



# the Hudson rEflex Tor

Newsletter of the Southern California Chapter of the H-E-T Club

HMCC – 99 Years

HET Club – 49 Years

SC Chapter - 42 Years

April 2008

## The Spring “Fun” Car Show



April means the **Car Show** in the Valley. This year it will be at the **Sherman Oaks Galleria**. The HET SC Chapter will gather at the **Pavilion parking lot on the corner of Ventura Blvd and Kester Avenue on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** to show off our Hudson products. This is a chance to show off your



special car and see many others. Remember, some people have never heard of a Hudson, think a Hudson is a foreign car, or don't think there are any Hudsons around anymore. You have an opportunity to show passersby a beautiful and unusual American automobile that is on the road, not in a museum. The sight of the car creates memories for them of times-gone-by.

The benefit for the Guide Dogs of America will run from **8 am – 2 pm** and **the chapter will cover the registration fee**. If you are fortunate enough to have more than

one Hudson product, ask a friend(s) to help you and bring them all. Bring a comfortable chair, an umbrella for the sun, and some drinking water.

We will meet at the **Pavilion parking lot** on the **corner of Ventura Blvd and Kester Avenue** between **8:15 & 8:45 for coffee & donuts** before caravanning to the Sherman Oaks Galleria at 9 am. (Flyer enclosed)

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## Upcoming SCC Events

April 27 – **CHVA Car Show** in Sherman Oaks  
May 22-24 – **Western Region Meet** in  
San Jose, CA  
June 8 – **Annual Picnic & Elections**, Ernest E.  
Debs Regional Park  
July 22-28 – **National HET Meet**  
<http://www.freewebs.com/neceditor05/>  
→ Sept. 26-28 – **All-Cal Meet** (*Date change*)  
Nov. 8-9 – **Laughlin Economy Run**  
April 2009 - **Western Region Meet** in  
Oakhurst, CA

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Board Meetings are normally scheduled for 2 PM on the third Sunday of each month, and are **open to all members**. Phone 805/987-8187 for directions.

Want an SCC Meet close to your home? Just find a park or other attraction with parking and facilities. Then give Noah a call (626/799-6107)

## 2008 Western Region Meet

The 2008 meet will be held in San Jose, hosted by the Northern California Chapter. It is scheduled for May 22-24 and a car factory tour and Saturday night banquet are planned. Be sure to send in your registration and make your hotel reservation. Flyer included. See you there.....

## A Frank Message

Greetings from sunny Tucson! I just have a few things I would like to remind the membership about before our regional this May.

If you know of **anything that you would like to have discussed** in San Jose, let us know and we will try to get it on the agenda for our business meeting. The meeting will be **Saturday at 9:00 a.m.** Contact info is below.

Another way to have a voice in your club is to **vote for the director candidate** of your choice. You can vote by mailing in the ballot in the Jan-Feb WTN or you can vote in person at the Western regional.

The National club is still looking for someone to take over our **club store**. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact Lee Dodd at (316) 744-1363.

Email is HETCIubStore@cox.net. That has to be a fun job. What better people to deal with than Hudsonites? Thanks, see you in San Jose.

Frank Fry

## Raffle Tickets

It is Raffle Season again. The **Big Sky Region** is offering 3 chances to win a **framed Indian sand painting**. The **National Meet** is offering **\$1000** that would be a nice boost for the project car that you are working on. Contact Jon (805/987-8187) for details and \$1.00 tickets.

## The Bookshelf



Another book suggestion that might be of interest to Hudnuts.....

**Best Damn Garage in Town** by Smokey Yunick. An excellent book with a complete chapter on the *Fabulous Hudson Hornet*.

## Restore Your '53 Hollywood

*Hemmings Classic Car May 2008* begins a series on the bottoms-up restoration of a '53 Hudson Hornet Hollywood Hardtop. Lots of detailed photos.

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## Join the Campaign!

This is your chance to join in the **election mania**. If you have some fresh ideas for the chapter or would like to help out with the work of the chapter, just step forward for the **June election**. **Contact Jon** (805/987-8187) to help out and be included on the ballot.

