



July 2026

DRIVE LINES



1964 Mercury Comet Caliente
Owner: Vic Timar

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: from Rex Jaramillo



Hello Valley V-8's Club members —

Greetings, and welcome to our July Club Newsletter. We had a most excellent June meeting last month, with good attendance. Thanks to all who were there: keep up the 'good work' and invite your interested friends to our next meeting: car people or otherwise, all are welcome!

The guest speaker for our June meeting was **Brett Arena**, He is the archivist for the Gilmore Oil Company. Brett did an amazing job of sharing history and background about the Company, well known for their oil business. However, founder Arthur Fremont Gilmore was originally in the cattle business. Turns out he 'struck' oil while drilling for water to provide for his cattle. The rest, as 'they' say, is history. Later the Corporation built the first gas station. At this time, the Gilmore Oil Company has the biggest network of gas stations in the West. A most excellent presentation, thank you Brett! And thanks, Jim and Val Ellerbrock for doing the audio-visual support, cheers!

We're sad to report that our longtime Club member Pam Buck, the other half of the Gerard & Pam Buck duo, has passed away. Our deepest sympathies go out to Gerard, who's returned to his homeland, France. Gerard, all the best in your new life. You're an esteemed club member and we'll miss you (and Pam) deeply!

Next Meeting: Saturday July 25: This promises to be most interesting: what's it like to drive in the Hemmings Great Race. Our guest will be Marilyn Monrovia, who purchased Sandy Norris' two shoebox Fords: the '49 'Lil' Darlin' sedan and the '51 'Georgia Peach' convertible. Marilyn and her cousin entered the Race and drove the '51 convertible all the way from Springfield, Illinois to Pasadena, CA! We're talking about a 2300-mile, nine-day trek under challenging conditions. This will be a one-of-a-kind overview of the 'Race', 'real-world'-style, driven by one of 'our own'. Be prepared to anticipate, laugh heartily, maybe even weep! as our guests share their adventures backed by a slide show. We'll be sitting on the edge of our seats for this one, a must-attend meeting for sure -- see you there!

The Valley 's

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SF Valley Ford V8 Meeting Minutes - June 27, 2026

The meeting was opened by club's VP, **Bill Greene**, with the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests introduced were: **Bill, Dennis and Logan**. All from "down-under", and perhaps future members. They are all in the movie industry and will be in need of some Ford parts and technical assistance. Also introduced was Maxine Ostrian's friend **Midge**. Our speaker for today's program, **Brett Arena**, was introduced by Valerie. He is the archivist for the Gilmore Oil Company. Welcome to ALL!

Birthdays for month of June are all listed in our June Drivelines. Our thoughts and prayers go out to **Monty Goff**, still recovering in a rehab facility going on 2-1/2 years. **Jerry Littner** is recovering from triple bypass surgery in May. He says the recovery is slow. Continued healing prayers to each of you.

Ernie's Events –

- Ernie gave us a recap of the Bosse Train Museum Tour on May 30th. There was a great article covering this in our June Drivelines.
- Tomorrow (6/28) is the finale of The Great Race right here in Pasadena. The group met at Coco's, left at 9 am to drive as a group, find parking then walk around.
- Future ideas: Wings Over Camarillo Air & Car Show 8/15 & 16 AND Buellton is having a Vintage Trailer Bash, Sept 24-27.

V8 Club Summer BBQ Info!

Vic Timar invited all members to our annual BBQ, on August 29th at Vic and Andrea's home. Event is planned for 4 pm. There will be a potluck and help signup sheet at our July meeting. Please call him if you can't be at meeting and want to come. Vic 805-890-2419

10-min. Break called

Gilmore Oil Company Background – Brett Arena

The year was 1852 (2 yrs after Calif. became a state) when Arthur Fremont Gilmore came to Los Angeles with his dairy cows. Briefly, in his drilling for water for the cows, he struck oil! Oil was not a hot commodity at that time. However, they went into the oil business; the Gilmore ranch workers

(Minutes cont'd...)

became oil drillers. Oil was sold to cover the many dirt roads in LA. Oil was also needed for fuel for oil lamps, heating and machinery lubrication. In the year 1913, Earl Gilmore (Arthur's son) graduated from college and joins his dad in business. They built horse drawn tankers to deliver this oil. These evolved into gas driven trucks. Since he needed gas for his trucks, he built his own small refinery to make this gas. Later they built the first gas station. The Gilmore Oil Company had the biggest network of stations (3500) west of the Rockies!

