

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

p.1-2	Editors Introduction
p.3	Picture Caption Contest
p.4	Cruise Night Information
p.5-6	Guest Writers' Columns
p.7-8	My Car Story
p.9-10	The Archive / Editor's Closing

Our featured Guest Writers

Aren't we lucky to have them!

Dennis Quitoni

Those of you who know Dennis know what a pro he is. Pro racer, pro car builder, and a pro spokesman for the whole sport of drag racing! Dennis has designed, built, and raced more cars than anyone I know.

In this issue he takes the time to tell us about the time we should take for safety's sake on the track. Boy is this compelling!

My Car Story

Tom Zomerfeld has built one of the coolest custom conversions around! We all know about Rancheros and El Caminos; neat vehicles that combine a car with the functionality of a truck bed, but to do the same thing— in a Buick!?

Yes, that's right. Read on to see what the imaginative mind of Tom has created!

"September Show Season!"

(Your feedback and comments are welcomed!)

When discussing the best month's for car shows, when to host them and the attendance they generate, it comes down to May and September every time. June is a close third place.

Most car shows and events are planned for May and June. Sometimes in those two months there are as many as 7 or 8 events on any given Sunday. Clubs often wrestle over who is doing what when, and try not to overlap each other.

Why you ask?
Several reasons.

The first being the weather. These two months are warm, sunny and not too hot. May is positioned well for that and so is September.

Next is – attendance. May follows the lousy weather of winter and often April is a bit chilly and rainy. People have been longing to get their vehicles out and drive, so when the shows start popping up in May, they are very well attended.

During the summer months of July and August many people are on vacation, the weather is often very steamy, and sitting around for 6-8 hours on a show field is not always the most fun thing to do! But come September, it is perfect driving weather again – the cars love it, and hanging out on a crisp fall day at a show is fun – and comfortable!

So that being said, here are some highlights of the upcoming shows this September!

(Check our EVENTS CALENDAR for full listings)

Get out there take a ride to a show, and tell 'em Long Island Classic Cars.com sent ya!

continued on page 2

To start off the month - Memorial Day weekend is usually devoid of shows, but the Boy Scouts have one in Southold, and the North Fork Cruisers are hosting a charity one at Baiting Hollow Farm. So take advantage of this if you do not have any major holiday weekend plans!

Even during the week there are events, such as VCCA at St Albans VA Hospital on the 6th. If you are off, head down with your car and help support our Veterans!

Next up on the weekend of the 9th and 10th, MANY shows are planned. Saturday has two and Sunday has no less than NINE car shows on the same day! (*See what I mean about September!*) Veteran long time shows by the Kiwanis and Moose clubs, VCCA and CCA, as well as a Jaguar/MG Concourse show, Mustangs, and the biggie by Sandy Kane over at his new location in Westbury! LI Cruzin' For a Cure. Also an Italian car Concorso d'Eleganza in Stony Brook, and a charity car & bike show in Middle Island as well.

All not to be missed! So what'dya do on a day like this?!?!
Transporters!! That's the answer.
Have Scotty beam you around from one car show to the other!

The weekend of the 17th is hosting five shows - and a Road Rally in Southampton! Fab 50's & 60's are busy boys with two of them, and also ones in Sea Cliff and at the Hallockville Farm! Saturday in Smithtown.

Lots to see and do the first few weekends of this month - and there are a TON more to follow!!

Another BIG eight event weekend coming up for the last weekend of the month -

Saturday the 23rd has a show by the Dix Hills Fire Department, and the huge two-day show starts at Eisenhower Park!

Then on Sunday the 24th....

Nassau County's Cruise to the Show continues at Eisenhower Park, Long Island Street Rods Association sponsors the Riverhead Raceway's second annual show, AHRC in Bohemia has their charity show for the residents, Baiting Hollow Church in Calverton has their yearly show, and the Fab 50's 60's Boys are at it again with the Columbus Lodge Street Fair in Massapequa!

To top it off there is another Concourse show at Old Westbury Gardens that features the Mercedes, Porsche, Ferrari and BMW car clubs in the region!

So there you have it folks. Did I lie? September is just nuts for car shows, cruises and the ever-popular road rallies!

