

Hello!

This is what I wrote last year in the first newsletter for our group, the California Dodge Brothers and Sisters:

“What a different Winter we’ve had this year! It seems like we’ve had rain like we’ve never had before. I’m sure that’s not true, but I can’t remember when storm after substantial storm just kept rolling in, one right after the other like it’s been this year. In early December last year Travis, Tyler, and I took a father/son/grandpa trip up to Oregon (Boring, Oregon, to be exact) to pick up a vehicle and when we went by Lake Shasta, it was pretty much just a BIG hole. Now I hear it’s at least 50% full, maybe more by this time. Amazing!”

This year, although not as intense as last, is nevertheless a very “wet” year! But it’s starting to warm up, the rains are not coming so frequently, and it’s time to start thinking about DB Touring again! And as always, we’ll start thinking about that together at our kick-off Picnic on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> in Pleasanton, CA. We can’t predict our ability to sneak in between rain storms this year, so we’ll just plan for this picnic and if we get rained out, we get rained out!. Our Agenda will include potluck dishes (see below) to enjoy, as well as a discussion of this year’s tour schedule, the status of the website, For Sales and Wanteds, etc.

Again, our Kick-off Potluck Picnic will be on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at our regular meeting place, Amador Valley Community Park in Pleasanton, California, behind the swimming pool! Be careful to read the last sentence again: the Picnic is a week later than usual because our traditional date, the last Sunday in March, is Easter Sunday this year. So, if you show up for the Picnic on Easter Sunday, we won’t be there!

We will plan to arrive at 1:00 p.m. Be aware that this event could get rained out, so if it looks like rain for the 7<sup>th</sup>, please call us on Saturday, the 6<sup>th</sup> to confirm that we will be there--rain (real rain, not sprinkles!) will cause us to have to cancel since there is no cover at the park at all! If you don’t get us when you call on the 6<sup>th</sup> leave a message on my phone’s voicemail and I will call you back late Saturday evening (up until 10:00 p.m.) or early Sunday morning. If you are not sure how to get to Amador Valley Community Park in Pleasanton, please call and I’ll fill you in!

This year we will go back to making assignments for our potluck menu. This year it will be A-M (last name) bringing a main dish, with N-Z bringing a side (a dessert or bread, salad, side dish like beans, etc.) dish. We usually feed about 30 (sort of our average attendance) so plan accordingly. Once again, we (Barhams) will be responsible for bringing the plastic silverware, the paper plates, napkins, and the water and soft drinks. This continues to be a true potluck--that is, we don’t plan the food. So, if all we get are desserts, so be it! It makes it more fun that way!!! We are usually finished by 3:00 p.m., giving people a chance to get home in the daylight. Come on out and join us!

One last thing about the Picnic: if you already plan to attend, PLEASE send me a return e-mail indicating that to me, if you wouldn’t mind. I realize gasoline prices are exceptionally high this year, and that may mean that some of you make gasoline value judgments between this Potluck and our later Tours. I get that; but if only three people are going to show up at the Picnic, I’d like to cancel it so that people attending don’t feel it was an unwise event this year. So help me out: if you know as you read this that you are attending, please let me know! Thanks!

By the way, if you’d like to volunteer to plan a tour or outing for our group, please do so! We can’t promise all suggestions will pan out, but call me, or Travis Barham with your ideas and your willingness to volunteer! Remember, the object of all this is to get the family out together to enjoy the DB’s (not necessarily your own); get fired up about restoring them; and to help each other in the process. So DON’T THINK YOU NEED TO HAVE A RUNNING AND/OR RESTORED VEHICLE TO

PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES. We welcome participants in current day iron (especially if it appears it may rain!)! Just get out, join in, and let us get a chance to meet you! Additionally, be aware that you won't be "the Lone Ranger" in the planning of a tour unless you want to be. I'm available to strategize, help plan routes, suggest "sites to see," etc.

For Sales/ Wanteds: I don't have any attached to this newsletter because so far no one has sent any to me! As always, I will be glad to send out, in every newsletter this year, "For Sales" and "Wanteds". But I need you to send me the information that you want included this year. So, please send us a letter or an e-mail, or a postcard (or give us a call) listing the items you'd like to sell or acquire.

This is the letter where I always make my annual pitch for membership in the National DB Club. Our group (California Dodge Brothers and Sisters or CDB&S) IS NOT the National DB Club. National Club membership costs only \$50 per year, and for that you get a really nice magazine every other month, technical assistance, FOR SALES and WANTEDS from all over the world, etc. There is great value in being a National Club member. If you want more information and an application, please let me or Travis know!

Donn Marinovich has been our Membership Chairman for as long as I can remember. Donn's health is presenting issues that preclude him continuing this function. We really appreciate all the efforts Donn has put into this over the years and wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

So, we are looking for a full time Membership person. Right now, we have two temporary folks (me and Travis) doing this, but we'd really like someone to step up to take over this function for our group. Please let us know of your interest before we have to "lean" on somebody to step up!

This leads me to this year's dues: they are due! Several have already sent them in. If you're among them, thanks very much. If you are not among them, please get a check in the mail to California Dodge Brothers and Sisters (CDB&S) as soon as possible or when you receive our annual appeal, which should arrive in your mailboxes about a week from now with a self addressed envelope included to make things as easy as possible. Dues are \$20.00 for a Family or \$15.00 for an Individual; current dues-paying Members will continue to receive these newsletter e-mails Thanks!

As I do every year, I want to mention an advertiser who makes our restoration lives easier by providing DB parts, restoration materials, etc. Tom and Cindy Myers own and operate Myers Early Dodge Parts covering the years, 1914 – 1930. These folks provide a wonderful service for all of us, making our efforts to get and keep our DB's on the road immensely easier because we don't have to track down, stock, etc. all the DB parts that are available through them. (They are a great source of tech advice, too, if you are having a problem that you just can't quite noodle through!) Give them a call and let them help you out!

Additionally, I want to once again make you aware of Ken Stadelhofer at ARMS Pumps in Tracy, CA. Ken carries on the tradition of Gene Stadelhofer, his Dad, in rebuilding DB water pumps. If your DB pump needs repair, packing, etc., please give Ken a call at 209.832.2767 or contact him at [www.armspumps.com](http://www.armspumps.com).

Well, that's it for now. We hope to see all of you on SUNDAY, **APRIL 7<sup>th</sup>**, at 1:00 p.m. in Pleasanton!

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