

DRIVING FORCE

JANUARY 2007



10 Years and Counting

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE AND AN OUTLINE FOR THE FUTURE

As we welcome the New Year, the SEMA Action Network (SAN) is celebrating a special occasion—our 10th year of publishing *Driving Force*. In the last 10 years, we have all witnessed first-hand the effectiveness of dedicated SAN members as you have worked to directly influence motor vehicle hobby legislation and used this newsletter to share numerous success stories.

In this time, the SAN has grown by leaps and bounds in numbers of individual enthusiasts, clubs, and hobby-related businesses that have answered the call. Through the help of SAN members like you, our pro-hobby grassroots organization has become a household name among the automotive enthusiasts and more importantly—in state capitols across the country and in Washington, D.C. Our successes have demonstrated the benefits of active involvement and the grass roots potency of hobbyists across the country.

Through the SAN, and its legislative partner, the State Automotive Enthusiast Leadership Caucus, we have reached out to lawmakers for support in this cause. With more than 120 members currently serving in state legislatures in more than 40 states, the Caucus has raised the profile of the automotive hobby within these legislative arenas. Several Caucus members have already introduced pro-hobby legislation or will this year. As you will see in this issue, three of our Caucus members won U.S. Congressional seats in the past election and will be taking their automotive passion to our nation's capital.

The SAN has grown from the early days of sending out faxes, phone trees and mailers, to instant e-mail messages and up-to-date postings on the SAN website. The SAN is now reaching out to millions of enthusiasts through informative ads in magazines, websites, internet forums, and chat rooms. The



From its first issue in 1997, *Driving Force* readership has grown from 173 clubs in 30 states to over 3,100 clubs in all 50 states and Canada.

SAN also made its television debut through three commercials, which can be seen on hobby-related programming as well as on the SAN website.

However, even with all of this new technology and momentum behind the SAN, we have not forgotten what has gotten us to where we are today — you, the enthusiast. All of the phone calls, all of the letters and e-mails come from you. The success of the SAN is due in no small part to your dedicated efforts.

Unfortunately, as the hobby continues to grow and reach unprecedented levels of exposure, so comes the additional scrutiny from lawmakers and regulators. We have seen lawmakers attempt to restrict the ways in which we can modify, restore, enhance and use our vehicles. We have seen lawmakers try to scrap old cars or restrict our ability to restore collector vehicles on private property. We have seen regulators attempt to close thousands of acres of riding areas and numerous trails to off-roaders. We must remain vigilant in our efforts to ensure that these attempts do not go unchecked.

While we have learned quite a bit in the last 10 years, it's safe to say that our work is far from done. Through the continued support and dedication of SAN members across the country, we look forward to continuing the cause of preserving and protecting this great tradition.

On behalf of all of us at the SEMA Action Network, we wish you and your family (yes—that includes your car-club

families) a happy and prosperous New Year.



LEGISLATIVE QUICK HITS

New Jersey Historic Vehicles: The New Jersey legislature introduced SAN-supported legislation to allow historic vehicles to be used for pleasure driving one day per week. Under current law, owners of properly registered historic motor vehicles are permitted to operate them solely for exhibition and educational purposes. In order to be designated as historic, a vehicle must be at least 25 years old and owned as a collector's item.



Ohio Inoperable Vehicles: SEMA is opposing Ohio legislation that would restrict the ability of state vehicle hobbyists from maintaining inoperable vehicles on private property. The bill was approved by the House Municipal Government and Urban Revitalization Committee. Under the measure, townships would have the authority to remove inoperable vehicles deemed to be "junk," including collector cars, from private property. Under current Ohio law, a junk motor vehicle must be "three model years old or older; apparently inoperable; extensively damaged, including, but not limited to, any of the following: missing wheels, tires, engine or transmission." SEMA supports legislation that permits the outdoor storage of motor vehicles if the vehicles are maintained in such a manner so as



not to constitute a health hazard. These vehicles could be located away from public view, or screened by means of a suitable fence, trees, shrubbery, opaque covering or other appropriate means.

