



SOCALAMX CALENDAR

23rd Annual Burger Run

January 9th, 2010

Vista, CA

<http://www.burgerrun.info/>

Grand National Roadster Show

January 31, 2010

LA County Fair Grounds, Pomona

<http://www.rodshows.com/gnrs/>

Join SoCalAMX so you can automatically receive updates and details of events listed above.

Go to socalamx.net/join.htm

Check out
"socalcarculture.com"
for listings of shows in S. Cal!

Vegas Report

Stupendous, shocking, beyond belief, astonishing, remarkable, wonderful, incredible, marvelous, miraculous, mind-blowing, mind-boggling, colossal, out of this world! These are all words to describe the fun weekend SoCalAMX had in Las Vegas at the 4th annual Las Vegas AMC Reunion car show, hosted by the Southern Nevada AMC Club. As a club we collectively ended up winning 4 awards, including "Best of Show," won by John Caley! But I'm getting the cart before the horse and will start at the beginning on Friday, November 6, 2009.

Friday morning was an early wake up call for everyone. There were several smaller convoys that merged into one big convoy in Victorville

John Caley's 1968 AMX wins "Best Of Show" at the 2009 Las Vegas AMC Reunion!!!

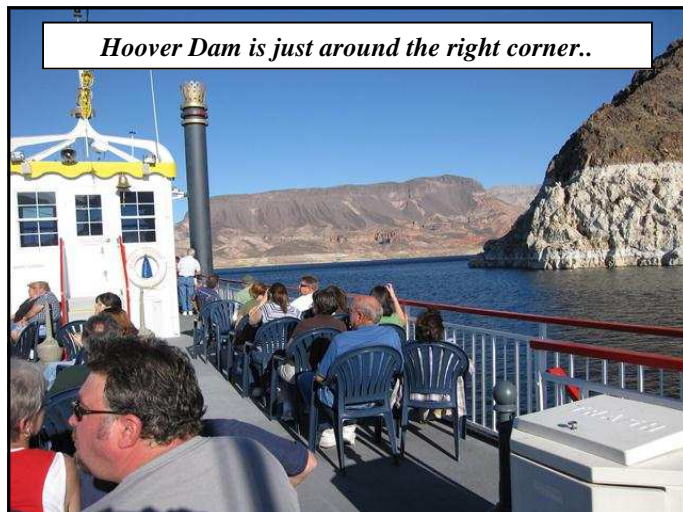


AMC crew ready to leave Baker for Las Vegas!



around 8am. Meeting up at McDonalds for breakfast, along with myself in my 69 AMX, was Dave and Kati Chick in a 68 AMX, Steve Fox in a 68 AMX, Bob Martinez in a 70 AMX, Richard White in a 68 AMX, Stacy Thompson in a 72 Ambassador Wagon, John Caley pulling his 68 AMX on a trailer, and John Siciliano pulling his 69 AMX behind his motor home.

It was a pleasurable sight to see 8 AMCs motoring down the highway as we left Victorville for Baker, where we planned to refuel. After everyone topped off their tanks and emptied their bladders, we jumped back on I-15 for our destination, Railroad Pass Hotel, which is offi-



Hoover Dam is just around the right corner..

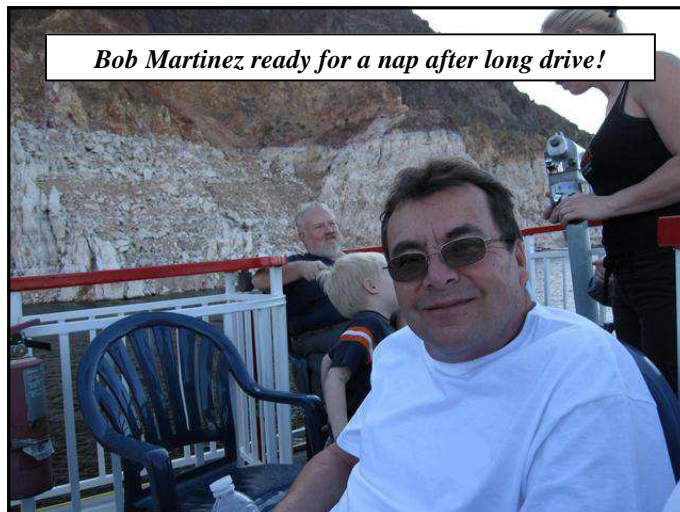
cially located in Henderson, NV, although one would think it's actually in Boulder City. Half-way there, as we pulled off I-15 to cut over the hills to Searchlight, we got word from Bob Martinez that he had stopped with Richard White, whose electric fuel pump had died. Fortunately Rich had a spare pump and was back on the road in less than an hour of repairs.

