



NorCal AMCs Newsletter

August 2010

Club Highlights January-August

By Ross Guistino

As the logo above suggests, we voted in February to alter the name of the Club from The NorCal AMC Car Club to the more refined moniker of The NorCal AMC Auto Group. (Due to space, I had to leave the "The" off in order to fit within the confinement of the logo.) If anyone wishes to have revised business cards, please notify me.

We almost had a potential new member in March when a young lady named Naomi joined us after purchasing Walt's Pacer. Alas, here it is August and we have yet to hear back from her nor received a Club Application. Oh well, you win some and you lose some.

In April, Gean and Connor picked up a '68 AMX with a 390. Father and son (mostly son) are super excited to get this orphan on the road, and are making great progress. Their original '69 Javelin project proved to be more of a burden than a joy so they unloaded, er, sold it in favor of this more work-able '68. Congratulations.

May brought us the first ever Nor-Cal AMC Auto Group "Work Day". Ross's Gremlins were chosen as the subject of this group gathering. Mark E. offered the use of his shop (Pape Machinery in Rohnert Park), Ross brought his Gremlins and a big box-o-donuts, Nolan brought his supervisory skills, Gean, Connor and Tyson brought their muscle and know-how (and extraordinary energy!) and along with Rich, John Andrews, Harry, and Walt we removed the interior from Greta (the brown Gremlin) and put it into Vivo



NorCal AMCs
Annual Picnic
Saturday, September 18th
Hosted by and held at
Tyson's House

(the orange Gremlin). This is a project that I've been wanting to do for a long time since the interior of Greta was newish, and had the all important bucket seats, to Vivo's vinyl floor and extremely ugly and uncomfortable bench seat. I owe so much to the Group for helping me with this swap; I couldn't have done it without you. Thank you!

Father's Day was NorCal AMC Auto Group day at the annual Julliard Park car show. Nolan, Mark, Tyson and myself secured our usual spot (three years in a row!) across from the high arched pedestrian bridge in the center of the park. We didn't win any awards but what we lacked in shiny



fake gold statuettes, we gained in admiring smiles, oohs, ahhs and the occasional smirk and laugh. It was a great day weather-wise and a great day camaraderie-wise. I can't speak for anyone else, but this event is something I look forward to every year. I'd love to see more Group members in the show next year!

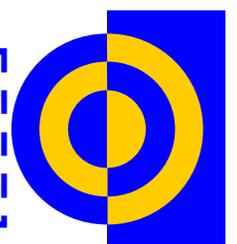
For the past couple of years, Cheryl has helped put together the Elegant Flea on the Green Antique Show and

Classic Car Show in July, and for the past couple of years, several Members of our Group started the day with breakfast at Norm's and then headed to Cheryl's event. For the second year in a row, Terrie and I were out-of-town and unable to attend. Maybe next year.

Several of us joined Gean and Connor at the July opening of the Power & Implement Museum in Penngrove. This free museum is truly a one-of-a-kind collection of mechanical marvels; be sure to visit their website for the next opening. They only have one to three openings a year. See them at www.penngrovepower.org.



Pixar Studios Car Show & BBQ on
July 9th—See full story on Page 7



The other notable note about the July meeting was that it was, barely, a meeting. Richard and Mark E. represented the entire NorCal AMC Auto Group that evening. Mark won the AMCs Driven gift certificate. I guess the low attendance was due to Ross not mailing out reminder cards and Nolan not sending his customary reminder email.

Which brings us to August. What was supposed to be another Group Work Day at Tyson's didn't quite turn out that way but Tyson got what he wanted despite not having a formal Group gathering. Tyson has been talking about putting the bed back on his dually for a long time and with the help of a few friends, on the truck it went. Wish I was there to help, Tyson. Sorry for missing what I'm sure was an exciting time, not to mention Tyson springing for beer and pizza. Now THAT's something that's truly amazing.



And speaking of amazing, Nolan sent this picture which appeared in the October 2010 edition of Hot Rod Magazine. Sadly it isn't AMC-powered but everything else is original, the way it came from the Kenosha factory in 1978. The Chevy LS7 crate engine created 680 hp on the engine dyno. The owner, Steve Bashford from Michigan thought that the Pacer could be more than just a running gag from the Wayne's World movies. Although I frown on the non-AMC engine, I have to give him credit for bringing life and much needed attention to our beloved AMCs.

