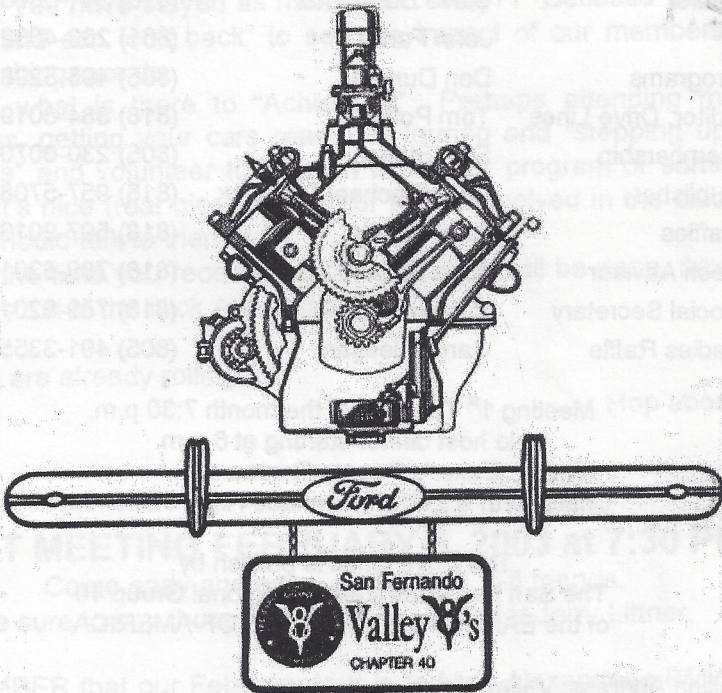




February 2003

"Our 33rd Year"



Drive Lines

The Valley V's

2003 Officers

President	Joe DiFatta	(818) 700-1939
Vice President	Wendi Potter	(818) 884-8019
Secretary	Scott/Rachael Doudrick	(818) 957-5708
Treasurer	Ingvar Carlson	(818) 535-4046
Tours	Steve Boskovich	(818) 341-6876
	John Farrar	(661) 269-4032
Programs	Don Durkee	(805) 495-5298
Editor, Drive Lines	Tom Potter	(818) 884-8019
Membership	Dick Stones	(805) 230-0070
Publisher	Scott/Rachael Doudrick	(818) 957-5708
Raffles	Jerry Littner	(818) 597-9016
Tech Advisor	John Wolf	(818) 789-6201
Social Secretary	Virginia Wolf	(818) 789-6201
Ladies Raffle	Carole Jensen	(805) 491-3355

Meeting 1st Tuesday of the month 7:30 p.m.

No host dinner starting at 6 p.m.

Baker's Square Restaurant

Chatsworth & Zelzah, Granada Hills, California

The Drive Lines is publish by:

The San Fernando Valley, Regional Group 40
of the EARLY FORD V-8 CLUB OF AMERICA

Mailing Address: Valley V-8's
9755 Farralone Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311

President Joe's Message

— February 2003 —

One of my favorite mottos is "Look back and be proud... look ahead and achieve!!" Since 1971, six "Ford" guys formed "The Valley V8 Club!!" The first president was Jim Rowe, Don Durkee joined and is still a super active member in the club. Jim Rowe brought with him at the November meeting, newsletters, board meeting minutes, photos and stories of the "first days" of our club.

Since 1971, we have had 32 presidents, lots of members, many of you have stayed as members... Why?? Because you are "Proud and can look back" to see the impact of our membership and the things we do.

So, what is there to "Achieve??" Perhaps attending more meetings, getting your cars ready for touring and "stepping up to the plate" and volunteer to help on a tour, or program or summer party. It's nice (real nice) to see our ladies involved in the club. I think I should talk to them!!!

By the time you receive this, the JPL tour will be done, next is February 1st is the Nick Alexander Tour.

We are already rolling...

Hop aboard!

NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 5, 2003 at 7:30 PM

Come early and enjoy dinner with V-8 friends.

Be sure to buy those raffle tickets. Look for Jerry Littner.

REMEMBER that our February tour is to Nick Alexander's BMW in Los Angeles on February 1. If you are reading this on the 31st, tomorrow is the day!