Eventually everyone made it to the host hotel by noon, and soon afterwards we were in another, even bigger AMC convoy, as we headed



Dave & Kati Chick are a bit giddy about something..

to the shores of Lake Mead for a Paddle Boat tour of the lake, and a somewhat up-close inspection of Boulder/Hoover Dam. A new



Bob Martinez ready for a nap after long drive!

bridge is being built over the river's gorge and it was impressive to see it loom over the dam. It was a relaxing afternoon to sit on top of the boat's upper deck, take in the natural surroundings, and down some refreshing drinks.

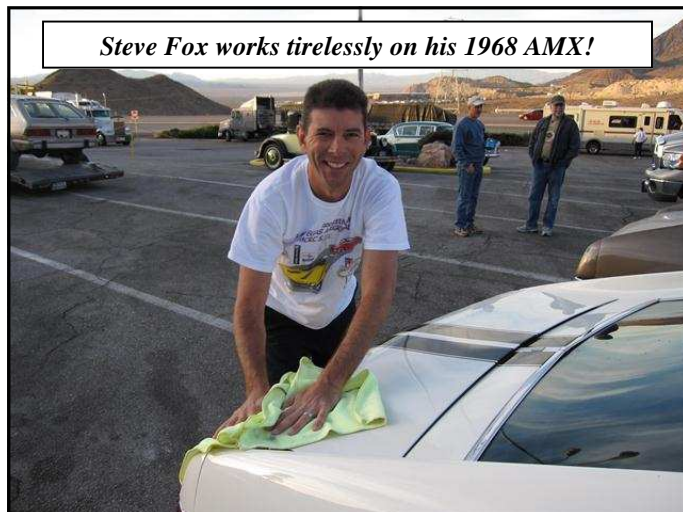
If the boat tour wasn't enough, the AMC crew putting on the weekend's show even had a bar-b-q picnic that evening! There was a lot of food to go around and no one left hungry, at least not me! The bar-b-q cooker was going non-stop for a long time cooking up hamburgers, brats, and hot dogs. There was potato salad, macaroni salad, chips with dip, baked beans, cookies, and more. Well done, and kudos to Mark Ogulnick, president of the SNAMC



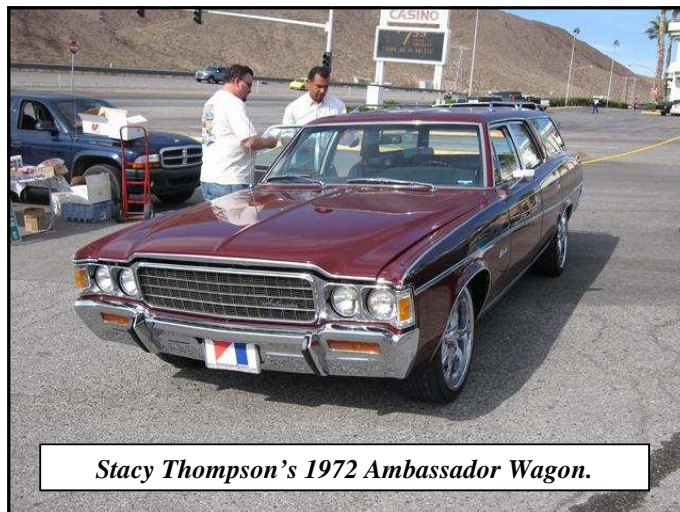
A nice summer-like afternoon..

AMC club, and his members, for pulling out all the stops to make this feast one to remember!

