



SOCALAMX.NET

socalamx.net/newsletter

Official Monthly Publication of SoCalAMX

Issue 1—August 2008

SoCalAMX Has A Birthday!

Hey, I just realized that in addition to my birthday being in July, it is also the birthday of SoCalAMX. Yes, back in 2001 I thought to myself there must be scores of other AMX's out here in Southern California, but hidden away from each other in garages. I thought if I put up a web site that maybe we could seek each other out from hiding and start meeting together. So in July, 2001 I launched SoCalAMX.net, but didn't really have much success right away. Finally in November of 2002 I met Dave Chick with his white 1968 AMX and we drove from his house to Fuddruckers in Pasadena, and SoCalAMX was off and running!

From the SoCalAMX.net web site you can click on "Past Events" and you'll see a listing, with picture links, of just about every event our group has attended. I just now went there myself and clicked on some of the early pictures. I almost forgot my AMX used to be yellow. Here's a picture of Dave and I on the afternoon



of January 4, 2003. Mike Skewes joined us later that night with his 1969 Bittersweet Orange AMX.

Of course right away, in addition to AMX's, we met a lot of great Javelin owners and we promptly became an AMX/Javelin club. It should be noted that at any event that SoCalAMX has been part of we have always wel-

comed all other AMC'ers to join us, which has led to SoCalAMX hosting two "All AMC Car Shows" in 2007 and 2008."

Thank you to everyone who has attended a SoCalAMX gathering in the past, and I look forward to meeting many more AMC faithful in the future!

Mark Melvin
1969 AMX



This Is The Premiere Issue Of SoCalAMX's New Newsletter. Download It At: socalamx.net/newsletter

JOIN US AT ENDERLE CENTER

As of Sunday, July 27, Steve Fox, John Caley, and I are planning on attending the 10th Annual Enderle Center Classic Car Show August 24. The show will host an estimated 200+ cars, and run from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm and is located in Tustin, CA. Pre-registration ends August 10. It's \$35, which includes a t-shirt.

For the show flyer go to SoCalAMX.net and click on "Calendar." There's a link under Enderle Center Car Show that will pull up the show's entry form.

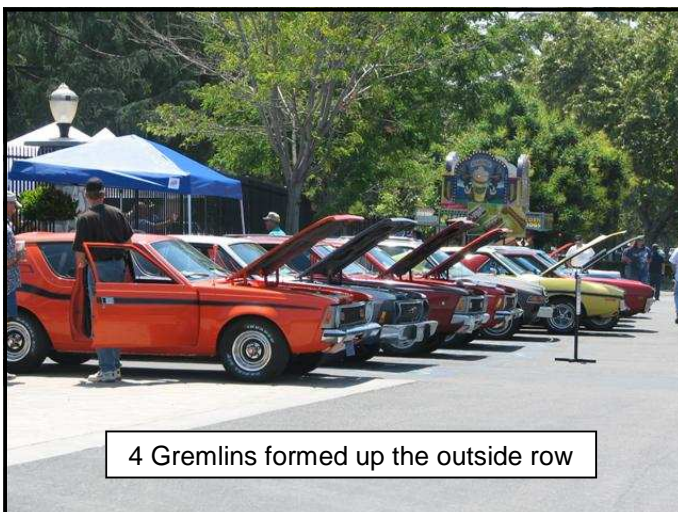
If you own an AMC vehicle, you really ought to show up and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow AMC-ers!

2008 All AMC Car Show

Wally Parks Motorsports Museum hosted the 2nd Annual West Coast All AMC Car Show on May 31, 2008. Formally known as simply the "NHRA Museum," it turned out to be a great location for the SoCalAMX.net group to hold its show this year. AMC and Rambler fans arrived

