

THE REDWOOD REVIEW



Redwood Regional Group #27

March 2017

Volume 48 Issue 3

The Search For A 50's Era Ford Product

By Tom Johnston, Photos: Pam Johnston

For the past 8 months or so I have had the “bug” for a 50’s era Ford product. After seeing Tom and Kathy Cahills beautiful 1956 Ford Victoria, the “bug” really bit me. I guess I should blame this story on the Cahills! Anyway I had made up my mind to look for a 1954 Mercury Monterey or a 1956 Ford Victoria.

My first rule of the search was absolutely no projects. My second rule was a running driving car with decent paint and upholstery and preferably modern Ford running gear. My third rule was something had to be sold to make room for another car. This meant either selling the ‘41 pickup or my ‘40

coupe, so I advertised both on Craigslist to set the wheels in motion to make room. Pam was not happy about me listing the ‘41 pickup as it’s one of her favorites.

So now my search begins in earnest. For several months I roamed Craigslist, e-Bay, and several classic auto websites. These sites produced several possibilities, but they were all on the east coast. Having past experience with one east coast car, I was not about to go look at a potential rust bucket.

So in the first week of January I spotted a nice looking 54 Mercury on Craigslist. It had new paint, new upholstery, new glass, new chrome, etc. and a 351 Ford motor and automatic transmission. So this car looks good and I sent an e-mail to the seller. After a few days with no response I sent a second e-mail. Still no response. After the third e-mail and still no response I decided to put my old investigative skills back in service. The car was in a place



Owner’s lot and vista, Helendale, CA

called Helendale, which is halfway between Victorville and Barstow. The town of Helendale is a small community that is built around two manmade lakes. So I researched the town and found the area had a homeowners association which had a website. On the website it was noted the city events and one of them was a car show. So I called the number of the association and made contact with a nice lady in the office. I explained what I was doing and asked if she had a name of the person who put on the car show. She took a moment and researched the records and gave me a name and a contact phone number. I called the number and made contact with the

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From The President:

Well, March is upon us, and we are still not done with the rain, OK, enough already. I did actually get the '50 coupe out today to go down to the local Car's and Coffee that was held in Rohnert Park. It was fun to have a sunny day and get the old car out for a little exercise. There was quite a good turn out and a big variety of cars to check out. There are quite a few of these Cars & Coffee deals popping up on Sunday Mornings from time to time. I don't make them all, but once in a while is fun.

As far as the V-8 Club is concerned, we are getting ready for the tour season to start. If anyone has any good ideas for a day tour, or would like to arrange a day of garage tours around the area, I think there would be a pretty good turnout, and a lot of fun. Anybody have any ideas?



We had a pretty good turnout at last months meeting even though it was Valentine's Day. Thanks to everyone who attended. Speaking of meetings, due to a scheduling conflict, I will not be able to attend the March meeting. However you will be in very capable hands as I have asked Mike Buegeleisen to fill in for me and he has agreed. I will be back in full swing in April.

At the last meeting, Tom Johnston passed out sign up sheets for some of

the tours coming up such as Burney and the Western National Meet in Salem in September, and if memory serves, Black Bart. So if you were not at the meeting in February and are interested in these tours, please give Tom a call and get on the list, lots of fun stuff coming up this year.

Also, one last reminder, Dues are due, so if you have not sent them in yet, please do so, and if you have, thank you.

See you in April.

Steve McClain

Minutes of General Meeting

Tuesday, February 14th, 2017

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Steve McClain.

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed
Steve thanked all attending tonight.
Wishing all a Happy Valentines Day.

The Minutes of Meeting: Tuesday, January 10th, 2017 were approved as reported.

Members in attendance tonight: 75

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Brian Clary

All areas doing well, including Scholar-

ship Fund. Which is moving ahead.

New Members and Guests: No new members or guests attending tonight.

Birthdays: February were celebrated

Birthday Winner: Donna Fredrick, Congratulations !

New Business: Introduced by Steve McClain

Subject: The club's annual Budget and Expense projections.

Steve discussed the need for a return to the practice of budget planning and the reviewing of potential expenses. He said there is a need to "Rein-In" our expenses this year. This can be achieved

with a few cost-cutting measures including: use of a "Fast Finder" membership directory instead of the more costly roster-style, 2 Free Pizza Nites, instead of 4, and hopefully no Memorial Bricks to purchase. These measures, along with a well attended Swap Meet this year, would go a long way toward assuring the Club's Tours and Events will not lack funding.

