

TRANS-SCRIPT

Volume 28

June 2025

Issue 6

Trans Am Club of America, Golden State Chapter, Inc.

The meeting was held at Brookfield's restaurant 4343 Madison Ave. Sacramento and was called to order at 7:00 pm by President - Don Scalise

Member presents where – Don Scalise, Chad Murray, Jim Nakata, Robert & Fay Holland, Mary Wing.

One guest, Ed Bowen, owns a 2002 Chevy Camaro.

There was no correction made to May - Trans Script, Mary Wing made a motion to accept the minutes, and Jim Nakata seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

Treasurers report –

The Treasurer's report as of 5/31/25

Bank balance -----	\$1,167.55
Deposit from dues	\$40.00
From 50/50	\$40.00
Car Show raffle	\$189.00

Expenses

Homestead.com for 5/30 \$18.75

Old Business

On May 17th the Trans Am Club of America put on a fantastic car show at the A&W in Lodi, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm We came very close to filling up the parking lot, between Firebirds, Trans Am, Formulas we had total of 18 ranging in years from 1967 to 2001, and 2 Camaros a 1968 and a 1969 so we had a very good showing.

Our meet up this morning was at a Chevron gas station on Promenade Pkwy and Kammerer Rd near Highway 99 in Elk Grove, between 9:30 am and 10:10 am, seven members showed up, we then drove as a group the best we could because there were a lot of vehicles on Highway 99.

I think we arrived around 10:40 at the A&W and there were a few Trans Am already there, after that a lot more people started arriving; I was very busy in the beginning to get everything set up and introduce myself to people arriving.

I have several people I would like to say thank you to; A big thanks go to the A&W in Lodi for letting us use their parking lot, they also donated prizes to our raffle, if anyone visits there in the next couple of months please say thank you to them.

I would like to thank all the members that donated raffle prizes and Mary Wing for running the raffle.

I would like to thank Brian Rankin and Robert Holland for being the judges, there were so many beautiful Firebirds there, and I am sure it was a hard decision to make.

The winner for Firebird Original was 1970 Trans Am

The winner for Firebird Custom was 1979 Trans Am

The winner for People Choice Awards was 1973 Trans Am

I put pictures of this event on our club's web page and on our Facebook page.

I will be putting on this All-Firebirds & Camaro Car show again next year in Lodi, from what people told me they very much enjoyed this show. So, mark your calendar for May 16.

New Business

Our next club event will be on June 21st where we will be going to the Empire State Gold mine in Grass Valley. We will be meeting at the Cirby park and ride on Orlando St. which is next to a Shell Gas Station in Roseville. Traveling Highway 80 take the 102 exit to Auburn Blvd cross the traffic light and it is right past the Shell Station on the right side. We will be meeting at 8:30am and departing at 9:00am

Afterwards for those that are interested I can show you how to Gold pan for real on Wolf creek. I would recommend bringing a change of cloths and shoes. On the return trip through Auburn we can always stop for ice cream.

Announcement

I would like to welcome two new members Rick Eagle owns a 1986 TA, and Ed Bowen owns a 2002 Chevy Camaro.

I would like to thank Mary Wing for donating one and a half rolls of raffle tickets to the club.

We are scheduled to have 5 of our Trans Am for a club display at the Calif. Auto Museum during the month of Nov. Please contact me to confirm you will having your TA's there.

My Firebird Journey

By Dave Tateosian

In 1982 GM released their 3rd generation design of Camaro/Firebird. I've learned over the years that what is a beautiful car is a very subjective thing, and that two people that may agree on many things may not agree on what is a beautiful car. But for me, the 3rd generation Firebird had great lines and was one of the most beautiful cars I'd seen! In 1983, I custom ordered a Firebird S/E (back when you could still select individual options) and joined the Firebird community! At the time, and being a Cal Berkeley grad, I was also able to score UCBBEAR personalized plates for the car, which went great with blue with gold wheels paint scheme.

For the next 18 years I had great fun driving my Firebird and loved every minute! In 2001 it got hit, and while still drivable, it went to the scrapyard as part of a buyback program from the Air District to get older cars off the road. While the pickups and minivans of family life had their own fun value, they fell short compared to the Firebird.