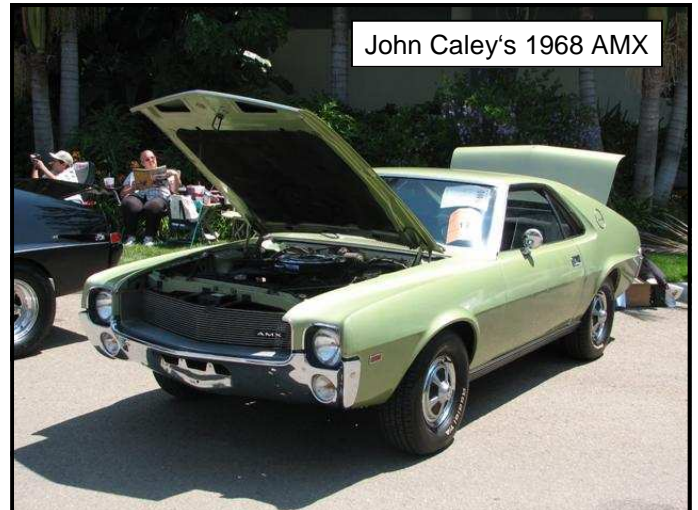


from all over Southern California, including a few from Nevada and Arizona, to complete the show field total of 47 cars. Because of the 40th Anniversary of the AMX and Javelins, an area inside the museum's fence was utilized to honor those cars, and was quickly filled up by the cars who registered early. The remainder of the cars parked next to the fence in a long straight row. There was a steady crowd throughout the late morning and early afternoon show gawking over the cars. We had a nice assortment of "Kenosha Cadillacs," which included a Marlin, SC/Rambler, 4 Gremlins, 2



Pacers, 11 Ramblers, 14 Javelins, and 14 AMXs.

There were a couple of cars present along with their original owners. One was John Caley and his 1968 AMX. He told me that the car was purchased new by his mother in 1968 for his



father. After the passing of his father John inherited the car. He has worked feverously to clean up his car to share at shows. The car looks darn good for still having its original paint, and sitting outdoors for most of its life.

The other original owner is Harvey Weinberger with his 1969 AMX. It was purchased new in Florida, if I remember the story correctly, and then driven to California a few years later. The car sat in a back yard for many years until not



too long ago, when Harvey decided to finally restore it. It has a new coat of paint and looks great now!

The show ran smoothly from early setup to when the trophies were awarded around 3pm.

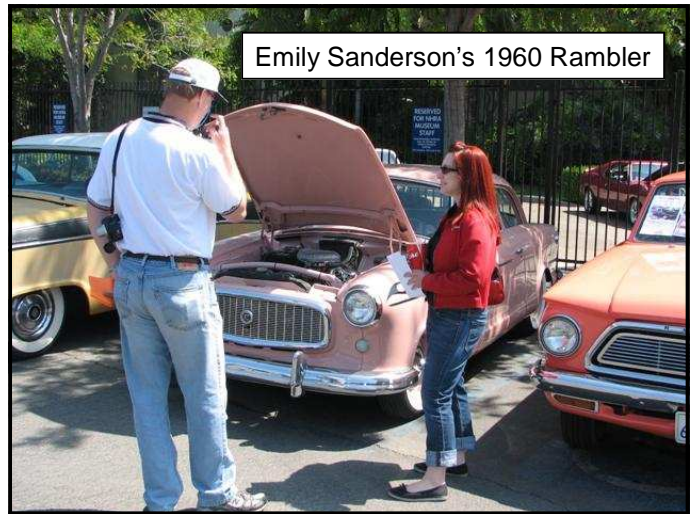


To a great extent the success of the show was driven by the energy of the four young ladies controlling the main registration tent; Kati Chick, her two daughters, Ashley and Karlie, and one of their friends. They took over the assignment of checking in drivers and handling all the paper work and money, and the young

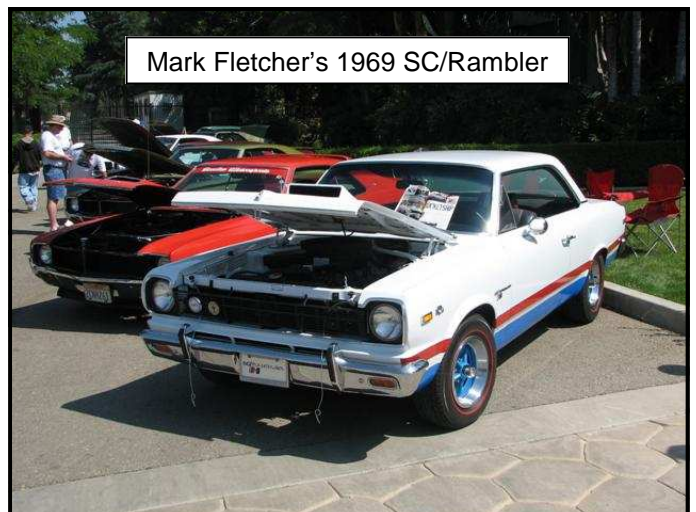


girls worked the crowd by walking up and down the line to sell raffle tickets. Later they counted up all the votes for the various trophies. All of their tireless work allowed me to join the other AMC enthusiasts in general chit-chat, take photos of all the beautiful cars on display, and relax basically after all the pre-show preparation. Thank you ladies!

