



# VALVE CHATTER



**MAY 2025**, Newsletter Volume 30, Issue 05  
Regional Group #148 of the Early Ford  
V-8 Club of America, Inc



*NOTES  
FROM THE  
PRESIDENT*

HAPPY  
**MOTHER'S DAY**  
♥♥♥

**DAN CASTELLINI**

*By the time you receive this message Easter will have past and Gloria and I will be in Italy enjoying "la Bella vita" ( the good life) for a few more days before we return home. I pray that each of you had a wonderful Easter celebrating with friends, family and attended a good church service.*

*The board of directors met following our April meeting to discuss tours and events for the remainder of 2025. I presented the results of our Tour / Activity survey submitted by the members in March. In addition to the locations on the list, several write in suggestions were submitted. The board discussed location driving time/distance, walkability and points of interest. To get things rolling, it was decided that our next tour will be the annual "**Drive Your V8 Day, Saturday, June 21st**" to March Field Air Museum, Riverside with lunch to follow. A EFV8 special opportunity and other tour details are being discussed and will be presented to the membership at the May13th meeting. So, save the date and get your V8 ready to hit the road for a interesting tour and time out with friends. Also, this is a great opportunity to upgrade your club wardrobe ( hats and shirts) so you can travel in style this summer. Contact Janet Harris to place your order in time for the tour.*

*Tours are a great time to share the experience of riding in a EFV8 by inviting a friend or family member to join in and ride along for the day. See you in May!*

*Cheers,  
Dan*



SECRETARY

LINDA  
LOWRY



**Board of Director's & Business Meeting of the Members of  
The Palomar Mountain V-8's Regional Group of the Early Ford V-8 Club of America, Inc.**  
*A California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation*

A regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Directors and Members of the Palomar Mountain V-8's Regional Group of the Early Ford V-8 Club of America, Inc., and a California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation was held on April 8, 2025 at the meeting place of the members: Richie's Diner, 40651 Murrieta Hot Springs Road, Murrieta, California.

**Directors Present:** Dan Castellini, Steve Wells, Gregg Lowry, Linda Lowry, Bob McClelland

**Members Present & Cars Driven:** Roger & Bonnie Bell, Jim Brown (1940 Ford), Dan Castellini (1941 Tudor), Bob Davis, Cliff Gustin, Tom & Patsy Hamlin, Jay & Janet Harris, Gregg & Linda Lowry, Ken & Merleen Magers, Bob & Sharon McClelland (1936 Fordor), Jerome Mueller, Ray & Jackie Ouellette, Bob Payne, Peggy Petrucci, Ron Shedd, Steve Wells.

**Guests:** None

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. President Dan opened the meeting and asked Tom Hamlin to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Bob McClelland to lead us in Prayer.

***Officer & Committee Reports were accepted:***

**President:** Dan Castellini- Dan shared his and Gloria's trip to Washington DC and the honor he was given to participate in the wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

He thanked Gregg Lowry for his efforts in helping RG #32 with their questions regarding their club. He pointed out that our club is well organized and follows CA State, Federal and office of Attorney General's rules and regulations.

There will be a board meeting following the general meeting and all are invited to attend.

**Vice President:** Steve Wells – Steve gave a recap of the Del Mar Goodguys Show.

**Treasurer:** Gregg Lowry- Gregg reported a club balance. He has filed State & Federal Income Tax returns and the Charitable Trust with the required fee.

**Secretary:** Linda Lowry – Linda presented the March minutes. **Motion to accept made by Jackie Ouellette and seconded by Peggy Petrucci. Motion passed.** She announced and congratulated those members who celebrated birthdays and anniversaries in April.

**Director:** Bob McClelland – No report

**Accessories:** Janet Harris – Janet asked if members had any accessory requests and will look into hat options.

**Advertising:** Don Harwick – No report

**Membership & Club Badges:** Bob Davis – Bob passed around a copy of the roster and asked members to note any corrections or additions to their information. He plans to finish up the roster and hopefully have them at the next meeting.

**Sunshine:** Jackie Ouellette – Jackie sent a card to Bob Payne and noted it was good to see him this morning.

**Tours:** Dan reviewed upcoming tours and shows in the area including the Murrieta Rod Run on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Fallbrook Car Show on May 25<sup>th</sup>, and the Temecula Rod Run October 10-11<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars for a club tour for "Drive Your V-8 Day" on June 21<sup>st</sup>. He also noted that Jay & Janet Harris will be displaying their 1939 Convertible at the La Jolla Concours d'Elegance April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Newsletter & Website:** Bob McClelland – Bob is always interested in articles for the *Valve Chatter*. Please let him know if you are having any problems downloading the newsletter.

