

# IMPALA INFO



Vol. 2, Num. 3

Phoenix Chapter of the National Impala Association

May, 2003

## 2nd annual drive-in movie May 17 Meet at Scottsdale Pavilions, cruise to Scottsdale Six drive-in

It's time once again to cruise to the drive-in with the Arizona Impalas.

Join us at 5 p.m. May 17 for the world's largest continuing car show at the Scottsdale Pavilions, Indian Bend Rd. just west of Loop 101. If you've never been to the Pavilions, you'll see hun-

dreds of classic cars from all over the Valley.

Besides your Impala, you'll want to bring your appetite. The club is buying fried chicken dinner for everybody from KFC.

After dinner, we'll have a brief business meeting to discuss results from our

second annual car show as well as future events.

At dusk, we'll cruise down to the Scottsdale Six drive-in for a movie under the stars. Just so you know, instead of the traditional scratchy speakers, the Scottsdale Six uses low-power FM broadcasting for sound.

So if you only have an AM radio, or no radio in your car, remember to bring a boom box.

If your Impala isn't running (or doesn't have A/C), bring your daily driver to the Pavilions to check out the cars and participate in the meeting and the movie.

### 70+ cars make 2nd-annual club show a bigger success



With sunny skies and more than 70 classic Chevrolets on display, Arizona Impalas' second-annual All-Chevy Show drew car enthusiasts from around Arizona. Len and Carol Gasper's tricked out 61 Impala bubbletop, which won Best of Show, is in the foreground, with Bob Kohler's 67 Impala and John Sahid's 62 Impala SS behind.

### See events again on CD

If you missed the GM Proving Grounds 50th Anniversary or our second-annual All-Chevy Show at Impala Bob's you're not out of luck. And if you did make it to these special events, you can see it all again on two CDs.

The GM Proving Grounds CD features the Corvette parade, plus several of the precision driving demonstrations, including the *continued on page 2*

Visit our Web site at [www.arizonaimpalas.com](http://www.arizonaimpalas.com)

# National Impala Association owners meet Arizona chapter members



Back row: Gerri Zavarella, Vic Zavarella, Karl Becker, Daryl Wimer, Sharon Johnson, Dennis Naasz, and Samantha Dulude. Front row: Byrdi Naasz, Cindy Becker, Gary Dulude, and Gene Johnson. Because it was raining off and on that day, only Gary & Samantha drove their Impala; Gary said their 64 sport sedan needed to be washed anyway.

Rain may have kept all but one of the classic Impalas home in the garage, but 10 Arizona Impalas members came to Ed Debevic's on March 16 to meet Dennis & Byrdi Naasz, president and vice president respectively of the National Impala Association in Spearfish, SD.

Dennis & Byrdi were in Phoenix for Dennis' 40th high school reunion; although he went to school in Pierre, SD, the organizers decided it would be much warmer if they met in Arizona instead of South Dakota (they were right).

Dennis & Byrdi encouraged the club members

to consider attending the national convention in South Dakota's Black Hills July 21-26. And if not this year, the convention is an annual event.

Dennis and Byrdi also brought door prizes. Karl Becker won the NIA hat, and Gerri Zavarella won the NIA mug.

## Order your CD of club's big events

*continued from page 1*

Corvettes nose-to-nose and the Cadillac correcting a skid while the driver has his hands off the wheel. You'll also ride along on the proving grounds road course, including the high-speed oval (in the slow lane, however).

The All-Chevy Show CD features nearly 500 photos from our second-annual show, including the caravan to the Cruise on Central in downtown Phoenix. There's also two movies: one shot at the club show; the second at the Cruise on Central. Thanks to Dave Poore, owner of StillRuns.com, the '72 Impala that just won't quit. He shot more than 300 of the photos and produced both movies on the CD.

The CDs are \$4.00 each to cover production and mailing. You can order by e-mail to [arizonaimpalas@aol.com](mailto:arizonaimpalas@aol.com) and get yours at the May 17 meeting. Or send a check to Arizona Impalas, 1150 W. Gary Ct., Chandler, AZ 85224-8675 to receive yours in the mail.

