



May 2026

DRIVE LINES



1956 Ford Ranch Wagon

Owner: Bill Greene, Vice President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: from Rex Jaramillo



Hello Valley V-8's Club members —

Welcome to another Drive Lines Newsletter – May, 2026: Last month's meeting in April was interesting, jam-packed with related club activities: Howard Brown's trip to Detroit in February was most interesting. Howard shared some great photos of the car museums and buildings he visited on his trip.

A few highlights Howard shared were the Fisher Building, the first Model T Ford plant, the Packard museum, the Roush Collection, Henry Ford Museum, and, the famous, Autorama, 2026: This stellar event is often called 'America's greatest hot-rod show'. Overall, an amazing and very enlightening presentation by Howard. By the way, our Club is about all of us: And you sharing your activities is a great way to connect and let us in on what's going on collectively in our interesting lives. Call one of our Program Coordinators, Joe DiFatta or Larry Caplan, with your ideas. All suggestions are welcome. And we all love pictures (slide show) as well!

V-8-Club Secretary: Are you a good listener? Our club is still needing a new Secretary to jot down an overview of our Club monthly meetings. If you're interested, please contact Rex Jaramillo or Joanie Sapper.

Our next months' meeting is right around the corner: Saturday May 23 at Lulu's. Come hang out with all of your friends, and by the way, Lulu's is known throughout the Land for her amazing breakfast's for sure! Also our 'tech-talk' about Engine 'upper-end design' will be most interesting with some fabulous 'training' aids. Finally, please remember to invite friends to our Meeting: There's something for everyone, including a good time, for sure!

See you all soon.

-Rex J.
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The Valley 's

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Valley V8 Ford Meeting – April 25, 2026

Meeting opened at 10:00 am by President Rex Jaramillo with the Pledge of Allegiance led by another of our heroic veterans, Joe DiFatta. Guest welcomed was Dick Colarossi's son Johnny. Continued thoughts and prayers for Monty Goff.

Announcements-Our club is still needing a new Secretary. If you are interested, please contact Rex or Joanie Sapper. There are some great cars in our parking lot to enjoy during our break: Dick Colorossi's yellow roadster, Ken Sapper's red roadster, Ernie Baily's Plymouth, Joe DiFatta's '46 Ford, plus Al Mooney's rare Mustang!

Future Events notice from Ernie-

- Bosse Tour – flyer to be mailed to all members
- First Sunday each month, 8-10 am, at Reagan Museum. Free coffee and donuts.
- Santa Paula Cruise Night, first Friday each month, 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Downtown.
- First Saturday each month Coachman Club has gathering at the Rock & Roll Café in Simi
- Every Friday night Bob's in Northridge
- Oct. 4th SFV Model A club planning a Nethercutt Museum car show
- The famous Great Race will be ending their Route 66 tour here in June! More info to come on this. BTW, Sandy Norris' peach Ford will be participating.
- For more ideas, check out socalcarculture.com.

Stan Miller wanted to thank our entire club for all the help he has received in getting his Ford rolling again!

BREAK CALLED

Our Membership chairman, Howard Brown, announced that he has the 2026 Roster here today. Please pick yours up before leaving.

Minutes continued...

RAFFLE WINNERS:

50/50 – Bill Greene went home with \$60!

Ladies Raffle – Laurel Seaver and Val Ellerbrock

Name Tag – Sue Boskovich

Vasken Hagopian took a minute to recognize both our Club's Veterans and the mothers present as May will be month of Memorial Day and Mother's Day.

PROGRAM – Howard Brown's trip to the 2026 Autorama. Howard shared some great photos of all the great car museums and buildings on his trip back to Detroit in February. A few highlights were the Fisher Building, the first Model T Ford plant, the Packard museum, the Roush Collection, Henry Ford Museum and the Autorama! BTW all of us are always welcome to share our experiences as a program. Bring pictures!

Reminders – Our next club meeting will be Saturday, May 23rd! See you then.

Meeting closed by Rex.

Submitted by Joanie Sapper/edited by Val Ellerbrock

We are still looking for someone to take over as Club Secretary. Duties are simple: Jot down highlights at the meeting and give to me, the Drive Lines Editor, Val Ellerbrock. That's pretty much it. Not sure you can commit to being available every month?? Even part time help with this will be appreciated. Please see Joanie Sapper or myself for more info. We'd love to have you join the team!

