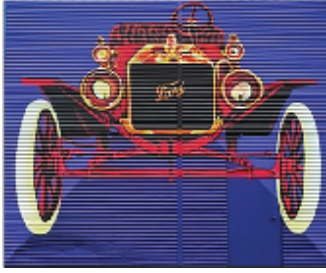


# DOCENT NEWSLETTER



## Docent Corps of the California Automobile Museum

### Notes From the Dashboard...

Volume 26, No 1 January - February 2024

**H**appy New Year! Lots of changes and accomplishments occurred at the museum last year and many more exciting ones are expected in the coming days, weeks and months. We successfully recovered from the COVID days, where we saw the loss of mostly all of our staff, including our Director in February. Thanks to Ed Silva filling in as temporary Director (magnificently, I might add), we welcomed Karen McClafin as the new Executive Director in March.

Late in the 2022, one very exciting event was the Saleen exhibit, including a special dinner and interview with Steve Saleen himself. It was a truly special night. In March the annual Free Museum Day(s) event was extremely well attended by more than two thousand visitors. Each year, 80-90 Docent volunteers per day are required to staff the museum in order to assure a smooth, trouble free and very much appreciated attendance by our patrons. Also in March was the Woodys exhibit, which generated a tremendous amount of positive feedback. It was a terrific show that people seemed to thoroughly enjoy.

April brought the passing of the “Ol’ Schoolmaster” Bill Millard. He was such a key asset to the museum, especially the establishment of the Docent Training Program and his phenomenal knowledge of Model Ts. The Education center is now named after Bill. He also left a huge collection of old car and airplane models (still in their original boxes) that are currently being sold on eBay, with half the proceeds going to his wife Macell. A nice bio of Bill was published in the May-June newsletter.

In July, we welcomed the newest main exhibit – “Glamour Road,” which celebrates the the importance of women in the automotive market and industry. This exhibit was curated by ShaVolla Rodriguez, our new Exhibits Manager. After the excellent job she did last year with the “Art of Low Riding” exhibit, which was one of our most successful exhibits to date, she was a natural pick for the job. The “Glamour” cars featured new colors, upholstery designs, and, most importantly, ease of driving. These cars were loaded with automatic transmissions, power steering disc brakes, power seats and a host of other amenities. It is proving to be another hit for the museum.

*Continued on Page 2*

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### Upcoming Events

Rucas y Carruchas - Ladies in Lowriding Open...Sat, Jan 20

Free Museum Days.....Sat, Sun Mar 2,3

Board Meeting .....Last Thurs, 5:30 pm

Docent Council.....2<sup>nd</sup> Weds, 1:15 pm

Exhibits.....2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs, 1 pm

Library.....Weds, 10 am

Road Crew.....1<sup>st</sup>& 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds, 1:15 pm

Continued from Page 1

In October the museum held its annual CruiseFest on Fulton Avenue. We literally had hundreds of classic cars entered and thousands more spectators. While this event required dozens of dedicated volunteers, it came off without a hitch and was another highly successful event that generated more interest in our museum. This month we also held our first-ever online election for the Docent Council. Every current docent was provided an opportunity to vote for who they wanted for the two open 2-year positions - Docent Council Chairman and Vice Chairman, which were Ralph Carbone (Chair) and Jim Ferguson (Vice Chair).

In November the museum hosted another special evening featuring Wayne Carini, well known car enthusiast/expert/TV personality. The event, which included a dinner, auction and interview was attended by over 225 people. Not only did the night create some revenue for the museum, but also provided excellent publicity nationally.

The Board of Directors and the Docent Council mutually agreed to finance the technology upgrade of the Education Room. This much-needed upgrade will greatly enhance our A/V capabilities as well as make the room much more market-able. Jim Ferguson is spearheading this project which will be completed in time for the new Docent Training class.

As in past years, there will be a multitude of other programs that provide volunteer opportunities including:

- Our annual Veterans' Memorial Day benefit car show.
- Events: always in need of extra docents when these occur.
- Sunday drives every 3rd Sunday – highly successful/more visitors
- Pit Crew: they do a wonderful job keeping our cars in good running order.
- Outreach: Parades/Visits: using museum and private cars (including schools, rest homes, car shows)
- School Tours (in Museum), including providing bus service to impacted schools
- MotorWorks: help elementary schoolchildren build Model T cars on an assembly line
- Vendor Shows/Craft Fairs
- Touch Tours: geared toward the visually impaired (re-introducing this program)
- Teamwork Tuesdays general needed cleaning/repair around the museum
- We're anticipating another year filled with significant improvements, great exhibits, record crowds, lots of events and tremendous teamwork.

