

West Virginia Lawmaker & Friend • Inoperable Vehicle Safeguard

# DRIVING FORCE

Fall 2013 | [semaSAN.com](http://semaSAN.com)



# Gather 'Round

Hobby's Diversity Honored by July Celebration

# Collector Car Appreciation Day Blends Mixture of Automotive Tastes

**O**n July 12, 2013, thousands brought out their prized cars and trucks to celebrate the fourth annual Collector Car Appreciation Day (CCAD). A wide range of official events were held in the United States, Canada and Australia to commemorate the day. The occasion attracted an array of beauties that reflected the hobby's diversity and included antiques, hot rods, customs, musclecars, exotics, trucks, late models and more.

Sponsored by Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) and Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) at the request of the SEMA Action Network (SAN), the U.S. Senate Resolution recognizes "that the collection and restoration of historic and classic cars is an important part of preserving the technological achievements and cultural heritage of the United States." Lawmakers in states, counties and local areas all over the country and Canada followed the Senate's lead (see sidebar on p. 3).

Official events included car club cruise-ins, open houses, specialty shows at automobile museums and "drive your collector car to work" displays. Scores of other unofficial events included car shows, picnics and other activities. A summary and photo gallery of these gatherings can be found online: [semaSAN.com/CCAD](http://semaSAN.com/CCAD) Many thanks to all who participated in the festivities. The announcement of next year's event is coming soon!



*Collector Car Appreciation Day, Monrovia, California.*



**Our VWGOA/AOA Collector Car Work Cruise-in attracted a diverse group of vehicles, from Plymouth to Porsche. Despite the small turnout, we enjoyed talking about the hobby and the direction it is going. Until next year, thank you SEMA/SAN for everything you do for us and keep up the good work.**  
—Kevin Smith, Volkswagen Group of America (Auburn Hills, Michigan)



*North Fork Chamber of Commerce, North Fork, California.*



*Old Salem AACA Chapter at Martinsville Speedway in Ridgeway, VA.*



*Portales MainStreet and Desert Cruzers Car Club, Portales, New Mexico.*



*Push Rods Car Club, Jamestown, Tennessee.*



*Musclecar Madness at York Reunion in York, Pennsylvania.*



*Clean Cut Creations, Webster Groves, Missouri.*



*MSD Performance at their shop in El Paso, Texas.*



**Our 4th Annual National Car Collector Appreciation Day celebration had about 85 vehicles registered and a large number of spectators all afternoon despite threatening rains. We were surprised to have special guest and honorary club member Russ Deane, SEMA's general counsel, and his '33 Ford Roadster in attendance. The Crazy Cruisers and Bay County Coalition of Car Clubs appreciate all that SEMA/SAN do for our hobby. It is obvious that without their help, the hobby would not grow.**  
—Cam Stewart, Founder/Director of Crazy Cruisers Car Club (Panama City, Florida)



*NMRA-NMCA Muscle Car Nationals in Joliet, Illinois.*



*Nancy Perry Productions of Glendale, Arizona.*

# States, Provinces and Local Areas Follow Suit

As our hobby's "holiday" continues to grow, states, provinces, counties and cities are also recognizing this annual event. They join the U.S. Senate to mark the day's significance in raising awareness of the vital role automotive restoration and collection plays in American society. This year's participants included:

- Michigan
- New Mexico
- New York
- Manitoba, Canada
- Nova Scotia, Canada
- Las Vegas, Nevada
- Madera County, California
- York County, Virginia
- Washington Parish, Louisiana

## SAN DIRECTOR'S DISPATCH



Colby Martin

# Tomorrow's Collector Vehicles Celebrated Today



Courtesy Monique Dao

*"I've wanted a Datsun roadster since I drove my buddy's when I was in college," Gary Vigil explained. "I wasn't intending to get such a project, but my plans changed when I had a chance to get this one."*

**T**housands of car enthusiasts took over the streets to share their four-wheeled passion in honor of CCAD. Hopefully you got your special ride out of the garage and headed to an event near you or even hosted your own.

