**Delivering Up-to-Date Information to America's Car Clubs and Enthusiasts** 

www.semasan.com

MAY 2008



### Score One for Old Cars

#### **California Lawmakers Agree to Change Bill Targeting Pre-'76 Vehicles**

**S**AN members in California sent law-makers in Sacramento a clear message regarding an attempt to repeal the state's current emissions-test exemption for pre-'76 vehicles. Under a proposed bill, vehicles registered by new owners in the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District would have been subject to emissions tests for the life of the vehicle.

After hearing in force from SAN members and car clubs across the state, the sponsor of the bill amended the original proposal to instead require the DMV to study the state's special license plate programs and recommend improvements.

"Legislators and regulators are again feeling the heat from a failed effort to meet air Continued on page 3

# Is This Heaven? No...It's Iowa

#### SEMA Street Rod/Custom Vehicle Signed Into Law in Hawkeye State

he cumbersome and often confusing task of titling and registering a street rod or custom vehicle in Iowa just got a whole lot easier as Governor Chet Culver signed the SEMA Street Rod/Custom Vehicle bill into law. Under the new measure, qualifying vehicles are registered as the same model year that the body of the vehicle resembles.

Sponsored by Iowa State Representative Jim Lykam, who is a member of the State Automotive Enthusiast Leadership Caucus (see Caucus Corner article on p. 4), the bill defines a street rod as an altered vehicle manufactured before 1949 or a vehicle designed to resemble a vehicle manufactured before 1949. The bill also defines a replica vehicle as a reproduction of an originally manufactured vehicle with the substitution or addition of parts to update the vehicle for purposes of safety, performance or reliability.



**Representative Jim Lykam** 

"Backed by the hard work and perseverance of Representative Lykam and fellow Caucus member Senator Jeff Danielson, we are extremely gratified that Iowa has joined the list of states that recognize street rods and customs as distinct classes of vehicles," said SEMA Vice President of Government Affairs Steve McDonald. "The new law offers the benefit of also including qualifying replicas and kit cars in these specialty-vehicle titling and registration classifications."

Under the new law, the owner of a street rod or replica vehicle must self-certify that the vehicle is in compliance with certain equipment specifications and shall pay a \$10 registration fee.

The momentum behind the SEMA model continues to spread across the country as Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter signed into law a version of SEMA-model legislation that creates a state motor-vehicle definition for replica vehicles. The new law allows these vehicles to meet only the equipment and emissions standards in effect for the model year and vehicle being replicated. The new law defines a replica vehicle as a "vehicle made to

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### Summary of SEMA-Model Street Rod/Custom Vehicle Bill

- Defines a street rod as an altered vehicle manufactured before 1949 and a custom vehicle as an altered vehicle manufactured after 1948.
- Provides specific registration classes and license plates for street rods and custom vehicles.
- □ Provides that replica vehicles and kit cars will be assigned the same model-year designations as the production vehicles they most closely resemble and allows the use of non-original materials.
- Exempts street rods and custom vehicles from periodic vehicle inspections and emissions inspections.

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# Helping America's Heroes

**Custom '57 Chevy Auctioned to Benefit Armed Forces Foundation** 



A collaborative effort on a custom-built '57 Chevy between SEMA-member companies and Super Chevy magazine generated \$130,000 for the Armed Forces Foundation.

**P**roject American Heroes began last summer when CARS Inc. of Rochester Hills, Michigan, and the Roadster Shop of Elgin, Illinois, united with the editors of *Super Chevy* to recreate a classic '57 Chevrolet convertible. The project was created to financially assist families of fallen or disabled Veterans through the Armed Forces Foundation.

Armed Forces personnel were invited to select the ultimate design for this dream vehicle, including the color scheme, interior design and exterior trim via the Project American Heroes website (www.projectamericanheroes.net). The one-of-a-kind '57 Chevy sold at the Barrett-Jackson Auction in Palm Beach, Florida. When the bidding was over and the gavel sounded, the car garnished a stunning \$130,000. The money was promptly handed over to the Armed Forces Foundation President Patricia Driscoll who was present at the auction along with 10 wounded servicemen from the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center.