And don't forget, there are other myriad events from the local car clubs that are not shows, but plenty interesting. The two Mopar Clubs - Long Island Mopars and Mopar Power Club are famous for doing at least two events during each month. They are listed along with all the shows, cruise nights, and more in our EVENT CALENDAR on the main page of our website. Check it out!

If you or your organization is running anything you do not see listed - call us and let us know! We'll post it up for you!

Peter Giordano, Editor



Long Island Classic Cars'

AUTOMOTIVE PICTURE CAPTION CONTEST

This contest is open to everyone!

(LI Classic Cars.com paid personnel, regular column writers, and business advertisers are not eligible.)

Winners will be notified by e-mail and/or phone.

Please submit all entries by the due date listed at the end of this page.

No substitutions of prizes will be allowed.

In the event of prize choices, winner will be given the opportunity to select the one they want.

All decisions are final and are made by the paid personnel of Long Island Classic Cars.com

Winners must claim their prizes within 30 days of contest end or forfeit the prize to the runner up.

If there are multiple correct entries on puzzle, matching, fill-in, or Q&A contests - winner will be randomly selected from all correct entries.

A few simple rules:

- 1) **Be funny and creative!**
- 2) **Keep it somewhat clean!**



Here is last month's winning entry! **Congrats to Bill Girimonti.**

Bill wins a bottle of Meguiar's Detail Spray and a Mini Dash Duster!!

Bill submitted about ten entries and several were really excellent!

The winning one selected is:

"FOR SALE - Gently used classic."

The runner up is **Steve Goldsmith** with "This car is a real s**t box!" Steve wins a Mini Dash Duster!

(Another good one from Bill - "No, That odor is just the catalytic converter!")

Here is this month's Picture Caption Contest image....



Send in your caption by 9/25/17 and be in the running to win the prize!

Cruise Night Information!



“EXTRA EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!”

Here are locations for 2017. They sometimes change. Let us know if you have info on any of them.
Updates will be posted in the next Newsletter & on our EVENTS CALENDAR

- MONDAYS: Main St. East Rockaway, NY (*June-August*)
\$3 Admission. Various Charity Fundraisers.
- MONDAYS: Bald Hill. Farmingdale, NY
\$15 Admission. Wow expensive! Run by the Town of Brookhaven
- TUESDAYS: Dogwood Avenue. Franklin Square, NY
Public Gathering. FREE
- TUESDAYS: Yaphank FD. Yaphank, NY.
Sponsored by Yaphank Fire Department - FREE
- TUESDAYS: Tri-County Flea Market. Hempstead Turnpike, Levittown, NY
Public Gathering. FREE
- TUESDAYS: Jesus is Lord Church. Holtsville, NY.
Sponsored by LI Needs A Dragstrip - FREE
- WEDNESDAYS: BLD's Restaurant. Hawkins Ave. Ronkonkoma, NY
Public Gathering. FREE
- WEDNESDAYS: CP LaManno's Restaurant. Rt 25a, Rocky Point, NY
Sponsored by North Fork Cruisers. FREE
- WEDNESDAYS: Parking Lot #4. Madison St (off Post), Westbury, NY
Public Gathering. FREE (New venue - 2016)
- WEDNESDAYS: King Kullen Center. Jericho Tpk. Garden City Park, NY
Public Gathering. FREE (New venue - 2016)
- WEDNESDAYS: Milleridge Inn. RTs 106/107, Jericho, NY
Sponsored by Milleridge Inn. \$5 Admission.
- THURSDAYS: Wendy's Shopping Center. Montauk Hwy and Locust Ave, Oakdale, NY
Sponsored by Still Cruisin' Car Club. FREE
- THURSDAYS: Kings Park Plaza-Located on Indian Head Rd & Meadow Rd. Kings Park, NY
Sponsored by Kings Park Chamber of Commerce and Professor's Diner. FREE
- THURSDAYS: Atlantic Avenue between Merrick Rd and Sunrise Hwy. Lynbrook, NY (*June-August*)
Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce for "Community Chest" soup kitchen. \$3 to charity.
- THURSDAYS: Main St. Peconic River Front, Riverhead, NY
Sponsored by The Chamber of Commerce. FREE (*June-August*)
- THURSDAYS: Sea Cliff FD, Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff, NY
\$5 Admission. Sponsored by The Sea Cliff Fire Dept..
- THURSDAYS: Main St., Mineola, NY
Sponsored by The Chamber of Commerce. FREE (*July-September*)
- FRIDAYS: Bellmore Train Station. Sunrise Highway. Bellmore, NY
Now run by...?.. some local group now charging \$5 - any info about this ??
- FRIDAYS: Massapequa Train Station. Sunrise Highway. Massapequa, NY
Sponsored by Massapequa Chamber of Commerce. Two cans or more of food – to charity. (*July - August*)
- FRIDAYS: Meschutt Beach @ The Beach Hut. Canal Rd. Hampton Bays, NY.
Public Gathering. FREE after 5PM
- SATURDAYS: Cedar Beach @ The Beach Hut. Ocean Parkway, Cedar Beach, NY
Public Gathering. FREE
- SATURDAYS: Super Stop & Shop. Rt 25 (1/4 mile east of the Bull), Smithtown, NY
Permission from Stop & Shop. FREE
- SUNDAYS: *AM Cruise* Ocean Pkwy, Captree Beach thru May, then at OBI. Babylon, NY
Public Gathering. FREE

