

# DRIVING FORCE

MARCH 2012



## PERFORMANCE, POWER & POLISH

### Three States Seek To Protect Modified Exhaust Systems

The misconception that custom exhaust components are associated with illegal street racing has plagued the automotive hobby for decades and has created friction between vehicle enthusiasts and the law. In fact, unfair assumptions about modified exhaust systems have led some states to prohibit the use of this equipment, other than "factory-installed mufflers" or "mufflers meeting factory specifications." Others have banned systems that create "excessive or unusual noise." Subjective measures like these leave the fate of your vehicle in an uncertain limbo. While the SEMA Action Network (SAN) believes that exhaust systems should not be used in a way that causes overly loud or objectionable noise, these vague provisions fail to provide a clear and objective standard and make it difficult to know the parameters of acceptable modification.

Continued on page 5 ▶



## Power, Performance & Polish

◀ Continued from page 1

To combat these issues, the SAN developed model exhaust noise legislation. In 2002, California was the first state to enact this model legislation into law. After 10 years, California's automotive hobbyists are now better equipped to fight unfair exhaust noise citations issued by state law enforcement officers. The law features fair, standardized testing that can be accurately measured. Results from the test settle whether or not a vehicle's modified exhaust system meets the state's exhaust noise standards. If the smog check station's referee determines that the exhaust system emits no more than 95-decibels, a certificate of compliance is issued.

Based on the success of California's exhaust noise test standard, other states have established fair noise limits, including Montana and Maine. Like California, these states have included the SAN provision for the testing of vehicle exhaust noise to the standard adopted by the Society of Automotive Engineers to an established noise limit of 95-decibels (SAE J1169). Under the SAE standard, a sound meter is placed 20 inches from the exhaust outlet at a 45-degree angle and the engine is revved to three quarters of maximum rated horsepower. The highest decibel reading is then recorded.

Recently, three additional states have made proposals to clear up the confusion once and for all. Hawaii, Iowa and West Virginia have just introduced bills that would benefit consumers and police officers charged with enforcing the law. "In incorporating the SAN model into their state statutes, this legislation recognizes that aftermarket exhaust systems are more durable, are designed to make vehicles run more efficiently without increasing emissions and offer increased performance, which can make a vehicle safer by improving its ability to merge, pass and travel uphill," said SEMA Vice President of Government Affairs Steve McDonald. "Further, these efforts challenge the erroneous assumption that enthusiasts who equip their vehicles with modified exhaust systems are involved in illegal street racing."

Similar to California, Maine and Montana, the Hawaii, West Virginia and Iowa legislation provide that vehicle exhaust systems in compliance with a 95-decibel limit under SAE J1169 satisfy requirements under the "noisy mufflers" law. We encourage SAN members in those three states to make their voices heard in support of these bills. For more information on each of these measures, please refer to the information posted at [www.semasan.com](http://www.semasan.com).

## Club Spotlight

Continued from page 6 ▶

provided by Reibe's Auto Parts of Grass Valley and the Salvation Army. A local band played live seasonal tunes for the crowd. Santa Claus even arrived in an antique fire truck! Club members also work with the local Salvation Army throughout the holiday season to help those in need.

During the year, the Roamin Angels participate in community service activities, make donations to local groups and support the Association of California Car Clubs (ACCC). The original spirit of this car club is alive and well after 50 years.



Past president Ray Yedding gladly accepts a box of toys from a local donor.

## HEY, THAT'S MY CAR!

# Far East Meets Old West

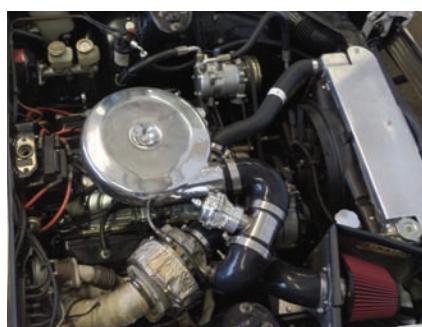
## Classic Sportscar Made in Japan and Modified in America

