

Lawmakers Gather in Las Vegas • Collector Car Appreciation Day 2014

DRIVING FORCE

Winter 2013 | semaSAN.com

Tracks of **SUCCESS**

A Year's Worth of Legislative Conquests

Taming the Legislative Terrain in 2013

Another year of threats and opportunities affecting car enthusiasts throughout federal, state and provincial legislatures has come to a close. Despite increasingly difficult odds in some cases, the widespread forces comprising the SEMA Action Network (SAN) have earned an impressive number of victories. These accomplishments range from the protection of specialty parts and backyard restoration projects, limiting vehicle and property tax increases, increasing recreational access to public land, as well as limiting federal and state-level ethanol fuel mandates. Perhaps the greatest symbol of our hobby's effort to unite lies in the expansion of jurisdictions recognizing Collector Car Appreciation Day. As we celebrate the holiday season and brace ourselves for the 2014 legislative sessions, let's reflect on this year's journey by looking at the individual triumphs for which we can all be proud.

STATE UPDATE



Arkansas Motor-Vehicle Lighting: SAN helped amend legislation that originally threatened to ban any covering that reduced the visibility

of required motor-vehicle lighting. Under the amended bill, which was signed into law by Governor Mike Beebe, these coverings would be prohibited only when required lamps are in use. Removable ornamental lamp covers are often used by hobbyists for shows, exhibitions and for street use during daylight hours.



California Specially Constructed Vehicles: The California Air Resources Board (CARB) concluded an engine certification process applicable to Specially Constructed Vehicles (SCV). SAN coordinated with the Bureau of

Automotive Repair (BAR) to ensure that popular CARB-certified performance parts will be accepted at all BAR smog referee stations during routine inspection of SCVs as long as they were certified for the same engine family as the engine installed.

California (Madera County) Collector Car Appreciation Day: The Board of Supervisors of the

County of Madera, California issued a proclamation declaring July 12, 2013, Collector Car Appreciation Day in the jurisdiction.



Connecticut Antique/Rare/Special-Interest Motor Vehicles: SAN-opposed legislation that raised the tax assessment of antique,

rare and special-interest motor vehicles along with placing a cap on the number of miles those vehicles could be driven died when the legislature adjourned for the year. The measure also would have required vehicles seeking registration as antique, rare or special-interest motor vehicles to be at least 30 years old. Currently, vehicles 20 years old or older are eligible for this status and special license plates.

Connecticut Property Taxes: Legislation to eliminate a provision that allows antique, rare or special-interest motor vehicles to be assessed for taxes in the same manner as all other motor vehicles in the state died when the legislature adjourned. SAN opposed the bill.

Connecticut License Plates: With opposition from SAN, legislation that threatened to disallow the use of year-of-manufacture license plates after July 1, 2013, was amended in committee to continue to allow use of these plates.



Florida Ethanol: A bill to repeal the requirement that all gasoline offered for sale in the state contain a percentage of ethanol was

signed into law by Governor Rick Scott. Previously, the Florida Renewable Fuels Standard required that all gasoline sold or offered for sale by a terminal supplier, importer, blender or wholesaler contain 9%–10% ethanol or other alternative fuel, by volume.



Idaho Registration Fees: SAN-opposed legislation that would have increased annual registration fees for motor vehicles weighing 8,000 lbs. or less died when the legislature adjourned for the year. The fee increase would have varied depending on the age of the vehicle, with newer cars paying the most.



Louisiana (Washington Parish) Collector Car Appreciation Day: Washington Parish, Louisiana, President Richard N. Thomas issued a proclamation declaring July 12, 2013, Collector Car Appreciation Day in the jurisdiction.



Maine Ethanol: SAN-supported legislation to prohibit the sale and distribution of corn-based ethanol in Maine was signed into law by Governor Paul LePage. Under the new law, 10 other states or a number of states with a collective

population of 30,000,000 would have to enact a similar prohibition before it could go into effect. A bill to prohibit the sale of gasoline that contains corn-based ethanol as an additive at a level greater than 10% by volume was also signed into law. This law would not take effect until at least two other New England states have enacted laws that prohibit the sale of gasoline that contains corn-based ethanol at a level greater than 10% by volume.



