



## **March, 2010 Float Notes**

### **NEXT GENERAL MEETING:** **SUNDAY, MARCH 14th, 5:00PM** **FLOAT BARN**

#### **President's Message:**

To all, again, "CONGRATULATIONS" our 5th consecutive award; Founders - 2006, Lathrop K Leishman - 2007, Princess - 2008, Lathrop K Leishman - 2009 and Governors - 2010.

Our 1st round submission design, "**Suenos de California**" (designed by Charles Meier) was accepted at the Tournament of Roses Theme Draft. This design incorporates the 2nd California mission, "San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo" which is located south of the City of Carmel, constructed in 1770, and is believed by many to be the most beautiful of the 21 California missions. Father Junipero Serra is buried at this mission. Father Serra was the founder of 6 of the initial 8 missions prior to his death in 1784. (This is only provided with the information I accessed on the internet.) This float is truly about California and prior to completing my message I spoke to Charles, he was not aware that this mission, again is stated to be the most beautiful.

The 'Pot Luck' dinner, Saturday, January 16th was enjoyed by all. The evening commenced with a short video provided by Annie and Jonathan, (the documentary gang) which included an image of Dick Sappington integrated into a Steve McQueen "BULLIT" movie poster. I was told Dick laughed with such energy that the following morning had a sore throat. Thanks to all, it was a great evening.

We are now developing our 2011 float plan, with the desire to progress in a timely manner which will allow for an evenly sequenced construction and deco material scheduling. The hope is to avoid a year-end crisis.

**WE ARE AN ALL VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION**  
**OUR BUDGET IS THE LESS THAN ANY OTHER FLOAT**  
**WE CONTINUE TO BUILD ONE OF THE BEST FLOATS**  
**WE ALL SHOULD BE PROUD**  
**THE FORCE IS WITH SMRFA**

**PRIDE AND HAVING "FUN" IS IMPORTANT**

## **Vice President's Message:**

You should be aware five of the six self-built organizations won awards for their float entries:

- Governor's Trophy-Sierra Madre
- Bob Hope Humor Trophy-Cal Poly Universities
- Fantasy Trophy-La Canada
- Founder's Trophy-Downey
- Animation Trophy-Burbank

This is a remarkable achievement for the self-built organizations and a great way to start off the New Year.

**Float Building Classes:** New for this year, Dick, Kay and I will be offering a comprehensive float building for all interested adults on Wednesday evenings, starting April 7, 6:00 to 9:00PM. The class session will last through August and cover a wide range of topics including: Engine Mechanics, Hydraulics, Welding, Deco Planning, Purchasing and Implementation, Finance and a wide range of other topics. Cost will be \$50 which will be applied to the cost of materials. Classes/topics will be tailored to each participant. More details to follow.

During these Wednesday evening, construction will be carried on as usual.

## **Barn Construction Hours:**

Sunday, 10:00AM To 5:00PM


*Starting March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Wednesdays, 6:00PM-9:00PM*

## **Construction Committee:**

Once again we're in the updating and upgrading phase, both on the float and in the barn. One of the most pleasurable of these projects was adding our fifth title letter set, "California Girls", to our collection of trophy winning titles hung at the north end of the barn.

Both of the "Sierra Madre" city letter sets from "Girls" were also saved and will soon be displayed by their respective new owners. What an incredible reward for our little team's efforts. These community testaments mean more to us than the awards themselves. Thank you one and all.

Well, the 2010 contest's been held, the submissions voted on, the winner selected, the design submitted and Tournament's approval garnered. The plans are in the works, the chassis' being readied, the steel's a-waiting.

And so begins another SMRFA build, "Suenos de California" ..... 

## **Chassis-**

This year's only problem on the parade route was one with the front brakes. Not bad enough to stop us more than temporarily, still, it's being addressed and will be mere history shortly.

Our list of upgrades for this year includes a complete rebuild of the driver's position, making it permanent and taking advantage of the improvements inherent in the redesign. There'll be more room, better adjustability, better ease of entry and egress, more stowage and it'll be more comfortable as well.

