



# NorCal AMCs Newsletter

March - July 2014

## Meeting Briefs

Ross Guistino

It's been awhile since you've seen the banner of the NorCal AMCs Newsletter. Sorry about that. Let's begin with brief summaries of our monthly meetings beginning with **March**. That month we had 8 folks show up. I announced that the NorCal AMC Auto Group made a \$100 donation to the Town of Windsor Senior Center, supporting miscellaneous programs for the senior citizens. We had a GREAT showing of AMCs in the parking lot today with Wayne, Nolan, Tyson, Asif and myself proudly occupying spaces in between the spattering of Mustangs from the Mustang Club in the room adjacent to ours. Yours truly won the AMC Driven raffle that night. We discussed Wayne's purchase of a door handle from a Pacer to replace his Gremlin handle. He had to modify it just slightly to fit because it was just a tad bigger than a standard Gremlin handle. We discussed setting up a Work Day for March 30th at Asif's place.

In **April**, we had a great turnout of 13 members. Four of which drove their AMCs--Asif, Tyson, Walt and Mark. Congrats to Walt for winning the raffle ticket for driving his car. Tonight we reminded everyone that Richard's Early V8 Ford Club was holding its annual Swap Meet on 5/18. Always a successful and

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**Next Meeting - PIZZA NIGHT!! - 8/21**

**Wednesday Night Drags - 9/3**

**Club Picnic @ Asif's - 9/20**

## Club Work Day #1

Ross Guistino



On March 30th, Asif hosted a Club Work Day at his house in Penngrove. The day's agenda included installing a carpet kit in Mark's Hornet and new window seals on Connor's AMX. At 10 am myself, Mark, Gean and Connor, Asif, Nolan and Richard drove our AMCs into Asif's back yard to begin our day. Mark and I concentrated on removing and installing a new green carpet kit. We found out that we are not carpet installers; we only managed to get his front kit in and have renewed respect for those people who can do carpet and upholstery. The highlight of the day came

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large meet, I recommend attending it next year. We also discussed the Work Day in March and scheduled another one for May to replace Wayne's carpet.

**May** brought us, like March, 8 people, and also like that month, we had a plethora of AMCs in the parking lot with me, Tyson, Asif, Nolan, Mark and Walt pulling up to the bumper. Asif took home the coveted \$10 gift card tonight. On July 15 is the big NorCal AMC event--The Father's Day Show at Julliard Park. We discussed who was going to attend and it looks like we will have the biggest group ever this year. It is cool to see our little Club represented so well. We discussed the very generous donation by Walt to Nolan of a 3-wheeled electric scooter that will help Nolan get around more easily, especially at car shows since it is car show season. Thank you, Walt. Asif is continuing the build of his Gremlin track car and has cut out the rusted floor plan.

Wow, everyone came out for the **June** meeting, with 16 people crowding into our Round Table meeting room, and 6 Club Cars in the parking lot, inching out those boring Mustangs in the room next door. Asif, Connor, Nolan, Mark, Walt and Wayne vied for the coveted AMC-driven raffle prize with Connor being tonight's winner. We reminded people that Tyson is showing his artwork at the Finley Center and actually got mentioned in the Mustang's Newsletter. I guess they aren't so bad after all. Asif has a new floor

