

Congress Seeks to Reform a 40-Year-Old Dinosaur

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to reform aspects of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The legislation would require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to release data used to make listings of threatened or endangered animals and plants, require that state data be included in the calculations when making such determinations, report how much money is spent on ESA-related lawsuits, and place reasonable caps on attorney fees. The bill has been sent to the U.S. Senate for consideration. Despite agreeing that the current law is flawed, Republicans and Democrats are deadlocked on how to comprehensively update the 40-year-old ESA. Millions of acres of land have been set aside to protect threatened or endangered animals and plants, with few tangible results. Scores of off-highway vehicle roads and trails have been unnecessarily closed as a consequence. The SEMA Action Network (SAN) supports an alternative approach that focuses on establishing and managing smaller recovery zones.

For the complete list of Legislative Action Alerts, visit www.semaSAN.com/Alerts.



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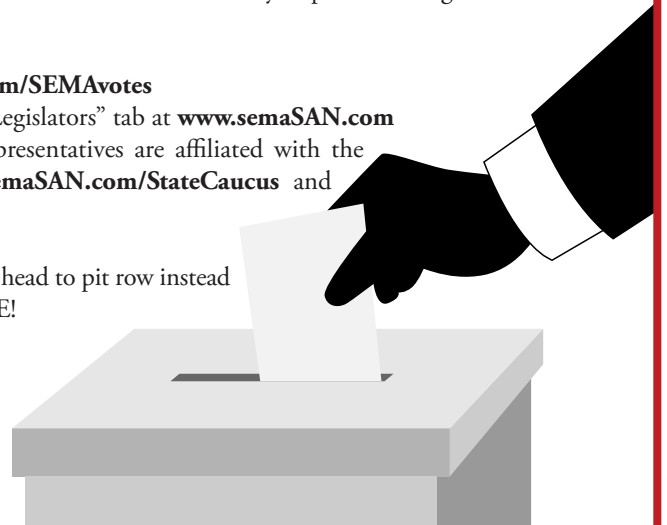
Claiming Poll Position

Set the Pace in Mid-Term Races

“You can't win the race if you're not in it!” This old adage may sound trivial but its core meaning rings true, particularly as it relates to the outcome of the upcoming U.S. mid-term elections. With the grid already formed nationwide, the car enthusiast community can help determine next year's political course. Voters will elect 435 members of the U.S. House, 36 U.S. senators, 36 governors and thousands of state and local leaders in November. Lawmakers in your jurisdiction crossing the stripe first will ultimately steer or sideline legislation affecting you, your fellow constituents and the auto hobby's future. Here are three easy steps to securing victories for our pastime during next year's legislative sessions:

- 1.) Register to vote now at www.semaSAN.com/SEMAvotes
- 2.) Locate your elected officials under the “Legislators” tab at www.semaSAN.com
- 3.) Find out if your state and federal representatives are affiliated with the SAN-supported Caucuses at www.semaSAN.com/StateCaucus and www.semaSAN.com/FederalCaucus

This year, do us all a favor and head to pit row instead of the grandstand: GO VOTE!



