



My Way

Mom

NEWSLETTER OF THE PERSONALIZED CHEVROLET CHAPTER (PCC)

2017
LEADERSHIP

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NATIONAL HISTORIC VEHICLE REGISTER TO RECOGNIZE MODIFIED CARS!

Aside from a few cars built for racing, the National Historic Vehicle Register has yet to include any modified cars, an omission that the Historic Vehicle Association has reversed when, ahead of joining the register, three of the most widely recognized lowriders, hot rods and customs has gone on display on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

“The register celebrates automotive heritage as well as automotive culture, and modified vehicles are a distinct part of our culture,” said Mark Gessler, the president of the HVA. “These three cars are all works of creative

talent, and the craftsmanship and passion that has gone into them is unparalleled.”

The first – and certainly the most colorful – of the three to go on display will be Jesse Valadez’s *Gypsy Rose*, the 1964 Chevrolet Impala Sport Coupe that the Petersen Museum once described as the most influential custom ever built. The third iteration of a theme Valadez had set out to build in the early Sixties – inspired by burlesque dancer Gypsy Rose Lee – *Gypsy Rose* was once considered too radical with its elaborate multicolored rose motif extending

down its sides and filling every inch of the roof.

Like *Gypsy Rose*, the *Hirohata Mercury* also pushed plenty of boundaries when it first hit the spotlight. Bob Hirohata bought the 1951 Mercury Club Coupe in 1952 and immediately took it to Sam and George Barris with instructions to chop it and create a radical custom.

The third of the trio, Bob McGee’s 1932 Ford roadster, had just as much of an influence on hot rods as *Gypsy Rose* on lowriders and the *Hirohata Merc* on customs.

Cont’d on page 2



Valadez’s Gypsy Rose

CURRENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS WELCOMING PCC PARTICIPATION

JUNE 11 - 14

41st Middle West Meet in Des Moines, IA. For registration form email: rogermaryj@usfamily.net.



AUGUST 4 - 6

Das Awkscht Fescht (The August Festival) hosted by the Keystone Region in Macungie, PA. This is not a VCCA-only event but VCCA vehicles are featured. For a registration form email:

keystonedirector@aol.com.
Register by 7/1/2017 please.



AUGUST 17 - 19

3rd Annual Eastern Area 8 Meet hosted by the Keystone Region at historic Gettysburg, PA. For registration form email: keystonedirector@aol.com.



AUGUST 17-19

46th Annual Northwest Meet hosted by the North Cascade Region and held in Anacortes, WA. Registration forms can be downloaded from <http://clubs.hemmings.com/northcascadevcca>.



form email Barry at: bmastellone@mac.com.

SEPTEMBER 24

Eastern Area 11 Meet hosted by the Queens County Region at the New York State Veterans Home in Jamaica, NY. For registration

ATTENDING AN AREA MEET? LET ME KNOW. WE CAN USE PICTURES FOR OUR NEWSLETTER AND ARRANGE PCC JUDGING WITH ENOUGH ATTENDANCE.



NATIONAL HISTORIC VEHICLE REGISTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The three cars will each take their turn in the HVA's glass case, located between the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and the National Gallery of Art. *Gypsy Rose* will go on display April 12 to 19, the McGee roadster will go on display April 20 to 26, and the *Hirohata Merc* will go on display April 27 to May 4.

The three will then become the 16th through 18th additions to the Na-

tional Historic Vehicle Register. Selection to the register involves a complete documentation of the vehicle, including a fully referenced narrative of the vehicle's provenance and full photography, which will then be placed in the Library of Congress. No restrictions are placed on subsequent use or sale of the vehicle.

For more information about the National Historic Vehicle Register, visit HistoricVehicle.org.



Hirohata's Mercury

McGee's 1932 Ford roadster



Credit to author Daniel Strohl and "Hemmings Daily, a publication of Hemmings Motor News".

