



# VALVE CHATTER



April 2026, Newsletter Volume 31, Issue 4  
Regional Group #148 of the Early Ford  
V-8 Club of America, Inc



NOTES FROM  
THE  
PRESIDENTS  
GARAGE

DAN CASTELLINI



March was a busy month. As I mentioned at our meeting, I attended the annual EFV8 National Face to Face Board of Directors meeting held at the Best Western, Old Town San Diego on March 5-6. There were 41 items on our agenda. A substantial amount of time was spent on discussions concerning membership and national event participation. The membership report from Cornerstone indicated a 6.7% decrease for 2025. The loss in membership dues coupled with increased cost to publish the V-8 Times, reflected a \$20,000 reduction in the Clubs 2025 net worth. A recent national member survey revealed the average age among the participants was 78.5 years...I don't think that comes as a surprise to any of us. There is only one national event in the planning stage for 2026 and one for 2027. Both are Eastern National Events. Near the end of the second day a walk on item, in the form of letter from a club member, regarding allowing modified EFV8 vehicles displayed at National Events. Discussion is underway on the creation of a M-Class ( Modified 32-53) and the development of a "Peoples Choice Award" based on popular vote of those attending. On the local front, your Board of Directors met on March 20th to work on by-law changes that align with the revised board structure, presented to the members at the March meeting. There will be a presentation at the April 14th meeting on the proposed by-law changes. In addition to the slide presentation, there will be printed copies available for the members.

*I look forward to seeing you in April @ Richie's.*

Cheer's  
Dan



*SECRETARY*

*LINDA  
LOWRY*



**Type to enter textBoard 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 March 10, 2026 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

**Members Present & Cars Driven:** Roger & Bonnie Bell, Dan Castellini (’53 Tudor), Bob Davis, Tom & Patsy Hamlin, Jay Harris (1951 Victoria), Jim Hurlburt, Gregg & Linda Lowry, Ken & Merleen Magers, Jerome Mueller (1940 Ford Deluxe Coupe), Jerry & Roxie Otteson, Ray & Jackie Ouellette (1946 Merc), Peggy Petrucci, Steve Wells.

**Guests:** None

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. President Dan opened the meeting and asked Tom Hamlin to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Gregg Lowry to lead us in Prayer.

**Officer & Committee Reports were accepted:**

**President:** Dan Castellini –

- Dan gave members an update on Sharon’s health.

- There is no Board meeting today.

- He gave us an update on the issues discussed at the Face-to-Face National Board Meeting held in San Diego last week. Topics included: The decline in membership at 6% (average age of members is 78.5 years) and how to compensate for the lost membership revenue by looking into investments with Edward Jones; Classic Insurance has bought out Hagerty; The Eastern National Meet will be held in Morgantown, PA this year and in Williamsburg, VA in 2027; There is discussion of possibly adding a new Modified Class (M Class) for 1932-1953 vehicles. It would allow this new class to park on the field at Meets. Cars would not be judged but rather awarded a trophy by a people’s choice vote.

**Vice President:** Steve Wells – Commented favorably on the new Modified Class being considered by National.

**Treasurer:** Gregg Lowry- Reported a club balance. Jackie Ouellette asked if Richie’s was enforcing the minimum charge to use the room. To date, there have been no surcharges for room use.

**Secretary:** Linda Lowry - Presented the February minutes. **Motion to accept made by Merleen Magers and seconded by Jackie Ouelette. Motion passed.** She announced and congratulated those members who celebrated birthdays and anniversaries in March.

**Director:** Bob McClelland – No report

**Accessories:** Janet Harris – Jay reported that Janet “Continues to wait by the phone for orders!”

**Advertising:** Don Harwick –No Report

**Membership & Club Badges:** Bob Davis – He passed the current roster around for members to make any corrections or additions. An amendment sheet will be distributed to members next year. Current membership is at 33, down from 39 last year, with 5 outstanding. All 5 have been called to remind them of membership deadline.**Sunshine:** Jackie Ouellette – She sent one card last month and will send cards to Sharon and Ron this month. She has requested a list of members who can’t or don’t attend the meetings.

**Tours:** The Temecula Rod Run and Fallbrook Car Show are coming up. Please see *Valve Chatter* for more information. This Saturday there will be a car show and swap meet at Deer Park in Escondido.

**Newsletter & Website:** Bob McClelland – No report

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

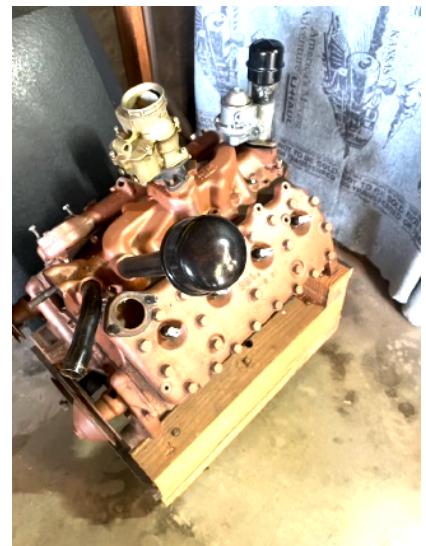
**(CONT. ON PG 4)**

**FREE!! TWO FLEXIBLE FLYER SLEDS (1940'S) FREE!!**

Two Flexible Flier sleds from the 1940's. My family lived in Illinois during WW II and on Xmas day, 1944, my sister and I each received a Flexible Flier sled. I'd like to see them go to, perhaps, the grand children - great grandchildren?? of one our members. Mt Laguna, anyone? They're in amazing shape, with the original FLEXIBLE FLIER stencil still visible on