Ralph Carbone

## DOCENTS NEEDED

Each year, Free Museum Day typically draws tens of thousands of Sacramento area community members to local museums to experience the fascinating art, culture, and history of the region. This year nearly 20 local museums are collaborating to present a hybrid, two-day FREE Museum Weekend on March 2-3. Please contact Ralph Carbone [faclab@yahoo.com](mailto:faclab@yahoo.com) to confirm your availability to help for this event.

## CALIFORNIA AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM



2200 Front Street  
Sacramento, CA 95818  
916.442.6802

[www.calautomuseum.org](http://www.calautomuseum.org)

**FOUNDING DIRECTOR:** DICK RYDER

### 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Davis	David Felderstein
Scott Mikkelson	Alan Galbraith
Joe Hensler	Steve Koonce
Steve Meyer	Glenn Rondeau
Ed Silva	John Smith
Kellie Smith	Don Tollefson
Tom Tyer	Mike Whelply

### DOCENT COUNCIL

Ralph Carbone	Chair
Jim Ferguson	Vice Chair
Jared Seese	Treasurer
John Tennyson	Training Curriculum
Bob Daloia	Training Chair
Sharon Taylor	Secretary/Membership
Denny Albrecht	Events Co-Chairs
Dan Rodriguez	
Glenn Rondeau	Newsletter Editor
John Smith	Past Chair
Frank DeBernardi	Communications
Ron Vogel	Special Projects
At Large Non-Voting:	Duwayne Brooks
Vicki Byrd	Ken Jordan

### VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Ken Rothaus	Car Club Cavalcade
Dave Eichner	Pit Crew
Mike Willis	Detail Crew
Ron Grantz, Mike Ling	Library
Dave Frank	Road Crew
Helen Whelan-Bashaw	Events

### MUSEUM STAFF

Karen McClafflin	Executive Director
Mike Stiles	Vehicle Sales Manager
ShaVolla Rodriguez	Exhibits Manager
Andrea Rhodes	Office Manager
Sol Goldman	Vehicle Sales Assistant
Gabriella Taylor	Guest Services
Daphne Ruffing	Event Rentals
Josh Robertson	Facilities
Richard Cook	Custodial
Dieter Stenger	Bookkeeper

# Exhibits & Education



## ROLL WITH US: A SISTERHOOD OF LOWRIDING

**D**ueñas Car Club is a sisterhood that rolls on 100-spoke rims.

Founded in 2019 and based in Sunnyvale, Ca, the head of the club is Angel Romero. She's been cruising the strip since she was a kid in the passenger in her mother's lowrider.

It was through her mother that Angel inherited her passion for cool cars, cruising through the city, and serving the community.

Now, the members of the car club work with local organization to hold toy drives and distribute safety kits. They also pull up to events like car hops and car shows, stunting in full force.



*Dueñas Car Club, an intergenerational group of women and girls, who love lowriders. (Miss Lopez Media)*



*The next generation of Dueñas, the Dueñitas. (Miss Lopez Media)*

Angel says it's amazing to see the look on the people's faces when their fleet of dope cars driven by women pulls through, but it's the young women whose imaginations they really love to inspire.

In this interview, we discuss coordinating outfits with the color of your lowrider, the criminalization of lowriding culture, and how Angel is pass-ing on her love of cars to the next generation of young women.

*Continued on Page 4*

*Continued from Page 3*

## **Below are lightly edited excerpts of my conversation with Angel Romero.**

Angel: Being a woman and having to get yourself ready and get your car ready, it's a long process. We're up at like 4 or 5 in the morning to hit the shows... We have to wash it, wax it, clean the rims, vacuum it, get everything all nice. That morning we'll usually get ready, get together, touch up our cars one last time. By that time, sometimes our eyebrows are kind of already coming off [laughs] you know what I mean, they're like, 'half your eyebrows missing!' I'm like, 'oh, I was sweating!' I try to take off the sweat and I took my eyebrows at the same time!

