



SOCALAMX.NET

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Official Monthly Publication of SoCalAMX

Issue 2—September 2008

RETURN TO CANYON COUNTRY!

SoCalAMX and several of its members have decided to make a return visit to the Canyon Country car show held in Santa Clarita, also known as the Route 66 Classic. It has been 3 years since we last made an appearance



there. Pictures of that 2005 afternoon are available to check out online at this address:

<http://snipurl.com/canyon>.

If my memory serves me correctly we had 11 cars show up and we had them all in one line including a Chevy owner who refused to move for us.

It's a nice show to attend, it's not the largest show around, but the cars there are nice, they fire up portable flood lights so the show continues into the evening, there's a live band, plenty of trophies and raffle prizes. Also in case you get hungry there's a great car themed restaurant to grab a bite at, there's a

Cold Stone ice cream store later for desert. If other members of the family get bored they can visit the Edwards movie theatre in the



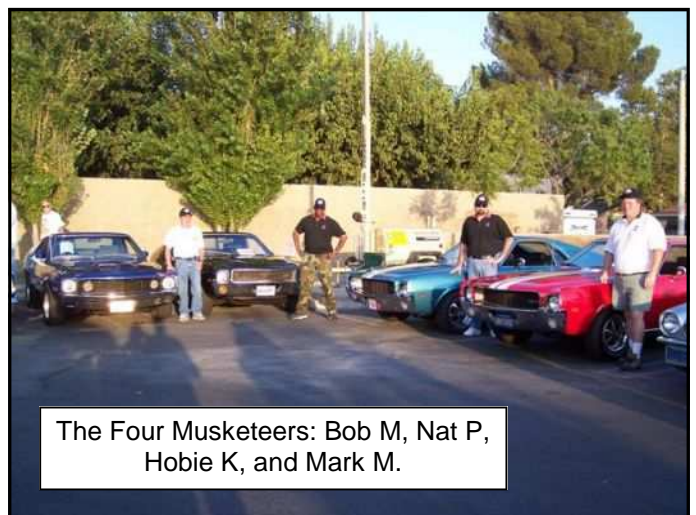
Keith Magee and Jack Boughter

complex.

The date for this event is the second Saturday of October, on the 11th. It officially starts at 5pm but I recommend getting there by 4pm to get a better parking space, and to park with each other. Also there is a \$10 cost to get in.

October 11, Plan now and be there! Directions to the show will be in next month's newsletter.

Mark Melvin



The Four Musketeers: Bob M, Nat P, Hobie K, and Mark M.

2008 Vegas AMC 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

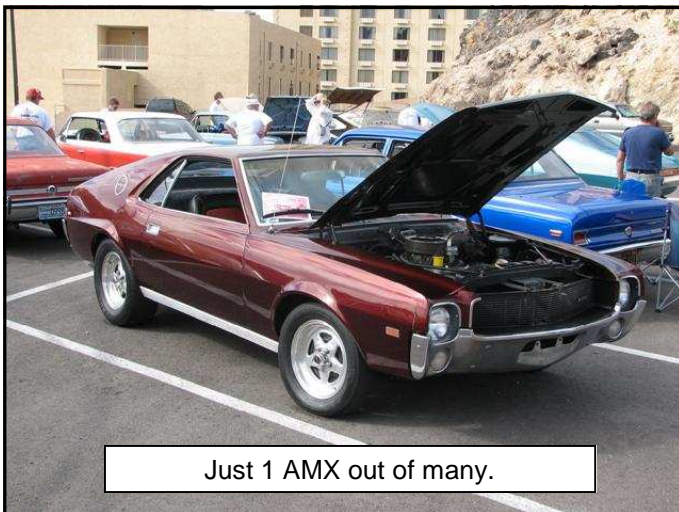


the 7th and 8th. That will hopefully result in weather being a degree or two cooler, not that last year's temperature was too hot.

<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,



Just 1 AMX out of many.

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 two months left to make plans to go. The show fee is \$25, the gas cost is who knows how much, but as of Monday, Septem-



ber 1 it was under \$4.00 a gallon. 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!

