

### SOCALAMX.NET

www.socalamx.net/newsletter

Official Publication of SoCalAMX

Vol. 4 Issue 2—October 2011

### SOCALAMX Calendar

#### Roam'n Relics Car Show

October 9, 2011 Old Town Moorpark, CA

### Las Vegas AMC Reunion

November 4-5, 2011 Railroad Pass Hotel & Casino Henderson, NV http://snamc.amcrc.com/carshow.html

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

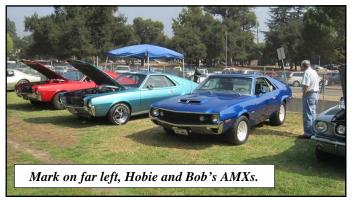
Go to socalamx.net/join.htm

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

### coffee cruise show

For years I have heard of a group in the La Cañada/Flintridge area (about 5 miles NW of Pasadena) that holds a weekly Saturday morning coffee cruise. Several weeks ago I woke up and that morning decided to drive on over in my AMX and check it out.

What I discovered was that this group called the "Early Rodders" has been meeting weekly at their spot for some 10 years now. People start arriving around 7am and most are ready

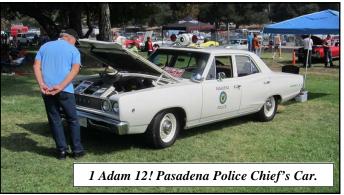




to leave by 9-10am. There is a Starbucks and a bagel/coffee café both within about 50 yards of walking.



In total about 75 cars showed up that morning and the drivers all seemed to be very friendly. I talked to one guy who was one of the original founding members from 10 years ago, and learned he was a retired LA City Fireman. I told him I knew a father/son duo also in the LA City Fire Dept, and he said, oh ya, I know them





very well—small world, eh? It turns out there are 3-4 other guys there, whom I did not get to meet, who work in the elevator trade as well as myself.

There were many people checking out my AMX, and before I left they enthusiastically welcomed me to join them the following week at a park nearby for their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Car Show. After a few phone calls I was able to get Hobie and Bob Martinez to join me the following weekend for the show.

The show was very nice all around. It started with a nice cool overcast morning ending with a sunny warm afternoon. In between was a great day of car looking and picture taking, two live bands performing for most of the day, and two food trucks selling gourmet hot dogs and hamburgers. It really was an idyllic setting for a car show with grass for the cars to park on, and plenty of shade trees to sit under and stay cool.

I hope we can get a few of the AMC guys in the Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley area to join me some Saturday morning for the Early Rodders coffee cruise. I'll even buy the coffee if you come! See you then... Mark Melvin





# INSTRUMENT CLUSTER MAKEOVER

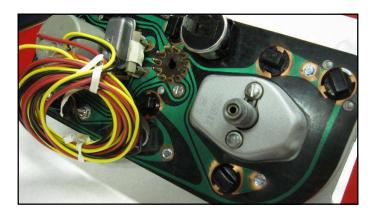
I was perusing the pages on eBay for AMC parts recently and an auction for a refurbished 1969 AMX Instrument Cluster caught my eye. The unit was for sale but actually the seller was using the auction to generate business leads to restore units for others. My instrument cluster was in bad shape, having the needles of both the tach and speedometer fall off inside, so I contacted the eBay user about



restoring mine. In the end I ended up buying the unit he had on the auction, and in return gave him my unit as a core, along with cash. I just received the unit back and don't have it installed in my car yet, but I can tell you it looks great!

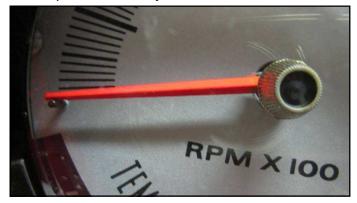
What he does to each unit when he receives it is to disassemble it and clean all parts. Then the tachometer is replaced with a brand new unit and calibrated. The speedometer is overhauled, lubricated and calibrated. The gas gauge and water temp gauges are also gone over and calibrated—needles painted! The voltage regulator, all light bulb sockets and





electrical traces are checked out as well. And finally he guarantees his work that your unit will function like new, or to factory specs.

The first time I talked to him I mentioned I do a lot of driving in my AMX and one of the shows I go to each year is the Las Vegas AMC Show. He replied, "Oh, my brother is a member of



that club." I asked what his brother's name was and he said, "Ray Hatcher." I told him, "I know your brother! What's your name?" "Rod Hatcher," was his response.