Angel: I think we have it a little bit harder than men in lowriding because we got a lot more to do, I mean, especially when you got to draw on the eyebrows.

*Pen: What does Dueñas mean ?*

Angel: So Dueñas actually means the female owner. We used to get the 'oh, it's your daddy's ride. It's your boyfriend's ride or whatever.' So we want to show that, no, this is our ride. We are the owners of these cars. We bought them. We built them. This is our love, our passion.

*Pen: What's it like when you pull up to the scene and it's a whole bunch of women in lowriders?*

Angel: Especially when we first came out. Oh! Everybody would stop and stare. People couldn't believe it. And you know what? I think the best thing was so many young girls and women coming up to us. Coming up to us and saying, "Oh, my God, is this really your car? Oh, it's awesome. We think it's great." We get so much support and love from women and I've noticed there's so many more women with cars out there... and I think it's awesome, I love it.

*Pen: Yeah, so Dueñas Car Club has done community service with large organizations in the South Bay, raised thousands of dollars for breast cancer research, and organized different toy drives, like the one you did with the San Jose Earthquakes. My question is what's it like when you pull up in the lowriders to do community service work?*

Angel: Ahh, sometimes they take a double take, they're not sure what they're seeing sometimes because before [lowriding] was portrayed as a certain type of people, ya know. So we do what we can for our community. A lot of us know what it's like to not have, not have everything, and sometimes even a roof over your head, so we wanna do something to give back.

Angel: ... We've helped Envision Network donating toys to them as well. It kind of gives these kids something else to put their minds to not think about, 'hey, I'm in a shelter.' They see all these pretty cars, and they get all excited. And then we show up with toys and gifts for Christmas, they're even more excited!

*Pen: Alright, I got to ask you, What's your favorite street to cruise down?*

Angel: Santa Clara street. San Jose. Yep.

Angel: I would cruise until like 3:00 or 4:00 in the morning. My friends always joke with me and they're always like, oh, you cruise till you're the last one. Kind of brings you back to a time where my mom used to take me cruising in her car. Sometimes, sometimes till we fell asleep. 🇺🇸

*Pendarvis Harshaw Marisol Medina-Cadena Jul 16, 2021*



*Three members of the Dueñas Car Club. (Miss Lopez Media)*

## DOCENT TRAINING SCHEDULE

Session 1 Jan 10th	Meet the Museum & Course Intro - (50) Joe Hensler, Karen McClaffin, Bob Daloia, John Tennyson	Docenting 101 (30) Gary Stringfellow	Museum History Glenn Rondeau (30)	Museum New Docent Intro Tour 101 (30) John Smith & John Tennyson		8:45 PM* adjournment
Session 2 Jan 17th	Docent Council Intro - Council Chair Mentoring - John David (20)	Auto Beginnings (55) Greg Alumbaugh	Auto Styling & Design 1 (30) Ron Vogel	Makin' er Go (30) Burl Skaggs		8:45 PM adjournment
Session 3 Jan. 24th	The Industry 1 & 2 Kim Nelson (60)	<b>Docent Floor Session 102 (90)</b> <b>Bob Daloia &amp; 6 Current Docents TBD</b>				8:45 PM adjournment
Session 4 Jan. 31st	Museum History (5) Glenn Rondeau	The Brass Era (30) Ed Silva	How Cars Changed Our Lives (45) Gary Stringfellow & Denny Albrecht	The Open Road Gary Stringfellow (45)		8:40 PM adjournment
Session 5 Feb 7th	Buick (35) Roger Thibault	Oakland & Pontiac (30) Paul Tanner	Olds & REO (25) John Tennyson	Leland & Cadillac (50) Bob Daloia		8:45 PM adjournment
Session 6 Feb 14th	American Austin & Bantam (40) Lynn James	Chevrolet (30) Rob Millbery	Museum History (5) Glenn Rondeau	<b>Cars From Europe (45)</b> <b>Gary Stringfellow</b>		8:35 PM adjournment
Session 7 Feb. 21st	Going Racing-pre WW2 - includ Ford (40) Michael Ling	Lincoln (40) Ed Silva	Early Ford V8 - 1932-1953 (45) Bruce Woodward			8:45 PM adjournment
mentoring begins	week of February 25th					
Session 8 Saturday 9 am Feb. 24th	Museum History (5) Glenn Rondeau	Hot Rods/Street Rods & Customs (90) Bruce Woodward	Ford Model T in Racing (90) Ed Archer			12:30 pm adjournment/
Session 9 Feb. 28th	Henry Ford & Pre-T's (60) Ernie Hartley	Model A Ford (40) Al Smith	The Mustang (30) Joe Praxel			8:35 PM adjournment
Session 10 March 6th	Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg (40) Allan McCrary	Women & the Automobile (40) Delta Pick-Mello	Docenting 103 - Floor Exercise Hands-On (60) John Smith			8:45 PM adjournment

