



# REGIONNAIRE

JANUARY 2021



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,

It's a new year and it's time to start fresh. Let's hope the year ahead is much less crazy and a lot more normal. At our Zoom meeting in November, I was voted in as Director for another year and I'm excited to see what 2021 has in store for all of us. My goal is to try and reach out and get a few more members for our club and see if we can grow a bit. Thanks to everyone who renewed their dues for this year. Hopefully we can get together for a few tours and events before too long and have some fun. There will be no meeting for January since there are still restrictions in place but maybe March will be better. For some personal news, Jim and I are very close to having our '54 Bel Air back on the road soon. Thankfully all it needed was a new muffler and a tune up! After that we'll get to work on Jim's truck and get the clutch fixed up and some minor wear and tear repairs done on the old gal. We can't wait to take the classics out for a cruise once spring hits!

I'll keep everyone updated on all the happenings in the Region through the newsletter. Hopefully we can get together soon. I miss you all! Until then, happy driving, stay safe, and be well.

*Sabrina Karras, 2021 Director, So. Cal Region VCCA*

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

# El Morocco: The Eldorado-flavored Bel Air that never took off



In the 1950s, Cadillacs were the standard-bearers of American style. Featuring a long wheelbase and powerful OHV V-8 engines for comfortable, effortless cruising, the Eldorado was the pinnacle of personal luxury. Canadian businessman Reuben Allender was fond of Cadillacs and owned several himself, including a 1955 Eldorado. Allender saw the huge gulf in prices between the low-volume Eldorado and the new, small-block-powered '55 Chevy Bel Air; he determined he could offer a product



combining the best of each car and capitalize on a sweet spot in the market.



Allender, with the help of Robert Thompson and Cyril Olbrich, began customizing a 1955 Chevy by adding fiberglass fender extensions to the Bel Air that mimicked the fins of his beloved '55 Eldorado. A few pieces pulled from other cars helped disguise the pedestrian Chevy roots a bit, including 1937 Dodge headlight pods turned backward to emulate the Cadillac's pointed bumpers. The car



needed a new name that fit its upscale aim, so Allender borrowed "El Morocco" from the popular Manhattan nightclub.



By the time Allender could actually produce El Moroccos, 1956 Bel Airs were on the market, so the prototype '55 never went into production. Instead, the modifications were rolled into 1956 models. Over the next two years, around 32 1956 and 1957 Bel Airs were converted to El Moroccos, and just one 1956 convertible is known to exist. The drop-top has recently been restored in full and shows just 108 miles since the total overhaul by Tel Powney of D'Elegance in Fallbrook, California. It is up for sale as part of Mecum's Marv Siesel Collection, along with a pair of 1957s—a hardtop and a convertible that have also been recently restored.



Those low production numbers were due in part to

the El Morocco conversion adding around \$1000 to the \$2275 sticker price of a Bel Air, closing the gap between run-of-the-mill Chevy and entry-level Cadillac.

Looking back, it might seem a bit strange to think about so much effort put into modifying an iconic '57 Bel Air. It is perhaps the quintessential '50s car and the most recognizable interpretation of the decade's signature styling element, the tail fin. Still, the El Morocco treatment did meld well with the remaining Bel Air sheet metal in 1956, and even more so in 1957 when Chevrolet got pointed Dagmar bumpers of its own. We have to admit, the Eldorado fins aren't bad. With only about 32 produced and around half surviving today, the El Morocco is a rare collector piece that brings unique style with the easily serviced and maintained Tri-Five Chevy drivetrain.



## Minutes

**Members Present:** Sandy & Mike Cromer, Jim & Sabrina Karras

Meeting called to order at 9:25 a.m.

### Administrative Actions:

**Treasurer's Report:** Given by Sabrina Karras. Motion to approve by Sandy Cromer. Seconded by Jim Karras. Treasurer's report approved.

**Hat Sales Report:** Given by Sabrina Karras. Three hat sales since January 2020.

### Committee Reports:

**Membership Committee:** Given by Jim Karras. Two new members since January 2020.

### New Business:

Nomination and elections of 2021 officers. Sandy Cromer made a motion to nominate current officers to continue for 2021. Jim Karras seconded. Motion approved. Officers are as follows:

Director – Sabrina Karras  
Assistant Director – Jim Karras  
Secretary – Jim Karras  
Treasurer – Sabrina Karras

Jim Karras introduced a new podcast/video series called VCCA Spotlight that the region is hosting on the region website. The series is produced by Jim & Sabrina Karras and highlights benefits and programs within the VCCA organization.

The group approved continuing dues at the current rates again for 2021. The Secretary will send out dues renewal notices before the end of the year.

2021 meeting dates and locations were discussed. It was agreed that we should maintain the calendar of meetings every other month as in the past. If there needs to be a postponement or cancellation of a meeting date it will be determined as the year progresses. Location is still undetermined as there is still uncertainty of in person meetings being allowed with the pandemic restrictions.

Jim Karras brought up that the region charter renewal will occur before our next scheduled meeting so asked for membership approval to pay that expenditure. Sandy Cromer made a motion to approve making the payment. Seconded by Sabrina Karras. Motion was approved to pay the \$25 charter renewal for 2021.

### Old Business:

No outstanding business was brought up at this time.

### Membership Comments:

Mike and Sandy Cromer are in the process of switching registrations on their classics from California to Washington. They are settling in at their new home and are enjoying the winter snow.

Jim and Sabrina have sent their 1954 Bel Air to have an engine knock repaired and hope to have it back before the end of the year.

### No additional items were offered at this time.

Next meeting will be held on January 16, 2021 at a location to be determined.

Motion to adjourn meeting brought by Sabrina Karras and seconded by Jim Karras. Meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Karras, Secretary

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)



*No meeting in January  
Next meeting on March 20, 2021  
Location to be determined*

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION FUND RAISER  
NEW BASBALL 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.

---

## 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.

---

## 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)

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

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

---

## 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)

---

## 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>
---	---