completed by noon, and the event then became a fun Cars & Coffee until the time to present the trophies. Three AACA members received trophies, with Brad Zemcik taking 2nd place in the Rolls Royce sedan class with his '57 Silver Cloud, Keith Wahl taking 1st in the Triumph Stag class with his '73 Stag, and Sandy and I being awarded the Founders Trophy for our '61 Aston Martin DB4. We were shocked and honoured to get this award especially since we had previously been awarded it in 2006 for our '36 Riley Lynx.



Foreword by Cyril Cannell in the late 1940s, Peel Engineering originally regulated glass reinforced plastic parts to the marine and automotive industries before moving into microcar production.

Capable of a top speed of 58 mph, the P50 features a 40cc 4-cylinder single-cylinder two-stroke twin-cylinder engine mated to a three-speed gearbox. The Peel P50 has no steering gear, simple handlebars to the rear to assist the driver to pick up the car and manoeuvre it as required.

The Peel was advertised as being able to carry "two adults and a shopping bag" while being "almost cheaper than walking." The original retail price of £188 and reported fuel mileage of around 100 mpg shows that the slogan, while somewhat hyperbolic, was far from the truth. After the P50's premiere at the 1962 Cars Court Motor Show in London, an estimated 47 of these three-wheeled designs were built between 1962 and 1965, of which fewer than 25 are known to exist.

In spite of the car's size, a Peel P50 was famously driven through the backstreets of the 1950s by the "Peel" car from Top Gear's first season.

WORLD'S SMALLEST PRODUCTION CAR

Over the course of its history, Peel Engineering developed the Peel Microcar concept vehicle, the Peel P-1000 4-wheeled microcar, the Peel P50 and the Peel Trident 3-wheeled microcars, in addition to the Peel Viking Sport and prototype GPR Minis for BMC. These models constitute the only automobiles manufactured on the Isle of Man. A limited-run Peel Microcar go-kart was also produced.

OWN COMMENT: "IT'S HERE! THE PEEL P50 SALOON SCOOTER. EVERYTHING IN THE WAY OF A PEEL P50 IS NOW HERE. GOING PUBLIC TOMORROW!"

PEEL ENGINEERING

PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH MY PEEL P50

THIS CAR IS PAINTED ITS ORIGINAL METALLIC BLUE. FITTED WITH A HONDA ENGINE FOR EASE OF USE.

TWO STROKES
LATEST 40cc HONDA ENGINE
AUTOMATIC FOR
PEEL 50s
THE PRICE OF A PEEL P50 SELL FOR OVER \$100,000 TODAY

The Peel P50 is in the Guinness Book Of World Records as the world's smallest production car.



From Jack Heacock

These two vehicles were photographed in 1910 in San Gabriel, California. They depict my grandfather, Nathaniel Heacock, and his younger brother at the wheels of my grandfather's first car, a 1910 Maxwell and a produce truck with my great uncle Peter Heacock at the same venue. Also included is the back of the Maxwell photograph with a notation that is self-explanatory. I would appreciate it if one of our members was able to ID the truck.

Thank you, Jack

according to Lowell Heacock 4/95 car bought
in SFRAH shipped to L.A. on boat
N. Heacock drove off boat on narrow
ramp never having driven before.
Nath Heacock and
his first car
a Maxwell -
1910 1910



From Ricky Logier

Divina & Ricky returned on August 31 from a 7-day Alaska Cruise. Pictures are from the Hubbard Glacier excursion. Divina was holding a piece of glacier ice. Had so much fun!



From Barbara Foley — Two outings in October!

In addition to the Mount Miguel car show on **October 10th**, Bob Wagner & Bob Lasher have invited club members to visit their home and car collection in Jamul on **October 24th**. A lunch will be provided. Watch your email for details.

The Driving Tour to Campo

Saturday September 26 saw a drive through the country to Campo to visit the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum. Some caravanned from Parkway Plaza in El Cajon, and others drove to the Museum from various directions. Attendance was good! The club paid for 27 admissions. After a brief visit in the shade, we boarded the old train cars for the leisurely ride toward the Mexican border. The train used to go almost to Tecate, but a tunnel collapse closed the last several miles of track. and it's unlikely it will be cleared. The ancient diesel engine pushed a baggage car and two retired city cars from Newark. Temperature was high — this is Campo in September — but the breeze through the open windows made the trip tolerable.

After we returned, we visited the rail museum housing a plushly upholstered first class carriage and a retired steam locomotive, among other interesting displays. From there, we drove to the Golden Acorn Casino for a group lunch. Food was good, prices reasonable, and the atmosphere was cheery and, well, casino. It was a fun outing.

Interestingly, about two miles further east from the museum is the old gypsum plant, now housing a collection of antique trucks, buses, and engines. Several expressed interest in another driving tour to East County to see this museum. Another day!





El Cerrito Cars & Coffee



**Sunday October 4th, 2026
8:00 - 9:30 AM**

**Chase Bank Parking Lot
College Ave. At El Cajon Blvd.**

**Jim Timlin would like to bring back El Cerrito Cars & Coffee.
Let's return to the Chase Bank Parking Lot with one change.**

Arrive 30 minutes earlier.

As you may remember, we moved from the Chase Bank lot because it was beginning to fill with members of the College Avenue Church. By starting at 8:00 a.m., we should be able to arrive before the church crowd and have parking available.

We encourage everyone to arrive at 8:00 a.m. and bring a chair to put in the neighboring space to save it.

See you there! Jim and Newell

And one more thing...

Last issue we announced the end of the El Cerrito Cars & Coffee, *but that has been reversed!* For at least October, there will be a first Sunday Cars & Coffee, 8:00 to 9:30 am, at the Chase Bank parking lot on El Cajon at College Avenue.