### 1974 Datsun 260Z "Scarab"

**Owner:** Robert Walters  
Jacksonville, FL

I've always wanted a V8-Z. Finally, I found this one on eBay about 10 years ago. I'm the third owner of the car after it changed hands between two friends a couple of times in central California. The car was built from a Scarab kit except for the wide front fenders. The car came with the Stage II 425hp turbocharged 350 Chevy mated to a T10 four-speed with a special Scarab embossed bellhousing. The Scarab kit included the flared quarters, louvered hood, Recaro seats and Scarab vacuum/boost gauge. The original owner equipped the car with 16-inch Simmons B45 3-piece rims, filled the quarter vents, relocated the fuel filler to the upper quarter and added a remote release. The battery was also relocated between the rear strut towers.

I've made a number of modifications over the last 10 years. Many parts were swapped, including a T56 transmission now taking the place of the T10. Under the hood, a Powerjection III EFI has replaced the Quadrajet carburetor. An AlkyControl methanol injection setup has been installed as well. A Griffin Aluminum radiator



with a 2-speed Taurus electric fan cools the engine. For braking, the front-end received 300ZX vented rotors with Toyota 4-piston calipers while the rear-end now has Wilwood discs. It's also got 280ZX CV axles and a 300ZX R200 differential with Quaife LSD. Other features include a 3.5-inch oval exhaust, a J&S Electronics Safeguard timing control, a custom stainless steel housing the Optima battery and best of all, A/C!

My Scarab is still a work in progress but aren't they all? I'm hoping to take the car on the Hot Rod Power Tour in June. My wife and I did the Tour last year in her Murano. Unfortunately, the Scarab's EFI lost a circuit board just before the trip so we had to go with "Plan B!"

Have your car or truck featured in a future issue of Driving Force.  
Submit your high-resolution photos online at [www.semasan.com](http://www.semasan.com)

## LEGISLATIVE QUICK HITS

**Colorado Emissions Exemption:** The SAN is supporting legislation to extend the emissions inspection exemption to vehicles that have not yet reached their eighth model year. Current law only exempts vehicles that are 4 model years old or newer. Colorado already exempts pre-1976 collector



cars, kits and street rods from emissions testing. The logic for this trend is clear; such vehicles do not contribute in significant ways to air quality problems. This logic applies equally to newer cars.

**Iowa Antique Registration Fee:** The SAN is supporting a bill to allow any vehicle that is 25 years old or older and used only for exhibition, entertainment or educational purposes to be registered for an annual fee of \$5. Under current law, a motor vehicle that is 25 years old or older may be registered as an antique vehicle upon payment of the regular annual registration fee for the vehicle. Certain vehicles that are 25 years old or older and used only for exhibition, entertainment or educational purposes may be registered as "limited-use" vehicles, subject to a registration fee of \$40 for a two-year period.

**Maryland Historic Vehicle Registration:** Legislation to increase the age requirement for vehicles eligible for registration as "historic motor vehicles" was introduced. Under the bill, the age requirement would be raised from 20 to at least 25 years old and would prohibit these cars from being used for "occasional transportation." The measure would also require that an historic vehicle is insured by an historic vehicle, show vehicle or antique insurance policy. A hearing to consider the bill is scheduled in the Environmental Matters Committee. The SAN is opposing the bill.

**New Jersey Emissions Exemption:** In 2010, SAN-supported legislation to extend the emissions inspection exemption to vehicles five model years old or newer was signed into law, subject to approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Previous law only exempted vehicles four model years old or newer. The EPA is now proposing action to incorporate revisions to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) submitted by state regulators to improve performance of the state's Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) program. Chief among the amendments the EPA is proposing to approve is the extension of the new vehicle inspection exemption from four years to five years. This action acknowledges the relatively minimal environmental impact of the vehicles targeted for this exemption and that it is senseless to test newer vehicles, the results of which demonstrate no significant air quality benefits.

