

# DRIVING FORCE



## A SUNDAY DRIVE

Maryland Historic Vehicle Owners Fight to Retain "Pleasure Use" Benefit

**T**he work week is over. The weather is perfect. The gas tank is full. For historic vehicle owners, there isn't an experience quite as rewarding as a weekend cruise in the machine of your dreams with your best guy or gal at

your side. After all, you've put countless amounts of time, money and effort into every detail of the vehicle. It's commonly said that what matters is the journey, not the destination, and few days are brighter than while enjoying your























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## CAUCUS CORNER

Each month, *Driving Force* features members of the State Automotive Enthusiast Leadership Caucus. The SEMA-supported caucus is a bipartisan group of state lawmakers, almost 550 members strong, whose common thread is a love and appreciation for automobiles.

Here are its newest members:

 <b>ALABAMA</b> Representative Kurt Wallace	 <b>MISSOURI</b> Representative Mike Cierpiot
 <b>ARIZONA</b> Senator Don Shooter	 <b>MISSOURI</b> Representative Gary Cross
 <b>CONNECTICUT</b> Representative John Rigby	 <b>MISSOURI</b> Representative Charlie Denison
 <b>ILLINOIS</b> Senator Tom Johnson	 <b>MISSOURI</b> Representative Bill Lant
 <b>ILLINOIS</b> Representative Rita Mayfield	 <b>MISSOURI</b> Representative Melissa Leach
 <b>ILLINOIS</b> Representative Jerry Mitchell	 <b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b> Representative Kirsten Larsen Schultz
 <b>MICHIGAN</b> Senator Vincent Gregory	 <b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b> Representative Patricia Lovejoy
 <b>MICHIGAN</b> Senator Goeff Hansen	 <b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b> Representative Bill Ohm
 <b>MICHIGAN</b> Representative Ken Goike	 <b>OKLAHOMA</b> Representative Jabar Shumate
 <b>MICHIGAN</b> Representative Andrea LaFontaine	 <b>OREGON</b> Senator Jason A. Atkinson
 <b>MICHIGAN</b> Representative Sean McCann	 <b>OREGON</b> Representative Tim Freeman
 <b>MINNESOTA</b> Representative Bob Gunther	 <b>RHODE ISLAND</b> Senator Louis DiPalma
 <b>MINNESOTA</b> Representative Duane Quam	 <b>PENNSYLVANIA</b> Representative Tina Davis
 <b>MISSOURI</b> Senator Joe Keaveny	 <b>PENNSYLVANIA</b> Representative Marcy Toepel

Visit [www.semasan.com](http://www.semasan.com) for a complete list of caucus members.

## LEGISLATIVE QUICK HITS

**Colorado Emissions Exemption:** Legislation that originally sought to extend the emissions inspection exemption to vehicles that are eight model years old and newer was amended and approved by the Senate Transportation Committee, but action on the bill was indefinitely suspended by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Under the amendment, the bill now would provide the exemption to vehicles six model years old and newer. Current law only exempts vehicles that are four model years old or newer. Even with the amendment, this is still a bill worthy of support.



Courtesy Shutterstock.com

**Connecticut Antique/Rare/Special Interest Motor Vehicles:** The SAN is opposing Connecticut legislation to increase the age requirement for vehicles eligible for registration as "antique, rare or special interest motor vehicles." Under the bill, vehicles seeking registration as antique, rare or special interest motor vehicles would be required to be at least 30 years



old. Currently, vehicles 20 years old or older are eligible for this status and special license plates. For the purpose of property taxes, the bill also increases the maximum assessment of these vehicles from \$500 to \$2,000.

## Put SAN on Your Mailing List!

We'd like to know what's going on with SEMA Action Network 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. Send correspondence to: SEMA Action Network, 1575 S. Valley Vista Dr., Diamond Bar, CA 91765. You can also e-mail the SAN at [san@sema.org](mailto:san@sema.org).