"This is truly a magnificent piece of work where supporters of our military community came together for a good cause," said Driscoll. "The money raised will be used to assist families of the wounded with bills, travel, funeral expenses (if necessary) and any other hardships they are facing during these stressful times."

It is worth noting that the new owner is a Florida resident and will be able to title and register the vehicle as a '57 replica under the SEMA Street Rod/Custom Vehicle that was enacted in Florida last year. The new owner will also be able to use the SEMA-designed "Custom Vehicle" license plate.



With the enactment of the SEMA Street Rod/Custom Vehicle bill in Florida, the owner of the '57 Chevy will be able to use one of the new "Custom Vehicle" license plates.



## THE ULTIMATE RECYCLER

**1940 Ford Woodie Owner:** Jeff "Sawzall" Yeagle Phoenixville, PA

have always felt that hot rodders and restorers are the world's ultimate recyclers. My newest project is the epitome of that philosophy.

Ironically this project started in 1998 when I bought my first '40 Ford



My daughter and I spend time in my '40 Ford, a two-year project car I finished in 2000.

sedan. Since the completion of that car in 2000, it has provided thousands of miles of enjoyable trouble-free driving. Since then I have purchased enough "spare parts" that by the summer of 2007 I had enough stuff to build another one. However, the ultimate "spare parts deal" came last fall at the AACA national meet in Hershey, Pennsylvania, where I was able to purchase all the wood components from a '40 Ford Woodie Wagon.

I've dubbed the car "Recycled" because I intend to use ONLY recycled parts in its resurrection, with a few important exceptions, of course.

I have even started a blog to chronicle the restoration progress. Fellow SAN members can check it out at http://recycled-40fordwoodie.blogspot.com.



After finishing my first '40 Ford, I had enough materials to start work on another one.

Attention Car Clubs, Event Organizers and Enthusiasts: Put SAN on Your Mailing List!

We like to know what's going on with SAN clubs and enthusiasts across the country; what charity events you're involved in; when and where the rod runs, car shows, trail rides, rallies and tech meetings are held; and what legislative and regulatory issues concern club members and individual enthusiasts.

One of the best ways to keep us abreast of what's going on and what's important to the vehicle hobbies nationwide is for us to receive your club newsletters and updates. Please consider placing SEMA on your mailing list.

You can send correspondence to Attn: Jason Tolleson, SEMA, 1317 F St. NW, Ste. 500, Washington, DC 20004-1105 or via e-mail at jasont@sema.org.

### **LEGISLATIVE QUICK HITS**

Kentucky Project Titles: Legislation to create classic motorvehicle project titles for vehicles at least 25 years old, not roadworthy, and currently without a title or with a title from another state was approved by the Kentucky State Legislature. Under the SAN-supported bill, a classic motor-vehicle project title would prohibit the use of vehicles bearing these titles on the highway but, once restored, a regular title could be issued. The measure will now be sent to Governor Steve Beshear for his signature and enactment into law.

West Virginia Antique Vehicles: SAN-supported legislation that would amend state law governing antique motor vehicles to expand their permissible use was approved by the West Virginia state Legislature and signed into law by Governor Joe Manchin. Under previous law, use of antique vehicles is strictly limited to club activities, exhibits, tours, parades, testing, obtaining repairs and for recreational purposes. This bill would increase weekend use to begin on Fridays at 12:00 p.m. and extend through Monday at 12:00 p.m.

#### Score One for Old Cars

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quality goals and are looking for a convenient scapegoat," said SEMA Vice President of Government Affairs Steve McDonald. "The old-car hobby should not carry the burden of their mistakes, as it has in previous amendments to the old-car exemption."

California's current emissions testing exemption recognizes that pre-'76 vehicles constitute a small and shrinking portion of the overall vehicle population in the state and are a poor source from which to look for further emissions reductions.

