

EMCC E-NEWS LETTER

“Welcome to the best little car club in Arizona”



President Thoughts

04/2026

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March Madness is in full swing as I write this message to you all. It's exciting to see the great play, the school spirit and the pride of all involved. The athletes are giving their all to win the game, but also on the sidelines I have noticed the importance of the cheerleading squads. They cheer as hard as the players preform in the game, and get the crowds excited to watch the game and get them closer to the action; to bring all the spectators into the game itself.

Our annual car show Cruiz'n to the Hills is but a couple of weeks away. The planning committee and volunteers have done an outstanding job getting the show on the road to success. Many have spent hours working on details for all of us (like the athletes practicing for the big game) so that we can have success in this venture. Now it's my job as head cheerleader and president to get you closer to the game and involved so that we win this show. So PLEASE get your car or cars registered, talk to your neighbors about attending, pass out flyers, or post a note on your Facebook and GET IN THE GAME! We need your involvement and support so that we win our bracket (The Show) and be successful so that we can support our community and spread fellowship to all. If I had pom poms I would be waving them now, but I'll give you a RAH, RAH instead, and we will see you all on April 11, 2026 at Estrella Foothills High School for the BIG WIN!

Paul Masa

Saturday, April 11th, 2026 9am - 2pm

2026 CRUIZ'N TO THE HILLS CAR SHOW

ALL CARS WELCOME!

Estrella Mountain Car Club
ESTRELLA FOOTHILLS HIGH SCHOOL

SATURDAY APRIL 11

ESTRELLA FOOTHILLS HIGH SCHOOL
13033 S. Estrella Parkway, Goodyear, AZ 85338

MUSIC FOOD TRUCKS VENDOR BOOTHS

~ SPECTATORS FREE ~

9am - 2pm presentation at 1pm custom awards and dash plaques
\$20 registration fee \$25 after March 20

register online at www.estrellamountaincarclub.com

Register now!!

SEARS
ROEBUCK & CO.
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DANIEL'S
TOTAL CAR CARE

PAPA
JOHNS

NANCY FERR
PRODUCTIONS

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HVAC & ENERGY SOLUTIONS

DANNY'S
SHIRT PARLOR

Leander
Potlansky
480-577-2818

ESTRELLA

MOUNTAIN RANCH
DENTISTRY

Osborne Jewelers

PRE-REGISTRATION — NOW IS THE TIME **This is not something to put off!**

The Estrella Mountain Car Club is proud to host the **3rd Annual Cruiz’n to the Hills Car Show April 11, 2026**, and we are putting a **strong push** out to our members to **pre-register immediately**.

You do **not** want to find yourself at the end of the registration line for one of EMCC’s signature events. Pre-registering now secures your place and helps ensure the smooth, professional experience our club is known for.

As an EMCC member, you are in an honored position — not only to showcase your pride and joy, but to represent the causes we support and the commitment we make to our community and to the families who attend this event. This show is a reflection of **who we are, what we stand for, and why EMCC exists**.

Member registrations right now are critical. Early registration allows us to gather the information needed to order **event T-shirts early**, ensuring we have the correct sizes and quantities available. It also demonstrates strong club unity and leadership by example.

“Click Live Link Below”

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfOwQorX4xMrthOXPPFz7IHLAf7Sf9zYVICB38-bqn7LUyUOg/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=107880028351494817439>

SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

We are well on our way to reaching our sponsorship goals, with **10 companies contributing a total of \$1,850.00** so far. This is a strong start, and we truly appreciate the efforts already made. Members can continue to support the show by reaching out to local businesses and sharing information about sponsorship opportunities. **Every contribution helps** make this event better for both participants and spectators.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED — DAY OF SHOW

- Setup
- Cleanup
- Judging

If you are interested, please contact **Bob Ness at (630) 479-7972**.

This event does not succeed by accident — it succeeds because our members step up, participate early, and support one another. We all know the **2026 Cruiz’n to the Hills Car Show** will be one of our best events yet.

Most Underrated Pickup Truck Of The '70s



The 1970s were a golden era for pickup trucks, when rugged utility met the first signs of creature comfort. Trucks were no longer just farm or job site workhorses; they slowly evolved into everyday vehicles. Models from Ford, Chevy, Dodge, and even International Harvester offered V8 power, aggressive styling, and emerging luxury trims. While some trucks from this decade became icons, others quietly delivered performance and durability without ever getting the spotlight. The '70s set the stage for the modern **pickup truck** we know today, which is equal parts muscle, utility, and style.

The Dodge D-Series Was The Most Underrated Pickup Truck Of The '70s



What made this even more impressive was how rare it was in the market back then. Ford and Chevy trucks had some upgraded trims, but Dodge really leaned into making the Adventurer SE feel special. This was one of the first trucks that felt like you could drive to dinner *and* the job site the following day without missing a beat. The D-Series is a

One of the Adventurer SE’s most underrated strengths was its lineup of tough, reliable engines. According to Hemmings, buyers could go with the trusty Slant-6 or step up to a 318, 360, or even a 440 V8.