### Hawaii “Collector Car Appreciation Day”:

Resolutions have been introduced in the Hawaii House of Representatives and Senate seeking recognition by the state for July 13, 2012 as “Collector Car Appreciation Day.” Earlier this year, the SAN announced this date to mark the third commemoration in what has become an annual event to raise awareness of the vital role automotive restoration and collection plays in American society. The SAN is again working to secure a U.S. Congressional resolution to recognize the day’s significance. In the previous two years, thousands of Americans have gathered at car cruises, parades and other events to celebrate our nation’s automotive heritage. The SAN is maintaining a list of scheduled events to commemorate America’s time-tested love affair with the automobile. Individuals, car clubs and business owners interested in publicizing events should contact Colby Martin at [san@sema.org](mailto:san@sema.org).



**Illinois Ethanol:** The Illinois House Revenue & Finance Committee will consider legislation allowing the state’s Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to provide information to gas stations encouraging the stations to offer E15 as an option for customers. The bill also allows the Department to provide information to gas stations on any financial assistance that may be available to subsidize the cost of providing E15 blended fuel to consumers. The bill was introduced despite the fact that a bill is moving through the U.S. House of Representatives which would require the National Academy of Sciences to further analyze the effects of E15 on engines and other components before the EPA can permit its sale.

**New Jersey Street Rods and Custom Vehicles:** A version of SEMA model legislation to create a vehicle registration classification for street rods and replica custom vehicles and provide for special license plates for these vehicles was reintroduced in the New Jersey Assembly. Last year, comparable legislation was not enacted into law in New Jersey prior to the legislature’s adjournment. The bill defines a street rod as an altered vehicle manufactured before 1948 and a custom as an altered vehicle at least 25 years old and manufactured after 1948. The bill allows kit cars and replica vehicles to be assigned a certificate of title bearing the same model year designation the body of the vehicle most closely resembles.



**Utah Vintage Travel Trailers:** A SAN-supported bill to create a statutory definition of a “vintage travel trailer” and provide for a one-time \$40 registration fee was approved by the Utah Senate and now moves to the governor for his signature and enactment into law. The bill has already been approved by the House of Representatives. Under the bill, vintage travel trailers would also be eligible for a special group license

plate and would be exempted from wheel cover, mudguard, flap, or splash apron requirements.

**Virginia License Tax:** Legislation that originally threatened to provide localities with the authority to raise from \$100 to \$500 the amount charged for an annual license tax for vehicles that do not display current license plates was approved by the Virginia Senate and now has been sent back to the House for concurrence. A previous version of the bill had already been passed by the House. The SAN has since negotiated an additional amendment to the bill that now totally exempts from the license tax ALL vehicles and parts cars that are stored on private property for the purpose of restoration or repair. Vehicles stored within a structure would remain exempted from the tax.

**West Virginia Property Tax:** A SAN-supported bill to provide owners of antique and classic motor vehicles with a cap on property taxes paid on these vehicles was passed by the Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Having already passed in the West Virginia House of Representatives, the bill will now be considered by the Senate Finance Committee. The bill would value antique and classic motor vehicles for property taxes at \$1,000. At the most costly rate in West Virginia (approximately 3%), the actual property tax paid by antique or classic motor vehicle owners at the \$1,000 value would only be about \$30 per year.



**West Virginia Ethanol:** The West Virginia House of Delegates has introduced a concurrent resolution urging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to revoke its decision to allow the sale of gasoline with fifteen percent ethanol (E15) until there is clear and convincing scientific evidence that E15 does not pose a risk to any gasoline-powered vehicle or equipment. The SAN is supporting the resolution.

**West Virginia Aftermarket Exhaust Systems:** SEMA-model legislation that would allow vehicle hobbyists to install and use aftermarket modified exhaust systems that meet a 95-decibel limit was passed by the House Roads and Transportation Committee. The bill must now be approved by the Judiciary Committee before moving to the House floor for a vote by all members. Current West Virginia law only allows a muffler originally installed by the manufacturer or an equivalent. Among other things, the bill would remove subjective provisions in the law and force compliance with an objectively measured standard, while benefiting consumers, the aftermarket industry and police officers who are charged with enforcing the law.

**Wisconsin Motor Vehicle Registrations:** Legislation has been introduced in the Wisconsin Assembly to provide legal registration to hobby vehicles with a clear title, required safety equipment and in good working order. Under the bill, these registrations would be available to owners regardless of the vehicle’s color, former owner, or previous uses. Identical legislation has already been introduced in the Senate and will be considered in the Transportation Committee. The bills ensure that all vehicles, including ones that predate Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) or are specifically exempted from them, are not denied registration or forced into a highly-restrictive registration class, for non-compliance with FMVSS. This includes pre-1968 vehicles, imports, kit cars, government surplus vehicles, etc.



