

DOUBLE HEADER EVENT TURNS INTO GRAND SLAM FOR AACA

August 6, 2022

What is

A large contingent of AACA SoCal members and guests made their way to Gardena to visit not only the “Wonderful World” of Richard Tupper’s creative inspirations but to ogle over the “Movie Stars” of David Simon’s collector automobiles.



Richard Tupper’s mind flashes faster than a mighty pitch to come up with so many awesome results. Begin with his main showroom fashioned into his own personal drive-in theater. The cars are arranged facing the huge movie screen and the ceiling has fiber optic stars that come on when the lights go down. There’s a 50’s diner complete with popcorn machines and a carousel, too!



The formula sounds fairly simple: Take a 1959 Volkswagen Beetle and find a way to make it 40% larger. Basically, it's a custom-built Bug riding atop the chassis of a 2010 Dodge Ram full-size pickup truck with a 5.7-liter Hemi V-8 engine in front. It's unabashedly outrageous, and that's one of the reasons to admire it so much.



Richard Tupper took on the project that required creating 3,514 unique parts in the metal fabrication shop that he owns. It was such an incredible undertaking that even the screws needed to be created from scratch because there were none that existed in their size (above: huge bug & normal size bug).



To grasp the size, Howard & Betty are next to "Huge Bug" while Linda shows the size of mini-me



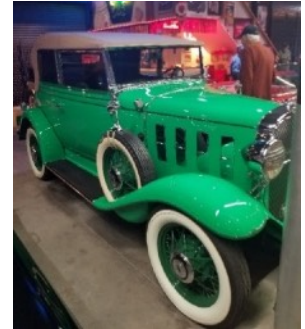
Joel and Joe thanking Richard Tupper for hosting us today.



If you look closely, you'll see that Elvis has not left the house!



Members enjoying a variety of cars



Future 'Bumper Car'



Richard: "This is how I do it"

Lush interior of the Cadillac limousine



Richard's Monster Jeep

Pick-up truck on a Fire Truck chassis

Peterbilt Truck brought down to size

Clamoring for more, today's tour leader Rick Miller started us off on the top of the 9th, er...across the street to the eclectic collection of Dave Simon. Here we viewed cars from *The Great Race* and other movie memorabilia as well as military vehicles and planes featuring large action murals. Throughout the rooms are numerous display cases featuring mementos from by-gone days.



Recently on loan to the Petersen Museum, Dave and his son actually drove Professor Fate's car through the city streets back to Gardena. Hopefully there were no accidents from other drivers expecting to see Jack Lemmon by taking a double-take along the way.



Thanks to the Simons for opening up their collection for the AACA to view



Numerous rooms containing many cars and collectables, it's hard to decide where to look first



Rick's young guest could be the future of AACA



Richard Tupper and Dave Simon were gracious host who treated us to an unforgettable day sharing their passion of collecting. Even though many of us have been lucky enough to view these amazing collections before, it's always good to come back to listen to the stories, history and restoration process that Richard and Dave have encountered.