New Business: Introduced by Mike Buegeleisen

Subject: Reducing newsletter costs. Mike discussed another significant way to cut costs. Members who have Email capability to receive the monthly newsletter can help. Saving on printing

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man who is the chairman of the car show. After explaining that I was looking for the owner of the '54 Mercury he was able to give me the name of the owner. He said he would get back to me with a phone number. In the meantime a friend in Napa had also sent an e-mail for me to the owner and lo and behold he got an answer plus the owner's name and phone number. So I get the number and make the call. The owner was very apologetic about not getting back to me and said his e-mails were apparently not getting to his cell phone. After some conversation about the car I decided we should go and look at it.

So on January 27th Pam and I left Napa at 5:00am and headed for Helendale. Going through Concord our new Taurus got hit with a big rock and I thought it was going to break the windshield. As it turned out no damage to the windshield, but we did get a nice big scratch on the hood. So the rest of the trip was pretty uneventful other than the heavy fog we encountered in Bakersfield.

We arrived in Helendale about 1:00 pm and had lunch at a local café. We must have looked like tourists as the first question from the owner was "where are you folks from?" After telling the owner we were from Napa we found out she had come to Helendale from Vacaville.

After lunch we headed out to look at the Mercury. The owner lived about 5



miles north of town off old Route 66. We turned onto Indian Trails Rd. and took the first gravel driveway. As we approach all we can see is an old wood barn that looks like it might be falling down. We are now surrounded by sage brush and cactus. We are now thinking that Helendale should be Hell-n-Dale. At this point it is not looking good. The gate is locked and we think maybe this could be a real bust. Do we leave now or do we give it a try? Then beyond the old barn I see a new metal roof. Alright maybe this is O.K. so I call the owner. He comes out to the gate and opens it and we drive around the barn to see a newer modular home and a new shop that is probably 40'X60'. O.K. this looks better and the place is neat and organized. I see two '50 Olds parts cars, a '50's Studebaker project, and a '54 Ford project, all parked neatly alongside of the shop.

Ray, the owner, opens up the shop door and there stands the Mercury. He fires it up and pulls it out of

the shop and into the sun where we can see it. So far so good and we give it the once over. Newer paint, new upholstery and carpets, all new tinted glass with new rubber gaskets, new chrome on the grill and front and back bumpers, late 351 Ford motor and C-4 transmission, and a '66 Mustang rear end. So we take it for a ride. Runs good, rides good, and no detectable rattles. When we return from the road test Pam and I have a little meeting and decide we want the car. So I made Ray an offer and he said "no", he wanted full price. Another little conference and we decided it was worth the asking price and we told Ray it was a deal.

Now to pay for the car. We had two thirds in cash and were going to pay the other third by check. Unfortunately Ray said he would not take a check, so I suggested a wire transfer. He agrees to the wire transfer and off we go to Barstow to Ray's bank. Once at the Bank of America we talk with the manager and find that wire transfers must be done prior to 1:00. Well now it is 3:30pm and this is not going to



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2017 Grand National Roadster Show

Report and Photos By Steve McClain

As usual for the end of January, Dave Simonds and I set out for La La Land at zero dark thirty on a clear Saturday morning, after stopping at Starbucks a couple of times and then a quick stop at the Grapevine for some fine dining (ha!), we made it to the Pomona Fairplex at 1:00 PM. The weather this year was beautiful, warm and sunny t-shirt weather. Unlike last year when it rained both days. The turnout Saturday was tremendous, there were a ton of cars that came for the Drive In Outdoor Car Show and the place was packed with people, that's what you get with nice weather. I spent most of Saturday afternoon checking out all the outdoor cars and vendors.

Sunday was another beautiful day in So Cal, lots of sunshine which I certainly have been missing around here. It was a lot less crowded on Sunday so I was able to take my time and go through all the buildings and check out all the cars much easier than on Saturday. As usual there were a ton of very nice cars to check out. This year there was a whole building dedicated to the Tri-Five Chevy and there were all kinds of them on display, everything from Stock to Funny Car and everything in between. This year's batch of roadsters leaned towards the more traditional style as opposed to full custom treatment, but of course there were a few of those also. This year's big winner was fully customized sliced and diced 36 Packard turned Roadster with a fully retractable hard top built by Hollywood Hotrods.