## APRIL 2012 SAN CLUB EVENTS

### ARIZONA

**April 20-22, Phoenix**

11th Annual AMC Car Show  
Sponsor: Cactus Cruisers AMC  
Info: fletchkirk@hotmail.com or 602/689-9222

**April 27-28, Payson**

19th Annual Beeline Cruise In Car Show  
Sponsor: Rim Country Classic Auto Club  
Info: http://clubs.hemmings.com/clubsites/rccac/

### CALIFORNIA

**April 13-14, La Jolla**

21st National Swap Meet  
Sponsor: Model T Club of Kern County  
Info: 661/325-2840 or john.rimmer@sbcglobal.net

**April 14, Pomona**

33rd Annual Fun Under the Sun Car Show  
Sponsor: Association of Handcrafted Automobiles  
Info: info@replicarclub.com or 951/780-9332

**April 20-21, Pomona**

Ford-Cobra-Shelby Reunion  
Sponsor: Wally Parks NHRA Motorsports Museum  
Info: Museum.NHRA.com

**April 27-29, Bakersfield**

Western Street Rod Nationals  
Sponsor: National Street Rod Association  
Info: www.nsr-usa.com or 209/474-0103

**April 29, Orange**

Z-Car West Coast Nationals Car Show  
Sponsor: Motorsport Industries  
Info: www.motorsportauto.com/show or 714/639-2620

### COLORADO

**April 14, Westminster**

Westminster Car Show  
Sponsor: Collector Car Council of Colorado  
Info: www.collectorcouncil.com or 303/393-8014

### CONNECTICUT

**April 15, Wallingford**

Spring Dust-Off  
Sponsor: Connecticut Street Rod Association  
Info: www.csra.org or 203/742-0413

**April 29, East Hampton**

Gas and Steam Show  
Sponsor: Belltown Antique Car Club  
Info: belltowncarclub@yahoo.com

### FLORIDA

**April 7, Kissimmee**

Mopars at Old Town  
Sponsor: Orlando Bowtie Club  
Info: www.orlandobowtieclub.com

**April 21, Kissimmee**

Fords at Old Town  
Sponsor: Orlando Bowtie Club  
Info: www.orlandobowtieclub.com

**April 28, Kissimmee**

Chevys at Old Town  
Sponsor: Orlando Bowtie Club  
Info: www.orlandobowtieclub.com

### GEORGIA

**April 6-7, Perry**

3rd Annual Spring Perry Auto Fest  
Sponsor: Georgia Street Rod Association  
Info: 678/662-2267 or 478/318-1096

**April 14, Warner Robins**

22nd Annual Car Show  
Sponsor: Road Rebels Rod & Custom Car Club  
Info: 478/397-5271 or 478/396-0926

**April 14, Marietta**

18th Annual Swap Meet  
Sponsor: Georgia Street Rod Association  
Info: www.gsr.com or 770/517-6701

### KENTUCKY

**April 29, Louisville**

18th Annual NSRA Safety Day  
Sponsor: Okolona Street Rods  
Info: 502/741-1229 or okolonastreetrods.com

**April 28, Dallas**

23rd Annual Car & Truck Show  
Sponsor: Georgia Classic Rides  
Info: www.georgiaclassicrides.com or 404/513-3847

### MARYLAND

**April 1, Baltimore**

Spring Antique Car Show Streetcar Museum  
Sponsor: Heart of Maryland Classic Chevy Club  
Info: 410/484-129

**April 14, Bowie**

Glory Days Spring Car Show  
Sponsor: Asphalt Angels Car Club  
Info: www.asphaltangelsfmd.org or 443/812-3184

**April 15, Westminster**

Spring Thaw Show  
Sponsor: Mid Maryland Ford Club  
Info: 410/259-1343

**April 21, Mt. Airy**

Cruise to Berkeley Springs, WV  
Sponsor: Heart of Maryland Classic Chevy Club  
Info: www.hmccc.50g.com

