

Z-BREEZE

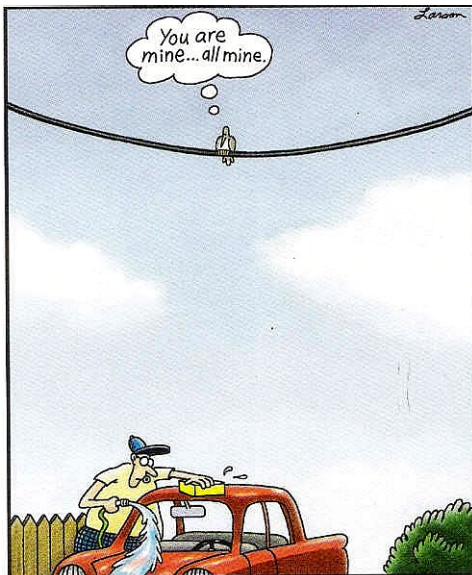
GROUP Z SPORTS CAR CLUB

Est. 1971



Volume 36, Issue 6/7
June/July 2007

Coming Eventz this Summer at Group Z!!!



It's that time of year again as we all begin cleaning, polishing, and generally "spiffing up" our Z cars in anticipation of the

5th Annual Group Z "Hot August Day"

Saturday, August 25, 2007

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

at Ricky & Ronnie's Drive-In

Northwest Corner of Normandie & Sepulveda Blvds., Torrance
Registration begins @ 10:00 am Car Show 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**Peoples' Choice Awards ▲ Lots of Z Cars
Prizes ▲ Food**

More Details to Follow in the August Z-Breeze!

(See the L.A. Times article about Ricky & Ronnie's on Page 2)

Group Z General Meeting

7:00 pm Thursday, August 9, 2007

"Paintless Dent Removal" Demonstration

at Fuddrucker's Restaurant, Buena Park
Southeast Corner of Beach Bl. & Orangethorpe Ave.

To help us all prepare for the Hot August Day Peoples' Choice "Show 'n' Shine" Car Contest, Tino De La Cruz of Dents B' Gone will be our guest speaker and will clue us in on the world of "paintless dent removal".

As part of his presentation to us, Tino will demonstrate his skill on one of our member's cars so we can all see how it's done.

If any of your automobiles have any dings or dents bring them (try to arrive early) for the meeting - your car may be selected for this *FREE* on the spot dent repair.

Inside this issue:

"Car Buffs" Article	2
Vice Prez' Muzings	3
NFIBMT Newz	4
Coming Eventz	6
Automobile Trivia	6
2007 Officerz	7

From the Los Angeles Times

Car buffs find drive-in haven at Ricky & Ronnie's

The '50s-style drive-in diner in Torrance is drawing automotive connoisseurs of many makes and models.

By Daniel Yi
Times Staff Writer
July 14, 2007

The rumbling of engines starts in the late afternoon.

Gleaming hot rods, vintage Corvettes and pristinely preserved Cadillacs converge at a busy street corner in Torrance and file into a parking lot. Overhead, speakers belt out Roy Orbison's "Pretty Woman."

It is Cruisin' 50s night at Ricky & Ronnie's Cruise-In Diner, and it transports 64-year-old Sam Fine back in time.

"It creates an atmosphere that makes you feel younger," said the Harbor City car buff, a regular at the event, held every first Friday of the month.

In car-worshipping Southern California, meeting spots for motor heads are a dime a dozen. Ruby's Diner in Redondo Beach has regular cruising nights during the summer, and Bob's Big Boy in Burbank attracts classic car owners on Fridays. Many are impromptu events. A restaurant may welcome them on a slow night or strip malls may look the other way as enthusiasts turn their parking lots into auto shows.

But Ricky & Ronnie's, at the corner of Normandie and Sepulveda boulevards, was built specifically to attract car fanatics and their machines.

"Most of the time, a restaurant might say, why don't you guys come Tuesday nights, it is usually slow then," said Fine, who belongs to a number of car clubs, including the Cruisin' 50s Car Club, one of the biggest in the region with 225 members. "But Ricky & Ronnie's is unique that way."