"While the amended bill no longer targets pre-'76 vehicles in the San Joaquin Valley, we are extremely concerned that this study could lead the Legislature to target other vehicles that may not meet a yetto-be-determined criteria for a special license plate," added McDonald. "We will remain vigilant in our effort to maintain the exemption for all pre-'76 vehicles in California."

Special thanks to Fred Evenson, Bob Stearns and the other officers of the Association of California Car Clubs for their efforts in mobilizing their membership against this bill.



Under the original bill, all newly registered pre-'76 vehicles in San Joaquin Valley would have been subject to emissions testing.

#### Is This Heaven? No...It's lowa

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Under the SEMA-model bill, replica vehicles are assigned a title bearing the production year the vehicle most closely resembles.

replicate any passenger car or truck previously manufactured, using metal, fiberglass or other composite materials. Replica vehicles must look like the original vehicle being replicated but may use a more modern drive train."

State Caucus members in Tennessee were instrumental in having the custom vehicle portion of the bill approved by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Phil Bredesen. Sponsored by Senator Tim Burchett and Representative Mike Williams, the legislation defines a custom-built car as a vehicle that is built for private use and is not constructed by a licensed manufacturer or remanufacturer. Under the bill, kit cars and replica vehicles will be assigned a certificate of title bearing the same model-year designation as the production vehicle it most closely resembles.

"The efforts by these lawmakers clearly demonstrate the benefit of creating relationships between enthusiasts and legislators in enacting hobby-friendly legislation," added McDonald. "For enthusiasts across the country, building, maintaining and enjoying these vehicles is a favorite pastime. This law represents an opportunity to acknowledge their commitment to the hobby and to protect it for future generations."

To date the SEMA-model bill has been enacted in various forms in Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Virginia and Washington. The bill is currently pending in Delaware, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania. The measure was also introduced and approved by the Wyoming House of Representatives last year. However, given the short legislative session, there was not enough time for the measure to be considered by the Senate. The bill will be reintroduced in 2009.

For more information or to download a copy of the SEMA Street Rod/Custom Vehicle bill, visit www.semasan.com.

#### Summary of SEMA-Model Street Rod/ Custom Vehicle Bill

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- Provides that vehicles titled and registered as street rods and custom vehicles may only be used for occasional transportation, exhibitions, club activities, parades, tours, etc. and not for general daily transportation.
- Exempts street rods and custom vehicles from a range of standard equipment requirements.
- □ Allows the use of blue-dot taillights on street rods and custom vehicles.

### **CAUCUS CORNER**

ach month *Driving Force* will feature a member of the State Automotive Enthusiast Leadership Caucus. The SEMA-supported caucus is a bipartisan group of state lawmakers whose common thread is a love and appreciation for automobiles. Here are its current members:

#### CHAIRMAN

Assemblymember Bill Reilich (New York)

#### **IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN**

Senator John Brueggeman (Montana)

#### ALABAMA Representative Randy Wood

ALASKA Representative David Guttenberg

#### ARIZONA

Senator Ron Gould Representative Tom Boone Representative Bill Konopnicki Representative Nancy McLain Representative Jerry Weiers

#### ARKANSAS

Senator Denny Altes Representative Johnny Key Representative Mark Martin

#### CALIFORNIA

Senator Dick Ackerman Senator Ron Calderon Senator Dennis Hollingsworth Senator Tom McClintock Senator Gloria Negrete-McLeod Assemblymember Mike Duvall Assemblymember Bonnie Garcia Assemblymember Martin Garrick Assemblymember Bob Huff Assemblymember Kevin Jeffries Assemblymember Doug La Malfa Assemblymember Nicole Parra Assemblymember Alberto Torrico Assemblymember Michael Villines

#### COLORADO

Senator Ken Kester Representative Debbie Benefield Representative Larry Liston Representative Nancy Todd



Maine State Representative Peter Rines with his two best friends, a '28 Ford Tudor and his dog Ariel.