Car Show Site:

<http://snamc.amcrc.com/carshow.html>

Hacienda Hotel

Reservation Number: 800-245-6380

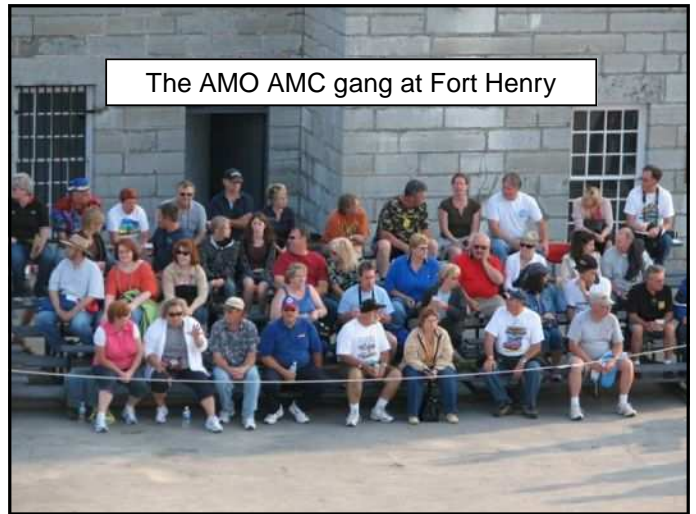
Mention the AMC show for reduced rates.

2008 AMO NATIONAL

The AMO National Convention this year was held on the first weekend of July in Kingston, Canada. Since I had driven my 1969 AMX to Denver last year for the 2007 AMO National, I gave it a lot of consideration to drive all the way to eastern Canada. In the end the time constraints and monetary costs gave way to reason and I decided to fly in and see the show.

I flew into Buffalo on Saturday four days early and actually headed in the opposite direction of Kingston towards Ohio and the Columbus area to visit my cousin Jay and his family for two days. By Tuesday I was again headed northeast towards the Canadian border and the AMO show, guided by my new Garmin Nuvi 660. It worked flawlessly with its huge database of North America maps, and a memory card loaded with my favorite music connected directly into the rental car's sound system. Later that afternoon I checked into Kingston's Ambassador Hotel with its pricey \$140 a night rate, but the rooms were very nice and the cost was acceptable.

Wednesday: I got up early and looked around town for a place to get some grub and coffee. Afterwards I returned to the hotel and met up with the AMC folks arriving from all directions. There were many trailers with special cars inside waiting to be unleashed for the public's viewing pleasure. Many of the cars I had seen the previous year in Denver, and I recognized the owners and visa-versa. Late in the after-



noon I bummed a ride with a Marlin driver as a group of about 40 AMC'ers headed to Fort Henry for their "Sunset Ceremony." Basically it was a 2 hour long show of battle re-enactments and military maneuvers including live dummy rounds being shot from the canons and rifles. Everybody's ears were ringing and nobody fell asleep. The show concluded with a small firework show.

Thursday: After breakfast again I spent a good deal of time outside the hotel meeting and greeting people as they arrived. By now the vendors had started setting up their displays of goods. Kennedy of Ohio had on display a left and right mirror for the 69 AMC's, which are going into reproduction. Let me tell you, they looked real nice! The prices are going to be \$250 and \$350 respectively. By 6pm about 40



cars from the hotel headed over to a local shopping center for a cruise there.



Rebel Machine at Thursday Cruise

hosted by the Cactus Cruisers who put on the 2004 National in Scottsdale, AZ. It's under-



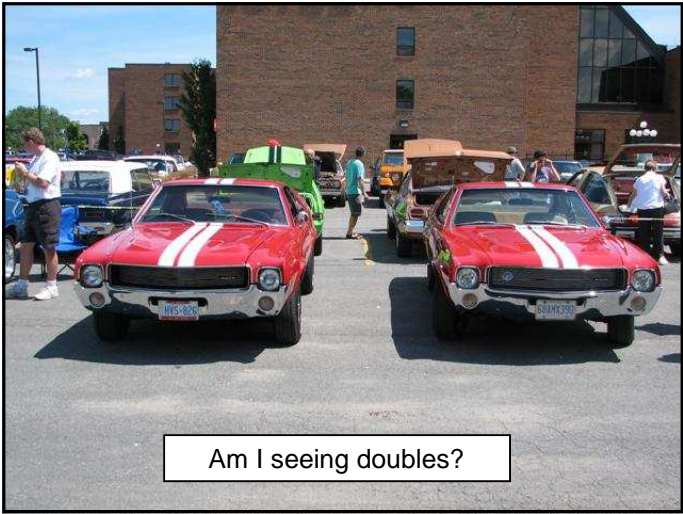
Long row of AMC iron!



