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EVENTS INTO MAY 2022 Read Us Online at: www.oldcarandmotorsports.com ISSUE 1.2022

REMEMBERING AN UNUSUAL YEAR

By Vic Groah

As I sit here on a foggy morning thinking back over a somewhat unusual year in our car hobby I feel so lucky to be able to do even the limited schedule we had. Many of our favorite events were canceled; the things not canceled were all crammed into the last half of the year. We all lost a year and a half of fun stuff but are blessed to be able to pick up the pieces and move forward.

Linda and I started the season by hosting a three club social distancing tour early spring. We started at a Tulare city park and ended a 45 mile drive at Mooney Grove Park

in Visalia. We discovered the wonderful morning cruise in at Mary's Vineyard shopping center sponsored by the Pharaohs car club in Visalia, did several small tours, shows and the Western street rod nationals in Bakersfield. At each of these we met wonderful fellow hobbyists and had a great time. Late in the season Michael Pigg sponsored a tool drive at the detail shop in Tulare for the Tulare High School auto program which was a great success; a nice way to wind up the season. We need to support these high school programs and the young folks in them, they are our future.



Amelia Groah's 1965 Mustang convertible

Story continues on Page 7

CLASSIC CAR & PARTS SWAP MEET

25TH Annual

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2022

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12 SUNDALE CAR SHOW 559-331-1596
12 SUPER CRUISE BY BCCC CAR CLUB
COUNCIL BAKERSFIELD 661-345-1627
12 SMALL TOWN CRUIZER CRUISE NIGHT
TULARE
19 SELMA SWAP MEET SELMA CA
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19 GRAND OPENING CAR SHOW AT
GARAGEFATHERS EXETER 559-936-7277

MARCH 2022

26 SPRING FLING CAR SHOW AT WESTGATE
GARDENS CAR SHOW VISALIA
26 SAM'S BURGER CRUISE NIGHT
FRESNO 559-375-0268

APRIL 2022

1 ROLLIN RELICS CRUISE NIGHT PORTERVILLE
1 RODS ON THE BLUFF FRESNO
2 CARS ON K TULARE CAR SHOW
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9 PHAROAHS OF VISALIA CAR SHOW
VISALIA 805-286-2448
9 MADERA VW SPRING FLING MADERA
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APRIL 2022

9 WOODIES IN THE VALLEY VISALIA
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9 TOWER CAR SHOW FRESNO
9 SMALL TOWN CRUIZER CRUISE
NIGHT TULARE
10 CHERRY AVE. AUTO SWAP FRESNO CA
559-266-9856
16 KINGSBURG CAR SHOW KINGSBURG
559-897-1111
23-24 TULARE SWAP MEET 559-688-1030
23 RIVER VIEW SHOW AND SHINE
THREE RIVERS 559-561-2211
23 SAM'S BURGER CRUISE NIGHT
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24 TURLOCK SPRING SWAP MEET
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209-201-8491 & C10 PALOOZA V
29 WESTERN STREET ROD NATIONALS
BAKERSFIELD NSRA-USA.COM
30 MOTORS AT THE MISSION CAR SHOW
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30 CENTRAL VALLEY CLASSIC CAR
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27 GOLDEN STATE CLASSIC CRUISE
PASO ROBLES
28 GOLDEN STATE CLASSIC CAR SHOW
PASO ROBLES
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JUNE 2022

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AUGUST 2022

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Linda: 559-679-1981

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CONTACT US See Page 5 • **Email us at:** matcase@yahoo.com • **Publisher – Matt Case/Dave Turney**

Charter Oak Model A Ford Club News of Visalia, CA

By Phil Kneeland



Charter Oak Model A Club of Visalia is active and growing in Tulare County. We have had 7 new members join in 2021 and already another new member joined our ranks the first month of 2022.....!!

We've had our first meeting of the year and made a lot of plans for Tours and activities in the coming weeks.

We had a great turnout for the Candy Cane Lane Parade and in December had a fun Christmas Party held at the Lamp Litter Catering Facilities with a huge "Raffle" with lots of really great prizes.

One of our first Tours (Trips) we are planning a trip to NAS Lemoore for a base tour of that huge exciting facility that is the largest and only U.S. Navy Fighter Master Jet Base on the west coast. NAS Lemoore features the tried and true FA18 Super Hornet and the new versatile F-35C Strike Fighter.

After our NAS Lemoore Tour we will return to Visalia but first stop at our favorite "Hanford Ice Cream Parlour"....."Superior Dairy" where we will indulge our selves in a huge serving of a delicious desert.

We have many more Tours in line for you Model A Ford lovers. We have a wonderful three-day CCRG Jamboree in Paso Robles with a gathering of approximately a hundred Model A Fords of all model, shapes and colors. There will be Tours to local points of interest during our 3-day stay; plus we usually have car games and several interesting seminars.

These are just a taste of what you'll find in our Charter Oak Model A Club line up. A Picnic in the park highlights our May Meeting.

We have several impromptu Tours during the year like our favorite Spring Wild Flower Tour up the Dry Creek

Road to Badger with a picnic lunch or a huge hamburger at The Mountain House Restaurant!!