To promote land sales in LA, Gilmore built car race tracks in these remote areas. In the 1930's the Gilmore Oil Company was heavily involved with racing, sponsoring cars and events. They built a baseball stadium for the Hollywood Stars baseball team AND their own car race track on the property next to where the Farmers Market is today. The history doesn't end there. For further information, there are many displays at the Farmer Market to arouse your interest. Our historian, Brett, highly recommended the book entitled, "Gentlemen, Start Your Engines".

Thanks so much, Brett, for this fascinating program!

WINNERS!

Ladies Raffle – Val Ellerbrock and Sue Boskovich (4th of July surprises from Reenie Jaramillo!)

50/50 – Maxine Ostrian (\$50)

Name Badge – Steve Lehman

Raffle Table – THANKS AGAIN STEVE!

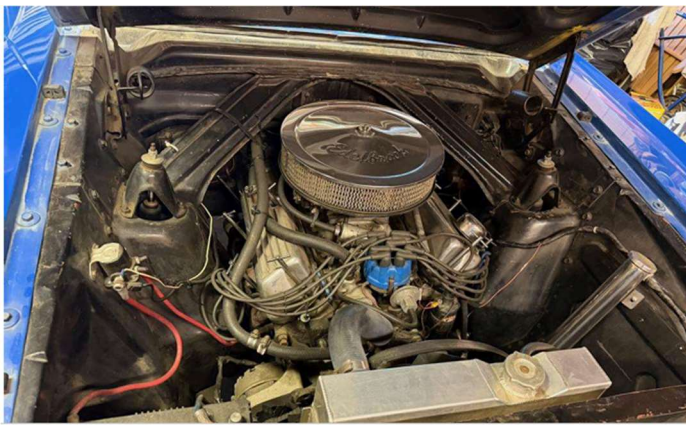
Meeting ended at approximately 11:30

Thank you Bill for covering for Rex today!

Vic Timar's 1964 Mercury Comet Caliente

The 1964 Mercury Comet Caliente is the cousin of the Ford Falcon and the predecessor to the Ford Mustang. This year model was entered into the East African Safari race and finished the race, which was an accomplishment. Also, they did an endurance run in Daytona Beach Race Track that same year. The Ford Motor Company took the cars and ran them for 100,000 miles, not stopping except for oil changes, at speeds of 100 plus miles per hour. After doing this, the engines were disassembled and inspected. Even after 100,000 miles, the engines met factory specifications and could have been installed into new cars. That took win on Sunday, sell on Monday to a new level!

I bought my Comet Caliente in the summer of 1994. It didn't have an engine or transmission. At that time, the running gear was easy to find. I found the engine in a friend of mine's back yard, traded him for a Borg Warner Super T-10 4-speed transmission, and I traded another friend a 3-speed manual for a C4 automatic transmission. Throughout the years I have continued to work on my 1964 Caliente. The most recent upgrade is the front disk brake system that I installed. The pictures of the body job are from 11 years ago. I did all the body work myself and then I had her professionally painted in Sylmar CA. Right now, the engine is a 1967 Ford 289, 9.5 to 1 compression ratio 0.040 over bore TRW Flat Top Pistons. Also installed Edelbrock E-street heads, 488 lift 260 duration cam, an Edelbrock performer 289 intake manifold. Topped off with an Edelbrock 600 CFM 4-barrel carburetor, I had her Dyno Tuned by Bob Jennings. The engine is mated to a built C4 Automatic Trans. The third member is a Ford 8- inch 3.25 gear ratio. My Comet Caliente is not a show car or a full-blown hot rod, just a souped-up daily cruiser. She will always need to be worked on, but that is what makes my passion for the old American Hot Rod worthwhile.



ANNUAL CLUB BBQ

*It's time for our Annual Valley
V8's Club Summer BBQ
Saturday August 29th at 4pm
At the home of Vic and
Andrea Timar
13877 Polk St in Sylmar
(805) 890-2419*



*Burgers and water will be provided by the Club.
Please bring your own sodas or beer.
We are asking for side dishes or desserts.
Please RSVP which you can bring
and how many will attend. You can sign up at the
meeting or contact him directly
at the number shown above.
If you are able to assist with set up or clean up,
Please let him know.*

