



VALVE CHATTER



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



*NOTES FROM
THE
PRESIDENT'S
GARAGE*

DAN CASTELLINI



Greetings to all you V-8'ers. Hot August Nights are here along with plenty of regional events for us to enjoy. Remember, while you are out and about make sure to use sun screen, wear a hat and keep well hydrated. Speaking of August, we have the granddaughters for a couple days while our daughter, who is a teacher, attends training for the up coming school year. Gloria is out with the granddaughters shopping before school begins in a couple weeks. Whatever happened to the school year starting in September? I remember my Dad telling (warning) me that the new school clothes I started the school year with had to last. That was usually followed by the "Money doesn't grow on trees" comment. Got to love an Italian Dad!

Thanks to all who made the July meeting and to those who could not make it, we look forward to seeing you in August. It was great to see Joe Valentino, who drove up from San Diego to attend and tell us about the All Ford Picnic held on June 27. Thanks to Jim Hurlburt for the presentation on his 1966 Comet Cyclone. It is the personal stories, like Jim's, that makes our group so unique. Telling a personal story is a perfect example of how easy and simple it can be to "host" a monthly meeting. As I mentioned at the meeting, we will be doing the third reading of the by law changes at the August meeting followed by a vote of the membership. Please plan to attend and cast your vote. After the vote is taken the board will hold an off site workshop to discuss next steps. The board is also looking at a rotational, alternate meeting location in Fallbrook that is more accommodating for our members who drive up every month from San Diego County. We are in the very early stages of discussion. I'll keep you updated as things progress. See you in August!

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 NonProfit Public Benefit Corporation was held on July 14, 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, Bob McClelland

Members Present & Cars Driven: Roger & Bonnie Bell, Dan Castellini ('41 Ford 2 DR), Cliff Gustin, Tom & Patsy Hamlin, Jay & Janet Harris, Jim Hurlburt, Gregg & Linda Lowry, Ken & Merleen Magers, Bob McClelland, Jerry & Roxie Otteson, Ron Shedd, Joe Valentino, Steve Wells ('47 Woodie).

Guests: Derek Hurlburt

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 Bob McClelland to lead us in Prayer.

Officer & Committee Reports were accepted:

President: Dan Castellini – Welcomed our guest, Derek Hurlburt and noted it was good to see Joe Valentino. He gave an update on the National Board meeting where the following topics were discussed: Ways to stimulate interest in Regional clubs hosting Regional Meets; Continued conversation on the Modified vs Display Class at National Meets; Changes to National's Website; Addressing the continued loss in membership. National membership has dropped below 5,000 members whereas 20 years ago membership was at 9,000 members. There will be a Board meeting following. All members are welcome to join.

Vice President: Steve Wells – He attended Cruisin Grand with Kimry's Woodie. He has discovered some interesting background about his car from Dave Louzek and Jimmy Shine.

Treasurer: Gregg Lowry- Reported a club balance.

Secretary: Linda Lowry - Presented the June minutes. Motion to accept made by Roxie Otteson and seconded by Merleen Magers. Motion passed. She announced and congratulated those members who celebrated birthdays and anniversaries in July. She also gave members an update on Peggy's surgery.

Director: Bob McClelland – No report

Accessories: Janet Harris – She welcomes all questions and merchandise orders. She's waiting by her phone!

Advertising: Don Harwick –No Report

Membership & Club Badges: Bob Davis – No Report

Sunshine: Jackie Ouellette – No Report

Tours: Dan gave a review of Crusin Grand – Ford Night. Tom & Patsy Hamlin won with their 1951 Crestliner. Joe Valentino gave an update on the All Ford Picnic which was well attended with 60 cars registered including Model A's and T's. Please see the Valve Chatter for local events and shows!

Newsletter & Website: Bob McClelland – He welcomes input and stories for the Valve Chatter. He will be making adjustments on pictures he posts in the VC but has copies available.

