

356 CAR

California Alta Region

2015 Issue 3



Sacramento's own Clint DeWitt (#54) and Paul Frame (#71) going at it during the Monterey Historics in August

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Tech Note**



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356CAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

San Mateo Breakfast

Mimi's Cafe, 2208 Bridgepointe Parkway, San Mateo. Take Mariners Island Blvd. exit just east of Hwy 101 on Hwy 92, head north, turn right on Bridgepointe Parkway, restaurant is on the right. Contact Michael Hodos at mehodos@mac.com or 650-326-1621.

Sacramento Breakfast

Marie Calendar's, 5525 Sunrise Blvd, Citrus Heights. Hwy 50 east to Sunrise Blvd., head north about 4 miles just past Madison Ave, restaurant is on the left. Contact Jim Hardie at jehardie@aol.com or 916-972-7232.

Hollister Breakfast

San Juan Oaks Golf Course, Hollister, 156 east off of Hwy 101, 4 miles past San Juan Bautista, right on Union Road, right to the golf course. Contact Jack Biersdorff at jbiersdorff@aol.com or 831-636-3046.

Santa Cruz Dinner

Johnny's Harborside 493 Lake Avenue, Santa Cruz 95062, 831.479.3430
Located in the upper yacht harbor just off Murray Street. Contact Steve Douglas at soquelglen@prodigy.net or 831-239-1291.

Central Coast Breakfast

Spanish Bay Golf Course Clubhouse, Pebble Beach. Enter 17 Mile Drive via the Pacific Grove Gate, mention the Porsche Breakfast for free entrance. Contact George Breein at gbreein@comcast.net or 408-888-5925

Cover photo courtesy of Pat DeWitt

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President's Message

By Barney Speckman

Gathering of the Faithful 2015,- Another Memorable Get Together

As promised, the "Gathering of the Faithful 2015" was one of the premier events of this year thanks to arrangements made by Rich Peters and his team. Over 110 faithful drove to the event at the beautiful Sonoma Mission Inn and Spa in Glen Ellen from all over Northern California on a beautiful September 13 Sunday. The weather in the morning cooperated so that most drivers were able to drive in comfort to the Gathering. The front lawn area was covered with about 60 beautiful 356 cars. Buffet brunch was served and each table was decorated with a colorful centerpiece thanks to George and Alexis Selland. Thanks to several donations from the collections of Rich and Ed Morris there were a number of car memorabilia items given away. Thank Rich and his team for a truly outstanding event.

North Meets South 2016

With fond memories of the great time had by all at this year's NMS in Cambia, hosted by the Southern California 356 Club, we now look forward to next year's 2016 event as it is our club's turn. The planning for North Meets South – 2016 is well underway for the event to be again held at the Embassy Suites in San Luis Obispo over 14-17 April 2016. Lou and Joy Fifer are serving as Co-chairs for the event and have formed a very strong organizing committee of many former Event Chairs and other key 356CAR members. Some surprises are planned with much fun expected for all 356'rs. If you want to help out, or have any ideas to share, contact Lou and Joy and be sure to check out 356CAR.org website for the latest information.

356CAR Logo Apparel

Fred Huberty

356CAR has set up an account with L.L. Bean Direct to Business so that members can purchase a wide variety of clothing items customized with our 356CAR logo embroidered on it. The selection of clothing can be found in the L.L. Bean Direct to Business online catalog that is very similar to the main L.L. Bean catalog. Once an item is selected you can work with the sales representative to choose the logo in colors you prefer to create a suitable contrast with the item you have chosen. While your total cost is dependent on the cost of the clothing item plus the cost of the embroidery, the club has already paid the initial embroidery set up.



To order apparel items first visit the L.L. Bean Direct to Business website at www.LLBeanBusiness.com and select from the online catalog. Then call their account representative at 800.554.4071 and tell her you want to buy an item under the "356 CAR CALIFORNIA ALTA REGION" (Customer No. 7309979974/Design No. 94497). To pay for the item, you will need to provide a credit or debit card and a shipping address.

By the way, orders of 6 or more of the same item in the same color reduce the embroidery cost from \$12 per item to \$5.50 per item. So it pays to get together with a group of friends who wish to order the same items (e.g. hats or jackets of the same color.)

Upcoming Events

Just a reminder to regularly check the newsletter's "Schedule of Events" and the 356CAR.org "Calendar" section for dates and details of upcoming events. While we do periodically send out email announcements and reminders of major events, there's a lot going on this year and we would hate to have anyone miss out on any activity.