Thursday Cruise Night

standable that the next two year's AMO Nationals will be too far for most to attend, but for 2011's National to be held so close in Arizona how can you not consider going? In 2004 in Scottsdale we had only two cars, Dave Chick's 68 AMX and my 69 AMX; I hope we can get a

Friday: The Convention was in full gear now as the remainder of the show attendees arrived and got checked in. Inside there was a presentation by the clubs that will be hosting future AMO Nationals in the up-coming years. Next year the AMO National will be in St. Louis, in 2010 in Detroit, and in 2011 in Sedona, AZ,



Am I seeing doubles?

large contingency from SoCalAMX to go together as a group.



The Hotel's AMC Parking Lot

Friday night a large number of AMC cars invaded a local cruise night and arrived early. The Fords and Chevys arriving late had to double park in the aisles amongst the numbers of "Ramblers" taking up their normal slots. Let there be no doubt, everyone there was aware of the hefty AMC presence.

Saturday, Show Day: The show was held on the water's edge of Lake Ontario on the grounds of the Royal Military College of Canada. There were numerous trees in the area for the show cars and people to park under and stay cool, but as a result the shadows of



the trees made for poor picture taking. Nevertheless the show went off without a hitch and the cars were all beauties.

I saw a metallic blue AMX which I had only

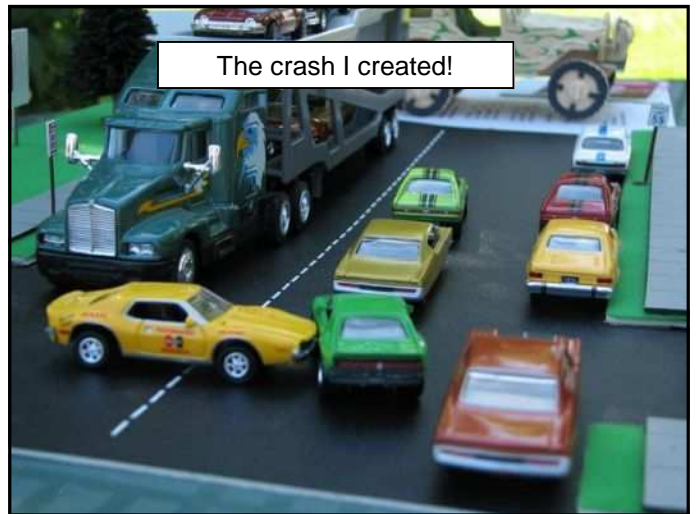


seen in a picture before, it was a really sharp looking car. Also saw a "Green Hornet, which according to the car's owner and literature in the window were made for sale only in Canada. The owner said he had a second one back at home.

I volunteered to be a judge and due to my lack of any previous judging experience, I was assigned to the "Drivers" class of which there

were only four cars. Myself and the other three judges finished our sheets quickly, and due to the large number of other volunteer judges we had no additional assignments.

While I was waiting for the judge coordinator to give judging instructions I spent a few minutes of time taking pictures of a model car setup on a table, which themselves were soon to be



judged. I bumped into the table causing a crash between the two Javelin models.

That evening was the Awards Banquet. They had the usual video screen show of cars as they presented the awards. There were a good



number of raffle prizes to also hand out. The dinner itself was as good as a dinner like that could possibly be. The AMO really puts on a classy event overall and everybody I think was

a happy camper while leaving and heading home.

After the banquet you could find many people outside taking in the cool air and taking one last look at all the AMC cars lined up. I talked



to one gentleman and his wife whose 70 Rebel Machine had been destroyed in a fire only months before the AMO National. They were devastated by the loss of course, but were looking for another Rambler of some kind to replace it. I hope he has it in time to bring it to St. Louis next year!

