



# REGIONNAIRE

NOVEMBER 2020



A newsletter of the Southern California Region of the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America by and for its members



## Director's Message

Hello Chevy Friends,

Only a couple of more months until this crazy year comes to an end. While there have been some bright spots, with a new year comes a new hope for happy days ahead. As winter approaches, and road time with our Chevy's becomes shorter, Jim and I are going to cycle our classics through some much needed maintenance so they are ready for next year.

There have been no Region meetings so far in 2020 and we are still unable to meet in person. To address the administrative items that need to be taken care of before the year end, we will be having a virtual online meeting via Zoom. An email link will be sent to the membership a few days before our November 14th meeting with information for connecting via computer or telephone. Hopefully we can get business taken care of and enjoy some fellowship, albeit virtually instead of in person.

I look forward to connecting with you all at our meeting. I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holiday season. Stay safe and be well.

*Sabrina Karras, 2020 Director, So. Cal Region VCCA*

***“The Worlds Best Chevrolet Club!”***  
***“Dedicated to the restoration and preservation of all Chevrolets.”***

## CHEVROLET PREVIEWS ELECTRIC CONNECT AND CRUISE AT SEMA360

1977 K5 Blazer-E features Chevrolet Performance eCrate package, expected to be available second half of 2021

**DETROIT** — At SEMA360, Chevrolet will showcase a 1977 K5 Blazer converted to all-electric propulsion. The K5 Blazer-E is a functional proof of concept of the upcoming Electric Connect and Cruise package Chevrolet Performance plans to sell in the second half of 2021.

During the virtual event, Chevrolet Performance will survey SEMA members interested in building their own electric projects to help finalize Chevrolet's initial eCrate offering.



“As GM introduces a new fleet of electric vehicles, it creates an exciting opportunity to bring EV technology to the aftermarket,” said Jim Campbell, GM U.S. vice president of Performance and Motorsports. “Our vision is to offer a comprehensive line of Connect and Cruise systems from Chevrolet Performance – delivering a solution for every customer ranging from LSX V-8s to eCrate conversions.”

### Building the K5 Blazer-E

Chevrolet first previewed the eCrate conversion concept with the Chevrolet eCOPO Camaro in 2018, followed by the Chevrolet E-10 in 2019. Learnings from those vehicles helped inform Chevrolet's Electric Connect and Cruise strategy.

The new K5 Blazer-E retains as much of the stock Blazer as possible and approximately 90 percent of the new parts installed for the eCrate package are factory components from the Chevrolet Bolt EV.

To convert the 1977 K5 Blazer, the team first removed from the Blazer the original 175-horsepower 400 cubic-inch V-8, three-speed automatic, fuel system and exhaust. Then, the team installed a Bolt EV electric motor, delivering 200 horsepower and 266 lb-ft of torque, paired with a Chevrolet Performance electronically controlled four-speed automatic. The rest of the Blazer drivetrain remains untouched, including the transfer case, driveshaft and axles.



Power is supplied by a 400-volt Bolt EV battery pack with 60 kilowatt-hours of usable energy installed in the cargo area. Using production controllers and wiring harnesses preserves many Bolt EV features, including shock protection, battery heating and cooling, battery-overcharge protection and even regenerative braking.

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The aftermarket components include an electric power steering kit, an electric pump providing vacuum to the stock brake system, and an electronic controller to drive inputs to the vintage Blazer gauges – such as displaying the battery’s state of charge on the original fuel gauge.

### **eCrate Installer Certification Program**

To prepare for the eCrate launch, Chevrolet Performance is certifying Electric Connect and Cruise installers. Participating Chevrolet dealers and aftermarket companies will receive the training, tools and equipment needed to work with high-voltage systems and charging stations to service customers’ vehicles.

Lingenfelter Performance Engineering in Brighton, Michigan will be the first company to pilot the training and certification program. This experience will help inform the certification process for future installers.

The 60-kWh Electric Connect and Cruise package, expected to be available in the second half of 2021, includes:

- 60-kWh battery pack
- 200-horsepower electric motor
- DC-to-AC power inverter to drive the electric motor
- DC-to-DC power converter to power low-voltage systems
- Wiring harnesses, controllers and water pumps for battery heating and cooling



Chevrolet Performance is also evaluating additional eCrate packages with higher-performance options and new battery configurations to fit a wider range of aftermarket applications. Longer term, the team will work to integrate GM’s modular Ultium battery system technologies.

“Minutes after Chevrolet showed the E-10 concept, customers started calling to ask how soon they could build their EV project,” said Russ O’Blenes, Chevrolet director of engineering, Performance and Racing.

“The K5 Blazer-E demonstrates what is possible for customers who want to convert their vintage truck to a daily driver with the instant torque and unique driving experience of an EV. For customers who want more extreme performance, the modular eCrate system will have virtually limitless applications.”

More information about Chevrolet’s aftermarket offerings featured at SEMA360, including new performance parts for the 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe and Suburban and full portfolio of crate engines, can be found at [Chevrolet.com/SEMA](https://www.chevrolet.com/SEMA).

## *Next Meeting November 14, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.*

To be held via Zoom online.

Members will be able to connect via computer or telephone.

An email with links and information will be sent out a few days before the meeting. If you are connecting via computer you will need to have a camera and microphone.

If you have any questions on how to participate, please feel free to contact myself or Jim Karras via email or telephone. Contact info on page 5 of the newsletter.

The Southern California Region is proud to present a podcast created and produced by Jim and Sabrina Karras. This show will highlight all the exciting things the VCCA has to offer.

