



SoCal amx.net

www.socalamx.net/newsletter

Official Monthly Publication of SoCalAMX

Vol. 2 Issue 6—Jan. 2010

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/>

9th Annual Cactus Classic

April 9-11, 2010
Phoenix, AZ
socalamx.net/flyers/CactusClassic.pdf

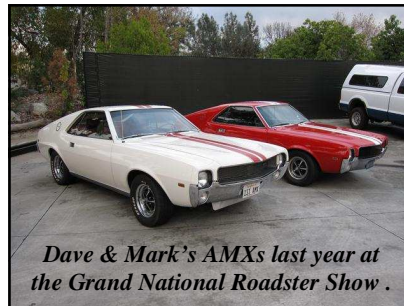
2010 AMCRC National Show

June 25-27
Sacramento, CA
socalamx.net/flyers/AMCRC2010.pdf

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!

Wowzy, wow! It's already 2010 and the upcoming events for the new year are quickly upon us, such as the Burger Run Car Show in Vista next weekend on Saturday, January 9, and the Grand National Roadster Show at the LA County Fairplex on the last Sunday of this month, on the 31st. I've signed up for both so you'll see me there and I hope you can join me.



Dave & Mark's AMXs last year at the Grand National Roadster Show.

For more particulars on each of these events you can go to the socalamx.net web site and visit the Calendar page where there are links to entry forms and more. The Burger

Run Show is unique for its custom trophies, and the Grand National Roadster Show is impressive for its sheer volume of amazing custom cars. Even if you've been to one or the other previously, I know you'll want to join the other AMC'ers attending these two special events.

As always, we will finalize details for meeting up on those days via our Yahoo Groups message system. See you there!

Mark Melvin
1969 AMX

SOCALAMX CAR SHOW 2010 NEWS FLASH!

Preparations are under way for the 4th Annual SoCalAMX Car Show known as the "West Coast All AMC Car Show."

The date has been set for Saturday, May 22, 2010, the weekend before Memorial Day. The location is the same as last year, the NHRA Museum in Pomona.

Stay tuned here for more information in the future as details develop. Mark your calendar!



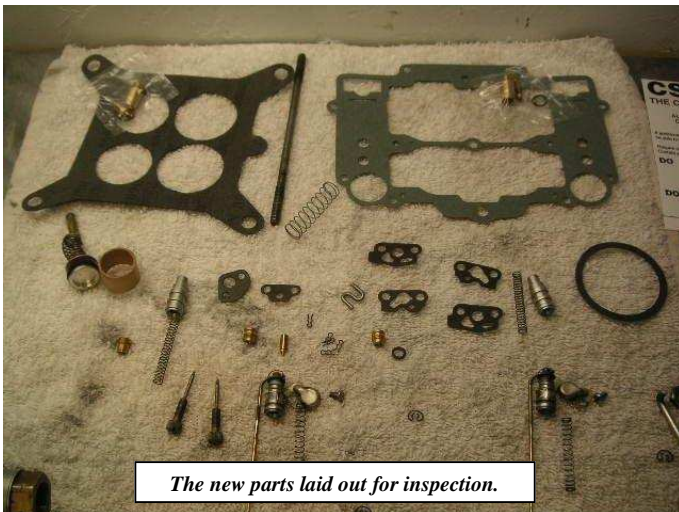
The SoCalAMX'ers at "Burger Run 2009"

CARTER AFB

CARBURETOR CONDITIONING

Last October an experienced car buddy and I set out to overhaul the carb on my 1968 AMX. This carburetor isn't just any old carb--it's a carb that would've come on the '68 AMX, at least in terms of the model number (Carter AFB, #4583). In case you didn't know, the "AFB" in Carter AFB means "aluminum four barrel." I found the overhaul kit at <http://www.thecarburetorshop.com/Kamc2.htm>. You might be able to find an overhaul kit for your vintage carburetor through your local auto parts store, but Napa didn't appear to carry it and this kit appeared more complete than the other kits I found online.

