



# NorCal AMCs Newsletter

October 2012

## Club Highlights

By Ross Guistino

Yes, boys and girls, you now have before you a NorCal AMC Auto Group Newsletter. The last time I personally released one was October.....of 2010. Yikes. Time flies when you're having fun. So now that a couple of years have gone by, I'll see what I can do to get back into your good graces.

**NorCal AMCs**  
***Meeting Dates Added!!***  
**\* Nov 15th \***  
**\* Dec 20th \***

So on the following pages, we'll start with some brief meeting minutes from months gone by (I'm limiting this to 2012), just to give you an idea of what goes on in our monthly meetings. But first, let's take a look at this motley crew of enthusiastic car dudes and dudettes. Taken at the February meeting, with Ross holding a plaque to be presented to Sheldon Donig for an excellent tour of his museum.



## January 19th

We start the year with nine Members present—Ross and Terrie, Mick Guistino (my guest), Mark, Mike and Valerie, Richard, Nolan and as always, Tyson pulling up the rear.

Treasurer's Report: The Club started off the year with a balance of \$99.38. I guess we didn't party enough in 2011 to use up all the dues.

Member cars driven Raffle: A big fat ZERO. Nobody wanted to take their cars out in the rain. Can't say I blame them!

Big news of the evening was me broaching the subject of electing new officers. I thought someone else should have the dubious honor of being President. So based on the relatively low turn-out of the January meeting, the motion was delayed until the February gathering.

Richard continues to gather parts to rebuild his poor burned out Pacer. As we all know, finding items for our discontinued autos is difficult and when you do find stuff, the price is oftentimes astronomical. Someday I hope to see Myrtle back on the road.

Valerie brought the cookies tonight. Thanks!



Some NorCal AMC Auto Group Members enjoying breakfast at Norm's Kitchen. They're there every Sunday at 9am. Stop on by! 478 Larkfield Center, Santa Rosa

## February 16th

Quite a stellar turnout for the second meeting of the new year. Present were Ross and Terrie, Walt, Richard, Mark and Terri and their daughter Paige, Gean and Connor, Charlie, Mike and Valerie, John, and Tyson.

Treasurer's Report: We added \$100 in dues from the January meeting plus another \$27 from the Raffle bringing us to \$226.38

We had one Member drive their AMC so the \$10 Round Table Gift Certificate went to John.



Nomination of Officers: Mark Ehinger is the new 2012 NorCal AMC Auto Group President. Ross somehow got forced into being VP. How'd that happen?

Tyson continues to modify his purple "Poorvette". Valerie brought Hostess donuts for dessert.

### March 15th

Another good turnout for our little Group. Present were Ross, Mick (guest), Walt, Mark, Mike and Valerie, Rich, Gean and Connor, Peter, John, and Tyson.

Treasurer's Report: Several more members paid 2012 dues adding \$60 to the coffers and \$30 in Raffle money bringing our Club Treasury to \$316.38.

This month we changed the way we do the "AMC"-driven Raffle. We now call it the Classic Auto Driven Raffle. This opens up the Raffle to anyone who has driven their classic car, AMC or otherwise, to the meeting. This month we had Mark, Peter and Walt gracing the parking lot with their classic iron. Congrats to our new Prez Mark for winning the Certificate-o-Plenty.

Tyson continues to tinker with the Purple People Eater. He has added a custom grill that covers the headlights, has stripped out the interior, frenched in front bumper.

Peter has a new exhaust system on his '63 Merc and has repaired enough rust to drop it from 30% to 5% of the car.

Gean announced that he was racing in the Lemon's at Sear's Point in October. A Honda CRV with 235K miles will be the lucky donor to entertain the crowds. Thanks once again to Valerie for bringing the sweets.

### April 19th

Present were Ross, Mick (nephew), Mark, Nolan and Grace, Walt, John, Mike and Valerie, Peter, and Tyson.

Treasurer's Report: Member dues of \$60, plus a \$37 Raffle, less Calendar supplies brings the April balance to \$280.40.

Classic Driven Raffle: One driver tonight....Ross.

