



CHVA -- National WEB site

Weber's Wanderings

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(Verdugo Vintage Vehicles region of the CHVA, From the Motormeter)

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Mini Tour - 2002

When nobody volunteered to put on the 17th annual Mini-tour at the end of last year's tour, Lu and I stepped up again. We had enjoyed all of the previous Minis and couldn't stand to see the tradition pass from the scene. After all, the first Mini-tour was originally conceived



by VVV's own Bob Zarnosky and the late Chuck Schnetlage.

At the time we volunteered, we had no idea what we would do this time. The previous tours have pretty well covered much of the west coast and even Arizona and Nevada. Then we thought, nobody had really mined the rich lode of opportunities available in the hub of old car activity - Los Angeles.

There is so much to do here, but just the thought of driving around L.A. terrifies many from out of town. In truth, the idea of leading a caravan around here worried us a lot too. You can't really get around here without using the freeways. Would anyone come?

It turned out they did. We had a nice manageable group of around 20 cars on tour most days. People came from central California and even Nevada, as well as from our own vicinity.



The oldest cars were from VVV: The '41 Lincoln Continental of Dick Schell and the '41 Olds 98 coupe of Dave Higby and family. For variety Dave also drove their '62 Buick Special station wagon and '62 Pontiac Catalin



From Grass Valley, VVV's Randy and Ellen Huebner came in their '56 Ford Crown Victoria. "Roc

Ron” and



Karen Millman drove their '50 Olds coupe, and Don and Becky Harris participated some days in their '65 Mustang convertible.



Bob and Maryellen Zarnosky drove various days in their '57 T-bird, '47 Ford woody, and '42 Lincoln Zephyr sedan while son Rob used his late model Ford for the events he could make. The Webers led the seven-day adventure in “Coral,”



the '58 Edsel convertible

Temecula Valley CHVA's Ray and Alphy Norman drove their '72 Chevelle, and Coastal Valleys' Bob and Louise Boynton were with us on some days in their '66 Mustang.

And driving all the way from Colorado in a '63 Cad convert was Sandy Ozols, who picked up hubby and past CHV National President Harry, a Boeing 747 captain, at Ontario Airport. Their daughter Tara and son-in-law Mike Hurst were with us until they had to return to Colorado on Monday.

Planning for the tour began in February, and –after a lot of effort – most things generally went quite well. But not everything. (Hey, you can't win 'em all!)

We assembled at the Western Inn in Azusa for a welcoming party on Saturday, June 15. Thanks to Becky and Don Harris for providing some very nice goody bags for each of the tourers. A highlight of the tour was to be the kickoff event at Irwindale Speedway, where we would park in the special display area, have free admission to the races, and drive the parade lap around the speedway. At the last minute we were informed the races were cancelled due to a fatal accident the week before. First dilemma.

We apologized and quickly substituted a visit to the big cruise night at the Pasadena Fuddruckers Restaurant, which seemed to ease the disappointment. There were a lot of cars to admire. My personal chagrin and frustration were greatly eased when I \$114 in the 50/50 raffle.

Another disappointment turned out to be the Western Inn itself. We scouted many motels, and it seemed to best meet our criteria for good parking, a good place to gather for socializing as a group, and a good method of forming up for a caravan. The new owner was a very nice young man who was excited about having our old cars. There was even a big welcome to CHVA on the marquee. He showed us three sample rooms in the motel which he was renovating. Unfortunately, they were the three best rooms. Many problems with the other ones. While the owner was super, the desk people were, to say the least, English impaired. We had our tourers list their complaints which were forwarded in a big envelope to the owner.

The rest of the tour went off with near perfection. We had promised the tourers they would see things they had never seen before, and we think we succeeded.

Sunday we visited the NHRA Museum at the Fairplex and took the free tram from the museum to the huge L.A. Roadster show.

If you have never been, it is an incredible display of over 800 (mostly) pre-1936 cars, over 2,000 more neat cars in special parking lot, and a big swap meet. There is no other show like it. It was also hot, the acres of blacktop magnifying the scorch sunbeams.

Monday we were off to visit the Chino Planes Of Fame Museum, followed by lunch at Flo's Airport Restaurant. Good service.