And, I want to mention that you do not have to own a Model A to belong to The Charter Oak Club... "You just Have To Love The Model A Fords" (then you will want to own one)!!!

I do want to say, "That you will not find a friendlier Model A Club around"!!

The Model A Guys meet every Tuesday at the IHOP Restaurant on Mooney Blvd in Visalia at 6:30am. Meet us there !!!

For more information on joining or just visiting our Club functions please contact me: Phil Kneeland, Cell: (559) 679-1980 or Email me at: lindannphil@sbcglobal.net Or our new 2022 President, David Martinez: Cell: (559) 288-0986 or Email: daveytita@gmail.com



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Old Cars
APRIL 2022

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SELMA FLEA MARKET [MT. VIEW AND HIGHWAY 99]

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\$25 per Vendor Space

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Saturday, March 19, 2022, 6a.m. to 3p.m.

Early vendor setup and check-in: March 18, 6a.m. to 9p.m.

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SelmaSwap.com

Selma Swap Delivers Fun Cars, Fun Boats And Fun Food

SELMA – The 16th annual Selma Swap will be held on Saturday, March 19, at the Selma Flea Market, offering something for everyone, including antique car parts, motorcycle parts and boats, cars, go-carts, and more.

The “big boy toy swap meet” is open to the public from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will be open

rain or shine. Parking is free; admission is \$5 per person. Children 12 and under are admitted free of charge when accompanied by an adult.

“We expanded the space last year because of the high volume of interest in the Swap,” noted co-owner and organizer Alan Borba. “I think this is proof that people enjoy getting together and seeing familiar faces.”

Selma Swap is sponsored by the Reedley Blossom Trail A's. The Selma Flea Market is located at Highway 99 and Mountain View Avenue. An ATM is available and the site offers wheelchair accessible restrooms.

“This swap meet focuses on big boy toys like cars, motorcycles, watersport gear and parts for the do-it-yourself person,” Borba added. “Come see what fun stuff we have, along with antiques and collectibles. And the food is good!”

For directions and details, visit selmaswap.com or call 896-3243.



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▶ Story continued from Front Page

REMEMBERING AN UNUSUAL YEAR



Amelia Groah with her 1958 Cushman Eagle

Linda and I have been involved in the car hobby our entire adult lives, me beginning at age 14, she at age 21. Over the years we have met many wonderful people, and still are. At the Bakersfield nationals we were taken in by a wonderful young couple with what some would call a rat rod. They saved a parking place for us and watched over a couple of old folks. We had never seen them before but they treated us like family. I learned never park your shiny car next to a well done patina car, they will get all the attention. We hope to see these nice folks again. We met young Michael Pigg, a third generation car guy. These young folks are an example of the ongoing continuum of our hobby.

Our hobby is evolving and that is as it should be. Linda and I will all too soon be gone but our teen age granddaughter is really getting into the car hobby. Her cars of choice, the

family's 65 Mustang convertible and 67 Volkswagen. She can drive our 5 speed stick shift truck and her grandmother's high performance Jaguar with skill and ease. She drags her dad out to cruise events and shows. If you see a young lady drive in with a red Mustang convertible give her warm greeting, she is the next generation.



Amelia Groah driving 1907 Reo

Over this year I have grown to appreciate and respect the new, high performance cars that are coming to our events. I still prefer the clunky old stuff but it is hard to put down a car that will easily outperform the highest end vintage cars, have comfort that was just dreamed of back when, and with a full factory warranty.

There are so many segments of our hobby; from horseless carriages to low riders, to the super cars of today, all wonderful and worth full attention. Soon we will be seeing electric cars at cruise nights. It is part of the evolution of the car hobby.

This winter we will spend some time in the shop getting stuff ready for next season and taking in anything that may come up this winter. We are so looking forward to being with all you car nuts this coming year. We hope things will be more normal, whatever that is.



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15th Annual Blossom Trail Festival CAR SHOW

**Brehler Square: Sanger, CA
March 12th, 2022**

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For any questions contact Christina Lopez at clopez@plum.com or

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Some Comments On What's Happening in 2022

By Dave Wolin

SEMA and PRI – Shadows of their former selves; SEMA, after skipping 2021 due to Covid restrictions came back as a great car show, hundreds of cars on display, exhibitors and attendees not so much. PRI, the same plus Indianapolis in the winter leaves something to be desired. So what happens is the big guys, Holley, Edelbrock et al exhibit but the little guys, hurt most badly by Covid and supply chain disruptions don't.



Cars at SEMA

In my opinion, as a SEMA member for 50 years, it's likely that the days of trade shows are over, replaced by Zoom meetings and sites like Eparttrade (www.eparttrade.com) and The Shop (www.theshopmag.com) that feature everything new in the performance industry, online. Works for me anyway!!

On the car show scene, things are looking better for 2022. The Grand National Roadster Show, after skipping 2021, is back at Pomona on January 28th- 30th. More info at www.rodshows.com



The governor of Indiana dropped by PRI, hoping to prop up the failing attendance

Then on March 12th, The Bakersfield Car Club Council's Super Cruise is on track to return after a year's absence also. This is the 24th annual event, this year supporting the Bakersfield Fire Fighters Burn Foundation



Other shows already announcing dates include Morro Bay in May, Hanford in June and also the swap meets are going strong; Pomona, Turlock and Tulare. Watch our calendar online for the latest have we recovered from Covid? Probably not – but look forward to these already scheduled (and not to be missed) events for 2022.

