



# Sidelights

The Official Newsletter of the  
Santa Rosa Horseless Carriage Club of America  
March/April 2026



**Next Meetings:** May 14 and June 11, 5:30pm

Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at **Round Table Pizza, 2065 Occidental Rd, Santa Rosa**

## SRHCC Monthly Meeting – March 12, 2026

### Attendees:

Kim & Wayne Simoni, Don & Pam Johnson, Linda Eggleston, John Pearson, Bill Scales and Cinda Craven, Vicky Porter, Guy & Michelle Smith, Pat & Karen Stoll

President Guy Smith called the meeting to order 5:50pm

### Sunshine (Michelle Smith):

- Michelle has finished radiation and settled on new medications. She's finally feeling like herself.
- Vicki reported that she'd been at the ER, ICU and Acute Rehab since Jan 26! Intestinal blockage! Just came home on Monday March 9! Hooray – she's back in action!



### Treasurer (Linda Eggleston):

- \$1,970.68 in our SRHCCA account.
- Patrick Stoll still owes his 2026 dues 😊
- This is good; we are hosting a box lunch and porta-potty for the Nickel Tour out of Petaluma on Wednesday August 5. Here is some current evolving thinking:
  - Gold Ridge Organic Farms (olive oils, many varieties of apples)
  - Visit Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese Company (cheese tasting on the patio)
  - Tour north on Highway 1 to River Road and stop at Armstrong Woods, box lunch picnic either Armstrong Woods or Portuguese Beach on Sonoma coast
  - Georgetown
  - Balletto Winery
  - Return to Sheraton

**Tours (John Pearson):**

- Sunday May 3: Fisherman's Festival
- May 1-2: Bakersfield Swap Meet
- May 2-5: Bridge Tour – Yosemite Campout
- May 6-10: National Convention & Tour, Friant CA
- July 22-Aug 1: Harrah's Homecoming
- July 29-Aug 2: Ryan Ramble, Fortuna CA
- Aug 3-6: Nickel Era Touring Registry, Petaluma CA

**Open Floor:** Lively discussion had by all!

President Guy Smith called the meeting to close 6:28pm

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Simoni,  
SRHCCA Secretary

**SRHCC Monthly Meeting – April 9, 2026**

**Attendees:**

Kim & Wayne Simoni, Don & Pam Johnson, Linda Eggleston, Bill Scales and Cinda Craven, Guy & Michelle Smith, Pat & Karen Stoll

President Guy Smith called the meeting to order @ 5:46pm

**Sunshine (Michelle Smith):**

- Michelle received a stack of cards from John Pearson (via Linda Eggleston)
- Vicki will be sent a card; her back is not doing well
- Agreed that if we haven't seen someone at a meeting in a while, Michelle will send a card or call.

**Treasurer (Linda Eggleston):**

- \$1,942.68 in our SRHCCA account.
- Patrick Stoll paid his 2026 dues 😊

**Tours:**

- Sunday May 3: Fisherman's Festival. Meet downtown Forestville @ 10am
- May 1-2: Bakersfield Swap Meet
- May 2-5: Bridge Tour – Yosemite Campout



- May 6-10: National Convention & Tour, Friant CA
- **June SRHCCA Tour: Open**
- July 22-Aug 1: Harrah's Homecoming
- July 29-Aug 2: Ryan Ramble, Fortuna CA
- **July SRHCCA Tour: Open**
- Aug 3-6: Nickel Era Touring Registry, Petaluma CA
  - SRHCCA Hosts Wednesday Aug 5 Tour Day (~94 miles, will try to shorten to 70):
    - Gold Ridge Organic Farm (olive oils, many varieties of apples) – lovely venue
    - Tour north on Highway 1 to River Road
    - Stop at Armstrong Woods, box lunch picnic
    - Georgetown (Frei Road)
    - Balletto Winery
    - Return to Sheraton
- Sept SRHCCA Tour: Guy & Michelle Smith
- **Oct SRHCCA Tour: Open**
- **Nov SRHCCA Tour: Open**



**Open Floor:** Lively discussion had by all!

President Guy Smith called the meeting to close 6:30pm  
 Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Simoni, SRHCCA Secretary

## MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> FISHERMAN'S FESTIVAL TOUR

Tour Leader: John Pearson

Meet: Downtown Forestville, 10am

Don't forget to bring a warm jacket, hat and maybe even gloves! Weather forecast is a high of 58 degrees but will feel like 47-55 degrees. That wind likes to kick up and make it nippy. Just what made Linda Pearson love this tour!