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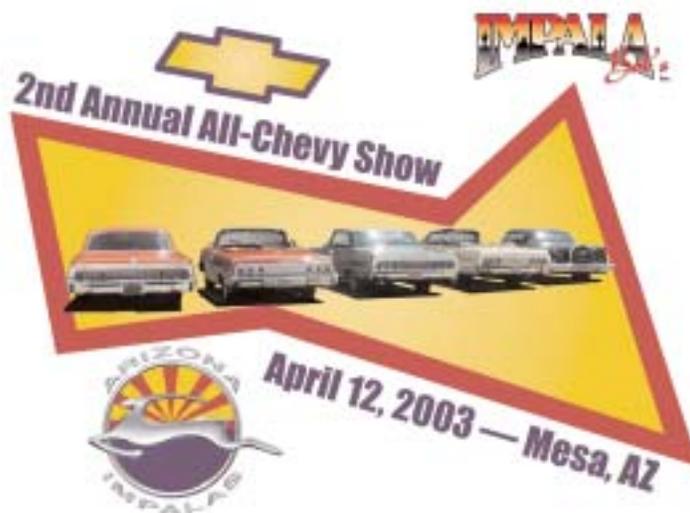
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# 2nd All-Chevy Show draws 70+ cars

This year, the sun shined on the Arizona Impalas.

Our second All-Chevy Show at Impala Bob's was an even bigger success than last year's inaugural show. We had 73 classic Chevrolets on display, ranging from a 36 Standard to an 82 Malibu Classic. There were pre-55 models, Tri-Fives, lots of Impalas, Chevelles, Camaros, Novas, Corvettes, and several trucks. Toss in a Caprice, a Monte Carlo and a couple of El Caminos, and you had a bunch of Bowties filling the taxiway behind Impala Bob's at Falcon Field Airport in Mesa.

Member car's in the show were Daryl Wimer's 58 Impala, new members Len & Carol Gasper with their 61 Impala, John Sahid's 62 Impala SS, Gary & Samantha Dulude's 64 Impala, Karl & Cindy Becker's 64 Impala SS, Vic Zavarella's 65 Impala SS, Jerry Lehr's 66 Caprice, Dan DeSantis' 66 Impala SS, Bob Kohler's 67 Impala, Brian Vaughn's 72 Impala, and Jerry Montgomery's 74 Impala. Also attending and helping out were



Kevin & Marty Byrnes, Gene Johnson, Bill Noyes, Mike & Felicia

earned more than \$300. We also raised money for our designated charity,

Horses Help, through the 50/50 drawing. There will be a complete financial report on the show (we made a profit) at the May 17 meeting.

We gave out 24 first and second place trophies based on people's choice voting. John Sahid added to his impressive collection of awards with a second-place showing in the 1958-64 class. And Len & Carol Gasper's *continued on page 5*



*Top:* Among the 30 Impalas at the show were a 60 Impala, two 64 Impala Super Sports, a 64 Impala, and a 63 Impala SS 409. *Right:* Several Tri-Fives came to the Arizona Impalas show, including two 57 Bel Airs, with a 56 Bel Air in between.

Peters, and Ron Trainor.

Thanks to more than 50 raffle prizes collected by members, ticket sales were brisk, and we



# Classic Chevrolets, Pontiacs, Buicks, Oldsmobiles, Cadillacs celebrate 50 years at GM Proving Grounds

Since 1953, General Motors has been testing cars and trucks under development at its Desert Proving Ground south-east of Mesa. And for 50 years, the fences have been high and the gates closed to keep spying eyes from seeing the new cars and trucks before they hit the showroom.

But on March 9, General Motors opened the gates to classic clubs representing every GM make, along with other invited guests, to celebrate the Proving Ground's 50th anniversary. And for the first time, GM allowed cameras inside the facility.