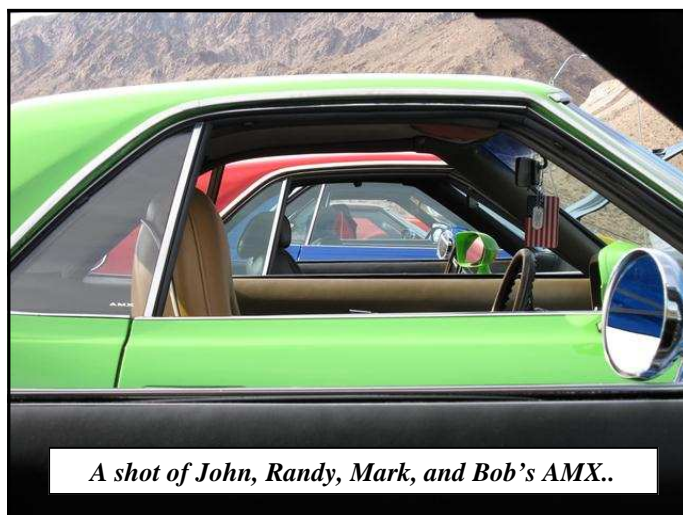
Saturday morning arrived early, as it always does it seems. I was out to my car before 6am to clean my car, and Steve Fox was only min-



Steve Fox works tirelessly on his 1968 AMX!



Stacy Thompson's 1972 Ambassador Wagon.



A shot of John, Randy, Mark, and Bob's AMX..



Dave Chick's 1968 AMX.

utes behind me to wash his. As the sun crept up from behind the hills to the east, people started to trickle out of the hotel and saunter over to the vehicle display area and prepare for the day's festivities. There ended up being around 54 cars in the show this year, almost double the number from last year. Once again,

kudos to Mark Ogulnick, for doing a great job promoting his show this year.

Around mid-day, when myself, and I think a



The AMC Show Field at Railroad Pass Hotel.



John Siciliano, King of Bar-b-q'ing!

few of the others from our club, were thinking about what to do for lunch, all of a sudden we got word to assemble at John Siciliano's motor

home for lunch. What? You're kidding, right? Sweet deal! Wow! I was amazed that John and his wonderful wife Shelly had stocked up their



SoCalAMX crew chowing down at lunch!

motor home's food pantry, and was able to feed all of the SoCalAMX members, around 20 people or so, including Doug Noel and Jeff Kennedy. John had his bar-b-q fired up cooking up burgers and brats, a repeat of the bar-b-q the night before. John & Shelly, thank you so much for surprising us as you did—you deserve an award!



*John and Shelly Siciliano.
Have motor home, will travel!
Comfortably!*

After much picture taking and gabbing between AMC faithful everyone headed inside for the awards ceremony. There were many trophies awarded, all to very deserving car owners. SoCalAMX, as a club, was elated and honored to win a total of 4 awards. First was Stacy Thompson, his 72 Ambassador won 1st place for '56-'78 Mid-Size/Full-Size. Then Randy Kirby and his BBG 70 AMX won 1st

place for the 68-70 AMX class. Next was Steve Fox and his 68 AMX winning 2nd place in the 68-70 AMX class. Finally, in a stunning announcement, but deserved win, John Caley was called up to the stage to accept the "Best of Show" trophy for his bare bones stock, original, clean, survivor, 1968 AMX.

The four winners and their hardware made for a nice photo opportunity at the conclusion of the awards presentation. Talk about Happy



Stacy, John, Steve, and Randy—Winners!

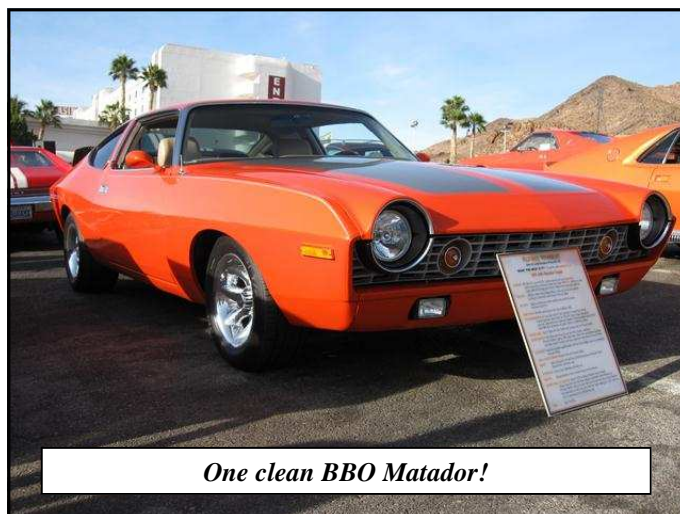
Campers, eh? It was at this time Stacy Thompson invited everyone to his room for a cocktail party/happy hour—before dinner buffet. As the drink supply decreased, the laughter in-



creased. We had a grand time talking and joking about the awards just won, and the fun time we had all day long. Let's do it again—soon!