Mark Melvin



Online pictures of the
2008 AMO National Convention:
<http://snipurl.com/amo2008>

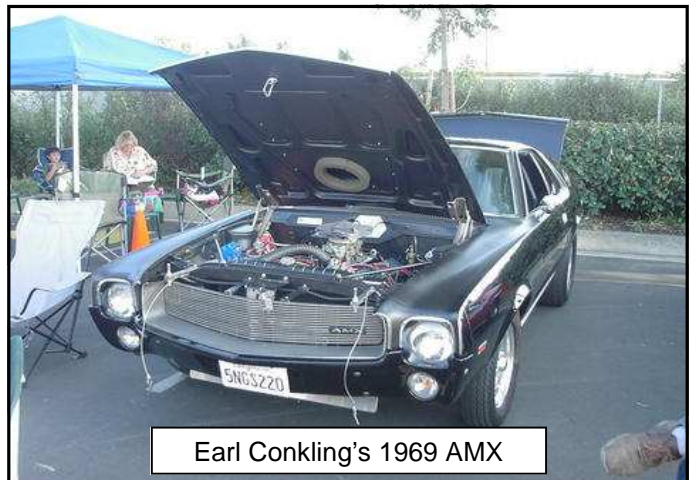
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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 second month I picked Earl Conkling from Monrovia, CA to share himself and car with the others. Here is what he had to say..
Mark Melvin, Editor

Earl and Mary Conkling from Monrovia

The first Rambler in my family was a 1950's, two tone, four door Sedan, American Compact series, black with a red top. I think I was 7 or 8 years old then. The second was a 1973 AMC Ambassador, metallic blue, 360, two barrel. The third was a 1974 Gremlin, copper colored with a 6 cylinder automatic.

My first AMC was a 1975 AMC CJ5 jeep, with a built up 304, it was yellow. My second AMC, which I own now is a 1969 AMX, black with black interior, 401 engine, everything including the transmission, rear-end, suspen-



sion, and tires are built for drag racing.

I don't go to some of the events because my car is not made to travel long distances. I purchased the car several years ago from a well known Rambler, AMC enthusiast and builder.

I am retired now; I worked 37 years in the retail industry. My wife is a school teacher. My wife and I are raising 3 of our grandchildren.

My hobbies are my two Hot Rods, the AMX, and a 1966 Plymouth Belvedere II, with a 440 engine. I enjoy building plastic car models, camping, buying dolls for my wife and watching my grandsons play sports.

My wife and I are truly blessed to have all of you as part of our lives. Hope to see you soon.

Earl and Mary Conkling

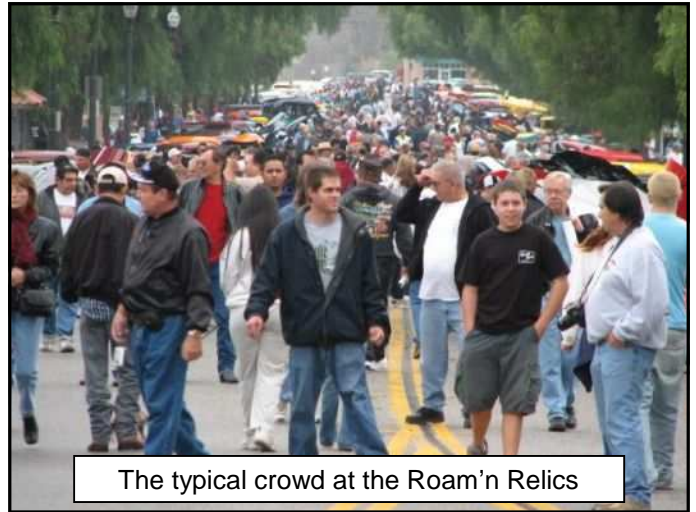
THE ROAM'N RELICS CAR SHOW IN MOORPARK

There's a car show coming up on October 26th that I've attended once before that is so outstanding that I'm going to go again this year and try to get a bunch of AMC'ers to join me. The show is great because there are so many cars to check out over the duration of the show, plus there are thousands of spectators there to look your own car



Hobie Kaptan looks his engine over..

over. Unless you're worried about getting a hoarse throat from talking to too many people, you'll want to have your AMC there. If we show up together we'll be able to park together too.



The typical crowd at the Roam'n Relics

Hobie Kaptan joined me last time at the show, and I assume will want to go again. Bob Martinez is going this year, and John Caley spoke up he is going too, that's a quad core so far of AMC's. Let's see how many we can assemble together this time. You can see by the photo of the past show I went to how many spectators will be there, very well worth your time!

