



Exhaust Notes

Riverside Foreign Car Club – May 2007

www.riversideforeigncarclub.org

Hello RFCC!

President's Notes, By Bill Losee

Well, the year's already under way and we have several events to look forward to. The Chili Cook-Off was a success on Sunday April 29th at my house. Clark will give you more details in a separate article. We are looking forward to the car show at Pathway Christian Church on Victoria Ave. on May 19th. If you want to show your car, set-up time is 9:00 am. Another event in the planning is a Tech Session presented by Doug Magnon on Auto Detailing. This will be a multi club event since we will be inviting the Maserati Club, British Sport Car Club and Riverside Region of Porsche Club of America. It should be a GREAT event, and we will inform you of the date when it is set.

We also received your responses from the RFCC Membership Questionnaire. I thank you for your participation and information in this questionnaire. Your feedback has been combined in a general consensus and will give the board valuable information to help move the Club forward.

Please feel free to call me (951) 809-1022 or e-mail me (blosee@earthlink.net) if you have any new stories, article, or event ideas. Please join us at Face's Restaurant for our General Meetings every first Tuesday of the month.

THE EDITOR'S DRIFT BY CLARK TAYLOR

Here we are into May already (at least by the time you read this – right now it's tax season)! Through the earlier part of the year, we have had some important and interesting meetings, moved to a new (or is that old?) meeting location (Faces Restaurant), and reviewed the results of our membership questionnaire.

As they concern the present state and future of our club, the questionnaire results were enlightening. Although our club members have varied interests in activities, there is a strong friendship bond that keeps the club going, and is very important to maintain. Events like our upcoming Chili Cook-off, despite virtually no "foreign car" involvement have traditionally been well attended by our active and also importantly, some of our "semi-retired" members. It's always good to see them!

One concept from the questionnaire that received strong support was the idea of joining forces and combining events with other local car clubs. The synergism could be tremendous. At a board meeting earlier this year, we were visited by Jim Burke from the local Porsche Club of America (PCA) chapter. He presented a very active calendar of events for 2007 and invited us to all of them! Also some of our members participate in Maserati Club of America events, and the British Motoring Club of the Inland Empire members have expressed an interest in joining forces. Perhaps there are others we haven't identified yet, so the possibilities are tremendous.

Another concept that emerged from the questionnaire regarded our members' participation at events. Many participated, but rarely in force. My conclusion from this is for the RFCC to host fewer, but higher quality

events and involve more of our membership in *planning*, and *marketing*. Make our events special and ramp up the “BUZZ”! Perhaps if we hosted two or three events a year and filled in our calendar with rallies, shows and tours hosted by the other clubs, we’d all have a great time and all the local car clubs would be stronger for it.

This “Exhaust Notes” contains the very significant news about last year’s tour to the Reagan Library. Also, there is a photo story of the recent NASA weekend at California Speedway. Speaking of the NASA event, the grassroots of racing is very alive and well. In fact last year’s Indy 500 2nd place finisher (heck, he almost won the race) grew up in local NASA events, driving for Knudsen Racing. Marco Andretti won the Formula TR national NASA championship; and look where that got him! Very good stuff. I spoke with John Knudsen while at the track. He’s a very personable guy and he agreed to visit our club for a presentation later this year. Also, his shop is located in Temecula and he’d welcome a visit (do I see a joint club event in planning here?). John has an interesting history, including his world championships in off-road racing, but I’ll let him tell about that himself!

I hope you enjoy reading and recounting our events and activities for the past year, and I hope the articles bring you some good memories. Finally, I appreciate the articles that have been submitted for this newsletter. Stories of your adventures make interesting reading, and who knows, may even inspire a few others. So until our next issue, heel and toe your downshifts smoothly, and clip those apexes!

TOURING WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN

BY: PAULA SOUTHARD AND BOB GIESE



The Presidential Seal



Mr. President and his good friend Paula!!

On April 23rd of '06, RFCC members Paula Southard and Bob Giese hosted a tour to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library located in Simi Valley, CA. The library is nestled in the Simi Valley atop foothills with a panoramic view of the surrounding area and a distant view of the Pacific Ocean.