He reported that he is very pleased with our current webmaster and website management. Our cost for Mail Chimp email is free for 1 person to maintain the site. Please let him know of any changes on the website and he will let our webmaster know.

**(CONT ON PG.3)**

(Cont.Frm pg 2)

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Announcements:** Dick Foote passed away a few months ago. Tom Keck is selling the Foote's car. Please see the email that was sent to members and the *Valve Chatter* for any details and questions.

**Program:** Dan played a You Tube video compilation of the advertisements for the new 1954 Ford vehicles.

**Tom's Trivia Question:** What was the first year Ford passenger cars had a one-piece hood? Tom gave us the correct answer – 1949 – and a bit of history behind it.

**Special Drawing:** – Tom Hamlin announced \$90 was collected with \$45 going to the club and \$45 won by Bob Davis.

Being no further business to come before the meeting and on **motion duly made by Peggy Petrucci and seconded by Ray Ouellette**, the meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

It is directed that this action be filed in the Minute Book of the Corporation. This action is executed pursuant to the Corporation Code of the state of California, which requires accurate minutes of any meeting of the Board be maintained.

Dated: April 8, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Lowry, Secretary



#### **May Birthdays**

1 – Donna Payne  
5 – Frank Fucci  
9 – Tom Keck  
25 – Gayla Louzek  
28 – Mike Monell  
29 – Ray Ouellette



#### **May Anniversaries**

11 – Robert & Sharon McClelland  
15 – Dave & Gayla Louzek  
21 – Steve & Kimry Wells  
31 – Rudy & Lori Perez



NEXT MEETING MAY 13 TH  
RICHIE'S DINER, 40651 MURRIETA  
HOT SPRINGS ROAD 8:00 - 10:00



#### **A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

We're **STILL** looking for your stories. What travel's have you done, what restorations have you done on your car? We would love to feature your story in the Valve Chatter! You can also send sale or wanted ads for future Valve Chatters! Notify me if your item has sold.





## ACCESSORIES

2025

All prices include embroidery and tax. Sizes S-2XL

Women's Polo	\$21
Men's Polo	\$24
Cap	\$10.80

Long sleeved denim shirt	\$21
Short sleeved denim shirt	\$19.75
Long sleeved tee shirt with or without pocket	\$16.31
Short sleeved tee shirt with or without pocket	\$13.05
Nylon jacket	\$27

A club member can also go on SanMar.com web sight and look under **Port Authority** brand. It is a wholesale web sight so *you* can not buy from them. But, if you see something you wish to purchase, note the order number, color and product and Tim will give us the price with embroidery and tax. This is actually the best way to pick out the color you want.

Feel free to call me if you need help,

Janet

## Identifying the best Flathead Transmission

Story and Photos by Zac Parks

Now since these transmissions are so old, a lot of the crucial parts could have been interchanged just to keep the vehicle on the road. The next important detail you need to look for is the synchronized 2nd and 3rd gear. On all gear sets 1st will be unsynchronized. Below you can see me pointing to the brass synchronizer ring itself, take a good look at this setup, on a non synchronized transmission there will only be one set of synchronized teeth on either side of the synchronizer hub and not 4. You'll be looking for 4!



(CONT. ON PG 7)



## FOR SALE/WANTED

Items from the 1933/34 **Ford CENTURY OF PROGRESS** asking price for all \$150.  
(Does not include ruler). **Gary Walcher 619-916-8817**



**3:73 Gearset taken out of a 51 Ford Victoria. Motivated to move it to a new home. Contact Ron Hopwood (949) 212-5600.**

## WANTED

**1941 Ford front spring , Dave Louzek  
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Jay Harris  
760-310-9530



## CONT FROM PG. 4

Last but not least, you'll be looking for the correct transmission mount. This will be solely for the application for which you are buying the transmission, but I would like to show you what the 1939 trans had originally. Below you can see the ears on the 39 case, make sure these are not cracked or broken, very typical for them to crack. Second picture below shows the truck style trans mounts, they are a little stronger than the 39 mounts.