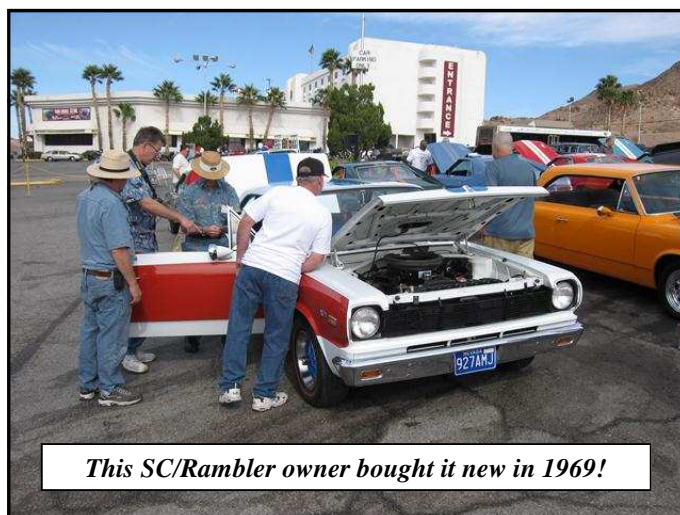
Stacy Thompson, leading the pack home.



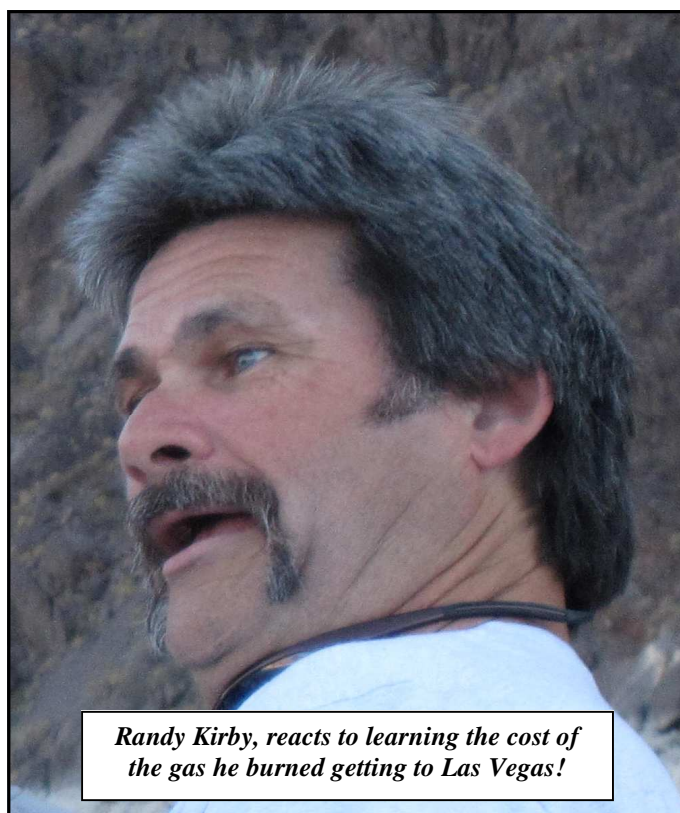
One clean BBO Matador!

As usual the weekend's end came too quick. By 9am we were rolling south down the highway, through Vegas, towards Baker, Barstow and home. The SNAMC club that put on this show did a classy job. They will have to work really hard next year to top their own show—and I hope they succeed! In turn, SoCalAMX has their work cut out for them to make the May 22, 2010 AMC Show better than last year—and we will succeed!

Mark Melvin
1969 AMX



This SC/Rambler owner bought it new in 1969!