Local Upcoming Events

Sent in by Gean Stumbaugh

- Aug 27-29: SAAC-35 in Town of Sonoma, www.historicgrandprix.com
- Aug 28: Fourth and Sea Sunday Cruise-in in Petaluma, www.sundaycruisein.blogspot.com
- Aug 28: Annual Russian River Car Show in Monte Rio, www.mrrpd.org
- Sept 6: Bob Consani Memorial Car Show in S.R., www.bobconsaniracing.com/events.php
- Sept 11: Cloverdale Car Show, <http://tinyurl.com/29xyhva>
- Sept 11: Cruisin' North Cruise-in in Rohnert Park, www.cruisinnorth.org
- Sept 12: Classic Chevy Club annual sawp meet at S.R. Vets Bldg, www.reccc.org/events.htm



The Gang at Norm's for breakfast before the Flea show in July.

BALDO

By Hector Cantu and Carlos Castellanos



Non-AMC History Test

Submitted by Eddie Stakes
on The AMC List On-line

History Exam...

Everyone over 40 should have a pretty easy time at this exam. If you are under 40 you can claim a handicap. This is a History Exam for those who don't mind seeing how much they really remember about what went on in their life.

* Answers are on Page 5 *

1. In the 1940s where were automobile headlight dimmer switches located?
 - a. On the floor shift knob.
 - b. On the floor board to the left of the clutch.
 - c. Next to the horn.
2. The bottle top of a Royal Crown Cola bottle had holes in it. For what was it used?
 - a.. Capture lightning bugs.
 - b. To sprinkle clothes before ironing.
 - c. Large salt shaker.
3. Why was having milk delivered a problem in northern winters?
 - a. Cows got cold and wouldn't produce milk.
 - b. Ice on highways forced delivery by dog sled.
 - c. Milkmen left deliveries outside of front doors and milk would freeze expanding and pushing up the cardboard bottle top.
4. What was the popular chewing gum named for a game of chance?
 - a. Blackjack
 - b. Gin
 - c. Craps
5. What postwar car turned automotive design on its ear when you couldn't tell whether it was coming or going?
 - a. Studebaker
 - b. Nash Metro
 - c. Tucker
6. As a kid what was considered the best way to reach a decision?
 - a. Consider all the facts.
 - b. Ask Mom.
 - c. Eeny-meeny-miney-mo.
7. "I'll be down to get you in a _____, Honey"
 - a. SUV
 - b. Taxi
 - c. Streetcar
8. What was a Duck-and-Cover Drill?
 - a. Part of the game of hide and seek.
 - b. What you did when your Mom called you in to do chores.
 - c. Hiding under your desk and covering your head with your arms in an A-bomb drill.
9. What was the name of the Indian Princess on the Howdy Doody show?
 - a. Princess Summerfallwinterspring
 - b. Princess Sacajawea
 - c. Princess Moonshadow
10. What did all the really savvy students do when mimeographed tests were handed out in school?
 - a. Immediately sniffed the purple ink as this was believed to get you high.
 - b. Made paper airplanes to see who could sail theirs out the window.
 - c. Wrote another pupil's name on the top to avoid their failure.
11. Why did your Mom shop in stores that gave Green Stamps with purchases?
 - a. To keep you out of mischief by licking the backs which tasted like bubble gum.
 - b.. They could be put in special books and redeemed for various household items.
 - c. They were given to the kids to be used as stick-on tattoos.
12. What was the name of the singing group that made the song "Cabdriver" a hit?
 - a. The Ink Spots
 - b. The Supremes
 - c. The Esquires
13. Who left his heart in San Francisco?
 - a. Tony Bennett
 - b. Xavier Cugat
 - c. George Gershwin

Answers to the Non-AMC History Test

ANSWERS

1. (b) On the floor to the left of the clutch. Hand controls popular in Europe took till the late '60's to catch on.
2. (b) To sprinkle clothes before ironing. Who had a steam iron?
3. (c) Cold weather caused the milk to freeze and expand popping the bottle top.
4. (a) Blackjack Gum.
5. (a) 1946 Studebaker .
6. (c) Eeny-meeny-miney-mo.
7. (b) Taxi . Better be ready by half-past eight!
8. (c) Hiding under your desk and covering your head with your arms in an A-bomb drill.
9. (a) Princess Summerfallwinterspring . She was another puppet.
10. (a) Immediately sniffed the purple ink to get a high.
11. (b) Put in a special stamp book they could be traded for household items at the Green Stamp store.
12. (a) The widely famous 50's group The Inkspots.
13. (a) Tony Bennett and he sounds just as good today.

SCORING

11-13 correct: You are older than dirt and obviously gifted with mental abilities. Now if you could only find your glasses.