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- ✓ Money Raffle
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- ✓ Sports Show Entry

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INFO Chris (661)345-1627, Jordan (661) 203-2134
Bette (661)345-1629, Debbie (661) 203-9936
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Pharoahs of Visalia Car Show

April 9, 2022

Awards, Raffle, Food, Club Participation Trophy
 Gates open @ 7am, Show 9am-1pm, Awards @ 2pm
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 All net proceeds will benefit the Redwood High School Auto Shop




Pharoahs of Visalia Car Show

Coming for the first time to the Central Valley is the first "Pharoahs of Visalia Car Show". According to Glen Hale, General of the Visalia Chapter, "This is going to be a great event for the car community and Redwood High School's Auto Shop". Hale went on to explain that the net proceeds of the car show will go to the auto shop.

On April 9, there will be awards, raffle prizes galore, food trucks, club participation trophy and fun for all.

Gates will open at 7 am. The car show will begin promptly at 9 am and go to 1 pm. Awards will start at 2 pm.

The location for the show is 1243 N. Clancy (Road 88 and Goshen Avenue) Visalia CA 93291

The cost for the show is \$20.00.

Sponsor support provided by
 Advanced Career Institute - Visalia Campus

For more information on the event or to join the Pharoahs of Visalia, please contact Glen Hale at 805 286-2448



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TULARE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BRINGS BACK CARS ON K TO DOWNTOWN TULARE

Tulare, CA – The Tulare Chamber of Commerce is excited to welcome back Cars on K to downtown Tulare Saturday, April 2nd from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Over 100 classic and custom cars are expected to again be on display. The event will include music, food, a variety of vendors, and more.

This much-anticipated event took a break during the pandemic and organizers look forward to bringing auto enthusiasts back to downtown Tulare. The event does return to K Street after a long absence while it was held in the park. The excitement is building as everyone looks forward to this

return where the history of downtown's 'main street' will blend with the history and stories of these great rides.

Chamber CEO Donnette Silva Carter noted, "The Tulare Chamber looks forward to bringing guests into our downtown. The City has great plans for reinvigorating our downtown community with new offerings, building enhancements, and so much more. Re-establishing the event as Cars on K makes perfect sense as we put a spotlight on Downtown Tulare while enjoying the awesome vehicles on display."

Those wishing to register their ride can do so in advance at www.tularechamber.org. Forty trophies will be up for grabs by those showcasing their prized vehicles. Take advantage of the early registration fee of \$30.

For additional information, please call (559) 686-1547.







CARS ON K

Car Show

APRIL 2ND, 2022

9AM TO 2PM

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Register online: www.tularechamber.org | Call for information: 559-686-1547



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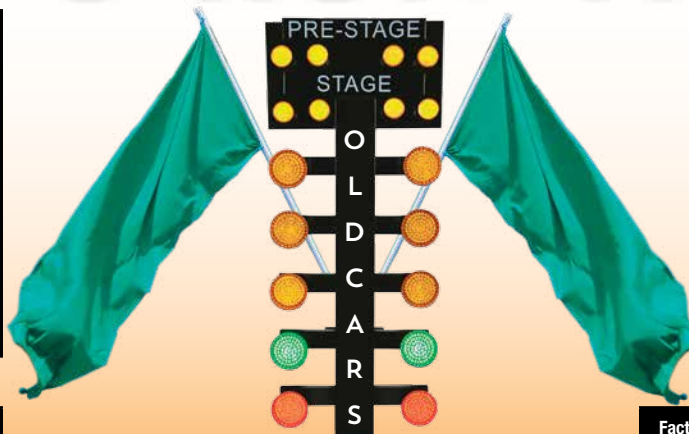
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1971 DEMON 340

Factory ADP	Wheelbase	Length	Shipping Weight	Base V-8	Engine Options
\$3,396	108 in.	192.5 in.	3,353 lbs.	340 cid/275 hp	N/A



VS



1970 DART SWINGER 340

Factory ADP	Wheelbase	Length	Shipping Weight	Base V-8	Engine Options
\$2,808	97 in.	178 in.	3,179 lbs.	340 cid/275 hp	N/A

SEE WHO WINS ON PAGE 24.

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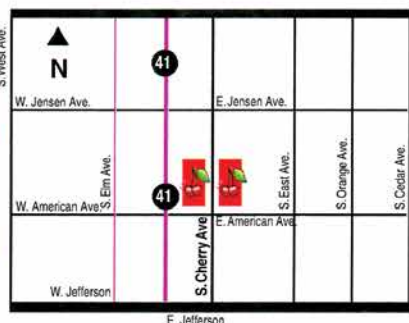
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27th ANNUAL KINGSBURG

CAR SHOW

KINGSBURG DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Friday, April 15, 2022

Cruise Night

3:00 P.M.—5:30 P.M. at **Selma Auto Mall**: Receive free Cruise Night raffle ticket, (raffle winner announced at Draper Street, Kingsburg, must be present to win), Pre-Registration (receive an additional ticket for Cruise Night raffle), Music

Cruise from Selma Auto Mall, departing at 5:30 P.M., on the Old 99 to Draper

6:00 P.M.—8:30 P.M. at **Draper Street**: Shopping, Dining, 50/50 Raffle,

“Show & Shine” Performance by Jeremy “ELVIS” Pearce at 7:00 P.M.

