

Driver's Seat



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About SGCCC

The **South Georgia Classic Car Club** was founded in April, 1984 as a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the restoration, preservation, and enjoyment of special interest automobiles.

The Driver's Seat is the official publication of the **SGCCC**. It is printed, published, and distributed during the last week of each month to all club members. All information contained herein is not necessarily the opinion or the position of club members, its officers, and/or advertisers.

To submit content for inclusion in the newsletter, please e-mail the editor, editor@sgccc.org or mail to **SGCCC Newsletter**, 4017 N Oak St Ext, Valdosta, GA 31605. All other correspondence should be sent to, **SGCCC**, P.O. Box 403, Valdosta, GA 31603, or e-mail to: president@sgccc.org

Your Officers

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Rick Hastings

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David Boyd

2nd Vice President:

Walt Prettyman

Secretary:

Bob Raffaele

Treasurer:

Donna Roberson

Chaplain:

Paul Worth

Driver's Seat Editor:

David Boyd

Web Master:

Madonna Terry

President's Report



C. Rick Hastings

"Some Like it Hot", the 1959 comedy starring Marilyn Monroe and Tony Curtis, could be filmed again here in South Georgia. With daytime temps reaching the lower 100's with the heat index and mid-nineties in the shade, our area would be the perfect setting for a remake. Our three monthly cruise-ins — 2nd Saturday, 3rd Thursday, and 1st Friday—have all been well attended. But one thing is for sure — everyone heads for the shade with a cool drink in hand. We have had a great response from the general public at our events — seems like it is not too hot to look at a cool ride.

Our club mascot--the Police Cruiser--will hopefully be back on the road real soon. A group of dedicated members, along with the assistance of Langdale Ford, will be working on returning the cruiser to "ready to rock-and-roll" status. Hopefully, we will all have the pleasure to see the cruiser pull up and park at a cruise-in very soon.

Up-coming activities for club members and guests include our monthly meeting scheduled on Tuesday, August 5th at Austin's Steak House from 6-8pm. Our second Saturday of the month cruise-in at Steak N Shake will be on August 9th from 5-8 pm. The Third Thursday cruise-in for August will be the 21st at 6pm at Steak n Shake in Valdosta. These events are open to all car clubs or individuals that wish to display their vehicles. Our Fall Car show is right around the corner. The show is scheduled for Saturday, November 8, 2014 and will be held at the Valdosta Mall. All club members will be called on to help organize and work this very important event.

Keep your copy of the *Drivers Seat* handy to keep track of everything going on. And, of course, consult our Facebook page and our website—<http://SGCCC.org>, for on-going updates of club activities, car shows, etc.

Keep on Cruising.....Rick

Reminders:

First Friday downtown cruise—August 1

Monthly Cruise-in at Steak-n-Shake - August 9, 5:00-8:00pm

Thursday Cruise-in at Steak-n-Shake - August 21, 6:00pm



Minutes



July 1, 2014

Meeting: Convened at 6:50 pm by Club President, Rick Hastings, at Austin's Cattle Company. The Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Paul Worth and Jerry Ellis respectively. There were 23 members in attendance.

Minutes: The June minutes were read by Club Secretary Bob Raffaele and accepted by those present.

Treasurer's Report: Donna Roberson gave the June Treasurer's Report and it was accepted as read. For a copy of the report contact a club officer.

Old Business:

- The club's 30th anniversary celebration was well attended and immensely enjoyed by all. Special thanks go to Chuck & Janice Lewis, Don & Barbara Bay, Dan & Chris Bremer for all their hard work.
- Thanks to Walt Prettyman and Steve Everett, the club cruiser will be going to Langdale Ford on July 18th. We will have the use of one of their most experienced technicians as well as our club's more mechanically-inclined members. A cost estimate will follow.
- Rick Hastings read a letter of appreciation from the Executive Director of the Georgia Sheriff's Youth Ranch thanking the club for its work with the local facility.

New Business:

- There was a discussion of our continued participation in the downtown Valdosta First Friday events.
- During the June event there was very little foot traffic at our location. Some members reported there was very little foot traffic anywhere downtown. The consensus was to participate in the August event (no July event due to the 4th falling on that Friday) and then make a decision.
- There was a brief discussion of a possible time change for the Saturday Cruise-In to a timeframe later than the current 5 pm to 8 pm to offset the high temperatures. The majority felt leaving the current time as is would be best. For those who find the heat too objectionable, a later arrival was recommended.

Donna Roberson won the 50/50 and donated all back to the club.

Meeting: Adjourned at 7:55 pm

Submitted by Bob Raffaele, Club Secretary



Don't Take Tire Valves for Granted

Richard Lasseter

Sometimes an inexpensive and seemingly insignificant item can give big problems at the worst times. This almost happened to me at our Youth Ranch Cook-out. Two weeks earlier I had a pair of new BFG Comp T/A radial tires mounted and spun-balanced on some spare rear wheels for my GNX. It was all done locally at a respected tire store. As is the usual practice, they also replaced the tire valves. So far, so good or so it seemed.