Badges & Window Stickers

356CAR name badges and grille badges can be ordered directly from new Membership Chairman Phil Rowe. Also, a few 356CAR window stickers are still available for free to members in good standing. Contact Michael Hodos for your copy while the diminishing supply lasts.

The Driving Season

Summer is over and fall is nearly behind us but there are still lots of opportunities to get our cars on the road and enjoy them. There are plenty of events to attend and beautiful country to see and friends to visit so take advantage of those opportunities.

Holiday Season

Holiday season is nearly here and as usual there will be a few 356CAR holiday events. Please check the 356CAR.org website for details. Note, for example, the upcoming Halloween themed Cielo Estate Winery Concert featuring our own Speedsters, will be held from 5PM, Friday, October 30th in Shingle Springs, CA, and the annual toy gift collection at the December breakfast in San Mateo, plus the annual 356CAR Christmas Party at Kim & Rachel Nelson's garage in Shingle Springs the afternoon of the second Saturday in December.

Let's always remember to be very careful out there!

Barney



facebook.com/356car

(you can browse our Facebook page without being a member- check it out!)

Are you getting your 356CAR emails?



356CAR relies on Constant Contact email and event services to keep you up to date on events. These flyers supplement information in the newsletter. If we don't have your email address you will miss out! Update your contact information at 356CAR.org website member's page:

www.356car.org/member.html

(All information remains private)

California Automobile Museum

356CAR board of directors have decided to again support the California Automobile Museum in Sacramento. For our members this means that you will have a one-time yearly free admission to the museum located at 2200 Front Street in Sacramento. Just tell them you are a member of 356CAR and enjoy the museum!

Schedule of Events For 2015-16

Event dates and locations are subject to change.
Always check www.356car.org for the most
up-to-date event information.

November 29 **CAM Christmas Tree Decorating and Pot Luck.**
California Automobile Museum, Sacramento. Starts at
2 PM; Pot Luck@4 PM. A-N: main dish, O-Z: side dish.
Contact Kim Nelson (knelson356@gmail.com).

December 5 **San Mateo 356CAR breakfast and toy drive.**
Mimi's Cafe, 2208 Bridgepointe Parkway, San Mateo.

December 12 **Sacramento 356CAR Christmas Party**
Kim Nelson's garage.

2016

April 17-19 **North meets South**
San Luis Obispo, Embassy Suites. Registration opens
in February.

Save the Date! - April 17-19



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Gathering of the Faithful- 2015

By Lou Fifer



126 of our closest friends collected at the Sonoma Mission Inn for this year's Gathering of the Faithful, driving in 68 stunning 356s of nearly every year and model. One could easily go dizzy spinning around to look at the shining beauties while thankfully not running out of film in our omnipresent "smart phones". As is the norm folks traveled from all over NorCal in caravans, small groups, and individually to be carefully arranged in order of appearance on the sumptuous grounds of the luxurious Sonoma Mission Inn. The cars were arranged in all directions from straight in and backed in to weave a most interestingly displayed fabric of German mechanical engineering and multi-colored elegant beauty through the gyrations and gestures of Rich Peters, Ed Morris and others as the Faithful gathered. A particularly nice touch was Ed's gentle placing of nappies under the aftermost sections of each 3rd piece without even the slightest utterance of condemnation for cleanliness wanted or maintenance needed.

Once parked we all individually and in small groups moseyed up to the check-in table to receive our Goodie Bag of a specially Mark Hoag crafted 356CAR stainless steel die-cut memo and pencil set. While all marveled at the surprising and stunning 356CAR logoed desk set, many returned to ogle the cars, snatch some new ideas, tell a story or two, compare routes taken on the morning's arrival run and the intentions for the afternoon's returns to parts throughout our wide dispersal. Then most of us eventually diverted to the patio bar for Mimosas, Bloody Mary's, spirits, wines and bottled brews to loosen our tongues and jog our memories of the triumphs and temptations bested through the many avenues, grades and byways taken to arrive in time to brag of each special fastener, fabric, accessory, skills and talents located and brought to bear on our sturdy and swift German steeds.