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(CONT FRM. PG. 2)

Old Business: Linda Lowry explained that this is the 2nd reading – a formal procedure – where this bylaw amendment has been provided in writing to the members. The bylaw amendment includes Procedural Guidelines as dictated by California Law, Parliamentary Rules, and our specific Club Bylaws. She summarized the changes that have been made including: Modifications to existing Articles; Inclusion of New Articles; Board of Directors Term Changes; Changes to the Monthly Meeting Format to include Hosts for each breakfast meeting; and importantly the Focus to modify the existing Bylaws to recognize member priorities to maintain and enjoy the Social Aspect of the Club. She asked if anyone wanted the bylaw changes read in detail and hearing none concluded the 2nd reading. No vote is taken during this 2nd reading.

New Business: None

Announcements: Dan asked Joe Valentino for an update from the San Diego Club. He reported all is fine in San Diego.

Program: Jim Hurlburt gave an interesting presentation about his 1965 Mercury Comet Cyclone. How he acquired it, the history he has with that car, and the restoration.

Tom's Trivia Question: Tom read this month's trivia question: "What was the last year Ford used a cowl vent door?" He gave the correct answer, 1948, and a bit of history behind it.

Special Drawing: – \$90 was collected with \$45 going to the club and \$45 won by Steve Wells. Being no further business to come before the meeting and on motion duly made by Roxie Otteson and seconded by Bonnie Bell, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 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: July 14, 2026
Respectfully submitted,
Linda Lowry, Secretary
Corporate Minute

PHOTO'S BY PATSY HAMLIN



DEREK HURLBURT

JOE VALENTNO



JIM HURLBURT



AND
THE
WINNER
IS
STEVE
WELLS!

TOURING WITH ZOT444

Story by long time member Glen David

The older I get the less I enjoy getting up off of the garage floor. Lately I have been preferring to watch other guys revive old cars on YouTube. My favorites are Vice Grip Garage and The David Freiburger Channel. These fellows fix cars and drive across the country stopping at places I have toured in my '40 Ford Coupe. Freiburger stops at old gas stations and abandoned restaurants and takes photos of signs and buildings that he superimposes with post-card pictures of the same locations taken many years ago. We visited many of these same places on the Jay Harris Tours that we participated in during the '80s and '90s. It is great to see places like Jerome, AZ, and Burney Falls, CA, again forty years after we passed through on tour. Many happy memories of the highways and the national parks of the western states and Canada.

One of the cars we followed for many miles across the desert was a Cloud Mist Gray 1940 Ford coupe belonging to Vicki and Dennis Keene. We first met the Keenes at a V8 event in 1985, shortly after getting our car on the road. We found that we had nearly identical cars and enjoyed telling the tales of their discovery and maintenance. We shared many fun tours around the country with Jay and around Southern California with Gerry and Blackie Blackwell. Sadly, we lost Dennis in 2020. I had several conversations with him during his later years. The car was giving him trouble and I wanted to go help him get it running but it was hard to make the arrangements to get from Santa Barbara to Atwater Village to work on the car. Dennis was eight years older than I was and earlier into preferring story telling to wrenching. Now I understand.

When I heard Dennis had passed I wondered what became of his cars, especially the Cloud Mist Gray Coupe. Then, by coincidence, a friend in Los Olivos heard of a '40 Coupe for sale in a barn near Arroyo Grande. He went to look at it and sent me a picture which I recognized instantly because of the distinctive license plate number still on the car, ZOT444. I made arrangements to buy the car and have it delivered. That was three years ago. Since then I have been replacing fogged windows, warped cardboards, dead fuel pumps and other mechanical components. The car went around the block for the first time last week and yesterday I took it for a twenty-mile ride. Great fun. Attached are photos of our two Fords on tour about forty years ago and recently in my driveway.

Pictures attached: "Two CMG Coupes" was taken on a tour 40 years ago. "Two Coupes Today" was taken in my driveway recently.