Forgotten By Time, Ready For A Comeback

But with all of the standout models available in the '70s, a few are often overlooked in favor of more popular models. This truck is one of those overlooked pickups that had a lot going for it, but it got lost in a sea of trucks.

The Dodge D-Series, or more specifically, the Dodge D100 Adventurer SE, surprised many people by offering upscale comfort at a time when trucks were still mostly bare-bones work machines. Inside, you’d find padded vinyl seats, full carpeting, a woodgrain dash, and even optional bucket seats with a center console. These features felt more at home in a Charger than a pickup. Dodge was clearly betting that drivers wanted some-



Most Underrated Pickup Truck Of The '70s

While most pickups of the ‘70s focused strictly on utility, the Adventurer SE got noticeable visual upgrades. Chrome bumpers, body side moldings, and optional two-tone paint schemes made this truck pop in a sea of plain, single-color workhorses. [Classic Industries](#) says the extra shine wasn’t just for looks, either. Dodge was making a statement that pickups could be sharp and stylish, too.

Dodge D-Series Fun Facts:

- The D-Series was the birthplace of the Power Wagon nameplate. Although the original Power Wagon came from military surplus in the late '40s, Dodge revived the name for 4x4 versions of the D-Series starting in 1961.
- It was the first American pickup to offer a Club Cab, a precursor to today’s extended and crew cab trucks. This gave buyers extra interior space without going full four-door.
- The D-Series was a favorite in movies and TV shows, especially the gritty ‘70s action films, in which rugged trucks were almost characters. A bright yellow 1978 D-Series even starred alongside Rutger Hauer in the horror film “The Hitcher” (1986).



This attention to appearance is a big reason why the D-Series still turns heads at classic car shows. The clean lines, squared-off grille, and tasteful chrome touches make it a time capsule of ‘70s truck design, back when Detroit wasn’t afraid to give trucks a little personality. It even helped [inspire the Dodge Warlock truck](#), a unique build that was part of the “adult toys” line from that era. The [1970-1971 Dodge D100 “Dude” truck](#) also fits in here.

Despite everything it had going for it, the Adventurer SE never grabbed the spotlight like Ford’s F-Series or [Chevy’s C10](#). Sales lagged behind the big two, partly because Dodge didn’t have the dealer network or marketing muscle. Over time, the truck faded into the background, overshadowed by its more famous rivals. [Classic.com](#) says the average price of the D-Series is as follows:

Second Generation (1965-1971) Dodge D-Series Pricing:

- Average Price: \$20,671
- Lowest Sale: \$6,050
- Top Sale: \$104,500
- Most Recent Sale: \$32,500

Third Generation (1972-1980) Dodge D-Series Pricing:

- Average Price: \$22,527
- Lowest Sale: \$5,300
- Top Sale: \$81,400
- Most Recent Sale: \$14,000

Today, that makes it a hidden gem for collectors and enthusiasts. You can still find decent examples at reasonable prices, and because it was built solid, many of them are still running. The Dodge truck is proof that sometimes the most interesting classics are the ones that didn’t get their due the first time around. The Dodge D-Series remains one of the most underrated pickups of the 1970s: a tough, stylish, and capable truck that deserves far more recognition.

Valued Members Attendance in March Events

There’s a little diner sitting along Grand Avenue that feels like it never left the 1970s—chrome stools, neon lights, and coffee cups that never seem to empty. **Mel’s Diner**, made famous by the classic TV show *Alice* and the unforgettable line “Kiss my grits!”, still serves up a big helping of vintage Americana right here in Phoenix.

Recently, **Jim Leader and the gang** led an EMCC cruise to this nostalgic stop, and the turnout was terrific. **Thirty EMCC members** rolled in for what turned out to be a fantastic outing. The cruise itself was smooth and enjoyable, followed by a great **1960s-style nostalgia luncheon** inside the iconic diner. Thank you to Jim and everyone who joined the ride!



Valued Members Attendance in March Events

Mel's Diner Fun had by all



Another Well-Deserved Award for Janet Rachfal

Congratulations! Once again to EMCC member **Janet Rachfal**, whose beautiful **1966 Mustang GT Convertible** continues to turn heads and earn recognition wherever it appears.

At the recent **Don Sanderson Ford** event, Janet's Mustang received the **Award of Prominence**, recognizing the car's outstanding **factory-correct, unrestored condition**—a rare and impressive achievement for a classic of this caliber.

Sanderson Ford Car Show Winner



Robson Reserve Car Show – A Must Attend Next Year

If you missed the **Robson Reserve Car Show at Pebble Creek**, be sure to mark it on your calendar for next year—because this event is **much more than just a car show... it's a happening.**



EMCC members enjoyed a wonderful day sharing their cars and stories with residents, many of whom lit up while reminiscing about the vehicles and memories of years gone by. The energy, conversations, and sense of community made this a truly special gathering.