While I'd been driving my Firebird, the Firebird had evolved. The Trans Am was by far the most popular variant of the Firebird. The S/E had been dropped from the lineup, and design of the car changed as air dams were added to improve aerodynamic performance, the wing was replaced with a hoop spoiler, and other changes to the body, as subsequent generations came out, but at the expense of ruining IMHO the lines and look of what had made the car so appealing to me in the first place). And, no one came out with a car that I thought looked as good (and was affordable).

Over the years, and particularly with the improved ability to look for cars that the internet offered, I would look for another Firebird. Somewhere along the way I missed a payment to the DMV to keep holding on to my UCBBEAR plates and by the time I realized it, someone else had already snatched them up! I still have my blue and yellow plates.

In 2015 while on a business trip to Pittsburgh, PA I saw a near duplicate of my car one night in a strip mall parking lot. But they salt roads back east, and unless the car was kept indoors for winter months, that was not something I was interested in tackling. Later I would regret not leaving my business card under the wiper given how difficult it proved to be in finding a car I liked.

Fast forward to 2024 and I'd already concluded finding another 1983/1984 Firebird S/E in a color, configuration, and condition I was willing to take on was just not to be found. I had passed on some cars I liked but had been modified and the chances of them passing smog were pretty slim. I'd also made a few winning offers on some Trans Ams, but they fell apart (winning bid but not as much as the seller wanted). And then in October 2024 a Trans Am in Iowa popped up that pretty much checked all the boxes. After a couple of conversations with the dealer and more pictures of the underside, we negotiated a price and two days later I'd bought a Trans Am. Ten days later it arrived via trailer in Martinez!

Next challenge - keep it a secret as my son Harrison was flying up mid-November and I wanted to surprise him when I picked him up at the

Oakland airport. Only two other people knew about the Trans Am, and while they both knew Harrison well, they kept it secret and Harrison was definitely surprised!

In the car, along with plaques and a first place trophy from various car shows, I found a proof of insurance card from the previous owner. I took a chance and sent a letter. Much to my delight I received a very nice letter back. My Trans Am had originally been purchased off the showroom floor in Milwaukee and spent the next 21 years in a suburb, going to car shows in the summer, and garaged during the winter. In June, the original owner's daughter reluctantly parted company with a car that she loved at auction. I, in turn, had bought it from the dealer that bought it at auction. If and when she comes to California, she has already been granted visitation rights.

So now I'm back in the Firebird community again! The Trans Am is in very good condition for 41 years and 54,000 miles. It has that great sound of an American V-8 and drives great! The left front quarter panel is tweaked a bit from the jack not being placed under the jacking pad. But for a Midwest car, the underside is in excellent condition, looking like a cared for California car.

The car did need some work. Things were too loose underneath to do an alignment and you could hear the links banging around as some of the bushings were gone. The suspension has now been re-furbished replacing bushings, front and rear control arms, shocks, sway bar links, Panhard Bar, Pittman and Idler Arms, and drag links. All that made a big improvement eliminating the noise of loose parts and improving handling. The radio had a flickering first digit and so it's been replaced with a Bluetooth capable Retrosound unit. Next up is replacing the weatherstripping and window sweepers. Then it's off to a body shop to repair the left front quarter panel, paint the spoiler to match the body, and repaint the hood with a

new decal. I am trying to avoid a complete repaint at this point, but we'll see.

One of my other interests is model railroading, and the Rowland Freedom Center at the Vacaville Airport has an annual Planes, Trains, and Automobile show. I've been at the show in the past with an exhibit on behalf of our model railroad club. My goal for 2025 is to have the Trans Am back in top shape and enter it in their car show and have it parked near our display. Maybe it can add another first prize to its story! It may also be something the club is interested in as well.



2025 Calander of events



June	21 st ---- Drive to Grass Valley, Empire Gold mine tour.
July	19th ---- Areo Space Museum McClennan Park, Milk Shakes at Taylor's in Loomis
August	16th ---- Club barbeque at my house
Sept	20th ---- Drive to Bogeda Bay
Oct	18th ---- Chili – cook off & Pumpkin Carving contest
Nov	15th ---- Calif Auto Museum display for our TA's
Dec	6 th --- Club Christmas Party

I would like to thank Jim Nakata for taking the meeting note and Fay Holland for running the 50/50 Raffle.