Group Z General Meeting

Held the 2nd Thursday of every month

Next Meeting

Thursday, August 9, 2007

Fuddruckers Restaurant

7802 Orangethorpe Ave. (at Beach Bl.)

Buena Park, CA 90621

Phone: 714-739-8801

Meeting begins promptly at 7:00 PM

Arrive early for best parking.

The restaurant is actually two buildings, a 1950s-style diner in the back and a "clubhouse" in the front.

With its neon sign, the clubhouse has become a Torrance landmark since Ricky & Ronnie's opened almost three years ago. The owners commissioned a building with an auto-inspired fin and an analog clock on the roof. The place looks so authentically 1950s that it has been featured in commercials, including a recent Mercedes-Benz spot complete with roller-skating waitresses.

The restaurant is open regular hours, but the clubhouse is reserved for special events, mostly car-club meetings. The first and third

See "Car buffs" continued on Page 3

Vice Prez' Muzings

Just a short note from me this month (warning: I'll return to my usual long-winded self in the August issue of the Z-Breeze, which you should receive about 2 weeks from now) to let you know how encouraged I am by the feedback I've recently received from many of you. Your emails and phone calls confirm to me that most of us are on the same page when it comes to what we want our club to be and where we want it to go.

I am very sure that with all the ideas, suggestions, criticisms (yes, there were a number of very valid ones) and offers to help by you all, together we will over the next few months improve, refresh and expand the offerings of our club as we grow Group Z into the vibrant, relevant and really fun club we all want it to be.

There are some things we haven't done in a long time to which we'll return, as well as some brand new things we've never tried before. Please keep your calls and emails coming, because it's your ideas and wishes which will keep our club fresh and exciting.

I hope you're as excited about the future of Group Z as I am!

--- *John Brantuk, Group Z Vice Prez*

"Car buffs"

Continued from Page 2

Wednesdays of each month are reserved for Mustangs. The Chevilles roll in on the second Saturday, and Porsche lovers can feast their eyes every first Saturday of the month. Thursday nights are reserved for motorcycles.

During Cruisin' 50s night, the place is filled with grizzled veterans in satin or leather jackets and their wives, but Ricky & Ronnie's attracts a mix of period pieces and modern machines. There are rebuilt roadsters and PT Cruisers, classic Mustangs as well as the latest souped-up model.

"I just wanted to create a place where all of our buddies could come and meet and talk about their cars," said Rick Smith, the 59-year-old co-owner. The place is named after Smith, an avid car collector, and Ron Shaver, a legendary South Bay-based racing-engine builder and a regular at the restaurant.

The other co-owner is Smith's friend and business partner, Dave Albert, a former contractor and one-time mayor of neighboring Lomita who admits he is more of a "truck guy."

"I am not a real car buff, Rick is, but this is a real neat place," Albert, 54, said while giving a tour of the 2-acre site recently. "My wife calls it Rick and mine's mid-life crisis."

The pair, who have other businesses, won't say how much they spent building the diner — "a lot," Albert said — but the investment is slowly paying off.

On event nights, the parking lot is jam-packed with more than 200 cars, and the restaurant, which serves classic fare such as hamburgers and ice cream malts, gets a regular stream of customers.

"It is a much-needed place," said 1963 Indianapolis 500 winner Parnelli Jones, a Rolling Hills resident who has a VIP parking spot at Ricky & Ronnie's.

"There used to be a lot more places like this," said the 73-year-old racing icon, whose son P.J. Jones races in NASCAR. "But you would have to go years and years back."

Big News from the "Disorganizers" of the NFIBMT

Tina Van Curren and Chuck Forward, veteran vintage car aficionados and long time participants in "Car Nights" and the "No Frills Iron Bottom Motoring Tour" have purchased "**Autobooks.**"

"Autobooks" located in Burbank, CA is one of the nations best known automotive memorabilia stores. If you have never been there you need to add it to your must see list. Three places gear heads must visit when in the Los Angeles basin: **The Nethercutt Collection, The Petersen Auto Museum, and Autobooks.**

10th Annual

No Frills Iron Bottom Motoring Tour

THIS IS THE VINTAGE TOUR WHERE YOU ARE PAID TO DRIVE YOUR OWN CAR ON PUBLIC ROADS

**ALUMINUM IS THE APPROPRIATE GIFT FOR A 10TH ANNIVERSARY
THE FOUNDER WILL ACCEPT ALUMINUM BODIED VINTAGE SPORTS CARS**

Who can participate? Anyone with a pre 1976 motor vehicle

When & Where? Meet at 7:00am on Thursday, April 10, 2008 at Arroyo Blvd. and Seco St. near the South end of the Rose Bowl in Pasadena

What does it cost? There is no entry fee. Participants are responsible for their own overnight motel arrangements and their own food

The **NFIBMT** is an unofficial affiliate of the **California Miglia**. You can do the NFIBMT for free and, if your car qualifies, pay \$5,000 and do the Miglia. Two classy tours for the price of one.

