



Regionnaire

JULY 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,

It's the middle of summer and it seems to finally be warming up after a very gloomy May and June. Car shows are in full swing so there is a lot to do for us classic Chevy lovers. This month's Region meeting will be cancelled because Jim and I will be heading to Kalamazoo, Michigan mid July to participate in the VCCA's 60th Central Meet hosted by the Lower Michigan Region. We will plan on having an in person meeting on September 16th. It is with heavy heart that I have some sad news to report. Longtime member Hazel Zaricor, 95, passed away on June 6th. She was a wonderful, bright, shining woman who brought joy to all who knew her. She will be greatly missed and we wish great comfort to her family at this time. There will be a memorial service on July 13th. Details are in this newsletter. Life is precious, everyone. Get out there and enjoy all it has to offer. Have a Happy Fourth of July! I hope to see you all soon! Until then, happy driving, stay safe and be well.

Sabrina Karras, 2023 Director, So. Cal Region VCCA

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

Forgotten Concept: Chevrolet Electrovette

First Seen: 1978

Description: Subcompact battery-electric hatchback

Sales Pitch: “Family auxiliary car for shopping, neighborhood errands or short-trip transportation.”

Details: Though first shown to the public in 1978, work on the Chevrolet Electrovette Concept began in 1976. A response to the widely held belief that gas prices would surge to \$2.50 per gallon by 1980, the Electrovette was designed primarily to be cheap to own and operate. Based on the production Chevrolet Chevette, the Electrovette featured a shortened wheelbase, and a battery pack positioned where the rear seat would normally be located. A 50 kW (63 horsepower) motor was shoehorned into the space normally occupied by a transmission.

The Electrovette was designed to be powered by nickel-zinc (NiZn) batteries, but their performance was disappointing, and they were quickly replaced by less-expensive lead-acid batteries. Chevrolet press materials claimed that the Electrovette was capable of traveling up to 50 miles at a constant 30 mph, and had a top speed of 53 mph.

As it turned out, gas prices stabilized at around \$1.00 per gallon for most of the Eighties, limiting the commercial appeal of developing an alternative-fuel vehicle. The Electrovette was never seen on the auto-show circuit; instead, it was displayed at engineering and technology symposiums, and at shareholder gatherings.

At the time the Electrovette was retired, GM engineers frankly admitted that a battery breakthrough of some sort would be re

Consumer Guide Says: If we’ve learned anything from Tesla, it’s that acceptance of electric vehicles is a top-down proposition. Even today,

EVs are sold primarily to wealthy consumers with a predisposition to embrace new technology—not mainstream shoppers looking for the least expensive way to get from one place to another. It’s not clear whether or not the Electrovette would have been a 2-seater in production, but if so, its potential audience—already limited by the car’s modest driving range—would have been very small indeed.

As for the battery situation, it’s worth noting that the General Motors EV1 electric car, first seen in 1996, was also powered by lead-acid batteries, and was good for just 55 miles of range on a single charge. The EV1 did enjoy a higher top speed however, and a running change to nickel-metal-hydrate (NiMH) batteries for 1999 improved the estimated driving range to just over 100 miles.

At the time that the Electrovette was making the rounds, GM management had boldly predicted that one in ten cars would be EVs by 1995. Of course, that bit of prognostication was based on the erroneous assumption that gas prices would nearly triple in the near future. More interesting to us is the uncertain fate of the turbocharged Chevette seen above. At under 2000 pounds, a 100-horsepower Chevette should have been a hoot to drive.quired before an affordable, consumer-friendly electric vehicle could be built in volume.



Chevrolet Electrovette Concept (foreground) and Chevette Turbo Injection. Both vehicles were based on the production Chevrolet Chevette. The Turbo Injection featured a turbocharged and fuel-injected version of the Chevette’s stock 1.6-liter engine. It made 100 horsepower—37 more than the standard mill.



In this GM Styling photo, the Electrovette Concept is posed next to what appears to be a design prototype for the restyled 1979 regular-production Chevette. The Electrovette’s shortened wheelbase is apparent here.



The Electrovette had a range of 53 miles.

Hazel Zaricor

February 13, 1928 - June 6, 2023

Memorial Service will be held
Thursday, July 13, 2023
11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Rose Hills Memorial Park - Hillside Chapel

3888 Workman Mill Rd., Whittier CA 90601





UPCOMING EVENTS



July 2, 2023 - **Pistons & Pin-Ups** - 7:30 am - 10:00 am
16470 Pacific Coast Hwy, Sunset Beach, CA

July 9, 2023 - **Hi-Performance Swap Meet & Car Show** - 6:00 am to 1:00 pm
Veteran's Stadium - 5000 Lew Davis St, Long Beach, CA

August 5, 2023 - **30th Annual Sultan's Car Show** - 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
St. Timothy Lutheran Church - 4645 Woodruff Ave, Lakewood, CA

August 13, 2023 - **Coffee & Cars** - 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Farmer's Marketplace of Long Beach - 5000 E. Spring St, Long Beach, CA



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION FUND RAISER

BASEBALL CAP with Embroidered VCCA LOGO

Cap features:

- ✓ High Quality Tan Cotton
- ✓ Comfortable and Adjustable Size
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\$20.00 (includes domestic postage)

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Email questions to 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.

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

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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

deanechols38@gmail.com & 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 # _____

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