NOTE: The Solvang tour on July 12-13 will fill up quickly. Please contact Joe at (818) 700-1939 to be sure you are not disappointed.

“Beauty, Comfort and Safety: The Story of the 1935 Ford” Our Club Members Shine in a Major Article in Collectible Automobile

What do Dave Sanborn and Ron & Ann Marie Batesole have in common? '35 Fords, of course. But there is more, much more! In the February 2003 issue of *Collectible Automobile*, their cars are featured on 11 glossy pages in a descriptive article on the '35 Ford. The photos display some of the most thoroughly restored '35s out there. The glossy 9 x 11 publication (\$7.95 each or \$39.95 / year) includes no less than 30 contemporary full color photos of 13 restored '35 Fords. In addition, there are four black & white archival photos and a full-page 1935 Ford ad featuring a yellow three window. The layout and content of the article are pure quality.

Ten of the 29 color photos show our members' cars. The pictures of Ron's five window coupe include a front and a rear shot, an engine view and one of the dash. Ron's blue-gray beauty is also pictured on page one in the "Calendar of Events" to tease readers into probing the contents of the publication.

Dave's touring Tudor rated a front and a rear view and two beautiful close ups of the dash, radio included. A front photo of Dave's convertible sedan in a park setting measures 5 x 7. Clearly the author, Paul McLaughlin, holds the photos of these particular cars in high esteem. This is a real complement to Dave and Ron and the hard work of restoring and maintaining these true "Collectables."

The article describes many features of the 1935 Ford. It was the year that Ford came from behind to out-sell the General Motors low priced car by 271,000 units. This was the first year of a dramatically new body design and "Center Poise Ride." That means the front spring was moved ahead of the axle and lengthened. The engine was moved forward over 8 inches which allowed the seats to move forward by the same amount so the rear seat was now ahead of the axle. Ford added a convertible sedan for the first time since the Model A days and the '35 woody came with front hinged doors and roll up windows. The Victoria was replaced by a Touring Tudor and a Touring Fordor which had



'35 Ford Convertible
'35 Ford Cabriolet



One of their more notorious uses...



a built in trunk accessed from a small door in its top. (High lifting exercises anyone?)

Our club and DriveLines must be doing something right. We had already pictured these winners! Ron Batesole's '35 Deluxe five window coupe was car of the month in our June 2002 issue. It got a three page spread including a cover shot of "armed gangsters" (Ron's family) who look like they are on their way to a depression era shoot out. Dave Sanborn's '35 Deluxe Touring Tudor was pictured on the inside front cover of the October issue as one of our DriveLines "feature" cars photographed at Joe DiFatta's home during our End of Summer BBQ. By the way, do you notice how these events keep growing and become annual traditions?

"This club rocks!" as my kids would say. It's true that we do have a lot of fun and we also have a lot of great cars! Congratulations Dave and Ron & Ann Marie! This article is much deserved recognition on a national scale and very worth the time, thought and energy you have put in! TP

February Birthdays

4 th	Marsha DiFatta	19 th	Leland Wright
11 th	Don Durkee	25 th	Joe DiFatta
14 th	Susan Trapp	27 th	Lin Kemmerer
17 th	Diane Baily		

OOOOOPS

DriveLines goofed! Our last issue overlooked a birthday! Jerry Littner was born on the 28th of January. We omitted his name from our list of January birthdays. Sorry, Jerry! If other members have been over looked in a similar manner, please let DriveLines know so we can correct our lists.

Did you get to the Greater LA Auto Show?

The exhibits closed on Jan.12, so in case you didn't get to this showcase of the latest, here are some of the highlights with emphasis on Ford V-8s.

What's new in the coming year from Ford you ask? One of the more exciting vehicles is the 2004 F 150 pick up. Pictured here is a yellow extended cab and a black crew cab. They are completely restyled with a longer cab and easier access to all seats. A new torsion resistant frame, heavier rear springs, 17 inch wheels and an increased towing capacity which accompany an improved engine / transmission combination are featured. Included among the power train options are the Triton 5.4 L V-8 SOHC with three valves / cylinder generating 300 hp and 365 ft-lb of torque.