As for the various trophies that were awarded, the Best of Show went to JR Wildermuth and his green 1971 Javelin/AMX, an extremely



clean car which has won awards at many other shows. Mark Fletcher won for his 1969 SC/Rambler, Earl Conkling won for his 1969 AMX, and Tom Dulaney won for his orange V8



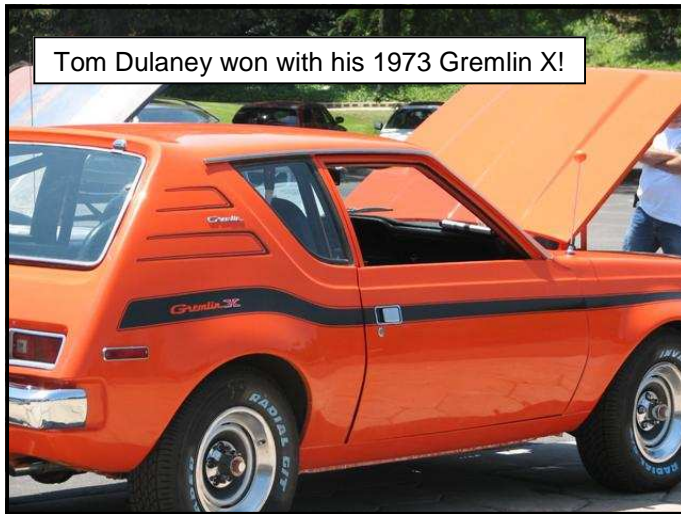
"Congrat's, Mark, for a great car show on Saturday!"
Steve Fox

"I can say I've seen a lot of events and this one came off as a big time production. Better because the participants were joined by a common love. Flawless, and thoroughly enjoyable. Irwindale was priceless."
Steve Avery

"Thank you Mark and all who helped out over the weekend and thanks for the honor of Best of Show. Wish I had more time to get to all the cool events Mark and the group have organized--never been to the NHRA museum, it was great! Till next time.."
JR Wildermuth

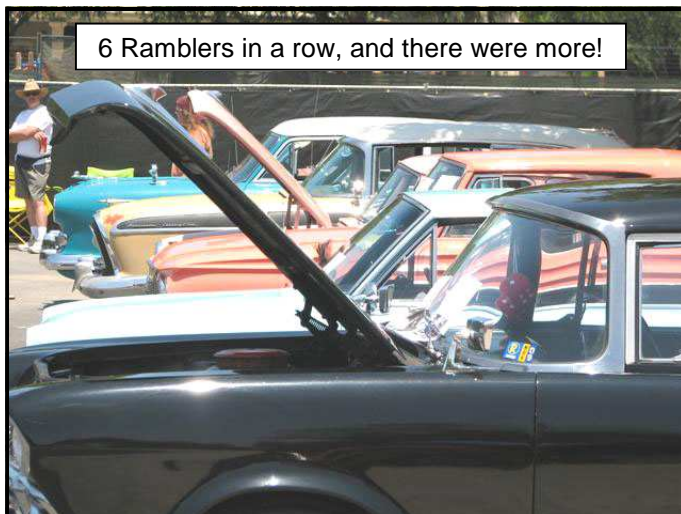
"Hi Mark, my wife and I would like to Thank you and your family for the great May 31, 2008 AMC Car Show. You guys are much appreciated. It was nice to be around such a good friendly environment. Thank you."
Jim and Ida Dennis

Gremlin, which he promptly traded away at the end of the show, plus some cash, for a partially restored 1969 BBO AMX. Almost two months has passed since the show and the list



Tom Dulaney won with his 1973 Gremlin X!

of winners has been misplaced. I apologize for not being able to announce the other winners!