Saturday, April 16, 2022

Car Show

Draper Street & Downtown Streets of the Swedish Village

Judging Starts at 10:00 A.M. Trophy Presentation at 3:00 P.M.

Raffle Prizes Every Half Hour 10:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.

Senior Center’s Pancake Breakfast 7:00 A.M.—11:00 A.M.

Entry Fee: \$35 ~ free t-shirt to first 100 entrants (please see reverse side for entry form)

Food Booths, Vendors, Kid Area, Great Shopping, “Auto Alley”

17 Specialty Awards!

- Baddest Car on Draper - Mopar Madness - Heavy Horsepower - Wind in my Hair - Highway Hauler
- Henry Blue Oval - Wicked Wagon - Bowtie Brigade - Tri-Five Heaven - Muscle Machine - Old & Original
- Ladies Choice - Low & Slow - And Now For Something Completely Different - Psychedelic Spray
- Fabulous 50's - We Just Like It Car Show Committee

One Free Shirt for First 100 Pre- Entries

Car Show entries limited to the first 500 cars

No sale of services or products unless in paid vendor space!

Registration starts at 7 a.m. Cars must be parked by 10 a.m. to be judged

COME PARK WITH YOUR FRIENDS!

SORRY: Dogs with exception of assistance animals restricted from show area

Rain Man" 1949 Buick Roadmaster Convertible Heads To Auction

By Stephen Edelstein, www.motorauthority.com



A 1949 Buick Roadmaster convertible used in the 1988 film "Rain Man" is heading to auction with Bonhams in Scottsdale, Arizona, on Jan. 27.

Since "Rain Man" centers on a cross-country road trip by brothers Charlie Babbitt (Tom Cruise) and Raymond Babbitt (Dustin Hoffman), the car is prominently featured. The car going up for auction is one of two used for filming, and was purchased by Hoffman after the movie wrapped.

Hoffman has owned the car ever since, but, aside from an appearance at a 1989 Buick Car Club event, it's rarely been seen in public, according to the auction listing.

"The Buick's been in storage too long," Hoffman said in a statement attached to the listing "It should be driven, enjoyed, and cherished."



The Roadmaster is powered by a 320-cubic-inch straight-8 (which was Buick's engine of choice at the time instead of the more common V-8) producing 150 hp. That power is sent to the rear wheels through a 2-speed automatic transmission. The Buick has front independent suspension with a live rear axle, and four-wheel drum brakes—not a lot of stopping power for such a big car.

Bonhams expects the "Rain Man" Buick to sell for between \$150,000 and \$250,000, likely on the strength of its Hollywood connection. It's not the only movie car to head to auction recently. A 1994 Porsche 911 Turbo from "Bad Boys" sold for \$1.43 million at a Florida Mecum auction. The 1976 AMC Pacer from "Wayne's World" is set to cross the block at the Barrett-Jackson Scottsdale auction the same weekend as the Bonhams sale.



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SMALL TOWN CRUIZERS CAR CLUB UPDATE

Well guess what fellow car affishinados!!!!???? Our car club has a new location for our Cruise Nights and Our Annual Car Show...!!! We will still be in Tulare, at The Tulare Pavilions, Hillman Ave. and Lelend Ave. The parking area will be in the Harbor Freight parking area.

The season begins in March, the second Saturday from 5pm till dusk. We will be there thru October. Our annual Car Show will be at this same location..Bring your pop-ups for a little added shade.

As always we will have some great music and some great prizes and that MOOLA-MOOLA Prize winner at the end of the night. Also for our visitors (non-member) we pick a monthly thank you plak for bringing their beautiful car...!!

The club will have signs up to help you when you arrive..! So come and enjoy the cars and the people... SEE YOU THEN..!




65

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The Rearview Mirror: The First, and Nearly Last, Chevrolet Corvette

By Larry Printz, www.thedetroitbureau.com

A high price, bad marketing and underwhelming power almost kill America's sports car, which debuted this week in 1953.

Since the eighth generation Chevrolet Corvette debuted in 2019, it cultivated a newfound respect among car enthusiasts and the general public.

Thanks to its new mid-engine layout, the newest iteration offers performance that meets or beats the world's mightiest super cars at a fraction of their price. In that regard, it's truly a Chevrolet.

And it debuted its first appeared 69 years ago this week. But it nearly didn't survive.



The 1953 Chevrolet Corvette Motorama show car.

It all began in Manhattan

The Chevrolet Corvette's story begins after World War II, when General Motors put on its first display of cars, the 1947 Motorama exhibition at Chicago's Museum of Science and Technology.

The company would expand the concept two years later at "Transportation Unlimited" a similar show held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, and renamed the "Mid-Century Motorama" the following year. But the Korean War prevented GM from hosting it in 1951 or 1952. It was revived for 1953, opening in New York City in January before moving on to Miami in February, Los Angeles in April, San Francisco and Dallas in May, before wrapping up in Kansas City in June.