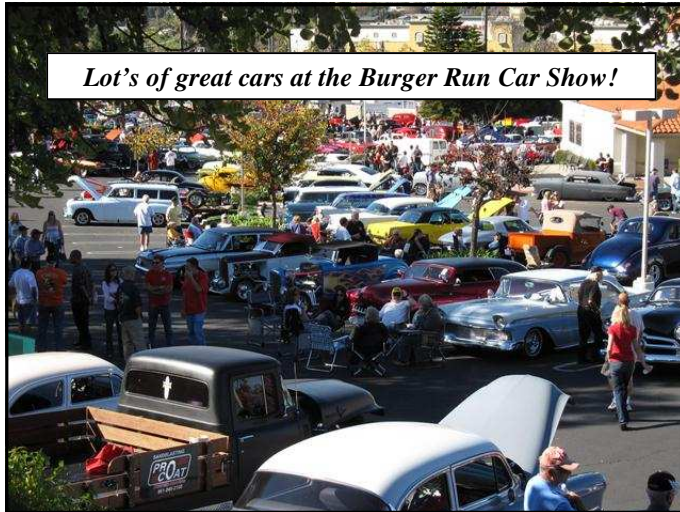


Randy Kirby, reacts to learning the cost of the gas he burned getting to Las Vegas!



BURGER RUN 2010!

Last year SoCalAMX attended the Burger Run for the first time. We had 10 cars there with first timer Stacy Thompson showing up in his immaculate 72 Ambassador Wagon. This show is worth returning to with over 400 cars



Lot's of great cars at the Burger Run Car Show!



Hand made trophies—Spray Gun for “Best Paint”



Best Top Down Trophy—for Best Convertible..

to look at and keep us busy. A neat aspect of the show is the unique trophies awarded to the winners. Each one is hand crafted and one of a kind, as you'll see in the pictures here.

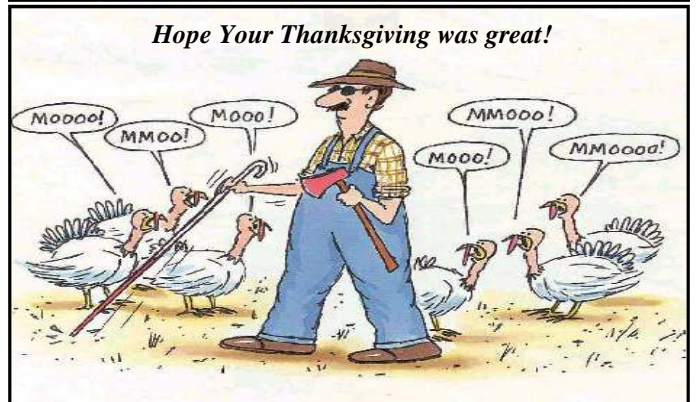
Last year after the show we went to Tom Dulaney's house for a bar-b-q, which we will more than likely do again after January's show. Links to the show are on the web site at so-cal-amx.net. Click on the “Calendar” link.

Mark Melvin

1969 AMX



SoCalAMX Photo-Op last year at Burger Run..



Remember, when working on your cars, Safety First!

GRAND NATIONAL ROADSTER SHOW

Last year I attended the Grand National Roadster Show for the first time with Dave and Kati



Chick. I had heard of this show for a time but had never attended. Wow, what a wakeup call!

It took 8 hours to walk through all of the buildings and see the cars and exhibits. There was a lot of wild stuff to see for sure, as you can tell in the pictures.

For the \$30 fee you get entry passes for two



people, and park your AMC car inside the gates and are part of the outdoor car show. If you drive your non-AMC car to the show it'll



cost \$20 per person plus \$9 to park outside, for a total of \$49. As you can see in the last picture there is only Dave and I in the group shot. I hope we will see a bunch more AMCs in



next year's GNRS show.

I recommend you send your \$30 in early and ensure you get a spot as the entry form says they are limited to 450 cars. The day to go is Sunday, January 31, 2010, because it is ten bucks cheaper than Saturday.

For the early birds on the day of the show we can meet at Norm's Café at Brackett Airport for breakfast just down the road. As usual, check the Calendar page at socalamx.net for links to information and entry forms.