### CONNECTICUT

Representative Toni Walker

#### **DELAWARE** Senator Steven Amick

Senator Steven Amick Representative William Oberle Jr.

#### FLORIDA Senator Bill Posey Representative Pat Patterson

#### GEORGIA

Senator Chip Rogers Representative Calvin Hill Representative Howard Mosby Representative Alan Powell Representative Tony Sellier

#### HAWAII

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland

#### IDAHO

Representative Bill Killen

#### ILLINOIS

Representative Robert Pritchard Representative Jim Sacia

#### INDIANA

Representative Tom Knollman

#### IOWA

Senator Jeff Danielson Representative Dwayne Alons Representative Dave Deyoe Representative Jim Lykam

#### KANSAS

Senator Chris Steineger Representative Bob Bethell Representative Doug Gatewood Representative Mario Goico Representative Harold Lane Representative Judith Loganbill Representative Peggy Mast Representative Terry McLachlan Representative Shirley Palmer Representative Michael Peterson Representative Don Schroeder Representative Bill Wolf

#### KENTUCKY

Representative Charlie Hoffman Representative Reginald Meeks

#### LOUISIANA Representative Jeffery Arnold

#### MAINE Senator Douglas Smith Representative Richard Cebra





California State Assemblyman and avid enthusiast Doug LaMalfa with his first car, a '68 Mustang California Special.

Representative Carol Grose Representative Lawrence Jacobsen Representative Everett McLeod Sr. Representative Peter Rines Representative Nancy Smith

#### MARYLAND

Senator J. Robert Hooper Delegate Don Dwyer, Jr. Delegate Barbara Frush Delegate Cheryl Glenn Delegate Barry Glassman Delegate Benjamin Kramer Delegate Warren Miller Delegate Richard Weldon

#### MASSACHUSETTS

Representative Robert Hargraves

#### MICHIGAN

Senator Glenn Anderson Senator Ron Jelinek Representative David Agema **Representative Fran Amos** Representative Bill Caul Representative Joe Hune Representative Rick Jones Representative Kathleen Law Representative Richard LeBlanc Representative John Pastor Representative Tom Pearce Representative John Proos Representative Bettie Cook Scott Representative Joel Sheltrown Representative John Stahl Representative Lorence Wenke

#### **MINNESOTA**

Representative Jim Abeler Representative Pat Garofalo Representative Rick Hansen Representative Melissa Hortman Representative Carol McFarlane Representative Ron Shimanski

#### MISSISSIPPI

Senator Hillman Frazier Representative Dannie Reed



Ohio Representative Kenny Yuko and the family Model A are a big hit in Cleveland-area parades.

#### MISSOURI

Representative Bruce Darrough Representative James Whorton

#### MONTANA

Senator John Brueggeman Senator Jeff Essmann Representative Jill Cohenour Representative Gordon Hendrick Representative Bill Nooney Representative Wayne Stahl

#### **NEBRASKA**

Senator Don Preister

#### NEVADA

Senator Bob Beers Senator Bob Coffin Assemblymember Chad Christensen Assemblymember Moises (Mo) Denis Assemblymember Ellen Marie Koivisto Assemblymember Mark Manendo Assemblymember John Oceguera Assemblymember David Parks

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Representative Michael Reuschel Representative Kevin Waterhouse

#### **NEW JERSEY**

Assemblymember Richard Merkt Assemblymember Charlotte Vandervalk

#### NEW MEXICO

**Representative Nathan Cote** 

#### **NEW YORK**

Senator Jeff Klein Senator Thomas Libous Assemblymember Jim Bacalles Assemblymember Greg Ball Assemblymember William Barclay Assemblymember Philip Boyle Assemblymember Daniel Burling Assemblymember Marc Butler Assemblymember Nancy Calhoun Assemblymember Mike Cole Assemblymember James Conte Assemblymember Janet Duprey Assemblymember Steve Englebright Assemblymember Joseph Errigo Assemblymember Ginny Fields Assemblymember Gary Finch Assemblymember Mike Fitzpatrick Assemblymember Dennis Gabryszak Assemblymember Joseph Giglio