Anyhow, getting back to the why's of this story, I recently noticed an acceleration hesitation at low speeds. With today's lower-quality gas (ie. more alcohol) and concern about how the carb was

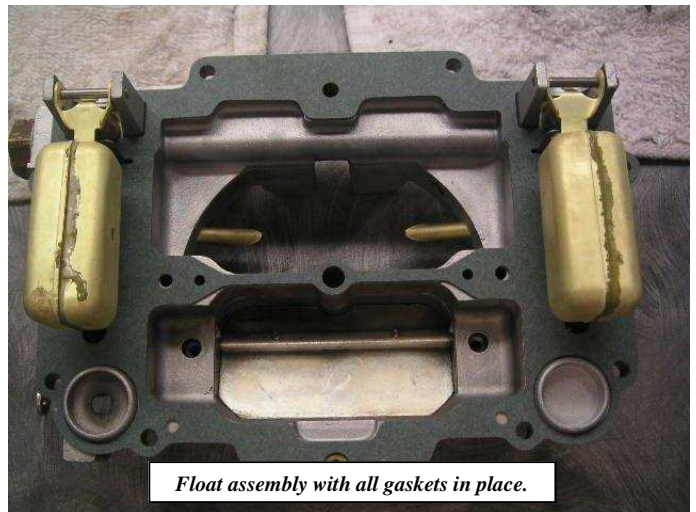


performing, I decided to bug my friend Jerry about helping me overhaul the carb. I was squeamish about doing this myself, as I've heard horror stories about carb overhauls "gone wild," and the resulting mess not working nearly as good as before the process. Jerry graciously offered his garage space, tools, and expertise and away we went. Jerry isn't just any car guy--he's extremely familiar with Carter carbs, having overhauled them many dozens of times during his drag racing career, from the 1960's through the present (see <http://www.kellerrace.com/main.html>).

We met on a Sunday morning in early October 2009 and began the overhaul process. First, Jerry offered a nice, large workspace to

work with in his garage and we spread out all of the replacement parts before beginning to tear apart the carb (see figure 2726). When one assembly/area was taken out of the carb, its replacement parts were immediately matched up to the old parts, ensuring that nothing was different. Actually, it wasn't that difficult, as we took our time to do the R and R. All parts were sprayed with carb cleaner, although I'm sure you could use a metal pan and parts bucket with carb solution.

After cleaning, all parts were air dried with compressed air, ensuring that no dirt was left in any of the passageways. I was taught one particular trick--a check ball was hidden in the casting and I learned not to forget about it. Sure enough, the accelerator pump looked a bit grungy, so that item may have been the issue after all. After the carb was reassembled (the choke was left untouched, as it's not currently being used), it was



bolted back onto the intake manifold and the air/fuel mixture adjustment screws were screwed back in the same number of turns it took to remove them. The car started right up and with a little bit more adjustment, the car ran fantastic. On a test run of acceleration, the hesitation was completely gone and I swear I picked up another five percent more horsepower! My gas mileage improved, too, from about 11 to 14 (steady high-way speed).

So, you, too, can do your own carb overhaul. All it takes are a few tools and lots of patience.

Good luck, *Steve Fox*

CACTUS CLASSIC 2010

I attended the Cactus Classic last year in Phoenix and was the only one representing California. I hope several SoCalAMX'ers can join me this year because it sounds like the Cactus Cruiser's club in



Mark's UNFORD at last year's show.

Phoenix has ramped up the excitement for this year's event.

They're making a weekend out of it from April 9-11 by first hosting a bar-b-q at club president Mark Fletcher's house on Friday night, followed by the main show on Saturday, followed by attendance at a huge local cruise that evening. Sunday morning even has a breakfast scheduled at the host hotel before everyone heads home.

For those who went to Vegas in November for the AMC show there, Phoenix is only a few more hours down the road, and the timing of the show in April means the weather will be fantastic! Who's joining me?



By the way, this is an AMO event which requires AMO membership to attend. This same club is hosting the 2011 AMO National Car

Show in Sedona, AZ, so you might as well get signed up sooner than later if you're going to either of the shows. socalamx.net/flyers/CactusClassic.pdf

Mark Melvin, 1969 AMX

2010 AMCRC National

The AMC Rambler Club is having its national show this year in Sacramento, CA. from June 25 through June 27, 2010 at the California Automotive Museum.