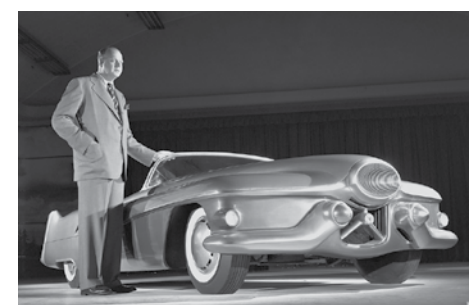
Admission was free, despite the fact that the show cost GM more than \$5 million to produce, or \$58.1 million when adjusted for inflation. And that doesn't include the cost of the concept cars, one of which was none other

than the Chevrolet Corvette.

A growing market for sports cars

The idea for the Chevrolet Corvette occurred in 1951, when Harley Earl took the 1951 GM LeSabre concept car to a sports car race in Watkins Glen. Earl knew sports cars were gaining in popularity, as young American buyers were snapping up MGs, Alfa Romeos and Jaguars.

The only major American automaker selling one was Nash. But the 1951 Nash-Healey was an amalgamation of a Nash Ambassador driveline installed on an English Healey chassis with a body designed and built in Italy by Pinin Farina. Other low-volume American manufacturers were in the market as well, including Cunningham, Kurtis and Crosley. Earl knew he had to make a move.



Harley J. Earl and the 1951 LeSabre Concept that he drove to Watkins Glen, N.Y.

Harley Earl's dream

Developed under the moniker "Opel Passenger Car Development Project," it was designed to be as affordable as possible, using as many existing Chevrolet components as possible. The car's proportions mirrored those of its continental competitors, as did its details. It lacked door handles and roll-up windows, using snap-in side curtains instead.

In spring 1952, Chevrolet's chief engineer, Ed Cole, Division General Manager Thomas Keating, and GM Executive Vice President Harlow Curtice took a look at the new concept car, now called the EX-122. They agreed it would be the Chevrolet dream car for the 1953 Motorama, with production to start as soon as possible after the show.

▶▶▶ Story continues on Page 28

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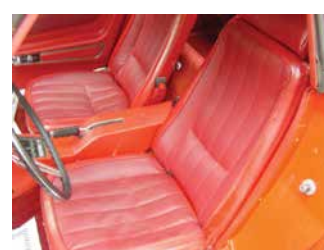


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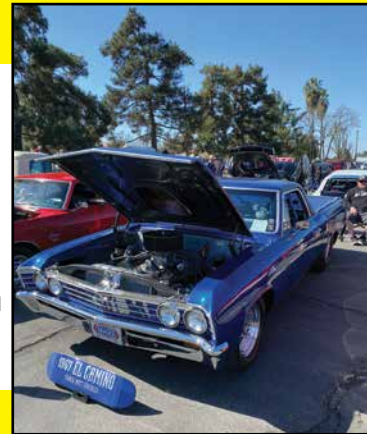
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FEBRUARY 2022

- Sunday February 6 - Summit Series ET Race #2 10am-4pm
- Saturday February 12 Test and Tune 12-4pm
- Saturday February 19 Test and Tune 12-4pm
- Sunday February 20 - Summit Series ET Race #3 10am-4pm
- Saturday February 26 Test and Tune 12-4pm

MARCH 2022

- Sunday March 13 CMI March Mayhem Sport Compact Drag Racing Car Show 10am-5pm
- Saturday March 19 - Summit Series ET Race #4, Super Gas 10am-5pm
- Sunday March 20 - Summit Series ET Race #5, Super Gas 10am-5pm
- Wednesday March 23 Street Legal Drag Racing 5-9pm
- Saturday March 26 T&A Race Club Big Bucks Bracket Racing 10am-8pm
- Sunday March 27 T&A Race Club Big Bucks Bracket Racing 10am-5pm
- Wednesday March 30 Street Legal Drag Racing 5-9pm

APRIL 2022

- Friday/ Saturday April 1 & 2 Funny Car Fever
- Wednesday April 6 - Street Legal Drag Racing 5-9pm
- Friday April 8 - KB Motocross
- Saturday April 9 Golden State Diesel Fest
- Sunday April 10 - CMI Spring Jam Sport Compact Drag Racing and Car Show 10am-5pm
- Wednesday April 13 - Street Legal Drag Racing 5-9pm
- Friday April 15 - KB Motocross
- Saturday April 16 - Sac Speed Shop Track Takeover
- Wednesday April 20 - Street Legal Drag Racing 5-9pm
- Friday April 22 Test and Tune 5-9pm
- Saturday April 23 - Summit Series ET Race #6, WCPG, Super Gas, Juniors 10am-9pm
- Sunday April 24 - Summit Series ET Race #7, WCPG, Super Gas, Juniors 10am-8pm
- Wednesday April 27 - Street Legal Drag Racing 5-9pm
- Saturday April 30 - Test and Tune & Grudgefest

MAY 2022

- Friday/Sat. May 6 & 7 WCPG The Main Event
- Sunday May 15 - All Fast Fords & Muscle Mustangs
- Wednesday May 18 - Street Legal Drag Racing 5-9pm
- Saturday/Sunday May 21 & 22 Motorcycle Mania
- Friday May 27 - KB Motocross
- Saturday May 28 Bugorama Parking, Testing
- Sunday May 29 Bugorama Drag Racing, Car Show, Swap Meet for all VWs

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Track Days - Another Way To Go Fast

By Dave Wolin

We've all watched racing on TV, maybe attended a race or two on a road course or played Forza or something like that. And maybe, just maybe, you've had those visions of yourself behind the wheel of a Cup car at Sonoma or an Indy Car at Laguna Seca.