Assemblymember Steve Hawley Assemblymember Janele Hyer-Spencer Assemblymember Brian Kolb Assemblymember Peter Lopez Assemblymember Donna Lupardo Assemblymember David McDonough Assemblymember Marcus Molinaro Assemblymember Bob Oaks Assemblymember Thomas O'Mara Assemblymember Jack Quinn Assemblymember Andrew Raia Assemblymember Bill Reilich Assemblymember Joseph Saladino Assemblymember Teresa Sayward Assemblymember Mark Schroeder Assemblymember James Tedisco Assemblymember David Townsend Jr. Assemblymember Rob Walker

#### **NORTH CAROLINA**

Senator Julia Boseman Representative Cary Allred Representative Larry Brown Representative George Cleveland Representative Nelson Cole Representative William Current Representative Bill Faison Representative Phillip Frye Representative Mitchell Setzer Representative Fred Steen II

#### **NORTH DAKOTA**

Senator Tom Fischer Representative Robin Weisz Representative Alon Wieland

#### OHIO

Senator Lance Mason Senator Robert Spada Representative John Hagan Representative Lynn Wachtmann Representative Kenny Yuko

#### OKLAHOMA

Representative Wallace Collins Representative Scott Inman

#### OREGON

Senator Gary George Representative Jeff Barker

#### PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Michael Waugh Representative Scott Conklin



New York Assemblymember Nancy Calhoun with her own "Little Red Corvette."

Representative Patrick Harkins Representative Scott Perry

#### **RHODE ISLAND**

Senator William Walaska Representative John J. Loughlin II

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

Senator Larry Martin Representative J. Gary Simrill

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

Senator Jim Hundstad Representative Burt Elliott Representative Richard Engels Representative Mark Kirkeby Representative Mark Willadsen

#### TENNESSEE

Senator Tim Burchett Senator Mike Williams Representative Robert Bibb Representative Chris Crider Representative Jim Hackworth Representative John Tidwell Representative Joe Towns

#### TEXAS

Representative Patricia Harless Representative Charlie Howard Representative Solomon Ortiz Jr. Representative Joe Pickett Representative Allen Vaught

#### UTAH

Senator Howard Stephenson Representative Gage Froerer Representative Neal Hendrickson Representative Patrick Painter Representative Stephen Sandstrom

#### VERMONT

Representative Joseph Baker

#### VIRGINIA

Delegate William Fralin Delegate Morgan Griffith Delegate Dave Nutter Delegate Tom Rust Delegate Terrie Suit Delegate Onzlee Ware

#### WASHINGTON

Senator Mike Carrell Senator Jerome Delvin Representative Cary Condotta Representative Bob Hasegawa Representative Deb Wallace

#### WEST VIRGINIA

Delegate Robert Beach Delegate Cliff Moore

#### WISCONSIN

Representative Sheryl Albers Representative Steve Kestell

#### WYOMING

Representative Stan Blake Representative Pat Childers



#### **CALIFORNIA**

May 10, Ontario

12th Annual Support Your Car Club Council Show & Shine Sponsor: Inland Empire Car Club Council Information: 760/835-5564

May 18, Red Bluff 34th CHVA River Park Car Show Sponsor: Contemporary Historical Vehicle Association Information: 530/378-1812 or 530/547-5774

May 24, Sacramento

7th Annual Thunder in Depot Park Sponsor: Thunderbolts Capitol Auto Club Information: www.capitolautoclub.com/ images/08 Flyer.pdf or 916/726-5088

May 31–June 1, Pleasanton

15th Summer Get-Together Information: http://good-guys.com/events/ eventDetails.aspx?eventid=08-803 or 925/838-9876