## DOCENT TRAINING SCHEDULE

Session 11 March 13th	Cars of the Far East (50) Steve Koonce	The British Industry (45) Jared Seese	Special Ed Tours / Touch tours, Motorworks, etc. (30)	Kaiser-Frazer (25) John Tennyson	9 PM adjournment/
Session 12 March 20th	Museum History (5) Glenn Rondeau	Packard (35) Garry Gunderson	Studebaker (30) Perry Knopf	Auto Styling & Design 2 (30) Ron Vogel	8:35 PM adjournment
Session 13 <u>Saturday 9 am</u> March 23rd	AP Giannini & the Lincoln KB (70) Bob Daloia	break	Dr. Porsche & His Cars (60) Kim Nelson		12 noon adjournment
Session 14 March 27th	Hudson & Nash (50) John Tennyson	American Motors (35) Greg Winters	Docenting 104 Workshop (60) Ron Vogel		8:50 pm adjournment
<b><u>Saturday **</u></b> <b>March 30th</b> <b>Optional Field Trip</b>	Blackhawk Museum, Danville - Meet 10am	Tour of Blackhawk Museum (90) Ed Holloway/ George Beck			12 noon finish Approximate
Session 15 April 3rd	The Industry 3 (25) Kim Nelson	Museum History (5) Glenn Rondeau	Restoration (60) Dave Felderstein	Willys-Overland & Jeep (30) Dennis Larson	8:30 adjournment
Session 16 April 10th	The Automobile & African Americans (30) Carly Starr	The Camaro (30) Jim Forshey	Docenting 105 - Workshop (60) Ed Silva	Museum SafetyTour (20)	8:40 Adjournment
Session 17 April 17th	Graham (30) Milt Nichols ? TBD or see next cell.	Dodge & Graham (50) or Dodge Bros. (30) Bill McGrath	Chrysler (30) John Tennyson	Low Riders ? (30) TBD	8:35 pm adjournment
Session 19 April 24th	Indianapolis 500 & NASCAR (55) Mark Glover	Post WW2 Racing (30) Bill Sessa	The Environment & Cars (40) Bill Sessa		8:30 pm adjournment
Session 18 <u>Saturday</u> April 27th 9 am Model T Drive	Model T (Drive & Movie) (120) Dennis Furr and Model T Club Crew***	LUNCH	Cunningham (30) Peter Cunningham	Hupmobile ? (25) TBD	1 pm Approx
<b>Finish Mentoring</b>					
Session 20 May 1st	Museum Library (25) Ron Grantz	Electric/Steam/ Cars (55) Neil Lubin	Hydrogen Cars (45) Glenn Rambach	Conclusion (5)	8:40 pm adjournment

# DOCENT TRAINING SCHEDULE

<b>Saturday **</b> <b>May 4th</b> <b>Optional</b> <b>Field Trip -</b>	National Auto Museum, Reno - Meet in Reno at 9:30 am	1st Session (120) includes movie	Lunch ? TBD	2nd Session (60)		2 pm Approx
Graduation Saturday May 18th	Graduation & Car Show 10 am - 1 pm	NOTES: The first 5 - 15 minutes or so of each session are administrative. <b>All sessions run</b> <b>6:00pm to 8:45 -</b> <b>9 pm, except</b> <b>Saturdays, which</b> <b>are 9 am to about</b> <b>12:30 - 1 pm.</b> Number in Parentheses following subject means: Estimated Length in Minutes e.g. ("30"). - - **Blackhawk and National Museum field trips rather at those	***For Model T session, we also enjoy Model T driving support courtesy of members of the Sacramento Valley Model T Ford Club.			Adjournmen t Times Approximate



## CAUTION! UNDER CONSTRUCTION!

The library is expanding into the hallway next to the Administration Office. The storage room at the end of the hallway will be the future home of the Archives.