We saw a T-bird with a supercharged 3.9 L V-8 which will not be available for a year of two in production cars. Meanwhile, the 280 hp version of this classy two seater is available in the \$42,000 range. Wendi's choice of Thunderbirds (page 14) is baby blue with color keyed interior and a hard top complete with retro porthole. Now, where do I find the 42K?

The Lincoln LS V-8s, have some significant improvements for '03 including 28 more horses (now 280 up from 252). a redesigned front console, a flip down moving map guidance system and an electronic parking brake. Wendi's favorite color in this model is still "New Parchment."

New for '03 is the Lincoln Aviator with a 4.6 L 302 hp V-8. The basic dimensions are those of an Explorer but in reality, very few body panels or mechanicals are interchangeable. The Aviator offers the comfort of a serious entry-level luxury sedan including new suspension, a touch screen navigation system with map display and voice command capability and a rear DVD screen. Yet it has the versatility and seven passenger spaciousness of a mid sized SUV for "those who travel well" as Lincoln likes to put it.

If you want the ultimate in German luxury and you have a spare \$300,000, your car is the Maybach 57 (5.7 meters long). It is equipped with the Mercedes V-12 which they claim allows the huge car to accelerate 0 - 60 in 5.2 seconds. This is a four passenger four door sedan (with 90 degree door openings) in

which each side of the rear seat features its own video screen with independent wireless headsets and rear seats that recline. These are not cars that you buy from dealer inventory. Each is contracted through a dealer and built to order to the specifications of each buyer. The quantities are limited and we understand that this year's production is sold out already.

We all learned about the Hummer during the Gulf War. We learned about the Mini-Cooper from the British in the '60s. Today, we are witness to a what seems to be a cross between the two. Some people say that when these two got together the results were a Honda Element. It is, well, hard to take seriously. Honda, themselves call it a cross between a dorm room and a base camp. Anyway, it is in production in East Liberty, Ohio. The two tone paint job itself is an attention getter. To see a Hummer-like Mini or a Mini-like Hummer see page 10. At the other end of this line is the very sensible Honda Civic. It is totally a sound and well built Civic (which other cars of this type are not) but the one we saw was a Hybrid. It has a little gas engine (1.3 L) and an electric motor / generator to boost power as needed. I saw a window sticker on the car that said it got 58 mpg in town and 57 on the highway. Say what?

Innovations were certainly present in large numbers this year, perhaps as many as in previous years. Some are incredibly beautiful, some are complex beyond understanding while others are ugly as sin and appeal to an very narrow market segment. Will they become a production reality? No one knows. Sure is fun to watch what is happening! TP

	Dick Cateroni
C Q AUTO PARTS INC. We Specialize in Service	
23116 Devonshire St Chatsworth, CA 91311	Telephone 818 341-3121



\$300k and up
How big can it get?

The Faction is one of a kind,
but who knows the future!
(British Ford)



The 2004 Crew cab (top) and extended cab were displayed along with images of their V8 forbears

Tours, 2003: The Big Picture

The 2003 tour plans, which Steve Boskovich announced at our January meeting, are among the more exciting and varied we have had. Steve - with John, Joe, Scott and Gerry - have organized a full program for us. In March, there is a bus tour to Laughlin, Nevada. Then, in April, grease up your flathead for a Blackwell special. We'll be touring at least 400 miles to Gilroy and Santa Cruz. Gerry does tours like no one else! Plan for an adventurous trip up the coast. May will be wild flower month in the desert. June is the Paradise Cove tour for an excellent brunch on the beach. They really do serve an wonderful spread on tables under umbrellas on the sand. Everyone's welcome! In July, the Solvang tour to the Royal Copenhagen is one of Joe's marquee trips. That's only six months, folks! What will the rest of the year be like?

We are so fortunate to live in Southern California! We are able to tour year round and plan with some certainty that we will be able to do all we have planned while a good portion of the country is still digging out from under snow and ice. The details are:

February 1: Nick Alexander car show and swap meet. We will view the greatest collection of Woodys on the coast or perhaps in the world. Every year Ford and most Mercurys from 1932 to 1951 are there and fully restored. You don't want to miss it especially if you have not been to Nick's. Gates open at 7 am. For information call John Farrar (661) 269-4032.

