

# Classic Chassis Car Club-San Antonio San Antonio "Ride With Pride"



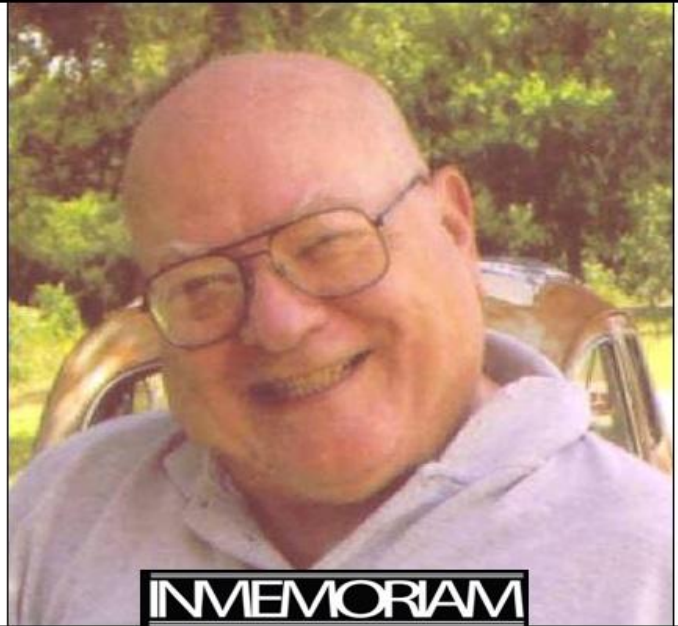
## Annual Club Picnic

Each year our members and friends join together to celebrate the arrival of Spring with our annual Club Picnic. Thanks to Donnie for hosting our picnic at his country home. Fun was had by all!



For More Photos See Page 6!

## Russell "Russ" McCaulley



**IN MEMORIAM**

For More See Page 8

## Barn Find—Jalopnik.com & Michael Mratz

*Rudi Caracciola's 1 of 1 1935 Mercedes-Benz 500K found at LA salvage yard*

*(For this story and more photos, see Pages 4-5)*

One of the most valuable and historic Mercedes of all time, Rudi Caracciola's 1935 Mercedes-Benz 500K, was found sitting in a nondescript junkyard in South Central LA. Writer Michael Mratz discovered the car, and described its stable mates in this issue on Page 4!



## Inside this issue!

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Every month ... Same page!

Our Events Page!



For information on any event on this page, please call Tom/President at (210)422-5313!

# Classic Chassis Car Club-San Antonio

## Upcoming Events for June—August 2017

### June 2017—TWO Events this Month!!



**Go-Kart Party**  
Classic Chassis Car Club - San Antonio

**June 3rd—10:00AM**  
**Meet at K1 Raceway!**

**We Race at 10:30AM on 6/3!**

Please meet at the K1 Raceway located at:

6955 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78238

(westbound access road of 410 between Ingram and Culebra)

### Bandera Riverfest is June 24th!

Once again, we will drive out to the Hill Country for Bandera Riverfest 2017! (for more information visit [www.banderariverfest.com](http://www.banderariverfest.com))

Anyone interested in attending this fun event (their motto is "The Anything That

Floats Regatta!") promises to be entertaining and hilarious to watch. Visit the website for the events calendar. *We all meet again at Donnie's house at 11:00AM with prompt departure to Bandera, Texas at 11:30AM*

See ya there!



An "Anything That Floats" example from [banderariverfest.com](http://banderariverfest.com)! ©

## July 2017 & August 2017

PRIDE



PARADE

July 1st, 2017—7:00PM Lineup

Open Convertibles Needed!

For More Info or to Volunteer, Call Tom/President at (210) 422-5313



**Saturday**  
**August 5, 2017**  
**1:00PM**

### San Antonio Club Summer Picnic

Saturday, August 5, 2017—1:00PM

HOSTED BY DONNIE DUNFORD AT HIS COUNTRY HOME!

Please bring a side-dish to complement the Picnic—LCCI-San Antonio will provide the meat (Hot Dogs, Hamburgers & "fixin's!") and please bring your own towel and swim attire.

For details call Tom at (210)422-5313



*Lambda Car Club International*  
"... is the largest collector car club for gay and lesbian people in North America. Membership is at 2,200, and there are 32 active regions throughout the U.S. and Canada. All vehicles of any age or condition are welcome at club events. You don't even need to own a car to belong. You do need to enjoy vehicles and social fellowship with gay people who also enjoy vehicles."