# FESTIVAL

## May 2 & 3, 2026

WESTSIDE PARK • BODEGA BAY, CA

**10AM - 5PM  
BOTH DAYS**

**LIVE MUSIC**

**SEAFOOD**

**WINE • BEER**

**FOOD TRUCKS**

**BOAT BUILDING  
CONTEST & RACE**

**ART SHOW & SALE**

**CRAFT BOOTHS**

**BLESSING  
OF THE FLEET &  
BOAT PARADE**

**KIDS ZONE**

**BOUNCY HOUSES**

**SATURDAY  
HEADLINER**

**TAINTED  
LOVE**  
The Best of  
the 80s Live

ROTTEN TOMATOES  
DRY CREEK STATION

**SUNDAY  
HEADLINER**

**MUSTACHE  
HARBOR**  
Soft Rock  
Tribute Band

40 FATHOMS  
PETTY ROCKS



### "Fish to Dish"

Advance Tickets and Details:  
[bbfishfest.org](http://bbfishfest.org)




Westside Park is operated by Sonoma County Regional Parks. Sonoma County Board of Supervisors grant sponsor. The Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival is a 501 (c) (3) California nonprofit charitable organization.

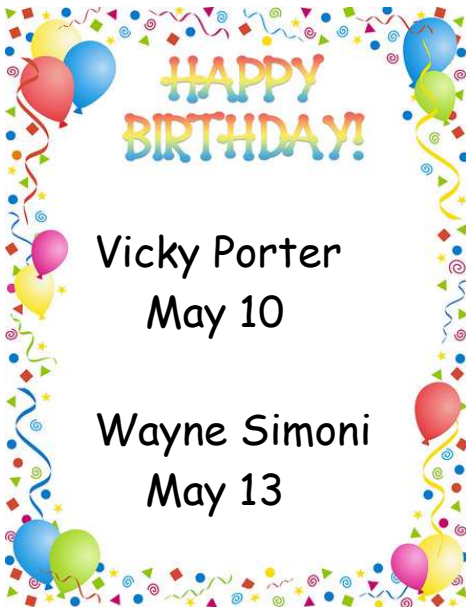
Artwork by Melinda Killen © 2026

# 2025 SANTA ROSA HCCA REGIONAL GROUP MEMBERSHIP

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KEY	OFFICERS & POSITIONS	
(F) = Fax	<b>President:</b> Guy Smith	<b>Editor:</b> Cinda Craven
(W) = Work Phone	<b>Vice Pres:</b> Don Johnson	<b>Historian:</b> <span style="color: red;">Vacant</span>
(C) = Cell Phone	<b>Secretary:</b> Kim Simoni	<b>Membership:</b> <span style="color: red;">Vacant</span>
(NDNP) National Dues Not Paid	<b>Treasurer:</b> Linda Eggleston	<b>Sunshine:</b> Michelle Smith
<span style="color: red;">(LDNP) Local Dues Not Paid</span>	<b>Directors:</b> Bill Scales	<b>Tour Chair:</b> John Pearson
		<b>Webmaster:</b> Wayne Simoni



Why did the early motorist love his new driving horseless carriage? It was a little buggy.  
 How did the inventor of the car advertise his "horse-less carriage"? He said it goes without a hitch.

## Assemble Your Own, 1903

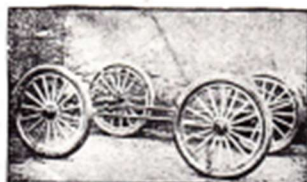
The industry had started to expand by 1903 when the Brecht Automobile Company (below, left) of St. Louis offered to supply two different styles of running gears (chassis) so the purchaser could assemble his own car, electric, steam, or gas. Furthermore, it offered either solid or pneumatic tires and the chassis was complete with springs and wood wheels. Several early manufacturers offered automobiles in knockdown form.

Below, right, is the Scott car, manufactured in St. Louis by the makers of Reliable storage batteries. Note the claim of "30 miles on one

battery charge," which was quite a remarkable feat and well worth talking about then.

Below is the \$800 Northern Runabout, also a 1903 model, which was one of the first cars to be manufactured in Detroit. In some ways this little car was similar to the famous curved-dash Oldsmobile, in that it had a single-cylinder engine mounted in the rear and the car could be cranked from the driver's seat. Wood artillery wheels were used and the brake drum and band were housed within the center differential unit. The Northern had two forward speeds and one reverse.