Maryland Reproduction Plates: Legislation supported by the SAN to require the Motor Vehicle Administration to

provide, for one year, a specially designed vintage reproduction registration plate to qualifying vehicle owners was signed into law by Governor Martin O'Malley.



Michigan "Automotive Heritage Month": The Michigan State Senate issued a resolution commemorating August 2013 as Automotive Heritage Month in the state.



Missouri Miles Traveled: A SAN-opposed resolution to impose a vehicle miles traveled tax on state motorists died without consideration when the

legislature adjourned for the year. Had it been approved, this proposed amendment to the state constitution would have gone on a state-wide ballot for a popular vote of the citizens.



Montana Year-of-Manufacture Plates: A bill to allow the owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer or pole trailer manufactured in the year 1948, 1949 or 1950 to display a single original Montana license plate affixed to the rear of the vehicle was signed into law by Governor Steve Bullock, with SAN's support.



Colby Martin

Navigating the Trail Ahead



Courtesy Shutterstock

Although a rugged legislative path may await, we hope the holidays bring you great joy and happy trails.

Montana Inoperable Vehicles: As a result of opposition spearheaded by SAN, legislation to limit the number of inoperable motor vehicles allowed on private property under "community decay" laws was withdrawn from consideration. Under the bill, four or more "junk vehicles" on private property would have constituted "community decay." This bill provided no accommodation to vehicle restorers and allowed municipalities alone to determine if these vehicles created "community decay."



Nevada Inoperable Vehicles: Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval signed into law SAN-amended legislation that originally threatened to add abandoned, unregistered, inoperable or junk motor

vehicles to the list of items that constitute a public nuisance. Under existing law, counties and cities may remove a public nuisance at the property owner's expense if, after notice, the property owner does not remove the nuisance. Under the SAN amendment, abandoned, inoperable or junk vehicles stored on private property would only require screening from public view in counties having populations of 700,000 or more people. Unregistered vehicles could not be declared a nuisance under the SAN amendment.

Nevada (Las Vegas) Collector Car Appreciation Day: Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman and the Las Vegas City Council issued a proclamation declaring July 10, 2013, Collector Car Appreciation Day in the city.



New Mexico Collector Car Appreciation Day: New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez issued a proclamation designating July 12, 2013, as Collector Car Appreciation Day in the state.

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Be it a sand dune, a snow-covered hill or a rocky mountain, leave it to gearheads to tame a steep climb. The ability to find a way and conquer the toughest terrain requires incredible motivation and perseverance. In order to achieve a successful result, each component in an off-road vehicle is as important as the next. However, even the best machine is compromised without a skilled driver. The same formula is necessary for a group of like-minded individuals with a unified cause, such as our SEMA Action Network (SAN).

In many ways, it is no surprise that a slew of legislative victories were achieved by the SAN this year. Since 1997, our network has become a formidable force in state houses across the nation. However, these wins are earned, not granted. Much like the collaboration described above, a true balance can only be achieved if all components are working together. For example, several off-highway recreation areas have greatly benefitted from the voices of enthusiasts speaking out: West Vir-

ginia's Hatfield-McCoy Recreation Area, Cape Hatteras National Seashore in North Carolina and California's Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area to name a few. Without direct contact to lawmakers by constituents in a unified manner, it is quite possible that recreational use of these public lands would be limited further, if not lost altogether. The impressive result can be directly attributed to four-wheelers and non-four-wheelers alike.

In short, the SAN is your "vehicle;" grab the keys and drive it! Let's continue to keep the action in the SEMA Action Network. Are you responding to alerts as you receive them? Do you know someone who could add some traction to the cause? Ask them to get out of neutral and put it in gear! Our future conquests depend on assembling now and being ready to take action. Have those you meet enlist in our crusade at semaSAN.com/Join.

