

WHEELS

by the Bay



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of 50 Handy Car
Litter Bags!
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Indie filmmaker Ramona Maramonte at the Livermore Car Wash in Livermore

Photo by Gregory Cowley



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East Bay Car Culture: Something for Everyone

By Steve Natale

The Bay Area is known for its diversity of culture, and it only makes sense that the car culture here is equally diverse. The East Bay, and especially Alameda County, has a long history of car collecting and has an eclectic, vibrant car enthusiast scene. Car nuts have been here ever since the automobile became popular. Several racetracks were built in the area during the 1930's, including the

Coliseum, one of the biggest hot rod and custom shows in the country.

Today, the tradition of car enthusiasm in the East Bay continues. The classics are on display in Danville at the prestigious Blackhawk collection. Vintage muscle cars and hot rods are offered for sale at Kassabian Motors in Dublin and at Specialty Sales in Pleasanton. In Emeryville, vintage



Ken Freitas showed his chopped and flamed 1949 Chevy pickup at the Goodguys All American Get-Together in March.

Oakland Speedway. Touted as “the fastest dirt-track in the nation,” the Oakland Speedway was a one-mile oval located in Hayward, at the current site of the Bayfair Mall. In Emeryville, the Doble Steam Motors Company produced high-end steam-powered cars from 1924 to 1931. Many remember the Oakland Roadster Show at the Oakland

sports cars can be seen at Fantasy Junction. Street rods and muscle cars gather several times a year at the Alameda County Fairgrounds for shows and swap meets. One of the largest hot rod shows in the nation takes place there every August—the Goodguys West Coast Nationals—with over 3,000 cars in attendance. The famous Billetproof show in Antioch attracts rat rods and custom



The East Bay has a long history of love for cars. Oakland Speedway, shown here in 1952, was located at the current site of the Bay Fair Mall in Hayward.

Photo courtesy Matt Seret, www.seretcustoms.com

cars from all over the West Coast. Car clubs such as The Altamont Cruisers host car shows and Cruise Nights. These and dozens of other car events take place every weekend from spring through fall right here in Alameda County. No matter what your automotive taste, if you live in the East Bay, you are sure to find it.



Steve Natale has been collecting, restoring and obsessing about old cars for more than 30 years. He is a partner in GM Sports Salvage in San Jose, restoring vintage cars and providing parts to the collector car community worldwide. Steve also writes articles about classic cars for Examiner.com. Check out Steve's Facebook page for GM Sports Salvage and his regular column, Oakland Classic Car Examiner on Examiner.com.

INSIDER TIP #1:

The Best Way to Clean Up Spills

“No matter how careful we are when working on cars, spills sometimes happen. Auto fluids—such as transmission fluid, motor oil, etc.—are toxic and need to be handled with care. Don't use water on spills. Clean them up using rags or absorbents like kitty litter. Promptly sweep up and dispose of waste absorbents at your local household hazardous waste facility.”

— RICK SODERBERG, OWNER OF RICK'S PERFORMANCE, PLEASANTON

Editor's Note: For a list of household hazardous waste facilities, visit www.household-hazwaste.org.

2012 Summer & Fall Car Event Highlights



This 1963 Ford, shown at the Goodguys All American Get-Together, has found a second life as an art car.

June 2&3, Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton

Goodguys 19th Summer Get-Together (Car Show & Swap Meet)

June 2&3, Infineon Raceway, Sonoma
Sonoma Historic Motorsports Festival

June 3, Fremont, Ohlone College
Mopar Alley Rally (Car Show)

June 24, Downtown Pinole
21st Annual Northern California Cruisers "Cruisin' in the Sun" (Car Show)

July 13-15, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose
"Hot San Jose Nights" (Classic Car Event)

July 27-29, Infineon Raceway, Sonoma
NHRA Sonoma Nationals (Drag Racing Series)

August 18, Niles/Fremont
Hot August Niles Car Show

August 17-19, Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, Monterey

Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion

August 24-26, Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton

Goodguys 26th West Coast Nationals (Car Show & Swap Meet)