Not much to report other than Peter fixing a used radiator for his Merc, Mark leaving at the ungodly hour of 5am for a Sacramento swap Meet and Terrie's annual plea for updated and fresh pictures of Members' cars for the calendar.

## May 17th

Twelve folks present tonight: Ross and Terrie, Mark, Michael and Valerie, John, Charlie, Peter, Nolan, Walt, DAVE!, and Tyson.

Treasurer's Report: \$25 in the Raffle for a May balance of \$305.40.

Classic Driven Raffle: I think we had a Club record for the number of Members who drove their AMC and Classic cars tonight: Nolan, Ross, Peter, Tyson, Charlie, Walt and Mark, with the \$10 Round Table Cert going to Peter.

Two announcements involving Tyson: He's getting married and his wedding gift is installing 220 in his garage. Spoken like a true grease monkey. He's also making plans for being in another art show highlighting his ever-growing inventory of sculpture.

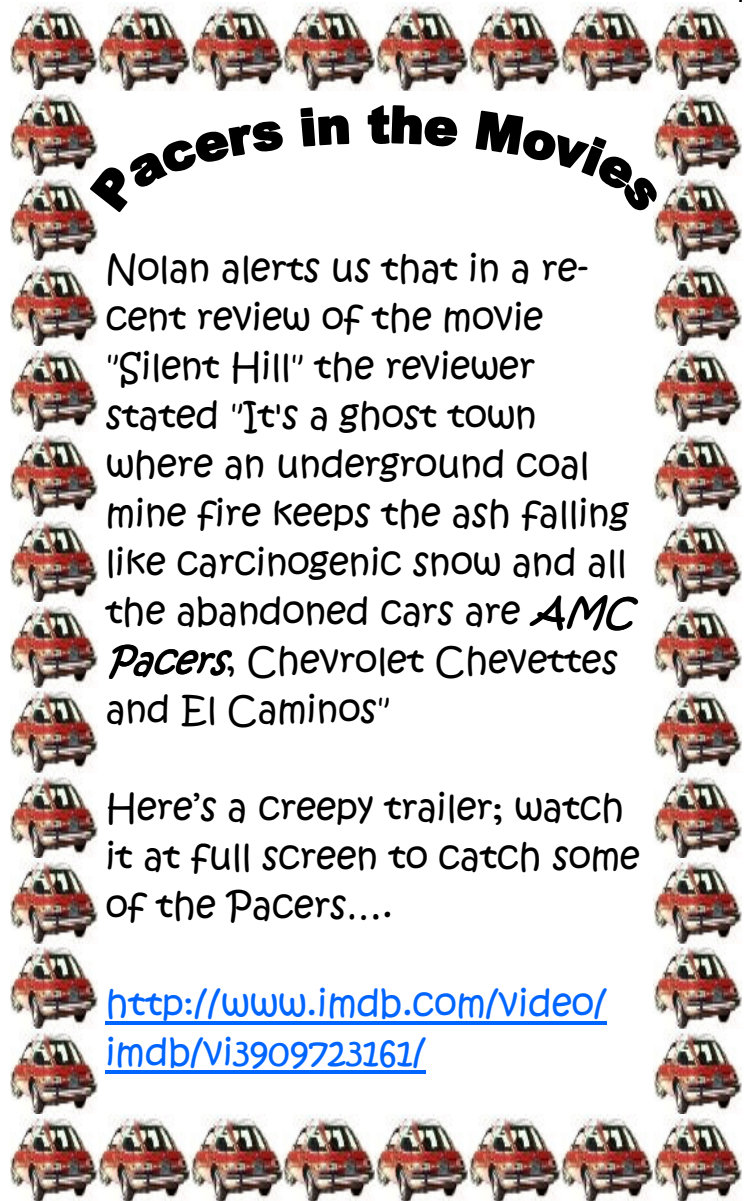
Peter picked up another car for free. We all like those kinds of prices!