So if you want to contact Rod about working on your cluster you can contact him through email at this address: rodhhrod@comcast.net

### MARK MELVIN



## Vegas Baby!

I'm caught up on doing the monthly club newsletter and am publishing this issue the first weekend of October. Therefore this will be the last issue before the Las Vegas AMC Reunion next month in Boulder City from November 4-5. This is the last reminder to send in your show fees to Mark Ogulnick so he can better plan the great event he and his crew puts on. Look at the show flyers in this newsletter for more information. Make your hotel reservations now while you're thinking of it.

This year Mark has an interesting afternoon planned for us. First on the schedule is a tour of the oldest gold mine in Nevada. The plan is to leave the Railroad Pass Hotel at 12:30pm sharp to convoy to the mine. The cost is \$10 person and you can pay on the day of the tour. After that event is over we'll be heading to a local park for the now famous annual Bar-B-Q.

The past two years at least we've had about 9 cars from our club go to Las Vegas for the show. I'm sure this year won't be any different. In past years we have met in Victorville on Friday to form up a convoy. Because of the mine tour schedule it's possible a few people

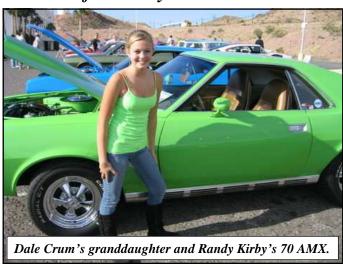
EVEL KNIEVEL: THE LATER YEARS

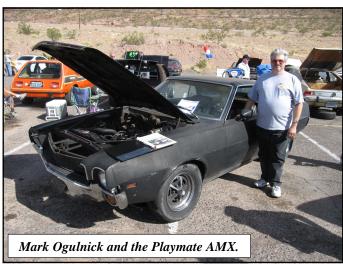
might leave on Thursday so they can sleep in on Friday.

There's still a month left before the show to arrange convoys, departure days, and times—on Yahoo Groups of course. See you in Las Vegas!

### MARK MELVIN

### Pictures from last year's AMC Reunion!







### amx palm beach

The AMX Palm Beach was the first experimental shown by a fledgling American Motors, but it was really an artifact of a bygone era. Here's the story of the belated Italo-American hybrid that's been all but forgotten.



Although the initials AMX weren't used until 1965, they would have been appropriate for a much earlier car that technically qualifies as the first "American Motors Experimental." Called Palm Beach, it was a striking two-seat coupe with running gear and a slightly stretched chassis borrowed from the lowly little Rambler, graced by handsome bodywork from master designer Pinin Farina.

It was first displayed around the middle of 1956 on the PF stand at major European auto shows, then made its American debut the following spring--at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, of all places.

American Motors officials understandably said as little as they could about the Palm Beach when it arrived in Detroit. The reason: it was not an AMC project but a holdover from the Nash days, likely the last advanced design effort at the old-line independent before its 1954 merger with Hudson that produced AMC.

It was also the last tangible evidence of the relationship Nash president George Mason had forged with the Italian coachbuilder back in the late Forties.

There's more to read on this car at: http://snipurl.com/amx-pb

THE UNDERSLUNG CAR
The American Motor Car Company was
founded in 1906 and based in Indianapolis,
Indiana. It produced its first car in 1906 and the
first 'Underslung' in 1907. However, the name
'Underslung' was not derived until 1912.

The underslung design was an attempt to make the car as low as possible. Harry C. Stutz, an engineer who would later produce cars under his own name, is credited with creating the design. Although Stutz created the chassis

design, it was American's chiefengineer, Fred I. Tone, who turned the chassis upside down. Tone decided to place the



frame below the axles, instead of the tradition design of placing them above. The semi-elliptic leaf springs were mounted above the frame. Due to achieving such a low ground clearance, 40-inch wheels were needed to give the vehicle ample space between the frame and the ground.

The Underslung models provided safety that many other early manufacturers could not guarantee. The Underslungs were virtually impervious to roll-overs. Sales documentation stated that the vehicles could be tilted up to 55 degrees without rolling over.