### GET A RUNNING GEAR and BUILD YOUR OWN AUTOMOBILE



We make two styles, solid rubber or pneumatic tires, complete with springs and wood wheels.

The Brecht Automobile Co., 1205 Cass Av., St. Louis, Mo.

"THIS WILL CARRY YOU"

30 Miles

On One

Charge . .



MADE BY

SCOTT AUTOMOBILE COMPANY

3927-3939 OLIVE STREET,

ST. LOUIS, U. S. A.

Manufacturers of Reliable Storage Batteries.

Write for Prices.

## Northern Automobiles



EIGHT HUNDRED  
DOLLARS

FOR speed, safety, and solid strength the Northern surpasses all other gasoline runabouts. The crowning triumph of twelve years of automobile building by a master mechanic. Perfectly constructed of the best materials, of beautiful design, superbly finished; odorless and noiseless; easy to start and operator has absolute control. There is every provision for comfort; big luxurious cushions; pivotal body bearings that insure a motion independent of the motor and combine with the springs to absorb all vibration. The sturdy Northern Automobile is a substantial product of a substantial company and has records for speed and endurance. Write for Catalog and name of nearest agent.

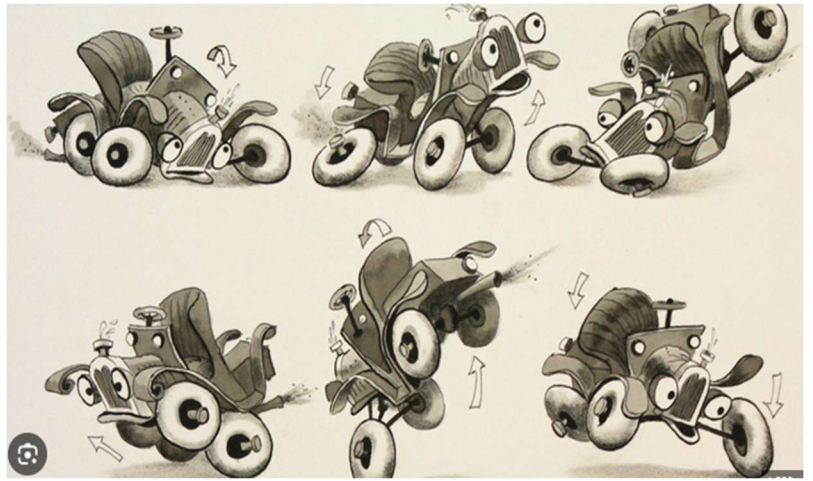
NORTHERN MANUFACTURING COMPANY,

Detroit, Mich.

## Ward Kimball and the Whimsical Wheels of the Horseless Carriage Gazette

Cinda Craven with ChatGPT

Few figures in American animation brought as much exuberance, curiosity, and sheer playful irreverence to their work as Ward Kimball. Best known as one of Walt Disney's Nine Old Men, Kimball helped shape classics like *Pinocchio* and *Fantasia*. But beyond the studio lot, he nurtured another lifelong passion: antique automobiles, particularly the quirky, ingenious machines of the brass era. That passion found a perfect outlet in his delightful contributions to the *Horseless Carriage Gazette*.



Published by the Horseless Carriage Club of America, the *Gazette* has long been a cornerstone for enthusiasts of pre-1916 automobiles. While its pages are full of technical research and historical documentation, Kimball's cartoons added something uniquely human: humor, personality, and a sense that these early machines were as much about adventure as engineering.

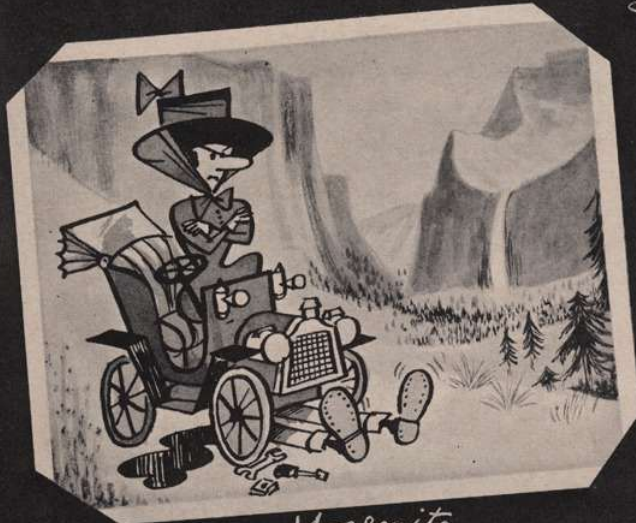
Kimball approached his cartoons much the same way he approached animation—with movement, exaggeration, and storytelling. His drawings often featured wide-eyed motorists wrestling with balky engines, overconfident drivers bouncing along primitive roads, or improbable mechanical contraptions barely held together by optimism and ingenuity. In his hands, a 1903 touring car might puff, sputter, and wink at the reader.