The 50/50 Drawing

This evening the 50/50 lucky winner was Mary Wing of a \$65.00 jack pot; she took \$20.00 because that is what she put in the drawing, the remainder of \$45.00 went to the club; Thank you Mary.

Upcoming Car Shows



Italian Hot Rod Association CAR SHOW

*Benefiting California Scottish Rite Language Center &
Sacramento Police K-9 Association*

When: Saturday, June 28th
Where: Scottish Rite Temple
6151 H Street, Sacramento
(near CSU Sacramento)
Time: 8am - 2pm
awards presented at 2pm

ALL CARS WELCOME!

Pre-registration: \$45 | Day of show: \$50

Breakfast & Lunch compliments of Italian Hot Rod Association

Check-In at 7:00am
Show starts at 8:00am | Saturday - June 28th, 2025

For more information, call Johnny at 916-834-7439

Make check payable to: "Italian Hot Rod Association"

Mail to: Italian Hot Rod Association - 1071 58th Street - Sacramento, CA 95819

Participant Full Name (please print clearly): _____
Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____
Car (make/model): _____ Year: _____
Club Affiliation: _____

Participants Release: *I hereby waive, release, and discharge any and all claims for damages which may result from my participation in the CAR SHOW hosted by Italian Hot Rod Association. I release Italian Hot Rod Association from any and all claims for damages which may result from my participation in the CAR SHOW.*

Every Sunday morning Cars & Coffee show at Carmichaels Starbucks
Manzanita & Fair Oaks 7:00am to 9:30am

Would any members be willing to write article about your Trans Am or Firebird, it help to make to Trans Script more interesting. Please e mail it to me with a picture of your vehicle.



James Hischier	6/7
Keith Thorson	6-8
JO Raff	6-29
Dave Getrshon	7-5
Petra Martinez	7-8

Adjourning – Mary Wing made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm and Robert Holland seconded it. Everyone voted in favor of closing the meeting.

Classified Ads –

If any members have Pontiac related items they would like to sell, please send me an e-mail of your items and I will post them in the Trans Script.

These businesses are supporting our club. Please patronize them.

Here is a link to www.norcalcarculture.com that has a free newsletter that comes out every week; it has a list of car shows, Classified Adds, etc. All you have to do is give him your e mail address.

American Pastimes Hot Rod Shop

Ronald Kummerle
5741 Auburn Blvd Sacramento, CA
95841
916-944-6600

RONAMERICANPASTIMES@GMAIL
AMERICANPASTIMES.COM



Tim Newey
tnewey@norcalcarculture.com
6008 Auburn Blvd
Citrus Heights, CA 95621
916-308-6730



www.NorCalCarCulture.com

K & L Automotive



ASE
MASTER AUTO
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25
YEARS

Ken and Lisa Caughran (510) 799-2928
586-C Parker Ave., Rodeo, CA. 94572



916-612-9407
exoticsautopros@gmail.com
6135 Mariposa Ave. Citrus Heights CA.

We have a new member named James Hischier that is looking to buy a 1974 Firebird Formula. If anyone has one or knows of one for sale, please contact him 209 484 9421

Officers and Directors



President - Don Scalise	916-216-5962
Vice President - Keith Thorson	916-991-7304
Secretary – Open	
Treasurer - Jim Nakata	916-768-9938
Activities Director - Jim Nakata	916-768-9938
Historian - Don Scalise	916-216-5962
Major Events – Don Scalise	
Trans Script - Don Scalise	916-216-5962
Membership - Robert Holland	770-826-3962
Website Director - Don Scalise	916-216-5962
Sgt. at Arms - Brian Rankin	916-708-0630
Members at Large Brian & Brady Rankin	916-708-0630

www.transamclub.com

Yearly Dues: \$40 per person, \$50 per family.

Respectfully Submitted by

President Don Scalise

Trans Am Club of America, Golden State Chapter, Inc.