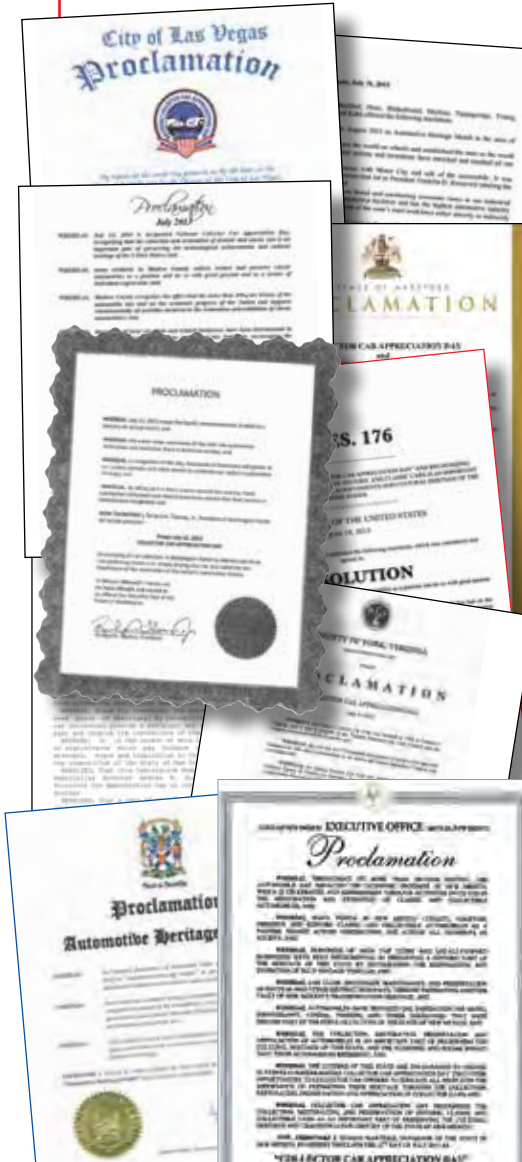
As a result of this annual celebration, I'm asked fairly often what qualifies as a "collector vehicle?" My own sense is that a collector car should serve as a visual demonstration of the owner's passion. While many collector cars may be sought after by a certain segment of our hobby, some likely didn't have much of a following at one point. As time rolls on, shifts in vehicle interests, trends, fads and values also occur.

Lately, it appears that the typical collector cars of yesterday are making room for fresh examples, including classic imports. Obviously, many European sports cars and exotics fell into the category long ago. Today, there seems to be a new interest in micro cars, particularly the early automotive offerings from Japan. For example, the Toyota 2000GT from the '60s is considered by many to be Japan's first supercar. In fact, this rare model recently crossed the auction block for a whopping \$1.2 million due to the car's limited production, impressive performance and incredible styling.

Another such vehicle, a '67½ Datsun 2000 roadster, was recently acquired by Gary Vigil, a colleague and friend from SEMA's Diamond Bar, California, office. Unfortunately, it hadn't been on the road since the late '80s. So with mere weeks left until the big day, Vigil was so excited by the new purchase that he was determined to get it to SEMA headquarters for our own CCAD event.

However, Gary is not alone. In fact, several members of the SEMA staff are fans of vintage imports and have owned them in the past. My own boss, SEMA Vice President of Government Affairs Steve McDonald got through college in a '73 Triumph TR6.

What is clear is that the market's variety continues to develop and offer more choices than ever. To us, specialty vehicles embody the American dream. We've all heard the well-known phrase from the Declaration of Independence: "...life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." We carve out precious resources and time to enjoy freedom on four wheels. And by granting a CCAD Resolution at the SAN's request each year, the U.S. Senate continues to invest in us and our beloved hobby as well. Thanks to everyone who helped celebrate the occasion. Our car-crazed community continues to enjoy a "holiday" unlike any other.





City of Longwood Car Cruise, Longwood, Florida,



Bay Side Mustangs of Annapolis, Maryland.



The Filling Station-Classic Chevrolet Reproduction Parts, Lebanon, Oregon.



Mass Cruisers Auto Club, Foxboro, Massachusetts.



Auburn Cruise Night, Auburn, California.



Brittlebank Park, Charleston, South Carolina.