I was also able to spend a little time Sunday morning with Brandon and Aaron from East Bay Speed & Custom and checked out the cars that they brought down to the show. Nice to see them, they did quite well in the awards category, taking home first place in class, best dressed flathead, and a PPG outstanding paint award with a beautiful 40 Sedan, also a class award with a 35 5 window coupe. Excellent work as usual.

We spent the night Sunday and drove home at our leisure on Monday, another great trip in the books.



work. Next I asked if B of A would cash my check with confirmation from my bank that there was sufficient funds in my account to cover it. They refused to do so, so now we are stuck. We return to Ray's home, I give him a deposit, get a receipt, and told him we would be back in couple of days with the money.

By now it is 5:00 pm so we head back into Helendale to our hotel, the Silver lakes Inn. I had previously booked the room as it was the only place in town. It was near the golf course and had a restaurant for dinner, so it sounded fine but a little pricey. We get there and were given a room that was a pretty good walk from the front desk. The place was built in the late 70's and appeared to be due for needed upgrade. The room was clean, the bathroom was clean, and it seemed to be very quiet. So

I turn on the TV and all I get is the "Direct TV" logo on the screen. So maybe the remote is defective so I try every button on it and still no TV. Then I call the office and was informed by the desk clerk that they were having some problems with Direct TV and it was "being worked on".

So we feed Abbie and then we walk down the hall to the restaurant that is attached to the hotel. As we walk past the front desk the desk clerk informs us he is going home and if we need anything to give him a call. His number was posted at the desk? Then I spot a sign that there is no one on duty at the desk from 7:00pm-9:00am. What the heck type of operation do we have here?

The restaurant was packed so the waitress seats us at the bar. I then look up and notice the big TV is on over the

bar. Great, they must have fixed the problem. So we have dinner and during dinner I talk with the bartender, as I'm now a little suspicious that maybe this hotel is not paying it's bills. I ask the bartender if the restaurant is a separate operation from the hotel and she tells me it is a separate operation. So back to the



room after dinner and still no TV.

Yes indeed they have not paid the Direct TV bill.

The next morning we go back to the local café for breakfast and tell them our experience with the Silver Lakes Inn. Most everyone in the restaurant knew about the place and they had nothing good to say about it. So after breakfast we headed home.

On January 31st, with cash in hand we headed back to Helendale. We left at 5:00am (which is tough on Pam). Before we left I checked on hotels on the way back and found a Best Western in California City that had great ratings. I called BW and used my points to get a free room. We got to Helendale in the early

afternoon. After spending time going over the Mercury Ray shows me his latest project which is a frame off build of a 50 Olds coupe. This explained the '50 Olds parts car. We gave Ray the money and the deal was done.

Now we head down the road, stopped for gas, and it's on to California City. This town is about 8 miles off of Hwy 58 and again in the middle of the desert. It's not too far from Mojave if that tells you anything about the area. So we get to the BW and it is really nice. The desk clerk is busy with other customers, so we wait for few minutes and he is ready to check us in. He saw we were using our points and then tells us that since we waited patiently he would upgrade our room. Wow what a surprise. We get our keys, unload the pickup and head for the second floor. We open the door to find

that we now have a suite! Bedroom, living room, two bathrooms, two TVs that actually work, and a free breakfast in the morning! Doesn't get any better than this and there's actually someone at the front desk 24/7.

The next morning we left at 8:30am and headed for home. A couple of stops at McDonald's and gas stops along the way and we were home at 5:30pm. The Merc. ran good at speed, but did not want to idle very well. Once home it turned out to be a crack in the rubber vacuum line to the distributor that was fixed right away.

We've had lots of old car adventures over the years, but we have to say this is one of the most interesting. As luck would have it, after we got home I sold the black '40 coupe, so now we're back to three cars.

TAMAGNO'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For More Information Contact Rick Tamagno at 707-539-2876

V8 Events Calendar

March

April

28-30 Black Bart Tour

May

6 Swap Meet, Golden Gate R.G. - Hayward

21 Swap Meet at Petaluma Fairgrounds, Redwood Empire R.G.

25-28 Burney Falls Tour, Redwood Empire R.G.