The ever popular and biggest Club event of the last several years is the Julliard Park Father's Day Car Show. We will meet at the entrance at 6:15 a.m. in order to secure "our" spot near the arched bridge. Mark usually gets there early to do the honors but he was going to be missing this event this year so your's truly got volunteered. The things we do for our fellow Club Members!

## June 21st

We've had a pretty consistent turnout this year, with tonight being no different. Present tonight: Ross and Terrie, Rich, Nolan, Michael and Valerie, Walt and Marlene, Gean and Connor, and Tyson.

Treasurer's Report: June sees a balance of \$337.40 which includes \$40 in dues from Dave (paying for two years) and \$42 in Raffle, less \$50 for ACCC dues.



Classic Driven Raffle: Tonight's Cavalcade of Classics in the parking lot included Ross, Nolan, Walt and Connor. The Cert-o-Plenty went to Connor. Congrats.

Julliard Park Father's Day Car Show: We had a super duper turnout of NorCal AMC Auto Group Members' cars: Ross, Nolan, Tyson, Connor, Charlie, Valerie and a friend of the Bocklund's with a pristine GTO. Believe his name was GTO Bob. A great day weather-wise and as always, the show itself was a smash hit. A good time was had by all.

Tonight we chatted a little bit about the history of our little home grown club. With input from Walt and Tyson, they talked about the early days when Alan, Denis, Walt and Tyson were a group of orphans in the Wine Country Mopar club. Word has it that the AMC owners were basically ignored and mistreated which is when Alan decided to splinter off and form his own AMC-specific club, called appropriately enough, The NorCal AMC Car Club. I was an early member back in 2000 even though I was yet to own an AMC. I've always been a fan of their quirky cars, having owned a mid-60s Ambassador station wagon and a '74 Plain Jane Gremlin in college. My best friend had a hand-me-down Rambler American, then bought himself a used '74 Hornet and finally a fully loaded and beautiful brand new candy-apple red Concord. A beautiful car. Why he chose to always take my non-power anything Gremlin whenever we went cruising is beyond me, but the point being I, like you, love AMCs and I thank Alan for asking me to join him and the other folks to be a part of a very important group of car enthusiasts in the early months of 2000. Check out the November Newsletter for more information on the Club's history as told by its Founder, Alan Cardin.



If you'd like to add your "two cents" to the history of the NorCal AMC Auto Group, or simply have stories of your own to tell, please send your submission to [rossg@sonic.net](mailto:rossg@sonic.net).

Nolan reported that SB1224 did not pass. This is the bill that would exempt cars '81 and older from smog testing. Right now only pre-75 cars do not need to get smogged.

Tidbit as reported by Doyle: All 390 powered AMCs had disk brakes. Gean thought only "Go Packs" had them. Dave, wish to comment?

## July 19th

The consistent NorCal AMCs: Ross, Nolan, Michael and Valerie, Walt, Gean and Connor, Rich, Mark, John and Mona, and Tyson.

Treasurer's Report: The July meeting starts off with a healthy balance of \$365.40 with a \$28 June Raffle included.

Classic Driven Raffle: Four classics adorned the Round Table Pizza Parlour parking lot tonight: Tyson, Nolan, Connor and Walt with Connor winning the coveted Cert two months in a row!

## August 16th

Thank you to Nolan for providing this month's notes as I was away for this meeting.

Present were Mark, Walt, Mike and Valerie, John and Mona, Nolan, Charlie, and Richard. The NorCal AMC Auto Group Annual Picnic will be at Mark's at 1 p.m. September 16th. Walt told us that he finally saw "Cars 2" at a theater in Petaluma. It's time for me to re-watch it; Nolan said he was able to pause the movie during the final credits the last time he watched it and as promised by Pixar our car club was indeed mentioned. Very cool!

Treasurer's Report: \$407.40 and \$35 from Raffle.

Classic Driven Raffle: Mark won the raffle this month.

There was a long discussion on AB 1658, Vintage Plates (Info on Page 9). Walt spoke of a new organization that he volunteers for called Vet Connect (see flyer on Page 8) which helps veterans in need. For more information, please call Walt or visit: [www.sonomacountyvetconnect.org](http://www.sonomacountyvetconnect.org)

## September 16th—NorCal AMC Auto Group Picnic

No notes.