6 Ramblers in a row, and there were more!

After the show ended there were 20 AMC's that convoyed 6 miles over to the nearby Toyota Speedway at Irwindale to watch the evening's races. As a car club promotion at the Speedway we followed a pace car onto the track for



Cruising on the Irwindale Speedway Track



The AMC lineup at Irwindale Speedway

several laps in front of several thousand race fans. Several drivers lit up their tires for a smoky burnout to the delight of the onlookers. The race track officials had a section of seats reserved for us next to our parked cars, and we watched the races for free that night.

I would like to thank all the good folks at the NHRA Museum, especially Rose Dickinson,



Thank you Wally Parks Motorsports Museum!

Manager of Marketing & Advertising, for the warm welcome we received when approached to schedule this great AMC show. Also the biggest thanks go to all the AMC and Rambler drivers for supporting this show and bringing their four wheeled treasures to share with everyone. I can only hope that next year's show in 2009 will be better and bigger!

Here are my pictures of the car show!
<http://snipurl.com/08amcshow>

Thanks..
 Mark Melvin
 AMO #8858

Mark and Mark do the Concourse Thing

One of the officials of the 2008 Los Angeles Concours d'Elegance Car Show has asked me for the past several years did I know of a nice SC/Rambler in the area that would come to their show. Earlier this year I finally became aware of such a car when I saw it in an issue of Muscle Car Enthusiast magazine. His name is Mark Fletcher, and he and the car live in Arizona, and how could I get him to bring it to Los Angeles for the Concourse show?

When planning the date for SoCalAMX's 2nd Annual All AMC Car Show I picked Saturday, May 31st as it fell on the same weekend as the Sunday, June 1, Los Angeles Concours d'Elegance Car Show. I made one phone call to Mark and he jumped at the chance to have his beautiful SC/Rambler displayed in 2 different shows over the same weekend. I informed the Concourse official about Mark's decision and was told I could also display my car in the show as they had several empty slots to fill.

So on Sunday morning I drove my AMX over to the Rose Bowl, got my goodie bag, and discovered Mark was already there enthusiastically



shinning up his SC/Rambler. Mark's family showed up later and we had a great day perusing all the great cars there. It was an all around great day, and weekend for sure. Thank you Mark for making the trip over here.

Mark Fletcher, by the way, is President of the "Cactus Cruisers," an AMO Chartered club in the Phoenix area. Mark is leading the early planning stages of the 2011 AMO International Convention which will be held in Sedona, AZ. I mention this here so you can keep it in the back of your mind to attend the show when it comes around. We will want to have a large presence there representing Southern California AMC owners!

SoCalAMX Member Spotlight

The Member Spotlight is a segment each month to focus on one of the SoCalAMX members so all of the members can get to better know each other. For the first month I picked Bob Martinez from Fillmore, CA to share himself and car with the others. Here is what he had to say.. Mark Melvin, Editor

Bob Martinez:

I have owned my 1970 AMX since 1980, after wrecking a 1968 4-speed AMX. I also owned a beautiful 1970 Javelin, 390 with ram-air in college (UCLA.) I was a member of the old So. Cal.



JavAMX club with David Simon and Charles Simpson. I'm the 3rd owner of my car and had it painted Viper Blue. The interior has been repainted and upholstered. I added Flomaster mufflers for rugged sound. Sold the original 390 to Mountain Moron in Colorado.

Still living in Fillmore, Ventura County. Teaching Spanish for Fillmore High School and ESL for Ventura College. Enjoy working on my car. Next project: replace the rear leaf springs. Only lasted 4 years from Eaton Springs.

Hobbies: Cycling, photography, hiking, and catamaran sailing (own two boats: Prindle 18-2 and a British Dart.) Attend local car shows (Santa Paula, Moorpark, Channel Islands, and Route 66 in Canyon County.

I am planning on driving to the Las Vegas Reunion in November. AMX Experience: Traveling up to Pismo Beach and being passed by 20 newer model Corvettes on a car club run and having one of them honk at me and give me the "thumbs up!" upon passing me"! Hope to have more AMC people join our club and plan a nice cruise up the coast, maybe Cambria, Morro Bay?

2009

ALL AMC CAR SHOW

I am pleased to announce at an early date that the 2009 West Coast All AMC Car Show, to be hosted by So-CalAMX.net, will be held next year on the weekend of May 23-24, 2009. The venue will be the same as this past year's show, the Wally Parks Motorsports Museum, also known as the NHRA Museum.