Please note, yes, EMCC comes a way with yet an excellent award. **Member Lisa Lodi won with her 1939 Mercury Coupe**, make sure you reach out to congratulate her on a job well done!

Looking forward to seeing her in April.

EMCC is grateful for our partnership with Robson Development, and we strongly encourage members to **join us next year for this memorable event.**

Also a big thank you to all EMCC attendees, you all looked great.



Updated Members Rides



Cars & Coffee March 2026

Cars & Coffee – A Morning to Remember

A big congratulations and heartfelt thank you to all the fantastic members who brought out their pride and joy for Cars & Coffee event. The turnout was truly something special—we had more vehicles on display than we've seen in nearly nine months!

What a great morning it was... beautiful cars, great conversations, and even better company. If you missed it, you truly missed a special one.

There's no question about it—our club is growing, and the energy is building. With our upcoming car show, new members joining, and more exciting events ahead, the momentum continues to rise. Stay tuned... there's plenty more on the horizon for *"The Best Little Car Club in Arizona"*.



Future Events Coming up

- ◆ 4/03 Hot Rod Nights Every Friday Night 5:00PM to 8:00pm American Furniture Warehouse 16600 W Waddell Rd.
- ◆ 4/11 Club Business meeting impromptu at Cruiz N To The Hills Car Show
- ◆ 4/11 Cruiz N TO the Hills Car Show, @ Foothills High School, Estrella Mountain. AZ. 9:00am to 2:00pm
- ◆ 4/15 EMCC Luncheon @ Red Allens Grill 12:00pm Reservations
- ◆ 4/17 Spring Fest in Estrella @ Starpoint 3:30pm to 7:00pm
- ◆ 4/25 Cars and Coffee @ Safeway Parking Lot 8:00am to 10:00am

Please Note: Event Details Maybe Listed on EMCC Web Site; <https://estrellamountaincarclub.com/events>

“Together, we don’t just attend events—we shape them. Every member brings something valuable to the table, and when we share our time, ideas, and talents, the results are richer friendships, stronger events, and a club we’re all proud of.”

EMCC Board of Directors

Head'em up, moven'em out!
It's time for EMCC
Luncheon at Red Allen's Grill



Special Note:
1 Check Per Table
at Red's

Address: 451 N. Old Litchfield Rd,
Litchfield Park, AZ

When: Wednesday 4/15/2026 @ noon.

RSVP by 4/12/2026 on EMCC website. ~

Leader: Doug Bryson 971-533-5185

Meeting at Safeway Parking lot, leaving at 11:15



Estrella Mountain Car Club

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Register now!!



SPRING FEST
2026

WVC's Hot Rod Nights at AFW
Every Friday 5-8pm (beginning 10/3/25)
16600 W. Waddell Rd. Surprise,Az
All Makes, Models, Years Welcomed



Location: American Furniture Warehouse

Cars & Coffee

ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN CAR CLUB
Proudly Hosting • 4th Saturday of Every Month



Join us for a relaxed Arizona morning of great cars and even better company.
Bring your pride and joy — or just bring your coffee and enjoy the view.
All makes and models welcome.

Estrella Mountain Safeway Parking Lot
9890 S. Estrella Pkwy, Goodyear, AZ

4th Saturday of Every Month
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Where Estrella Enthusiasts Gather.

Estrella Mountain Car Club

April Member's Birthdays



The following members and significant others are celebrating birthdays this month.

Members Names

- 4/01 Timothy Economou
- 4/02 Jordan Rands
- 4/04 Kimberly Smith
- 4/05 Paul Masla
- 4/11 Bill Dodd
- 4/11 Donna Redding
- 4/17 Rachael Kish
- 4/30 Larry Freedlund

The provided information is sourced from the club's roster. Kindly inform us of any errors or omissions so that we can

Why Birthdays Feel Special to folks

- ◆ Birthdays are seen as a recognition of someone's journey, achievements, and uniqueness.
- ◆ They allow individuals to feel appreciated, loved, and validated by their community.
- ◆ Celebrating helps break the monotony of routine life, boosts emotional well-being, and fosters joyful memories.

About Your EMCC Newsletter

We want the E Newsletter to be a two-way street. If you have news, stories, photos, or anything else you'd like to share, we'd love to feature it. This is your platform to connect, inspire, and celebrate our shared love of cars, comradery and community.

"Whether you enjoy planning, lending a hand on event day, sharing ideas, or simply encouraging others, there's a role for everyone—big or small. Together, we can make the newsletter a true reflection of the fun, friendships, and horsepower that fuel EMCC."

"At EMCC "Coupes say convertibles are drafty... convertibles say coupes are just afraid of the Sun & Rain. Either way, if it's got wheels, personality, and brings a smile, it belongs at EMCC."

Enjoy your April,

Editor: Bill Owen

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=ZXN0cmVsbGFtY3VudGFpbnNhcmNsdWJAZ21haWwuY29t>

[Right Click here to view list of Officers & Directors](#)

Estrella Mountain Car Club Foundation
Po. Box 5583, Goodyear, AZ 85338