Mark Melvin

1969 AMX

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

"John Caley"

Well, I thought that since I now have a trophy, I could be the Member Spotlight for December. I was born on December 3rd in Stockton, the younger of two sons. I had a terrific childhood! Father was a science teacher and mom stayed at home. They built me an airplane to play on and I guess created a yearning for the sky. Most of my childhood I had a wonderful dog named Snoopy. Earned my pilot license, was a band geek, and in the high school TV department. I worked at Jolly's Bait Shop when I was in Jr. High and then Swenson's Ice Cream during High School. I became a professional photographer in my Junior and Senior years. But I wanted to fly so here I go to college and start my pilot career.

I attended San Jose State, graduated with a BS in Aeronautical Engineering, a 2nd Lieutenant butter bar from ROTC in 1988, and a pilot slot to attend Undergraduate Pilot Training. I spent time working for an Aviation Accident investigation firm, Intel chip maker, and selling LORAN C navigation units



before going to Beautiful Del Rio, Texas, Laughlin Air Force Base. The spot to be for the next 12 months—flight school. Thirty-five guys who studied the art of flying, morning, noon, and night. Two hops a day, damn near every day. The most stress I've ever endured. Within a week you could have a Dixie cup stuck on your head and been cleaning latrines for your next assignment if you failed to perform. Fortunately I was successful, of the 35 who started the program, only 15 completed. One not so lucky guy was in one of the helicopters shot down in Northern Iraq several years later. Well, off to Castle AFB for B-52 training. Six more months there, finished with Water (Florida) and Land (Seattle) Survival Schools. Then off to Eaker AFB, Arkansas. After more local training there, Iraq invaded Kuwait, and off to England in our BUFF's.

The BUFF mission was a long one, usually 8-16 hours or more. I completed 8 combat sorties over Iraq, raining Hell from above. More than half the missions were over the flaming oil fires Saddam started. I was awarded the Air Medal and various others during the fight. Missions there were over 24 hours long. Arriving back in the states, the wonderful BRAC commission closed my base and my next assignment was the E-3 AWACS in Oklahoma City. That is a whole new ball game Headquarters style—and I thought Arkansas sucked! I now got to watch Iraq from the small patch of ground called Saudi Arabia in the South and Turkey from the North. I spent nine months of the next seven years deployed to those garden spots. I separated after ten years of active duty service. I salute all who have served. I have for the last ten years worked for Delta Air Lines, as a Flight Engineer in the B-727, now as a First Officer on the B-757 and B-767.

Now that I have introduced myself, back to square one. My family had up to my birth, owned a 1957 Mercury Turnpike in red and white, and a 1965 Chrysler 300J in Grey. In 1968, my mom spotted a little car called an AMX. She purchased it from Weil Motor in Manteca, as a surprise for my Dad (did I mention he was a Marine during WWII)! The following year Dad bought a 69 Dodge Charger in Green with R/T white stripes, because we needed four seats, and he wanted a huge motor!