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## HMCC Press Release

*from Hornet's Nest Newsletter July 1974*

To hear a real Hudson "booster" in action, just stop any member of the Montana Highway Patrol and ask him what he thinks of the Hudson he's driving.

He'll likely tell you (A) that his Hudson can overtake any American made stock car on the highway (B) that his Hudson "corners" better on sharp mountain curves at high speeds than any other car used for patrol duty (D) that the vast territory he patrols requires long hours behind the wheel of a car and that Hudson riding comfort reduces fatigue and strain to a minimum.

And if you've got time to spare, Montana's finest will talk on Hudson performance until you're convinced, as he is convinced, that Hudson offers everything desired in a motor car.

Listen to Jack England, Montana Highway Patrol Chief, who recently retired:

"We use 70 Hudson Super Sixes and five Hudson Hornets to patrol Montana, the third largest state in the union. With relatively small force of 83 men, this means that each man must patrol an average of 1,200 highway miles.

"Patrol efficiency depends to a great extent on our cars. Before we began using Hudsons, our cars were frequently in the repair shop. Every car off the road means a corresponding decrease in patrol strength. Hudson durability solved this problem for us. Since our first Hudsons were delivered in October, 1949, the patrol's law enforcement efficiency rating has risen 22 per cent."

England stresses Hudson economy in fleet operation.

"Average mileage for the light cars previously used was 13 plus miles per gallon. Our Hudsons deliver an average of 18 minus miles per gallon. To date, fuel operation cost for Hudson cars is 1.12 cents per mile as compared to 1.53 cents per-mile for the lighter car. As each car averages 60,000 miles per year, the savings to our rather limited operating budget can be appreciated."

With the savings afforded by Hudson gasoline economy, the Patrol has equipped 47 cars with new two-way FM radios for which no funds had been allotted, according to England. New firearms for the entire Patrol have also been purchased with these savings.

Members of the Patrol tell of Hudson durability with glowing enthusiasm. They cite many cases where Hudsons have been driven over 100,000 miles without major repairs.

A Hudson used by a patrolman stationed at Harden showed more than 118,000 miles when turned in. The motor was still in excellent condition and oil consumption negligible. Another Hudson driven by a Great Falls patrolman had rolled up 112,000 miles when traded. But Patrolman Glenn Stevens stationed at Whitehall, Montana probably set a mileage record when he drove his Hudson 143,000 idles without major repairs.

"Maintenance costs for our Hudsons averages less than \$50 per car for the first 55,000 miles," says England.

With the heavy increase in tourist travel through Montana in recent years and the increase in highway miles to patrol, the Patrol is more than ever dependent on the durability of its cars to maintain its efficiency.

The state of Montana covers more than 146,000 square miles of rugged terrain. Hudson's ability to "take it" is demonstrated daily from the tortuous plateaus of the Big Hole area in the southwest to the Bad Lands in the southeast and

north to Flat Head Valley and the mountainous mining and lumbering country.

Hudson road ability was an important factor in its selection as a patrol car. Competitive tests with nine cars of other makes were made on mountain passes at altitudes over 6,000 feet and over winding roads with sharp 30 to 40 degree turns. Hudson's "step-down" design low center of gravity and ease of handling on sharp curves walked off with top honors. No other car came close to Hudson's hug-the-road performance.

Economy and speed runs on a 104 mile course on Highway 87 further convinced England that Hudson was the ideal car for patrol duty. Gasoline consumption for the Hudson ran 3 to 5 quarts less than any other car tested.

As for Hudson speed and power, the Highway Patrol members are almost fanatical in their praise. They speak of Hudson's in-line, high compression engines in the manner a horseman speaks of a brilliantly performing thoroughbred.

England tells of one wealthy Montana rancher who tried several makes of cars in an effort to outrun the Patrol's Hudsons. He finally gave up on American cars and bought himself a foreign sports car.

The reputation of the Hudson fleet has been the cause of many unscheduled road races on Montana's highways. England himself once overtook a speeding car in a race that hit 100 miles per hour. The driver identified himself as police chief from a neighboring state who had heard that Montana's patrol cars were the fastest in the country and he was only testing them out.

"He still got a ticket," England said.