The event is being hosted by the Pacific Gold Ramblers. I have a bunch of pictures from a car



show hosted there several years back and it looks like the AMC/Rambler folk there are doing something right with such large numbers of cars at shows!

I know it's a long drive there, even further than Vegas or Phoenix from the Los Angeles area, but maybe there are a few nuts in our group that might want to make this road trip! Just for your information.

<http://www.pgramblers.org/>

Mark Melvin
1969 AMX



Women of AMC

By: Mary L. Brancato (July, 2002)

It was a very good year, until...

When I was 17, back in 1974, my dad gave me his 10-year-old car after he bought himself a new one. My freedom machine was a 1964 Rambler Ambassador that I named "Rosie." She was a two-tone: maroon over metallic rose. It was the ultimate party car: her seats laid back flat as a mattress; she even had air conditioning and a "Vibratone" speaker system (a trippy kind of reverb for its AM



radio). Anytime my friends and I wanted to cruise, it was unanimous that we took my car. I adored my wondrous automobile. One warm autumn night, about six months after Dad gave me Rosie's keys, I went with my two best friends Linda and Frankie to the drive-in. We brought along our usual supplies – a 12-pack of tallboys. By the time the second feature started, there were a dozen empties bagged up in the back seat. Then a thunderstorm interrupted the movie and it was time to leave. I knew I was in no shape to drive, so I asked Linda to take the wheel. The rain was torrential and Linda's condition was no better than mine. That night, we murdered my beloved car by crashing it into the viaduct between 9th and 11th on Cook Street. Rosie was taken to the junkyard; I was taken to the hospital for reconstructive surgery on my face. I left the hospital looking like the Bride of Frankenstein and my last year of high school wasn't much fun.

The scars on my face ultimately healed, but the scars on my soul never did. Ever since that night, I've mourned the loss of my first car. It became my mission in life to find another 1964 Rambler Ambassador exactly like her. I suppose, in my mind, that car represented my youth – the last of my

carefree years that crashed to a halt along with the car. If I could find another Rosie, I'd be 17 again, and maybe I could convince myself that awful night never happened. For 25 years I scoured classic car magazines and newspaper classifieds in vain. Then, when I discovered cyberspace, I'd spend hours at a time searching for her on the computer. About three years ago, an internet ad caught my eye. A photo showed the driver's side of a 1964 Ambassador stranded on a San Francisco street. Even though the paint was peeling and it couldn't budge from its spot along the curb, I could tell – it was Rosie! I sent the owner \$280, got the title and had the car shipped 2,000 miles to me on a flatbed truck.

I won't tell you how much money I've poured into her so far. For a person who lives from paycheck to paycheck, it's embarrassing. I will say I've made good use of my home equity line of credit. The engine has been rebuilt, the interior vinyl repaired, the dash re-skinned, the bumpers re-chromed, all air conditioning components are new, and her body has been repainted. My to-do list is still two pages long, but we're making progress. At least she runs now and, to me, looks gorgeous. Rosie is back in town!

A family reunion..

This year, 2002, marks the 100th Anniversary of the Rambler. That's a very big deal for those of us who love Ramblers. To commemorate the event, a huge celebration and car show was held July 24-28 in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Kenosha is the birthplace of the Rambler, where the American Motors plant used to be located. Thousands of cars made their way "home" to Kenosha. Some traveled luxuriously on trailers. Others, like Rosie, made it on their own four wheels, a wing and a prayer. On Wednesday (July 24), my friend Bob and I left Springfield, Illinois with a cooler full of soda, Rosie's trunk filled with every kind of car fluid imaginable, and great big grins on our faces. About an hour later, at a truck stop in Bloomington, we were greeted by a Kenosha-bound caravan. We saw license plates representing almost the entire southeast part of the country. Now an Illinois Ambassador joined the procession of Pacers, Gremlins, a Jeep, an AMX, a Rambler Classic, a Rebel and a Rogue. The people were so warmhearted – just like family. When Rosie started leaking transmission fluid and smoking and lurching several hundred miles down the road, everyone pulled off to the highway shoulder and helped. I found out my car had been spewing an oily red mist all over the

Gremlin that followed us the last 50 miles. The driver only smiled and said, "Thank you. I needed a wax job anyway."