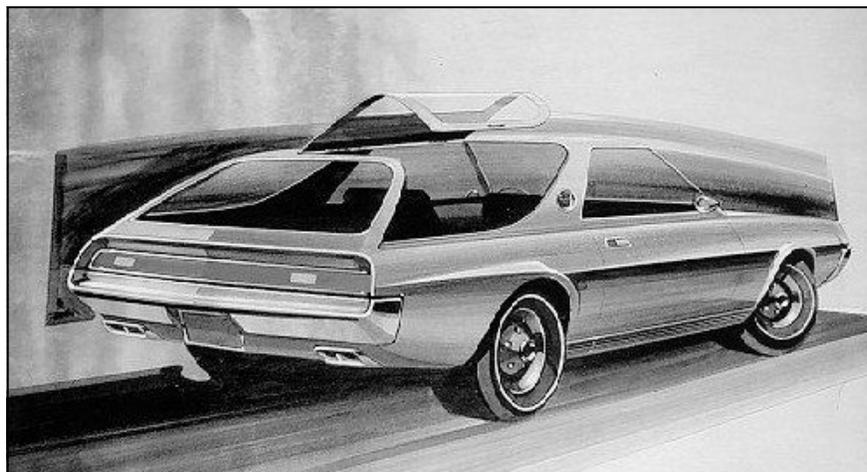
6-10 correct: Not quite dirt yet but you're getting there.

0-5 correct: You are not old enough to share the wisdom of your experiences.

AMX/4 & Prototype

Info & Pics submitted by Tyson

Here are photos of the AMX/4. It was designed by Jeff Teague, son of Dick Teague (VP of Design at AMC: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard A. Teague](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_A._Teague)). At the request of the So-Cal AMC Club, Jeff made some sketches of a modern AMC and designed the prototype in 2009. (See more: <http://www.amcarguide.com/concept/teague-2010-amc-concepts/>). The black and white photo is a 60's prototype.



Pixar Studios & The “Cars” Movie

By Ross Guistino

With photos contributed by Nolan Dehner

In March 2009, Nolan was contacted by Bert Berry, an Art Director at Pixar Studios in Emeryville. Bert was interested in photographing some 70's-era cars for a film that was in development—Cars 2. In particular, Bert and his colleagues needed close-ups of paint and chrome, and the many interesting angles of our cars. And he was especially interested in Nolan's Pacer. In Nolan's reply, he casually mentioned that he was a member of the famous NorCal AMC Auto Group and had access to other AMC cars including Gremlins and Hornets. Bert was excited about the possibility of seeing a Gremlin and so I took a day off of work to meet the Pixar folks at Nolan's house in Windsor. Richard brought his Pacer as well so that we could give the gentlemen a good representation of paint and chrome to choose from.



On March 19, 2009, Bert, Jack Chang and Andrew Schmidt pulled up with amazement in their eyes and cameras in their hands. The photo shoot started immediately with Nolan's almost pristine and all original Pacer. All around the car they went, bending and kneeling and getting every possible angle they could get. They even asked if there was a way that they could jack up the car so that they can get pictures of the undercarriage. So the always prepared Nolan pulled out his car ramps and drove the Pacer forward so that it was now at a good angle for viewing.



Next the group descended on my Vivo, the '73 orange 304 Gremlin. Again, the circling of the car took place, with close-up photos taken of the corner of the front fenders, back corners and yes, under the car when I was up on the ramps. The Pixar contingent seemed truly excited to see our cars up close and personal. The same chain of events took place with Richard's

Pacer, and again the enthusiastic trio of Directors snapped their photos and chatted us up for more and more information.

Perhaps the most exciting thing to happen that day was when Bert, Jack and Andrew took Nolan's Pacer for a drive. Per Jack—"Driving it was a blast!". I think that says it all.

FAST FORWARD TO JULY 9, 2010

Out of the blue, Nolan gets an email from Bert asking him if he could bring his Pacer and my Gremlin to a car show being hosted by Pixar at their studios in Emeryville. Unfortunately for Nolan, he was out-of-town and would miss this once-in-a-lifetime event but he forwarded the message to Richard and I to see if we'd be interested in going to the car show. Well, DUH! Of course we would.

So once again I took a day off of work, met Richard and his grey Pacer at my house, and off we ventured into the traffic on the East Bay freeways, two 30+ year old cars among many (many many) fast and impatient new-fangled driving machines.