What made Kimball's work especially fitting for the *Gazette* was his deep authenticity. Unlike an outsider poking fun, he was very much "one of the tribe." Kimball owned and operated several antique locomotives and early automobiles, and his understanding of their quirks was firsthand. He knew the smell of hot oil, the unpredictability of ignition systems, and the stubborn personalities of early engines. His cartoons didn't just entertain, they resonated.

His visual style leaned into caricature without sacrificing historical detail. Brass lamps gleamed and passengers clung to their seats as if bracing for chaos. Yet the cars themselves were often accurately rendered enough that knowledgeable readers could identify makes and eras.

# ASININE ALBUM

*Or Summer Touring with me and Bill -*



*Yosemite*



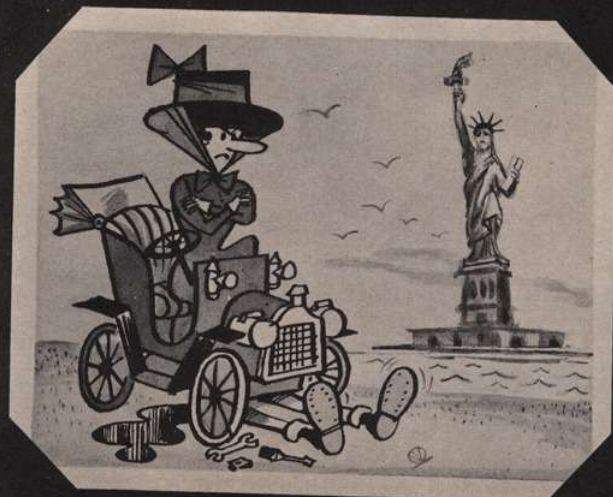
*Natural Bridge*



*Yellowstone*



*Wash. D.C.*



*Staten Island*



*The Everglades*

Kimball also captured something essential about the spirit of early motoring: its unpredictability. In an age before standardized roads and reliable infrastructure, every outing was an experiment. His cartoons celebrated that uncertainty. Breakdowns weren't failures, they were part of the story. Dust clouds, startled livestock, and bemused pedestrians populated his scenes, reminding readers that the horseless carriage was once a novelty bordering on absurdity.

Within the pages of the *Horseless Carriage Gazette*, Kimball's cartoons served as a counterbalance to dense articles and archival photography. They invited readers to laugh at the shared eccentricities of their hobby. For longtime collectors and newcomers alike, his illustrations reinforced a simple truth: enthusiasm for early automobiles has always been fueled as much by joy as by scholarship.

Today, his cartoons remain a cherished part of *Horseless Carriage Gazette* history. They remind us that behind every polished restoration is a story—often a messy, noisy, and very funny one. And through Kimball's pen, those stories continue to roll on, as lively as the machines that inspired them.

## **The 23rd Annual Oakmont Car Show-Online Registration Invitation**

Show Date: **Saturday, May 23, 2026**

Location: **6633 Oakmont Dr. (Berger Center Parking Lot) Santa Rosa**

All registration entries must be made online. Simply click on this link to register: [carshowpro.com/event/3074](https://carshowpro.com/event/3074). Once you're there, please fill out all the fields on the registration page and submit. Car Show Pro is a secure website that does not sell or disclose any of your personal information.

Please remember, don't pay any money online. You'll pay your \$15.00 registration fee (cash) at the Oakmont Car Show check-in table on the day of the event, Saturday, May 23, 2026. Remember, we print out the window placards in advance for all cars entered. You'll be given your individual placard at the registration table.

If you live in Oakmont, you can show any car you want. If you're not an Oakmont resident, your car must be either a "classic" or an "exotic" or be older than 1975.

Please note: As always, **"Check in time" is from 8:45 AM to 9:45 AM.**

The car show hours are from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Since we expect to be "sold out" of spaces, we will develop a wait list.

Also, the Oakmont Market will be there again with coffee, snacks and lunch.

This year's musical entertainment will be announced shortly.