From my experience and experience of the Hot Rodders before me, these transmissions are the best for traditional Hot Rodding. Lincoln Zephyr gears should be noted as one of the best as well but are much harder to get a hold of and expensive nowadays. But let's not give the wrong impression, these transmissions are getting pretty pricey, a professionally rebuilt top loader three speed are going for \$900-\$1,100. It's in your best interest to find a good candidate for a rebuild and rebuild it yourself, a worn case with bad internals could cost up to \$1,000 in part cost alone. The good news is, all the gears are being reproduced and can be replaced, and if you have all usable gears then a rebuild kit itself is going for \$200. So take the time to find the right one for you and get in the garage and Get Your Shift Together!



**AND THAT IS  
THE REST  
OF THE  
STORY!**



# PICTURES BY PATSY HAMLIN



Linda Lowry Dan Castellini



Jackie & Ray Ouellette



Gregg Lowry



Bob Davis. Jim Brown



Steve Wells Ron Shed



Cliff Gustin



Bob Payne



Sharon McClelland



Ken & Merleen Majers



AND THE  
WINNER IS  
BOB DAVIS





SUNSHINE REPORT  
 THINKING OF OUR MEMBERS STRUGGLING  
 PLEASE KEEP ALL MEMBERS IN YOUR  
 THOUGHTS & PRAYERS  
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## FOR SALE/WANTED



**1934 cowl lights \$100. pair**  
**GARY WALCHER 619-916-8817**

Palomar Mountain V-8's  
 Regional Group of the Early  
 Ford V-8 Club of America, Inc.,  
 Temecula, CA Organized  
 November 8, 1996 Chartered  
 January 18, 1997 RG #148  
 Incorporated August 7, 2001  
 2023 Board of Directors &  
 Officers

President Dan Castillini  
 Vice President Steve Wells  
 Treasurer Greg Lowry  
 Secretary Linda Lowry  
 Director Robert McClelland  
 2022 Committee Chairpersons  
 ACCESSORIES

Janet Harris

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Officers & Member at Large per  
 By-laws

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### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Robert McClelland

Email: remac278@msn.com

DEADLINE: 20th of Each Month

\*Opportunity drawing CHAIR

Tom Hamlin

### SUNSHINE CHAIR

Jackie Ouellette

### TOUR LEADERS

Volunteers on Monthly Basis

WEBSITE CHAIR: OPEN/  
 BOARD

AdHoc committees: President is  
 Ex-Officio member on all  
 committees

### MEMBERSHIP

Bob Davis

On-line: [www.valvechatter.org](http://www.valvechatter.org)

Initiation Fee: \$40.00 (includes  
 two Regional Group Name Tags  
 to wear to meetings & events.)  
 Annual dues: \$25 per year (Jan.



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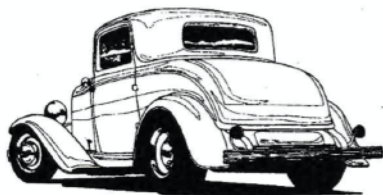
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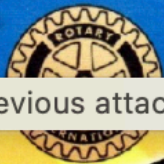
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## All Ford Picnic