I heard only good comments about the museum this year which led me to consider it again for next year. Mark your calendars now! With so much time to prepare for next year's show it will only be bigger and better! Mark Melvin..

On Tom Dulaney's web site there is interesting info about an AMX project in the works. Check it out.. The following is from Tom..

Tim Burton is building a road race AMX on a level that has never been done before. I have been deep into the AMC hobby for over 20 years and have never seen a car on this level. Thumper in Colorado is the only AMX that is even close.

Check out the NASCAR Cup suspension with floating rear axles, serious speeds possible with a setup like this. Dave Ward of Precision Welding is a second generation welder and a master craftsman of high speed iron.

In addition to creating this work of rolling art, he is also the Crew Chief for the Big Red Camaro (www.bigredcamaro.com) and the chassis builder for the AMX/3 reproductions (www.amx390.com).

Article: <http://snipurl.com/wowamx>
Video: <http://snipurl.com/wowamxvid>

DONUT DERELICTS REPORT

Who has been to the Donut Derelicts morning Cruise-In, besides Dave Chick, John Caley, and myself, in Huntington Beach? Last Saturday on July 19 the three of us met there to show off our AMC machines.

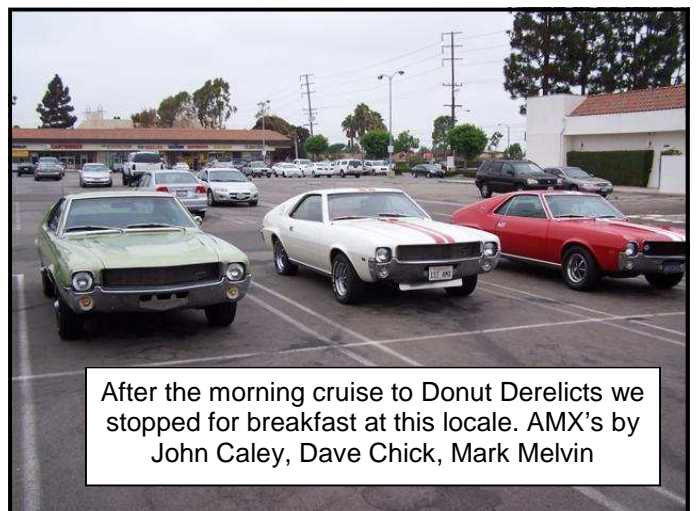
I arrived there before 6am and the parking lot was already $\frac{3}{4}$ full. John arrived just seconds after me with his 68 AMX and we parked our AMX's next to a 70 Javelin that was already there. I forget the gentleman's name but he had his car at this year's All AMC Car Show hosted by SoCalAMX.net.

Dave came a little bit later with his 68 AMX; it seems he needed a few extra Zzzzz's than the rest of us. By 7am an empty parking stall could not be found.

The donuts served up by the shop on the corner of the building are on the large size. I had one of the yummy cinnamon rolls and a dozen donut holes. Can I say yummy again? Okay, yummy! Several large cups of coffee later to wash down the carbs and I was ready to check out the other cars.

This show doesn't last long, by 8am half the cars are gone and after 9am you'll find it only occupied by shoppers of the other stores adjacent to the donut shop. You gotta be an early bird for this one, I hope a few more of you make it to the next one we schedule to attend.

Mark Melvin



MARK'S TECH TIP

Okay, I have a tech tip for everyone. I used to have a problem with oil leaking out from around the harmonic balancer where it goes through the oil seal of the timing chain cover. There's an easy fix to the problem and it sure stopped the leaking on my car. Here is what causes the leak..

What happens over time is that the oil seal wears a small groove on the shaft of the harmonic balancer and oil leaks out from around that point. According to the service manual the seal is supposed to be installed or replaced from the inside out, which requires taking off the timing chain cover and all the front end engine goodies such as the alternator, power steering pump, and radiator.



Some people being lazy or practical, however you look at it, resorted to installing the seal from the outside. If they did so then over time a second groove would start to wear on the harmonic balancer shaft, and oil would leak again.

Here is what you need to do. Go to just about any good auto supply store and ask for a harmonic balancer repair sleeve. It only costs around \$10 or

less and it's simply a stainless steel sleeve that fits over the shaft of the harmonic balancer. Your harmonic balancer will never get another groove on the shaft, and your oil leak will go away.