Bert mentioned that this show was one that is put on annually by Jay Ward, Art Department Manager at Pixar, and that it would be staffs' personal cars, a catered lunch and a fun time. I then received an email from Jay himself, asking that I call him when I arrived on the lot as he had a "special area" for our cars. I should have known something was up when I drove through the big



Pixar gates, Richard following close behind in Myrtle, when people started clapping, jumping up and down, laughing, and generally wide-eyed. I had to look around to see what all the fuss was about, and realized that all this excitement was for our funny old cars.

As directed, I called Jay who quickly appeared out of thin air and asked us to follow him as he began walking down the staff entrance sidewalk. Half way down said sidewalk, he veered off onto a beaten dirt path, no more than four feet wide with an expanse of green grass on either side. Down this dirt path we went, rounded a bend and before us was a rather large outdoor amphitheater built into the large berm that surrounding the Studio building. In the center of this am-

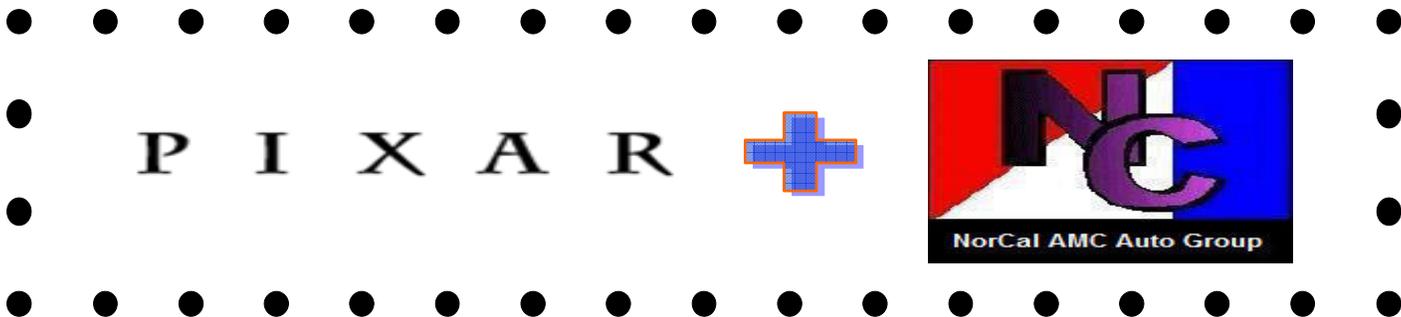


phitheater was a round brick staging area. Here, my friends, was our special parking spot for the duration of the day. Following soon after we parked, was an odd little car, even more odd than our little AMCs, a 1958 Zundapp Janus. So there we were, three strange little cars that apparently are in the sequel to the original Cars movie, due to arrive at a theater near you sometime in mid-2011.

What an odd feeling it was, three strangelings among some very high dollar cars, including a one-off Cadillac, gull-wing Mercedes, a couple Lambos and other exotic cars. We felt privileged and I for one was even a little embarrassed, what with all the attention we were getting. As the day went on, the entire group of animators working on Cars 2 stood around our cars for a photo-op.

Lots of staff and their family and friends were meandering around our cars on this eventful day, and everyone loved what they saw.

My only regret is that my good friend, Nolan, was not there to enjoy the day with us. He would have loved the cars, the lunch, the camaraderie, but he would especially have loved all of the



genuine love and interest in his beloved Pacer. I would say that for the first time in a long time our AMCs were actually the star of the show, and not the brunt of some lame joke.

Thank you Nolan for getting the ball rolling with Pixar, and kudos to Pixar for recognizing what we AMC folks have always known...a great American car company that was just a little ahead of its time.

Annual Club Buys Pizza Night in October!

NorCal AMCs Auto Group

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Newsletter suggestions, articles and pictures are always welcomed and encouraged. Send your information via the email address noted above or mail your thoughts to:

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"Dedicated To The Proliferation And Enjoyment Of All Things American Motors"
Rambler, Nash, Hudson...AMC! Do you or someone you know own or used to own an old Rambler, or perhaps a Gremlin? You're not alone. There is a small group of car owners who are proud of their American Motors heritage and meet the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at Round Table Pizza, 2065 Occidental Road in Santa Rosa. We call ourselves the NorCal AMCs. Everyone is welcome to attend. Don't have or never heard of an AMC? No problem. Do you have a passion for old cars and want to see them restored? Need that hard-to-find part? Stop in and talk with us, maybe we can help. If you think you'd be interested in joining our Club, then feel free to contact us via email, snail mail or cell phone. Thanks!



Membership Application:
http://www.sonic.net/rossg/NorCal/NorCal_Application.pdf