Then we visited the 1920s Filippi Winery for some tasting and shopping. We won't mention it was on our way to the winery that a few trusting folks went astray and followed the "locals" that missed the turn within sight of the place they were we

Monday night was traditional CHVA (Come Have Vittles Again) pig-out time at the Old Spaghetti Factory in the 1 schoolhouse in Duarte. Nobody left hungry.

Tuesday we visited the great Justice Bros. Racing Museum in Duarte, and had the delightful Ed Justices, Jr. and Sr. our hosts.

Ed Sr. demonstrated a few of their products and made some instant converts. He could sell refrigerators to Eskimos

We had to tear ourselves away from Sr. to go to another fine feed at the Foothill Chili & Rib Co., then walk across street to the Glendora Classic Car Gallery while some of the gals checked out the antique shops.

That evening a bunch of us visited the cruise night at Danny's Dill Pickle and Deli in nearby Covina.

Wednesday was the day we feared most, the trip down the I-10 to Alameda Ave. for the tour of Nick Alexander's flathead

woody collection. Until now all of our freeway flying had been opposite the direction of busy traffic and was incidentally free. However

luck was certainly with us this rush hour morning, the idiots that ruin freeway travel having picked other sites to set up. The I-10

went smoothly, and we arrived at Nick's right on schedule and enjoyed him and his fine woodies.

Then it was off to more pig-out at Avila's El Ranchito Restaurant. We followed lunch by another very successful freeway adventure

to our fine Best Western Mission Inn in Mission Hills. Pheeww! We survived the hardest and longest journey – 60 miles!

Thursday it was a short jaunt to visit Nethercutt's Tower Of Beauty, lunch at Fiddlers Three, and then the new Nethercutt Museum.

The tourers were suitably impressed with this fantastic collection.

Friday morning we were greeted by a fine drizzle! Not enough to keep Coral's top from going up, but an occasion test of the

windshield wipers. Our first stop was at CHVA Life Member #049 Val Danneskiold's "Castle" in Granada Hills where we were given

a tour of his house and fantastic accumulation of "stuff" from his many years in the movie business, as well as his many cars. Since we

had left the Mission Inn early, Mr. and Mrs. Z provided us with coffee, donuts, and drinks to enjoy.

After lunch at the Bear Pit Missouri Bar-b-q in Mission Hills, it was off to see Mike Frankovich, Jr.'s



car collection,

which now occupies two garages. His newest garage is just north of San Fernando Rd. on a short cul de sac by the Metro-Link parking lot.

Since parking on the cul de sac was limited and there were at least a couple hundred empty spaces in the back of

the Metro-Link lot near Mike's garage, we tried to park some of our cars in the empties for a short time. Even though there was no possibility that these spots would be needed, the security guard used perfect bureaucrat logic and would not allow it.

After we enjoyed Mike's collection, it was back to the motel to rest up for the finale banquet in the adjacent hall. Steve Gordon graciously provided the sound system and background music for the fajita feast, and Doug and Gretchen Caister joined us to visit old friends from previous tours.

In another slight glitch, the bartender was tied up in traffic, and we had to wait over a half an hour for a substitute. But it was okay because dinner was a bit late, so it just added to visitation time.

In lieu of the more traditional tourers' plaques, each couple or individual were given something we hope will be more useful - commemorative Mini-tour XVII coffee mugs with the logo on two sides. Hard Luck award went to Russ Braselton from Reno, who only had battery problems with his '69 Lincoln, but managed to lock himself out of the car - twice! The first time his charming friend Lucia had the spare keys, but the second time Lucia was off with the keys on an antiquing trip, so Dave Higby was able to use a flexible "picker-upper" to go through the slightly cranked down window and grasp the lock.

Long Distance Award was presented to the Ozols for their journey from Colorado. The Ladies Choice car was the tastefully



customized '55 Mercury driven by Mike and Bea Bruno from Vacaville, while the Mens Choice was good old Coral. (No, I didn't vote for her, but thanks, and thanks to all those who trusted us.)

The best news is that David and Clovis Heath have volunteered to put on Mini-tour XVIII in the Monterey area. We definitely be there.

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