Washington Accessory Lights: In comments to a regulation proposed by the Washington State Patrol, the SAN urged the agency to abandon efforts to unnecessarily restrict accent lighting on motor vehicles. The state is proposing to prohibit ". . . novelty lighting, including but not limited to lighting on tire stems or valves, windshield wipers or washer, under the vehicle body/carriage, door handles, truck handles and antennas," while a vehicle is being operated on public roadways. The SAN supports reasonable and relevant safety regulations and encourages efforts to improve highway safety. However, the SAN opposes any use limitations or prohibitions on optional lighting equipment or accessories not related to a proven safety hazard. Some vehicles are equipped with "novelty" lights as accent lighting for styling purposes. These accent lighting devices increase the conspicuity of the vehicle and have no effect on motor vehicle safety. Optional and accessory lighting equipment is not prohibited by federal law.

CAUCUS CORNER

Movin' On Up!

STATE LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS MEMBERS WIN SEATS IN CONGRESS

Three members of the State Automotive Enthusiast Leadership Caucus won seats in the U.S. Congress. Montana State Senator Jon Tester, Arizona State Representative Gabrielle Giffords and Arizona State Senator Harry Mitchell defeated opponents in the November 7, 2006 elections and have made their way to Washington, D.C.

While he was President of the Montana State Senate, Jon Tester joined the Caucus in the midst of a campaign for U.S. Senate in April 2006. In joining the Caucus he enthusiastically remarked, "Count me in. Restoration of vehicles is a love of mine and a passion of my son." Before his election to the U.S. Senate, Tester served in the Montana Legislature with current Caucus Chairman John Brueggeman. As a farmer, Tester has never been afraid of getting his hands dirty, including wrenching on cars.



Montana Senator
Jon Tester

Prior to being elected to public office, Gabrielle Giffords, a long-time auto enthusiast and car collector, ran her family's automotive and tire business in Tucson, Arizona. Despite selling the business, she has not given up her automotive interests. "Although I sold my business in 2000, I continue to be active in automotive events from my own car restorations to going to the Indy 500," said Giffords.

Harry Mitchell, the Assistant Minority Leader in the Arizona State Senate, was convinced to run for U.S. Congress in April 2006. A member of the Caucus since July of 2005, Mitchell has been involved in politics for over 30 years, including stints as a councilman, mayor, and Arizona State Senator. Mitchell's Congressional district includes Scottsdale, Arizona, which is the location of the well-known Barrett-Jackson Auto Auction.



Arizona
Congresswoman
Gabrielle Giffords



Arizona
Congressman
Harry Mitchell

** Editor's Note: Each month Driving Force will feature a member of the State Automotive Enthusiast Leadership Caucus. The SEMA-supported caucus is a bi-partisan group of state lawmakers whose common thread is a love and appreciation for automobiles. Here is its newest Caucus member:*

California



Assemblyman
Mike Duvall



For a complete listing of Caucus members visit www.semasan.com.



Hey, That's My Car!

D.C. or Bust!

'68 Ford Mustang Fastback & '77 Toyota Celica GT

Owner: Jason Rudd
Pleasant Hill, California

It's not often that you get to combine a college education with a hobby, but as the new intern for the SEMA Action Network I get to do just that. While wrapping up my senior year at Brigham Young University, I'm going to spend the next four months furthering my political studies in Washington, D.C. by interning for the SEMA Government Affairs Office. In this role, I will get to work directly with SAN members to help preserve this hobby that I feel so passionately about.

My love for cars started early, as I can recall watching my first race at Laguna Seca Raceway when I was only four-or five-years-old. In high school this passion grew as I got my hands on a '68 Fastback, which became a project car for me and my dad. Like with any car project it's never truly finished. It's now undergoing its second restoration and is in a thousand pieces in my dad's garage. Although college life has necessitated putting the Mustang on hiatus in favor of a more



urban-ready vehicle, my current ride is still pretty cool. It's a 1977 Toyota Celica GT that's basically stock and it gets almost as many complements (surprisingly) as the Mustang.