The day’s tour started at Riverside’s Canyon Crest Towne Centre. After a scrumptious breakfast at the Crest Café, the small group queued up and began our drive through the Pomona Valley and proceeding down the 210 freeway skirting the San Gabriel Mountains. There were nice vistas and the traffic was light. Our morning rest stop was in Altadena at the famous, though Southern California version, of Peat’s Coffee/Tea House of Berkeley where several members scrounged up great teas destined to grace their personal pallets and those of their loved ones. Two members joined the group at this rest stop, though not without some coordination difficulties. Spirits were high as we jostled with traffic and continued up the road to our final destination.



Our small but patriotic group! Bob, Paula, Sandy, Larry, Maureen & Charlie

We arrived at the library on time and intact. The Library itself is in a Rancho style complex with an entry fountain and an oversized statue of President Reagan aptly reflecting the American bred hometown spirit we all associate with the “Great Communicator.” There are terrific grounds where the designers incorporated mature oak trees, roses, native plantings, and a number of significant symbols specific to the Reagan years, including an actual section of the Berlin Wall. It was impressive. Essentially, the Library is divided into two distinct areas under ‘roof.’ These include the main Library exhibit and a special exhibit capped by the massive Air Force One. The latter’s pavilion was donated by T. Boone Pickens.

Club members broke up into small groups to view the main library and Air Force One exhibits. As a retired naval officer and as part of our visit, Charlie Budenz was regaled in his Navy leather jacket that recalled the campaigns in which he participated through the years. Our hats are off to Charlie. As you enter the Library there is an introductory film, which explains President Reagan’s history and legacy. After the film, one travels through the chronology of his life, starting with artifacts from both childhood and early years that included football at Eureka College, an exhibit of the history of the American Cavalry, his radio broadcasting career, his acting years, and glimpses into Ronald and Nancy Reagan’s devoted marriage. The exhibit finally addresses President Reagan’s political passage from governor of California to the turmoil of the Presidency. He led an extraordinary life.



Air Force One – Reagan Presidential Library

We proceeded to Air Force One, which opened to the public October 24, 2005. This area also has the presidential helicopter and his 1984 armored parade car. They actually have a photographer set up to take a 'ham' photo entering the aircraft. Wave and say: "Ta ta". It was fun and the plane certainly gave one the flavor and experience of being part of the "Flying White House." By the time we exited the craft we were ready to partake of libations we assumed were available at the Reagan Pub below the aircraft. Like most assumptions they were wrong. No alcoholic beverages are available, though there are lots of interesting 'drinks.'

Sadder but wiser we headed for the Library café and thanks to the modern miracle of cell phones were able to coordinate all the membership for a group lunch. After lunch everyone was free to re-visit the grounds and Library.

All-in-all it was an enjoyable and educational tour. We highly recommend a visit regardless of one's political views!

RFCC CHILI COOK-OFF – WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – '07!!

The Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival running concurrently may have headlined the "Red Hot Chili Peppers", but WE, the RFCC, in our annual extraordinary chili cook-off, had the RED HOT CHILIS! There they were, six steaming pots of homemade chili lined up on opposing sides of Bill Losee's outside backyard barbecue. From the experience of my own timid pallet, each pot featured its own unique and delicious character and its own kind of flavorful heat. This was not an easy competition to judge.



The Line-up of Chili Cook-off Contestants



Rafael and Nancy deciding what Chili to try next!

Making matters even tougher for us, annual event organizer Esther Whittaker had something else up her sleeve for us this year; the Cornbread bake-off. It stands to reason that this is as it should be. Cognoscenti don't eat chili without cornbread on the side; a perfect matching of events.

What would a chili cook-off be without friends? This event traditionally brings out the best, and it was exceptionally good to see Bob & Mary Ann, and Ken & Kay Bertino along with our regular crowd.



Good friends in the RFCC evaluating the chili, cornbread & fixin's

How did the judging go? Sir Carroll Shelby would have been proud to join us and taste the fixin's. Did anyone remember to invite him? For first place, Esther concocted the chili that collected the most votes, with Larry's, Paula's and Bill's sharing the podium. On the cornbread side, it was Paula's, Bob's, Esther's and Sandy's. Ahhhh, has anybody seen my Pepto-Bismol!