FOR SALE  
1951 8ba engine complete &  
running \$500. Contact Jay



**(CONT. FRM PG 2)**

**Announcements:** None

Program: The Board presented an update on the Board Retreat on February 20th beginning with a Board letter to members (Exhibit A) read by Secretary Linda Lowry accompanied with a slide presentation by Treasurer Gregg Lowry. Highlights of the presentation were: A recap of the February 20th Retreat, director's vs officer's, IRS preferred number of directors, board's responsibilities, and CA corporation law. A comprehensive evaluation of one (1) and (2) member boards was presented with the 2-member option chosen by the board as the best fit for our club. Gregg then showed the proposed reduction in the President's duties to one Board meeting annually, no responsibility for member meetings, and minimal chair appointments. Next topic included the proposed new chair titles and responsibilities including meeting manager as the host/emcee of member's meeting, Communications Manager (previously titled corresponding secretary), Check Signers and a chair for the Christmas Luncheon. The chair positions for Historian and Tours to be deleted. The final topic was a proposed new meeting agenda to focus on the social nature of our member meeting and not the business topics. Question and Answer session for members comments followed.

**Tom's Trivia Question:** 'What was the first year Ford used a Stromberg 97 as standard equipment'? Tom gave us the correct answer - 1936 - and gave a bit of history behind it.

**Special Drawing:** – \$100 was collected with \$50 going to the club and \$50 won by Peggy Petrucci.

Being no further business to come before the meeting and on motion duly made by Roxie Otteson and seconded by Dan Castellini, the meeting adjourned at 10:17 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: March 10, 2026

Respectfully submitted  
Linda Lowry, Secretary  
Corporate Minute

**PHOTO'S BY PATSY HAMLIN**



MORE PATSY PHOTO'S



And the winner is, Peggy Petrucci!



**Vintage automobile tire alignment** requires specialized knowledge of older suspension systems, focusing on adjusting caster, camber, and toe using manual tools like gauges, string, or bubble levels. Common adjustments involve turning tie rods for toe and using shims for camber, often targeting specific manufacturer specs that differ from modern cars.

#### Key Aspects of Vintage Alignments

- Techniques: Traditional methods include using strings, mechanical gauges, or leveling devices for accuracy.
- Common Adjustments:
- Toe: Measured by checking the distance between tires at the front and back using tie-rod sleeves.
  - Camber: Checked with a magnetic camber gauge, often adjusted via shim packs on the upper control arm or turning adjuster plates.
  - Steering Wheel: Must be locked straight before tie rod adjustments.
- DIY Considerations: Enthusiasts often use DIY tools like magnetic gauges or DIY alignment plates with grease to allow front wheels to move freely.

- **Alignment Process Summary**

1. Verify tire pressure and lift the vehicle to a level surface.
2. Center the steering wheel, locking it in place.
3. Measure and adjust Camber.
4. Measure and adjust Caster (if applicable).

5. Adjust Tie Rods (Toe) and ensure the steering wheel stays centered

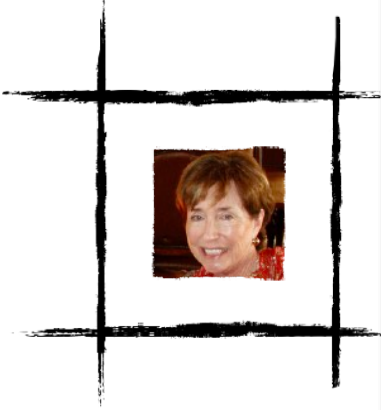
#### Key Considerations for Vintage Alignments

- Manual vs. Computerized: Older vehicles often lack the digital presets found in modern alignment machines. Many experts recommend "speed shops" or "hot rod shops" that use manual gauges, laser bars, or traditional string methods for better accuracy on vintage frames.
- Adjustability: Unlike many modern cars with fixed front ends, vehicles from the 1980s and earlier usually allow for adjustments to camber and caster, not just toe.
- Cost & Time: A standard vintage alignment typically takes 1.5 to 2 hours. Expect to pay between \$100 and \$400 depending on the complexity and whether shims or suspension adjustments are needed.

#### DIY Options

If you are mechanically inclined, basic toe adjustments can be done at home using simple tools like tape measures or specialized DIY kits from brands like Auto Solo.





### ACCESSORIES 2025 UPDATED LIST

This is an updated list of suggested accessories with prices. The embroidery is included. There is no tax as our accessory source is now in Arizona. This basically cancels out any postage fees.