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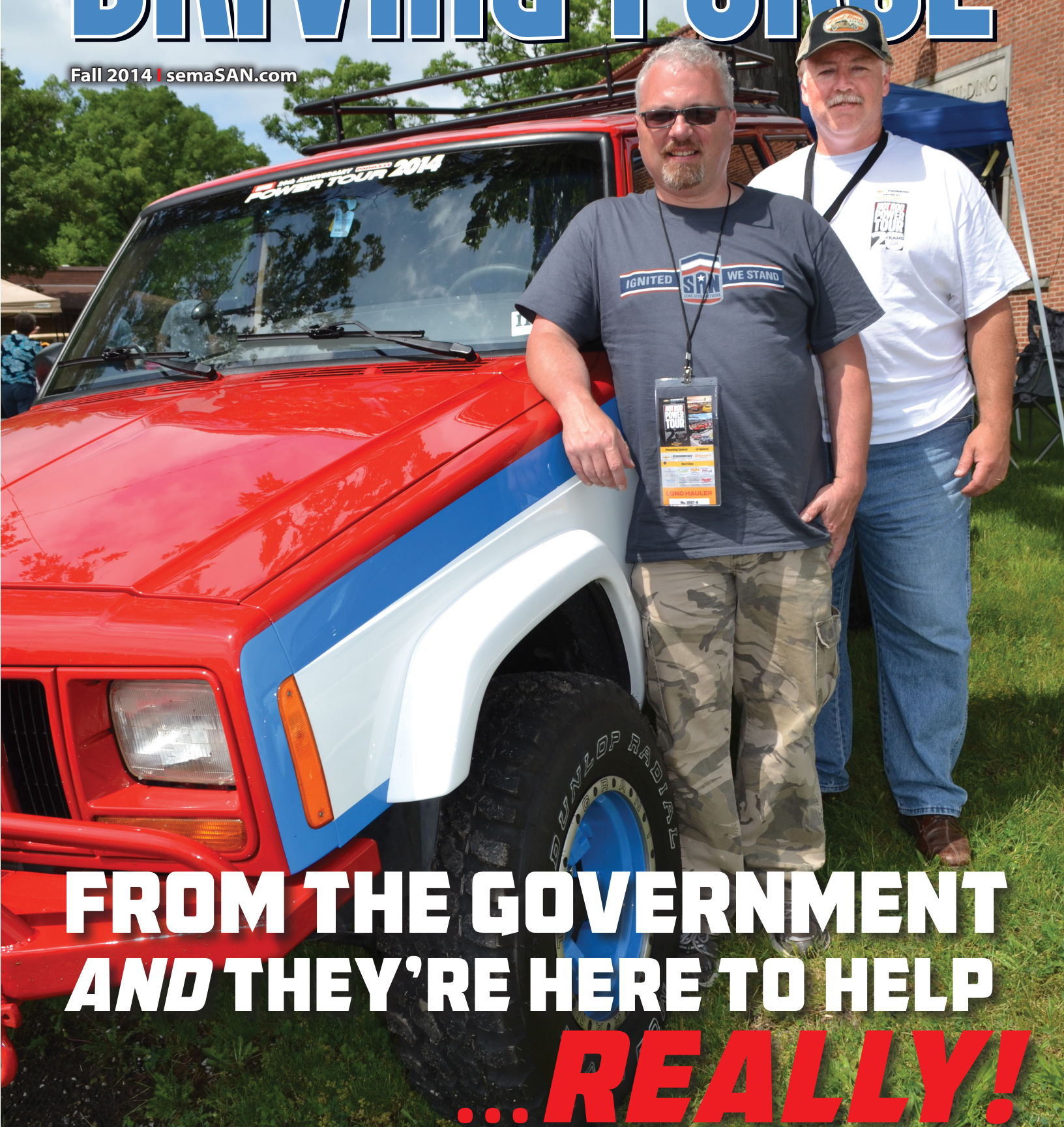


DRIVING FORCE
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Fall 2014

Mid-Term Election Tools • Worldwide Automotive Holiday Recap

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**FROM THE GOVERNMENT
AND THEY'RE HERE TO HELP**

...REALLY!

Put a Legislator in Your Toolbox!

State Lawmakers Nationwide Steer Hobby's Future

By West Virginia Delegate Gary Howell

Do you have a toolbox? The answer for nearly all of us is a resounding yes, but how many of us have a lawmaker in that tool box? As car enthusiasts, we're often confronted by well-meaning yet ill-informed lawmakers that want to prevent reasonable modifications to our cars. Often, a simple conversation with a constituent like you will set them straight and stop bad legislation in its tracks. So, maybe it's time you put a legislator in your tool box.

If you were on the 2014 Hot Rod Power Tour, you may have noticed a red, white and blue '99 Jeep Cherokee XJ with a Skyjacker 4.5-in. Rock Ready lift, Ares Fab bumpers and a 12,000-lb. winch rolling on 30x9.50s. You may also have noticed that the Jeep carried legislative license plates. That was my Jeep, and I am not just a hot rodder; I am also a member of the West Virginia State Legislature. If you slept through civics class in high school, then you might not remember what a state legislator does. If so, then let me remind you. Each state has a legislature, which is essentially a state version of the U.S. Congress. We are the people that write and pass laws for our individual states. As many of the laws that govern how we title, register, inspect and equip our vehicles are handled at the state level, these state legislatures wield a lot of power over the



West Virginia Delegate Gary Howell, national chairman of the SAN-supported State Automotive Enthusiast Leadership Caucus, speaks to the crowd at the Carlisle Chrysler Nationals about his passion for the hobby on Collector Car Appreciation Day 2014 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.