Hey Brooklyn & Queens!?! You're part of LI too! Send us Cruise Night info!

Flying Lessons



By Dennis Quitoni
Guest Writer

It's been a while since my last contact with you guys. Here's why....

August 24, 2016 Englishtown, N.J. Old Bridge Raceway park. I'm on the starting line in the right hand lane at the drags. My left thumb is on the transbrake button holding the car still, my right foot is pressing the throttle to the floor. The motor is screaming at 5,500RPM, raw alcohol blowing out the zoomies! I see the starting line "christmas tree" flash yellow, my finger flies off the button, the front wheels leave the ground, the rear tires grip the track, and 1.1 seconds later I've accelerated past the sixty foot mark.

I'm approaching 100 MPH at that point. *YES, that's correct, only a tick over one second.* That's the good part of the story, because just under the two second point in the run, I hit the outside wall. Hard!

And High!

I literally went flying.

Spun around in mid air, bounced, and landed facing the starting line. O' well!

Now while I did have some injuries from this accident, mainly to my shoulder, that took a while to heal and set me back a bit, most of what I received were some minor scrapes and bruises.

I was fortunate.

So this article is to make you guys aware of the safety involved in these cars, and the equipment that we utilize.

My head is covered by a full face drag racing helmet that carries a current SFI specification. (*That's a testing and safety organization that sets the standard for what is needed in a helmet.*)

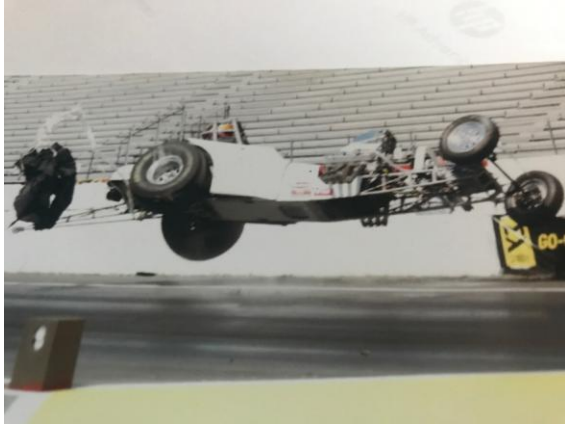
Attached to the helmet is a neck and head restraint, commonly known as a Hans device. It goes around my neck and is held in place by an attachment to the helmet, and the shoulder belts that go over it. My arm movements are controlled by a pair of arm restraints to limit the range of movement of my arms so that they can't reach outside the driver's compartment.



Most importantly, there is a six point, three inch wide, shoulder, lap, and crotch belt restraint system to keep me tight in the seat. Speaking of the seat. It's shaped to not only fit me, but to hold me in place. I also wear a multi layer Nomex one piece fire suit. [*and yes, it's hot in there!*] To complete the personal safety, I have Nomex gloves, and driving shoes.