Today there are a dozen or more groups holding track day events around California. For a few hundred dollars, you can drive your street car, at racing speeds, around Auto Club Speedway, Willow Springs, Laguna Seca, Thunderhill or Buttonwillow. All that's required is a car in good condition, a helmet and respect for the fact that you're not a race car driver.

Here's how it works - Register online with one of the many groups. Let's assume you are a novice, first time on a racetrack. Show up early for the drivers meeting where you'll get some direction; learn how the event is run, what the flags mean, when and where passing is allowed and what happens if you run out of gas or spin off into a field. Your group will probably not allow any passing in the first session; just letting you learn the track and how your car feels at cornering speeds you should not be reaching on freeway off ramps. Often there are instructors available to show you the line, braking points and such.

Before you leave home, check fluids (brake fluid too) and make sure the wheels are torqued. At the track, you should again check your tire pressures, oil level, fuel and remove all the loose objects from inside the car. Don't want your laptop

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or the kids's lunch box flying around in turn two at 100mph!! And go for it - Keep in mind 1) You are not a race car driver 2) Your car is not a race car. This stuff takes practice so work up to it slowly.

Just to repeat the same story over and over; there's always the guy (or gal) who tries too hard, wrecks their car or burns down the brakes or tires and needs a tow truck to get home. Don't be that person and you'll have a great time at the track.

Looking for a track day - Good place to start is the Buttonwillow Raceway Park Calendar page - <http://buttonwillowraceway.com/calendar-of-events/> or the Willow Springs

Calendar page - <http://www.willowspringsraceway.com/calendar.php?month=02&year=2019>

Some track days groups I can personally recommend: Open Track Racing - www.opentrackracing.com, Speed Ventures - www.speedventures.com, On Grid - www.ongridtrack.com and Extreme Speed - www.extremespeedtrackevents.com. There are numerous other groups, clubs and open test days. Have a good time!!

Dave Wolin is a veteran hot rodder and racer and operates a marketing consultancy specializing in the racing and high performance industry.

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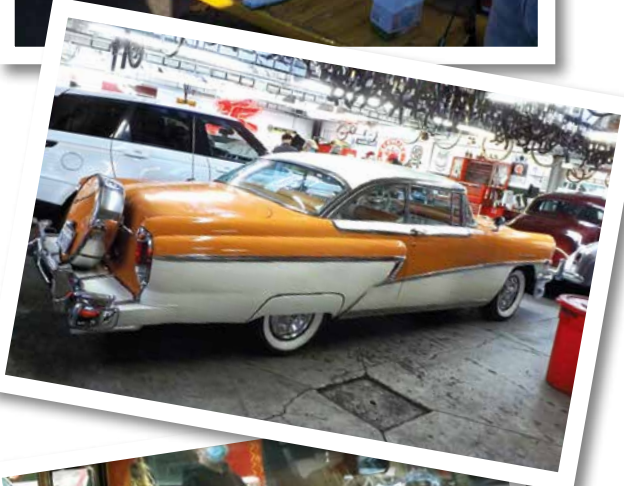
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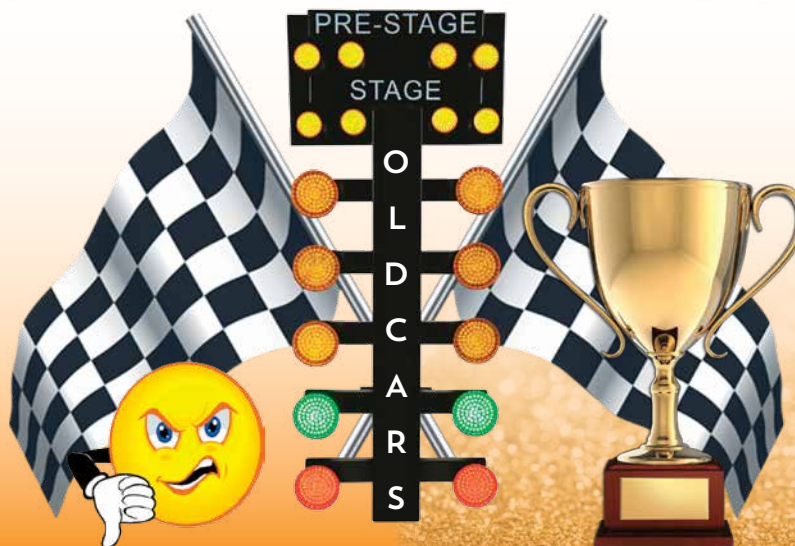
1971 DEMON 340

After its success as the '70 Plymouth Duster, Dodge couldn't wait to get MoPar's 108-inch wheelbase coupe for its compact Dart line. That chance came in the fall of '70, when the Demon was added to the '71 lineup. It was the first Dart with an under-110-inch wheelbase.

