



Exhaust Notes

Riverside Foreign Car Club – March 2007

www.riversideforeigncarclub.org

Hello RFCC!

President's Notes, By Larry Maloney

Dear Car Folks,

We have here another installment of the Exhaust Notes the official publication of the Riverside Foreign Car Club.

I hope you find something of interest here and I hope you will be joining us at our monthly meeting at the Faces Restaurant in Riverside on the corner of Chicago and Spruce. Last May we talked to Tony Adamowicz, our guest speaker. You might know him from La Mans, Ferrari, the Polish Racing Drivers of America (aka PRDA), and Formula One. Then at our June meeting we saw a vintage racing video from the early years of sports car racing on the West Coast. Come on down and join us at 6:30 in the evening on the first Tuesday of each month (except July, when we will meet on Thursday the 6th).

I recently returned from a pilgrimage to the heart of 'Corvettedom', the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky. On this trip, I gleaned many new car factoids: Thirty-five Corvettes do not look the same even when they are the same color! Charlie B. has expounded more fully within these pages on the Corvette Grand Sport Reunion.

While passing through Memphis during our trip to Bowling Green, we saw the newest trend in car fashion. 30-inch chrome wheels mounted with ultra low-profile tires on a 4-door sedan. It would be hard for me to express here the impact this NEW LOOK has on me!

The best Route 66 Museum is in Clinton, Oklahoma. A must stop for gearheads and other drivers. Remember the "Mother Road."

Here's another one. In Kentucky they number the stop lights! The driving instruction "L to 3rd Stop" means turn left and proceed, may be 5 or 10 miles, and any number of intersections, to the stop light designated as number three! This will not be the 3rd stop light but the STOP LIGHT clearly designated and Number 3!

If you are looking for Motel 6 in Memphis it will be there, but it will be hiding under a Motel 7 sign.

In Kentucky everybody has a front porch. And on every front porch there are at least two lawn chairs and a BBQ. (Larry - how about bloodhounds? – ed.) That is just the way things are done in Kentucky.

I am telling you these things only because I want you to have a safe and enjoyable journey should you find yourself in the beautiful green country known as Kentucky.

And finally, if you find yourself on Route 40 west of Amarillo, Texas, you should stop at the Cadillac Ranch. It is an attraction unlike any other. There are no signs. There are no paved walkways. There is no parking lot.

There are just 10 Cadillacs half buried in a field. Both Charlie and I have the pictures. The entrance fee is \$0.00 but the value is much higher. I rate it a 5 gear out of 6 level attraction.

But enough about our trip. We'd really like to have you come on down to one of our meetings . . . I'll buy you an adult beverage.

THE EDITOR'S DRIFT BY CLARK TAYLOR

Can you believe we're already a third of the way through 2007? Not that the RFCC has idly let time slip by. On the contrary, 2006 was an exciting and interesting time for our members; we've hosted several events, ate some chili, updated our general meeting format to make our meetings more entertaining, had a visit by Tony Adamowicz, the a2z Racer, visited the Reagan Library, and had several members follow (and chronicle!) their own sporting automotive interests.

Last year's activities got underway in mid-March, with our annual Chili Cook-off, hosted by Esther, and held at Mike and Michelle Richman's home on their very comfortable patio. This same weekend was also a busy one, as we hosted our first Show & Shine (our most successful yet?), and NASA (National Auto Sport Association) opened its 2006 competition season (rain, hail, plus a little thunder & lightning!) at California Speedway in Fontana. You could eat, kick some tires and go racin' in the rain all in the same weekend!

At the April general meeting featuring our new format, Al Williams provided the entertainment with a slideshow featuring the history of TVR, and the restoration story of his own TVR from rotting carcass to its present beautifully reconditioned shape. From his story, it's pretty obvious that Al is not only a craftsman, but also an enthusiast who is dedicated to obscure English sports cars!

Later in April, our rescheduled (from February) Regan Library Tour turned out to be a tremendous success! Several members made that trek to Simi valley and fully enjoyed themselves.

About two days before our May general meeting at the Cask 'N Cleaver, Tony Adamowicz called to confirm that he could join us for the meeting. This initiated a flurry of e-mails announcing our special visitor, and our meeting was a terrific experience for our members and other guests who attended. You can read more about it within this newsletter, but let it be said, Tony is a wonderful gentleman and a true sportsman. The experiences and insights collected during his years as a professional racing driver are priceless. As an aside, it was during this meeting that Tony proposed teaming in the Alfa Romeo Club's 2½ hour enduro at Buttonwillow on Memorial Day weekend – but that's a story for another time!