Cactus Cruisers Car Club, Moapa, Nevada.



Motown Automotive Professionals nonprofit (MAPn), Berkley, Michigan.



Conroe Cruisers, Conroe, Texas.



American Collectors Insurance, Cherry Hill, New Jersey.



Clovis Cruise and Park, Clovis, California.



Collector Car Appreciation Day, Zeeland, Michigan.



Source Interlink Media, Tampa Bay, Florida.



Central Nebraska Auto Club, Kearney, Nebraska.



National Collector Car Appreciation Day is a day to show off your ride and celebrate this great American hobby.

—Hal Hartel, President of Virginia Peninsula Car Club Council (Yorktown, Virginia)



Ultimate Car Cruise, Tarentum, Pennsylvania.



Happy Collector Car Appreciation Day! This is the only day of the year I look forward to drivin' to work.

—Paul Welch (Plano, Texas)



Veteran Motor Car Club of America SW Florida, Punta Gorda, Florida.



Steele Rubber Products, Denver, North Carolina.

ididit's Cruisin' to Columbus, Tecumseh, Michigan.



SEMA, Diamond Bar, California.



*Coachmen Car Club of Ventura County, Simi Valley, California.*



*Dallas Area Classic Chevs, Dallas, Texas.*



*Dancin in the Streets, Lafayette, Indiana.*



*Carlisle Chrysler Nationals in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.*



*Cruise Night at the A&W in Calgary, Canada.*



*Gary's Classic Car Fridays, Buena Park, California.*



*Extreme Automotive at their shop in Corona, California.*



Heavy rainfall and worsening storms throughout our 20-mile cruise did not deter us, or the Street Godz members joining us, from driving our collector cars. I am pictured (far left) presenting U.S. Senate Resolution 176 to club president Mac Willis. We had a great time despite the weather and gained some new friends and members to our club.

—Ed Yahnker, Wayne County Cruisers (Goldsboro, North Carolina)



*Hulas Drive In, Escalon, California.*



*Ukiah Early Iron Car Club, Ukiah, California.*



*Source Interlink Media, Irvine, California.*



*Manitoba Association of Auto Clubs, Manitoba, Canada.*



*Goodguys PPG Nationals, Columbus, Ohio.*



*White Mountain Cruisers, Bath, New Hampshire.*



*Memphis Classic Chevy Club, Bartlett, Tennessee.*



*Valley Collector Car Club, Simsbury, Connecticut.*



*Model A Restorers Club, Mansfield, Massachusetts.*



*iTOK Tech Care, Lehi, Utah.*



*Key West Power Cruise in Key West, Florida.*

This is a fantastic way to celebrate the cars and automotive artists that took them from the drawing board to reality. We in Australia share a common bond with U.S. car lovers. Our business is proud to represent Australia by holding this fun but historically significant event at our premises and look forward to many more to come!

—Mick Donaher, Mick's U.S. Musclecars and Classics (Sydney, New South Wales, Australia)

# Mountain State Motorhead

West Virginia Delegate Gary Howell  
Keyser, West Virginia

*What attracted you to service in the state legislature?*

As the owner of Howell Automotive, I saw the obstacles to growth put in the path of business. West Virginia's business climate is ranked one of the worst in the nation and that needs to change. I wanted to use my knowledge as a business owner to help make the changes to grow the state's economy.

*Which efforts have you been involved in to benefit car enthusiasts?*

I have been a strong advocate of SEMA-model legislation that helps car enthusiasts enjoy their hobby in a safe and responsible manner. I have worked to remove the tax burden on low-income car collectors, sponsored a bill to implement an objective exhaust noise testing program and crusaded against increased ethanol blends in gasoline. I'm



Delegate Howell enjoys driving this Dodge SRT-4.

currently working on a "Car Collector" tag that can be transferred between vehicles like a dealer plate. The plate could be used by collectors on recently purchased vehicles or those in the process of restoration.

*How has being an automotive business owner and SEMA member shaped your outlook on public policy?*

When I read legislation, I try to read it through the eyes of people like Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Jay and Smokey Yunick. Smokey Yunick would have made a great legislator. His "You read the rules for what they don't say, not for what they do," philosophy is one I've adopted. Many of the problems we experience are derived from the unintended consequences. Heeding Smokey's words helps me identify those consequences.