- Men's baseball cap STC39 \$12.00
- Men's long sleeve t shirt 8400 \$13.00
- Men's short sleeve t shirt 8000 \$9.00
- Men's long sleeve polo shirt K500LS \$21.50
- Men's short sleeve polo shirt K5000 \$17.25

It is very easy to use the [Sanmar.com](http://Sanmar.com) site and I highly recommend that you take a look. Prices on the website are a good estimate and include embroidery. There are multiple colors available for each product. There are also jackets and vests you might want to look at. Please call, email, or text me with your order or any questions. I will give you the exact price of your order. Mail me a check and I will then place your order and deliver your purchase.

Janet Harris  
[brokerjanet@hotmail.com](mailto:brokerjanet@hotmail.com)  
760-522-8423  
3088 Skycrest Dr  
Fallbrook, 92028

**PLEASE  
NOTE..**



**NEXT MEETING APRIL 14TH  
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.

**For Sale: 1932 Ford Roadster Hot Rod**  
**A beautifully built All Steel 1932 Ford Roadster**

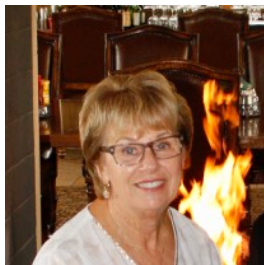


Up for sale is a beautifully built All Steel 1932 Ford Roadster, a true hot rod with the perfect blend of original vintage parts and quality new components. Built over the course of 15 years with close attention to detail, this car is ready to cruise, show, and enjoy. This Deuce Roadster has been meticulously maintained with about 4,400 miles since being completed. It is a top-level, quality built ride. If you are looking for a road-trip hotrod, or something to take to shows, this is the '32 Roadster for you! Curb appeal is second to none and this black roadster turns heads everywhere it goes!

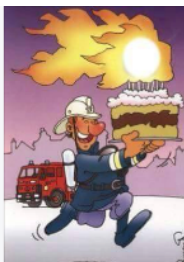
Early Mustang rebuilt 302 V8 with mild cam – runs strong Snow White shorty water pump set-up Flow Kooler water pump 1968 Mustang 3-speed manual transmission with Jeep shifter tower.



**Asking \$42,000. Contact Ron Shed. (858)-776-6508**



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 THOUGHTS & PRAYERS THINKING OF  
 YOU/GET WELL TO CLIFF GUSTIN  
 & SHARON & BOB MCCLELLAND



April Birthdays  
 1 - Janet Harris  
 8 – Bud Williams  
 10 – Karen Walcher  
 16 – Gloria Castellini

April Anniversaries  
 3 – Tom & Barbara Keck



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 Castellini

Vice President Steve Wells

Treasurer Greg Lowry

Secretary Linda Lowry

Director Robert McClelland

2022 Committee Chairpersons

ACCESSORIES

Janet Harris

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Officers & Member at Large per  
 By-laws

ADVERTISING Don Harwick

www.valvechatter.org  
 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

# FOR SALE

I've owned the car since 1998, it's unrestored but runs great and I drive it at least once a week. It has the original flathead V-8 with a 3 speed manual with overdrive transmission. I just replaced the clutch! I had it painted several years ago, but frankly it's not the best of paint jobs. I'm asking \$12,500 OBO. RON OR PATRICIA PRENTICE (408) 425-0452





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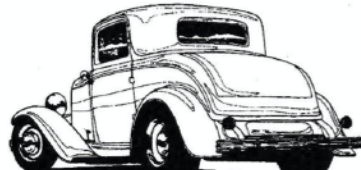
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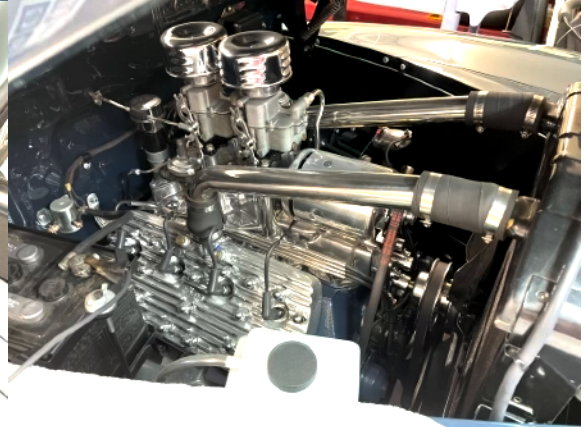
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(Does not include ruler). Gary Walcher 619-916-8817





Free set of 4 tires  
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**FOR SALE**



**1934 cowl lights \$100. pair**  
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16

# 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.**

**APRIL 14TH**

**MAY 12TH**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! APRIL, 2026  
CHECK OUT

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

April 11th Corona - POL Swap Meet @ POL Headquarters 1550 Melissa Ct.  
6AM - 12PM

April 11th S J Capistrano - VW Show - Rancho Riding Park 30753 Avenida La Pata -  
12PM - 6PM

April 18th San Marcos - Boogie at the Barn - 1952 Sycamore Dr. - 10AM - 3PM

April 19th Pomona - Pomona Swap Meet and Classic Car Show at the Fairplex

April 26th Valley Center - The XXVI Heartbeat Happening - 15954 Woods Valley Rd.  
- 9AM - 2PM -



## 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