Arizona Impalas brought 14 cars to the party, including Karl & Cindy Becker's 64 Impala SS, Dan & Patricia DeSantis' 66 Impala SS, Jack Donovan's 65 Impala convertible, Gary & Samantha Dulude's 64 Impala sport sedan, Bob Kohler's 67 Impala sport coupe, Jerry & Arlene Lehr's 66 Caprice, Jerry Montgomery's 74 Impala Spirit of America, John Sahid's 62 Biscayne 409, George & Devona Stebbins' 64 Impala SS, Brian Vaughn's 72 Impala convertible, Daryl Wimer's 58 Impala sport coupe, and Vic



Top: Hundreds of classic GM cars took a drive on the oval track at the GM Desert Proving Ground's 50th Anniversary celebration. Bottom: GM's expert drivers demonstrate how to control a car using only the throttle with three Corvettes in a maneuver known as "Duck, Duck, Goose."



Among the classic GM cars displayed at the GM Desert Proving Ground's 50th Anniversary celebration are John Sahid's 409-powered 62 Biscayne, Daryl Wimer's 58 Impala, George & Devona Stebbins' 64 Impala SS, and Vic Zavarella's 65 Impala SS.

Zavarella's 65 Impala SS. Joining us for the day were Jim & Linda Bates with their 62 Impala SS 409, Paul Hoch's 58 Bel Air, and Robbie & Michelle Robinson with a 64 Impala SS, that other than the fender skirts, is a dead ringer for Karl & Cindy's car.

Classic GM clubs from throughout Arizona participated in the

event, bringing hundreds of cars to display. Among the clubs attending were the Arizona Chevelle Club, Arizona Street Rod Association, Cactus GTO Club, Classic Chevys of Tucson, Desert Classic Chevys, Desert Corvette Association, Desert Renegades, First Generation Camaros of Arizona, Oldsmobile Club of Arizona, Southwest Allanté Group, Southwest Nova Club, and the Valley of the Sun Buick Club.

As each club's caravan arrived at the Proving *continued on page 6*

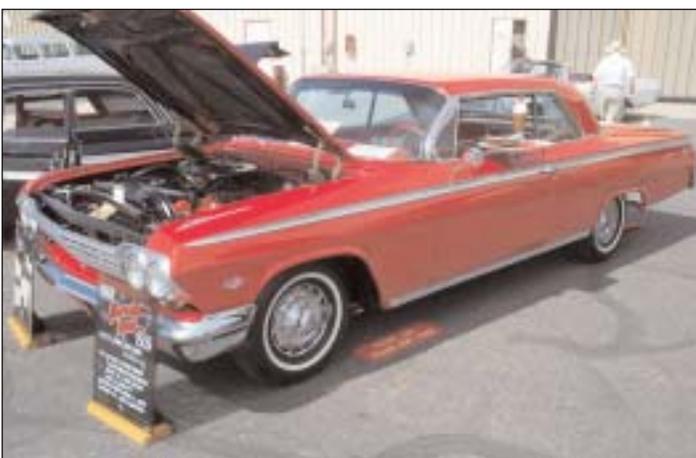
## 2nd All-Chevy show draws 70+ classic cars

*continued from page 3*  
tricked-out 61 Impala bubbletop captured the Best of Show Award, chosen by Impala Bob's president Bob Antebi.

[www.arizonaimpalas.com](http://www.arizonaimpalas.com). You can also order a CD with nearly 500 pictures and two movie clips. See the story on page 1 for more information.

More pictures will be posted soon on the Events page of the club Web site,

*See page 7  
for more show  
pictures*



*Top:* Len & Carol Gasper hold the Best of Show trophy in front of their 61 Impala at the Cruise on Central in Phoenix that followed the Arizona Impalas second All-Chevy Show. *Bottom:* John Sahid's showroom-fresh 62 Impala SS, complete with all the underhood decals and tags, won second place in the 1958-64 Impala class.