COMPARING LED AND VINTAGE AUTOMOBILE LIGHTS

Comparing LED and vintage automobile lights involves weighing modern visibility and electrical efficiency against period-correct aesthetics and simple installation. Most car enthusiasts on [Facebook Groups](#) agree that **LEDs offer superior brightness and lower current draw**, though vintage incandescent or halogen setups win on authentic looks.

Performance and Visibility

- **Vintage Lights:** Produce a warm, yellowish glow (around 3000K) with lower lumen output, which can struggle on dark rural roads.
- **LED Lights:** Deliver triple the candela output (often 3,000 to 5,000+ lumens) with sharp cutoffs and options for warm 3000K color tones to mimic classic styles.

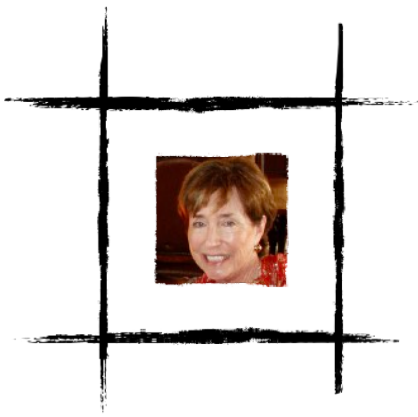
Electrical Load and Efficiency

- **Vintage Lights:** Draw significantly more current (often 55W to 70W per bulb), straining older 6-volt or vintage 12-volt charging systems and aging factory wiring switches.
- **LED Lights:** Consume a fraction of the wattage (around 15W to 30W), heavily reducing the load on classic alternators and generators.

Installation and Fitment

- **Vintage Lights:** Direct plug-and-play drop-ins that match original reflector optics without modification or glare risks.
-
- **LED Lights:** May require specialized retro-style housings (like Holley RetroBright or Vintage Trader units) because cheap bulb swaps into old reflector bowls can scatter light incorrectly and blind other drivers. Plus, deep cooling sinks on LEDs can crowd shallow headlight buckets.
- Do your research before you change!





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 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

760-522-8423

3088 Skycrest Dr

Fallbrook, 92028

**PLEASE
NOTE..**

**NEXT MEETING AUGUST 11TH
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!

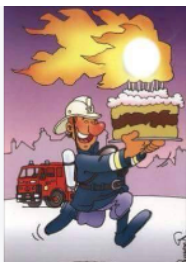
Early Mustang rebuilt 302 V8 with mild cam – runs strong Snow White shorty water pump set-up Flow Kooler water pump 1968 Mustang 3-speed manual transmission with Jeep shifter tower.



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SUNSHINE REPORT
THINKING OF OUR MEMBERS STRUGGLING
PLEASE KEEP ALL MEMBERS IN YOUR
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS



August Birthdays

2 – Gregg Lowry

20- Lisa Simard

26 – Sharon Mc Clelland

29 – Theresa Huckins



August Anniversaries

25 - Phil & Judith Spaid

25 - Jerome & Carlota Mueller

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

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

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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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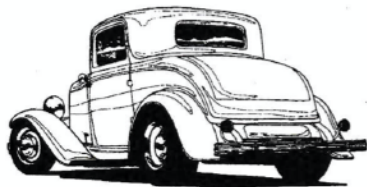
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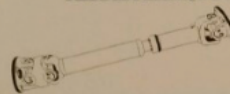
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MONTHLY CLUB BUSINESS & BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS

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.

AUGUST 11TH

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! AUGUST 2026

CHECK OUT

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



Aug. 8th San Diego - All-American Car Show -
Seaport Village Embarcadero North - 8AM - 3PM

AUG 16TH Pomona - Pomona Swap Meet and Classic Car Show at the
Fairplex -5am-2-pm

Aug 22nd Oceanside - 3rd Annual Car Show -
444 Country Club Lane - 8AM - 1PM -

Aug 23rd Dana Point - Dana Point Classic Car Show -
Del Prado Ave. - 10AM - 3PM -



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