**Our Winners!
Paula for her Cornbread & Esther for her Chili. Also, sharing Third, Paula's Chili & Esther's Cornbread**



Larry's Chili & Bob's Cornbread were our 2nd Place Winners



Bill's Chili & Sandy's Cornbread won our 4th Place Honors

LAPPING WITH NASA AT CALIFORNIA SPEEDWAY!!

There was a time when I thought “NASA” was the acronym for our country’s “National Aeronautics and Space Administration”. Then I started hearing about NASA events at Sears Point and Thunderhill Raceways, and I immediately thought NASA had something up-their-sleeve and was doing some super secret testing, or NASA had stumbled upon a new fund raiser for our nation’s ailing space program. As they say, that’s how those nasty rumors get started! I was wrong on all counts. “NASA” is also the acronym for a relative newcomer on the sports car event promotion scene, “[National Auto Sport Association](#)”. They must be doing something right as it appears NASA programs are hugely SUCCESSFUL and OUT OF THIS WORLD in popularity!

The Southern California NASA season opener was scheduled over an extended weekend from March 16-18. You may remember that was a particularly beautiful weekend and enthusiasm was high! Being a curious individual, and since it was right in our backyard so-to-speak, I had to go see what all the hype was about. What I found was a small city that had sprung up in the California Speedway pits and it was absolutely beaming with energy! People are going about life just like anywhere else. Kids were playing and riding their bikes all-around, folks were barbequing on their tailgates and under their E-Z Ups and always offering you some of their finest sausages or burgers. And finally, racers and crews were busy prepping their cars. I was impressed; what an extraordinary variety of cars there were from booming NASCAR type stockers to Formula STR (Renault), and pretty much everything in between.

For several hours I wandered through the pits, talking with people and taking lots of pictures. It seems that racers are universally good people; men and women who feel it’s important to pursue their dreams and put it all out there on the track. There’s an unmistakable honesty in this. You’ve got to admire these folks in their Honda Civics and CRXs, their Porsches, their stockers, race trucks and American Iron Mustangs, their Mazda RX-7s, their formula cars and sports racers, all united in praise of high-octane fuel and sticky race rubber, because they are all out there having a lot of FUN!

These photos are a collage from my eyes to yours of an extended, but all too short NASA weekend at California Speedway. I hope you enjoy the tour!



Some (LOUD & FAST!) American Iron – ASC



Big Black Sticky Round Things



Just a Cute Little Toy Car!



Always Work to Do – Porsche Cup Racer



Factory 5 Roadsters Out to Play!



A Jolly Leprechaun Controls the Pre-Grid



Tasty Formula TR Machinery



Formula TR Heading to the Pre-Grid



Chow Time – Friendly & Hungry People



California Caterham Club Members Chris, Magnus & Stan

Events Calendar - 2007

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOLLOWING UPCOMING EVENTS!

April 3, Tuesday	RFCC General Meeting – Faces Restaurant
April 14 & 15	LA Shelby Owner's Club – Open Track at Streets of Willow
April 14 & 15	NASA – HPDE and Racing at Buttonwillow Raceway Park
April 17, Tuesday	Board Meeting – Paula Southard's home
April 22, Sunday	PCA Run to Shambah Safari
April 28, Saturday	PCA Run to Getty Villa in Malibu
April 29, Sunday	RFCC Chili Cookoff
May 1, Tuesday	RFCC General Meeting – Faces Restaurant
May 5 & 6	NASA – HPDE and Racing at Willow Springs Raceway
May 12, Saturday	PCA – Adams House Tour
May 15, Tuesday	Board Meeting – Bob & Heidi's home
May 19, Saturday	Pathway Christian Church – Micro to Muscle Car Show
	Info – Richard Lewis (714) 585-3814
June 5, Tuesday	RFCC General Meeting – Faces Restaurant
June 10, Sunday	Alfa Romeo Owner's – Kart Enduro at Dromo One
June 10, Sunday	Alfa Romeo Owner's – Concours at Dromo One
June 9 & 10	NASA – HPDE and Racing at Buttonwillow Raceway Park
June 19, Tuesday	Board Meeting – Sandy Simmon's home

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