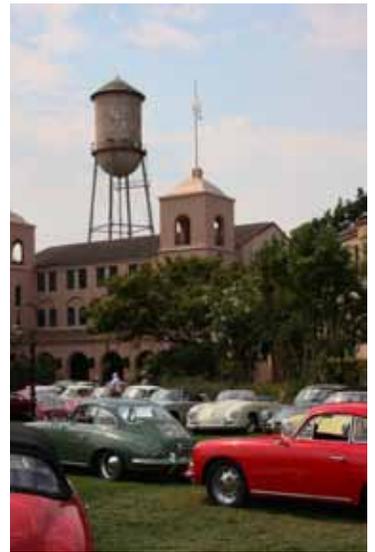
Many pictures were snapped from all angles, even some of "other guy's rides", several of shining and assured proud owners, and plenty of happy faces as the morning broke over the Mission quad with a bright sun, a slight breeze, without a cloud in the sky to dull the reflections of so many smooth curves adorned on the lawn like the fold out of a sixties Playboy. And like around the "reading" of the ever present coffee table tabloid of yore, there were a sprinkling of appropriately brief technical discussions to make sure that all could aver that it was a serious endeavor and not just your neighbor's automotive voyeurism. Bases were carefully and lightly touched, if not the fenders - unless authorized.

When the chow bell was discretely intoned we all queued up for a fine buffet breakfast of juices and coffee / teas, many pastries, various fruits, flap jacks & waffles, eggs benedict, plus lox and bagels. There was something sumptuous and plenty for all to enjoy, followed by copious quantities of strong coffee to bolster our return drives.

While we ate, Rich Peters and Ed Morris held up and gave forth many raffle prizes to lucky ticket holders including "display only" cans of old oil, a couple of Hazet tool signs, a Michelin guy sign, a 356 cookie jar, several "Drive Lung Cancer Out ..." accessory bags, and a really nifty Porsche factory banner that may get some replay at North meets South 2016 in San Luis Obispo (SLO) during April of 2016. The raffled prizes were a lot of fun and well worth the time it took Rich & Ed to clean out their garages - as they say - one man's clutter is another man's treasure.

With completion of this year's GoF 2015 meet - eat - greet, we started our cars (most of them) and the return trips began in reverse of parking order as we turned our old steeds toward the barn with noted intentions to check out that spot left on the nappy - or did it blow across from the other guy's?





Huberty's Day At The Lake

By Lou Fifer



Huberty's Dockside

About twenty of us caravanned from various parts of NorCal to Annette and Fred Huberty's lovely home at the head of Lake Wildwood in Penn Valley, north and west of Auburn. They had invited all who could come to a mid-week back yard BBQ, swim call in the Lake, and boat rides throughout their beautiful lakeside community. Many of us from greater Sacramento met halfway for bagels, fruit and coffee / tea at BJ Quinn's house and then followed her along many back roads, not the least of interest was the serpentine Dog Bar Road on our way to Huberty's Lakeside Shangri-La. There are likely a few more direct routes to our destination but none as Porsche-fun as the relatively paved goat and foot paths BJ selected. And in driving the Dog Bar Road patches one is reminded to keep both hands on the wheel and to pay close attention to the car in front as there are many turns, ups and downs, and not infrequent joiners to our string of 356s from others who think they need the road too. The trip was both fun and challenging in many spots.



Captain Fred at the helm

Once at the Huberty's we got down to the serious meet, tibble, nosh and greet protocol expected of such gatherings of good friends on a beautiful sunny day. As we stood on Fred & Annette's lovely back deck we were reminded by many pleasant vistas of how it is to live nearby and benefit from plentiful water – they can even flush their toilets without a special ordinance permit. Fred rather sheepishly explained that their Lake Wildwood water level never really changes because they are required to maintain a certain source level and pressure for downstream riparian rights and privileges so they "buck up" and "do what we can" to help provide for others living below their level – or some such logic.



A great lunch!

While we awaited the clarion chow call, potluck hors d'oeuvres brought by many were offered to all as others donned bathing attire and sun screen to sample the pleasures of the cool fresh water lake. Some swam, some paddled on stand-up boards, some sat abreast in paddle boats, others canoed, and many rode on powered pontoon boats while Fred and a few neighbors gave running narratives of the coming & going, movers & shakers, builders & vacant lots of their idyllic lake community setting. It was a most enjoyable sojourn no matter how / on / in one chose to take advantage of the many lake borne delights.

As each and finally all returned to the rockside / dockside, the BBQ fires were lit & hot and Annette & Fred had provided a plethora of burgers (ham / salmon / chicken) plus wieners – with all the fixin's for our eager, hungry and lake refreshed 356CARS. And of course more libations were readily available and many were consumed throughout the animated conversations and bull sessions so typical among drivers of our most treasured autos.