We poured transmission fluid in her, made it to the next town and got more fluid and some sealer at an auto parts store. It was amazing how no one was mad that I'd caused a 90-minute delay. In fact, several members of the caravan tried to console me. They related how their cars had forced similar stops – one of them even made the group back-track 250 miles. Another guy vowed they'd never leave me behind. He would have taken his car off his trailer, put mine on and I could have driven his pristine Rambler Classic the rest of the way to Kenosha. It was all for one, and one for all.

The five-day celebration officially opened with a parade of Ramblers, Nashes and AMCs representing virtually all years and models, starting with the first one built in 1902. There were cruises to hamburger joints every night, a 60's music concert, and tours of the Daimler-Chrysler Plant. On Friday there was a huge swap meet where I found a used (no dings!) grille for only \$75. With a little steel wool and elbow grease, Rosie will soon have a shiny new smile. Then, on Saturday July 27, came the big finale – the car show. At least 1,000 automobiles were lined up in rows along the show field – from the adorable little clown-car Metropolitans to the souped-up Javelins. Rosie was competing with a formidable group of Ambassadors built from 1963 to 1969. Bob and I parked her, primped her, and then set out our lawn chairs. People from all walks of life, with nothing in common but a love of these cars, stopped and visited and made us feel like we were all old friends. I talked, smiled and laughed so much my jaw ached.

I was also privileged to meet some former AMC employees: one who may have installed Rosie's engine, the guy who likely wired her electrical system, and a man who probably dressed Rosie up in all her shiny chrome. They let me know how rare she is because of her FM radio, bucket seats, automatic on the console, tilt wheel and power windows. AMC workers used to call this limited model the "Kenosha Cadillac." By now I was so proud – if pride is a deadly sin, I am doomed. Everyone who was a member of the AMC/Rambler car club got to vote for their favorite cars in all the various categories. So many cars stole my heart that day, it was nearly impossible to choose. Of course, I did make sure to vote for Rosie in the "Diamond in the Rough" category – even though she's come a long

way, I know she's still far from perfect. Judges also roamed the field, poked their heads under hoods and wrote secret notes on sheets of paper. That night, Bob and I crashed the awards banquet. We were almost out of money by then and it would have cost us \$50 to attend, so we snuck in late and sat at the bar. We were curious to see which of our new friends would leave Kenosha with trophies. As far as Rosie and I were concerned, the trip was for the adventure – it wasn't about awards. But when they got to our Ambassador category and announced Rosie had won second place, I reacted just like Halle Berry at the Oscars. I couldn't help it. The poor old girl has been through a lot (and so has this poor old girl).

White knuckles around the wheel..

Bob and I took off for home Sunday morning (July 28). Everything went fine until Bloomington, when I noticed smoke pouring out the back – oh boy, here we go again. We stopped at McDonald's and checked the transmission fluid. Empty. We polished off the last of the sealer, topped it with fluid and made tracks out of there. Right before we reached a rest stop just north of Springfield, the smoking resumed, along with the lurching. We turned off at the exit and gave Rosie the last of our fluid supply. I noticed that the drip on the pavement had now become a flow, so we jumped in, floored it and prayed. By the time we got two blocks from my



house, we could only coast. But Rosie, bless her sweet engine, made it to my driveway. I do love that car. She took me to Kenosha in style, showed all pretty and proud, won an award, and then made sure she got me home before she collapsed.

You know, home equity loans are really good to have – you get a much bigger refund at tax time.

Mark my words – someday, Rosie will win first prize. And I will be 17 forever!



Bird's eye view of 2004 Kenosha Show

DOWN THE ROAD UPCOMING SHOWS

As many of you know I drove my 69 AMX from Los Angeles to Saint Louis in the summer of 2009 for the AMO National Car Show. It was a blast and I'm glad I took the time and shouldered the cost of making the trip. Although it was a bunch of fun, it would have been much better to share all the fun with my SoCalAMX friends.