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## Club Work Day #1, cont

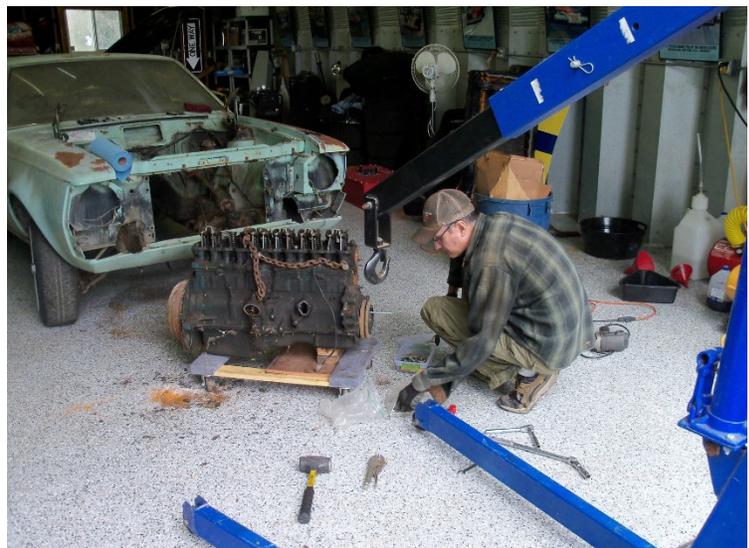
Ross Guistino

at the end when we lost Mark's good carpet cutting knife. Mark found it on his way home by way of a mysterious rattle coming from under his seat. We had installed the carpet right over his knife. We are so swift. On the plus side, the new carpet looks great and we learned some tricks that we will use when installing Wayne's carpet kit at the next Work day.

Connor, Gean and Rich, on the other hand, struggled with installing new rubber seals on the windows and doors of the AMX. This proved to be as big a challenge as the carpet kit. I guess nothing is easy with our cars, huh?



In between installing carpets and seals, we all joined Asif at his track car Gremlin to assist him in removing the frozen engine and also to remove the window regulators, removing both with brute force and busted knuckles. Well, in reality, the only one who shed any blood that day was yours truly. I always ALWAYS manage to cut a finger or bang my shin. Which I managed to do both that day. Thankfully Asif had a First Aid kit. The host with the most.



NorCal AMC Auto Group Work Day, March 30th

# Club Work Day #2

Ross Guistino



On May 4, the Club once again had a work day, this time to help Wayne install a new carpet kit in his Gremlin. Wayne, Mark, and I got busy working, but this time we learned a few tricks from the last go around with Mark's car. Asif got busy working on his own project in his shop. As we got going on Wayne's car, being careful not to lose any cutting utensils along the way, I had to excuse myself to go to work, so thanks to Mark for picking up the rest of the work with Wayne.



Asif was busy working on his Gremlin, cutting, sanding and modifying it as a track car. I took five minutes to help him get a window frame off. It's tough to watch a car get cut up, but it will be neat to see it transformed into a unique car on the track, instead of all the millions of BORING mustangs and chevies.



I look forward to more Work Days and hopefully a better commitment from Club Members; we were a little short handed on May 4th and could have used more hands to finish Wayne's car. See you next time?



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pan for his Gremlin track car but was having some trouble figuring out exactly how to cut out the old one to weld in the new one. Mark has a gremlin in his Hornet and is having starting issues. The highlight of the evening was the box of Gremlin-shaped cookies that Wayne brought to the meeting. Yum and Thanks Wayne! And speaking of Gremlins....how many Gremlins were at the Peggy Sue car show this year? A big fat ZERO. And how many were at the best car show in the world, The Father's Day Julliard Park Show? A big fat TWO! That's two more than any other show in the County or probably all of California! The Julliard Show was quite a success in the AMC Department with eight of our Club Members' cars lined up at the usual spot near the bridge. More on this later. Some sad news on the AMC front for one of our Club Members....Charlie's Hornet engine (a 360) has gone south. No word yet as to what the next step will be for the brown Hornet. And finally we heard from Wayne that he was building a tear-drop trailer to tow behind his Gremlin.