Fred & Annette had invited several of their neighbors to come meet their unique friends and to see our wide collection of 356 models but the neighbors also served as guides on the boats and provided many of the water

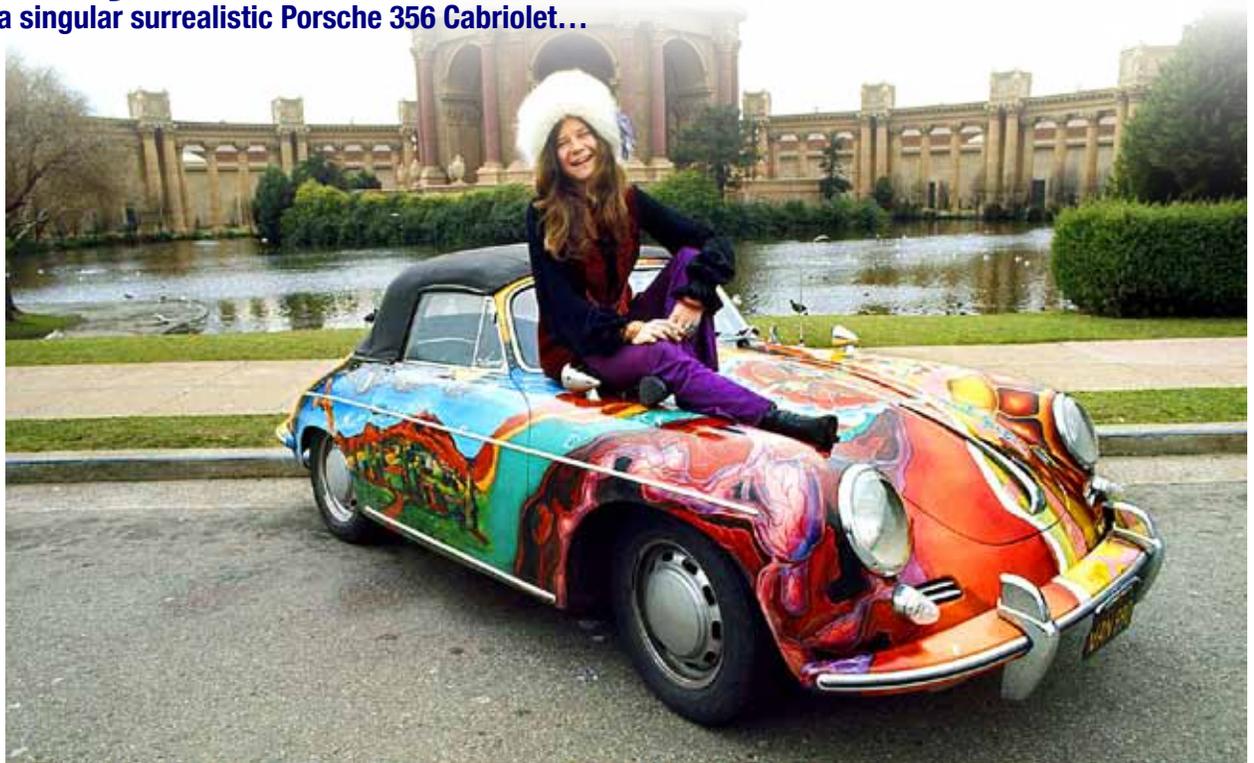
craft we were able to enjoy. It was enjoyable to hear their many stories of Porsches they have known, and some have owned, and to hear that a few of the neighbors have cars that either need quite a bit of work or that they are a very near getting on the road again. We may have recruited some members and quite possibly will be able to help some of these folks realize their dreams of driving their Porsches again.

After all had been said worth repeating, and with some of the clean-up and dishes dispensed with, the group began to depart in ones – twos – threes and headed into the setting sun back down to the valley and farther parts, each with its own tales of woe and longing for the freedom to play with, bath in, boat on Lake Wildwood ... while protecting the riparian rights of others less fortunate and at lower altitudes.

Janis, We Hardly Knew Ya

... the strange tale of a singular surrealistic Porsche 356 Cabriolet...

By Wallace Wyss



Janis Joplin had a rough and raw voice. Might have been because of that penchant for whiskey, straight from the bottle. The little blonde from Port Arthur Texas kicked some butt in the rock and roll world for a few brief years before her untimely death. (She'd be in her sixties now, had she made it ...)

Now a lot of the rock stars back then espoused peace and love but some also were a teensy bit extravagant and bought expensive cars because, well ... they deserved it. So she brought a Porsche. A real irony is that one of her biggest hits mocked the rock star's love of the expensive car, the one with the lyric: "Oh Lord, won't you buy me a Mercedes-Benz."

Her singing star rose with Big Brother and the Holding Company in 1966, then riding the crest of the nation-wide curiosity with the Haight-Ashbury drugs-and-music scene. They played the Fillmore West, Winterland, and Avalon Ballroom.