2017 ALL CAL MEET

The 2017 ALL CAL Meet was hosted by the San Fernando Valley Region in San Luis Obispo, CA. PCC member Jim Dodge was in attendance with his 1959 El Camino and made the following observations:

“The meet was very nice. Weather was good and the host hotel was easy to access. The event was well organized in spite of some local construction. There were several people that told me they were PCC members and a good number of cars that would be PCC candidates. Both days driving tours were well documented and easy to follow. Mostly country back roads suitable for even the older cars. Very pretty scenery with great views both on the coast and through wine country. With the 384 miles driven to and from the show



PCC member Jim Dodge's 1959 El Camino

plus the tour miles, my brand new passport is over the first milestone of 500 already. Hopefully we can get more members to some western shows and include some judging.”

Congratulations to the 2017 ALL CAL team for a successful event.



Candidate PCC members?

MY RIDE DAVE CAVAGNARO

This story begins many years ago, in 1974. Dave & family had just moved to New Jersey with a job transfer. His work location was only 8 miles away from home and he thought this would be a great time to buy an old car for the daily commuter to replace his 1962 Falcon.

In October of 1974 Dave saw an ad for a 1940 Chevrolet Sedan. “New paint and interior, runs good. \$675”. He called; it

was only a short distance away. He went to look at it and they agreed on a price of \$500. The Black paint was Ok, the chrome poor or painted silver. The interior was a backyard attempt, poor at that. She did run, and Dave was able to drive her home. Upon arrival home Dave already had a list of repairs that would be required before he could ever drive her. Brakes were number one, a new clutch was second, a wiring har-

ness and signal lights, etc. However due to the newness of his toy and the energy of youth, Dave had everything road worthy by Thanksgiving.

One item Dave was missing: a heater/defroster. It never had one in all those years. Dave's father told him that he used to melt candle wax and stick a candle to the dashboard in his old cars. The lighted candle would keep the windshield free of ice and snow. “What

did I have to lose?” He tried it and it worked rather well. “You did have to clean the soot off the windshield often, and I was amazed the glass never cracked when I lit the candles with heavy ice on it.”

Dave drove the 1940 from November of 1974 to December of 1982, for a total of 86,000 miles. From 1982 to 1987 she was a fun only car: parades, meets etc. By 1998, Dave

Cont'd on page 4

was committed to restoring the '40. It might have been earlier except for distractions from intermediate Chevy purchases & restorations. By June, 2002 the restoration was completed.

The following month (and after a modest break-in period), Dave & wife Bennie left for the 44th annual New Jersey Region AACA tour to Booth Bay Harbor Maine. It was a total of 7 days and 1450 miles with no problems other than a sticky accelerator. Numerous meets, tours, parades and rides for dinner followed.



Fast forward to May 2017. The 1940 now has 60,542 miles, having visited 27 states and Canada. Dave has had her on numerous tours traveling from Key West ,Florida to Canada and the Grand Canyon, Arizona to Maine. She was the first vehicle to receive the 10,000 mile Touring Award from the VCCA. "My goal is to reach the 86,000 mile mark I reached on my first time around."

Major upgrades

include a 235 cubic inch engine (from a '56) with dual carbs and electronic ignition, 8-way power bucket seats, air conditioning, custom radiator, 12 volt electrical system, daytime running lights, modern audio system, 2-speed electric intermittent wipers, hydrovac power brake assist and dual exhausts. The car was finished in California Beige, one of five colors only available in California when the car was built. Although the '40 was restored with the

purpose of touring in mind, there clearly were touches of specialized personalization.

Dave is currently a member of the Jersey Lakeland Region and a charter member of the Pine Barrens Touring Region and has served many leadership positions in both regions. Dave is also a member of the "H" Chapter and a charter member of the Personalized Chevrolet Chapter. Dave has also served as Area 8 Director and National VCCA President where he created the Technology and Touring Committees. Dave continues to serve as the Touring Committee Chair.





Nice try Dave. We can see (and hear) you have duals!

Interested in having your ride featured in MY WAY? E-mail me at ronmarc@optonline.net and we can get started! I'll need pictures, a list of your personalizations and perhaps anything else you care to share about your ride.