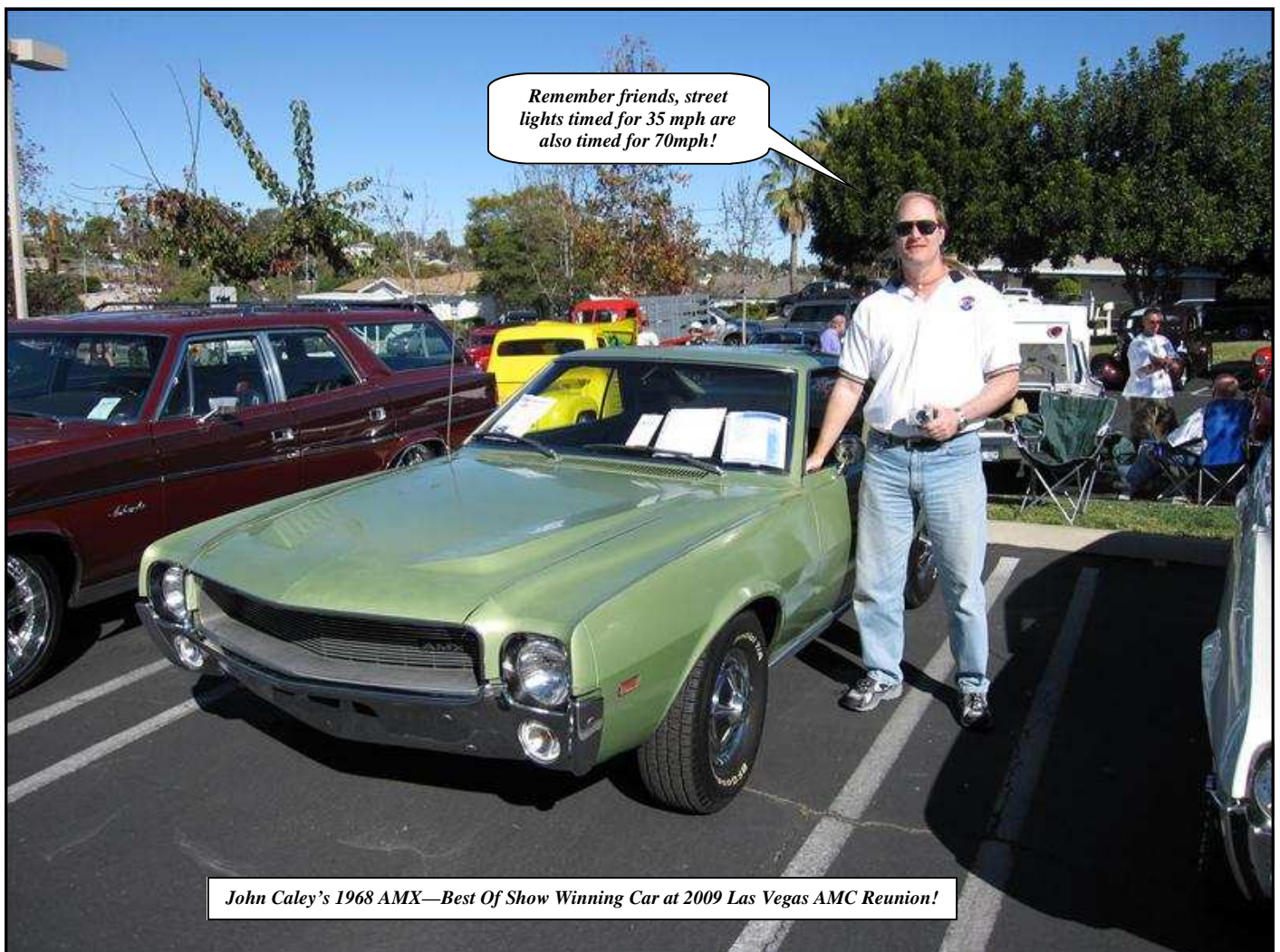
Mom was a stickler for maintenance on those cars. I have the records, on which she used to mention just how she felt about several of the local mechanics and shops the cars went to. Shall we say colorful words?? Well, I spent quite a few runs sitting in the back holding on to the shoulder harnesses. During my high school years there were many a Camero and Nova that were put in their place by the "Green Machine!" My older brother told me that he also put away a few ponies!

From the time I left home to go to school, and serve my country, mom told me she had a slew of



offers to buy the AMX. I told her not to sell and I'm so thankful she never did. Especially since attending the Las Vegas AMC Show. Those who were unable to attend may not realize that the SOCAL AMX club took home four awards. I could not have dreamed of a better show to spend with all my friends when my car was honored as Best of Show! Thanks to all of you who celebrated with me!

Merry Christmas...I already have my gift!



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Which is probably why people who've never bought a car from us before are buying one now.

BURGER RUN

Best Trophies in all the land!

January 9th 2010

Pepper Tree Frosty
Vista, CA

23rd Annual

Largest 1 day
pre '72ⁿ Carshow
In San Diego County
Even More Parking
This Year



Check us out on our web site at www.burgerrun.info

Pepper Tree Frosty

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ENTRY FEE INCLUDES T-SHIRT & DASH PLAQUE