March 28 - 30: This is a charter bus tour to Laughlin, NV in conjunction with the Ventura V-8s. The bus leaves at noon on Friday and returns at 6 pm Sunday. Two nights at the Colorado Belle in Laughlin including dinner and breakfast \$85 / person double occupancy. Must be paid in full by Feb. 10. If possible, bring your checks to the February meeting. For information call Steve Boskovich (818) 341-6876.

April 24 - 27: The Blackwell tour goes to Gilroy, the garlic town (and much more), and on to the coast to spend the night at the Brookdale Lodge in the mountains above Santa Cruz. There

are many stops planed to visit places of interest. You know Gerry! We don't miss the hidden treasures along the way. OK, there may be unplanned "rest periods" for our V-8s if someone needs to replace a fuel pump etc. For information call Gerry Blackwell (661) 268-0040.

May (tba): Spring Wildflower Tour. For information call Steve Boskovich (818) 341-6876 or John Farrar (661) 269-2945.

June (tba): This tour is our third annual Paradise Cove brunch-on-the-beach. Meet at Woodley Park. For Information call Joe DiFatta (818) 700-1939.

July 12 -13: Solvang tour. We will be staying at the Royal Copenhagen Hotel. First 20 couples to sign up get the reservations. Sorry we can't accommodate more due to limited facilities. Call Joe DiFatta (818) 700-1939.

Possibilities "on the burner": March or April: We're thinking about a new one! There are possible walking tours of Los Angeles in the planning stages. We know this sounds strange. But believe it or not, there is a lot of history in our fair city that can best be seen on foot. Keep an eye open for details in future DriveLines.

Club Donations

The Valley V-8s, through their Christmas Toy Drive, gave to two non-profit organizations which distributed the toys to needy children in the San Fernando Valley. A portion of our toys went to Loaves and Fishes of Van Nuys. The balance went to the Fish of the West Valley in Chatsworth. The toys were sincerely appreciated by the organizations and the youngsters who received them.

As Steve announced at our January meeting, the Club also donated \$200 to Angel Flight West. The organization serves patients who, for medical reasons, are unable to travel long distances on ground transportation. Pilots volunteer their planes and fuel to fly patients to treatment facilities for medical procedures not available in the areas where they live. This donation caught Wendi Potter totally by surprise. She says that it is very much appreciated for maintaining the headquarters office at the Santa Monica airport which is the "nerve center" of the 11



Hummer meets...

Mini



Love Child! (Honda Element)



state organization. Wendi has been a volunteer with the organization for many years. She also flies with Tom and other pilots on missions to assist ill patients and act as navigator when needed. *"Thank you Valley V-8s!" WP*

Scott Doudrick's Talk at the January Meeting Focuses on JPL and the Exploration of Mars

Our January Meeting Presentation was the prep session for our tour to JPL. Scott's talk was about Mars exploration and the 2003 Mars Exploration Rover (MER) Project on which Scott is the Cruise Phase Technical Lead. The idea was to give our members background information prior to the January tour to JPL where the rovers are being built and tested. Both rovers will launch from Cape Kennedy, one at the end of May and one at the end of June.

The vehicles have evolved from Mars Pathfinder which, we all recall, was a focus of national attention when it landed on Mars July 4, 1997. The new vehicles being prepared for the 2003 launch are much larger and more capable than Pathfinder. For example, Pathfinder's Sojourner rover weighed 10 kg. or about 23 lbs. Each new Mars Exploration Rover weighs over 170 kg. (375 lbs.). While Pathfinder was able to drive about 100 ft. total with one instrument, each new MER will be able to drive more than the length of a football field across the surface of Mars with six instruments and many more experiments! If all goes well, the results will be transmitted back to earth for careful analysis. This is a very exciting and challenging project which should be showing us new views of Mars, just after we land next January!