**Utah Vintage Travel Trailers:** A SAN-supported bill to create a statutory definition of a "vintage travel trailer" and provide for a one-time registration fee was approved by the Utah House of Representatives and now moves to the Senate for consideration. Under the bill, vintage travel trailers would also be eligible for a special group license plate and would be exempted from wheel cover, mudguard, flap, or splash apron requirements. The measure provides for a \$40 one-time registration fee.



Courtesy Shutterstock.com

### Vermont Exhaust Noise

The SAN is opposing legislation to ban motor-vehicle exhaust systems that increase



the noise level above the level emitted by the originally installed system. Under the bill, violators would not pass the state's required inspection. The bill does not provide an opportunity for vehicle hobbyists to install and use aftermarket modified exhaust systems that meet an objective 95-decibel limit under a fair and predictable test. In addition, the measure does not supply inspectors with an enforcement standard, allowing them to make subjective judgments on whether an exhaust system increases "the noise emitted by the motor vehicle above the level emitted by the exhaust system as originally installed."

**Virginia License Tax:** Legislation that originally threatened to provide localities with the authority to raise from \$100 to \$500 the amount charged for an annual license tax for vehicles that do not display current license plates was amended by a subcommittee of the Virginia House Counties, Cities and Towns Committee. Working with Virginia hobbyist groups, the SAN successfully negotiated an amendment with the bill's sponsor to (1) totally exempt all vehicles 25 years old and older from the license tax that are undergoing restoration or repair and (2) extend the exemption to all other vehicles (including parts cars) undergoing restoration or repair that are stored on private property for fewer than 60 days. Vehicles stored within a structure would remain exempted from the tax. The bill was approved by the subcommittee on a 4-3 vote.

**Washington Inoperable Vehicles:** SEMA-model legislation that would prohibit cities or towns from enforcing an ordinance, development regulation, zoning regulation or administrative practice that prevents legitimate automobile collectors from pursuing their hobby, was approved by the Washington State Senate Government Operations Committee. Under the bill, a limited number of junked, wrecked or inoperable vehicles, including parts cars, stored on private property, would only require screening from public view if required by local law. The bill will now be considered by the Senate Rules Committee.



Courtesy Shutterstock.com

**West Virginia Property Tax:** The SAN is supporting legislation to provide owners of antique motor vehicles with a cap on property taxes paid on antique motor vehicles. The bill was approved by the House Roads and Transportation Committee and will now be considered by the House Finance Committee. West Virginia law defines an "antique motor vehicle" as any motor vehicle that is more than 25 years old and owned solely as a collector's item. The bill would assess antique motor vehicles for property taxes at their salvage value. That value could not exceed \$500. At the most costly rate in West Virginia (approximately 3%), the actual property tax paid by antique motor vehicle owners at the maximum salvage value would be only about \$15 per year.

# DRIVING FORCE

MARCH 2012 SUPPLEMENT

## MARCH 2012 SAN CLUB EVENTS

### ARIZONA

#### March 9-11, Scottsdale

3rd Spring Nationals  
Sponsor: Goodguys  
Info: [www.good-guys.com](http://www.good-guys.com) or [info@good-guys.com](mailto:info@good-guys.com)

#### March 30-31, Phoenix

Pontiac Heaven Car Show  
Sponsor: Speedworld Dragstrip  
Info: [steve@pontiacheaven.org](mailto:steve@pontiacheaven.org) or 480/899-7873

### ARKANSAS

#### March 24, Little Rock

Z-Car Show  
Sponsor: Arkansas Z-Car Club  
Info: [www.azcc.ww4.us/azcc2/](http://www.azcc.ww4.us/azcc2/)

### CALIFORNIA

#### March 1-3, Los Angeles

Deuce Week  
Sponsor: Petersen Automotive Museum  
Info: [www.DeuceWeek.org](http://www.DeuceWeek.org) or 323/964-6325

#### March 4, Pomona

Swap Meet & Classic Car Show  
Sponsor: George Cross & Sons  
Info: [matt.jzarzana70@pomonaswapmeet.com](mailto:matt.jzarzana70@pomonaswapmeet.com) or 714/538-7091