From left: West Virginia Delegates Eric Nelson, Jim Butler, Gary Howell, Kelli Sobonya, Eric Householder, Scott Cadle, Tim Armstead, and Ron Walters pose with The Enthusiast Network's Chairman Peter Englehart (pictured in red shirt) during the 2014 Hot Rod Power Tour. (Photo courtesy Perry Bennett)

hobby. That includes modifications you can do to your car or truck. Fortunately, there are a lot of state legislators that are fans of cars themselves, many of whom are members of the State Automotive Enthusiast Leadership Caucus (for which I am the proud national chairman). We want to protect your right to work on and modify your ride.

"If you don't follow politics, then politics will follow you" is one of my favorite quotations by the Greek philosopher Socrates. It was true some 2,000 years ago, and it is true today. It doesn't mean you need to follow politics as closely as politicians do, but it does mean you should pay enough attention to be aware of the things that might stop you from working on your cars and trucks. One way you can do that is by signing up for the SEMA Action Network (SAN) and encouraging your friends to do the same. Think of the SAN as an oil-pressure gauge. If your oil-pressure light comes on, most likely your motor is already damaged. When you notice the oil pressure is dropping on the gauge, then you have time to save it. The SAN is your political oil pressure gauge. Once you sign up they will send you alerts informing you about hobby-related legislation (both good and bad) that is being considered in your state. Last year, the SAN tracked and advocated on four pieces of legislation in my home state, but in other states around the country, there were many more. They don't sell the list, so you will not get any spam. When you receive an alert from the

SAN direct to your online inbox, it will give you simple instructions on contacting your local legislators. It will also contain talking points that will help convince lawmakers to support or not support the legislation. Legislators will listen to constituents, especially those who vote. I do and so do my colleagues in West Virginia and around the country.

It is good to know who your legislators are, but it is better if your legislators know who you are. They might just be a gearhead as well! Legislators want and need to meet the people they represent and they respond to the people they meet. Invite your local legislators to a car show, club event or any other occasion where they can meet car enthusiasts. Let them know that you express your personal passion through your car or truck. Even if your legislators never buy or build a hobby vehicle, they will know and remember you when it comes time to vote on legislation. When confronted with legislation that may affect the hobby, they may just pick up the phone and call you for your opinion. That, my friends, is how you put a legislator in your toolbox in a way that works for you.

On The Cover

West Virginia Delegates Gary Howell and Eric Householder pose with Howell's '99 Jeep Cherokee XJ during the 2014 Hot Rod Power Tour.



A Time to Recognize the Hobby

Collector Car Appreciation Day Honored Worldwide

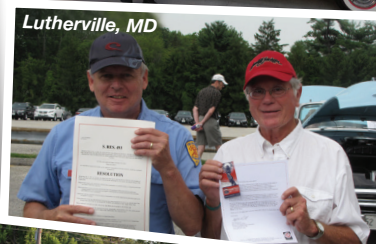
As in previous years, the occasion was designated by the SAN-requested U.S. Senate Resolution 493 sponsored by Senator Jon Tester (D-MT), Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) and Senator Mark Begich (D-AK). This document recognizes “that the collection and restoration of historic and classic cars is an important part of preserving the technological achievements and cultural heritage of the United States.”

With our hobby’s “holiday” continuing to grow, lawmakers in states, provinces, counties and local areas all over the country and Canada are following suit. They join the U.S. Senate to mark the day’s significance in raising awareness of the vital role the automotive pastime plays in American society. This year’s participants included:

- California
- Louisiana
- Michigan
- New Mexico
- British Columbia, Canada
- Manitoba, Canada
- Nova Scotia, Canada
- Las Vegas, Nevada
- Madera County, California

A detailed summary and online photo gallery of CCAD festivities is available on the SEMA Action Network’s (SAN) website at www.semaSAN.com/CCAD. Special thanks to everyone who made this year’s celebration a memorable one. Stay tuned for the announcement of next year’s CCAD!