Even with the ground clearance advantage, the Underslung was not as competitive as other vehicles that featured larger engines. This was proven in 1908 when American Motor Car entered an Underslung Roadster in the Savannah Challenge Cup Race. The four-cylinder engine was not enough to keep pace and as a result it finished last. Also, due to large wheels, and high center of gravity created partly by the raised engine sub frame, the car suffered from poor handling and frequent tire changes..

There's more to read on this car at: http://snipurl.com/undercar



### SUPER PRIZE

NEW 350 ENGINE - \$5.00 PER TICKET ON SALE NOW
DRAWING IS THE DAY OF EVENT. SEE CLUB MEMBER OR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

\$30.00 EARLY ENTRY DISCOUNT UNTIL OCT. 1, 2011 - \$35.00 DAY OF EVENT

\*LIMITED TO 500 CARS

WWW.ROAMNRELICS.COM• 24 HR HOT LINE 805-583-2965

VENDOR INFO 661-297-4318

FLYER SPONSORED BY: — 822-9473 (822-WIRE)

#### THE LEADER IN HIGH QUALITY WIRE AND CABLE

\$30.00 E	ARLY ENTRY DISCOUNT UNTIL	OCT. 1, 20	11 - \$35.00 DAY OF EVENT
NAME:	HOME PHONE: _		
ADDRESS:	CITY/ST:		ZIP:
CAR YEAR: M	MAKE:	MODEL	
CLUB:	EMAIL ADDRESS:		
SIGNATURE:	N	MAIL TO:	ROAM'N RELICS CAR CLUB
CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ROA	M'N RELICS CAR CLUB		P.O. BOX 1173 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93065



**AMCRC Southwest Regional Meet** 

RAIL ROAD PASS



Rambler

November 4-5, 2011 @ Railroad Pass Hotel & Casino

2800 S. Boulder Highway Henderson, NV 89002 (702) 294-5000 or (800) 654-0877

### Show Features

Awesome Event T-shirt Dash Plaque

Awards Raffles DJ Food Specials

For Room Reservations call the Railroad Pass for a special AMC rate

Just mention the AMC code: AMC1104

call (800) 654-0877

For more info visit:

http://sname.amerc.com

www.RailroadPass.com

# 2011 LAS VEGAS AMC REUNION

# **Registration Form**



November 4- 5, 2011 @ Railroad Pass Hotel & Casino Hotel & Cosino

Address				
City/State		Zip		
Contact Phone				
E-Mail				
Club Affiliation				
VEHICLES REGIS	STERED:			
Make	Model	Color		ear
Make	Model	Color		ear
Make	Model	Color	Ye	ear
Registration Fee:	\$30 per car (regist	ration includes event	t-shirt)	
Please indicate sh	nirt size: SM	LXLXXL	_XXXL	
Additional t-shirt	s available for \$18 per	shirt: QtySize(s	)	
Swap Meet: \$2	20 per space (20' x 20	() No. of spaces		
numerous murders	s. If you're into history youminetours.com)	, you'll love this tour. Fr	or more information	in 1874 which resulted in , go to
TOTAL OF ALL FE	ES	\$		
	ES cs payable to: SOUTHER			
Please make check		IN NEVADA AMC CLUB		, NV 89128
Please make check Mail to: Las Vegas RESERVATIONS: hehavior during an	s payable to: SOUTHER	IN NEVADA AMC CLUB and Hatcher, 8300 Opal MC Club reserves the rig or any reason, participa	Cove Dr., Las Vegas ht to restrict partic hts or their vehicles	pants to acceptable
Mail to: Las Vegas  RESERVATIONS: 1 behavior during an appearance is deel  LIABILITY: In conspectators, by exe Hotel & Casino, MC and servants, and may be suffered b expressly agrees to from any and all is	AMC Reunion c/o Raymon The Southern Nevada Af my and all activities. If f med objectionable, the p sideration of the accepta	IN NEVADA AMC CLUB and Hatcher, 8300 Opal MC Club reserves the rig or any reason, participal participants shall be sub ance of the right to part ase and discharge South I, and their officers, dire to the management from on or property. Further, armless all of the forego- culting from the conduct	Cove Dr., Las Vegas ht to restrict partic hts or their vehicles ject to removal.  cipate, entrants, pa hern Nevada AMC Co ctors, employees, r n any causes or dar each entrant, parti- ng entities, firms, p	pants to acceptable , their behavior or their articipants, and ar Club, the Railroad Pass epresentatives, members mages whatsoever that cipant or spectator persons, bodies of and

### 2012 AMCRC National Convention Registration Form

<u>HOST HOTEL</u>: John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort, 1100 Nugget Ave., Sparks, NV 89431. West Tower Deluxe: Thurs \$69; Fri-Sat \$89/East Tower Premier: Thurs \$79; Fri-Sat \$99 (plus tax). Mention code "AMC" to get special rates. For reservations, call 800-648-1177 or <a href="https://www.janugget.com">www.janugget.com</a> to make online reservations. Reservations must be made NO LATER THAN May 21st to get these special rates. Check in time is 3PM and check out time is11AM.