Many hours have been spent clearing out the storage room and cleaning all the existing shelving and the entire Archives Room area. Thanks to Roger Lundin's efforts, the shelving that was in the Collections Room was disassembled and reassembled in the new Archives Room and also in the library. And thanks to ShaVolla Rodriguez for all her invaluable guidance, assistance, and hard work in getting things organized and items moved.

After getting a new coat of paint and the shelving in the Archival Room into place, the next phase was to start moving some archival materials onto the shelves. Big collections moved to date have included the Theodore F. Dahlmann Advertisement Collection (142 volumes), the large collection of automobile interior trim books (1963-2020), and the World of Speed LP Collection. Smaller collections have gradually been moved onto the shelves, and the process still continues.

One wall and the stairwell have been freshly painted. Lateral files and flat files have been relocated into place, and the artwork upstairs has been reorganized into the categories of racing, automobiles, and miscellaneous. Additionally, 50-some boxes of uncatalogued books have been moved into the library.

Along with getting more space, some new materials have been ordered for the new wing. As the library is a special library, and because we'll have some public hours, tighter usage of materials will follow standard archival practices. The Conditions for Use rules form has been written with more usage forms to follow.

The last phase of construction will be the electrical and wallboard installations, more painting, moving the book shelving units into place, and finally placing the 70 odd boxes of cataloged books that are in storage onto the shelves.

Sometime early in the new year, we hope to have the project completed.

*Ron Grantz - Librarian & Volunteer of the Year 2023*

# Events

## THE 2024 LE MANS EXPERIENCE JUNE 11-23, 2024



If you have ever wanted to experience the 24 Hours of Le Mans race (one of the Motorsports Triple Crown events - along with the Indy 500 and Monaco Grand Prix), see the City of Lights – Paris, and visit Normandy for D-Day sights, Mont-Saint-Michel, and more, the California Automobile Museum alongside Good Carma Travel have an outstanding tour organized for you!

### Our 14-day tour will include:

- All hotels
- All museum and sight admissions
- Ground transportation
- All guides
- All gratuities

### The full ground itinerary is round trip out of Paris as follows:

- Fly and arrive to Paris on June 11
- Stay in Paris (June 11 – 14)
  - ~ 3 nights at Hotel Des Arts Paris Montmarte in 10th Arrondissement neighborhood
  - ~ Tour of Musee des Space Le Bourget
  - ~ Free day in Paris for tourism
- Transfer to Le Mans hotel (June 14 – 18)
  - ~ 4 nights at a TBD hotel in Tours, France

Conquerors Castle, Bayeux Tapestry, etc.)

- Transfer to Paris Airport Hotel (June 22)
  - ~ 1 night at Sheraton De Gaulle Airport Hotel
- Travel Home June 23

For the Le Mans race, we are partnering with the [The Grand Prix Club Inc](#) and leveraging their 40+ years of experience at Le Mans.

The tour is arranged in a ‘modular’ manner and can be tailored to your needs/desires. For example – if you ONLY want to attend the 24 Hours of Le Mans, we can arrange and price this. If you do NOT want to attend the 24 Hours of Le Mans, we can arrange and price this as well. If your travel partner wants to do everything with you EXCEPT the race, we can arrange this. Let us know what you are interested in!



- All tickets for 24 Hours of Le Mans
- All breakfasts
- Several dinners
- Several lunches
  - ~ Daily track transfers for race
  - ~ Tour Musée des Blindés – Europe’s largest armored vehicle collection
  - ~ Wine tasting in Loire Valley
- Transfer to Bayeux (June 18 – 22)
  - ~ 4 nights at Grand Hotel du Luxembourg in Bayeux, France
  - ~ Full day tour of American sector of D-Day
  - ~ Full day tour of Mont-Saint-Michel
  - ~ Full day tour of Bayeux, Caen area sights (William the

The 2024 race is now sold out through normal commercial avenues. The team at The Grand Prix Club (our partner for the 24 Hour Race) still have some Platinum packages available. Additional Gold Package availability is tentative and is being confirmed. If you have any friends interested in joining, they should notify Good Carma Travel immediately (and be ready to place first payment if availability exists).



