



REGIONNAIRE

MARCH 2022



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,

Well it's time to "spring forward" and set our clocks ahead for Daylight Savings Time on the 13th this month. Spring may be just around the corner, but the weather can't decide what time of year it is! I'm ready for sunny skies and no rain so we can go cruising in our Chevys. Jim and I have spent the last few weekends working out in our garage and we managed to carve out enough room to get our '54 and our '59 nestled in! We still have some organizing to do but it's looking good. We will not have a meeting in March or May, but we should have an in person meeting in July. We are looking for a location to meet so keep reading the Regionnaire for information. Also check our website (scracca.org) for up to the minute news about our region and it's members!

Until we can meet again, happy driving, stay safe, and be well.

Sabrina Karras, 2022 Director, So. Cal Region VCCA

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

Chevrolet Introduces the El Camino in 1959



When Chevrolet introduced the 1959 El Camino, the bow-tie brand launched a successful product run that would continue for nearly 30 years.

When Chevrolet rolled out the 1959 El Camino on October 16, 1958, we can bet the company was inspired at least in part by the successful launch of Ford's similar car-pickup hybrid, the Ranchero, in 1957. But before we give Ford all the credit, we pause to reflect that Chevrolet was offering its own Coupe-Pickup model way back in 1936. Chevy sold

more than 3,000 Coupe-Pickups in that first year, and the model remained in production through 1942.

In truth, the basic Ranchero/El Camino concept—a comfortable passenger car with a cargo box on the back for light hauling duty—is nearly as old as the auto industry. In Australia, where the body style is affectionately known as the ute, the coupe-utility is as familiar as a koala or a kangaroo.

Built on the same X-Built Safety Girder chassis as the Chevy passenger-car line, the '59 El Camino borrowed



much of its interior from the bottom-of-the-line Biscayne series, but featured Bel Air-style bright-metal exterior side trim with Snowcrest White accent paint. The full catalog of Chevy engine options was available, including the trusty 235 CID straight six and 283 CID V8s, and even the 348 CID V8 with three two-barrel carbs and 315 hp. Transmission choices included three-speed manual, Powerglide, and the new Borg Warner T10 four-speed.



While the El Camino was clearly more car than truck, the Chevy brass chose to market it as part of the

Chevrolet Task Force truck campaign (below). Sales boomed in the first year as the El Camino actually outsold the Ranchero, but then slipped in 1960 and the model was discontinued. For a few years, Chevy's car-truck slot was filled by the Corvair-based '61-'64 Rampside/Loadside pickup (see our feature [here](#).) In 1964, an all-new El Camino based on the Chevelle intermediate-class platform was introduced, and in this basic format the vehicle remained on the market through 1987. (There was a badge-engineered GMC Sprint/Caballero version, too.) By then, of course, real pickup trucks were offering all the luxury and comfort any driver could want, and there was no longer any room in the lineup for a car/truck mashup like the El Camino.



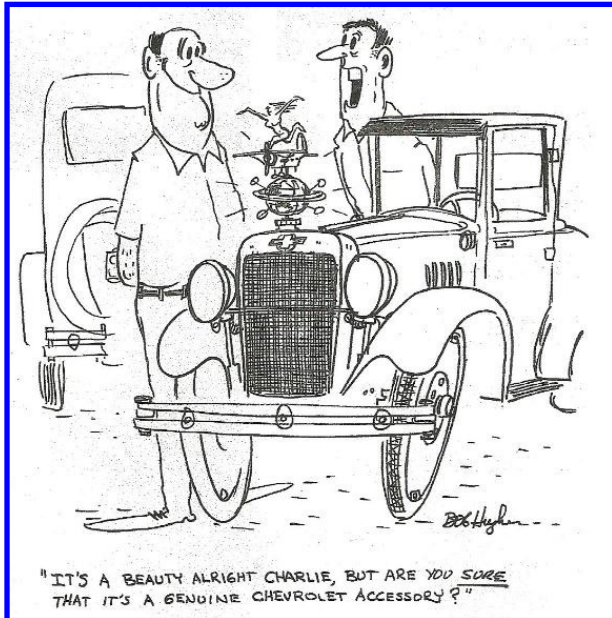
Good looks never carried so much weight!