In May, Charlie and Larry traveled to the National Corvette Museum, and brought back a TON of PICTURES of their journey and adventures. We also hosted our first RFCC road event for the year: "Breakfast Run to Tom's Farm". This year's rally started as usual at the Canyon Crest Towne Centre, and wound its way through our local citrus orchards, lakes and hills to Tom's Farm. Believe me when I say the results were not stacked, but once again our top finishers were also our non-local guests driving Sevens and a vintage BMW 2002ti.

I hope you enjoy reading and recounting our events and activities for the past year, and I hope the articles bring you some good memories. Finally, I appreciate the articles that have been submitted for this newsletter. Stories of your adventures make interesting reading, and who knows, may even inspire a few others. So until our next issue, heel and toe your downshifts smoothly, and clip those apexes!

A STAR FROM “A2Z” VISITS THE RFCC!

BY CLARK TAYLOR

It was a wonderful time for racing during my undergraduate years at UCR. Horsepower was BIG, understanding of aerodynamics was sketchy, and many of the drivers were people we held in awe and whose names we recognized. In those days, you didn't have to watch a Can-Am, Formula 5000, or Indy car for long to realize deep in your soul that driving these machines, the absolute fastest of their time, and driving them well, took near super-human skills we could only begin to imagine.



So, put yourself in my place as I attended the [Alfa Romeo Owners of Southern California](#) (AROSC) Drivers School last March at the Streets of Willow to help some friends with their Sevens. The AROSC had advertised there would be a “guest” instructor, someone whom I've followed and admired for over thirty years! Here he was, Tony Adamowicz, standing alone near the pit wall watching the students during an on-track practice session. Maybe it was the PRDA patch on his driving suit that gave him away! I cranked-up my courage, walked up to him and in my strongest and clearest voice asked, “Hi, are you Tony?”

What can I say about Mr. Adamowicz? This guy is a very warm and gracious human being. After a few initial ‘getting-to-know-you’ formalities, we were soon talking about chassis set-ups, how he made his old Volvo racer handle, and then about his driving career, details of which are available on his comprehensive website, <http://www.a2zracer.com>. He feels very fortunate for the opportunities he's had to drive and compete in motor racing, and believes it is important now to give something back, especially for those just getting started in the sport.

While we were talking, I thought there's just too much here to even attempt to report back, and asked if he might be interested in joining us at an RFCC general meeting. After all, wouldn't it be much better for our members to hear first-hand about his development as a driver, as a tuner/fabricator (aka, Tony ‘Mods’), and as a man whose driving career took him to the very highest levels of the sport we love? It didn't take him long to agree, so the deal was tentatively set!

On Tuesday, May 2nd, Tony drove to Riverside's Cask 'N Cleaver where we had arranged for Doug Magnon met him. Luckily, traffic was light enough and Tony arrived early enough for a tour of the nearby and newly forming Riverside International Raceway Museum. When I joined up with them at the museum, Tony, Ray, Doug, Bill and several others were standing near an ex-Can-Am car, talking about the practical matters of racing car development. Tony was very favorably impressed by the effort put into developing this museum, and offered to help in any way he could.

As 6:30 PM approached, we realized it was time to return to the Cask 'N Cleaver and the RFCC general meeting. (As a side note, even though we had spoken about the Riverside Cask 'N Cleaver on a number of occasions, Tony had it in his head we were talking about the restaurant in Corona. Often during race weekends at the old RIR, the Riverside Cask 'N Cleaver was packed at dinnertime, and waiting lines were long. Apparently, many of the teams frequented the best kept secret in the Inland Empire, the Corona Cask 'N Cleaver!) We got seats up there on the "Front-Row" and enjoyed the restaurant's excellent cuisine and service. Al Williams, standing in for Larry Maloney as President, held a short business meeting, and then handed the floor over to Tony.