#### **COLORADO**

May 16–18, Pagosa Springs Tri-State Meet

Sponsor: Rocky Mountain CORSA Information: http://www.corvairs.org/tristate\_ corvair\_meet.htm or 303/828-4203

#### May 30–June 1. Loveland

11th Dupont Colorado Nationals Information: http://good-guys.com/events/ eventDetails.aspx?eventid=08-627 or 925/838-9876

#### CHECK OUT THESE EARLY JUNE 2008 EVENTS

#### **CALIFORNIA**

June 1, Fremont 18th Annual Mopar Rally Sponsor: Mopar Alley Information: http://moparalley.org or 408/356-4752

#### June 8, Van Nuys

10th Annual All GM Vehicle Show & Swap Meet Sponsor: Los Angeles Chapter Buick Club of America Information: www.buickclub.org/losangeles/ news1.htm or 818/999-6626

#### **IOWA**

June 1, Marion 27th Annual Chevy & Chevy Powered Car Show Sponsor: Hawkeye Area Classic Chevy Club Information: http://geocities.com/haccc57// carshow2 or 319/438-1422

#### **NEBRASKA**

June 8. Omaha

32nd Annual Midwest Early Corvette Club Car & Truck Show Sponsor: Midwest Early Corvette Club Information: 402/391-5270 or 402/334-5730

#### MAY 2008 SAN CLUB EVENTS

#### **GEORGIA**

May 3, Marietta

27th Annual "Peach Blossom" Car Show & Swap Meet Sponsor: Southeastern GTO Association Information: www.segtoa.org/BOP/BOPC\_ Flyer\_021008.pdf or 770/993-8654

May 16-18, Braselton The Year One Experience Information: www.yearone.com/yodnn/events/ YearOneExperience/tabid/151/Default.aspx

#### ILLINOIS

May 18, O'Fallon O'Fallon May Fest Auto Fest Sponsor: Party Tyme Kruzers Information: 618/632-3877 or 218/277-8175

May 30-June 1 Hot Rod Super Nationals Information: www.hotrodsupernationals. net/event/23

### INDIANA

May 16-18, Nashville 31st Annual Shelby Spring Fling Sponsor: Indiana SAAC Information: www.indianasaac.com/SF/ home.htm or 812/988-7146

#### **NEW MEXICO**

June 6-7, Carlsbad Car-A-Fair 2008 Sponsor: Carlsbad Automotive Restoration Society Information: http://www.carsclubofcarlsbad. com/CARAFAIR.html or 505/887-8853

#### **OKLAHOMA**

June 7, Sapulpa 19th Annual Route 66 Car & Truck Show Sponsor: Dragin Masters Car Club Information: http://vette-granny.tripod.com/ id15.html or 918/224-5709

#### **PENNSYLVANIA**

June 8, Washington Buick, Olds, Pontiac, Cadillac, GMC Truck Show Sponsor: Western Pa. Chapter of Pontiac-Oakland Club InternationI Information: 724/843-5195 or 412/833-1441

#### VIRGINIA

June 6–8, Newport News The Li'l Red & Warlock Nationals 2008 Sponsor: Li'l Red Express & Warlock Owners Club Information: http://home.att.net/ ~theadventurer/ or 757/875-5270

#### **KENTUCKY**

May 8–10, Bowling Green C4/ZR-1 Sponsor: The National Corvette Museum Information: www.corvettemuseum.com

#### MASSACHUSETTS

May 18, Brookline Cadillac Day at the Larz Anderson Auto Museum Sponsor: The Cadillac LaSalle Club Information: www.nerclc.com/index.htm

#### **MICHIGAN**

May 17, Bay City Blessing of the Wheels Classic Car and Hotrod Show Information: 989/894-0832

#### MISSOURI

May 3-4, Springfield 11th Annual 4-Wheel Jamboree Nationals Information: www.4wheeljamboree.com/ event/7

