



# VISALIA VAPOR TRAILERS CAR CLUB Newsletter

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### Club Officers

President: Tom Runyon, 564-1122

Secretary / Treasurer: Jim Martzen, 750-1980

Jumper Cable Committee Chairman: David Barnes, 734-6238

Board of Directors: Tony Avila 623-3876 Keith Franzen 592-4383 Herman Steinbach 732-8738 Steve Davis 269-3509 Cliff Johnson, 731-9176

Vice President: David Barnes, 734-6238

Sgt. At Arms: Garry Brookshire, 651-2606

**Our next meeting is:  
Thursday July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
at 7pm**



### Club Meeting News:

Our last meeting was held on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm within the confines of our clubhouse located on South Burke Street. Member turnout was pretty good considering this was our first Club meeting since the corona virus shelter at home order was given by Governor Newsom. The gang was called to order by **President Tom Runyon** and he led us in the flag salute. The minutes of our last meeting were read by the Club's **Secretary/Treasurer Big Jim Martzen**. The minutes were approved as read. **Jim** also gave us a treasury report. As for any correspondence the Club may had received

over the past month **Jim** reported that Member's yearly dues were still coming in.

We had two new member applications to vote on this month. First was Mike Marshall who was sponsored by **Ted Simmons**. Mike has a 1964 Chevy and a 1974 El Camino. The second victim was Danny Barrett who was also sponsored by **Ted Simmons**. Danny owns a 1946 Mercury Sedan. Both prospects got unanimous “yes” votes.

“*Welcome to the Club boys!*”

**President Runyon** asked if there were any guest present and **Bobby Oswalt** spoke up and reported that he brought his daughter Forest. She was a welcomed addition to the meeting with these motley creatures we have as members.

Next up on the agenda was the Jumper Cable Committee Report. **Keith Franzen** spoke up and informed the group that **H.L. Shahan** had passed away. Also we received some other bad news, **Herman “The Hermanator” Steinbach** was in Kaweah Delta Hospital with chest pains. As of this

newsletter **Herman** is at home which is good news. Dickey Radmacher has had heart bypass surgery. No further info on him. **Brian Blain** took the floor and gave a report on **Jim Putnam** who you recall was severely injured in a rollover accident at a vintage race car event months ago. **Jim** has been in a skilled nursing and rehab facility up north. When this facility turned half of the facility into a Covid-19 care unit **Brian Blain** literally kidnapped **Jim** and brought him back to Visalia. Since that time **Jim** has received a nerve transplant surgery he had been waiting for on his right arm which after a four week recovery he is now moving his arm again.

We then watched a video of **Craig VanHorn's** nitro burning fuel altered named "Panic" which they started at the A&W downtown for nitro day across America. After that we watched another short video showing a "drag saw" in operation which the Club is restoring one for the Mooney's Grove Museum.

We then drew the winner of our door prize which this month was **Cliff Johnson**.

**President Runyon** then adjourned the meeting and announced that **Brian Blain** has several new projects he is working on in the shop and we were welcome to go check them out.

### Other News:

In some sad news the Club lost a dear friend in H.L. Shahan on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The following was H.L.'s obituary which was published in the Visalia Times Delta.



### **H.L. Shahan**

Tulare - H.L. Shahan, of Tulare passed into his Savior's arms on June 18, 2020 at the age of 85 after dealing with Alzheimer's the last 5 years of his life.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7

He was born December 29, 1934 in Bixby Oklahoma to Harry Leslie and Lea (Pyle) Shahan. In 1945 the family moved to Visalia where he grew up with his brother, Paul and sister, Wanda on the Freitas family farm located on Mooney Blvd. where the Lowes and Costco now stand. H.L. attended Liberty School and Visalia Union High School, graduating in 1953. He married Shirley Jean Epperson from Visalia in 1955 and went to work for Epperson Roofing. H.L. and Shirley had three children, Janet, Steve, and Bob. He was a great dad and papa who enjoyed making homemade ice cream for his family and friends. Spending the day up at Lake Kaweah fishing off the houseboat that he built and hunting with his friend Doug Thorley. H.L. led full and enjoying life, but his favorite hobbies of all was drag racing and building engines.