To fully appreciate this visit, you had to be there. Tony spoke and answered our questions for over two hours. His detailed knowledge of racing from the '60s through the '80s is immense. From first testing the waters in an SCCA school at Marlborough Raceway in New Hampshire, to season championships in Trans-Am and Formula 5000, he's been all over the world and driven for the very best teams in the sport. Along the way, he even co-founded the Polish Racing Drivers of America (PRDA). They nearly beat Dan Gurney and Brock Yates driving a Ferrari Daytona in the "Cannonball Baker Sea-to-Shining-Sea Memorial Trophy Dash;" with a Dodge van carrying several 55 gallon drums of fuel and all the necessities and equipment for keeping three Polish racing drivers going non-stop across the United States.....non-stop! At the Portofino Inn in Newport Beach, Dan Gurney boasted that in winning, they had never had to go over 175 mph!

Unfortunately, our evening with Tony Adamowicz ended too quickly, but by 10:00 PM, the Cask 'N Cleaver staff needed to close-up. We adjourned to the parking lot and continued for at least another half-hour! I feel we've barely scratched the surface with this wonderful member of the racing world. Before he left, Tony again emphasized his willingness to help our museum however he can, and said he'd enjoyed himself in the dialogue with our club members. Speaking for the RFCC, I would like to thank Tony for joining us for an evening and giving us a snapshot of the man and his career. That's a wrap for the a2z Racer!

RFCC CHILI COOK-OFF – SIGHTS & SOUNDS!!

Using her usual and exquisite planning capabilities, Esther Whittaker had notified all Riverside Foreign Car Club members that the 2006 Chili Cook-off was to be held on Saturday, March 18. Once again this event was held at Mike and Michelle Richman's very comfortable home and patio.



But though the setting was relaxed and cheerful, the competition was fiery hot and fearsome! Eight (??) pots of vicious southwest inspired brew lined up to bring just a tad of sweat to the brows of those RFCC members brave enough to taste them. Chili powders and cumin, cayenne and garlic, all melded by master villainous chefs into some of the finest bowls of red one could imagine!

How could anyone pick just one favorite? But that's what our judges were asked to do. After Ester and Michelle collected and tallied the ballots, even a statistics professor couldn't have predicted the outcome! Ties! Several of them! The pots of chili were so good and evenly matched! Without further theatrics, here are the 2006 RFCC Chili Cook-off results. See ya next year!

First Place - Charlie Budenz and Maureen Newell



Second Place – Tie

Michelle Richman



Bill Losee



Third Place – Tie

Mike Richman



Al & Nancy Williams



Events Calendar - 2007

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOLLOWING UPCOMING EVENTS!

March 3, Saturday	DaVinci Exhibit at Palm Springs Air Museum with PCA (Breakfast at Carrows on 1243 E. Palm Canyon Dr.) Porsche Club of America
March 6, Tuesday	RFCC General Meeting – Faces Restaurant
March 14 & 15	PCA Run to Mt. Palomar - Porsche Club of America
March 17	PCA Driver's Ed Session – Pahrump, Nevada
March 17 & 18	NASA – HPDE and Racing at California Speedway
March 20, Tuesday	Board Meeting – Larry Maloney's home.
March 24 & 25	PCA Run to Yosemite
March 30 - April 1	PCA Festival of Speed at California Speedway
March 31 - April 1	Alfa Romeo Owners Club – TT & Race – Buttonwillow Raceway
April 3, Tuesday	RFCC General Meeting – Faces Restaurant
April 14 & 15	LA Shelby Owner's Club – Open Track at Streets of Willow
April 14 & 15	NASA – HPDE and Racing at Buttonwillow Raceway Park
April 17, Tuesday	Board Meeting – Paula Southard's home
April 22, Sunday	PCA Run to Shambah Safari
April 28, Saturday	PCA Run to Getty Villa in Malibu
May 1, Tuesday	RFCC General Meeting – Faces Restaurant
May 5 & 6	NASA – HPDE and Racing at Willow Springs Raceway
May 12, Saturday	PCA – Adams House Tour
May 15, Tuesday	Board Meeting – Bob & Heidi's home
May 19, Saturday	Pathway Christian Church – Micro to Muscle Car Show Info – Richard Lewis (714) 585-3814
June 5, Tuesday	RFCC General Meeting – Faces Restaurant
June 10, Sunday	Alfa Romeo Owner's – Kart Enduro at Dromo One
June 10, Sunday	Alfa Romeo Owner's – Concours at Dromo One
June 9 & 10	NASA – HPDE and Racing at Buttonwillow Raceway Park
June 19, Tuesday	Board Meeting – Sandy Simmon's home

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