From your friends at the SAN, we wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

—IGNITED WE STAND!

Taming the Legislative Terrain in 2013

◀ Cont. from p. 3



New York Collector Car Appreciation Day

The New York State Assembly issued a resolution authorizing Governor Andrew Cuomo to proclaim July 13, 2013, as Collector Car Appreciation Day in the state.



North Carolina Titles:

Legislation to provide for the prompt issuance of titles to owners of out-of-state motor vehicles that are 35 years old or older was signed into law by Governor Pat McCrory. Under the SAN-supported new law, if a required inspection and verification is not conducted by the Division of Motor Vehicles within 15 days after receiving a request and the inspector has no probable cause to believe that the ownership documents or vehicle identification number does not match the vehicle being examined, the vehicle will be deemed to have satisfied all requirements and the title will be issued to the owner within 15 days. If an inspection and verification is performed in a timely manner and the vehicle passes, title will issue to the owner within 15 days of the date of the inspection. The new law became effective on July 23.

North Carolina Headlamps: A bill that would have imposed a \$100 fine on any person that equipped a car with headlamps that “change the original design” died when the legislature adjourned for the year. The bill directly conflicted with the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act which makes clear that the standards adopted by the agency for required motor vehicle equipment (including headlamps) are to be performance standards, not design standards.



South Carolina Registration Fees:

SAN-opposed legislation to increase biennial registration fees for motor vehicles was not acted upon before the legislature adjourned for the year. The bill would have increased the registration fees for private passenger vehicles, excluding trucks, from \$24 to \$36 for persons under age 65. For persons 65 years old and older, the fees for private pas-

senger vehicles, excluding trucks, would have risen from \$20 to \$32.



Texas Registration Fees:

Legislation to add an additional \$50 to the vehicle registration and renewal fees died when the legislature adjourned for the year. The measure would have taken effect on September 1, 2013, if a constitutional amendment proposed by the legislature to allow the imposition of an additional motor-vehicle registration fee was approved by the voters.

Texas Vehicle Miles Traveled: SAN-opposed legislation to impose a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) tax on state motorists died when the legislature adjourned for the year. Under the bill, the amount of the VMT tax would have varied by vehicle type. Vehicles weighing 10,000 lbs. or less would have been taxed at a rate of 1.0 cent per mile, vehicles weighing more than 10,000 lbs. at 1.25 cents per mile and electric vehicles at .75 cents per mile. The tax would have been offset by a motor fuels tax credit which would be determined using the vehicle's VMT and fuel-economy data. The actual VMT would have been measured using an annual odometer inspection.



Vermont Exhaust Systems:

A bill to ban motor-vehicle exhaust systems that increase the noise level died when the legislature adjourned. Under the bill, violators would not pass the state's required inspection and would be subject to fines. The measure did not provide an opportunity for vehicle hobbyists to install and use exhaust systems that meet an objective decibel limit under a fair and predictable test.



Virginia Restoration Projects:

Legislation containing a SAN-drafted amendment to totally exempt from the license tax all vehicles and parts cars stored on private property for the purpose of restoration or repair was signed into law by Governor Bob McDonnell. The license tax is applied to vehicles that do not display current license plates, even those 25 years old and older. Under the new law, the exemption for all cars, regardless of age that

are undergoing restoration represents a new benefit to car owners. Vehicles stored within a structure remain exempt from the tax.

Virginia (York County) Collector Car Appreciation Day:

The Board of Supervisors of the County of York, Virginia, issued a proclamation declaring July 13, 2013 as Collector Car Appreciation Day in the jurisdiction.



West Virginia Antique/Classic Taxes:

With SAN's strong objection, legislation to increase property taxes paid by owners of antique motor vehicles died when the legislature adjourned for the year. Under the bill, each of these cars would have been assessed at \$5,000 for purposes of the tax which would have penalized antique vehicle owners whose cars are worth less than \$5,000.