Two weeks later, as I was about to drive my GNX to the Youth Ranch, I noticed that my driver's side tire looked a bit flat and discovered that it was down to 12 psi. I also found that the other rear tire was down to 16 psi. My GNX had been just sitting in the garage for over these two weeks. Knowing that the tires were brand new, I decided to over-inflate both of them to 45 psi and proceeded in my drive out to the Ranch. I figured (hoped?) that maybe the guys at the tire shop had simply failed to fill them properly.

Once I got to the Ranch, House Parent/ Deputy Ken Wheeler came up with some of the boys. As all of us were discussing my GNX, and several boys were asking their many questions, I decided to check the tires again, only to discover that the tires had once again leaked down or had they? A closer inspection, using a bottle of drinking water, showed Ken and myself that the escaping air was not from the tires at all, but instead, the air was leaking from the tire valves. You know ... those two brand new tire valves that had just been replaced when the tires were mounted! Ken was able to eventually locate a partially filled air tank, and that small bit of

air got me home, but it was still an aggravating and potentially dangerous situation that should've never occurred in the first place. At speed, a defective tire valve can fail completely and cause a lot of mayhem. Not good especially when under power and with kids in the car! Who'd ever suspect defective tire valves, of all things?

Then I remembered a bulletin I'd received from the Tire Rack a few months ago stating that some tire stores were unknowingly using hard composite plastic tire valves made, of all places, in India. They were known to seal poorly, were brittle and were subject to complete failure. Well, I later discovered that my new tire valves were indeed the problem. These things were more like plastic and had no "rubbery" feel to them at all. New NAPA tire valves, which were made in Mexico(!) but hopefully from American-sourced rubber, took care of the problem. The work was taken care of at the same tire store as before, and I reported the tire valve failure to the manager. He seemed surprised and sincerely thanked me for the information. Still, I wondered how many of his customers might have been affected by this problem.

Yes, life sure has changed for us old hot-rodders, and that certainly includes some of the parts that we once took for granted. After all, when did we ever have to worry about something like tire valves before?!



Reflections

Mario Bartoletti

During the last two weeks of May, I had a wonderful visit with my brother Ross and his lovely wife Phyllis in California. He is a house designer, and built their beautiful home in the mountains near Santa Cruz. It is a great location overlooking the famous Redwood National Forest where some of the ancient trees have grown huge, being over 2000 years old - the oldest living things on earth. Compared to those Redwoods, those of us in our eighties are mere infants.

Ross, the same as I, is an old-car enthusiast. Over the years he has owned among others, a 1932 Franklin, 1940 Buick and 1941 Cadillac limousines, a 1950 Buick Super sedan, a 1963 Skylark convertible and a 1966 Riviera. (We both tend to favor Buicks!) I was quite enthusiastic when he invited me to attend a local car show. There were dozens of fantastic collector cars, plus many Hot Rods; most of the cars were beautifully restored. The prize possession of one man was a Mercer Raceabout; we were among the many admirers, and I was surprised at how large the car actually is. Although I had seen photographs of that famed speedster over the years, it was the first time I'd seen one up close.

Since we were very close to Scott's Valley, Ross took me to visit the Canepa Museum. It is largely a collection of race-cars, all in mint condition - and most with a history of racing wins in their past. One of the most wild racing cars on display was the 2008 Porsche 'RS Spyder' - resplendent in a dazzling purple and white paint scheme. At first glance I thought the car was a two-seater, but it wasn't; what looked like a second seat appeared actually to be a lock-down cubby. That car took a first place win at the famed Le Mans race in 2008.

Another very bizarre racer was a 1976 Tyrell P-34; it had four wheels up-front and two in the rear, giving it a most weird appearance. I can't see that four wheels up-front would actually improve steering! I really liked a 1967 MGB MK-1 roadster; it sported a most unusual rear-view mirror on a small pole which was adjusted by sliding the mirror up or down to the driver's desired position. There was also a red 1980 Ferrari 512-BB that was a knockout; I was impressed as well by the 2004-05 Porsche Carrera GT, a very sleek two-seater coupe that had reached speeds well over 200 mph in measured runs.

Before we left the Museum, we also admired a 1947 Mercury Beachwagon and a 1987 Mustang-Shelby, plus 1939 and 1940 Ford sedans, all carefully restored. If any of you SGCCC members get out near Santa Cruz, be sure to arrange time to visit the Canepa Museum. I've only touched on a few of the many fine cars on display, and the staff are most helpful when it comes to answering questions. (Their website is: <http://www.canepa.com>)

As can be clearly seen, between old cars and old trees, I had a great visit - leaving me with a lot to reflect upon!



A 1949 Mercury sedan drives through an ancient Redwood tree, a "living tunnel."