**July** brought us just 9 NorCal AMCs with 3 of us driving our cars (me, Mark and Nolan); Congrats to Nolan for winning the gift card tonight. Asif got his racing AMX back from MAACO where he had the back half of the car painted. He had wrecked it and had a new back half of the car welded on and finally got it to MAACO for a quick paint job. He also announced that in his spare time he converted the bench seat out of the track car Gremlin into a roll-around shop bench. Pretty cool idea. Connor's AMX has developed a rather nerve-wracking knock and had it towed home recently. No news on what the next step will be. Sorry to hear it, Connor. Surprising news of the night was from Asif who said he saw that former NorCal AMCer Tony Lazzarini was selling his beloved AMX race car for \$20K. Here's a YouTube video Tony created a couple of years ago:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiuLsIITPdc&index=4&list=UUxIZ67nGy-CaWSZoeEmS4yw>

And check out this 51-50 video and see whose cars pop up:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/cats4cars>

Walt's Chrysler TC by Maserati was stolen from his driveway near Downtown Santa Rosa but safely recovered just across the highway near Railroad Square a little while later. The only damage was a scuffed wheel. We're glad Walt got his rare car back safe and sound. He'll be installing an alarm and getting Lo-Jack or a Club. Don't blame you, Walt!

Some quick TC facts:

- Built in Milan, Italy
- Made for only three years
- Just under 1,700 TCs made in 1991 - the year of Walt's car
- 1989, the first year of production: 3,764 and cost \$33K
- 1990, 1900 made at a cost of \$35,500 each
- 1991, 1636 made and was \$37K new



# Members' Musings

Ross Guistino

Recently Connor and Gean visited North Carolina, and Connor discovered that his hair matches Kyle Petty back in the day. Check it out >>>>>



Gean gives us news on the race he was recently in - his team's car is above left:

Hi Folks, Here is an awesome YouTube summary of the Lemons race. At the 2:56 mark I'm in the white Honda getting ready to head out on the track (its just a flash but we made the video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTcs98Hu9AQ>

**Note:** The car they are talking about is based on the "Nyan Cat" video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QH2-TGUiwu4> and these guys played this song the WHOLE race. They had about 12 speakers mounted on the car roof and played it the whole race. And yes, there is a 10hr version on YouTube! Cheers, Gean

A few words from Asif regarding our last Work Day:

First, at the next meeting I'm going to propose we change the name from "work" day to "PLAY" day :)

I don't think anyone should think of these (Work Days) as a commitment. Think of them as a resource you can choose to take advantage of, or not, as you see fit. If you have a car that needs work and you either:

- don't have the right kind of space to work on it
- don't have certain tools that could help
- need an extra set of hands
- or just need moral support to try to tackle something you haven't done before

then consider coming to a "play" day. I try to have a "play" day every weekend, often I'm out in my shop both days. So I'm going to be out there as much as possible whether other people show up or not. But it's fun to have company and see/help with other peoples projects. We can continue scheduling official days BUT ALSO anyone who wants to work on their stuff OR is interested in helping to work on my projects can just email me and ask if I'm going to be in the shop on whatever day they have free; even if there is no official play day scheduled. I had a blast as usual, working on my Gremlin and talking to Ross, Mark and Wayne. And getting to see Wayne's car up close in the daylight. Hope we do it again soon! -Asif

# Julliard Park Father's Day Car Show

Ross Guistino



As I walked around the show looking at the cars, I don't recall seeing any other car club with such a good representation or even any Club signage like we all had on our cars. I was very proud to be a NorCal

AMC. A big AMC thank you to the following folks for driving their cars to the show: Connor and Gean, Wayne, Valerie, Nolan, Tyson, Asif, Mark and of course, myself. As in past years, Mark got there bright and early and was fifth in line, followed a few cars behind by Valerie and myself, then Tyson and Nolan showed up a few cars behind me and the rest



of the crew shortly thereafter. A perfect sunny day for a car show, not as crowded as prior years due to the big old Peggy Sue event, but a good showing nonetheless. It's always the highlight of the NorCal AMC Auto Group's year, besides the picnic of course (September 20th).