Now is your chance to join me at an even bigger event, and you have lots of time to plan for it and

bler, and AMC cars. Having owned my AMX now for some 33 years I have decided I must make this trip at least once!

July will be a busy month for me in 2011. The first week is the 2011 AMO National Show to be held in Sedona, AZ. And the trip to Kenosha, Wisconsin will take at least two weeks with traveling and show events combined. And then there's an additional event I'm probably going to include in my trip to Kenosha, which is the annual Oshkosh Air Show only 2 hours away on opposite weekends.

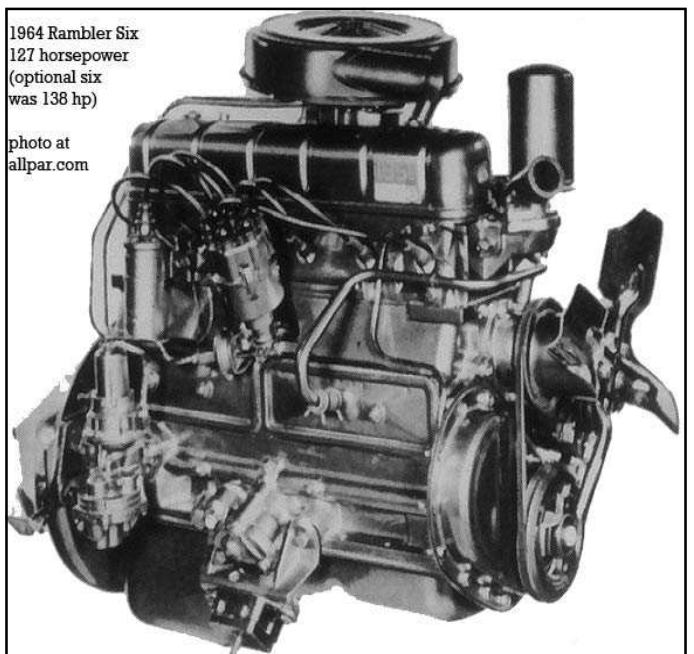
It's going to be a great month, and I hope many of you join me—at the very least for the 2011 AMO National in Sedona. Start planning now!



Ground view of 2002 Kenosha Show. Wow!

save up for it. It's the Kenosha Homecoming 2011 Car Show planned for July of 2011. Kenosha is the place where our AMC cars were made, and this show is a gathering to bring the cars home for a reunion. It is expected over 500 cars will make the pilgrimage to the Mecca of Nash, Hudson, Ram-

Mark Melvin



1964 Rambler Six
127 horsepower
(optional six
was 138 hp)

photo at
allpar.com

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

270 So. Sante Fe Ave, Vista, Ca

ENTRY FEE INCLUDES T-SHIRT & DASH PLAQUE

PRE '72 CARS 8 A.M. - 1 P.M.

PRE-ENTRY JAN. 5th - \$10.00 OR \$15.00 AT THE SHOW

MAIL ENTRY TO JOE FREE, 1530 LINDA VISTA, SAN MARCOS, CA 92078

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(RAIN DATE JANUARY 16TH 2010 ----- Make checks payable to Joe Free

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Please detach before mailing

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ YEAR & MAKE OF CAR _____

SIGNATURE: _____ CLUB: _____

T-Shirts Size M - L - XL - XXL - XXXL Your Phone Number _____

ALL ENTRANTS HEREBY RELEASE AND DISCHARGE PEPPERTREE, FROSTY AND JOE FREE FROM ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN DAMAGES, INJURIES, LOSSES OR CLAIMS THAT MAY OCCUR DURING THIS EVENT.

XX

Make History At The 5th Annual Grand Daddy "Drive-In"

Happening at the 61th Annual Grand National Roadster Show



**Hundreds of Vehicles, Live Bands,
Special Awards, Magazine Picks,
AND Free Admission to the Main Show!**

"The Grand Daddy of Them All!"