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

May 23-25, Gilford Laconia Nationals Rod, Customs & Muscle Information: www.rightcoastcars.com/shows/ In/index.html

#### **NEW MEXICO**

May 25, Albuquerque 26th Annual Mustang Roundup Sponsor: Rio Grande Mustang Club Information: 505/922-1247 or 505/294-7902

#### **NORTH CAROLINA**

May 3, Taylorsville 15th Annual Apple City Classic Car & Truck Show Sponsor: Apple City Street Rodders Information: www.applecitystreetrodders. com/carshow.htm or 826/632-1695

May 10, New Bern Antique Auto Show Sponsor: First Capital Chapter AACA Information: http://local.aaca.org/ northcarolina/region/

#### OHIO

May 16-18, Lima 4 Wheel Jamboree Nationals Information: www.4wheeljamboree.com/event/8

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#### MAY 2008 SAN CLUB EVENTS

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#### **PENNSYLVANIA**

May 3, Oley Spring Bash Sponsor: Violators Motor Club Information: http://www.violatorsmotorclub. com/party.html

May 9–11, Carlisle Carlisle Performance & Style Information: www.carsatcarlisle.com/pands/ index.asp

#### VIRGINIA

May 3, Roanoke

20th Annual Mustang and Ford Powered Round-up Sponsor: Roanoke Valley Mustang Club Information: www.roanokevalleymustangclub.com or 540/387-1979

#### WASHINGTON

May 18, Spokane Valley 2008 Northwest Overdrive Sponsor: Inland Northwest Studebaker Drivers Club Information: 509/891-2071

#### **Thunderbolts**

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members who have been in the club for over 30 years and another 12 members that have been in the club over 20 years. The membership donates their time and money to help other groups organize their own automotive events as well as supports many charities throughout the Sacramento Valley area.

The "Thunderbolts" are members of the NSRA, the Association of California Car Clubs and the Rio Linda Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit www.capitolautoclub.com.

### **ON THE ROAD AGAIN**

We invite you to make plans to stop by and meet with Jason Tolleson, director of the SEMA Action Network, on the *Hot Rod* Power Tour in early June.

#### HOT ROD MAGAZINE POWER TOUR

Saturday, 6/7/08 Arkansas State Fairgrounds Little Rock, AR

Sunday, 6/8/08 Missouri Entertainment and Event Center Springfield, MO

Monday, 6/9/08 Heartland Park Topeka, KS

Tuesday, 6/10/08 Nebraska State Fair Park Lincoln, NE Wednesday, 6/11/08 Iowa State Center Ames, IA

Thursday, 6/12/08 Rochester Community & Technical College Rochester, MN

Friday, 6/13/08 The Alliant Energy Center Madison, WI

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For more legislative and regulatory information, visit www.semasan.com

### **CLUB SPOTLIGHT**

# **Sixty-Three Years Strong**

The Capitol Auto Club was started in 1945 by a small group of Sacramento "hot rodders." The first official club meeting was held in a chicken coop in the outskirts of the town and was attended by people who had a common interest in racing their Model Ts & As at local dirt tracks in Northern California. It would be the first of their regular biweekly meetings that have continued non-stop for the last 63 years. It was during this first meeting



Since 1945, the Capitol Auto Club has sponsored numerous events supporting local charities in the Sacramento Valley.

that the club decided on "Thunderbolts" as their nickname. While there are different stories about how they decided on that name, current club members believe that the most logical explanation is from Chrysler Corporation "Thunderbolt" concept car that was liked by the early club members.

Over the past six-plus decades, the club has been involved in many different automotive events. An argument between two club members resulted in their first indoor car show called the "Capitol Auto Show" which would later become known as the Sacramento Autorama. The club has also sponsored the Grass Valley Rod Run for 26 years, hosted the Galt Car Show for 20 years and has held the Thunder in Depot Park Car Show for the past seven years.

The club is limited to 40 members who own pre-'58 hot rods. Remarkably there are four **Continued on page 7** 