# WE'RE GOING TO THE CAROLINAS!

**D**iscover the Carolinas with us as we tour both North & South Carolina on an automobile-centric trip you won't soon forget! 10 nights lodging, most meals included; airfare not included: single occupancy \$4525pp\*, double occupancy \$3760pp (\*let us know if you'd like us to pair you with someone for the double occ rate). **Our itinerary will be as follows:**

## Wednesday, August 28, 2024

Travel to Charleston SC airport and stay at airport hotel with shuttle – currently the Hampton Inn at Charleston Airport. Meet for dinner nearby, and breakfast the next morning at hotel.

## Thursday, August 29

- Transfer to downtown hotel (The Francis Marion currently) by shuttle and store luggage at hotel
- Take a sightseeing Bus Tour of Charleston to get a lay of the land
- Lunch and then take a boat tour out to Fort Sumter, where the first shots of the Civil War were fired
- Dinner in downtown Charleston

## Friday, August 30

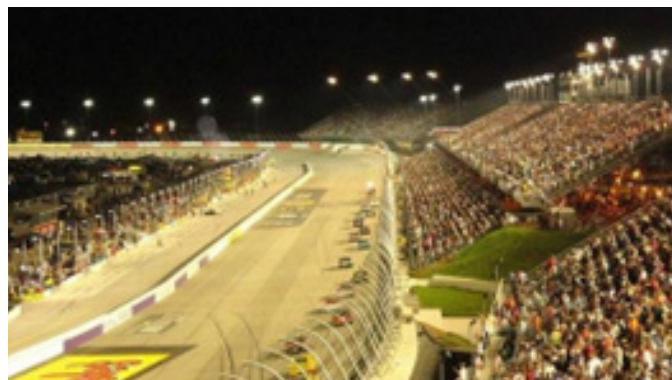
- Breakfast at hotel
- Free day to do shopping, sightseeing and lunch on your own
- Dinner in downtown Charleston
- Charleston docent-led ghost tour of French Quarter

## Saturday, August 31

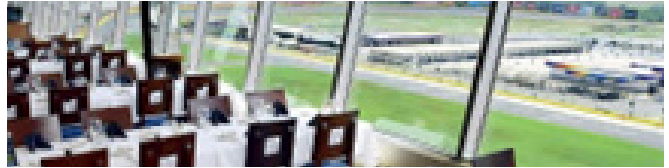
- Breakfast at hotel
- Take a bus to Magnolia Plantation. Historic plantation with beautiful gardens, tram rides through the swamp, and lots of historic interest.
- Back to Charleston where we meet and take a dinner cruise

## Sunday, September 1

- Bus to Darlington racetrack to watch the Southern 500. Considered one of the Crown Jewels of the NASCAR season, Darlington is the oldest superspeedway and a very difficult one. The race starts at 6PM so it is run at night when it is cooler. Our seats will be off the concourse accessed by elevator but there will be some steps down to our seats from the concourse.



- A bus will pick us up in the morning and deliver us to the track in the early afternoon. You will be free to enjoy the activities in the infield and there may be a truck race before the main event.
- As the race will not end until around 9:30pm, we can stay until the end or leave before the end and head to our hotel 8 miles away. We suggest that you eat at the track, but we will try to have pizza delivered to the hotel after we arrive there.



### Monday, September 2

- Drive to Charlotte and head to the NASCAR Hall of Fame in Uptown Charlotte. Stay nearby at an Uptown Hotel. Uptown has lots of places to explore and is a very safe area.
- Lunch and dinner nearby

### Tuesday, September 3

- Breakfast at hotel
- Visit a race shop and then visit the Charlotte Motor Speedway for a drive in a van around the track and have lunch at the Speedway Club overlooking the track.
- Visit Hendrick Motorsports Race Shop and Museum, then back to the hotel for dinner nearby.