## All-Chevy Show Winners

### *Class A — Pre-1955 Car*

1. John Schauff, 54 Bel Air
2. Steve Sapp, 36 Standard

### *Class B — 1955-57 Car*

1. (tie) Dave & Diane Wendt, 56 210; Ron Fuller, 57 Bel Air
2. Dwight Gordon, 57 Bel Air

### *Class C — 1958-64 Impala*

1. Greg & Donna Pyle, 63 Impala SS
2. John Sahid, 62 Impala SS

### *Class D — 1965-76 Impala*

1. David Merriam, 66 Impala
2. Chris Panetta, 66 Impala SS

### *Class E — Chevelle/El Camino/Monte Carlo*

1. (tie) Kevin Grover, 71 Chevelle SS 454; Jason Cain, 70 El Camino
2. Chris Christensen, 68 Chevelle SS

### *Class F — Camaro*

1. Dennis Bruder, 69 Camaro Z/28
2. (tie) John Anderson, 68 Camaro; Steve Rang, 74 Camaro Z/28

### *Class G — Chevy II & Nova*

1. Jason Thomas, 73 Nova
2. Michael Reichling, 72 Nova SS

### *Class H — Corvette*

1. Jerry Fondaw, 54 Corvette
2. Tom & Patty Downs, 63 Corvette

### *Class J — 1955-66 Truck/Suburban/Blazer*

1. Chuck Coulter, 59 Suburban
2. Phillip Mabrey, 71 C-10

### *Class K — 1967-72 Truck/Suburban/Blazer*

1. Norman Atkin, 69 C-10
2. (tie) Millard Pepper, 90 C-10; Larry Fox, 68 C-10

### *Best of Show*

Len & Carol Gasper, 61 Impala

# GM marks 50 years at Desert Proving Ground

*continued from page 4*  
Ground, GM staff and volunteers directed the cars onto the road course, including a turn on the famous banked oval track. The high-speed lane (95 mph minimum) was blocked off by orange cones, but even in the slow lane, it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Besides the classics on display, GM also brought several of its famous concept cars, including the jet-powered Firebirds of the late 50s and early 60s, the prototype for the mid-90s Impala SS, and the Cadillac Evoq parked next to its production version, the upcoming Cadillac XLR roadster.

2003 is also the 50th anniversary of the Corvette, with a white 1953 roadster, a 1978 Silver Anniversary coupe, and a 2003 50th Anniversary coupe sharing a display. In addition, Corvettes from every generation paraded down the Proving Ground's main street, a phenomenal display of America's greatest sports car.

The Corvette was also the star during several of the precision driving demonstrations given throughout the day. Perhaps the most spectacular stunt



was two Corvettes going nose-to-nose, with the Corvette in reverse leading the way at full throttle. GM's expert drivers also showed the effectiveness of anti-lock brakes and GM's StabiliTrak stability control system. In the StabiliTrak demonstration, the driver threw a Cadillac STS into a skid, and the car corrected itself while the driver held his hands out the window to applause from the crowd.

GM is planning to close the Desert Proving Ground sometime after 2005, so this may have been the one and only chance to see it. But you



*Top to bottom:* Arizona Impalas brought 14 cars to the GM 50th anniversary, including Jack Donovan's 65 Impala convertible, Brian Vaughn's 72 Impala convertible, Jerry Montgomery's 74 Impala Spirit of America, Jerry & Arlene Lehr's 66 Caprice, and Dan & Patricia DeSantis' 66 Impala SS. Fifth- and first-generation Corvettes parade down the Proving Ground's main street. 50th and 25th Anniversary Corvettes flank an original 1953 Corvette. At the end of the day, Karl & Cindy Becker leave the Proving Grounds in their 64 Impala SS.

can see digital pictures and QuickTime™ movies from the 50th anniversary

celebration on CD. See the story on page 1 for more information.

# More pictures from 2nd-annual All-Chevy Show



Top left: The evolution of the Impala logo is seen in examples from 1958, 1960, and 1962. Top right: Several generations of classic Chevys filled the taxiway behind Impala Bob's at Falcon Field Airport. Bottom: The battle of the beaters is a close one between (left) NOGO I, Vic Zavarella's 65 Impala SS, and (right) STILRNS, Dave Poore's 72 Impala Custom.