June 21 8:00AM - 2:00PM

Santee Lakes Regional Park

Model T - Model A - Early Ford - Thunderbird - Mustang - Pickups - All Fords



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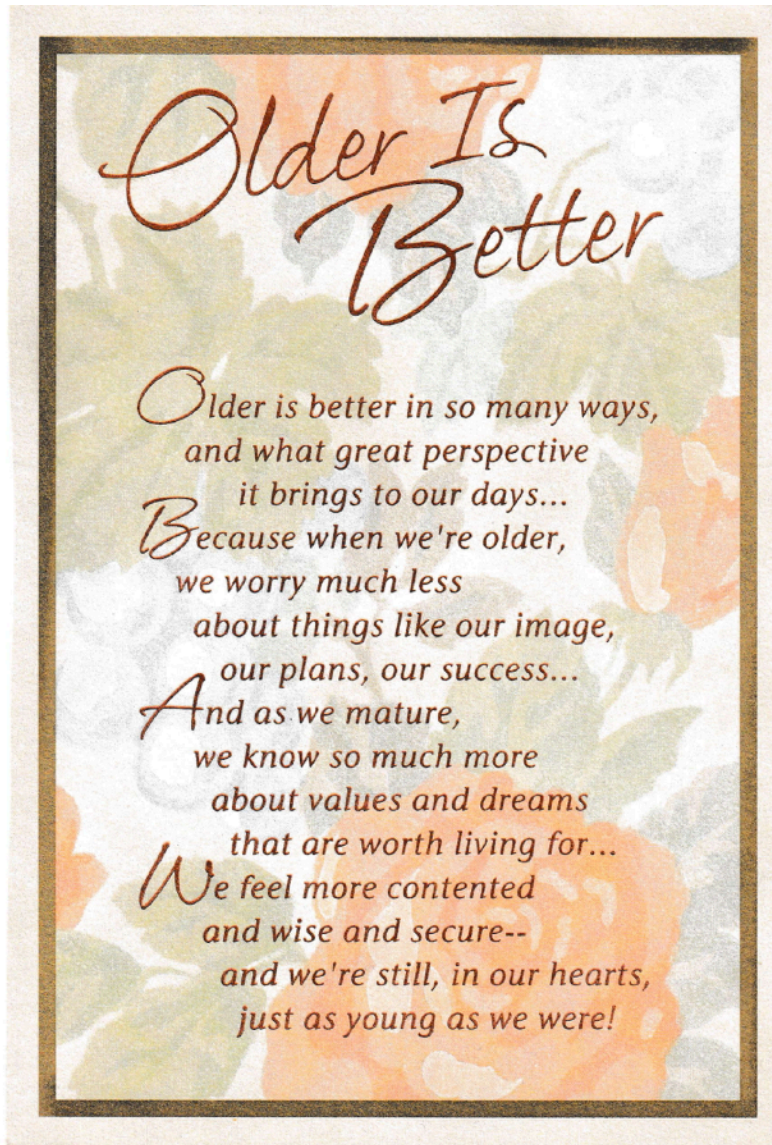
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There is no fee to be part of the picnic, but the Park charges \$7 per car.  
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## A TECH TIP FROM JEROME MUELLER

For any of you who have had difficulty with your trunk support arms not staying up and the lid falling down on your head, here is a solution that worked for me. Remove the support arm to the bench. Flex the arm to approximately 90 degrees and maintain this position between two solid surfaces (I stuck the arm between two shelves). Secure this flexed position by tying a rope through the holes on each end (I used a surgeon's knot). You can now remove the support from between the solid surfaced and the notch for the stud will be accessible to work on. Use a rotary tool with a grinding wheel (I used a Dremel) and deepen the notch by 3/8 of an inch. This will allow the support arm to extend further when the trunk lid is open and improves the mechanical advantage of the arm so that the lid stays up firmly. I painted the exposed metal before reinstalling. The support arms I have on my 1940 coupe are from Drake. They are no longer being manufactured by any of the old parts suppliers that I contacted so I either had to modify my support arms or convert to the gas struts. I wanted to keep my Ford as original as possible so I undertook this modification to see if my solution would work. I never had an issue with the trunk lid staying up on my original 1940 coupe which I bought in 1953. At this time I do not have an original support arm to compare to the Drake arm so I have to wonder whether the Drake NOS stock did not have the correct depth made in the notch. This modification worked for me.





## A BLAST FROM THE PAST FROM KEN & MERLEEN MAJERS

### Car of the Month

#### Ken & Merleen Majers'

#### 1935 Ford 3-window Coupe

This completely restored Ford originally sold for \$560 in December of 1934 and was painted Cordoba Gray at the factory. It boasted an 85 horsepower, flathead V-8 engine and had always been taken care of by Merleen's dad, Smitty. When the original owner's husband died in 1973, the lady gave the car to her trusted mechanic, Merle G. Smith, "Smitty," because he had done such a wonderful job over the years. Smitty was a mechanic's mechanic who often created and manufactured parts whenever they couldn't be obtained from the factory as Ken can attest when he went to restore this old car. Merle had always wanted to restore the car himself as it had so few miles on it (20,000 original miles) and he felt it was a car worthy of a total restoration.

Merle kept the car stored in various garages and storage containers over the years waiting for the time he could do the job himself or else when someone offered the "big bucks" or a new car for the '35 vehicle. No offers ever came until one day a gentleman wrote him a check for \$17,000 for the car. When signing the pink slip Merle ("Smitty") heard the man say what a great hot rod it was going to make and . . . Well, Smitty tore up the check and showed the man the door. Smitty was reported to have said that no one was going to make a hot rod out of that car! And he meant it!

As time went on Merle got older and suffered a stroke and in November of 1996, he died before ever starting the restoration. Ken thought he'd like a project for himself, and felt that he'd like to restore the old '35 as a tribute to his father-in-law, so he set out to get the car from Merleen's mother. It took two years of patience and cajoling before his mother-in-law finally decided to let him have the car and it was another two years before he retired so he could have the time the project deserved.