Of course she spent time in Los Angeles recording and along Sunset Strip everybody who was anybody had some kind of a neat ride. In 1968, she walked into a Beverly Hills car dealer (probably Otto Zipper) and plunked down about \$3500 for a '65 Porsche 356c Cabriolet (another source says the price was more like \$7000) ... But her car was oyster white ... too plain for a rock star ... rumored that she asked per pal (and Big Brother roadie) Dave Richards to take out the paintbrushes and do her over in surrealistic Peter Max style graphics, similar to what the Beatles did to their Rolls Phantom V, but in this case day-glow flowers, cartoon butterflies, astrology signs, nature, and even a portrait of Janis' band. The price for the paint job, which took a month to do, was reportedly \$500.

Now this flamboyant paint job led to a problem. Wherever she parked, her car was recognized and everyone knew she was there, even though it was for a while the only 356 out of more than 78,000 units produced between 1949 and 1965 with this paint scheme ... and her 356C was just one of 16,674 produced continuing even during the early 911 run.

And so the story goes ... while she was on stage at Winterland in San Francisco some SOB stole the car right out of the parking lot. But the joke was on him ... as how do you sell a one-off car ... that everybody knows belongs to Janis Joplin? So the thief painted it ... not in a Porsche approved color but battleship gray from a spray can ... and not a full paint job ... so it was recognized ... the car was recovered and she shopped around until she found a body shop to restore it, assigning them to copy the original paint job from photos. (A contrary account says that after her death, it was in storage for a while, until eventually her brother had it repainted back to the way it was by copying old pictures.)

After the will was settled, her family took possession of the car and loaned it to Albert Grossman, her manager in 1970 ... who would on occasion loan it out to other musicians. In 1975, Michael Joplin, Janis' younger brother, finally wrested the car back from Grossman but at that point it was ... trashed and had to be redone.

Today, it is a little difficult to tell exactly which Joplin 356C Porsche is hers since several fans made replicas, but most agree the original (now restored) occupies a place of pride in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland ... on loan from Janis' family. Oh, and I should add that the hit song about Mercedes-Benz had another line, i.e. "My friends all drive Porsches, I must make amends." I even heard her recorded rendition of that lyric in a recent Mercedes commercial.

Ms. Joplin passed away in October, 1970 at the Landmark Hotel in Los Angeles - but her memory and perhaps ... her Porsche lives on.

*Wallace Wyss is the author of the **Incredible Barn Finds** series from **Enthusiast Books, Hudson, WI**, and has granted reproduction and dissemination of portions of his research for this article in the **356CAR Newsletter**. If any readers have any information (pro or con or any more details or circumstances of its stealing, abandonment, recovery, restoration ... etc.) and particularly if the SN can be authenticated I would like to write an article about Janis Joplin's 356, in my next **Incredible Barn Finds**. Please send any info to: photojournalistpro@gmail.com*

gently but firmly, through the headlight conduits. And the black insulation matches that of the other wires so the addition is unobtrusive. Although the wire costs 55 cents per foot, the minimum order from Apex Junior is \$20 so perhaps teaming up with a friend or two to all do your headlight relay updates will make sense as the minimum buy nets more than twice the amount of wire needed for one car's upgrade. It has other uses, of course.

Figure 8 shows the Schematic of one Headlight Relay upgrade. You will follow the above schematic for the second headlight. For each headlight, I installed a 30 Amp inline automotive fuse mounted in a hermetically-sealed fuse holder, as shown below. Two fuses and their holders cost about \$4.30 plus shipping from All Electronics in Van Nuys, California.