# Julliard Park Father's Day Car Show, cont

Ross Guistino



Nolan's latest racing machine



# This and That

Gean writes: I think I want an internship in the Dubai police department for one summer:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjPUGMJ86E0>

Mark informs us that in the April 28th Press Democrat newspaper there was an article about Toyota moving a large number of jobs from Torrance, CA to Dallas, TX. After a bunch of blah, blah, blah, it said and I quote "Toyota has long been a Southern California fixture. Its first U.S. office opened in a closed Rambler dealership in Hollywood in 1957. The site is now a Toyota dealership. In 1958 its first year of sales, Toyota sold 288 vehicles- 287 Toyopet Crown sedans and one Land Cruiser. Last year Toyota sold more than 2.2 million vehicles in the U.S." See, Toyota owes it's success to a Rambler dealership !



Nolan would like us to know that the nice looking carpet that Mark was laying down in his Hornet on our first Work Day of the year came from Trimparts, Inc, 2175 Deerfield Road, Lebanon, OH 45036, (513) 934-0815, <http://www.trimparts.com>

**BIG BOYS BUNS & BURGERS**  
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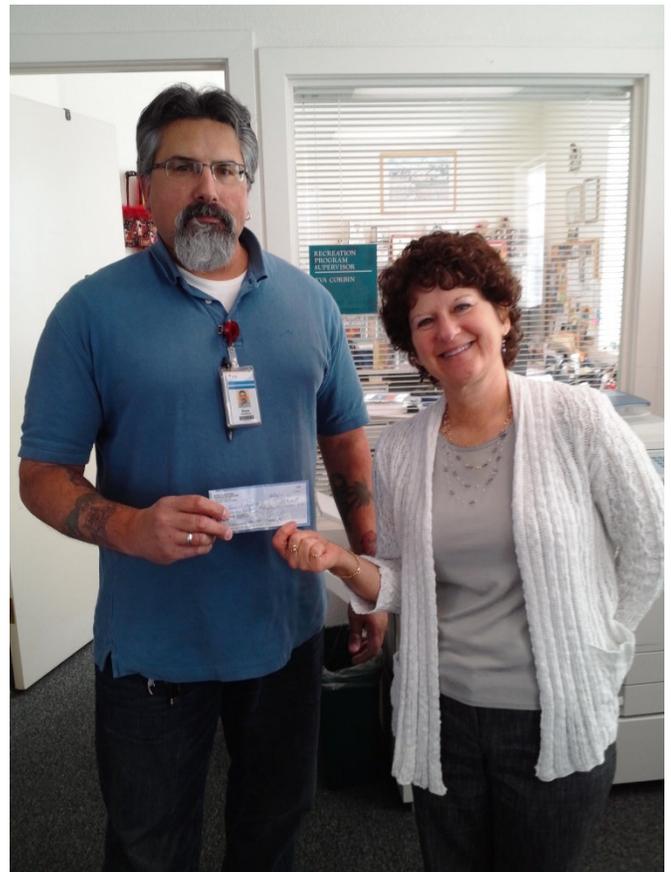
Prizes & Gifts for  
**BEST OF SHOW!**

**2014**

**FRIDAY NIGHT CRUISE-IN CLASSIC**

In the Big Boys Parking Lot Larkfield Shopping Center

**MAY 2ND THROUGH SEPTEMBER**  
**EVERY FRIDAY 5PM TO 8PM**



Our Club voted to donate \$100 to the Windsor Senior Center and here Ross is presenting a check to Eva Corbin, Recreation Program Supervisor, March 2014.

Sponsored by these Local Merchants





**Tyson's Porvette. He's cut the top off and it looks like it should have come from the factory like that. He's stiffened the frame with a welded-in cage, and rerouted the exhaust to where the license plate used to be. And he's not done! More to come.**

## 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 hand deliver them to us at one of our monthly meetings. (Meeting location noted in the box to the right.)

"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://guistino.com/NorCal/NorCal\\_Application2014.pdf](http://guistino.com/NorCal/NorCal_Application2014.pdf)