#### March 16-17, Sacramento

26th Annual Legislative Conference  
Sponsor: The Association of California Car Clubs Inc.  
Info: [www.acccdefender.org](http://www.acccdefender.org) or [acccpres@gmail.com](mailto:acccpres@gmail.com)

#### March 18, Sacramento

40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Car Show  
Sponsor: The Association of California Car Clubs Inc.  
Info: [www.acccdefender.org](http://www.acccdefender.org) or [acccpres@gmail.com](mailto:acccpres@gmail.com)

#### March 24-25, Pleasanton

30th All American Get-Together  
Sponsor: Goodguys Rod and Custom Association  
Info: [www.good-guys.com](http://www.good-guys.com) or 925/838-9876

#### March 30-April 1, Del Mar

12th Meguiar's Del Mar Nationals  
Sponsor: Goodguys Rod and Custom Association  
Info: [www.good-guys.com](http://www.good-guys.com) or 925/838-9876

### CONNECTICUT

#### March 9-11, Hartford

53rd Annual Frank Maratta's Auto & Cycle Show  
Sponsor: Town Fair Tire  
Info: [Linda@fmautoshow.com](mailto:Linda@fmautoshow.com) or 860/347-3625

### FLORIDA

#### March 1-4, Bradenton

18th NMRA Annual Spring Break Shootout  
Sponsor: NMRA  
Info: [swapmeet@promediapub.com](mailto:swapmeet@promediapub.com) or 714/444-2426

#### March 2-3, Lake Buena Vista

1st Annual Magical Rod Run  
Sponsor: Vintage Street Rodders of America  
Info: 423/571-6430 or [streetrod34coupe@yahoo.com](mailto:streetrod34coupe@yahoo.com)

#### March 3, Naples

Naples-Marco Island 23rd Annual Meet  
Sponsor: Naples-Marco Island Chapter AACA  
Info: [gdoner4822@comcast.net](mailto:gdoner4822@comcast.net) or 239/597-4822

#### March 3, Coconut Creek

1st Annual Open Car and Truck Show  
Sponsor: Corvette Club of South Florida  
Info: [jcutroni@att.net](mailto:jcutroni@att.net) or 954/242-5332

#### March 4, Hollywood

24th Annual Florida Mopar Nationals  
Sponsor: Florida Mopar Connection Car Club  
Info: [floridamopar@bellsouth.net](mailto:floridamopar@bellsouth.net) or 954/920-7096

#### March 24, Winter Springs

Motormania Car Show  
Sponsor: Orlando Bowtie Club  
Info: [www.orlandobowtieclub.com](http://www.orlandobowtieclub.com) or [tarasnova@yahoo.com](mailto:tarasnova@yahoo.com)

#### March 25, Ocala

10th Annual Live Oak Carriage & Antique Car Show  
Sponsor: AACA Ocala  
Info: [art2cars@cfl.rr.com](mailto:art2cars@cfl.rr.com) or 352/671-6782

### GEORGIA

#### March 3, Chamblee

Mopars at the Galaxy  
Sponsor: North Georgia Mopar Club  
Info: [www.northgeorgiamoparclub.com](http://www.northgeorgiamoparclub.com)

### LOUISIANA

#### March 24, New Orleans

British Car Day  
Sponsor: British Motoring Club of New Orleans  
Info: [www.bmcno.org](http://www.bmcno.org) or [mlandrick@gmail.com](mailto:mlandrick@gmail.com) or 225/571-7064

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### March 30-April 1, Boston

37th Annual World of Wheels Auto Show  
Sponsor: Town Fair Tire  
Info: [www.autorama.com](http://www.autorama.com) or 248/373-1700

### NEW MEXICO

#### March 10, Bosque Farms

Los Lunas Cruz Poker Run  
Sponsor: New Mexico Council of Car Clubs  
Info: 505/565-2105

#### March 31, Las Cruces

Wheels of Dreams Swap & Show  
Sponsor: New Mexico Council of Car Clubs  
Info: 575/526-5432