Our brake work is allowing us to include a few upgrades there as well, relocating some of the equipment for easier access and adjustments when needed.

We're finally replacing our old fuel pumps with units better suited to the carburetors we're using, and in the process renewing all the rubber components this year. We're also using the upgrade to redesign the system for an expected new Tournament requirement in the next year or two, so that it'll be a simple addition when it comes.

Rounding it all out, we're adding the final stages to the under float air tunneling for the engines' cooling systems. This will finish that long term project, seeing to the last and smallest of our cooling concerns.

"Suenos" will use both our new chassis extension sections together for the first time. This one's a full 55 footer, folks. She'll be back on her wheels in mid March and we'll have the extensions on just as soon as she is.

### **Superstructure-**

The design work's already coming together and this year a lot of the components are designed for off-float building. Thus, there'll be quite a few things progressing simultaneously. With several build processes in motion together it's going to be another fun year, rather party like. We're already working that way (on the chassis) and looking forward to continuing the trend on the superstructure.

### **The Barn-**

Only a couple new things here. Some new carts for the welders, some new shelving in the fabrication area and fresh light bulbs here & there. The barn's pretty much the way we want it now, there remains but to work in it and to enjoy it.

### **Work schedule-**

We're doing our usual Sundays of course, but are adding Wednesday evenings for a formal float building class we're offering (see Don about these). This evening will also be open to non-class folks as well, for regular construction apart from the classes.

As always, any of it may be applied to community service time requirements.

**So .....**

### **Hours-**

Sundays, 10:00 am 'til whenever.

Wednesdays, 6:00 pm 'til 9:00 pm.

Other times & dates available by appointment.

[ds6 at sbcglobal.net](mailto:ds6@sbglobal.net), 323 256 0857

Have fun, we are. 😊

Dick

### **Fundraising/Informational Activities:**

#### **Wistaria Festival:**

On Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, the Sierra Madre community will hold its annual Wistaria festival from 8AM-5PM.

The Rose Float Assn. will have an informational booth located at Memorial Park, just west of the canon on Sierra Madre Blvd. Specifically; we will be meeting visitors and local, talking about the Association's 2011 design, volunteering and Legendary Bingo.

Help is need in set-up and "manning" the booth. Please contact Don Mills if you would be able to help.

### **Legendary Bingo:**

On Saturday evening, April 17<sup>th</sup> we will hold our semi-annual Legendary Bingo at the Sierra Madre Recreation Center. Doors Open at 6:30PM with Bingo starting at 7:30PM sharp. Help will be need to assemble baskets on Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, set –up the Recreation Center at Noon on April 17<sup>th</sup> and help with concessions during Bingo.

### **PLEASE SEE KAY'S NOTE BELOW:**

BINGO - WHITE ELEPHANTS IN APRIL ????

You know all those gifts you were thinking of re-gifting? How about this - - - Donate these unused items to be used in a prize basket for our upcoming Bingo Fundraiser. Please drop them by the barn on any Sunday (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.), or call - 626.355.7005 - and we will arrange to pick these items up.

Speaking of baskets - We will be assembling baskets on Thursday, April 15th, 7 to 9 p.m. Please come by and help us get ready for a bawdy night of BINGO.

Kay

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### **Fire Wood:**

The Association has cute, split firewood available. We are asking for \$75/cord donation which very reasonable given that full cords are generally over \$150. Just pick it up at the Barn

### **Pop-Tops:**

Please continue saving pop-tops for the Sierra Madre Women's Club who in turn, gives them to Pasadena Ronald McDonald House. Our efforts this year were acknowledged and greatly appreciated when the Princesses presented at the Women's Club.

### **Scholarship Program:**

The Board of Director's has approved increasing the scholarship program to \$1,500 per recipient starting this year. This change recognizes the ever-increasing costs for tuition and books. Scholarship program details and applicant forms are available from Don Mills or at the Barn. Applications and reference forms must be received by Monday, May 3, 2010 for this year's award.

### **Sierra Madre Rose Float Association Website:**

The Sierra Madre Assn. website is in the process of being updated. We apologize for much of the information and forms being outdated.

**April General Meeting:**  
**Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 5PM @ the Barn**