



est. 1946  
**ARIZONA**

## Curves of Steel Exhibition

The SO-CAL Speed Shop Belly Tanker on display at the Phoenix Art Museum in their "Curves of Steel" exhibition. Built in 1948 by SCSS founder, Alex Xydias, the belly tank lakester was transformed from a 315-gallon auxiliary, wing mounted fuel tank of a P-38 Lightning. Xydias fresh from his WWII service with the Army Air Corps, came home with a need for speed. On the day of his discharge, March 3, 1946, using some borrowed money, Alex opened the first SO-CAL Speed Shop on Olive Avenue in Burbank. "I really struggled to keep it going," says Alex. "Sometimes I made less than \$100 a month but the hard work paid off, and when my one-year lease was up, I moved shop to 1104 South Victory Boulevard in Burbank where I placed a Sears Roebuck prefab two-car garage." The hot rods that bore the SO-CAL logo ran in pretty fast company. The V8-60-powered lakester clocked 136 mph in 1948 and SO-CAL cars were the first hot rods to go 160, 170, 180 and 190 mph.

Something's never change and the same hard work and passion for the sport has made SO-CAL Speed Shop AZ the local Phoenix store that bears the name and hot rodding spirit that Alex and the Belly Tanker has inspired in so many individuals. SO-CAL-AZ located at 3427 East McDowell Road, is the parts headquarters for all those car enthusiasts who have their own "works of art" in their home-garage studios.

Visit the Phoenix Art Museum exhibition to see the Belly Tanker and other beautiful cars; then stop by SO-CAL-AZ to see how you can create your own curves of steel classic.

For Curves of Steel exhibition details go to: Phoenix Art Museum (Dates?)