I talked to Bob Martinez about it and since he lives close to the show he has offered to host a Bar-b-q at his house minutes away after the Roam'n Relics Car Show has ended. Thank you Bob!

Mark Melvin

<http://www.roamnrelics.com/events.html>

For pictures of the 2005 show go here:

<http://snipurl.com/relics05>

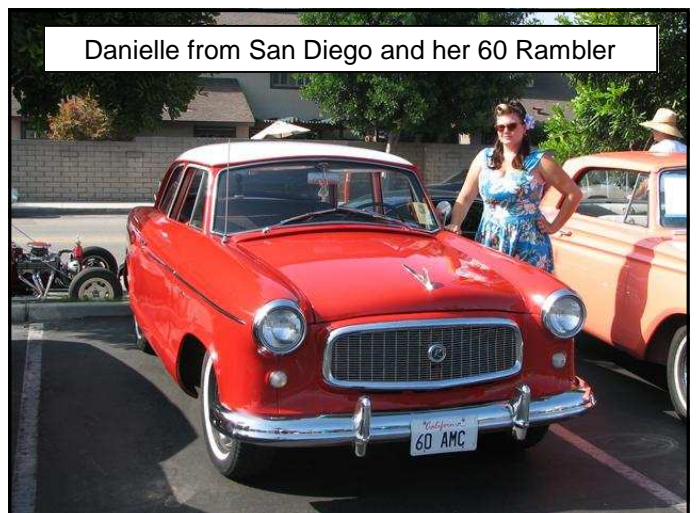
Enderle Center Show

On Sunday, August 24th, six AMC-ers attended the Enderle Center Car Show in Tustin. Steve

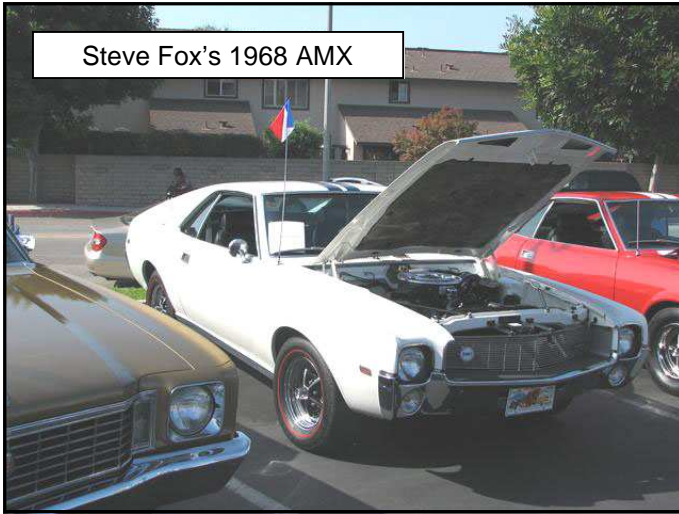
brought his '68 AMX, Mark's '69 AMX, John's '68 AMX, Danielle's '60 Rambler Custom, Joe Smith's Rambler American, and Al Clark brought his 74 Javelin.



John Caley won \$500 in the raffle!