Northern California  
Engineering Contractors Association



# Father's Day

# 31st Annual

## "Show & Shine"

# Car Show

Sunday, June 21, 2026 • 9 am - 4 pm • Juilliard Park, Santa Rosa, CA



**PLATINUM**   
**CHEVROLET** *Santa Rosa*



Drinks & Food Trucks ♦ DJ ♦ Raffles ♦ Class Trophies ♦

**Cost to enter a car: \$50**

\$70 day of, if not sold out

Email [mw@nceca.org](mailto:mw@nceca.org) for flyer or click on above QR code to register online

***Free to Spectators***

Take this opportunity to show your Classics, Hot Rods, New & Antique. Proceeds help support ECA's Community Relation Projects.

Information & registration  
707.546.5500  
[mw@nceca.org](mailto:mw@nceca.org)  
[www.nceca.org](http://www.nceca.org)

**HORSELESS CARRIAGE CLUB OF AMERICA**



*Announcing . . .*  
**2026 National Tour  
& Convention**



*aka*  
**California  
RENDEZVOUS V**

*Save the dates;*

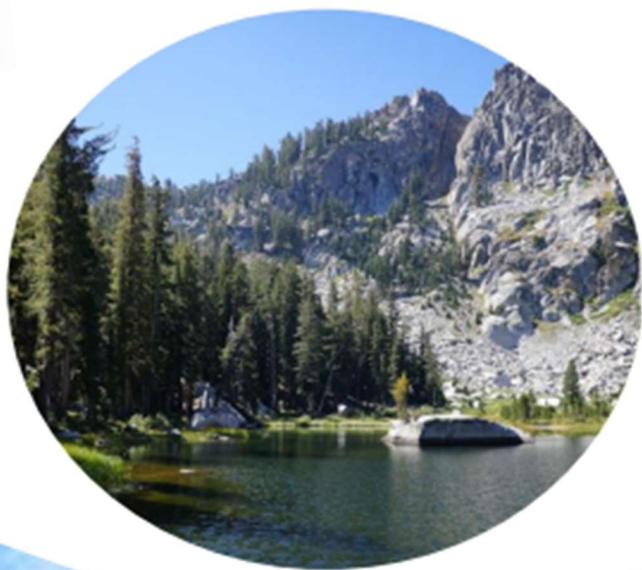
**May 6-10**

*Nestled in the foothills of the  
Southern Sierra Nevada mountains,  
Friant, California serves as the ideal  
gateway to breathtaking natural  
wonders and rich historic landmarks*

*More information coming soon . . .*

*Your hosts:*

Jim & Dianna Skillicorn  
(831) 455-5150



Host Hotel  
Table Mountain Casino



## Springtime 200 Mile Speedster Run and Lowland Tour

### *“Adventure in the Sierra Nevada”*

Sponsored By Northwest Vintage Speedsters

May 15-17, 2026  
Orangevale, California

Friday's warmup Tour and  
Saturday's Lowland Tour  
open to any pre-1934 automobile

Sunday's Endurance Run only open to  
pre-1934 4-cylinder Speedsters

Headquartered at Matt & Maya Ryan's home

**To receive an emailed registration packet  
for this event please send an email  
request to**

**Matt Ryan, [amheatandac@gmail.com](mailto:amheatandac@gmail.com)**

Note “Speedster Run” on the subject line and  
include your name, phone, and email address in  
the narrative.

### **Itinerary:**

#### ***Day 1 – Friday, May 15, 2026***

Registration at Headquarters starting at noon. Afternoon warm-up tour starting at 3:00 pm, approximately 25 miles. Hors d'oeuvres and socializing in the evening.

#### ***Day 2 – Saturday, May 16, 2026***

Lowland Tour in the foothills to a private collection, approximately 100 miles.

#### ***Day 3 – Sunday, May 17, 2026***

200 mile speedster run through the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains. Expect some steep hills and dirt roads. The evening includes a BBQ banquet and award's ceremony in the Ryan's Garage.



**Entry Deadline 4/1/2026**



June 1-5

ABC III Tour

Pine Mountain, GA

Sponsor: Atlanta Regional Group

Awesome Brass Cars

(Limited to 50 cars)

Join us in celebrating America and saluting our veterans!

- Army Infantry Museum
- Roosevelt's Little White House
- Civil War Naval Museum
- Callaway Gardens
- Duracell Battery Company
- Wild Animal Safari Ride
- KIA Motors
- Columbus Collective Museums
- And more

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