



# Regionnaire

JANUARY 2023

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,

A new year is here and I'm excited for all the adventures to come. I am happy to once again serve as Director. We are having our first meeting of 2023 on January 14th and it will be an in-person lunch. See info in this edition. I am in the process of planning some tours and events for our Region to do in the next few months. It's going to be fun to see everyone and get our cars on the road. The San Fernando Region is hosting the All Cal this year. It will be held May 4th -7th in Oxnard. Look for registration info coming up in the next few weeks. We are going to focus on growing our membership this year and if you know anyone who loves Chevy's, tell about our club and encourage them to join in on the fun and fellowship of being a part of the VCCA. I look forward to seeing you all soon. Until then, 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."**

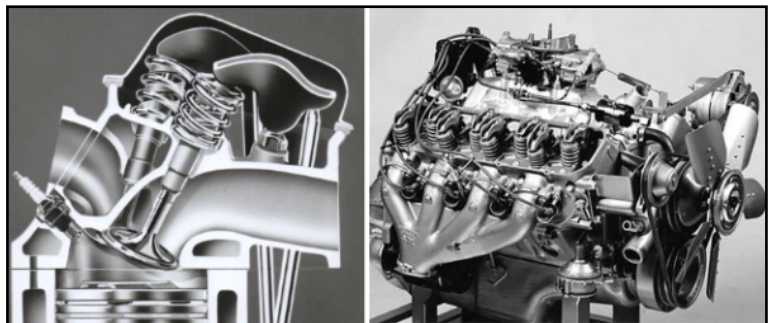
# BIRTH OF THE BIG-BLOCK CHEVY: THE 1965 396 V8

The long and glorious story of the big-block Chevy starts here, with the 1965 396 V8.

The Chevrolet 396 cubic-inch V8 was introduced in January of 1965, midway through the '65 model year, but maybe the proper place to begin is with the near-legendary 427 NASCAR Mystery engine of 1963. (See our feature on the mystery engine here.) Although the 427 Mystery Mark II V8 and the 396 Mark IV are of two different engine families, they are products of the same development path and share many of the same features. But while the Mystery engine effectively dead-ended in '63, the 396 was the first in a long and successful series of big-block V8s, opening a chapter in the Chevy performance story that is still being written.

The most obvious element of the Mystery engine that was carried forward to the 396, and all the big-block Chevy V8s that followed, was the distinctive canted-valve cylinder head, above. By splaying the intake and exhaust valves relative to each cylinder, the valve diameters could be larger and the port angles straighter, improving airflow. With the valve covers removed, the valves and rocker arms on this novel setup appeared to be pointed in every direction, inspiring the nickname "porcupine head" early on. At some point the engine family picked up the name big-block due to its larger bore spacing and taller deck height than the original 1955 Chevy V8, aka small-block.

There were actually three 396 cubic-inch V8s introduced in early 1965, including the L78 for the Corvette and full-sized cars and the L37 for a special version of the Chevelle SS known





as the Z16. All featured a 4.094-in bore and a 3.760-in stroke and were marketed under the name Turbo-Jet V8. Rated at 425 hp at 6400 rpm, the L78 was a serious piece of equipment, boasting four-bolt main caps, a Holley four-barrel carb, an 11.0:1 compression ratio, and a solid-lifter camshaft.

The L37 V8 for the Z16 Chevelle was essentially the same stout package but with a less aggressive camshaft profile and hydraulic lifters, and it earned a 375 hp rating. The 396 in the Z16, an extensively equipped machine, was dressed out with a chrome air cleaner lid and valve covers. (Only 201 were built.) Finally, there was an L35 version in milder tune for the big cars (Biscayne, Bel Air, Impala) with a 10.25:1 compression ratio and 325 hp.



Introduced at mid-year, the '65 396 was not produced in massive numbers, but it spawned an extensive line of 396 and 427 CID V8s for 1966 and beyond. A 454 CID version appeared in 1970, and in its final state of production decades later, the big-block V8 evolved into the 8.1 liter (496 CID) Vortec used in Chevy trucks n 2001 through 2006. But the story hasn't ended yet.

Chevrolet Performance continues to produce and market the engines along with a complete line of parts. For proof of concept of the original Chevy big-block design, the ultimate in the catalog is a 632 cubic-inch crate engine—available straight over the counter—with 1004 hp and 876 lb-ft of torque. And it all began with the 396 V8.

Article posted on November 8, 2022 at: <https://macsmotorcitygarage.com/birth-of-the-big-block-chevy-the-1965-396-v8/>



## UPCOMING EVENTS



January 8, 2023 - **Hi-Performance Swap Meet & Car Show - 6:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
Veteran's Stadium - 5000 Lew Davis St, Long Beach, CA

January 15, 2023 - **Pomona Swap Meet & Classic Car Show - 5:00 am to 2:00 pm**  
Pomona Fairplex - 1101 W. McKinley Avenue, Pomona, CA

February 3-5, 2023 - **Grand National Roadster Show - Fri. 12-8, Sat. 10-8, Sun. 10-6**  
Pomona Fairplex - 1101 W. McKinley Avenue, Pomona, CA

February 26, 2023 - **Early Time 54th Annual Mid-Winter Rod Run & Poker Hand - 9:00 am**  
Leave from Richard Hot Rod Repair - 1450 Caspian, Long Beach, CA



# Meeting This Month!



Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 12:30 pm

## ROSEWOOD FAMILY RESTAURANT

10769 South Street, Cerritos, CA 90703 off the 605 Fwy at South Street

### DIRECTIONS:

605 Fwy North – exit South St. Turn left at the end of the off ramp. Pass Studebaker Rd and over the San Gabriel River. Rosewood Restaurant is on the right side of the street in the same center as SkyZone Trampoline Park and across from the CVS.

605 Fwy South – exit South St. Turn right at the end of the off ramp. Pass Studebaker Rd and over the San Gabriel River. Rosewood Restaurant is on the right side of the street in the same center as SkyZone Trampoline Park and across from the CVS.

Please RSVP to Sabrina Karras at (714) 287-4757 or [sabrinakarras@aol.com](mailto:sabrinakarras@aol.com)

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**Hazel Zaricor ~ February 13th**

**Crystal Houston ~ February 22nd**

**Kate Mihalco ~ February 24th**

**Linda Adkisson ~ February 27th**

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

Email questions to [hats@scrvcca.org](mailto:hats@scrvcca.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.

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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 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.

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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)

*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)

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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

[deanechols38@gmail.com](mailto:deanechols38@gmail.com) & [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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR CLUB USE ONLY**

Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check/Cash  
 Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_  
 Regional Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

Return complete form and mail with dues to:  
 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION  
 829 E. Van Bibber Ave., Orange, CA 92866

X \_\_\_\_\_  
 Applicant's Signature