SCHEMATIC

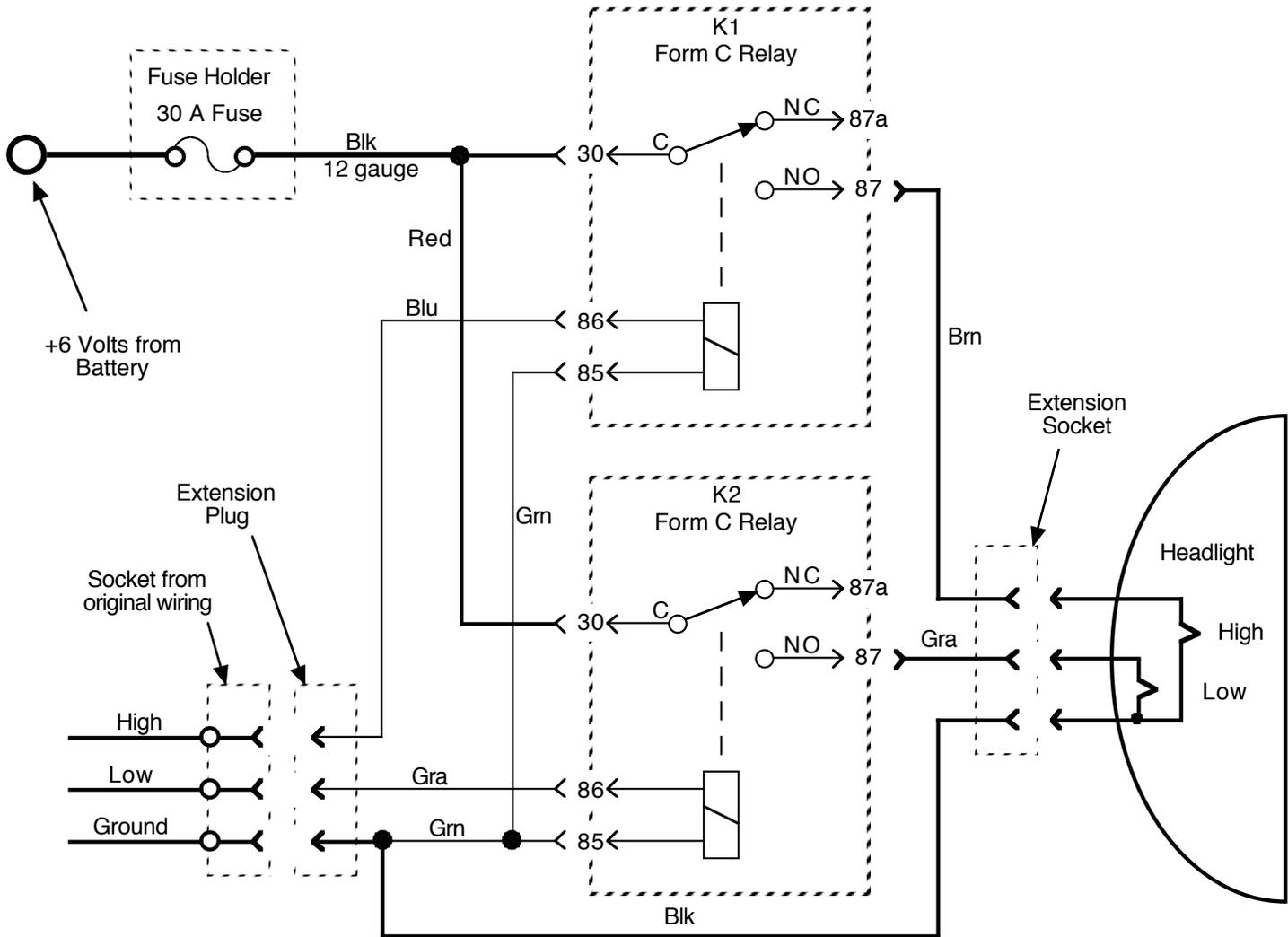


Figure 8

Figure 9 shows the pin numbers printed on the relays and the wire colors of the relay harnesses during assembly.

The Quick Disconnect crimp terminals on the completed harness appear black because I covered them with black heat shrinkable tubing after removing the original, worthless insulation to crimp on the connectors, flux, and solder the wires.