Thousands paid tribute to the fifth annual Collector Car Appreciation Day (CCAD) on July 11, 2014. Intended to celebrate the classics of the past and the future, a wide range of nearly 150 official events were held throughout July in the United States, Canada and Australia to commemorate the day.





SAN DIRECTOR'S DISPATCH



Colby Martin

Must the "Song Remain the Same?"

I trust there are many Led Zeppelin fans among our SEMA Action Network (SAN) forces other than me. Classic rock aficionados themselves, my colleagues in Washington, D.C., recently integrated the song title into an article about the current political climate. Given its context and timing, the piece personally resonated with me. Here is an excerpt:

"The mid-term elections are around the corner, and at no time in recent history has Washington been so divided. Sound familiar? Those words were printed just four short years ago. The times have changed, but the song remains the same. Voters are fed up with Washington."

Continuing the rock 'n' roll theme, 'banging the same drum' can easily cause both player and listener to tune out. What if the energy poured into dismissing the government was redirected? In an ever complex and fast-paced world, there are many missed opportunities to start a positive momentum in legislatures everywhere. Many of these methods aren't very difficult or time-consuming. Given a dedicated effort, there are significant ways to realistically safeguard our beloved automotive pastime as we experience it now and in the future. This very issue of *Driving Force* contains valuable insights into harnessing several available resources.

For example, hobby-friendly lawmakers, such as West Virginia Delegate Gary Howell, can't navigate the road alone. Let these legislators and their staff members hear your thoughts about current topics throughout each session. Offer legislators a ride in your vehicle for duty in a local parade. Invite them to your club's car show as honored guests or even judges. As Delegate Howell explains in this issue's cover story, working constructively with government officials is the cornerstone to establishing a mutually-meaningful relationship.

Support "feel good" bills that recognize Collector Car Appreciation Day. Legislation like this presents a chance to build bridges with lawmakers in your own backyard. Seize the goodwill of our hobby's "holiday" by encouraging the adoption of a similar effort in your community using the SAN-requested U.S. Senate Resolution as a guide. As you'll see elsewhere in this issue, several state and local-level jurisdictions have picked up on the spirit, too. After all, lawmakers really enjoy passing positive legislation!

Stay involved in the political process year-round. This November, prepare for and participate in the upcoming elections. First, register to vote if you haven't yet done so. Research the candidates for public office to identify those that might have a soft spot for the hobby. Once in office, hold your legislature accountable by responding to and sharing the SAN's Action Alerts. Spread the word whether the issue fits within your particular automotive interest or not. Forward the e-mail to friends, family, club members and others in your state. Take advantage of modern technology by posting the messages online using social media, web forums and other channels to quickly reach fellow enthusiasts. Every Alert is posted on the SAN's Facebook and Twitter pages, so feel free to repurpose these items!

Given that most legislatures are adjourned for the year, representatives are in their home districts and have more time to meet casually with their constituents; make the most of this opportunity. It is our responsibility to see that future generations have the same chances we've had to experience the special joy that cars provide. —IGNITED WE STAND!

Rave Reviews for Driving Force News

Once again, your own *Driving Force* newsletter has been selected as an award winner by its contemporaries from the world of automotive publications. The *Driving Force* was awarded the coveted Golden Quill Award, issued by *Old Cars Weekly* as a stand-out in the National Compact category. This honor is presented annually as a recognition for the publishing efforts of national, regional and local car clubs, registries, associations, museums and related organizations. During the 23rd International Automotive Media Awards, *Driving Force* earned a bronze medallion in the "Newsletter" category for the original cover art of the Spring 2013 issue. The International Automotive Media Competition, a function of the International Society for Vehicle Preservation, is a peer-judged awards program that recognizes excellence in all forms of automotive media. Newsletter staff and the entire SEMA Action Network (SAN) force are honored by these prestigious recognitions.