Having and wearing all the proper race equipment can easily mean the difference between safely walking away from and accident, and major injury or death.

I hit the wall hard, tried to go over it, bounced, landed on the wheelie bar that's on the back of the car, rotated around, bounced again, and landed facing the starting line. I never moved inside the car.



And it's all on my GoPro!

All the above is only half of the safety, the rest is built into the car. These cars are built with chrome moly tubing. It's light weight, strong, flexible steel. All the tubing from the area in front of the driver's feet to behind the space that the driver sits in, is made from a larger and thicker diameter. The tubing size from the front of the feet going forward is made of a decreasing diameter and thickness, as is the tubing behind the driver onto the back of the car.

This is done so that as the car contacts something at speed, the thinner tubing absorbs some of the impact energy. The heavier thicker tubing is designed and shaped to keep the driver in and safe.



Well, there is one more element to the safety in these cars, preparation. Constant preparation. Stuff happens with race cars! By nature, we're trying to break them, we use them hard. So stuff happens.

If you own a race car, you need to look over everything, all the time. Something, anything, can and will come loose. When we come back from a race, my crew chief and I put the car on stands and not only eye ball the complete car from stem to stern, but we take a wrench to all the fasteners, change the oil, set the valves, set the air in the tires and more.

So why did I crash? Alcohol fuel is a coolant, we don't have a radiator or water pump, but because of old habits we keep water in the block. The pet cock in the bottom of the block on the left side of the motor leaked into the oil retention blanket under the motor, and as the car went into a wheel stand, the water poured out and went under the right rear tire. We didn't see it in the shop. **Poor maintenance!**

MAINTENANCE...is how we spell preparation. I know that most of you don't own a race car, and don't need a Nomex suit or the helmet, but if you drive a car, do some maintenance now and then. Look things over, check the front end, the tires, brakes, hoses, etc.

You know why?
Stuff happens, that's why!

*(Glad you are safe and sound Dennis!
Thanks for the tips – and lesson!)
Pete*



My Car Story



1960 Buick El Camino

By Tom Zomerfeld

Here is the history of my car creation ...

I owned a 1960 Buick LeSabre wagon in a beautiful blue color. I always have loved those lines and the shapely angles the designers created, and to this day they remain one of my favorites. Sometimes though, as nice as the factory did it, you just want to tweak it a bit!

Or a lot in my case!

I came about this car while browsing around the internet, and saw that on FB someone was selling another 1960 LeSabre wagon (for parts) in Colorado. Well I had to buy it – and it was only \$2000 with shipping so it would have been hard to pass up!



When the car arrived it had a pretty rust free body, however the interior was dry and crusty! Typical for a car from out west. But car overall it was rust free and had lots of parts I could use.

So one day in February 2014 while hanging around with couple of friends in my garage (that's usually where trouble starts!), I was thinking "What am I going to with two wagons?"

Well one of my buddies, Kenny, said he knows somebody who welds metal pretty darn good, and then the vision came into play – "Why don't I have him make an El Camino!" Then Kenny said he has a saws-all why don't I call him!"

Next thing you know, Danny came over with trailer and all, he looked at car and said "I'll have the roof off in three days!" So, off the car went to his garage just as the snow started to fall.



I visited Danny every other day and kept coming up with ideas for the custom creation we were building. Some big changes were: bucket seats, and using the old roof for a rear panel. Danny's idea was to alter the roofline dimensions, then weld the side panels in - and the rest was a dream come true!

One of a kind styling, all out of a two car garage and the help of some friends!



A friend of Danny' had a son - Dennis Deion, who also worked out of his garage. He is a body and paint man, young guy who is now opening his own shop! We got him to come and looked at the car. At that time there were welds over the whole car and everything was kind of an unfinished bit of a mess. Dennis said "Yeah no problem, I can do it."

After a bit of nervousness, let me say those word were so true, I wanted a pantina look and nice finish work and he knocked it out of the park!

When it came to the interior, Danny knew what I was looking to have done, and he told me where to get the material. Then believe it or not, Dennis the body guy said "No problem, I'll handle it."