#### March 31, Deming

Smokin' Oldies Car Show  
Sponsor: New Mexico Council of Car Clubs  
Info: 575/494-7265

#### March 31, Farmington

2nd Annual Rockabilly Car Show  
Sponsor: Road Runners Car Club  
Info: [mike@roadrunnerscc.com](mailto:mike@roadrunnerscc.com) or [southernrockiesroadtour@msn.com](mailto:southernrockiesroadtour@msn.com)

### OREGON

#### March 10-11, Roseburg

35th Annual Roseburg Benefit Car Show  
Sponsor: UMPQUA Flatheads and Stray Angels  
Car Clubs  
Info: [www.strayangelscarclub.com](http://www.strayangelscarclub.com) or 541/672-2359

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### March 2-27, Hershey

Alternative Energy Vehicle Exhibit  
Sponsor: Antique Automobile Club of America Museum  
Info: [aacamuseum.org](http://aacamuseum.org) or 717/566-7100

#### March 4, Hamburg

45th Annual Hamburg Swap Meet  
Sponsor: Wheels of Time SRA  
Info: [Ihedgehog1@aol.com](mailto:Ihedgehog1@aol.com) or 610/262-9718

### SOUTH CAROLINA

#### March 24, Columbia

Old Car Drop-In  
Sponsor: Columbia Classic Chevy Club  
Info: [barryta@netzero.com](mailto:barryta@netzero.com)

#### March 31, Cayce

Carolina British Classics VI  
Sponsor: British Car Club Midlands Centre  
Info: [www.bccmc.com](http://www.bccmc.com) or [bccmc1@gmail.com](mailto:bccmc1@gmail.com)

### TEXAS

#### March 3, Bellville

9th Classic Car Stampede  
Sponsor: Austin County Cruisers  
Info: [austincocruisers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:austincocruisers@sbcglobal.net) or 979/865-3187

#### March 16-18, Fort Worth

2nd Spring Lone Star Nationals  
Sponsor: Goodguys Rod and Custom Association  
Info: [www.good-guys.com](http://www.good-guys.com) or 925/838-9876

#### March 31, Shreveport

21st Annual MOPAR Nationals  
Sponsor: Mopar Magic Unlimited  
Info: [Tmemsmith3@aol.com](mailto:Tmemsmith3@aol.com) or 318/453-7027

### WISCONSIN

#### March 16-18, La Crosse

GCRA 38th Annual Custom Auto Show  
Sponsor: God's Country Racing Association  
Info: [clubs.hemmings.com/clubsites/gcra](http://clubs.hemmings.com/clubsites/gcra) or 608/526-1162

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## CLUB SPOTLIGHT

# Divine Legacy

## The Roamin Angels Celebrate 50 Years of Good Deeds

What's in a name? With the Roamin Angels Car Club of Grass Valley, California, the name says it all. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the original club. When the club was first organized in 1962, a group of high school hot rodders got together to cruise their cars. However, they also decided to stop and help local motorists whose vehicles had broken down. Club members handed out cards that said, "You've been helped by a Roamin Angel."

The annual Roamin Angel Toy Drive was established 23 years ago with the same charitable spirit in mind. At the last event, the club adopted 60 families using \$6,000 of its own funds to augment the toys with clothes, blankets and household needs. This donation was raised at the annual Roamin Angels "Cruisin' the Pines" Car Show at the Nevada County Fairgrounds, held the second weekend of September each year.

Each year, the Toy Drive is publicized as part of a Christmas celebration. Refreshments were



Santa Claus, played by the club's vice president Ron Cherry, stands in front of his sleigh-for-the-day: a 1948 Van Pelt fire engine. Parked behind the "sleigh" is a 1940 Ford pickup. In the background are the Salvation Army canteen truck and the Reibes Auto Parts BBQ station that serves up food for toy donors.

◀ **Continued on page 5**

[www.semasan.com](http://www.semasan.com)

## Club Spotlight

### Hey, That's My Car!

### March 2012 SAN Club Events

• Legislative Quick Hits

• Federal Update

• Caucus Corner

### Performance, Power & Polish

INSIDE

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