West Virginia Off-Road Vehicles:

Legislation to approve a regulation allowing off-road vehicles to operate on trails included in the Hatfield-McCoy Recreation Area was signed into law by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin. These trails were previously restricted to all-terrain vehicles, utility terrain vehicles and motorcycles.



Wyoming Registration Fees:

SAN-opposed legislation to increase annual vehicle registration fees by \$10 for passenger vehicles and double registration fees for non-commercial trucks died. Under the bill, non-commercial trucks subject to the doubled registration fees would have included personal pickups.



Canada (Nova Scotia) Collector Car Appreciation Day:

Nova Scotia Premier Darrell E. Dexter issued a proclamation designating July 2013 as Automotive Heritage Month in the province.

Canada (Manitoba) Collector Car Appreciation Day:

The Manitoba Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism issued a proclamation designating July 12, 2013, as Collector Car Appreciation Day in the province. The minister also proclaimed the month of July 2013 to be Collector Car Appreciation Month.

FEDERAL UPDATE



Bonneville Salt Flats: SAN has joined with the Save the Salt Foundation and a number of other organizations to help save the Bonneville Salt Flats. Efforts are being undertaken to replenish the salt flats beyond the current salt brine pumping program which resulted in 600,000 tons of salt being restored to the Salt Flats in 2013. The racing community is pursuing a test dry salt laydown project in 2014 to confirm that this would be a viable method for eventually restoring and expanding the international track. The Bureau of Land Management is being asked to approve the project.



Collector Car Appreciation Day: At SAN's request, U.S. Senators Jon Tester (D-MT) and Richard Burr (R-NC) co-sponsored Senate Resolution 176 designating July 12, 2013,

as Collector Car Appreciation Day. It was the fourth commemoration in what has become an annual event to raise awareness of the vital role automotive restoration and collection plays in American society. Businesses, car clubs and individuals helped organize scores of events to celebrate the day, including car shows, small-business open houses and "drive your car to work" displays. Next year's event is scheduled for July 11, 2014.



E15 Ethanol: The U.S. Supreme Court rejected petitions to reconsider a lower court ruling which allows the sale of 15% ethanol in gasoline (E15). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved E15 for use in '01 and newer vehicles while making it illegal to fuel older cars, motorcycles and other motorized equipment based on evidence that it could cause damage to those vehicles and

engines. However, the EPA is only requiring a gas pump warning label instructing consumers that it is "illegal" to fill-up those products with E15. Ethanol can cause metal corrosion and dissolve certain plastics and rubbers, especially in older cars that were not constructed with ethanol-resistant materials. Attention has now turned to Congress to address the issue. A U.S. House subcommittee held a series of hearings on whether the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) should be repealed or scaled-back. The RFS mandates that an increasing amount of biofuels be blended into gasoline each year, from 9 billion gallons in 2008 to 36 billion gallons by 2022, and E15 is the mechanism to achieve these mandates. SAN supports reducing the RFS mandates and banning the sale of E15.



Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area: The U.S. House of Representatives approved the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), including a provision that would end a five-year debate on how to expand the U.S. Marine Corps base at Twentynine Palms, California. Authored by Rep. Paul Cook (R-CA), the provision allows the Marines to have access to the adjoining Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Area for up to 60 days a year for training exercises, but the area would be otherwise preserved for recreational use. The land will continue to be controlled by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Johnson Valley is the largest OHV area in the United States, totaling nearly 189,000 acres. The land is used year-round by OHV enthusiasts and is home to numerous motorized events that draw thousands of competitors and spectators to the area every year, including the famous "King of the Hammers." SAN is urging senators to approve the Johnson Valley provision when the Senate considers its version of the bill.