## Thanks to members for making show a bigger success

Arizona Impalas' second car show was an even bigger success than last year thanks to the efforts of our members both before and during the show. Thanks to everybody for their contributions:

Raffle prizes: Karl & Cindy Becker, Gary Dulude, Bob Kohler, Mike & Felicia Peters,

George & Devona Stebbins, Ron Trainor, Daryl Wimer, Vic Zavarella

Raffle, 50/50 ticket sales: Kevin & Marty Byrnes

Registration: Samantha Dulude, Marty Byrnes, Felicia Peters

Goody bags: Kevin &

Marty Byrnes, Gary & Samantha Dulude

Parking: Gene Johnson, Ron Trainor, Vic Zavarella

Trophies and dash plaques: Gary Dulude, Bill Harvey

Ballot counting: Karl & Cindy Becker

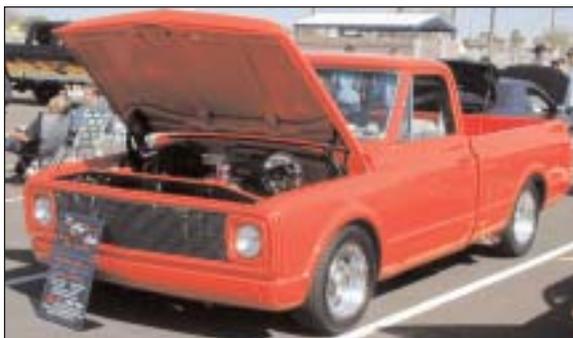
Publicity: Daryl Wimer

Photos: Gary & Samantha Dulude, Gene Johnson, Mike Peters, Dave Poore

Thanks also to Impala Bob's for providing the venue and the hot dog lunch. Impala Bob's also paid for half of the trophies. Thanks especially to Julia Marzett for all of her work coordinat- ing the event with us.

## Sahid goes four-for-four at Deer Valley High School show

When John Sahid comes to a car show, he can choose from a garage full of classic Chevys. And when he brought four of them to the Deer



John Sahid stands between his first-place 69 Camaro RS/SS and second-place 67 Corvette Sting Ray at the Deer Valley High School show February 22. John also won first place trophies for his 62 Biscayne 409 and 71 C-10.

Valley High School's Cruisin' to the Tunes show February 22, he took home trophies for each.

John took three first place awards for his 62 Biscayne 409, his 69 Camaro RS/SS 396 convertible, and customized 71 C-10 pickup. His 67 Corvette Sting Ray took a second-place award.

Other Arizona Impalas members at the show were Karl & Cindy Becker with their 64 Impala SS, Gary Dulude with his 64 Impala, Len & Carol Gasper with their 61 Impala, and Mike & Felicia Peters with their 67 Impala.

## Impalas rank third among most-stolen classic cars

It should come as no surprise that the most popular classic cars would also be popular with car thieves. Still, you may be surprised to learn the 1958-67 Chevrolet Impala ranks third among the most-stolen classic cars. Only the 1966-82 Corvette and 1964-69 Ford Mustang are stolen more often.

The report, which appeared in the May 3, 2003 edition of *USA Today*, is the result of a three-year study conducted by Hagerty

Insurance, one of the leading insurers of collectible cars and motorcycles. Hagerty conducted the study July 1999 and December 2002 using theft reports and the company's own insurance records.

The top 10 most-stolen classics is full of Bowties, but oddly enough, not the 55-57 Bel Air. The rest of the list includes:

4. 1968-69 Chevrolet Camaro
5. 1941-72 Harley-Davidson motorcycle
6. 1963-72 Chevrolet Nova

7. 1966-73 Chevrolet Chevelle
8. 1970-78 Chevrolet Monte Carlo
9. (tie) 1955-65 Cadillac DeVille; 1950-71 Chevrolet pickup; 1975-79 Mercedes-Benz 450
10. (tie) 1955-63 Ford Thunderbird; 1964-77 Lincoln Continental

You can read the full article online at [http://www.usatoday.com/money/autos/2003-05-01-classic-cars\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/autos/2003-05-01-classic-cars_x.htm)

## Stebbins' 64 Impala SS wins again at Tucson Chevy Showdown

For the third year in a row, George and Devona Stebbins' 64 Impala SS has taken a trophy at the Classic Chevy Club of Tucson's Chevy Showdown. The Stebbins' Red Bomb won second place in the highly competitive 1958-64 original class (a black 58 Impala with a Tri-Power 348 big-block won first). The 18th annual show at Reid Park featured more than 100 classic Chevys.