While my education has awakened my interest in business and law, my true passion has

always been anything with a motor and wheels. Like so many other enthusiasts, I can trace my love for all things automotive to my father and grandfather, who took the time to take me to car shows and races, and who taught me life lessons through turning wrenches. It is difficult for those outside the hobby to understand the sentimental attachment we have for our cars and trucks, but the hobby must be protected and preserved. While I am just a small part of the team, I look forward to doing whatever I can to contribute to the SAN's mission of keeping our collective dream alive.



Thanks to all who have sent in or e-mailed us photos. Please continue to send us photos of your trail rides, restorations in progress, rod runs, car shows, charity events and drag races. Kindly submit pictures to: SEMA, 1317 F Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20004. You also may upload high-resolution digital pictures (minimum 5 inches wide at 300 dpi) directly through the SAN website at www.semasan.com/san/mycar.aspx.

OFF-ROAD NEWS

New Hampshire, Vermont Wilderness Bill Signed Into Law

In a flurry of late year legislative activity, President Bush signed into law a measure that designated 76,000 acres of wilderness in New England. Based on recommendations from the U.S. Forest Service, approximately 34,500 acres of New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest were designated as wilderness. The bill also provided for three wilderness areas totaling 41,600 acres in Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest. The Vermont designation would have been larger, but Governor Jim Douglas objected to such a large wilderness designation in his state. He worked with federal lawmakers to remove 6,000 acres from the initial proposal.

The SAN continues to support land use decisions that allow local stakeholders to participate in the decision-making process. Within that context, the SAN supports compromise approaches on wilderness areas that balance the need to preserve access to appropriate motorized recreation while protecting some of our nation's natural wonders. The SAN is evaluating the practical or potential impact of these designations on the off-road community.



On The Road Again

We invite you to stop by and meet with Jason Tolleson, director of the SEMA Action Network, at these events in January:

January 5-7, Boston

World of Wheels
Bayside Expo Center
Information:
www.autorama.com/casi/boston.htm

January 26-28, Pomona

Grand National Roadster Show
Los Angeles County Fairplex
Information:
www.hotrodshows.com/gnrs.html



JANUARY 2007 SAN CLUB EVENTS

ARIZONA

January 20, Tubac
13th Annual Car Show
Sponsor: Santa Cruz Valley Car Nuts
Information: www.carnuts.org or
520/648-7029

January 25-28, Scottsdale
36th Annual Scottsdale Collector Car Auction
and Show
Information: www.kruse.com or 800/968-4444

CALIFORNIA

January 12-14, Grass Valley
25th Winter Fun Festival
Sponsor: California Association of 4WD
Clubs Inc.
Information: www.cal4wheel.com or
530/878-1414

January 12-14, San Francisco
6th Annual San Francisco Rod, Custom and
Motorcycle Show
Information: www.sfcustomshow.com

January 14, Pomona
Pomona Swap Meet and Car Show
Information: www.pomonaswapmeet.com or
714/538-7091

January 26-28, Pomona
Annual Grand National Roadster Show
Information: www.hotrodshows.com or
877/ROD-SHOW

January 27-28, Turlock
41st Annual Turlock Swap Meet
Sponsor: MAFCA, Modesto Area A's
Information: www.turlockswapmeet.com or
209/571-1232

CONNECTICUT

January 26-28, Hartford
47th annual Frank Marrata's Auto & Cycle
Show
Information: www.fmautoshow.com or
860/347-3625

FLORIDA

January 13, Lake Worth
7th Annual Fords and Friends Meet
Sponsor: Early Ford V-8 Club, Palm Beach
Region 129
Information: 561/712-9252

January 20, Cape Coral
16th Annual Open Car Show
Sponsor: Edison Region ACCA
Information: 239/458-2767

ILLINOIS

January 21, Joliet
34th Annual Swap Meet
Sponsor: VCCA, Great Lakes Region
Information: www.vcca-qlr.com or
708/485-3633