### MASSACHUSETTS

**April 1, Maynard**

18th Annual Model A Swap Meet  
Sponsor: Minuteman Model A Ford Club  
Info: 978/562-2390 or cmartinstow@comcast.net

**April 21, Lakeville**

Annual Safety Fast Inspection  
Sponsor: Cape Cod British Car Club  
Info: www.capecodbritishcarclub.org

**April 22, Fitchburg**

42nd Annual Swap Meet and Car Show  
Sponsor: Early Ford V8 North East  
Info: V8fleemarket@yahoo.com or 781/272-1114

### NEVADA

**April 19-21, Laughlin**

25th Annual Gambler Classic River Run  
Sponsor: Southern NV Classic Chevy Club  
Info: 888/880-0210 or www.gamblerclassicriverrun.com

### NEW MEXICO

**April 28, Albuquerque**

2012 Mopar Challenge Series - 1st Race  
Sponsor: Mopar Muscle Club of NM  
Info: www.moparclub.com or 505/896-8115

### NEW YORK

**April 15th, Smithtown**

7th Annual Spring Car Show Fundraiser  
Sponsor: St. Patrick School  
Info: stpats.americanhotrods.com or 631/588-2696

### NORTH CAROLINA

**April 28, Hickory**

Mid-South Custom Rod & Antique Car Show  
Sponsor: Center Point Classics  
Info: www.center-pointclassics.com

### OHIO

**April 7, Columbus**

Spring Swap  
Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Ford Club  
Info: 614/855-4750 or www.springswap.com

### OKLAHOMA

**April 13-15 Oklahoma City**

Southwest Street Rod Nationals  
Sponsor: National Street Rod Association  
Info: www.nsr-usa.com or 209/474-0103

### UTAH

**April 28, Salt Lake**

4th Annual Autism Awareness Car & Motorcycle Show  
Sponsor: Beehive Kustoms Car Club  
Info: Beehivekustoms@hotmail.com

### VIRGINIA

**April 29, Manassas**

26th Annual Rod Run  
Sponsor: Custom Cruisers of Northern Virginia  
Info: 703/830-2129 or jcchesley@aol.com

### WASHINGTON

**April 22, Issaquah**

All Italian Car Show  
Sponsor: Fiat Enthusiasts Northwest  
Info: 206/6956791 or fiats@wavecable.com

### WISCONSIN

**April 27-29, Jefferson**

Show Sale and Swap  
Sponsor: Madison Classics  
Info: www.madisonclassics.com or 608/244-8416

## A Sunday Drive

◀ Continued from page 1

rolling creation in the great outdoors. How would it feel if that experience with your collector vehicle was compromised or even removed?

A story that began with Maryland legislation that sought to severely curtail hobbyist rights, ended with an army of angry state hobbyists taking steps to protect enjoyment of vintage vehicles. As introduced, Maryland House Bill 550 and Senate Bill 846 aimed to further limit the use of historic motor vehicles, beyond what is currently provided for in the law. According to bill sponsors, these bills sought to address abuses of the historic vehicle designation by certain historic vehicle owners. Under the introduced bills, the age requirement would have been raised from 20 to at least 25 years old, historic cars would have been prohibited from being used for “occasional transportation” and an historic vehicle, show vehicle or antique insurance policy would have been required. While the SEMA Action Network (SAN) does not approve of the misuse of reasonable collector car laws, imposing new, unfair limitations became grounds for debate. So, the SAN went to work. In partnership with the hobbyist community in the state, the SAN worked with Delegate Kirill Reznik to propose amendments to H.B. 550 to protect legitimate historic vehicle owners. These amendments were also offered to S.B. 846 for Senate committee consideration.

Under the amendments, which have not yet been formally approved, vehicles would continue to be eligible for the historic class upon their 20th year; there would be no collector insurance requirement and the “occasional use” provision would be restored. Further, permissible use would now include “for the purposes of obtaining repairs and routine maintenance.” The SAN also helped increase the classes of vehicles among those eligible for historic status to include taxi cabs, funeral vehicles, ambulances and limousines. The American Truck Historical Society successfully negotiated separate legislation to address historic trucks over 10,000 lbs.