September 15, Antioch Fairgrounds, Antioch

Billetproof Nor-Cal (Car Show & Swap Meet)

September 15, Craneway Pavillion, Richmond

Green Drive Expo-Bay Area

September 15&16, Danville town center

Danville Concours d'Elegance (Classic, Vintage & Racing Car Show)

September 30, downtown Livermore
Altamont Cruisers 23rd Nostalgia Day Car Show

October 13, Park Street, Alameda
Park Street's 19th Annual Classic Car Show

RECYCLE USED MOTOR OIL & FILTERS

- Find an Oil Recycling Center near you
- Encuentre un Centro de Reciclaje de Aceite cerca de usted

RecycleUsedOil.org

INSIDER TIP #2: Leak Prevention

"To prevent leaks, check for drops in fluid levels and inspect the integrity of your hoses monthly. Repair any problems right away. If you're too busy or don't know how, take your car to a reputable mechanic twice a year (even if you're a low mileage driver) and ask for a leak inspection."

—JIM NIELSEN, SERVICE MANAGER AT BERKELEY MINICAR

A Beautiful Ride Deserves a Beautiful Road

by Joe Lucia

When I'm out enjoying a ride in my 1969 Corvette, there's nothing that brings me down more than seeing the roadside full of trash.

We live in one of most beautiful and desirable areas in the world. The combination of hills, bridges and the Bay is special, a real benefit of living here. Although private groups "Adopt the Highway" to clean up roadside litter, it's hard to keep up with it all. Litter also costs California (both the state and local counties) a LOT of taxpayer money to keep in check.

Litter may seem like just a blight issue, but it also becomes a water issue when it washes into creeks and the Bay. Not all of the litter you see on the roadways gets there from cars. In fact, much of it blows there from elsewhere—but we drivers have to look at the mess.

However, there are ways in which auto lovers like us affect the water quality here in Alameda County, even if they're much less visible than litter. Most of this has to do with



Joe Lucia with his 1992 and 1969 Corvettes.

how we maintain our cars. As an avid auto enthusiast and a retired longtime staff member of the Clean Water Program here in Alameda County, I'm helping to get the word out to fellow car owners about how we can take care of our vehicles while protecting our beloved Bay.

In this issue, you'll find guest columns from local auto lovers and more information on how car care can affect waterways, as well as great tips on how you can prevent pollution when taking care of your ride.

Joe Lucia is a retired longtime member of the Clean Water Program in Alameda County.

INSIDER TIP #3: Hauling stuff? Tie it down.

"The best solution to highway litter is to prevent it from happening in the first place. I keep my pickup truck bed clean and free of trash that can fly out. And when I transport gravel, mulch and other work materials, I avoid overloading and secure my cargo with tarps, weights and bungee cords."

—YASUKO RIVERA, OWNER OF WELL-TENDED GARDEN, BERKELEY

PUTTING THE BRAKES ON ROADSIDE LITTER



No "butts" about it: According to Clean Water Action, the most frequently littered item is cigarette butts. Butts are followed by food-related litter, including fast food wrappers, napkins, menus, cups and other kinds of packaging.

Whether it's tossed out a car window or blown from city streets to the roadsides by wind, the result is the same: an expensive mess to clean up.

CalTrans spends \$41 million a year to clean up roadside litter. By participating in the Adopt-a-Highway program, 20,000 Californians have cleaned over 15,000 miles of roadside since 1989. These efforts save the state some \$15 million a year in highway cleanup costs.

Win One
of 50 Handy Car
Trash Bags!



Stash the trash: Keep your car and the road clean.

These durable, reusable bags make it easy.

Enter by June 25: www.cleanwaterprogram.org/raffle
One entry per email address.

CUSTOM CAR SHOWCASE



Highlights from the Goodguys 2012 All American Get-Together:
This 1956 Chevy, owned by Jim Hague of Pleasanton, won a 2012 Goodguys Pick award.

Former shop teacher Mike Murphy shows off the custom engine in his 1966 Chevy Chevelle performance car.



Jess Visser's stunning 1933 Ford Coupe hot rod turned a lot of heads.