## October 18th

Present: Ross, Rich, Walt, Mark, Gean and Connor, Nolan, Valerie and Mike and Charlie.

Treasurer's Report: A big dip in funds this month, but for a very good reason. The annual Picnic occurred in September. As of today we have \$190.74 in the Treasury.

Classic Driven Raffle: Nolan, Walt, Connor and Mark. Congrats to Walt for winning the Cert.

This would normally be the last meeting of the year because it was decided at the inception of the Club to forego a November and December meeting due to the holidays and everyone's schedules being busy. However, a motion was made by Nolan to have a meeting in these two months effec-



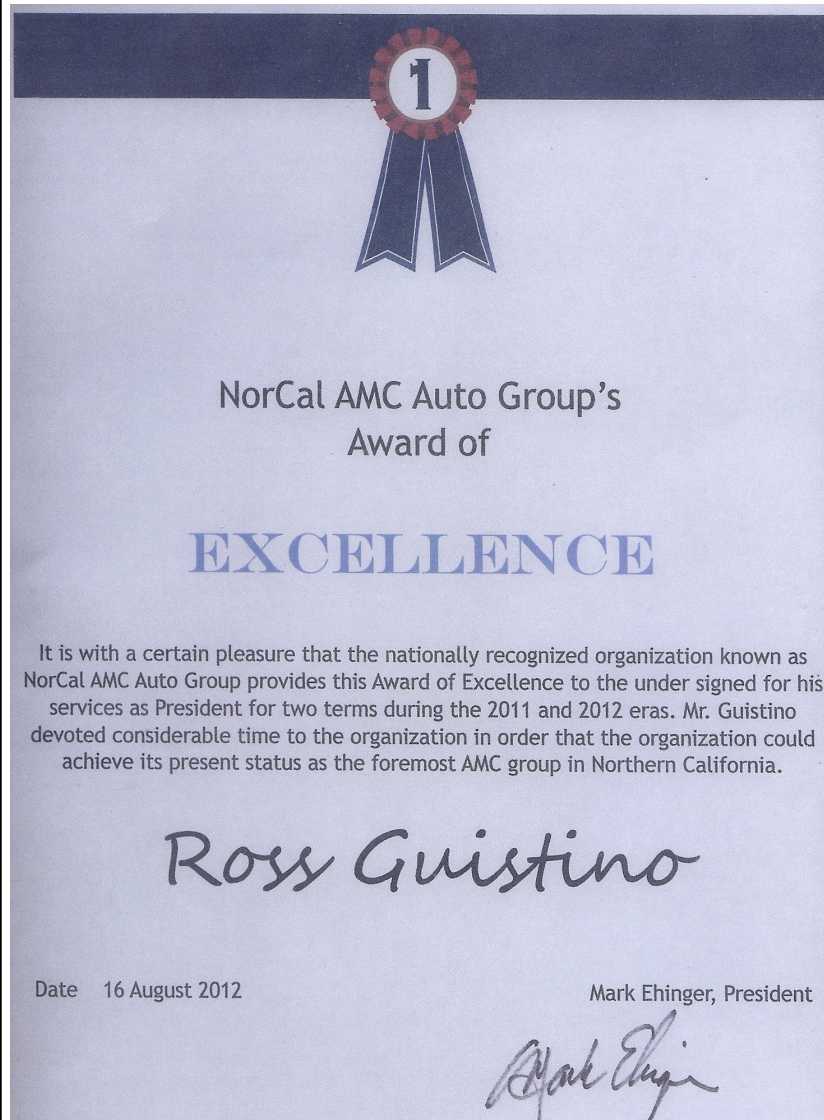
tive with the 2013 meeting schedule. A second motion was made by Walt to have the meetings reinstated effective immediately. Both motions passed by a majority of those present. Next meeting will be 7pm November 15th.



Nolan and Mark presented an "Award of Excellence" to former President (and all around good guy) Ross

Guistino for his two terms in office. Thank you everyone!