He did the bed interior, then Tony from Tony's Creations finished things off. He has great vision - old school type vision! I wanted specific details over the whole car, they got it done, and it really brought the car to this level of unique style and craftsmanship. I did the bucket seats, they are from a 1960 Mercedes 190. You can see so many custom touches throughout the interior and on the body!

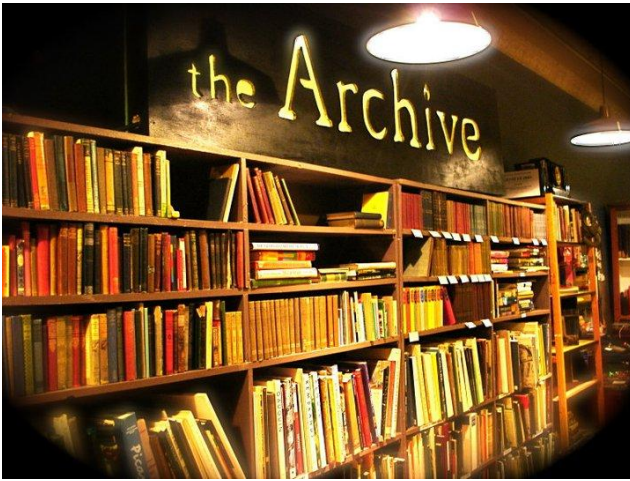


It was a fun project and I really enjoy driving it around and the attention it gets from folks. You have to look at it for quite a while to see all the custom details!

(Lots of fun, kitchy things in it too!!)

Pete





Here is where we keep the past records of all our old Newsletter editions. You will never find them on your own, as they are kept at a secret and secure location inside an impenetrable vault.

These are the latest pictures of our facility.



Once inside, access is only obtained by permission of our crack staff of security and record-keeping personnel.

WARNING: They are highly trained in all forms of martial arts and weapons use. Though they might not look the part, these are serious individuals. Be forewarned!



On occasion we will surreptitiously move the contents to other secure locations we have contracted to use. Our documents are very valuable and their protection is of paramount importance to the Collector Car Hobby.

Here is a picture of "Ed". He is one of our top Archivists. He is experienced, having been involved in the car hobby since 1947. He is also a former Green Beret and was an NSA auditor.



Here is a link you can use to view these old materials.....enjoy!

<http://www.liclassiccars.com/Newsletter/>

"Closing Comments"

'It's about time!!

By Peter Giordano
Editor

This time out the LICC Newsletter is a somewhat shorter edition than usual. I thought it was time to give some of the writers a break and let them enjoy the end of the summer!

But – next time out, I expect all hands on deck again! Pedal to the metal, full throttle, nose to the grindstone, balls to the wall, and all the other catchy sayings that go with lots of work and effort!

Here's a reminder:

I hope you all have had a chance to watch some of our latest and greatest vid clips on our **VIDEOS PAGE!** So many entertaining ones to see – and more are on the way!!

We would also like to include some vids from you the public! If you have any cool car related vids that you have made, be it at racetracks, car shows, cruise nights, or just clips you have compiled - let us know! We would like to post them for you. And if you are a local car club, what better way to promote yourselves than with a viewing audience in the thousands! And it's all free!

So get yer cameras rollin' and send us something funny, cool, or just plain interesting. We'll post it for all to see!

On another note -

We are looking for new writers who have ideas and would like to try their hand at it. You can write just a one-time column if you like, or a series, or even become a regular on a part-time basis!

Don't worry about being an English major, perfect writer or speller, that is my job. I will make you look good!

We are actively seeking submissions for the MY CAR STORY features!

If you have a classic or specialty car or truck - let us know. We would love to do a feature on it!

One more thing --

We have started a database of cars for TV, movie, commercial, print and production companies!

I get calls and emails many times during the year from production companies. They need specialty cars and will pay you for your time and vehicle usage!

So - go now to the "Register Your Car" link on the website's main page and put in your information and some GOOD pictures of your car! We will keep them on file (privately), and when these production companies call, they will get to see your vehicle. It's free to register! Don't wait, do it now! Right after reading this Newsletter!!

Thanks for reading!

Peter Giordano
Editor