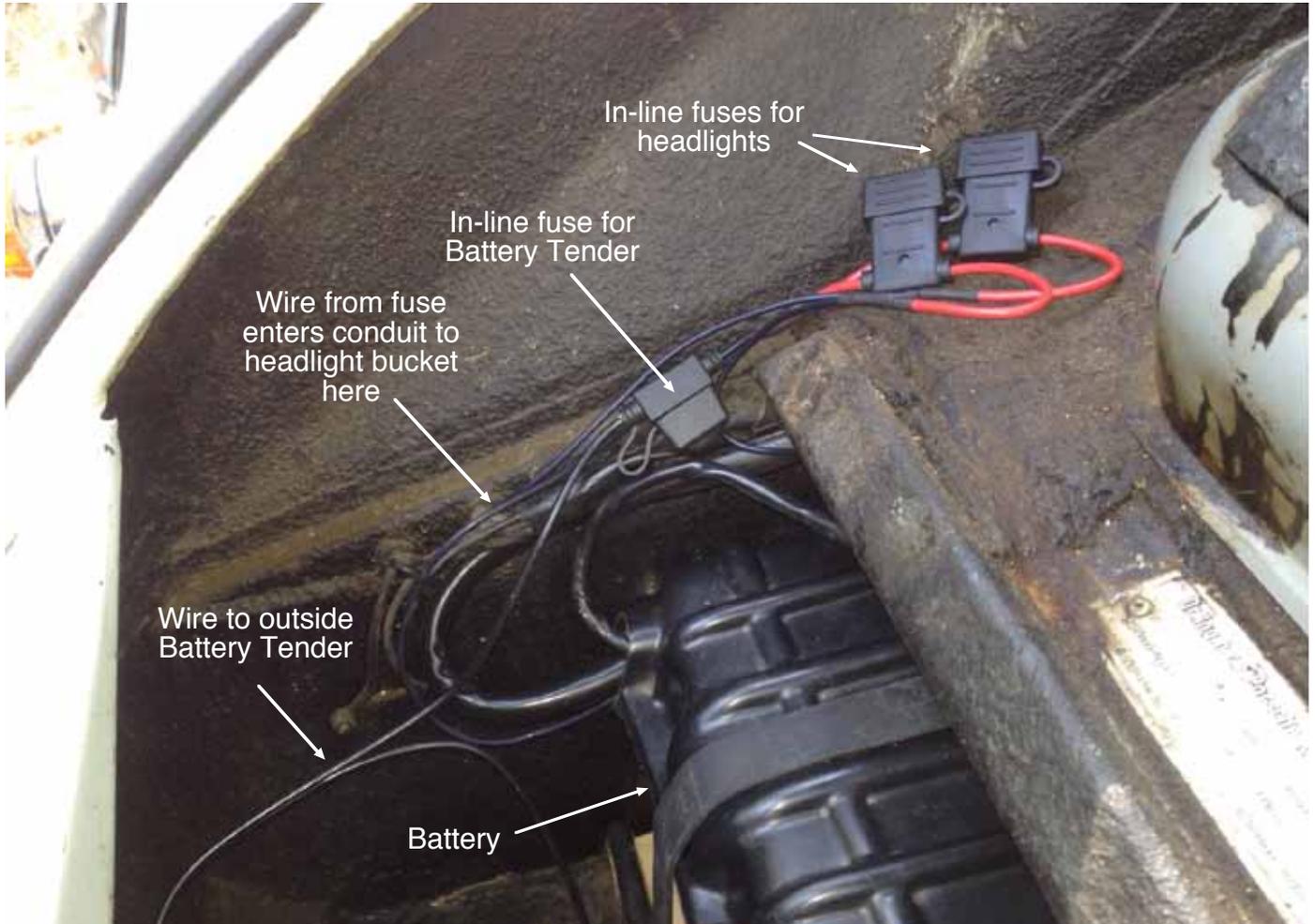
The yellow insulated terminal is where the 6-volt PTFE-insulated wire from the battery will connect when the headlight assembly and harness are installed in the headlight bucket.



Figure 9

The picture below is a view of the wiring from battery to headlight conduit, installed in the trunk of the car. The spare tire, jack, and plastic cover have been removed for a better view. The fuse holders (with red pigtails) fit well near the jack. When the jack and cover are in place, the red pigtails are mostly hidden.

I use a Battery Tender to float charge the battery when I don't drive the car for an extended time. The photo shows the in-line fuse and wiring for the Battery Tender to avoid confusing them with the headlight relay wiring.



Epilogue:

The headlights work better than ever, and I am much more comfortable driving my 356C after dark since the modification has been made.

Note: You should check your headlight alignment for proper adjustment of the brighter headlights as I had previously aimed the beams higher than normal to compensate for the dimness of the original setup and to make my car more noticeable to oncoming drivers at night. Without adjusting them lower I might blind them!

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It's the Simple Things in Life ...

By Jim Hardie

Cleaning under your 356 seats is a quick and rewarding Saturday morning's exercise, beginning with removing the seats in a pretty straight-forward procedure, but eased by noting a few tips.

Start by first locating a spot where you will place your removed seats (2), free from any other work underway and typically on a clean towel for each with another standing by to cover each when they are out of the car. The first seat to remove should be the passenger's as you will have more room to work, and it is easier to learn and practice your skills to be later used on the driver's seat. When you are positioned outside the passenger side, with the door fully open, begin by putting a towel over the passenger's side threshold carpet to protect it from any oil / grease or debris that may have accumulated under the seat. With the slide lever held up by your right hand slide, push the seat forward with your left hand low on the seat bottom and pull with your right hand, while balancing the seat back from catching under the dash cover, until you feel the seat just clear the seat rail tracks. Lift the seat slightly forward and up to slide in back on top of the tracks, then tilt the back rest forward and lift the seat out.

Once outside the car, turn the seat over and examine how the lever and seat rails engage the tracks in the car and thus understand how the lever, rails and tracks work together. Set the passenger seat on its towel and cover it.