Danielle from San Diego and her 60 Rambler



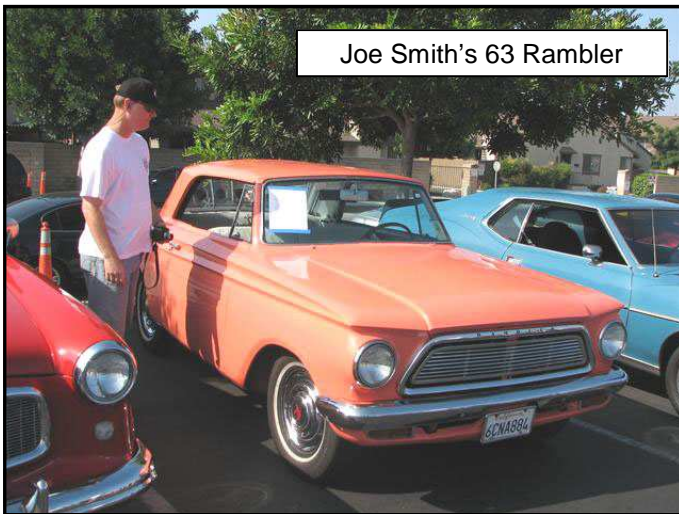
Steve Fox's 1968 AMX

2009 SoCalAMX Car Show

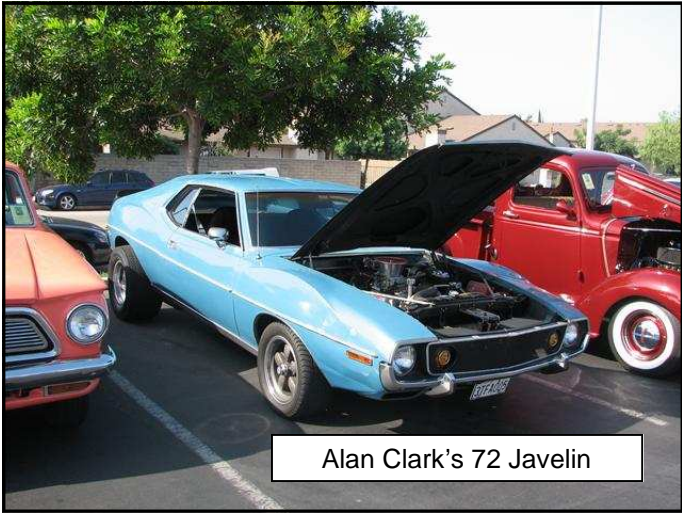
Just to let everyone know, the previously announced date of May 23-24 for next year's All AMC Car show will likely be changed to the last weekend in the month to May 30th.

I thought I had taken into account the correct weekend for Memorial Day and worked around it but erred. Thank you to Steve Fox for pointing it out to me. After confirming the new date it will be announced in the next issue.

Mark Melvin



Joe Smith's 63 Rambler



Alan Clark's 72 Javelin

Many cool and interesting cars were also in attendance, including two late 50's Cadillacs, one white and the other an eye-popping orange. Altogether, there were several hundred cars in attendance and unfortunately, no AMC trophy was awarded.

John Caley took a chance on the raffle and won a \$500 gift certificate to the Enderle Center. Good going, John!

Steve Fox



The Tail End!



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.

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 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

Introducing the Rebel "Machine."

Standing before you is the car you've always wanted. And, if you like everything about it, except for the paint job, which admittedly looks startling, you can order the car painted in the color of your choice.

You may be wondering why a company like American Motors would paint a car red, white and blue. And that's what we keep asking ourselves: Why would a company like American Motors paint a car red, white and blue?

But we have nothing to be embarrassed about under the hood, which is all you should be concerned about.

The Machine has a 390 CID engine as standard equipment and develops a horsepower the equivalent of 340 horses all pulling in unison, which is no mean feat.

Next, and this will be particularly impressive to those people who have buried their heads in hot rod magazines since they were old enough to say "zoom... zoom... lookee it's a car," the Machine has a 4-speed

all-synchromesh close-ratio transmission with special Hurst shift linkage and a 3.54:1 standard rear axle ratio (or an optional 3.91:1).

To feed air to your engine, and it will be your engine once you buy the car, we have bolted on a ram-air hood scoop. And in the hood scoop, we mounted a tach that's lighted and registers 8000 rpm's.

Heavy-duty shocks and springs raise the rear end a bit and give the Machine, a raked, just mowed the lawn look.

And our dual exhaust system uses special low back pressure mufflers and larger exhaust pipes.

We will make the description of the rest of the Machine's features mercifully short. Front and rear sway bars, high-back bucket seats, 15 inch tires with raised white letters, mag styled steel wheels, power

disc brakes, and racing stripes that glow in the dark.

Incidentally, if you have delusions of entering the Daytona 500 with the Machine, or challenging people at random, the Machine is not that fast. You should know that.

For instance, it is not as fast on the getaway as a 327 Corvette, or a Hemi, but it is faster on the getaway than a Volkswagen, a slow freight train, and your old man's Cadillac.

In short, in order to fully make up your mind about

the Machine, you will have to see it in person at your American Motors dealer.

And when you're introduced to it, a simple "How do you do?," "Nice meeting you," or something friendly like "How are your pipes?," will suffice.

Up with The Rebel Machine

For a set of four "Up with the Rebel Machine" decals send 29¢ and your name and address to: Machine Decal Offer, American Motors Sales Corporation, 14250 Plymouth Road, Detroit, Michigan 48232.