What we learn about Mars helps us in many untold ways to understand our planet and the solar system of which we are a part. Thanks, Scott, for the great program and for this close-up of new and developing science at its best. TP

From The Right Seat

Date: January 07, 2003

Meeting Place: Baker's Square

Meeting Leader: Joe DiFatta, President

Car Count: 14

Start Time: 7:30

Adjournment Time: 9:20

Introduction of Guests: Randy Watson of Thousand Oaks (guest of the Batesoles), He is an auto restorer by trade and interested in Ford V-8s. Welcome, Randy.

President's Notes: Joe DiFatta

All had a great time at the holiday party, thank you to everyone who helped to make it a success. Toys were given to two organizations. We are thanked by 'Fish of the West Valley' based in Chatsworth and Loaves and Fishes of Van Nuys.

Welcome to our new member as of November, Jim Albert ('35 3-window.)

Former president Steve Boskovich made a presentation to Dave Sanborn for his service to the club as Publisher of Drive Lines last year. Thank you, Dave!

Treasurer's Report: Ingvar Carlson

The Treasury is looking good, and we are in the black.

Because of our 50/50 raffle, we are starting off positive, so we present a check to Angel Flight, an organization that was brought to the attention of the club two and a half years ago.

Membership: Dick Stones

Membership dues are DUE! Send \$25 to Dick Stones or bring it to the next meeting. Let's get this done by the February meeting.

Upcoming Tours: Steve Boskovich and John Farrar

See "Tours: The Big Picture" article this issue.

February 1: Nick Alexander tour. The gates open at 7 am. Leave Woodley Park at 7:00 or drive on your own. See map in mailer or contact John Farrar at 661-269-0087. Great cars, parts to buy and lunch provided.

March 28-30: Laughlin, in conjunction with Ventura club. Call Steve Boskovich for details.

April 24-27: "The Blackwell Tours" Gilroy, Bonfante Gardens, Brookdale lodge. Contact Gerry Blackwell at 661-268-0040

June: Paradise Cove Beach. Contact Joe DiFatta.

July 12-13: Solvang Tour. This popular tour fills up early! Call Joe DiFatta. Don't miss out!

Announcements: Paula Ewing needs a good home for a sweet 5-year-old pit bull mix. Great with people, but not necessarily with other dogs.

Car of the Month:

Congratulations to Don Durkee and his 1953 black convertible! (See article in this issue)

Program for the Evening:

Scott Doudrick presented the Mars Exploration Rover project, which will be featured in the JPL tour this month. (See this issue of DriveLines for details.)

Raffle Winners:

Ladies: Nancy Batesole, Paula Ewing

Name Badge: Mary Durkee

50/50 Drawing: Larry Caplan

Minutes submitted by Rachael Doudrick and Wendi Potter

Wanted, 4 Sale / Trade

4 sale. Carson Car trailer with brakes, weighs less than 1000 lbs. Used only four times \$700. Call Steve Boskovich (818) 341-6876/

4 sale. Five 15 inch 1941 Ford hubcaps. Joe DiFatta (818) 700-1939

4 sale. '51 Merc short block. Good condition Jack Miles (818) 347-8617

4 sale. '48 Ford Sedan Coupe, black, 100% stock. Columbia, tube shocks, correct plates. Many extra parts: transmission and complete front axle. First \$15,000 takes it all. Cliff Vess (818) 368-3123

4 sale. '83 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL 4 DOOR SEDAN. White, gold velour interior. Sun roof, air, full power, all in working order. Engine trans. sound. No rust or dents. Asking \$4000. Nino Rosso. (323) 877-2314

From The Right Seat



Don's '53 "The Tightest"



Since she can't have Don's '53,
Wendi's color – Why not. Only \$42,000
(From the LA auto show)

Car of the Month, Don Durkee's '53 Convertible

This black beauty started life in Richmond, CA in 1953. Its owner moved to Portland, Oregon where the car stayed until the late '70s. It was sold and moved back to California in the hands of Jerry Little, the second owner, who continued the great care given by the original owner. Then Jack Pankey took ownership in San Leandro in '83. By the way, did you know that San Leandro is where the Early Ford V-8 Club of America got its start?

Anyway, Jack reupholstered the front seat and installed its current black top with red piping. Jack also installed all the accessories that were available through Ford in 1953 except a Continental or a Coronado kit. Don first saw this spotless convertible in 1985 when it won a Dearborn at the Western Nationals in Ventura.