Nolan announced that the bill to allow reproduction black license plates to be made for classic cars had passed.



October 15th was an important date for Connor....he turned 18. Happy Birthday, Connor!

Member Car Info: John is working on the Rambler's clutch, Charlie is working on upgrading (again??!!) his Mustang and Walt did some work on a BMW 528 that was donated to him for free and he sold for \$1,000 with money going to the organization he volunteers for: Vet Connection.

Gean told us his adventures at Nascar in Charlotte, NC. He worked in the Nascar pit. His brother's boss owns a car and Gean was invited to attend the event. Pretty cool!

Nolan mentioned that his Pacer was part of a documentary on LION TV. More info to follow.





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## SEMA's LEGISLATIVE QUICK HITS

### California License Plates: Assemblyman Gatto's Bill to Bring Back Vintage License Plates Signed



Sacramento, CA – Assembly Bill (AB) 1658, by Assemblyman Mike Gatto (D–Los Angeles) was signed on September 28, 2012 by Governor Brown, establishing the California Legacy License Plate Program. The program will allow car enthusiasts to apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for one of three iconic California license plate designs – the familiar "yellow with black lettering", "black with

yellow lettering" and "blue with yellow lettering" – that adorned vehicles during the heyday of classic cars.

"California Government doesn't do much for the thousands of car enthusiasts up and down the state," said Gatto. "AB 1658 will enable the backyard auto restorer, the nostalgic, or the owner of a brand-new retro-styled automobile to choose a license plate that best matches the look of their car while making a little money for the state too."

AB 1658 specifies that the DMV will issue any one of the vintage plates once 7,500 paid applications for that design have been received statewide. Further, it stipulates that any monies remaining after the DMV recuperates its administrative costs be placed into other DMV-funded programs, which with recent budget cuts, have been short on funds. California motorists will be able to apply to DMV for these license plates starting January 1, 2013 when the new law goes into effect. The measure has received an enthusiastic response so far, with many people contacting the Assemblyman's office asking when and where they can apply.

"This is an easy way for the state to make life a little more enjoyable for those of us who appreciate the classic era of automobile design," said Gatto. "I look forward to continuing working with the California car clubs and car enthusiasts who have been so supportive in passing this bill. We are ready to start the drive to reach 7,500 orders!"



**California Electronic Keys:** In 2007, California began requiring car manufacturers to give electronic key replacement information to registered locksmiths so lost electronic keys could be replaced 24/7. To allow manufacturers adequate time to comply, a six-year exception was

made for manufacturers that provide a replacement key overnight. Legislation to permanently exempt certain vehicle manufacturers from the requirement to provide locksmiths with electronic key code information was vetoed by Gov Brown. The bill would also have made permanent the requirement that exempted manufacturers operate a request line whereby owners could obtain a replacement key within one day of the request or via overnight delivery from the manufacturer. The governor claimed that the 24/7 std. for key replacement should apply to all manufacturers.

### **Court's Ethanol Decision Jeopardizes Historic Vehicles, Specialty Parts**

***SAN Urges Congress to Ban E15:*** The U.S. Court of Appeals dismissed a lawsuit, which challenged the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) authority to permit 15% ethanol (E15) content in



gasoline for '01 and newer model year cars and light trucks. Over a year ago, the EPA raised the amount of ethanol permitted in gasoline from 10% (E10) to 15% (E15). The agency has approved applications to sell the fuel and it may soon appear at a gas station near you. The SAN opposes E15 based on scientific evidence that it causes corrosion with incompatible parts. In light of the court's decision, the SAN is now seeking passage of legislation in the U.S. Congress (H.R. 3199) that would prevent the EPA from permitting E15 sales until the National Academies has conducted a study on how E15 may impact gas-powered vehicles. The bill has been approved by the U.S. House Science Committee and is pending on the House floor.

**"We've changed somewhat since joining the  
Nor Cal AMC Auto Group"**

**Next Month:  
Alan Cardin:  
BEGINNINGS  
and Mark tells us what  
kind of car he REALLY  
wants.  
Stay tuned.**