August 2014

- 1—Valdosta First Friday 6pm River Street—just north of the Lowndes County Court House
 2 - Bainbridge Cruisers Cruise Dairy Queen, Bainbridge, GA Info: Lee West 229-246-4694
 2 - Tallahassee Cruise-In Sonic, 5814 North Monroe Street 5:30pm until
 2 - Albany Cruise-In Location: San Joe's in Leesburg 5pm start time
 3 - Tallahassee Street Rodders Museum Cruise Antique Car Museum, 6800 Mahan Dr I-5pm <http://www.tally-streetrodders.com>
 3 - Webster Swap Meet Sumter County Fairgrounds, Bushnell, FL 8am-2pm info: 800-438-8559 www.floridaswapmeets.com
 5 - SGCCC Monthly Business Meeting Austin's Cattle Company 2101 West Hill Avenue Valdosta, GA eat at 6:00, meet at 7:00
 7 - Live Oak Cruise, Huddle House (Hwy 129 & I-10), Live Oak, FL 6-9pm info: Ralph Towner 386-752-4725
 9 - Valdosta Cruise-In at Steak-n-Shake, St Augustine Rd, Valdosta(I-75 exit 18) 5-8pm
 9 - Tallahassee What-A-Burger Cruise Ford & Chevy Clubs 1101 Thomasville Road, 5:30-8:30pm info: Reuben Plachy 850-894-5815
 17 - Tallahassee What-A-Burger Cruise 1101 Thomasville Road, info: Joe Clark 850-385-3959 or Steve Curvey 750-383-0651
 16 - Thomasville Pecan Region Car Club Cruise Dairy Queen, 14375 Hwy 19S, 6:30pm until info: Steve Gordon 229-226-2266
 16 - Monticello Cruise-In at Rare Door Restaurant North Cherry St, Monticello, FL 5pm until info: 850-997-0607
 16 - Albany Artesian City Car Club Cruise-In Mellow Mushroom, 2825 Nottingham Way 5pm until info: Wendell Hill 229-435-2560
 16 - Perry Cruise-In 221 N. Jefferson St. Perry, GA 6-9 p.m. Call Bob Taylor, 672-0848
 21 - Cruise-in at Steak-n-Shake, St Augustine Rd, Valdosta. (I-75 exit 18) 6-8pm
 22 - Lake City Hardee's West Cruise info: Ralph Towner 386-752-4725
 23 - Tallahassee What-A-Burger Cruise 1101 Thomasville Rd, info: <http://www.tally-streetrodders.com>
 Call the contact person before leaving for an out of town cruise to be sure it has not been moved or cancelled.
 See the SGCCC web site (www.sgccc.org) for more info and flyers on these events.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Jack & Beckie Neece	2
3	4	5	6 Dan Baker	7	8	9
10 Becky Boyd Ernestine Smith	11 Glenn & Sherry Jarvis	12	13	14	15 Steve & Patti Everett Charles & Madonna Terry	16
17	18	19	20 Jerry Ellis	21 Linda Runnalls Pete Smith	22 David & Becky Boyd	23 Gehring Thomas & Lois
24	25	26	27	28	29 Johnny Swilley	30
31						

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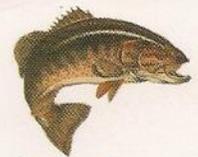
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Next Meeting:

Tuesday, **August 5, 2014**

Eat @ 6:00

Meet @ 6:45

Austin's Cattle Company

2101 West Hill Avenue

Cruise: August 9, 2014

Steak-n-Shake parking lot

5:00—8:00pm

Thurs Cruise: August 16, 2014

Steak-n-Shake parking lot

6:00—7:30pm



Graphics Arts Department at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Cover - Mike & Evelyn Bennett cut the cake at the 30th Anniversary celebration

Editor's Comments

Dog Days of Summer—they are here! The days are growing ever so shorter, the temperatures are still very warm. We would like a little rain now and then, just not on cruise-in evenings. Baseball's mid-summer show case, the All-Star game, is now behind us, while high school bands are in band camp, and football practice will soon be in full swing. It won't be long before children will be back in school (so be careful of the school buses and children going to and coming from school).

Thanks to Chris Bremer for supplying a few photos from the 30th Anniversary celebration. They appear throughout this publication. It was a great celebration for the club.

The cruise-ins at Steak 'n Shake were well attended in July, and a couple of other events may take place after this goes to print. The Police Cruiser project is underway, and thanks to the help from Langdale Ford, some minor repairs have been made and some others identified. Thanks also

to the members of the committee who are taking on this project to see it to completion. We will all be proud of the Cruiser when we get it back on the road in good condition.

Richard Lassiter contributed an article on his experience with foreign-manufactured tire valves. This information will come in handy as we make tire purchases and have these valves replaced periodically. Mario Bartoletti has contributed a *Reflections* article for this edition, and there are others in the works.

Paul Worth will be contributing an article of his trip to New York for the Checker Reunion. It should appear soon in the *Driver's Seat*. Other members have stories they can share—simply write them up and get them to the editor (with pictures if possible)

Happy Cruising!

David Boyd, editor