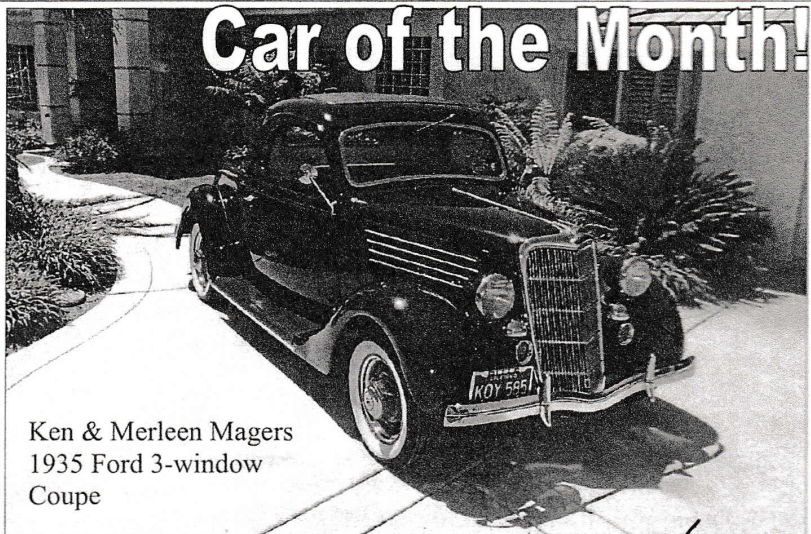
Ken's first step was to start taking the car apart piece by piece logging each and every nut and bolt in a log with a description of the color of the part and where the part had been located. Then he took the car up to LA and had the body, fenders and wheels hot dipped to get rid of all the old rust and paint.

We also found parts throughout the U.S. and Canada during our yearly vacations including the grille which was found in Ohio. Ken consulted every manual and expert he could talk to and finally decided to join our Palomar Mountain Ford V-8 Club where a wonderful, enthusiastic group of Ford guys offered all kinds of help including parts, materials, advice, and experience. In fact, our own Bill Monteleone did the body work and paint that turned "Smitty" into the beauty she is today. This 75 year old car is now painted a beautiful Dearborn blue, and has LaBaron Bonney upholstery just like the original except that it's a deep burgundy red leather. Although Burgundy is not an original Henry color, Merleen is sure it completes the look they were going for. Red pin striping and red powder coating on the wire wheels completed the car's trim package.

Ken also installed hydraulic brakes because of the busy, crazy roads around here and the Majers' wanted the car to be a driver not a trailer queen. Even the old radio has been restored to pick up all the AM stations within a 20 mile radius. The Majers don't often drive "Smitty" out in the rain, due to the vacuum windshield wiper system, nor do they like to drive it at night due to the 6-volt light system, but they love the waves and thumbs up signs they get from other motorists.

We feel this off the frame restoration Ken did, plus the years it took to painstakingly put the car back together shows the love we felt for "Smitty" and is a pretty good tribute to Merle. And when the car wins trophies it just confirms our belief that Merle is looking down on us and smiling at the great job that was done on his old car. Hopefully the judges at the Western Meet agree!

*Article by Ken & Merleen Majers*



Ken & Merleen Majers  
1935 Ford 3-window  
Coupe

*ABOVE: Ken & Merleen Majers' beautiful, frame off restored 1935 3-window cpe*





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## MONTHLY CLUB BUSINESS & BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS

Second Tuesday Monthly

(January thru November) Breakfast @ 8:00 am Meeting @ 9:00 a.m.

Richies Real American Diner 40651 Murrieta Hot Springs Road

Murrieta, Ca. 92562

MAY 13TH

JUNE 10TH

JULY 8TH

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! MAY, 2025

CHECK OUT

<http://www.socalcarculture.com/events.html>

2-3 RD Temecula - Temecula Rod Run - Historic Old Town

3 RD Riverside - Show and Go Car Show - Downtown Riverside -

7AM - 4PM

4 TH Coronado - 36th Annual MotorCars on Main Street - Isabella & Orange -

10AM - 3PM

25 TH. Fallbrook - 58th Annual Fallbrook Vintage Car Show - Downtown Fallbrook -

10AM - 3PM

26 TH San Diego - Auto Swap & Car Show - 3500 Sports Arena Blvd. - 6AM - 1PM



### Palomar Mountain V-8's

VALVE CHATTER newsletter

The Palomar Mountain V-8's Regional Group  
of the Early Ford V-8 Club of America, Inc

A non-profit public benefit charitable California  
Corporation Regional Group No.148



MAY, 2025

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