Like the Duster, the Demon came in two models. The Demon 340, which cost just \$18 more than the base six, came with a well-balanced small-block V-8, a floor-shifted three-speed, a Rallye instrument cluster, H.D. suspension, E70-14 tires, stripes and dual exhaust.

Playing the option list was the name of the game and the 340 had interesting extras including dual-scoop hood with hood pins, a rear spoiler and a "Tuff" steering wheel.

The 340 was a card-carrying member of the '71 Dodge "Scat Pack." The Demon was a success, with 69,861 base models and 10,098 Demon 340s built.



0-to-60 MPH	¼-Mile
6.5 seconds	14.5 seconds @ 98 mph

1970 DART SWINGER 340

Another member of the Dodge "Scat Pack" returning in '69 was the Swinger 340 hardtop. It had revised front and rear cosmetics and a slightly lower price tag. A three-speed was on the standard equipment list. Instead of small power vents, the mini Mopar muscle machine now carried two long, narrow hood scoops.

Other standard Swinger 340 features included a 3.23:1 ratio, Firm Ride shocks, a Rallye suspension, and front discs.

Despite the introduction of the Challenger, the Swinger 340 remained popular enough to generate 13,785 assemblies. One reason for its popularity was that insurance companies considered it a "compact" car and charged lower premiums than other muscle cars required.

Of course, it was also as fast as - or even slightly faster than - the 340 powered Dart GT Sport. Even today, muscle car collectors can find bargains in the Swinger 340 market, since these cars don't look as flashy as a GTS, although they are equally fast.

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The 11th Annual Jefferson Car Show will be on Saturday, May 14, 2022 in Clovis. The first 50 pre-registered will receive a gift and a goody bag.

Pre-registration is open through May 6th.

All makes and models and years are welcome. There will be a silent auction, raffle, vendors, and food.

All profits go back to Jefferson Elementary.

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If you want a registration form sent to you, email me your mailing address at: gloria.lacy@aol.com

Story continued from Page 16

The Rearview Mirror... Chevrolet Corvette



The 1955 Ford Thunderbird's arrival convinced GM executives to keep the Corvette.

The tight deadlines required that car's body be made from fiberglass, rather than traditional steel. Myron Scott, Chevy

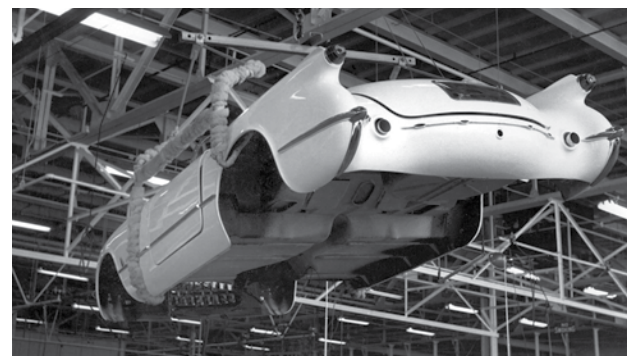
PR's assistant director, settled on the name Corvette, a class of small, fast British warships.

A star is born, but not yet

In January 1953, the Chevrolet Corvette at the 1953 Motorama, with predictable results. Its popularity was so strong, VP Curtice announced on the show's second day that GM would begin production in June. They made it, but just barely.

On June 30, 1953, production began in Flint, Michigan, with expectations of selling 10,000 units. But quality problems with the fiberglass fabrication torpedoed that estimate. A mere 300 were produced that first year, not only because of fabrication issues, but also because GM flubbed its marketing.

Chevrolet limited the car's availability to VIP customers. The



Only 300 Corvettes were made for the 1953 model year as problems with the fiberglass bodies hindered production.

result was that of the more than 1 million Motorama visitors who saw the car, only 180 could buy one. Even if you could, the Corvette's \$3,490 (or \$36,580 today) price cost more than a 1953 Cadillac Series 62 convertible.

Certainly the younger buyer the car was aimed at couldn't afford one, while the buyer who could preferred to have door handles and roll-up windows, not to mention enough power to overtake a Buick Century, which it couldn't thanks to its 150-horsepower "Blue Flame" inline 6-cylinder engine and 2-speed Powerglide automatic transmission.

GM throws a party but nobody shows

It all took a toll on the Corvette's sales. GM lifted its misguided restricted availability, expecting sales to pick up. They even moved Corvette assembly to St. Louis, where the plant could build 50 cars a day. But the automaker was forced to cut production. Whatever consumer enthusiasm GM had stoked quickly cooled. By the end of 1954, only 700 had been built.

There was talk of dropping the car, which proved to be an anathema to design chief Earl.

But then came the 1955 Detroit Auto Show in January 1955. It was a new model from Ford and it would change the equation: the 1955 Ford Thunderbird.

A new model takes flight

The Thunderbird project began in 1952, when Frank Hershey, Ford's design chief, received a photograph from a friend at GM Design of the forthcoming Corvette concept car.