Overnight stops? Paso Robles on April 10th & 11th at Black Oak Motor Lodge 805 238 4740. Disorganizers have made no advance arrangements

What do I get? Three days of fun and fellowship with other car crazy people who love their old cars. No T Shirts, No Dash Plaques, No Grill Badges.

How do I sign up? You don't. Just be at the Rose Bowl at 7:00am on Thursday, April 10, 2008. Get a copy of the route instructions and go.

We will depart promptly at 7:30am

This is a free event, we have no incentive to wait if you are late

How do I get more information? To join our "exclusive" mailing list send your email address to NFIBMT@aol.com put NFIBMT Mailing list on the subject line

**PLEASE COPY THIS NOTICE AND POST IT WHERE GEARHEADS WILL SEE IT.
THERE ARE NO FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
OUR MOTTO: NON CRANIUS INVERTUS RECTUMUS**

No Frills Iron Bottom Motoring Tour information continued on Page 5



MFIBMT information continued from Page 4

**10th Annual No Frills Iron Bottom Motoring Tour
NON CRANIUS-INVERTUS-RECTUMUS
Why This is a No Frills Event
and
What you need to Know**

The route book is as straight forward as we can make it. Mileage is estimated, if the book says turn right when it should say turn left it is an honest mistake, not an attempt to get you lost. **Complaints about the instructions are not tolerated.** Bring a map and use your common sense. Following our route is optional.

The California map provided by the Automobile Club of Southern California, includes most of the roads on this tour (some roads are not well marked).

Even the guy who lays out the route gets lost. **If you have a GPS BRING IT**

Start with a full fuel tank. Gas is available at several locations but there are some long stretches without gas. Keep your tank topped off.

**You will need your drivers license, car registration and proof of current insurance
to gain access to Ft. Hunter Liggett**

Carry a cell phone. If you break down you are on your own. Other participants may stop and offer help, because they are fellow gear heads. However, **you are ultimately responsible for your own vehicle.**

Accommodations Make your own reservations

Pasadena / Arcadia

Hampton Inn, Arcadia, 626 574 5600

Comfort Inn 626 405 0811

Paso Robles

Black Oak Motor Lodge 805 238 4740

Or check the AAA book for other motels

Unsponsored Meals

Pre Event "Banquet & Car Show" 4/9/08 Robins Restaurant

395 N.Rosemead, Pasadena 6PM

Breakfast 4/10/08

Coffee & Rolls **courtesy of Autobooks @ The Rose Bowl**

Lunch 4/10/08 Ollie's in Taft

Dinners 4/10&11/08 Pick a spot in Paso Robles

Lunch 4/11/08 Picnic Hollister Hills State Recreational Vehicle Park

Breakfast 4/11, pick a spot in Paso Robles

Breakfast 4/12/08 **ALL HAND MEAL IN THE PLANNING STAGE TBA**

Lunch 4/12/08 In N Our Burger, Santa Maria

REMEMBER THIS IS A VINTAGE EVENT PRE 1976 VEHICLES PLEASE

Add your name to our mailing list. email NFIBMT@aol.com

put NFIBMT Mailing List on the subject line

Coming Eventz

One of the best places to see future designs and classic cars is the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena this month. There's lots to do this summer . . . stay tuned!

If you have any other events you would like to see GroupZ sponsor, let us know. Z 'Ya Later...