George & Devona Stebbins won for the third year in a row at the Classic Chevy Club of Tucson's 18th Annual Chevy Showdown April 26. Their red 64 Impala SS took second place in the 1958-64 original class.

As in the past, the Arizona Impalas made the drive to Tucson in a caravan with the Desert Classic Chevys Club. Also joining the Tri-Fives were Gary & Samantha Dulude (and their dog Max) in their 64 Impala

and Vic Zavarella in his 65 Impala SS.

## For sale by members

**1966 Caprice Custom Coupe** two-door hardtop. Big-block 396 V-8, TurboHydraMatic. GM Executive Demo Brass Hat car loaded with vinyl top, bumper guards, remote side-view mirror, rally wheels, Positraction, power steering, power brakes, power windows, console with gauge package, 4-way multiplex stereo, 3-way horn, 4-way flashers, Comfortron air conditioning, Fisher deluxe seat belts. Show car winner, mint condition inside and out. Original mileage, original numbers-matching engine. Asking \$24,500 or best offer. Contact Jerry Lehr at 480-538-9055 or e-mail [capricegtl@aol.com](mailto:capricegtl@aol.com).



**1965 Impala Sport Sedan** four-door hardtop. 283 V-8, Powerglide automatic transmission. Power steering, power brakes, AM radio. Have Protect-O-Plate, original warranty book, owner's manual, accessories manual, bill of sale. Factory A/C system overhauled with original GM parts. Original radiator has been re-cored. New starter, new brake drums and shoes, new ball joints, springs, shock absorbers, tie-rod ends, and center link. Very good mechanical condition. Car is complete and original. Solid body needs new paint. Original interior needs restoration. Reduced to \$2,500 or best offer. Contact Pablo Martinez at 602-436-3019 (work), 602-867-5903 (home) or e-mail [Pablo.Martinez@honeywell.com](mailto:Pablo.Martinez@honeywell.com).

## Electronic edition with full-color photos available online

Because full-color printing can be pretty expensive, *Impala Info* is printed in black & white. But you can see the classic Chevys in all their Technicolor glory in by downloading the online version of the newsletter, available at the bottom of the home page on the club Web site, [www.arizonaimpalas.com](http://www.arizonaimpalas.com). The online

edition is published in an Adobe Acrobat .pdf file. If you don't have the Acrobat Reader on your computer, it's available free at the Adobe Web site, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).

Past issues of *Impala Info* are also posted on the Web site, as are minutes from all club business meetings.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 17:** Arizona Impalas Cruse-in at Scottsdale Pavilions, Indian Bend Rd. and Loop 101. Meet at 5:00 p.m., cruise to Scottsdale Six for drive-in movie at dusk.
- May 30-June 1:** Rim Country Classic Auto Club's Beeline Cruise-In and Charity Car Show at Mazatzal Casino in Payson. Pre-registration only before May 16. Call 928-472-7273 for more information.
- June 7:** Custom Comp & Cruise presented by Prescott Auto Enthusiasts at the Yavapai County Court House in downtown Prescott. Pre-registration \$15 by May 15; \$20 day of show. Call 928-778-0000 for more information.
- June 11-15:** 29th Classic Chevy International Convention at the Hon-Dah Resort in Pinetop. Call 1-800-456-1957 for more information.
- June 14:** Classics at Prescott Valley presented by Yavapai Classic Cruisers, Prescott Valley K-Mart Parking Lot at Highway 69 and Lake Valley Rd. Pre-registration \$15 before June 7; \$20 day of show. Call 928-636-9048 for more information.



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*Address Correction Requested*