GRAND NATIONAL ROADSTER SHOW



Saturday, Jan. 30 & Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010 at 8:30AM

VIP Parking/Participation on the show grounds open to Pre-1970 Hot Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars and Trucks. No Motorcycles please. \$40.00 per vehicle includes driver, one guest, dash plaque, and goody bag. Plaque and bag for Pre-Registered vehicles only. \$60.00 per vehicle if registered for both days. Sorry no refunds. All participants get admission into the GNRS show buildings during show hours.

Make-In Gate will open at 8:30AM. All vehicles must be parked by 9:30AM. Family fun area gates will open at 9:30AM sharp. Vehicles not inside the gates at this time will not be allowed into the event. Driver and designated passenger must enter event inside their vehicle. The show opens to the public at 10:00AM. Vehicles may leave the grounds at 5:00PM once cleared safe by the Fairplex Security Staff.

Enter the Fairplex grounds at Gate 1 (NHRA Museum lot) located off of McKinley Avenue. Proceed towards the check-in point at the south end of the NHRA Museum. (See Map)

EVENT WILL HAPPEN RAIN OR SHINE! - Sorry no refunds. Live bands all day. Car magazine and Award picks at 4:00PM on Saturday and 3:00PM on Sunday at the center courtyard.

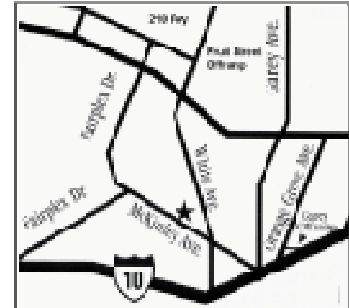
NO OVERNIGHT PARKING. NO COOLERS, NO ALCOHOL, NO PETS ALLOWED.

Space is limited to 450 vehicles each day. Pre-Registration is highly recommended.

For updated space availability please call 1-877-763-7466 and enter Ext. 6.

Vehicle Registration must arrive in our office by January 15, 2010, as credentials will be mailed to you.

Each entry must include one photograph or color copy of the vehicle. (Not returnable)



THIS EVENT WILL SELL OUT SO REGISTER EARLY!

Visit www.RODSHOWS.com or call 877-ROD-SHOWS Ext. 6 for more details!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

2010 Grand Daddy "Drive-In" Vehicle Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-Mail _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Vehicle Year _____ Make _____ Model _____ Color _____

Signature _____ Date _____

ALL ENTRIES MUST INCLUDE ONE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE VEHICLE

PLEASE CHECK WHICH DAY(S) YOU WANT TO SHOW YOUR VEHICLE

\$40 - Saturday
Jan. 30th, 2010

\$30 - Sunday
Jan. 31th, 2010

\$60 - Both Days

TOTAL INCLUDED

\$ _____

By signing this form, you agree to the conditions and the regulations of the event. You agree to show your vehicle to the undersigned participants and to admit Rod Shows, Jani Buck Enterprises, Inc. The Fairplex committee agents and their guests and family and relatives. You agree to the terms and conditions of the event. You agree to the terms and conditions of the event. You agree to the terms and conditions of the event. You agree to the terms and conditions of the event.

**Check or Money Order only. Make checks payable to Rod Shows.
Mail Payment and Photo to: Rod Shows - 1223 Highland Ave #100, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730**

"The Grand Daddy of Them All!"

GRAND NATIONAL ROADSTER SHOW

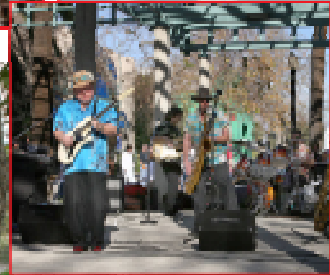


EVERY "DRIVE-IN" PARTICIPANT GETS FREE ADMISSION TO THE INDOOR SHOW!

Grand Daddy
DRIVE-IN

- HUNDREDS OF VEHICLES •
- LIVE BAND • PRIZES •

**Saturday, Jan. 30 &
Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010**



ENTER YOUR VEHICLE TODAY!