Note: An incorrectly reinstalled seat can force the rails down and damage the 'outer pedestals' that the seat rail tracks are mounted on which may necessitate a respray of the 'outer pedestals'.

Removal of the driver's side seat is the same procedure as the above with a couple of key differences: 1) you must tilt the seat back to clear the steering wheel as it reaches the end of the seat rail track; 2) the same lifting up and onto the top of the driver's seat rails will facilitate getting the seat far enough toward the rear of the car to clear the steering wheel on your way out, but before lifting the driver's seat free of the car take a peek under the rear section of the seat rails to note how they wrap around and align on the tracks to ease your seat re-installations. (Each of the seat rail pairs, passenger and driver, ride on the tracks in the same way.) Set the driver seat on its towel and cover it.

Note: Now you will have an excellent opportunity, once the seats are out of the car, to brighten up your chrome recliners using superfine (#0000) steel wool, a keen eye, and a dollop of elbow grease. The recliners are not hard to take off the seats but you don't need to if you are careful to either mask the upholstery or place a piece of cardboard between it and the recliners while you are rubbing with the #0000 superfine steel wool. You will not be able to restore chrome bits to any pitted areas but years of dirt and grime will whisk away leaving a high luster as you scrub hard the recliners (or any of your car's chrome pieces) with the #0000 superfine steel wool.

Once the seats are out of the car, dig out the vintage coins from under the seat pedestals (checking for last century silver content along the edges), vacuum out any dirt and pick away the large chunks of debris, clean/polish the rails with a small stainless steel brush, and polish/wax the 'outer pedestal' paint. If the paint is poor, or if your released seat belts have repeatedly dinged off chips you may elect to remove the 'outer pedestals' and either re-paint them or have them powder coated.

Finally, before sliding the seats back in, sparingly put a little clear grease (NAPA Auto Parts: 'Sil-Glide' is a silicone product, useful in many applications) on the top of the seat rail tracks (mounted on top of the 'outer pedestals'), and a little dab inside the rear of both the passenger's and driver's seat rails where they will engage the seat rail tracks. Then just slide them back and home through the clicks of the slide lever and you are back in the saddle.

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Is Your 356CAR Membership Expiring?

Please take a look at your mailing label.

356CAR memberships are due for renewal in June of each year. Memberships are \$15 a year for the 356CAR eNewsletter or \$21 a year for the hardcopy 356CAR Newsletter. An electronic version of the newsletter is sent to everyone with an active email address.

356CAR Club Membership Badges

Club name badges with magnetic attachments are available to each active member and one additional driver for \$9 per badge plus \$2 mailing. Badges are normally mailed within 30 days of payment receipt.

Badges may be directly ordered online:
www.356car.org/memberpage.html

or contact: Phil Rowe - prowe46@yahoo.com



356CAR Membership Application / Renewal

first name	last name	
co-pilot		
address		
city	state	zip
phone (day)		
phone (eve)		
email		

preferred meeting location

- Sacramento Capitola Central Coast
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newsletter preference (check one)

- electronic version hardcopy version

I would like my name and email included in the 356CAR roster listing yes no

Membership Dues

Dues renew every July 1st and can be prorated if desired.

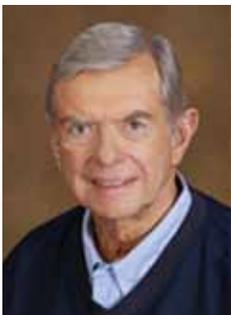
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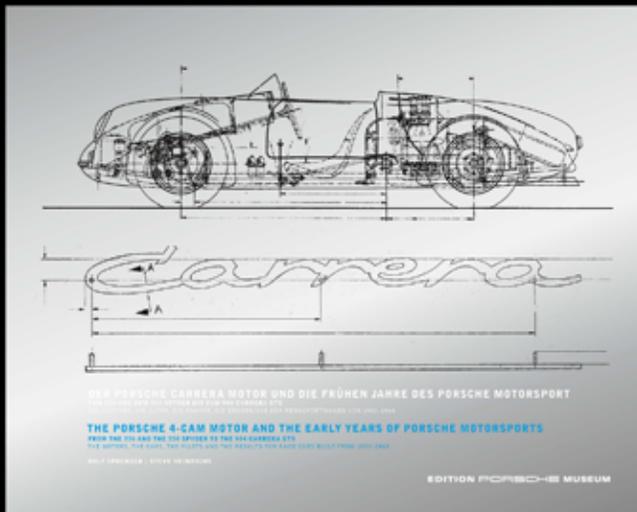
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