Bill Greene's 1956 Ford Ranch Wagon Deluxe

I first saw the car one night at Cruisers Car Wash in 2003. I then purchased the car from the owner, a reserve LAPD officer, a couple weeks later. I always had a penchant for this car since it was the same car my parents had, and was what I learned to drive in 1963. Theirs was red and white, automatic and 292 ci motor. This car was blue and white with three on the tree and the same 292ci motor. Same but different. It was running the first time I saw it. When I went to buy it, the battery had died. I had to have it flat bedded to Dodge Bros. Automotive, and thus my long (and expensive) association with Tony Dodge began.

The car was presentable and was fun to drive. But being a gear head, I needed (wanted, what's the difference) to change things. I had it at five different shops for mechanical, body, paint, etc. During the next 15 years, the car was taken down to a frame on renovation including removal of the engine and transmission (stored at a neighbor's shop), all glass, seats, interior door panels, stainless trim, bumpers, so on. The car was media blasted and then all the body cancer and floor areas were repaired and replaced. The car sat in primer for about 15 years.

Renovation includes replacement of front springs, 2 inch drop spindles (from a Ford Granada), engine was rebuilt with a .030 over bore (approx. 300 ci), mild "Clay Smith" cam, "Mummert" high rise aluminum manifold, Holley 500 CFM four barrel carburetor, stock heads, replaced 3 speed transmission with a Borg Warner T-10 4-speed with Hurst shifter, added power assist brake booster, powder coated stock exhaust manifolds and the stock rear end housing with a new limited slip carrier having 3:31 gears from Hoopers Rear Ends. The car has all new glass, wiring, rebuilt stock gauges, some after market gauges, reworked stock radio AM/FM/Blue tooth/Aux plug/ and a partial new interior. The stock steel wheels and body were recently painted GM Metallic Indigo Blue, and have NOS dog dish wheel covers and beauty rings.

Recently, I broke the engine and it's at Dodge Bros. waiting to be rebuilt, again. Transmission is going to be rebuilt while it out of the car. It may be finished sometime this Spring, I hope?

Still, it's a Kool ride!

(Story was told about the car by Bill Greene, of course)



Reenie Jaramillo wants to thank all who prayed and wished her well for her recent neck surgery.

Note her 'V-8 flames' collar.

She's recovering nicely.



UPCOMING CLUB TOUR

Valley V8 Club/Studebaker Club Joint Tour

Date: Saturday May 30,2026

Destination: Bosse Toy Train Museum

1303 State St., Santa Barbara

(805) 708-4444

Opens at 10:00 AM

Starting Point & Time: Meet at Park & Ride at Stearns St. off of the 118 Fwy.

Meet at 8:30 AM. Depart at 9:00 AM

Admission: Adults- \$12.00 Seniors -\$8.00 Youth-\$6.00

Children under 2yrs-Free

Lunch Location: Harry's Bar & Grille, 3313 State St., Santa Barbara

(805) 687-2800

RSVP: Ernie Baily

(805) 433-5540

ernestbaily@att.net

Thomas Weller, "The Highwayman"



In 1964, sixteen-year-old Thomas Weller got stuck in a snowbank, while driving in his native Illinois. After waiting several hours, he was rescued by a passerby who noticed the tire tracks. The man, who Weller credits with saving his life, refused payment for his good deed. Instead, he asked Weller to help someone in trouble. In 1966, Weller began doing just that.



With each spare tire, fire extinguisher, gas can, and ready smile, the Highwayman has not only given help, but hope. He estimates that he has helped 10,000 motorists get back on the road in the over 50 years he patrolled San Diego's freeways in Beulah, his specially modified 1955 Ford Country Sedan Station Wagon. He never asks for any payment. Just like the gentleman who rescued him, he tells them,

The Highwayman continued....

“You don’t owe me a thing. I’ve been there too. Someone once helped me out, just the way I’m helping you. If you really want to pay me back here’s what you do: Don’t let the chain of love end.”



Weller's modified 1955 Ford station wagon, Beulah (1956 grille), is notable for its significant resemblance to the Ghostbusters vehicle Ecto-1.

On August 10, 2011, Beulah was totaled in a freeway accident. Weller could not afford to repair the station wagon, but in December 2014, a dedicated GoFundMe campaign raised over \$10,000 to cover the cost.

You can see Tom Weller's 1955 Ford Country Sedan in-person at the San Diego Automotive Museum.

Great
Western
Container



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Valley V8 Birthdays

May	1	Leslie Nuccitelli
May	2	Patty Schneider
May	5	Mike Mansour
May	5	Margaret Russell
May	15	John Fredricks
May	17	Sue Boskovich
May	17	Richard Carter
May	19	Paul Kirk
May	25	Clark Pomeroy
May	26	Craig Lapair



**Our next meeting will be on Saturday
May 23th at Lulu's Restaurant
16900 Roscoe Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91406
Meeting starts at 10:00 AM
Come early and enjoy breakfast before**