But there's a secret to installing this simple sleeve. It took us (my uncle and I) two sleeves to figure it out ourselves. Before installing the sleeve put the harmonic balancer in the freezer for 30 minutes, and put the stainless steel sleeve in the sun for the same length of time. The balancer will contract, and the sleeve will expand, just enough so that the sleeve will slip onto the shaft with little force.



All that is left to do is reinstall the harmonic balancer through the timing chain cover. You can install the new seal on the

inside or outside, it works both ways. The only way that it can start to leak again is if over time the seal gets old and hard. But you won't have a leak from a groove in your harmonic balancer.

Last summer I drove my AMX 1010 miles to Denver for the 2008 AMO Convention and didn't have a drop of oil on the front of the oil pan area when I returned home. Good stuff!

Mark Melvin

Las Vegas AMC Reunion Show

It's sneaking up on us, the 3rd annual Las Vegas AMC Reunion hosted by the Southern Nevada AMC Club, run by Mark Ogulnick. The date for this year's show is one week later than last year's show, pushing it into November on the 7th and 8th. That will hopefully result in weather being a degree or two cooler, not that last year's temperature was too hot.



<http://www.sunbeltcars.com/>

On Friday of the show there is a planned trip to tour the Sunbelt Auto Collection in Las Vegas. This is one of the finest auto collections in the country with over 300 cars on display in two buildings.

Already SoCalAMX has word of several drivers who are planning on joining the caravan of AMC's

to Vegas on Friday, November 7th, which include, but are not limited to; Dave & Kati Chick-68 AMX, Bob Martinez-70 AMX, John Caley-68 AMX, Steve Fox-68 AMX, and myself, Mark Melvin-69 AMX. What about others?

You have barely three months left to make plans to go. The show fee is \$25, the gas cost is who knows how much, but as of Sunday, July 27 it was starting to come down a little bit. And the hotel cost isn't too high, around \$65 per night I think. So here you go, here's the information to sign up and help make this AMC road trip one to remember! Send in your registration forms to Mark Ogulnick now!

AMC Reunion Car Show Site:
<http://snamc.amcrc.com/carshow.html>

Hacienda Hotel Reservation Number:
800-245-6380
Mention the AMC show for reduced rates.

FREE! FREE! FREE!

I hope that grabbed your attention. The new SoCalAMX.net monthly newsletter has a nominal cost of \$0.00 per issue due to the availability of Internet delivery. If you have problems downloading the newsletter I will make arrangements with you to send a copy via the United States Post Office, for a small fee to cover postage.

The newsletter is published in the Adobe .pdf format because it can be viewed across all computer platforms such as Windows, Mac, and Linux. You can always download the most current version of Adobe Reader (ver. 9 currently) at their web site (adobe.com). Sometimes if you're having a problem viewing a .pdf document installing a fresh copy of Adobe will cure your problem. Adobe's new ver. 9 Reader seems to load much faster than past versions, but be informed the download is about 33 meggy bites!

The newsletter is available for downloading at www.socalamx.net/newsletter. All back issues will be available as they are published monthly. If you have received a notice for this newsletter and wish to be taken off simply email me at editor@socalamx.net and I'll get you off the list promptly.

By myself this month I came up with a lot of articles for the first newsletter. Just think how busy I'll be if articles are submitted to me, by you, members of SoCalAMX? Send all submissions, pictures and text, to editor@socalamx.net and I'll do my best with them. The deadline for the following month's newsletter is the 15th of the current month.

Mark Melvin,
SoCalAMX Newsletter Editor

CAN WE TALK?

Although SoCalAMX has been together for seven years now, it has really languished for the past several years, ever since we lost one of our favorite meeting spots, Fuddruckers in Pasadena. The most important factor in keeping us together over the years has been communication, which for the most part has been the Yahoo Groups email list; and it has worked well for the most part.

To try and pull our AMC group together again I am trying several things simultaneously. One is this new monthly newsletter where upcoming events, shows, cruises, and anything else can be communicated to the whole group. The second thing is the Forum on SoCalAMX's web site that I installed several months ago but haven't really promoted yet to the group. The link to it is on the main SoCalAMX.net web site. I'm working on adding new topics to it and looking for moderators for some areas. Check it out!