January 26-28, Chicago
World of Wheels
Information: www.autorama.com or
248/373-1700

January 28, St. Charles
30th Annual Auto Parts Swap Meet
Sponsor: North Shore Chapter IL Region AACA
Information: 847/234-3294

MASSACHUSETTS

January 5-7, Boston
33rd Annual World of Wheels
Information: 401/766-8591

January 20, Hudson
3rd Annual Hot Rod and Drag Racing-Fest
Information: fah60@comcast.net or
978/562-5589

January 20-21, W. Springfield
32nd Annual Autoparts Swap 'n Sell (indoor)
Information: 860/871-6376

NORTH CAROLINA

January 26-27, Greensboro
5th Annual Shriners Drag Racing and
Hot Rod Expo
Information: www.raceworks.com or
336/697-0479

OREGON

January 13, Albany
Mild to Wild Motorsports Swap Meet
and Car Show
Information: 541/926-8911

January 14, Canby
31st Hi-Performance Auto Swap Meet
Sponsor: NW Drag Racing Association
Information: www.nwdra.com or
503/644-5707

TENNESSEE

January 19-21, Chattanooga
39th Annual Chattanooga World of Wheels
Information: 423-894-9326

Check out these early February 2007 events

CALIFORNIA

February 2-4, Orange
Annual Packards International Show and
Swap Meet
Sponsor: Packards International Motor
Car Club
Information: 714/541-8431

NEW MEXICO

February 2-4, Albuquerque
2007 Supernationals
Information: www.thesupernationals.com
or 505/294-7273

Attention Car Clubs, Event Organizers and Enthusiasts!

Put SAN on Your Mailing List!

One of the best ways to keep us abreast of what's going on and what's important to the vehicle hobbies nationwide is for us to receive your club newsletters and updates. Please consider placing SEMA on your mailing list. Send correspondence to: Jason Tolleson, SEMA, 1317 F Street, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20004-1105. Or by e-mail at jasont@sema.org.

***MOVING? HAVE A NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS?
IS DRIVING FORCE BEING SENT TO AN OLD
ADDRESS?***



If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, please provide the following information to continue receiving the latest information from the SEMA Action Network

You can also fill out this form online at our website at www.semasan.com

NAME _____

CLUB / ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____

To receive timely action alerts regarding legislative and regulatory initiative in your state, please provide your e-mail address.

E-MAIL _____

ALTERNATE
E-MAIL _____

CLUB WEBSITE _____

How would you classify your car or interest in the hobby?

- | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4x4/Off-Road | <input type="checkbox"/> Light Truck | <input type="checkbox"/> Street Rod |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antique/Classic | <input type="checkbox"/> Lowrider/Mini Truck | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Custom/Kit/Replicas | <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Late Model | <input type="checkbox"/> Sport Compact | |

Number of members in your club? _____



PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL OR FAX TO:

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For more legislative and regulatory information visit www.semasan.com

Club Spotlight

A Car Show For the Kids

A little rain and a few clouds didn't stop car enthusiasts in Virginia from showing off their cars and helping out a great cause at the same time. In its fourth year, the Virginia Fall Classic raised over \$35,000 for the Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters. In addition to providing enthusiasts in the mid-Atlantic another opportunity to display their vehicles before the winter, this event has raised more than \$93,000 for the hospital since 2003.

Held in Newport News, Virginia in late October, the Fall Classic is sponsored by the Virginia Peninsula Car Club Council and its 18 participating club members. The SAN would like to extend special thanks to the sponsors, vendors, and the dedicated hard working volunteers who helped make this event a success. For more information on the Virginia Fall Classic visit www.vafall-classic.org.



Hal Hartel, President of the Virginia Peninsula Car Club Council (left) joins with his wife Beth and members of the Newport News Police Department in presenting the proceeds of the Virginia Fall Classic to Ms. Jena Virga of the Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters

Editor's note: Please send your Club Spotlight stories and photos to the SAN at jasont@sema.org.

www.semasan.com

Club Spotlight

January 2007 SAN Club Events

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