Chevrolet Task-Force 59 Trucks

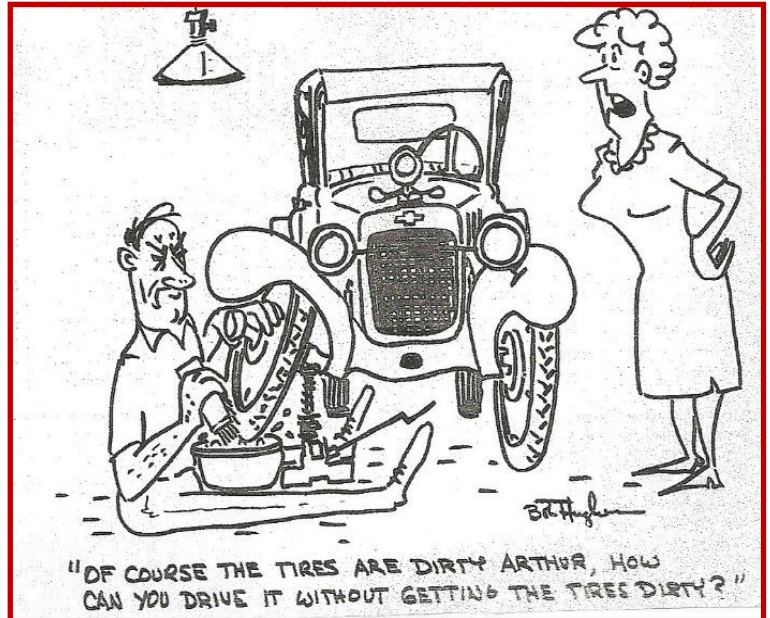
Here's the hardest thing that ever happened to hauling—the new El Camino, combining the stunning style of a '59 Chevrolet passenger car with the cargo capacity of a pickup. It's another example of the stoked good-looking Chevrolet truck being to your business—from the Sunday-go-to-meeting look of the new Fleet side pickups (available with new two-toning as an extra-cost option) to the built-for-stamina styling of heavy-duty models. Your dealer's waiting now to show you the entire new Chevrolet Task-Force 59 lineup—the best yet of the best sellers—with new might, new models, new money-saving power.

A Trip Down Memory Lane

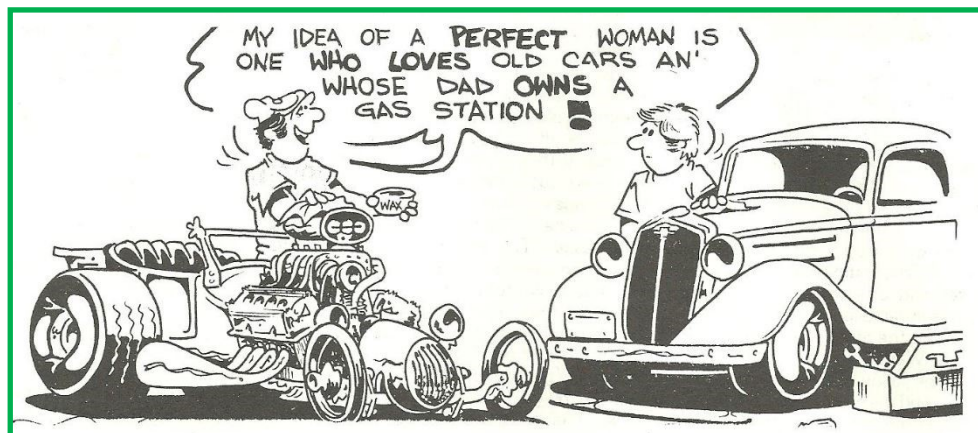
Take a look at some comics from past issues of the Generator & Distributor



Originally published in the February 1968 G & D



Originally published in the June 1967 G & D



Originally published in the November 1979 G & D

◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ Upcoming Events ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆

March 5, 2022 - [Automobile Driving Museum Monthly Cruise In](#) - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Automobile Driving Museum, 610 Lairport St., El Segundo, CA

March 6, 2022 - [Pomona Swap Meet & Classic Car Show](#) - 5:00 am to 2:00 pm
Pomona Fairplex - 1101 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona, CA

March 19, 2022 - [Kiwanis-Los Amigos 2nd Annual Car Show](#) - 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Downey High School - 11040 Brookshire Ave., Downey, CA

April 10, 2022 - [Hi-Performance Swap Meet & Car Show](#) - 6:00 am to 1:00 pm
Veterans Stadium - 5000 Lew Davis St., Long Beach, CA

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



Happy Birthday

Bill Ingalls - March 9th
Eileen Cochran - March 13th
Bud Lehner - March 24th
Sabrina Karras - March 29th

The birthday announcement is framed by a decorative border of colorful balloons. The word 'Happy Birthday' is written in large, colorful, bubbly letters with party hats and balloons integrated into the text.

Jim & Sabrina Karras - April 22nd
Johnnie & Linda Adkisson - April 26th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

The anniversary announcement is framed by a decorative border of purple and white floral patterns. The word 'HAPPY ANNIVERSARY' is written in large, colorful, block letters with fireworks and hearts integrated into the text.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION FUND RAISER BASEBALL CAP with Embroidered VCCA LOGO

Cap features:

- ✓ High Quality Tan Cotton
- ✓ Comfortable and Adjustable Size
- ✓ Custom Embroidery on Front

\$20.00 (includes domestic postage)

Order online at scracca.org

Email questions to hats@scracca.org

Make checks payable to **So. Cal Region VCCA**

Mail order to:

Jim Karras, #43031
829 East Van Bibber Avenue
Orange, CA 92866-2063



NEW VCCA LOGO

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 for a regular membership or \$25.00 per year for an online membership. 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 December 1st. An active member receives a bi-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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other VCCA Resources

Southern California Region Web Site

www.scrvcca.org

National VCCA Web Site

www.vcca.org

VCCA Internet Chat Forum

www.vcca.org/forum/

VCCA Area #1 Board Member

Dean Echols (928) 710-4325

classic56@cableone.net & www.area1vcca.org

VCCA Member Services

(708) 455-VCCA (8222)

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">FOR CLUB USE ONLY</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 _____</p> <p align="center">Applicant's Signature</p>
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