FAST FACT OR IDLE FICTION?

FACT OR FICTION?
"Inflating tires to the proper pressure saves gas!"

FACT! According to the U.S. Department of Energy, drivers can improve gas mileage by up to 3.3 percent by keeping tires optimally inflated. The proper tire pressure for your vehicle is usually found on a sticker in the driver's side door or glove box and in your owner's manual. Do not use the maximum pressure printed on the tire's sidewall.

FACT OR FICTION? "All cars need an oil change every 3,000 miles."

FACT & FICTION! It is generally agreed that only the toughest driving styles and older cars need oil changes every 3,000 miles.

However, there is no single rule about how frequently motor oil should be changed: It's best to consult your owner's manual. Changing oil more often than necessary uses up more oil and increases the cost of car maintenance.

FACT OR FICTION? "To save gas, it's better to idle than to turn the engine off and on."

FICTION! For most newer models, once the car is on, it's on. Unnecessary idling simply wastes gas and leads to more emissions pollution. The same thing goes for allowing a few minutes of unnecessary "warming up" for the engine before driving.

Is That a Sewer or a Storm Drain?

In general, drains inside the building are connected to the sewer system, and outside drains are connected to the storm drain system. It's important to keep car care products out of the storm drain system.



Storm Drain: an outdoor drain that flows directly to creeks and the Bay.



Sanitary Sewer Drain: an indoor drain that flows to the sewage treatment plant.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH WASHING MY CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY?

Keeping Your Car Clean—and Your Water Too

Washing your car in the driveway on a nice, warm summer day is fun. But what happens when your dirty wash water runs off the car and into the street is less delightful. In fact, it can put a damper on some other fun summer activities, like swimming in local lakes and playing by creeks. That's because when the soapy water flows into storm drains, it goes directly into creeks, wetlands and the Bay—without any treatment. Car wash water contains all the grime that used to be on your car—residue from gasoline, motor oil, heavy metals—as well as the chemicals from car wash detergents. All of these harm water quality and are highly toxic to fish and other aquatic life.

A much better way to get your ride spic-and-span—and keep our waterways clean—is to use a commercial car wash. These facilities are required to collect and treat the wash water, then discharge

it to the sanitary sewer system. Many also recycle the wash water and use it multiple times in the car wash process.

Opting for a commercial car wash doesn't have to be costly. At a coin-operated self-service car wash, as little as \$5 will buy you all you need for a thorough DIY clean, including use of a high-pressure spray wand, foaming brush and even a wax cycle. If you're willing to spend a few more bucks for less elbow grease, try an automatic car wash. Got kids? Take them along for a fascinating ride through the wash tunnel! Once on the conveyor, giant soft brushes and a sequence of water spouting arches and air nozzles clean your car's exterior, tires and even undercarriage. For those concerned about scratches to their vehicle's finish, "touchless" car washes and detail shops offering hand wash service are excellent options.



Indie filmmaker Ramona Maramonte (www.MomsGotMuscle.com) washes her 1969 Chevelle at the Livermore Car Wash in Livermore. At do-it-yourself washes, you can give your car all the TLC and personal attention that you would at home—without the dirty wash water ending up in our creeks, wetlands and the Bay. At the Livermore Car Wash, owner David Bedford says the water is monitored for mineral content so that the rinse water will not cause spots on the finish.

INSIDER TIP #4: Best Way to Wash Your Car

"When my car needs a good cleaning, I take it to a car wash that does the job right and recycles the water instead of sending all the soap and chemicals down the storm drain. Or if it's only lightly soiled, I use a waterless car wash cleaner that I can spray on and just wipe off with a cloth."

—JUSTIN LEHRER, BERKELEY RESIDENT AND FOUNDER OF THE WEBSITE WWW.SIMPATICARS.COM

Ready to try a new car wash? Get a 20% discount with the coupon on page 8!



Photo courtesy Auto Concierge, www.justwaxed.net

When hiring a mobile detailing service (one that comes to your location), make sure they use a mobile wash pad system, shown here. This ensures the wash water is emptied into the sewer and not the storm drain.