To address abusers of the current law who may be using the historic status to operate daily drivers without constraints, the proposed amendments to H.B. 550 and S.B. 846 require that an historic vehicle owner must have use of a regularly registered vehicle to be used for primary transportation. The bill would also clearly stipulate that the historic vehicle not be “an individual’s or a family’s primary method or transportation.” Further, the amended bills enhance law enforcement authority to target violators of the historic vehicle laws without inconveniencing legitimate hobbyists.

“The amended versions of these bills demonstrate a real effort by the primary bill sponsors, especially Delegate Reznik, to enact reasonable and fair compromise legislation that recognizes the unique place these vehicles play in our nation’s heritage, while adequately addressing the abuses of the rights and freedoms granted these cars,” said SEMA Vice President of Government Affairs Steve McDonald. “If enacted into law, this legislation will also aid in facilitating law enforcement efforts to crack down on abusers.”

The SAN would especially like to thank the dedicated hobbyists of Maryland for helping to ensure that historic vehicle owners can continue to create fond memories using their cars. Stay posted on these bills and others around the nation at [www.semasan.com](http://www.semasan.com).



### About This Month's Cover

Award-winning artist Tom Fritz is best known for paintings inspired by the motorcycle and car cultures, particularly in Southern California. To see more of his work, go to [FritzArt.com](http://FritzArt.com).

## HEY, THAT'S MY CAR!

# Lethal Venom

Replica 1965 Shelby Cobra 427 SC

Owner: Jon Miller

Pike Road, Alabama



It's clear that Jon was looking for a bigger bite from his Shelby Cobra replica. One glance at the mixture of parts that make up this machine reveals that it has a potent combination of power, handling and style. The car's engine is a 1989 Ford 460 c.i. bored .030 over with forged pistons that has been balanced and blueprinted. Features of the powerplant include SCJ aluminum heads, a roller cam, a Holley four-barrel carburetor and MSD ignition. A TCI C-6 transmission with a high stall converter is connected to a Jaguar XJS independent rear-end with 3.54 trac-loc differential. The frontend features custom tubular A-frames with Mustang rack and pinion steering and Wilwood disc brakes. Summit Century racing wheels are found on the corners, 18" up front and 20" out back, wrapped in Riken tires. Buckskin leather seats, door panels and shifter boot add luxury to the vehicle. The interior is complete with Stewart Warner



gauges and a chrome roll bar. Best of all, the car's construction and assembly, including its engine, were performed in the garage of his Gadsden, Alabama home. The accompanying photos provide testimony to this Cobra replica's home-built nature.



Have your car or truck featured in a future issue of *Driving Force*. Submit your high-resolution photos online at [www.semasan.com](http://www.semasan.com)



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For more legislative and regulatory information, visit [www.semasan.com](http://www.semasan.com) or call 909-978-6721.

## CLUB SPOTLIGHT

# Support Our Troops

## Golden Hills Mustang Club Wins Golden Rule Award

The 180 members of the Golden Hills Mustang Club celebrated after winning the grand prize in the 19th annual Eagle One Golden Rule Awards contest. This prize is awarded annually to the car club with the most compassionate achievement. The Fairfield, California club was honored for sending 75-pound packages of food, toiletries, magazines and other necessities to U.S.



As the Grand Prize winner, Eagle One and associate sponsor Valvoline donated a total of \$1,500 to a favorite charity of the Golden Hills Mustang Club

troops in Afghanistan and Iraq every month of 2011. Car clubs in four regions of the U.S. were recognized and rewarded for conducting the most outstanding community service program in their region during 2011. SAN-member clubs winning the regional awards were Golden Hills Mustang Club (West), Vintage Wheels Car Club (Midwest) and Lost In The '50s Car Club (East). A donation of \$500 was made to favorite charities of the other three winners. In addition to these donations, the clubs received a custom-designed award, Eagle One appearance car products and Valvoline oil for fundraising purposes.

"Eagle One has been proud to honor car clubs for the outstanding work they perform in their communities while actively engaged in the preservation of one of our country's greatest heritages, the automobile," said Robert McCarter, Eagle One brand manager.

[www.semasan.com](http://www.semasan.com)

Club Spotlight

Hey, That's My Car!

April 2012 SAN Club Events

Legislative Quick Hits

Caucus Corner

A Sunday Drive

INSIDE

1575 S. Valley Vista Dr.  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765



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