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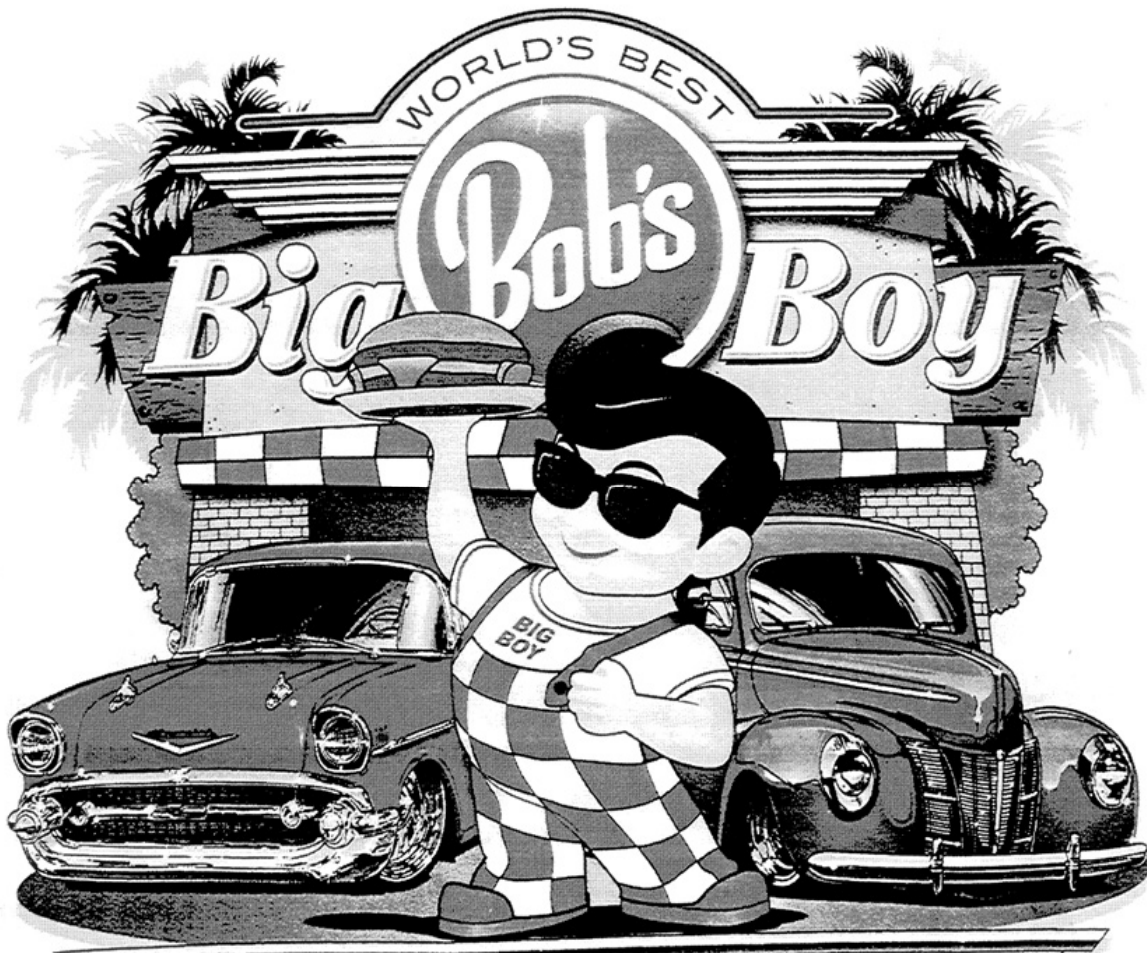
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2nd Sunday

4pm to 7pm

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Vincent Ave. off the 10 fwy



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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 markmel@socalamx.net and I'll get you off the list promptly.

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 markmel@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

SUPPORT YOUR NEWSLETTER

Writers are needed to help support this AMC newsletter. I welcome submissions from each of you who attend the events we go to each month.

You don't need to be a super writer or own a wiz bang word processor program. All you have to do is just send me a simple email as your article text and I'll do all the formatting and spell checking for you.

Please do attach pictures to your email if you have them!

Member Spotlight

Now is your chance to be famous! We need volunteers for the monthly "Member Spotlight" article in the newsletter. All you have to do is give up some information on yourself and your car that you think might be fun for the others to read about.

It's easy to do, just go to <http://socalamx.net/memberspotlight.htm> and use the online form to send me the goods. Please send a few photos in addition to mark@socalamx.net to use along with your information about you and your car.

To get an idea of what exactly to say read a few of the recent newsletters for the Member Spotlight articles in them. Go to socalamx.net and click on Newsletter.