June

TBD V-8 Picnic – Redwood Empire RG - Williams, Todd

July

TBD Skip Long Memorial Car Show – Theresa Long

August

September

11-14 Western National Meet. Salem Oregon

October

TBD Miranda Gardens Tour - Trabucco

November

5 Bean Bash at Beresford Park, San Mateo, Golden Gate R.

TBD Turkey Trot Breakfast

December

TBD Christmas Brunch, Redwood Empire R.G.

Regional Events Calendar

March

14 R.E.R.G. Monthly Meeting – Round Table Pizza

25-26 Goodguys – Pleasanton

April

1 Maria Carrillo H.S. Car Show. Information—Sean 707-889-3735

4 R.E.R.G. Board Meeting – Barker's

11 R.E.R.G. Monthly Meeting – Round Table Pizza

22-30 Kool April Nights – Redding

23 6th Annual John Puccioni Memorial Swap Meet--
Santa Rosa Vets Building—Cruisin North Car Club

28-30 Black Bart Tour

30 Pacific Coast Dream Machines. Half Moon Bay. 650-726-2328

30 Swap Meet-Nor Cal RG of HCCA—American River
College. 530-674-2840

May

6 Swap Meet, Golden Gate R.G. – Hayward

9 R.E.R.G. Monthly Meeting – Round Table Pizza

13 Back to the Streets Car Show. Woodland, Ca. 530-
662-3814

21 Swap Meet at Petaluma Fairgrounds, Redwood Empire R.G.

25-28 Burney Falls Tour, Redwood Empire R.G. – Johnston

27 Driven to Perfection Classic Car Show. Sebastopol,
707-829-2440

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mar 05 Dona Godwin

Mar 20 Bill Burns

Mar 29 John Girman

Mar 08 Michael Knips

Mar 20 Marilyn Repp

Mar 29 Wilma Lenz

Mar 13 Dan Pallo

Mar 24 Louis Cantarutti

Mar 30 Chuck Paul

Mar 18 Brandon Flaner

Mar 25 Kathy Derickson

Mar 30 John Thompson

Mar 19 Linda Castetter

Mar 29 Brian Clary

Mar 31 Jeanne Abate

Minutes, continued from Page 2

costs and postal fees. Let Mike know if you are one. He is compiling a list and would like to add you. (note: The online version is in color!)

Tours and Events: Presented by Rick Tamagno

Reviewed the upcoming Calendar: Including: March: Goodguys, Pleasanton

April: Carrillo High School, Kool April Nites (Redding), and Black Bart.

(note: if you are planning on signing up for Black Bart, see Tom Johnston, he is needing a head count ASAP)

Hard Luck: None reported this meeting.

Cars and Parts for Sale:

Contact: Dave Peterson re: '54-'56 disc brake set-up

Consult your Newsletter: Cars and Parts for Sale page for additional items.

Tech Tips and Information:

Frank Wheeler offered some observations on a recent problem he encountered while working with his "Pie Wagon" engine. Involved solving a problem with a "noisy, jumpy" belt tensioner. Problem solved with a spacer. (See: Frank for details)

Club Cars Driven to Meeting:

Winner: Dave Peterson-Donating his winnings to the Scholarship Fund.

Membership Attendance Drawing:

Winner: Cheryl Porter (Present to Win) Congratulations! \$30

Carol's Carload of Fun: Game - Postponed. Winners: Everyone -Valentine Treats ALL AROUND-Compliments of Carol!

Scholarship Raffle: Winners: 18, Members raised: \$158! Outstanding! Over the top again V8rs!

Closing Comments: Steve reminded members to please see Brian Clary if your dues are due.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm

Report Submitted by: Eileen Martin-Rawson, Club Secretary

SWAP & SHOP WITH EARLY FORD V-8 MEMBERS

Hello all, I am looking for 2 items please.

#1 The Green Ford Chassis Parts & Accessories Catalogue. 1928 thru 1948 Passenger cars & 1928 thru 1947 Trucks. Also called the " Green Bible" sometimes.

#2 Any Flathead aftermarket ignition systems or parts. I like to play around with Mallory, Kong, Pounden etc., etc. ignition systems, either magnetos or points. I am trying to run these on my cars.

Thanks,
Mike 707-217-8751
1932V8@att.net



1934 Ford Roadster (Henry Ford steel) W/rumble seat

Many Touring A 1st place awards

Looks stock, built to drive with '36LB flathead, Lincoln Zephyr brakes,

Mitchell overdrive and 16" Diamond Back white wall tires

Cordoba tan W/Tacoma Cream trim

\$65,000 or reasonable offer

Mike Haen (707) 480-9820.