It was in 1956 that H.L. purchased his first race vehicle and headed down the road to

Madera race track where he won a trophy at grease on him.

competing in his first drag race. This was the start of his racing career. In 1960 H.L. partnered with Ed Parker to open Precision Automotive on Kern street in Tulare. At one time H.L. and Ed had seven race cars out of their shop competing at local drag races. A couple years later this partnership would dissolve and H.L. would start his own business, Shahan's Hi-Performance Center. This would be the local's and not so local's place to go and get your engine turned.

Somewhere in the mix of drag racing Shirley had gotten behind the wheel and proved to be just as fast off the lights, if not faster than him at the race track. He decided to turn the driving over to Shirley and he would concentrate on building engines and making her car go faster. In 1963 tuning engines for Ronnie Broadhead from Porterville they won the NHRA Stock Eliminator title. H.L. and Shirley received a 1965 Hemi Plymouth from Chrysler and they started racing up and down California. It was in Pomona at the 1966 NHRA Winternationals the Shahan Team would win the Top Stock class making Shirley the first woman to win a NHRA national drag racing title. After that win H.L. and Shirley went on the road traveling across the states drag racing and making new friends wherever they went. In 1997 H.L. was inducted into the Super Stock Magazine Hall of Fame as an engine builder. After retiring from racing in 1973 H.L. went back to work full time doing what he did best, building engines in his white pants, with a smile on his face. "Hi ya" to all who walked in, and at the end of the day, not a speck of

H.L. is preceded in death by his parents and brother Paul Wayne Shahan. He is survived by a loving family who will miss him greatly. His sister, Wanda Shahan Freeman. Children, Janet Correia (Clarence), Steve Shahan (Kim), Bob Shahan (Carla). Nine grandchildren, Stephanie Tamariz (James), Jennifer Correia, Christina Akins (Tommy), Jeremy Correia (Katharine), Stevi Zonneveld (Cory), LeAnn Williamson (Derek), Courtani Estep, Brittani and Ashley Shahan. Twenty-five great grandchildren, one great great grandson, numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and his Oklahoma family where he never forgot his roots.

The Shahan family would like to extend their appreciation to Connie Santos and the staff at Merritt Manor for taking care of their father, H.L. or as he would tell the nurses when asked him his name, Hot Lips.

Graveside services will be held on Friday, June 26 at 11:00 am. at the Tulare District Cemetery, 900 E. Kern Avenue, Tulare. There will be a Celebration of Life at a date to be determined.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to DRAW (Drag Racing Association of Women) in memory of H.L. Shahan. [www.drawfasthelp.org/donate](http://www.drawfasthelp.org/donate)

Tributes and condolences may be made at [www.millerchapel.com](http://www.millerchapel.com).

Services are under the direction of Miller

Memorial Chapel, 1120 W. Goshen Avenue,  
Visalia, CA (559) 732-8371

To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please  
visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

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Advance-Register from Jun. 23 to Jun. 24,  
2020.

### **Dates to remember:**

Highlighted bold print denotes Club event:

1. **Jul 16, CLUB MEETING, 7pm**

### **For Sale:**

1. Chevy Turbo 400 with shift kit, \$300,  
call Tom Runyon, 289-1922.
2. 1960's era 392 Hemi dual quad intake  
manifold... \$200, call Cliff Johnson,  
731-9176.

### **Wanted:**

1. GM 4 speed Muncie plus linkage if  
possible, call Bill Spruitenburg, 559-  
730-1932.
2. 1965 GM, A body, rear seat assembly  
and console, Cliff Johnson, 731-9176.

### **Just For Fun:**



Let me ask how many of you have run into  
people like this,,,,,,,,,A customer asked, "In  
what aisle can I find the Polish sausage?"

The clerk asks, "Are you Polish?"

The guy, clearly offended, says, "Yes I am  
But let me ask you something.

If I had asked for Italian sausage, would you  
ask me if I was Italian?

Or if I had asked for German Bratwurst,  
would you ask me if I was German?

Or if I asked for a kosher hot dog would  
you ask me if I was Jewish?

Or if I had asked for a Taco, would you ask  
if I was Mexican?