Group Z Calendar

July

- 12th – General Meeting
Fuddrucker's, Buena Park
- 15th – 4th Annual Art Center Classic Car '07 Show
10am – 4pm, 1700 Lida Street, Pasadena, CA
Info: 626-396-4216 www.carclassic@artcenter.edu
- 28th – Motoring J Style 2007
Northern California's First Ever Japanese Car
Festival, Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo
Info: www.motoringjstyle.com or 415.479.9930

August

- 9th – General Meeting
Fuddrucker's, Buena Park
- 17th – 19th 5th Annual Monterey Historics
Laguna Seca Raceway, Monterey, CA
- 18th – Datsun/Nissan Corral at Laguna Seca Raceway,
For Info contact Ron Fuller at
zoncpres@gmail.com
- 25th – Hot August Day Show and Shine
Ricky & Ronnie's
1301 W. Sepulveda Blvd, Torrance, CA 90501
310-326-1213

September

- 13th – General Meeting Fuddrucker's, Buena Park
- 22nd – 8th Annual Cruisin For A Cure
Orange County Fair Grounds,
www.cruisinforacure.com for more info

October

- 1st - 5th ZCCA National Z Convention
Daytona Beach, FL
www.flza.com for more information
- 9th – Japanese Classic Car Show
Queen Mary Park – Long Beach, CA
- 11th – General Meeting
Fuddrucker's, Buena Park
- 19th – 21st [Monterey Sports Car Championships](http://www.monterey-sports-car.com)
One Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca event that
has become a staple of the schedule is the
American Le Mans Series finale.

November

- 8th – General Meeting
Fuddrucker's, Buena Park

December

- 8th – Toys 4 Tots
Thousand Oaks
- 13th – General Meeting
Fuddrucker's, Buena Park

Although membership is not required and everyone is always welcome at all Group Z meetings and events, if you are not yet a member please consider becoming a full member and enjoying all of the benefits of membership in the oldest and best Z-car club in the U.S.A.!

Automobile Trivia (Answers on Page 7)

1. How much did the first American car produced in quantity cost?
2. What was the first production car in the United States?
3. What was the first Japanese car to be produced in the United States?
 4. In what year was the first-ever Grand Prix race held?
 5. What notable device was installed in Cleveland in 1914?
6. Seat belts were added to cars as standard equipment in what year?
7. What Ford model did TV cops Starsky and Hutch drive?
8. Between 1972 and 1982, the average speed of cars on the freeways in what city dropped from 60 mph to 17 mph?



2007 Group Z Officerz

Memberz Swap Meet

(Parts to Sell, Trade, Swap . . .
.. NOT Members - that's *another* club!)

Email to newsletter@groupZ.com with "Swap Meet" in the subject line anything with which you'd like to part, and we'll help you clean out your garage/office/home/etc.

Do You Know Our Partnerz?

Vendors & Stores which offer Group Z Members a discount

Please help us update our list of Vendors and Stores which offer us discounts.

Email to newsletter@groupZ.com with "Discounts" in the subject line and we'll compile and distribute the list.

Prez - Charlie Dever

Prez@GroupZ.com

Vice Prez - John Brantuk

JohnBrantuk@msn.com or (562) 698-2870

Secretary - Bob Heckendorf

bobh@groupZ.com

Treasurer - John Harris

john@h4lights.com

Eventz Coordinator - Jackie Harris

jjharriss@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor - John Brantuk

newsletter@groupZ.com



Answers to "Automobile Trivia" on Page 6

8. A notoriously congested Los Angeles.

7. Surely you remember the stylish Gran Torino.

6. Some automakers installed lap belts as standard equipment decades earlier, but the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration made them mandatory in all new cars on Jan. 1, 1968.

5. The first traffic signal. The red and green signal lights were operated by a traffic officer sitting in a nearby booth.

4. While there were organized racing events before the turn of the 20th century, the first race called the Grand Prix occurred in France in 1906.

3. The Honda Accord holds that distinction, being manufactured in Ohio in 1982 rather than being shipped to the States from overseas.

2. Many remember the Model T as the first car to be mass-produced. However, the Duryea was actually the first production auto, meaning more than one at a time were made. Thirteen practically identical cars rolled off the factory floor in 1896.

1. The Curved Dash Oldsmobile, which debuted in 1901, was sold for \$650. Oldsmobile manufactured 425 of them that year.



GroupZ
P.O. Box 10497
Santa Ana, CA 92711
www.GroupZ.com



Address Correction Requested