Check it out at  
[vccaspotlight.org](http://vccaspotlight.org)



### **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION FUND RAISER NEW BASEBALL CAP with Embroidered VCCA LOGO**

#### **Cap Includes:**

High Quality Tan Cotton  
Comfortable and Adjustable Size  
Custom embroidery on front and back

**\$19.95 includes postage**

Questions – e-mail to: [JimKarras@aol.com](mailto:JimKarras@aol.com)

**Make checks payable to:**

**So. Cal Region**

**Order from: JIM KARRAS**

829 East Van Bibber Avenue  
Orange, CA 92866-2063



## Purpose

The Southern California Region of the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America (“VCCA”) was organized to promote the restoration and preservation of Chevrolets and welcomes everyone with an interest in the history of Chevrolet and sharing knowledge and experiences about these wonderful automobiles.

Our region is comprised of both single and married members who join together at many fun events including; tours, picnics, car shows, banquets and other interesting outings.

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## Membership and Dues

An active member is defined as an individual who has paid dues to both the National VCCA and the Southern California Region. Ownership of a Chevrolet is not a requirement of membership.

*National Dues:* Dues for the National VCCA are \$40.00 per year in the U.S. National Dues include membership card, badge, club decal, and monthly publication – the *Generator and Distributor*.

*Southern California Region Dues:* Dues for the Southern California Region are \$15.00 per year. Dues are payable on or before January 31<sup>st</sup>. An active member receives a monthly newsletter – the *Regionnaire* and notification of all club activities. An active member may participate in the business meetings and all club events, both regional and national.

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## SCRVCCA Leadership Contact Information

*Director:* Sabrina Karras; Phone - (714) 633-8210; E-mail - [sabrinakarras@aol.com](mailto:sabrinakarras@aol.com)

*Assistant Director:* Jim Karras - (714) 633-8210; E-mail - [jimkarras@aol.com](mailto:jimkarras@aol.com)

*Secretary:* Jim Karras - (714) 633-8210; E-mail - [jimkarras@aol.com](mailto:jimkarras@aol.com)

*Treasurer:* Sabrina Karras; Phone - (714) 633-8210; E-mail - [sabrinakarras@aol.com](mailto:sabrinakarras@aol.com)

*Membership Secretary:* Jim Karras - (714) 633-8210; E-mail - [jimkarras@aol.com](mailto:jimkarras@aol.com)

*Tour Director:* Jim Karras - (714) 633-8210; E-mail - [jimkarras@aol.com](mailto:jimkarras@aol.com)

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*Webmaster & Social Media Coordinator:* Jim Karras - (714) 633-8210; E-mail - [jimkarras@aol.com](mailto:jimkarras@aol.com)

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## Other VCCA Resources

### Southern California Region Web Site

[www.scrvcca.org](http://www.scrvcca.org)

### National VCCA Web Site

[www.vcca.org](http://www.vcca.org)

### VCCA Internet Chat Forum

[www.vcca.org/forum/](http://www.vcca.org/forum/)

### VCCA Area #1 Board Member

Dean Echols (928) 710-4325

[classic56@cableone.net](mailto:classic56@cableone.net) & [www.area1vcca.org](http://www.area1vcca.org)

### VCCA Member Services

(708) 455-VCCA (8222)

[memberservices@vcca.org](mailto:memberservices@vcca.org)

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## Regionnaire Publication Information

The Regionnaire is published every other month. Ads and other contributions from members are welcome for publication in the Regionnaire. The deadline for all contributions is the first Tuesday of every other month.



THE VINTAGE CHEVROLET CLUB OF AMERICA INC.  
*Southern California Region*  
 829 E. Van Bibber Ave, Orange, CA 92866 (714) 633-8210  
**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of the National Vintage Chevrolet club?  YES  NO

**If YES:** Your membership number: \_\_\_\_\_ **If NO:** It is a prerequisite for becoming a member of a local region. Yearly dues for National Membership are listed below and are forwarded to the National Organization. Dues for region membership are \$10.00 per year.

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION DUES**..... \$ 15.00 per year  
**NATIONAL DUES**  RENEWAL  NEW  
 Membership (Member, Spouse & Children), two votes ..... \$ 40.00 per year  
**TOTAL ENCLOSED** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES ALL REGION MEMBERS MUST JOIN NATIONAL IN ORDER TO JOIN THE REGION. If you send the Region, your National dues, we will send them on to National.

**REGION:** All members receive a monthly region newsletter and information on upcoming events and tours.

**NATIONAL:** All new members will receive a club badge, decal, membership card and the national magazine, Generator & Distributor. Members are entitled to free classified advertising in the club magazine and participation in Vintage Chevrolet Club activities. Members are entitled to free classified advertising, access to member-only website features, and participation in all VCCA activities. Chevrolet ownership is not a requirement for membership. Dues are non-refundable.

The purpose of the VCCA is to promote interest in the preservation and restoration of vintage Chevrolets.

If you presently own a Chevrolet, please fill in below.

Year	Model	Body Style	Cyl.	Condition
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Recruited by (VCCA member recruiting optional) \_\_\_\_\_ VCCA # \_\_\_\_\_

<p align="center"><b>FOR CLUB USE ONLY</b></p> <p>Paid \$ _____ Check/Cash</p> <p>Date Paid _____</p> <p>Regional Membership Number _____</p>	<p>Return complete form and mail with dues to:</p> <p align="center">SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION        829 E. Van Bibber Ave., Orange, CA 92866</p> <p>X _____        Applicant's Signature</p>
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