Or if I asked for some Irish whiskey, would  
you ask if I was Irish?"

The clerk says, "No, I probably wouldn't."

The guy says, "Well then, because I asked  
for Polish sausage, why did you ask me if  
I'm Polish?"

The clerk replied, "Because you're in Home  
Depot."



A golfer is in a competitive match with a  
friend, who is ahead by a couple of strokes.  
"Boy, I'd give anything to sink this putt",  
the golfer mumbles to himself.

Just then, a stranger walks up beside him  
and whispers, "Would you be willing to  
give up a quarter of your sex life to sink the  
putt?"

Thinking the man is crazy and his answer

will be meaningless, the golfer also feels that maybe this is a good omen, so he says, "Sounds good to me," and promptly sinks the putt!

Two holes later, he mumbles to himself again, "Gosh, I wish I could get an eagle on this one"

"The same stranger is suddenly at his side again and whispers, "Would it be worth giving up another quarter of your sex life to make an eagle?"

"Shrugging, the golfer replies, "Okay." And, amazingly, he makes the eagle.

On the final hole, the golfer needs another eagle to win. Without waiting for him to say anything, the stranger quickly moves to his side and says, "Would winning this match be worth giving up the rest of your sex life?"

"Definitely," the golfer replies, and sure enough he makes the eagle and wins the match.

As the golfer is walking to the club house, the stranger walks along beside him and says, "I haven't really been fair with you because you don't know who I am. I'm Satan, and from this day forward you really will have no sex life at all."

"Nice to meet you," the golfer replies. "I'm Father O'Malley"



All the members of the company's Board of Directors were called into the Chairman's office, one after another, until only Ted, the junior

member, was left sitting outside.

Finally it was his turn to be summoned.

Ted entered the office to find the Chairman and the other four Directors seated at the far end of the boardroom table.

Ted was instructed to stand at the other end of the table, which he did.

The Chairman looked Ted squarely in the eye, and with a stern voice, he asked:

"Have you ever had sex with my secretary, Miss Floyd?"

"Oh, no, sir, positively not...!" Ted replied.

"Are you absolutely sure...?" asked the chairman.

"Honest, I've never been close enough to even touch her...!"

"You'd swear to that...?"

"Yes, I swear I've never had sex with Miss Floyd, anytime, anywhere..." insisted Ted.

**"Good. Then YOU fire her."**



A young Ontario woman was so depressed that she decided to end her life by throwing herself into the lake, but just before she could throw herself from the docks, a handsome young man stopped her. "You have so much to live for," said the man. "I'm a sailor, and we are off to Italy tomorrow. I can stow you away on my ship. I'll take care of you, bring you food every day, and keep you happy."

With nothing to lose, combined with the fact that she had always wanted to go to Italy, the woman accepted. That night the sailor brought her aboard and hid her in a small but comfortable compartment in the hold. From then on, every night he would bring her three sandwiches, a bottle of red wine, and make love to her until dawn. Three weeks later she was discovered by the captain during a routine inspection.

"What are you doing here?" asked the captain.

"I have an arrangement with one of the sailors," she replied. "He brings me food and I get a free trip to Italy ." "I see," the captain says. Her conscience got the best of her and she added, "Plus, he's screwing me."

"He certainly is," replied the captain, "this is the Toronto Island Ferry."



The rioting in major cities across the U.S. has spread to the Sun Cities. Looters have especially broken into stores that sell items like laxatives and surgical stockings. The thugs were easily caught and arrested since they were using their walkers to flee. The protests have been limited to the evening hours because most of the lawbreakers either had doctor's appointments during the day or rioting would have interfered with their naps. And the marches didn't last all that long anyway because many of the demonstrators had to get home to pee. In many cases, the demonstrators simply forgot why they were even there. Officials considered a curfew starting at 9 p.m. But since that's the time when most of the residents go to bed anyway, it was decided that it wasn't needed. Community leaders concluded that part of the problem was that residents were restless because they had time on their hands since the nightly bingo game had been canceled due to the coronavirus. Community officials wanted to form a committee to look further into the problem, but no one would volunteer



*See Ya! Kent*