In 1991 Art Bjornestad bought it continuing the excellent care it had always received. Don says that every time he saw Art driving the car he wished it was his. A few years later a minor accident caused Art to bring the car to Don's for repairs. The grill and front right fender were replaced. Otherwise, it is an original car. Now, Don had to drive Art home and bring the car back to his place.

Don had been in love with the black convertible from a distance. Now, driving it, his dream was coming true. This was a chance to be up close to the car he had always wanted. "It drove even better than it looked!" says Don. It was impossible to say "No!" He had to have her. He told Art to keep the insurance check and he would pay the difference up to the price Art wanted. As is often the case, love is a very expensive proposition. He scraped together the money and brought the convertible home. He paid more for that car than any he ever bought including his modern ones.

The car has never been restored, just very well kept. It has power brakes and steering. You may know that '53 was the first year that Ford and Mercury offered these as a factory options. This great car represents the last year Ford put the flathead V-8 in American automobiles. It is truly something a guy could be proud to drive. Perhaps Don would say that for the last five years he has been in "car heaven." And for the Iowa Farm Boy (and the rest of us too), that's a good thing! DD

Thanks for your story on this beautiful original car! May you both be happy together for a long time to come! TP

**SAN FERNANDO-EARLY FORD V-8s
COLORADO BELLE-LAUGHLIN
MARCH 28-30, 2003**

Day 1-Friday, March 28, 2003

10:00 a.m. Depart San Fernando- WILL ADVISE

A $\frac{1}{2}$ hour stop will be made in
Barstow for a break.

4:00 p.m. Arrive in Laughlin at the Colorado Belle Hotel and
Casino. Upon arrival please remain on the bus until a
hotel representative or your group leader checks the
group in.

Day 2- Saturday, March 29, 2003

FREE DAY!

Day 3-Sunday, March 30, 2003

12:00 p.m. Depart Laughlin

A $\frac{1}{2}$ hour stop will be made in Barstow for a break.

6:00 p.m. Arrive back home.

Price Includes: Deluxe Motorcoach transportation,
2 Night's Accommodations, Juice and
Doughnuts on board, 1 Breakfast Buffet,
1 Choice Buffet, Baggage Handling and
Tax.



Cost is \$85 per person double occupancy. Singles add \$37.50.

Must be paid in full by Feb 10, 2003

For Further information, call Steve Boskovich (818) 341-6876.

Colas, water and snacks are available on board bus.

The Valley 's

PAST PRESIDENTS

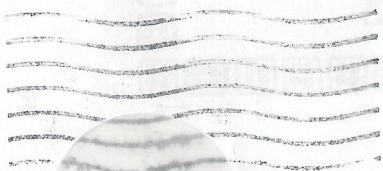
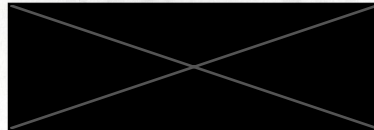
Jim Rowe	1971
Doug Peterson	1972
Don Durkee	1973 - 1974
Ed Warnock	1975
John Busk	1976
Chip Werstein	1977
Stan Marsraje	1978
Bill Culp	1979
Al Spencer	1980
Larry Caplan	1981
Bob Rose	1982
Don Durkee	1983
Paul Kirk	1984
Kent Lowry	1985
Dave Sanborn	1986
John Kemmerer	1987
Dudley Ochsner	1988
Jerry Jensen	1989 - 1990
Joe DiFatta	1991
Chuck Shubb	1992 - 1993
George Richards	1994
Jerry Littner	1995
Dick Smith	1996
Chuck Mair	1997
Dennis Keene	1998
Rose Gott	1999
Don Stout	2000
Steve Boskovich	2001 -2002

The Valley's

9755 Farralone Avenue _ Chatsworth, CA 91311



Don Durkee's '53 Ford Convertible
Car of the Month



Costs will vary with rates and availability on board the
For further information, call Silverado's toll-free number
Must be paid in full by Feb. 15, 2002.
Cost is \$100 per person, plus optional gratuities.
2002-700K
2002-700K
2002-700K