-LCCI Website—2013



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Volume 3 Issue 6



## The "Top 10" Things Your Mechanic Doesn't Want you to know!

No. 8—June 2017



From AutbyteLCom—

### **WHAT OTHER CUSTOMERS THINK OF THEM!**

Or hopefully, they do want you to know this – at least they will if they have a good reputation. Ask around to see what garages the people around you have used, and what their experiences have been. You can also check online to see if a garage has been rated by other customers. Be aware however that different locations of the same chain can have vastly different reputations.

*My other half had his driver's test the other day.*

*He got 8 out of 10.*

*The other 2 guys jumped clear!*



**GOLDEN  
GHOULS  
2017**  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
SEE PAGE 10

Submitted by Ron C.  
(from OnlineFun.Com)



"Barn Find" is a regular feature of the monthly newsletter (from Page 1)



Story & Photos from: Jalopnik.com & Mike Mratz

## *Rudi Caracciola's 1 of 1 1935 Mercedes-Benz 500K found at LA salvage yard:*

It's hard to believe one of the rarest Mercedes-Benz in the world is rotting in the sun in a South Central Los Angeles junkyard, but that's exactly where Mike Mratz located Rudi Caracciola's 1935 Mercedes-Benz 500K! Mratz traces the history of this ultra rare car in this February's Town and Country magazine—currently on newsstands. Here are a few excerpts from the amazing tale of one of world's most desirable cars—

Few people know that one of the greatest cars Mercedes-Benz has produced in its 125-year history sits on flat tires, covered by 30 years of grime, in an unmarked building in South Central Los Angeles. The 1935 Rudolf Caracciola Mercedes-Benz 500K "Roadster Limousine," one of the most beautifully struck and elegant prewar cars ever built, was commissioned as a gift for one of the most legendary race car drivers ever to turn the wheel. Based on recent auction figures, the 500K—one of the holy grails of car collecting—could be worth upward of \$10 million if it ever came to auction.

But it sits nose to tail with scores of other exceedingly rare classic European cars as part of the mind-bogglingly vast inventory of the nondescript Porsche (sic) Foreign Auto, an "auto dismantling" operation (junkyard is the more common term), which was founded in 1967 by a guy named Rudi Klein. When Klein died in 2001, his amazing hidden collection of cars fell into the hands of his sons Ben and Jason Klein. While investigating the 500K Mratz started uncovering stories of the amazing cars the Klein's well guarded collection held.

Michael Mratz quickly discovered he wasn't the only one who knew where the 500K was. Michael Kunz, manager of the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center, has been chasing the car for a while and has actually inspected the car personally. Ever since he has been trying to make a deal with the Kleins to unearth the car.

Ten years ago Mercedes tried arranging a loan agreement with the Kleins so the 500K could be displayed—alone in its own room— at the company's museum in Fellbach, Germany. (Audi had arranged a similar deal with the Kleins for the restoration of the Eva Braun Horch.) But the deal fell apart after Rudi Klein's death, in 2001, for reasons that remain unclear. Mercedes allegedly offered to do a full restoration, free of charge, an investment of perhaps a few million dollars, for the opportunity. (According to the Kleins, the 500K has a few dings on it but is otherwise in fairly good shape.) "It was the right thing to do with that car," Kunz says. "I'm hoping at some point we can revisit that." Although Mratz was not able to inspect the car himself, he did eventually get the Klein's to briefly discuss the future of the 500K with him.

I asked Ben Klein what the future might hold for this car, given its storied past. Will it finally make the pilgrimage to the Mercedes-Benz Museum, returning to the country whence it came? Will it wind up for sale and break another auction record? Will it continue to collect dust? Will it eventually crumble away into nothing? He doesn't give any hint. But he does reveal a telling detail when I ask him if the 500K was the car Rudi Klein, his father, was most proud of. "For sure," he writes. "He kept a picture of the car in his wallet."

If this isn't proof there are still amazing cars waiting to be found and brought back to life, we aren't sure what is!



