



Beach Street Revival

Photos by Monique Schoenfeld

Watsonville resident Gilbert Casares' '54 Chevy displays numerous murals of Native Americans.

A big weekend for classic-car buffs

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Classic black, cherry red and a whole lot of chrome.

The weekend's Beach Street Revival had the car-show essentials, along with just about any other color you'd care to see on a classic set of wheels.

Though smaller than last year, the 17th annual event drew a sizable crowd to the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in Watsonville both Saturday and yesterday. The Revival's reputation attracted car owners from all over, and many of those from out of town seemed impressed by the variety of makes and models on display.

"There's a nice mixture of different kinds of cars," said Anita Vandermeer, of Fresno, who was at the Revival with her husband, Art, and their red '55 Buick. "And the people are friendly."

Ron McLerren, of Auburn, who brought his '38 Ford coupe to the Revival for a third year, is pretty much hooked on the event. "It's in a nice area, and it has a really good reputation," he said.

To make a good impression even better, both days were mild and mostly sunny, with yesterday's warm weather especially suited for perusing the cars on exhibit. Mersey Beach provided yesterday afternoon's musical entertainment, rocking out on covers of classic Beatles, Kinks and Yardbirds. The band even inspired the red and green-suited Powerful Rangers to take time out from entertaining in the children's area and kick their feet up to the Beatles' "Day Tripper."

But one aspect of the event sorely missed by many participants this year was the Saturday night "Twilight Cruise." The cruise was canceled after city officials voted to require Revival director Rick Petersen to put up a \$5,000 deposit to insure against possible traffic problems.

Robyn Huber, of Salinas, participated in the informal "scenic convoy" which served for some as a cruise substitute late Saturday afternoon. She said the drive was less than ideal, with too few participants and not enough organization. "It wasn't the same. Everybody wasn't together," said Huber, who brought her black '69 Chevelle to the car show.

A number of local car owners came out for the Revival as well. Neil Thornber, of Watsonville, who has been showing at the event for at least six years, said he's been happy to have the Revival close to home since it moved from Santa Cruz to Watsonville in 1990.

"I like it out here (at the fairgrounds) better than Santa Cruz," said Thornber, who was at the Revival with his black '69 Dodge Charger. "There's twice as much room, and you get to race the guys on the way over."

Area residents made a strong showing in both the participant and VIP judging. Mark Smedlund, of Freedom, took home the most awards, for his Pro Street '66 Plymouth Satellite. Fellow participants voted Smedlund four awards.

Other winners came from Watsonville, Santa Cruz, Felton and Scotts Valley. But Aptos resident Richard Brunk, who re-



Redding resident Sal Santoro starts routine that won him 'Mr. Hot Rod Bod' title.

ceived the Mayor's Choice award for the red '65 Sunbeam Tiger he owns with his wife, Kathy, said winning is just icing on the cake. "You just come here to have fun," he said after the VIP awards ceremony Saturday.

"And if you win, you win."