Hudson riding comfort also comes in for its share of praise from patrolmen. With such vast areas to cover, many frequently spend twenty hours at a stretch at the wheel. When speaking of the pre-Hudson days in a light car, the patrolmen groan in unison.

England cites Hudson riding comfort as an important factor in Patrol morale. With the light

cars, driving fatigue was a major problem. The switch to Hudsons stopped these complaints.

"Long distance driving in a Hudson is like sitting in an easy chair in your own living room," is the way one patrolman summed it up. uv (

England tells of three "bad back" cases assigned to light duty because they could not take long hours in a lighter car. The men are now back on full patrol duty in Hudsons and never miss the opportunity to tell anyone who will listen about Hudson riding comfort.

Needless to say, many patrol members own Hudsons as their personal cars. England estimates that some 20 troopers are Hudson owners. His charming wife, Lee, drives a Hudson convertible which was borrowed for her to drive in a civic celebration. So impressed was she with Hudson ease-of-handling that she persuaded England to buy the car for her personal use.

Shortly after, England was glad that she had "sold" him on the convertible. He was following his wife on the highway when her convertible blew a tire. "At the speed she was traveling, a lighter car would have rolled over," England declared. "But she brought the Hudson to a stop with no trouble-a most convincing demonstration of Hudson's perfect balance."

England has answered many inquiries from police officials of other states on the subject of Hudson performance.

"Hudson performance and economy is a matter of record with the Montana Highway Patrol," he states. "I make no reservations in recommending Hudsons as the ideal cars for all law enforcement agencies or any big fleet operation where superior performance and low operating costs are required."

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### **Hudson Related Items for Sale**

<http://socalhet.org/salesroom.htm>

### **Restoration Resources & Suppliers**

<http://socalhet.org/suppliers.htm>

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## **SCC Officers**

**President:** Jon Cronk 805/987-8187  
**Vice President:** Jack Scott 323/259-8448  
**Secretary:** Brad Forbush 818/840-8979  
**Treasurer:** Gordon Hay 818/247-0753  
**Tour Chairman:** Noah Blough 626/799-6107  
**Communications:** Bob Ross 626/355-8747

**Membership:** Susan Ross 626/355-8747  
**Club Store Manager:** Jon Cronk 805/987-8187  
**Local Region Directors:** Janet Kale 714/523-0403  
Craig Kistler 714/256-2558  
**HET President:** Mike Cherry 435/657-0443

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# **HUDSONS KNOW THE WAY TO SAN JOSE**

**YOUR INVITED FOR SOME REAL  
HUDSON HOSPITALITY  
AT THE  
2008 WESTERN REGIONAL MEET**

**HOLIDAY INN, 1740 N. FIRST ST.  
SAN JOSE, CA 95112  
408-993-1234**

**THURSDAY-SATURDAY  
MAY 22,23, AND 24<sup>TH</sup>.**

**ROOM RATES AT \$79.00  
( WED. AND SUN. RATES \$99.00)**



# 2008 HET CLUB WESTERN REGIONAL MEET SAN JOSE, CA MAY 22,23, AND 24<sup>TH</sup>.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SECOND BADGE \_\_\_\_\_  
ST. ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY REGISTRATION, BEFORE MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>, \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
AFTER MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

FRIDAY, TOUR OF NUMI CAR FACTORY, \$5.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_  
THE FACTORY TOUR WILL SELL OUT EARLY  
SO SEND IN YOUR REGISTRATION ASAP.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON WINE & CHEESE SOCIAL **FREE**

SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET, MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>.  
CHICKEN@ \$35.00 EACH #TICKETS \_\_\_\_\_  
BEEF @ \$35.00 EACH #TICKETS \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE RESERVATION DIRECTLY WITH HOLIDAY INN SAN JOSE  
408-993-1234, MENTION HUDSON CLUB FOR \$79.00 ROOM RATE.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO NOR-CAL HET CLUB

SEND TO: JAMES WOOD  
1709 BERKELEY WAY #C  
BERKELEY, CA 94903-1500

QUESTIONS: ED DREXLER 415-452-8141, CELL 415-672-2084  
hudsonhornet@gmail.com