### Wednesday, September 4

- Breakfast at hotel
- Another race shop and then visit the North Carolina Transportation Museum. A 60-acre complex, it has a variety of activities including cars and trains. Lunch there or nearby.
- Thursday, September 5
- Breakfast at hotel
- Attend the Charlotte Auto Fair which is the largest automotive event in the Southeast. A lot like Hershey it is also an AACA event and features 7000 vendors and a car corral with cars for sale. Lunch on your own.
- Dinner near the hotel in Uptown
- Friday, September 6
- Breakfast at hotel
- This is apparently the busiest day for the auto fair. Lunch on your own.
- Farewell dinner nearby in Uptown
- Saturday, September 7
- Breakfast at hotel
- Return home or visit additional race shops on own, and/or head to Asheville for the Biltmore or any other attractions the Carolinas have to offer!



# CAM profiles



## Personalities at the California Auto Museum

### RON GRANTZ

**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2023**

**CAM LIBRARIAN**

**CAREER: ARCHIVIST, LIBRARIAN**



**R**on grew up in Ford City, a borough in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania, 40 miles northeast of Pittsburgh along the east bank of the Allegheny River. He attended the town's high school, Ford City Junior/Senior High School, which included grades seven through twelve. FCHS opened its doors in 1909, awarding diplomas to its first graduating class of 4 students on May 10, 1910, and had its final graduating class in June 2015. Ron continued his education at The University of Pittsburgh - also known as Pitt - a public state-related research university. He graduated in 1967 earning a master's degree in library science.

Following his graduation, Ron began his career at The Detroit Public Library, the second largest library system in Michigan by volumes held and the 21st-largest library system, and the fourth-largest public library system in the United States. Its Main Library is on Woodward Avenue. It houses the Burton Historical Collection, the E. Azalia Hackley Collection, and the National Automotive History Collection.

Ron completed his post-graduate studies at Wayne State University to become a certified archivist. As an archivist Ron worked at cataloging collections, notably the automotive history collection, before retiring in 1994.

At the invitation of exhibits/collections committee chair David Felderstein, Ron joined CAM in 2011 as our librarian. He has since been applying his professional skills to the task of cataloguing the California Automobile Museum's Research Library and Archives and making them available via our online catalog. The Research Library and Archives collects and preserves these thousands of automotive materials to support the mission of the Museum.

More historian than automotive enthusiast, Ron's daily drivers range from his first car - a '59 Dodge - through various Buicks and Toyotas. His current favorite from the CAM vehicle collection is the '49 Mercury custom. Congratulations to Ron on being honored as 2023 CAM Volunteer of the Year. 🇺🇸

# CAMprofiles

## Personalities at the California Auto Museum

### JOHN SMITH

**DOCENT OF THE YEAR 2023**

**DOCENT, DOCENT COUNCIL SECRETARY/TREASURER,  
CHAIR**

**DOCENT CLASS OF 2017**

**CAREER: INSURANCE AGENT, REALTOR**



**J**ohn grew up in Sacramento, graduating in 1970, from Foothill High School, he was active in sports. In 1974, he graduated from The University of the Pacific in Stockton with a BA degree in Business Administration. While there, Governor Reagan appointed him to the first Youth Commission of the State of California.

John was an independent contractor insurance agent for State Farm Insurance in the Sacramento area and earned the Chartered Life Underwriter designation in 1982, a forerunner to the Financial Planning designation. He sold his agency after 42 years, retiring in 2015 and became a real estate agent with American River Properties.

John has been very active with various Sacramento non-profits. He has been a member of the Board of Directors for Christmas in April and Tierra de Oro Girl Scout Council and on the steering committee for the Empty Bowls fundraiser for River City Food Bank. His other volunteerism includes St. Francis High School Booster Club and the SFHS School Expansion and Academic Evaluation Committees.

John is an avid reader and enjoys World War II history and mystery novels. He enjoys traveling and has driven cross country twice, once upon graduating from high school and once while in college.

John's daughter had taken him to the museum, and later seeing an ad in the Sacramento Bee, he signed up for the docent training program. He graduated with the 2017 Docent Training Class, and has been active in Education Tours, Events, the Paint Crew and Docent Training. He has also been on the Docent Council serving as Secretary/Treasurer and later as Council Chair and is currently a member of the CVF board of directors.