National Monuments & Road Closures: SAN-supported legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Congress to require the President to complete an environmental review before designating more than 5,000 acres as a National Monument. The bill would ensure public involvement in the process and discussion of multiple factors, including economic impact. Current law provides the President with authority to declare land of "historic or scientific interest" to be a National Monument which can lead to road closures for motorized recreation, among other activities. President Obama is under pressure to establish a 1.4 million acres "Greater Canyonlands National Monument" in Utah, close 1,050 miles of off-road vehicle trails and monitor another 1,450 miles for future closure.



OHV Access to Cape Hatteras National Seashore:

SAN is supporting legislation that would reverse a 2012 management plan issued by the National Park Service banning OHV access to large portions of the seashore. Under the current restrictions, about 39% of the seashore is closed to OHV recreation while 42% of the seashore is open year-round and 19% is open at different times during the year. The House bill would reinstate a previous management strategy that better balances wildlife protections with responsible OHV access. It is pending before the House Judiciary Committee. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee passed a bill seeking a one year study to determine how wildlife buffer restrictions can be reduced to allow for expanded OHV recreation.

SEMA Show 2013—State Automotive Enthusiast Leadership Caucus Dinner



Current and former members of the State Automotive Enthusiast Leadership Caucus gathered again this past November to meet with SAN staff and enjoy the 2013 SEMA Show in Las Vegas. The caucus, comprised of approximately 600 legislators in all 50 states, is serving to further raise the automotive hobby's profile in the state capitols. In attendance were (standing left to right) Delegate Jim Butler (West

Virginia), Senator David Parks (Nevada), Assemblyman Bill Reilich (New York), Assemblyman James Oscarson (Nevada), Delegate Gary Howell (West Virginia), Representative Joe Pitre (New Hampshire), Senator Ted Gaines (California), U.S. Representative Bill Posey (Florida), Assemblyman Richard Carrillo (Nevada), Delegate Scott Cadle (West Virginia), Representative Tom McDonald (Missouri), Representative Stan

Blake (Wyoming), former Senator Ryan Zinke (Montana), Delegate Danny Hamrick (West Virginia), Representative Bruce Hanna (Oregon), Representative Tim Freeman (Oregon); (seated left to right) Delegate Eric Householder (West Virginia), Senator Elaine Bowers (Kansas), Representative Chip Campbell (South Dakota), Senator Mark Manendo (Nevada) and former Senator John Brueggeman (Montana).



West Virginia Lawmaker Named National Chairman of State Auto Caucus

At a gathering of state lawmakers during the SEMA Show in Las Vegas, West Virginia Delegate Gary Howell was named chairman of the State Automotive Enthusiast Leadership Caucus. Howell was appointed to the post after the November 5 election of New York Assemblyman Bill Reilich to the office of City Supervisor in Greece, New York. Reilich had served in the role for six years and will continue as chairman emeritus.

Supported by SEMA, the caucus is a bipartisan group of state lawmakers whose common thread is a love for automobiles. To date, almost 600 state legislators from all 50 states have joined the group.

Mark Your Calendars!

5th Annual Collector Car Appreciation Day
to Be Celebrated July 11, 2014



The SEMA Action Network (SAN) announced that the next Collector Car Appreciation Day will be celebrated on July 11, 2014. The date will mark the fifth consecutive commemoration in what is now an annual event to raise awareness of the vital role automotive restoration and collection plays in American society.

The SAN will again maintain and publicize a list of scheduled events to commemorate America's time-tested love affair with the automobile at semaSAN.com/CCAD. Individuals, car clubs and business owners interested in publicizing events can submit the details of their celebration using this link. For questions, contact SAN Director Colby Martin at 909-978-6721 or san@sema.org. If you are unable to celebrate on July 11, the SAN encourages events to be scheduled throughout the month of July 2014.

GRAB THE TORCH!

The fight against unfair automotive laws and regulations is in your hands.