The Lowdown on an Oil Change Done Right

Taking precautions to prevent spills and properly disposing of used oil are two of the biggest things a DIYer can do to prevent water pollution and protect your family's health. Follow these easy steps:

1.



1969 Buick Riviera

Before draining your oil, make sure the drain pan is clean and large enough to capture all the oil. Have rags handy to clean up any drips and spills immediately.

2.



1954 Chevrolet Bel Air

Drain all the oil from the engine and filter into the pan. Drain the filter overnight to capture as much oil as possible. Use a funnel to transfer the oil into a leak-proof container.

Place the used filter into a bag and seal it.

DO NOT mix your oil with any other substances such as antifreeze, brake fluid or water—it contaminates the oil. If oil is mixed with other fluids, take it to your local household hazardous waste (HHW) facility and not to a used oil collection center.

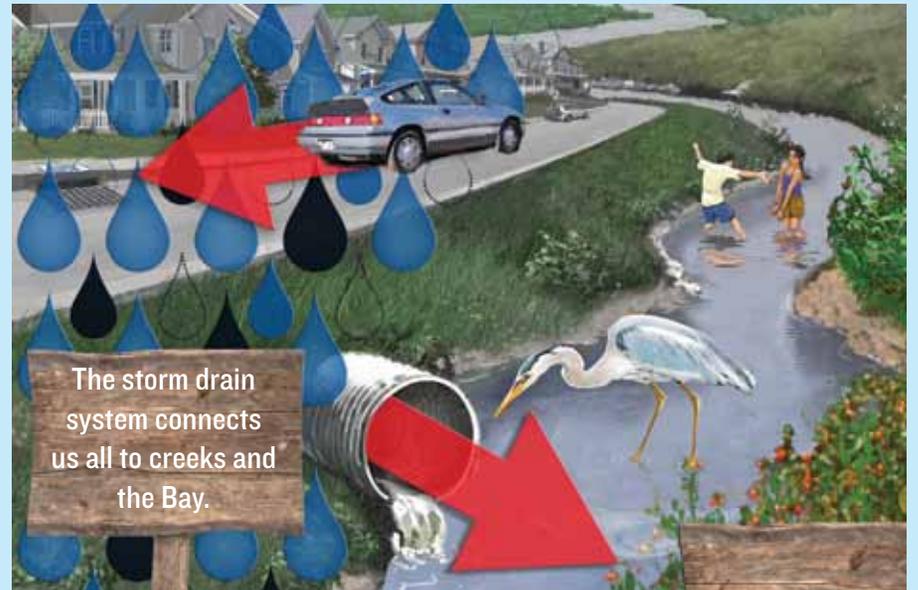
3.



Take your used oil and filter to any collection center near you. Find nearby locations at www.RecycleUsedOil.org.

OR

Check with your local waste hauler to see if they offer free curbside collection. See Tip, at right.



THE STREET TO CREEK CONNECTION

Rain water washes dirt and grime off of streets, sidewalks, buildings and cars. Since paved surfaces can't absorb it, the dirty water flows into storm drains. The storm drain system, designed to prevent flooding, funnels storm water into creeks and channels that eventually bring the excess water to the Bay. Stormwater contains residues such as oil, auto fluids, pesticides, fertilizers—basically anything that's on an outdoor surface—and those pollutants end up in our water. Most of us don't intend to cause this pollution. But we can do our part to help prevent it, by practicing proper auto, home and garden maintenance. See www.cleanwaterprogram.org for more information.

INSIDER TIP #5: Take Advantage of Used Oil & Filter Collection Programs

"I love changing my own oil. Fortunately my garbage company offers curbside collection of used motor oil and oil filters. The first time I had oil to recycle, I called them to get an empty container. Then I just set it out with my carts on my pickup day. If you're a DIYer, try calling your garbage or recycling company to see if they offer a similar service."

—JON GATTI, CASTRO VALLEY RESIDENT

Editor's Note: You can also drop off oil at state-certified collection centers. To find a drop-off location, or to check if your garbage service includes curbside collection of used motor oil and filters, visit www.RecycleUsedOil.org.