John is Corvette guy. His 1<sup>st</sup> Corvette was 1977 T-Top and has owned a total of 15 Corvettes. He recently sold his 1963 Split Window. John currently has a 1999 Corvette in his garage. In August 2022, he ordered a C8 which he took delivery of exactly one year later at the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green. John then drove his newest Corvette home to California. Congratulations on being selected the 2023 Bill Millard Docent of the Year. 🇺🇸

# Docent Scrapbook



## NEW ON THE FLOOR 1961 JAGUAR E-TYPE

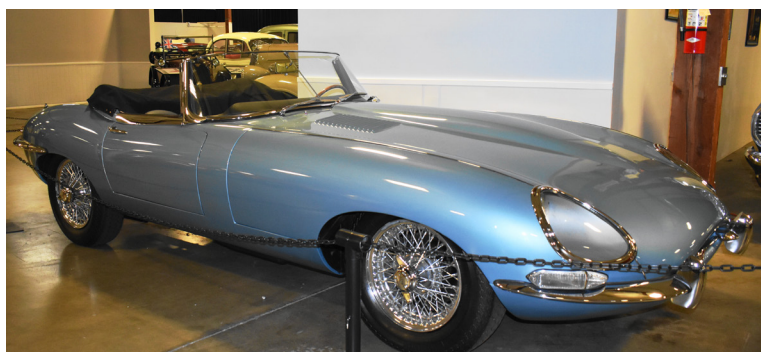
Whether the “E” simply stood for “experimental” or had already been chosen for a new production model to succeed the T-type is not clear. The meaning of the “1” is clear, of course. The “A” signified “aluminum,” or perhaps “alloy” the material of which both body and chassis were made. That implies Jaguar was already envisioning a later version of steel, which was more suitable for volume production.

Outwardly, the E1A prototype bore a strong resemblance both to the D-type/XK-SS and to the clay-model roadster that Malcom Sayer had carved back in 1954. Structurally, it was very much a D-type derivation, with a similar ovoid section central monocoque tub and space-frame front structure. As on the earliest D’s, tub and tubing were welded together, with the front frame again being light alloy. But there were two departures from D-type convention. Instead of a 3.4/3.8 engine, E1A carried the short-stroke XK six of Jaguar’s then-new 2.4-liter compact sedan. This was because the prototype was physically small, being shorter narrower, lower, and probably also lighter than the race cars that came before and the road model that was to come. Also, E1A had an experimental independent rear suspension instead of the D’s live rear axle.

Around the time Jaguar was playing with the E1A, it also built the E2A. Though similar to the E1A in both looks and rear suspension concept, it resembled even more the eventual E-type. It had the longer, 96-inch wheelbase of the forthcoming road car, although in the interest of high straightaway speed it had a narrower track than the D-type. Actually, E2A was conceived more as a racer than road car. Many in the company still hoped Jaguar would return to formal competition, and this other “E-Type” was really a follow-on to the D-type.

Made mostly of aluminum like the D-type, the E2A “E-type” ran at Le Mans with a special aluminum block XK engine featuring dry-sump oiling and fuel injection. This “E-type” proved quite fast in test sessions and in the race itself. Driven by American aces Walt Hansgen and Dan Gurney, it even set the best practice time. At the end of the first 8.36-mile lap, the E2A came by the pits in third place behind a Maserati and a Ferrari. But the mid-engine revolution was at hand. At least the E2A would find safe haven in the hands of a collector. The E1A? Unsentimentally, Jaguar cut it up as scrap - though perhaps only because the company had long since turned its full attention to preparing a road-going E-type for production.

Perhaps, not surprisingly, the new production sports car emerged looking much like the E2A. But where the latter had seemed a bit stubby, perhaps even dowdy to eyes long used to feasting on the D-type, the roadgoing E-type was so lovely as to make the heart ache. The original lines may have come from Malcolm Sayer’s wind tunnel, but in the grace, the balanced proportions, the subtle electric excitement, one surely saw the hand of William Lyons.



For its formal introduction to the world, the E-type was driven to the international arena of Switzerland and the Geneva auto show of March 1961. It was fully the sensation the XK 120 had been in London over a dozen years before. But even more so. Incredibly, Jaguar had ignited yet another sports-car revolution.

One of 38,410 built from 1961-68, this 1963 E-type Series 1, on loan from Kyle Gong, was acquired by the family of the current owner in the late ‘60s. The car underwent restoration from 2010 through 2014. ■