*How does the State Automotive Enthusiast Leadership Caucus serve the vehicle hobby?*

We are your first line of defense from big government interfering with your right to express yourself through your vehicle. We are also your contact point if you have questions, want something changed or want legislation stopped. Legislators come from diverse backgrounds and many may believe that "lug nuts" is a high-fiber cereal, so you need to keep in contact with ones that know which end of a wrench to hold.



Delegate Gary Howell and the West Virginia State Capitol building in Charleston.

*What is your dream car?*

A black '71 GTX, 426 Hemi four-speed.

*How can hobbyists help you and, ultimately, our hobby?*

Hobbyists must first sign up for updates from the SEMA Action Network (SAN), then get involved. Let your legislators know how big an industry the car hobby is and that you vote. Remember, legislators work for you and sometimes they need to be reminded of that. Make sure your legislators know who you are by writing letters on issues that affect the hobby. Like myself, most members of the state legislature are part-time lawmakers. I have to balance my public, business and personal lives. So, if you wish to contact me on an issue I may not be familiar with, make sure you provide the relevant facts. The SAN can help you with that.



## Driving Force Again Recognized in International Competition

The *Driving Force* newsletter again took home the gold medallion in the "Best Single Issue: Newsletter" category of the 22nd International Automotive Media Awards. The International Automotive Media Competition, a function of the International Society for Vehicle Preservation, is a peer-judged awards program that recognizes excellence in all forms of automotive media. Newsletter staff and the entire SAN force are honored by this prestigious recognition.



## WEB RESERVES



# Inoperable and Invaluable

## Safeguarding Your Backyard Restoration Project

**M**any enthusiasts enjoy building or restoring collector vehicles at their own residence. However, some jurisdictions seek to limit your ability to store and work on projects on private property. The SEMA Action Network (SAN) aims to protect your projects with its “Inoperable Vehicle” model bill. It states that property owners may continue to store and work on project vehicles on private property if these vehicles are maintained out of ordinary public view. The bill is frequently adapted for use in state laws and local ordinances. By providing legislators and council members with this language, hobbyists can protect their vehicles from confiscation.

This year, Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval signed into law SAN-amended legislation that originally threatened to add abandoned, unregistered, inoperable or junk motor vehicles to the list of items that constitute a public nuisance. Under existing law, counties and cities may remove a public nuisance at the property owner’s expense if, after notice, the property owner does not remove the nuisance. Under the SAN-drafted amendment based on this model language, abandoned, inoperable or junk vehicles stored on private property would only require screening from public view in counties having populations of 700,000 or more people. Unregistered vehicles could not be declared a nuisance under the SAN amendment.

Use this link to download your own copy of this helpful legislation: [semaSAN.com/Inoperables](http://semaSAN.com/Inoperables).