Valley V8 Club/Studebaker Club

Great Race Finale Report

Well we started out by meeting at Coco's Bakery & Restaurant in Mission Hills at 8:30AM for breakfast. I drove my 1955 Dodge Custom Royal Lancer and Art Rybin drove his 1957 Ford Ranchero, and then Howard Brown and Stan Miller arrived in Stan's 1940 Ford Deluxe Tudor Sedan. We waited until 9:30AM to depart and head out to Pasadena to the City Hall where the event was being setup. Unfortunately they only had parking for the Great Race participants. We searched for parking as close as we could. Howard & Stan found a spot about a block away but Art & I drove around trying to find a spot. We finally did, but we had quite a hike back to the City Hall. Well Stan & Howard grabbed a bench (the only bench in the whole area) that centrally located us to view the event. The weather was great that day! We watched the approx. 140 entries come in for the final leg of the Great Race! We were able to get the official brochure of the Great race and it included data on each entry. Unfortunately our friends Steve Hedke and family were going to enter the race with their 1964 Studebaker Daytona but had problems on the way to the starting point in Springfield, Illinois. This is quite a story! Also our V8 Club President Rex Jaramillo was there to root on a family friend Marilyn Monrovia and Mandy Flower. Marilyn had purchased Sandy Norris' 1951 Ford convertible and entered the Great Race. It turned out to be quite a celebration with event & city officials hosting. It was different than the usual Car Show!



We all know Ernie Baily's love of really clean White Wall tires. He found this ad in one of his brother's Life magazines from 1937. His brother has quite a collection of vintage Life magazines he is selling. See Ernie if you are interested in purchasing any.



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to look as good as the best of
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Freedom from "acid drag-
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Do use S.O.S. every day—
every time you cook, because
S.O.S. works so fast, you
work less! Thorough, too!

...works so fast, you work less!
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We are sad to learn of the passing of Valley V8 Club member Don Hopf. His wife, Julie, sent a card sharing the news and how much Don enjoyed the Club over the years, especially the people, since 1999.



Share this obituary:



Birth: 1938

Death: 2026

sister Louise Crowley.

Lloyd "Don" Hopf

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness and love that we announce the passing of Lloyd "Don" Hopf on April 29th, 2026. He died peacefully at home, surrounded by family.

Cars and adventure were Don's passions. The San Gabriel Valley was his lifelong home. Hard work, determination, and giving back to the community were his focus.

Nothing mattered more to Don than his family. He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years Julie Hopf, his devoted son David Hopf and daughter Terri Connelly, his 5 beloved grandchildren, 3 cherished great grandchildren, his daughter Tammy Hopf, and wonderful

We recently learned of the passing of Vally V8 Club member Gerard Buck's wife, Pamela. Gerard has since moved to France and is with family there, including his daughter. He's pictured in France taking a ride in a '29 Pontiac. He's still struggling but according to his daughter, is holding his own and doing better after his loss. Evidently Pam passed away recently after spending time in the hospital. She was discharged from the hospital and several days later she passed away at home with Gerard. No cause was given.



Marilyn Monrovia and her cousin piloting her '51 Ford (formerly Sandy Norris' car) somewhere along Route 66 in the recent Hemmings Great Race. Marilyn and her cousin Mandy Flower along with their '51 Ford will be our July Meeting guests and speakers to share with us about their great adventure. Sandy passed away last year.



13th Annual So-Cal Early Ford V-8 Club Inter-Regional

*Giant...
Collector Car*

Swap Meet

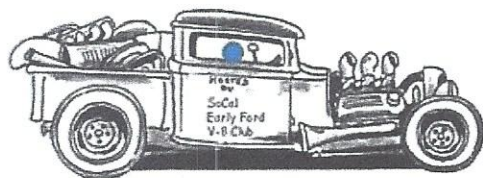
*Lots of Ford
Flathead Stuff*



Saturday, August 8, 2026

The only place that you're going to find Early Ford stuff
is at a swap meet like this - put on by Early Ford V-8 Club folks
Car & Truck Parts - Accessories - Tools - Literature, Books & much more

7212 Melrose Ave, Buena Park



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Get the Best Deals*

•BUY •SELL
•SWAP

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At the Elks Club Lodge

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Elks Lodge - Buena Park
7212 Melrose Ave.



Dealer
Set-up
7:00 AM

Open to
the Public
8:00 AM

Spaces \$25.00 each - Admission \$2.00 per adult at the gate`

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Call Tom McLaughlin Ph. 714 998-4528
or Gary Zimmerman Ph. 714 726-8384

coffee and donuts will be on sale

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Valley V8 Birthdays

July	3	Andrea Timar
July	12	Art Rybin
July	15	Stanley Miller
July	20	Maxine Ostrian
July	20	Victor Timar
July	23	Steve Boskovich



**Our next meeting will be on Saturday
July 25th at Lulu's Restaurant
16900 Roscoe Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91406
Meeting starts at 10:00 AM
Come early and enjoy breakfast before**

**Our Guest Speaker will be "Marilyn Monrovia". She
bought and drove Sandy Norris '51 Ford convertible,
'Georgia-Peach, in 'The Great Race' recently,
from Chicago to Pasadena.**