Q&A with Custom Paint Artist, Keri Luiz

by Kas Neteler

Inspired by a hot rod TV show and some family encouragement, East Bay resident Keri Luiz got into custom art and pinstriping back in 2004. Once she tried the medium, she was hooked! We caught up with her at the Goodguys All American Get-Together in Pleasanton.

Keri, are you known for any particular style?

Skulls! I put them in a lot of my paintings. My style tends to change with my mood, or with what I am painting on at the time.

Describe your favorite project so far.

A glove box door for an early '50s Ford pickup for a fireman out in Napa. He saw the skull in a fireman's hat design I was creating to put on

a fire extinguisher, and wanted it on his truck's glove box door.

What is your dream project?

I'd love to do some painting on race cars and helmets, even though I know most of the artwork on race cars these days is done with vinyl. The helmets though...that would be fun!

How do you handle cleanup during a project?

You have to be super mindful about not dumping the thinners, paints or solvents in the sink or down the gutter. Working with lettering enamels like 1-Shot is really no different than handling, say, oil paints. Dispose of it properly. Really, it boils down to using common sense.



Keri Luiz demonstrated her art at the Goodguys All American Get-Together on March 25. For more info on Keri Luiz and her pinstriping adventures check out: <http://www.facebook.com/PhoenixArt> <http://phoenixarts.blogspot.com>

INSIDER TIP #6: Dispose of Auto Products Safely

"When I'm done with the solvents I use in my custom paint and pinstriping work, I take them to my local hazardous waste collection center. I hope you will too!"

—KERI LUIZ, CUSTOM PINSTRIPER

Editor's Note: This same advice holds true for automotive products too. Brake fluid, antifreeze, tire cleaners and other products like these cannot be put into the trash, dumped on the ground, or poured down the sink. Instead, take advantage of free, safe disposal. Contact Alameda County's Household Hazardous Waste Program for more information on where, when and how it works: www.household-hazwaste.org, or 800-606-6606.



Clean Water Program members include all of the cities in Alameda County, unincorporated areas of Alameda County, the Flood District and Zone 7 Water Agency.

Proper Car Care Protects Our Water

The Clean Water Program empowers Alameda County residents to protect local waterways. Using less-toxic alternatives for auto care, properly disposing of auto chemicals and used oil, washing your car properly and preventing spills and leaks are all things you can do to prevent pollution.

To learn more, visit www.cleanwaterprogram.org.

Protecting Alameda County Creeks, Wetlands & the Bay



20% off Car Wash

As a thank you for helping to keep our storm drains free of pollutants, here is a coupon valid for 20% off the full price of any one car wash service offered at one of the locations below. One coupon per customer. May not be combined with any other offer. Offer valid from May 24–July 15, 2012.



FREMONT

RADIANCE CAR WASH
34867 Ardenwood
Boulevard, Fremont, CA
94555
www.pcandf.com

RADIANCE CAR WASH
2950 Automall Parkway,
Fremont, CA 94538
www.pcandf.com

PACIFIC CAR WASH
41080 Trimboli Way,
Fremont, CA 94538
(510) 651-8515

HAYWARD

MISSION HAND CAR WASH
23981 Mission Boulevard,
Hayward, CA 94544
(510) 733-6335

VALERO 92
390 West Jackson Street,
Hayward, CA 94544
www.wash92.com

OAKLAND

LEE'S AUTO LAUNDRY
3901 Telegraph Avenue,
Oakland, CA 94602
www.autodetailoakland.com

SAN LEANDRO

HESPERIAN 100% HAND
CARWASH
15018 Hesperian Boulevard,
San Leandro, CA 94578
www.hesperianhandwash.com

SUPERIOR GAS &
AUTO WASH INC.
14610 Washington Avenue,
San Leandro, CA 94578
(510) 351-3909

SAN LEANDRO CAR WASH
AND DETAIL
550 MacArthur Boulevard,
San Leandro, CA 94577
(510) 562-3550

A listing on this coupon does not constitute an endorsement of any business by the Clean Water Program.