<u>SHOW RATES</u>: Show for all AMC, Rambler, Nash, Hudson, Metropolitan and 1970-1987 Jeep vehicles. Registration fee is \$15 for the first vehicle registered and \$10 for each additional vehicle. VENDORS ARE FREE but are requested to PRE-REGISTER.

For more information or if you have any questions, contact: Michael Lakin (e-mail: amcowner@cccomm.net; phone: 775-427-2695)

#### PLEASE MAIL REGISTRATION TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2012

Name				
Address				
City		State	Zip	AMC
Contact Pho	one Number			(Rambler)
E-mail				CIUB
AMCRC Me	mbership Number			
VEHICLES I	REGISTERED: (please use re	everse side of form if	you are registering	more than two vehicles)
Make	Model		Year	Body
	Color			•
Make	Model_		Year	Body
	Color			
Vendor: Yes	Entry #:(to	ber of spaces requ		CHECKS PAYABLE TO: AMCRC 2012
	s:@ \$35.00 = \$		Ň	MAIL WITH REGISTRATION TO:
Kids tickets	s (ages 5-11):@ \$1	3.75= \$		Michael Lakin 2615 Sorensen Rd.
	STRATION: One vehicle additional vehicle:			Fallon, NV 89406
<b>SHIRTS: (</b> I Event T-Sh	Please Order in Advanc irt:@ \$15.00 = \$ @ \$18.00 = \$	<b>e)</b> SN _XXL_	I L XL _XXXL	
NATIONAL	. AUTOMOBILE MUSEU	M TOUR: \$7.00	per person	Number of tickets:
TOTAL EN	CLOSED: \$	WE'LL S	EE YOU	IN RENO-SPARKS!

### 33nd Annual

# CARCE CAROCAL ECOCA

### June 21-23, 2012 Reno/Sparks, NV

#### Thursday, June 21st

All day: Check-In and Informal Gatherings. This is also a good time for chapter meetings. You can sightsee, dine, take in a show, gamble, relax by the indoor pool at the Nugget or visit the Sparks Farmer's Market at the Sparks Victorian Square Plaza across from the Nugget from 4PM – 8PM. Enjoy the best in produce and a wide variety of seasonal items, musical performances, food, beverages, arts/crafts and community booths at Whole Foods Hometown Farmer's Market. Held in Victorian Square in downtown Sparks, the market is an exciting summer event that you don't want to miss.

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM: Early show participant registration in lobby of Nugget.

#### Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>

8:00 AM-3:00 PM: Vendor check in to receive space assignments (Victorian Square show field) Swap Meet (vendors may start selling as soon as they are set-up) Show participant registration (Victorian Square show field) Enjoy breakfast and/or lunch at one of the many restaurants at the Nugget or Victorian Square

1:30 PM-3:00 PM: Guided tour of the National Automobile Museum (approx. 7 minute drive from the Nugget)

4:00 PM-5:30 PM: AMCRC membership meeting in meeting room at Nugget

6:00 PM-8:00 PM: Friday Night Cruise-In at Summit Racing Equipment in Sparks (4 minute drive from the Nugget)

#### Saturday, June 23rd

7:00 AM-9:00 AM: Final vendor check-in and set-up (Victorian Square Show Field) Final show participant registration (Victorian Square Show Field) Show Cars may begin entering the show field

9:00 AM: Car Show and Swap Meet open Show participant registration closed

2:00 PM: Judging ballots due at registration tent

4:00 PM: Car Show and Swap Meet close

6:00 PM: Happy Hour

7:00 PM: AMCRC National Banquet and Awards Presentations



### 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 mightypilot@gmail.com 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 mightypilot@gmail.com 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! Send your stuff to: mightypilot@gmail.com

# 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.