Images Courtesy Shutterstock

## LEGISLATIVE FRONT LINES

# Target: Ethanol Fuel

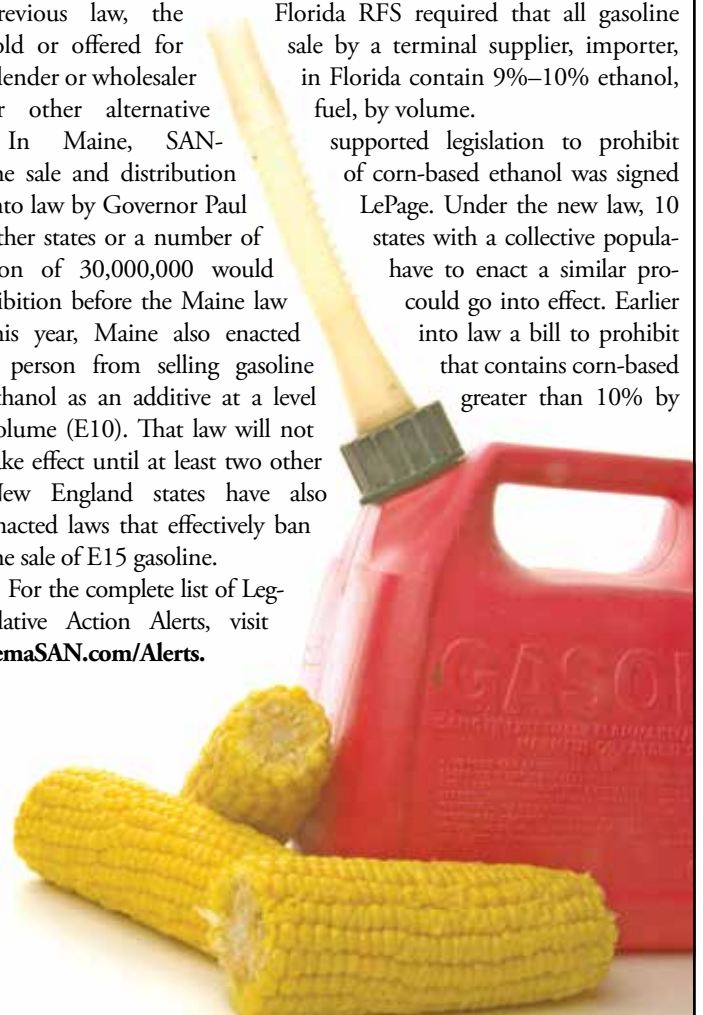
**W**itnesses representing oil, fuel and petrochemical, livestock, automotive, food, biofuel and environmental organizations testified before a U.S. House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on whether the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) should be repealed or scaled-back. The RFS mandates that an increasing amount of biofuels be blended into gasoline each year. It is the driving force behind the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s decision to permit sales of 15% ethanol in gasoline (E15) in order to achieve the RFS mandates.

Federal Committee leaders have stated that full repeal of the RFS is unlikely but reform is a viable option. The SEMA Action Network (SAN) supports reducing the RFS mandates and banning the sale of E15. Ethanol can cause metal corrosion and dissolve certain plastics and rubbers, especially in older cars. E15 can also burn hotter than E10 gasoline and cause damage to certain high-performance specialty parts.

Meanwhile, state legislatures continue to limit ethanol blends. Heeding the call of angry consumers increasingly wary of the corrosive effects of ethanol-blended gasoline, Florida Governor Rick Scott signed into law legislation to repeal the requirement that all gasoline offered for sale in the state contain a percentage of ethanol. Under previous law, the Florida RFS required that all gasoline sold or offered for sale by a terminal supplier, importer, blender or wholesaler in Florida contain 9%–10% ethanol, or other alternative fuel, by volume.

In Maine, SAN supported legislation to prohibit the sale and distribution of corn-based ethanol was signed into law by Governor Paul LePage. Under the new law, 10 other states with a collective population of 30,000,000 would have to enact a similar prohibition before the Maine law could go into effect. Earlier this year, Maine also enacted into law a bill to prohibit a person from selling gasoline that contains corn-based ethanol as an additive at a level greater than 10% by volume (E10). That law will not take effect until at least two other New England states have also enacted laws that effectively ban the sale of E15 gasoline.

For the complete list of Legislative Action Alerts, visit [semaSAN.com/Alerts](http://semaSAN.com/Alerts).



**SEMA GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS OFFICE**

**Vice President of Government Affairs**  
Steve McDonald

**Senior Director of Federal Government Affairs**  
Stuart Gosswein

**Director of Congressional Affairs**  
Dan Sadowski

**Government and Public Affairs Manager**  
Colby Martin

**Research Manager**  
Bryan P. Harrison

**Technical Consultant**  
Jim McFarland

**PUBLICATION STAFF**

**Editor** Colby Martin

**Editorial Director** John Stewart

**Group Operations Manager** Janet Francisco Lee

**Managing Editor** Carr Winn

**Senior Graphic Designer** Maricel Basallo Fuller

**Web Content Manager** Monique Dao



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



**IGNITED  
WE STAND**

**ENTHUSIASTS UNITED  
TO ADVANCE AUTOMOTIVE FREEDOMS**

ENLIST NOW!

**SEMASAN.COM**



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



Fall 2013

Voice of the SEMA Action Network

**DRIVING FORCE**