**FOR INDOOR APPLICATION LOG ON TO WWW.RODSHOWS.COM
OR CALL US AT 877-ROD-SHOWS (763-7469)**

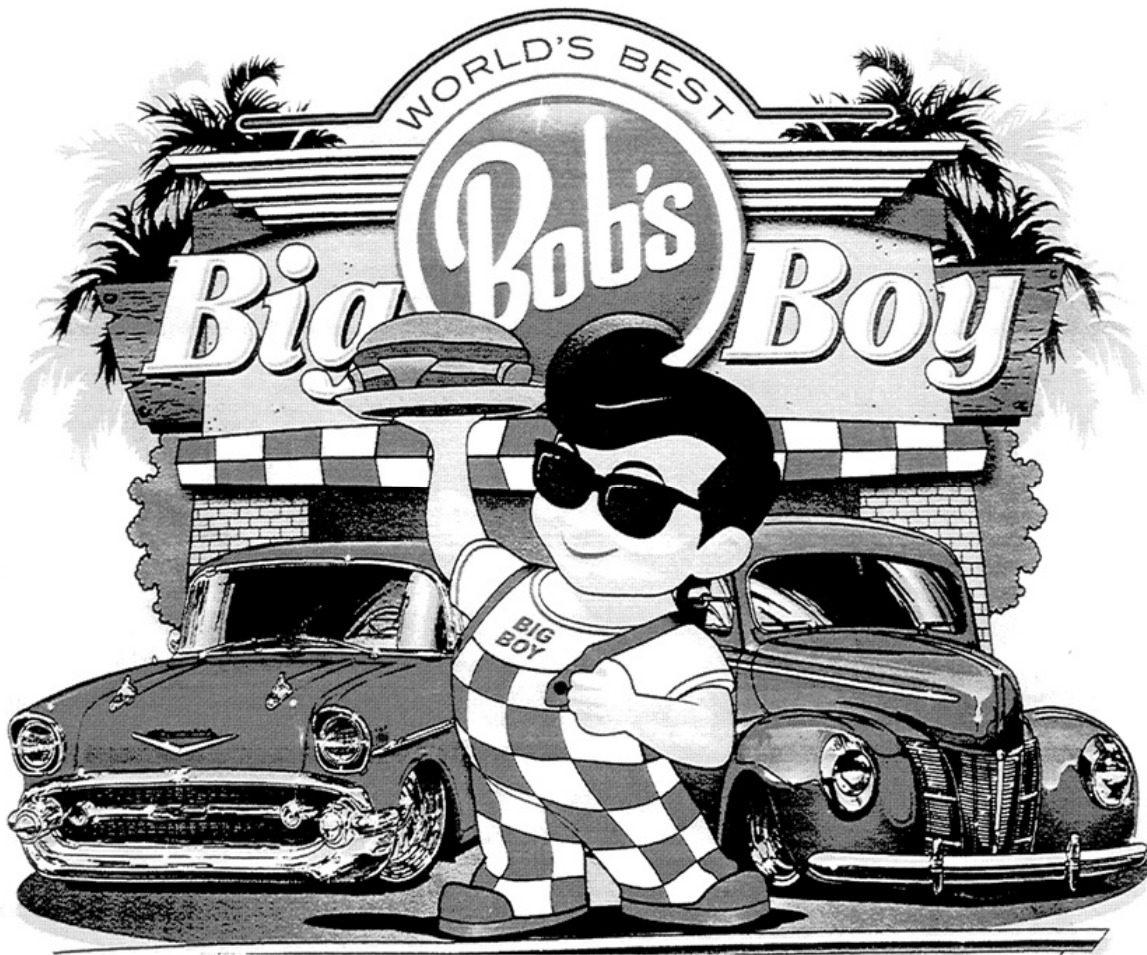
CRUISIN' THE BIG BOY

2nd Sunday

4pm to 7pm

100-A So. California Ave, West Covina

Vincent Ave. off the 10 fwy



AWARDS

50/50 – DOOR PRIZE

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www.SoCalCarShowDJs.com

Hot Rod Hot Line 951-371-5833 * DJ Gary Cruise Line 951-681-5535

FREE! FREE! FREE!

I hope that grabbed your attention. The 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.