"I flipped because it meant they were going to have something we didn't have," he recalled in the book, "Fins" by William Knoedelseder. "I had the authority to do whatever I wanted to, and I had an extra room, so I bought an XK-120 Jag, took the same wheelbase, and roughed out a car."

Hershey hid the project from upper management, who couldn't justify funding a car whose market was estimated to be a mere 12,000 units annually at best. But with the arrival of the Corvette, Ford executives agreed that the Thunderbird was needed to challenge the Corvette.

What emerged was a car that went beyond being merely a sports car. It had more class and comfort, and V-8 power. And it would go on to sell more than 16,000 units in its first year — far more than the 4,640 Corvettes did in three.

Ironically, the Thunderbird's arrival convinced GM that it shouldn't kill the Corvette, it should improve it. It prove to be its savior, not its executioner as Ford had hoped.

Soon, the Corvette would receive its first V-8 engine, the start of a never-ending series of improvements and innovative styling that would eventually entrench it as America's sports car and produce the 2022 C8 Corvette.



Without Ford's 1955 Thunderbird, there wouldn't be a 2023 Corvette.

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8TH ANNUAL PASO ROBLES MEMORIAL WEEKEND CRUISE AND CAR SHOW



Photo by Pat Lewis

The annual cruise and car show in Paso Robles returns on Memorial Day Weekend in 2022. Presented by Golden State Classics Car Club and the City of Paso Robles, more than 400 cars and trucks are expected to cruise on Friday night, May 27, and be displayed during the show on Saturday, May 28, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., in the Downtown City Park.

Golden State Classics is opening up the categories for the show. They will have the traditional antique categories, classics through 1997, and factory muscle from the 60s and 70s. “But we wanted to create more inclusion,” said Scotty Smith, car show chair. “So we’ve added modern muscle cars from 1980 to the present. Along with hot rods, customs, and special interest.”

Another change this year is having a show that ends at 2pm. “We put on a one-time car show in July 2021 in a parking lot. We were really worried about summer heat, so we ended it earlier than usual,” Smith explained. The car show attracted more than 175 entrants. “We thought they might be angry about the shorter show, but they loved it!” Smith said. “People kept confessing to us that those last couple of hours at most shows can really drag on.”



Photo by Pat Lewis

This year’s event features a “Manufacturer Row” with companies that offer services for car enthusiasts, in addition to food vendors and raffle prizes. “The biggest benefit is our location,” Smith shared. “We are in a beautifully shaded downtown park surrounded by lots of restaurants and shopping. It really does make for a great Memorial Weekend escape.”

Golden State Classics Car Club is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and part of the proceeds benefit their “Hot Rodders of the Future” youth program. The club supports community college and high school students who are studying auto and fabrication technology. “We want to support the next generation of car enthusiasts,” Smith laughed as he added, “In the future we are hoping to see less gray hair at car shows.”

Until May 9, it costs \$45 to cruise and compete in the car show. After that date, it is \$55. Register on or before May 9 to receive a free event T-shirt. Visit www.goldenstateclassics.org to register.



Photo by Pat Lewis

Cruise Night
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6 - 7:30pm

Car Show
Saturday, May 28
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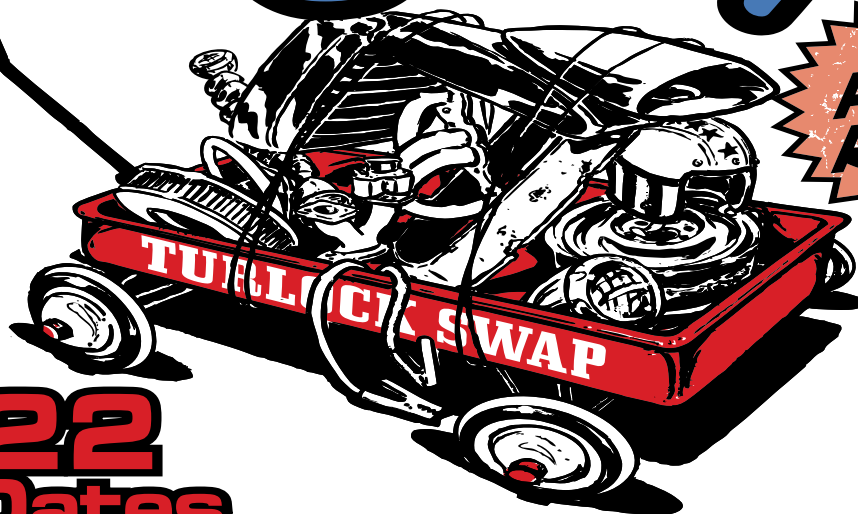
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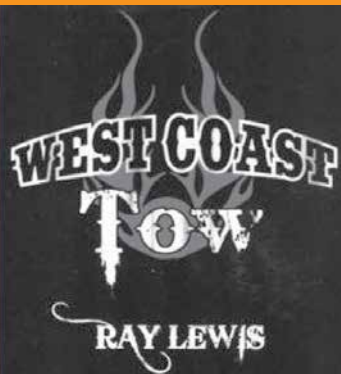
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