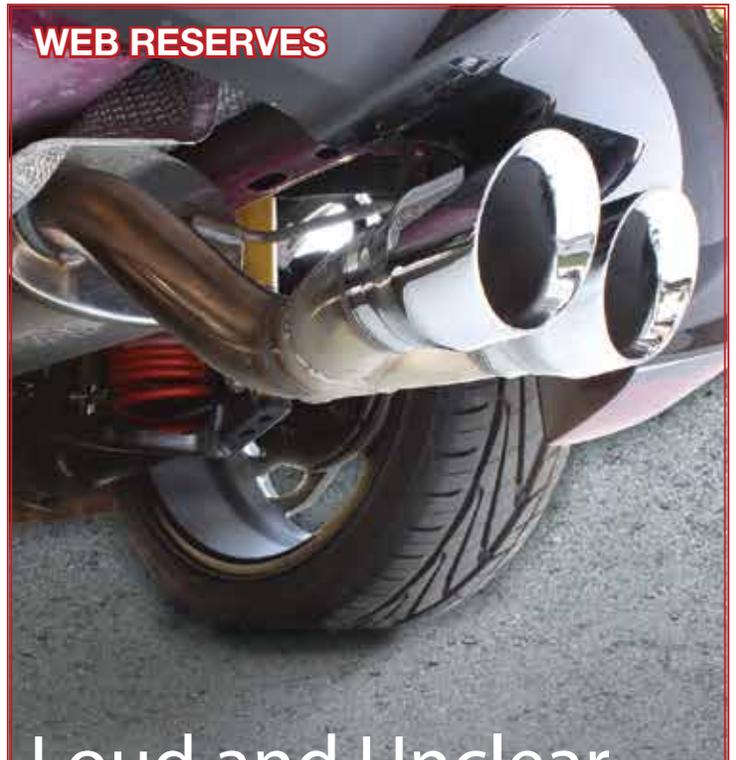
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WEB RESERVES



Loud and Unclear

SEMA Action Network Posts Compilation of Exhaust Noise Laws By State

Now that most state legislatures have adjourned for 2013 and our Action Alerts requiring your attention have subsided until January, we invite you to continue visiting the SEMA Action Network's (SAN) website at semaSAN.com to take advantage of the additional features available to you. Using the website, you can learn how to title and register hobby cars in each state, meet emissions standards and fight unfair inoperable vehicle storage rules at the local level.

The SAN has now added to its resource arsenal a compilation of exhaust noise laws by state. This new tool includes a map to illustrate the states that have adopted measurable exhaust noise limits, the states that prohibit "excessive or unusual noise," and the states that ban all modifications that lead to noise increases above the levels created by the factory-installed exhaust system. Below the map is a detailed list of exhaust noise statutes organized alphabetically by state. All can be found at semaSAN.com/Noise.

The SAN opposes vague laws prohibiting "excessive or unusual noise," which allow law enforcement officers to subjectively cite any exhaust system deemed "too loud." These provisions fail to provide a clear and objective standard for those seeking more durable exhaust systems that enhance a vehicle's appearance and increase performance by making vehicles run more efficiently without increasing emissions. Three states, including California, have enacted SEMA-model legislation to provide enthusiasts and law enforcement officials with a fair and enforceable alternative. The model legislation establishes a 95-decibel exhaust noise limit based on an objective test standard. The SEMA model bill for exhaust noise can be found on the SAN website by selecting the "Model Bills" option from the "Legislation" drop down menu at the top of the website.

SEMA GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS OFFICE

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Senior Director of Federal Government Affairs
Stuart Gosswein

Director of Congressional Affairs
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Government and Public Affairs Manager
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Research Manager
Bryan P. Harrison

Technical Consultant
Jim McFarland

PUBLICATION STAFF

Editor Colby Martin

Editorial Director John Stewart

Group Operations Manager Janet Francisco Lee

Managing Editor Carr Winn

Senior Graphic Designer Maricel Basallo Fuller

Web Content Manager Monique Dao



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1575 S. Valley Vista Dr.
Diamond Bar, CA 91765



Winter 2013

Voice of the SEMA Action Network

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