*We work hard for our members and love to have fun! Want to join in? Visit our website at:*  
**www.cccc-sanantonio.com!**



*Caracciola himself with the 500K in 1937 Photo Credit: Mercedes-Benz Archive, Stuttgart, Germany*



*The 500K at Pebble Beach in 1978  
Photo Credit: William C. Brooks, Pebble Beach Concourse D'Elegance*



*The 500K after the cars 1965 restoration Photo Credit: Bobby'Dine Rodda*



*What remains of the Mercedes-Benz 500 K (Circled) sits in a S. Los Angeles Junkyard.*

**Story and Photos Courtesy of:**

**Jalopnik.Com**



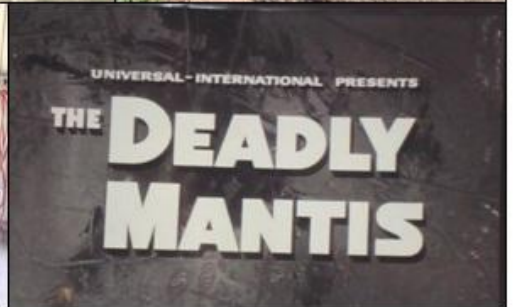
Our club holds  
monthly events  
and meetings!  
See our  
"Contacts" page  
to send us a  
message and join  
us!

*Annual Picnic 2017*



Each year we have a great get-together with our Annual Picnic. Here are some photos from Picnic 2017! Want to join in? Visit our website at:

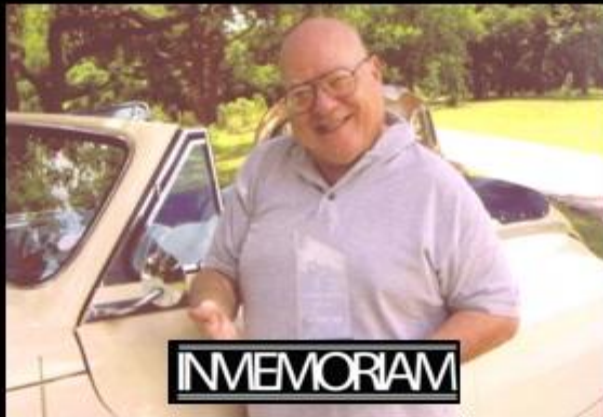
[www.cccc-sanantonio.com!](http://www.cccc-sanantonio.com!)



Photos by

**Ron C & Donnie D.**

## Russell "Russ" McCaulley



*Russ" was one of the original founding members of our Club - - and active for almost 30 years in varying ways. Not only was he a member of our Club - but of the State of Texas and San Antonio Packard Clubs where he also served in various Board positions over the years. At all the meetings and events he attended with us - he was quick with a hug and a detailed story about classic cars and their history. He was a great source of knowledge about his cars as well as general automotive history. He really loved his Packards and Studebakers! This was the man who accepted and hugged everyone.....and was young beyond his years. When he walked in a room—it lit up! Our room will never be the same without his smiles and his laughter. We were so privileged to know him.....and we will remember him fondly.*

*(See Many photos of Russ and his cars on this and the opposite page)*





*"Those we love don't go away. They ride beside us every day, unseen, unheard but always near. Still loved, still missed and with us here"*



**Photos by**

**Phillip Reese  
Ron Clarke  
Tom Garza**



**Golden Girls 2017 Will Be Hosted By the  
LCCI-San Antonio Club**



**CLASSIC CHASSIS CAR CLUB- SAN ANTONIO**

**'GOLDEN GHOULS - 2017'!**

**Tentative Schedule until 60 Days Prior to Event**

**Friday, October 20, 2017:**

- 3:00PM – 8:00PM: Registration/Meet & Greet Social at our Host Hotel Hell (El Tropicano – 110 Lexington on the River!) Buffet Provided
- 8:30PM – 10:30PM: Ghostly, Ghoully, Haunted Tour of San Antonio's Scariest, and Eeriest Ghost Haunts!
- 10:30PM - Free Time/Socialize Individually at San Antonio's Hottest Hot Spots!

**Saturday, October 21, 2017:**

- 8:00AM – 9:30AM: Breakfast at Hotel Hell!
- 10:00AM – 2:00PM: Driving Tour of Ol' King William District – Visit the 1876 Edward Steve's Mansion – Lunch at Pearl Complex
- 2:00PM – 4:00PM: Free Time
- 4:00PM – 6:00PM: Car Line – Up & Preparation / Individual Costume Preparation
- 6:00PM – 9:00PM: "Golden Ghouls 2017" Car Show and Awards Dinner (Special Trophies for "Best Costume" & "Best Tail(lights!)")
- 10:30PM - Free Time/Socialize Individually at San Antonio's Hottest Hot Spots!

**Sunday, October 22, 2017:**

- 10:00AM – 12:00PM "Golden Ghouls/Girls" Farewell Brunch – Hosted by LCCI – San Antonio at Host Hotel



**Website:**

[www.cccc-sanantonio.com](http://www.cccc-sanantonio.com)

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