So there you are, we have three tools to help us communicate with each other, to help bring us together at car shows, cruises, and meetings; the new Newsletter, Yahoo Groups, and the Forum. But any or all of them together are worthless if there is no participation. I did not start SoCalAMX to be about me, it is about us!

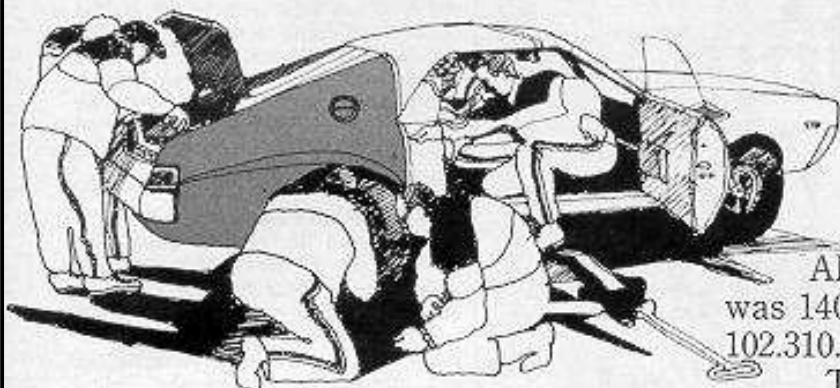
So please tell me what you like, or dislike about SoCalAMX. But let's talk and make it better, don't you agree? I love sharing my AMC, but it's not as much fun doing it alone. I prefer my AMC friends to be there with me.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you and seeing you at an upcoming "SoCalAMX Gathering!"

Mark Melvin



Mr. and Mrs. Breedlove went for a nice, long, Sunday drive in an AMX.



They drove right into Monday and 3,380 miles later they broke 77 speed records.

On Thursday and Saturday they came back and broke 13 more records.

And on the following Tuesday, they broke 16 more. All in all the Breedloves set

a total of 106 records in the 1968 AMX.

90 Class C records were broken (with a modification of the standard AMX 290 CID engine bored out to 304 CID).

That's every record in the book from 25 kilometers to 5,000 kilometers. From 1 hour to 24 hours. From standing starts and flying starts.

Here's just one to be specific: in Class C the

AMX's average speed for 24 hours was 140.790 m.p.h. The old mark was 102.310.

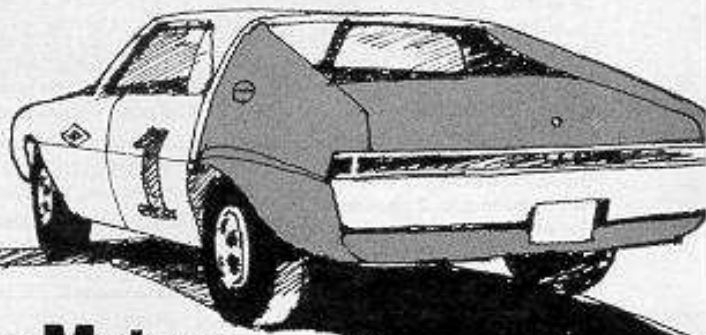
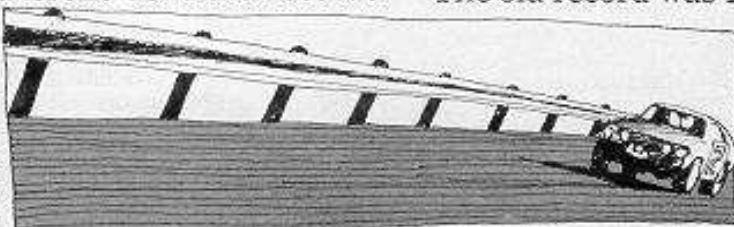
The AMX also broke 16 records in Class B (with a modification of the optional 390 CID engine bored out to 397 CID).

For 1,000 kilometers standing start the AMX averaged 156.548 m.p.h. The old record was 148.702.

For 75 miles flying start it averaged 174.295 m.p.h. The old record was 172.160.

Every record set by the specially prepared and modified AMX's was sanctioned by USCA and FIA.

And this is just the beginning.



American Motors

Ambassador • Rebel • Rambler American • Javelin • And the new AMX