V8 Club members, if you'd like to list your for sale items or parts needed for 3 issues of *The Redwood Review*, email them to: rdster36@comcast.net

(please include good quality jpeg photos of the For Sale items and notify me when sold)



Columbia River Regional Group #10

Presents

“A Capitol V8 Affair”

Registration Number
Please Leave Blank

2017 Western National Meet
Salem, Oregon • September 11-14, 2017

Early Registration Special
Avoid the June 1 Fee Increase

National V-8 Club Membership Number _____

You must be a National Member to Register

Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

If provided, This will be our primary method of contacting you

Early Registration Fee is \$50.00 through May 31, 2017

Registration Fee after June 1, 2017 is \$65.00

Sorry, no refunds after September 1, 2017

Registration at the host hotel requires paid Meet Registration first!

Registration Fee (Includes one vehicle).....\$ _____

Additional Vehicle (\$40 each).....\$ _____

Total Enclosed.....\$ _____

Make checks payable to “2017 Western National Meet”

You will receive information about making hotel reservations with your paid early registration.

When ready, we will send you the complete registration package, including vehicle registration and event details, which you complete and return to us.

Send complete form and payment to:

2017 Western National Meet
P.O. Box 1067
Cannon Beach, OR 97110

Redwood Empire Regional Group #27

2017 Officers

President:	Steve McClain	(707) 575-3504
Vice President:	Bill Crackbon	(707) 538-4227
Secretary:	Eileen Martin-Rawson	(707) 303-7167
Treasurer:	Brian Clary	(707) 528-3626

Committee Members

Tour Coordinator:	Rick Tamagno	(707) 539-2876
Swap Meet Chairman:	Dave Peterson	(707) 527-9183
Historian:	Wayne Taylor/Mike Buegeleisen	(707) 255-1571
Scholarship Liaison:	Peter Barker	(707) 537-1145
Sunshine Lady:	Pam Johnston	(707) 255-1230
Newsletter Editor:	John Thompson	(707) 318-3520
Roster:	Mike Buegeleisen	(707) 217-8751
Club Clothing:	Steve McClain	(707) 575-3504

Board Members

Charlene Trabucco, Steve McClain, Peter Barker, Rick Tamagno, Sterling Cousins, Richard DeCroff, Ron Mollo, John Girman, Brian Clary, Bill Crackbon, Eileen Martin-Rawson

All Members are invited to attend the Board Meetings; call any of the above Board Members for dates, time and meeting place, or call Peter & Earlene Barker at 707-537-1145

Sunshine Lady Reports:

Today (February 22), Dave Rasmussen is in the hospital having his gall bladder removed. He isn't able to go to the San Diego swap meet and that is really disappointing!



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The membership dues to REDWOOD EMPIRE REGIONAL GROUP #27 are \$20.00 per year (single or couple). You may sign up at a meeting or mail in your application (with a check) to the address on the form below.

(You are required to be a member of the national Early Ford V8 Club, for membership information refer to : www.earlyfordv8club.org)

RERG #27 MEMBERSHIP FORM (mail to RERG #27 P.O. Box 3302, Santa Rosa, CA 95402)

NAME _____ Your Birth Date: Month _____ Day _____

SPOUSE _____ Spouse Birth Date: Month _____ Day _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell Ph # _____ E Mail _____

Early Ford V8'S You Own (Give Year, Model, Body Style and Engine Type)

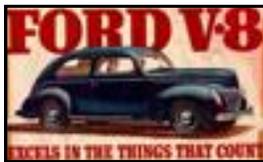
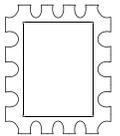
(Attach additional sheets with V8 information as needed)

REDWOOD EMPIRE RG # 27 IN SONOMA, MARIN & NAPA COUNTIES, MARCH 2017
Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7 PM at Round Table Pizza- Exit Hwy 12 & Stony Point Road to 2065 Occidental Road, Santa Rosa. All interested V8-ers are invited to attend! This newsletter is a monthly publication of Redwood Empire RG # 27 of the Early Ford V8 Club of America. Other Regional Groups may reprint material, provided proper credit is given.

25 year old Pete Peterson with 1937 Lincoln Zephyr. Photo courtesy of Dave Peterson



John Thompson, Editor
The Redwood Review
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Santa Rosa, Ca 95409



Deliver To: