



NCKCC News

Handcrafted Automobiles

April 2010

Volume 28 Number 4



This is our group of Academy of Science explorers in Golden Gate Park on Saturday March 20th.

ACTIVITY NOTICES

April 17, 2010 - Annual "Coming Out" party to celebrate **new members** and **new cars** added to our club during the past calendar year. To be held at Robert Wagner's home in Foster City. More info on Page 2 & 3.

May 22, 2010 - Wine Tasting and Castle Tour at Castello di Amorosa in Calistoga. Please see page 5 and give us your immediate feedback. It is a special (and expensive) wine tour and we need your response.

FROM THE PREZ

The official Club activity for the month of April is the Annual Coming Out Party on the 17th. I am co-championing this activity with my dad, Bob. We hope many of our members will come on over to the West Bay and enjoy some food and camaraderie in beautiful Foster City. I have made my request to the weather gods for a beautiful day. Hopefully they will be generous and grant this simple request. Full info on the Coming Out Party will be elsewhere in this month's newsletter.

Other activities that are close at hand calendar-wise are the AHA Handcrafted Auto Show in Pomona on Saturday, April 24th.and the Niles Spring Fever Car Show on Saturday, May 8th. In the past, several of our members have formed up a convoy to the AHA. If you are planning the long trek to the AHA Show, please let Vern know by phone or e-mail. I'm sure he will be happy to serve as an AHA "Central". He can then help you coordinate via e-mail with other members who might be planning the trip. Also, for those of you who are anticipating attending the Niles Spring Fever Show, please let me know by phone or e-mail. I will be attending and plan to arrive early to try to reserve several adjacent parking slots for our members. It's still difficult to get the prime all-day shaded slots even when arriving early, but I will try. Hope to see many of you at both the Coming Out Party and at the Niles Spring Fever Show.

Take care, Hope to see y'all soon,
Jim Wagner, NCKCC President

DUES ARE DONE FOR 2010

The \$24 dues for 2010 are in for 52 members. There are about 20 who haven't responded and must be dropped from our roles. The names in ***bold italics*** have paid since the March newsletter report. Here is the whole list grouped by month received:

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| Bales | Bradley(2011) |
| Cofano | DeCato |
| Fewell | Hance |
| Hunsberger | Izuno |
| Ketchel | King |
| LaMothe | Navratil |
| Rosenthal | Rubenstein |
| J. Wagner | R. Wagner |
| Walters | |
| | |
| Clavelli | Barrilleaux |
| Elster | Craycroft |
| Kinzy | Faithfull |
| Koch | Kluber |
| | Landers |

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| Leavitt | Maddux |
| Merritt | J. Smith |
| R.Thomson | |

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Amsberry | Bello |
| Calderon | Cameron |
| Cooley | Foote (2011) |
| Fernandez | Foldenauer |
| Kunedt | Jacobs |
| Jermanis | LaCasse |
| Latty | Mills |

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Henson</i> | <i>Koontz</i> |
| <i>Little</i> | <i>Rhodes</i> |
| <i>Shambora</i> | <i>Somerhalder</i> |
| <i>Bohr</i> | <i>Delany</i> |

APRIL 17, 2010 – COMING OUT PARTY: 10:30AM – 2:30PM

Mark your calendar for our Annual Coming Out Party. The "Coming Out" party is intended to honor those members who have spent many cold days and nights over this last winter to build new their handcrafted cars or improve upon their existing ones and also to honor any new members who have joined the Club.

This year the Coming Out Party will be in the West Bay at the home of member, Bob Wagner. The time for the party is 10:30AM to 2:30PM. Food will be served around Noon. The location is 460 Beach Park Blvd, Foster City, CA.

For our Menu, we plan on serving Pork Loin Roast and Seasoned Chicken Breasts (both of them baked) as well as sides of baked beans and potato salad. We'll also have some wine, beer, sodas and water. If you plan on attending and would like to bring another side dish, snack or a desert, it would be most appreciated. Please RSVP by phone or e-mail if you plan to attend, so we can plan to have adequate amounts of meats and side dishes, etc. RSVP to:

Bob Wagner, phone: 650-573-7892,
e-mail: wagblue2@comcast.net

Jim Wagner, phone: 650-341-0211,
e-mail: jamesuu@comcast.net

Directions to the Coming Out Party:

If you have a problem with directions on the day of the event, call Jim Wagner's cell: 650-393-0642.

From the East Bay:

From I-880 North or I-880 South take State Hwy 92

West to cross the Bay on the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge.

From State Hwy 92 West, take the Foster City Blvd off ramp south to Hillsdale Blvd (2nd light).

Turn right on Hillsdale Boulevard and prepare for a left turn on to Edgewater Blvd (3rd light).

From Edgewater Blvd, turn right on to Beach Park Blvd (1st light).

1st house on left is 460 Beach Park Blvd.

From the South Bay or North Bay via I-280:

From I-280 North or I-280 South take State Hwy 92 East.

From State Hwy 92 East, take the Edgewater Blvd off ramp just east of the US101/92 interchange.

From the Edgewater Blvd off ramp, at the 1st light, turn left on to Edgewater Blvd (South).

From Edgewater Blvd, turn right on to Beach Park Blvd (3rd light).

1st house on left is 460 Beach Park Blvd.

From the South Bay or North Bay via US Hwy 101:

From US Hwy 101 North or South take the East Hillsdale Blvd off ramp to Foster City.

Proceed on East Hillsdale Blvd and turn right on Edgewater Blvd (3rd light).

From Edgewater Blvd, turn right on to Beach Park Blvd (1st light).

1st house on left is 460 Beach Park Blvd.

Parking: We have permission from St Ambrose Episcopal Church to park in their lot next door. Park along the fence adjacent to 460 Beach Park.

FIRST DAY OF SPRING - OUTING TO CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

By Ruth King

The Academy in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park is the only place on this planet where you can explore an aquarium, planetarium, and natural history museum under one living roof.

Carol and Vern Hance, and Paul and I, met bright and early at the Walnut Creek BART station for our journey to the Academy. The BART rides were uneventful but the bus rides from BART to and from Golden Gate Park were wild adventures! We met Allen Koch, Tom Walters and daughter Claire outside the museum and Susan, Chuck Maddux with daughter, Staci McCarthy, and grand-son, Sean,

were already in the Rainforest, where the others followed. Paul and I first explored the very interesting exhibit on Climate Change and then the Rainforests and the Aquarium below. The living Rainforests of the Worlds are recreated here with parrots, free flying birds and butterflies. I was wearing a green sweater and everyone around us was amazed as the beautiful butterflies swarmed around me and sat briefly on my shoulders and arms. In the Aquarium below we experienced an immersive view of underwater life with 38,000 animals.



After we gathered for lunch at the terrace of the Moss Room Cafe, we went up to the 2.5 acre, green building feature, Living Roof with its native California plant and wildflowers. Then some of us headed to the African Hall exhibit with its beautiful re-creation of safari style landscapes and wild life. Here is were we found the colony of live African penguins which are viewed on land and frolicking around and under water. Some of us signed up for the Planetarium show and, even though there was lots more to see and explore, others headed home.

We found that arriving early at the Academy had many benefits as those who drove found that there was plenty of parking and not too many parents had arrived yet with their little ones. As we were leaving I was reminded as to how many things there are to see and do in Golden Gate Park, especially on a beautiful First Day of Spring.

EAST CONTRA COSTA MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

By Vern Hance

A few of us attended the open house and car show on March 27th. There was a good crowd and the hot dogs for lunch were really hot and tasty. The car show was an ever changing display with new vehicles showing up as others left. A surprising number of 3-wheelers appeared, including former NCKCC member Hal Underwood's VW powered trike (below), a Russian motorcycle with sidecar



(upper right) and a new Bombardier cruiser with two wheels in front and lots of luggage space (center right). Also noteworthy was a black Emerson Cobra and a Corvette with a custom motorcycle on a flag enhanced trailer emphasizing the MIA/POW issue. (Lower right)

I passed out a number of invitations to people that I thought would be good additions to our September show.

NCKCC members participating included Al & Pat Bello, Marshall Bradley, Dave & Joyce DeCato, Vern Hance and Gil Somerhalder.



MAY 22 EVENT TO CASTELLO DI AMOROSA WINERY & CASTLE



First opening its doors to the public in April 2007, the Castello di Amorosa Winery is located near [Calistoga, California](#). It is the pet project of 4th generation vintner, Daryl Sattui who also owns and operates the [V. Sattui Winery](#) named after his great-grandfather who originally established a winery in San Francisco in 1885.

Sattui claims to have spent nearly all his resources (about 30 million dollars) and the last 14 years building the medieval replica castle on the vineyard grounds

We need your input on this event. This looked like a unique winery visit including a tour of the 107 room castle -- and it is!

But the cost is more than we are accustomed to in past tours. Tasting only of up to 5 wines is \$16 per person. The next step upward is a Castle Tour, including tasting for \$31 per person. The next upgrade is a tour and tasting 6 reserve wines for \$41 per person and to enhance your wine tasting their handmade Belgian Chocolates can be added for another \$3. And finally a food and wine paring is \$68 per person.

From some informal discussions between club members the preferred choice seemed to be the tour & Tasting at \$31. This would take 2-3 hours and could be our entire adventure, however we could also do our own food pairing with a lunch at a nearby restaurant, either before or after the tasting.

We will need to have a reservation for the tour & tasting and there may be a minimum number of participants required to reserve a tour.

Therefore, please give us your preferred action for this event:

1. Tasting only @ \$16/ person
2. Tour & taste @ \$31/ person
3. Cancel this May event for another

Please call (925) 938-1442 and leave your name and a choice if 1, 2 or 3 or e-mail nckcc@astound.net with your reaction.

We need your feedback soon to insure we can get a reservation for a Saturday.

31st ANNUAL AHA FUN UNDER THE SUN CAR SHOW

By Vern Hance

April 24th is the date for the AHA Show at the NHRA Motorsports Museum in Pomona, CA. The show is a one day event this year, but there is a major auto event on Sunday when the Pomona Automobile Swap Meet takes place.

There will also be a Saturday evening Banquet catered in the NHRA Museum. How appropriate is that? Dining with the cars !

I am not sure how many NCKCC members will be attending, but Claude Calderon said he planned to go and I am planning to enter my 500K. Just got it out of the garage after the winter months and it seemed to be happy to get on the road to Brentwood last weekend.

Let me know if you are planning to attend, so we can possibly convoy south together.

TAKING THE DRIVER OUT OF THE CAR

By Randal O'Toole

"Your grandchildren will snap across the entire continent in 24 hours on a new kind of highway and in a new kind of driverless car that is controlled by the push of a button," futurist Norman Bel Geddes promised in 1940. Mr. Bel Geddes designed Futurama, the most popular exhibit at the 1939 New York World's Fair, which in many ways inspired the construction of the Interstate Highway System.

Driverless cars have so far remained the stuff of science fiction. Seventy years after Mr. Bel Geddes's promise, they are finally close to reality.

Consumers today can buy cars that steer themselves; accelerate and brake to maintain a safe driving distance from cars ahead; and detect and avoid collisions with other cars on all sides. Making them completely driverless will involve little more than a software upgrade.

Yet the potential for advanced personal mobility is being ignored in debates over surface transportation. These debates come to a head every six years, when Congress hashes out how to spend federal gas tax revenues. Congress has increasingly diverted the funds—\$40 billion a year by last count—from highways to transit.

The Obama administration and House Transportation Committee want to go (continued on page 8) even further in the next reauthorization, now scheduled for 2011, focusing on a national high-speed rail system, as well as streetcars, light rail and other projects.

Driverless technologies were demonstrated in 1997 on a California freeway when eight cars without drivers successfully operated just one car length apart at 65 miles per hour. In 2007, six cars negotiated the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency Urban Challenge, following all traffic rules in an urban environment with other vehicles.

Volkswagen says enhanced global positioning systems can keep cars within two centimeters of their desired location on streets and highways and will run a driverless Audi at racing speeds up the twisty Pikes Peak road.

At the 2007 event, General Motors vice president of research Lawrence Burns predicted that completely driverless cars would be on the market by 2018.

Driverless vehicles offer huge advantages over current autos. Because computer reaction times are faster, driverless cars can safely operate more closely together, potentially tripling highway throughput. This will virtually eliminate congestion and reduce the need for new road construction.

Toyota's recent recalls naturally lead to worries that computer glitches could cause accidents. Since each car will be independently controlled, a failure in one would simply lead others to avoid that car. Driverless cars and trucks will be safer. They will also be greener, first by significantly reducing congestion, and eventually because vehicles will be lighter in weight due to reduced collision risks.

Perhaps most important, driverless vehicles will bring mobility to everyone, not just those able to pass a driver's test. And, driverless cars will render urban transit and intercity passenger trains even more obsolete than they are today.

The American automobile fleet turns over every 18 years, so if Mr. Burns's prediction that driverless cars will hit the market by 2018 comes true, we could have a completely driverless system by 2036. State and local highway agencies could install wireless communication systems at major intersections and highways—a much less costly undertaking than building new roads, much less high-speed rail.

The high-speed rail plan mostly consists of trains running at top speeds of 90 to 110 miles per hour, speeds attained by many railroads in the 1930s. This will attract few people out of their cars.

Amtrak's high-speed Acela trains between Boston and Washington cover most of their operating (but not capital) costs. To do so, fares are some 10 times greater than many relatively unsubsidized bus services that carry about three times as many passengers in the northeast corridor as the Acela.

Claims that trains are environmentally friendly may apply to freight trains, but not passenger. A 50-ton railcar can carry 100 tons of cargo, making freight trains highly energy-efficient. However, a 50-ton passenger car carries only about 15 tons (170 people), and more typically carries about 2 to 3 tons (25 to 35 people), resulting in average weights per passenger that are several times greater than for cars or buses.

(continued on page 9)

Automobiles continue to maintain a huge cost advantage over passenger rail. Counting both subsidies and personal costs, Americans spend less than 25 cents a passenger mile on autos, nearly 60 cents a passenger mile on Amtrak, and more than 90 cents a passenger mile on urban transit. No wonder 85% of all our passenger travel is by automobile.

In contrast, the driverless scenario relies on new technology, not old; and will largely be self-funded by users rather than paid out of tax dollars. Most important, driverless vehicles will bring mobility to almost everyone.

Randal O'Toole is a senior fellow with the Cato Institute and author of "Gridlock: Why We're Stuck in Traffic and What to Do About It."

This article was excerpted from a recent article in the Wall Street Journal. I found it had some challenging and thought provoking ideas for car builders.

FOR SALE

BUGATTI 1927 Bugatti, good cond. Never wrecked. Yellow paint, brown upholstery that needs rework. Less than 50 miles on 1600cc recond. engine. Consider delivery. \$3000.00. (See photo) Dave Fernandez 530-384-2778 email daf360hd@att.net (3-10)

COBRA Ford power, Jag rear-end. Silver w/ black interior. \$21,500 Call Bob Elster 707-938-3254 (1/02)

FERRARI - F-40 One owner since built in 1997. Red with tan interior. V-6 with 4-speed. Excellet condition. \$15,500 o.b.o. (559) 346-1693 e-mail claude45@sbcglobal.net (04/10)

FERRARI-Look-alike - From Fiero Factory in the U.K. 1988 Fiero based car with 3.8 liter Bonneville engine transplant and upgrade wheels. \$12,000 o.b.o. Call Doug Izuno (925) 254-1789. Or e-mail: tizuno@comcast.net See Photo at right. (10/09)

FINO – Built on 1987 Fiero with Cadillac Northstar V-8 & auto trans. Regular trophy winner. Custom suspension, brakes and interior. Special Purple BASF Extreme paint. \$25,000. Call Al Bohr (503-632-8372) or e-mail: albohr@bctonline.com. (10/09)

MERCEDES 500K 350 Chev. w/Edelbrock, Pro Flo Fuel injection. 350 Turbo Tran., Vintage Air, Heat and Defrost.

Smog exempt. Steve Bales, 925 820-7420 Email: mbales5140@aol.com
See photo and magazine story at: <http://kitcar.automotive.com/26615/0601kc-mercedes-benz-500k/index.html>
or type Bales Benz in Google. (04/10)

'52 MG-TD Replica Project Car. '72 VW engine & tranny which runs and drives. Car needs more time than I have available to restore. Will deliver free within 100 miles of Sacramento. \$500 Allen Koch (916) 723-0234 or E-mail A_J_Koch@yahoo.com (04/10)

PANTERA Factory built, only one known to exist. Red w/ beige interior, Chev engine \$35,000 Call Bob Elster 707-938-3254. (1/02)

NEED YOUR KIT CAR PUT TOGETHER, customized or finished?
Have a car that needs body work?
We can help!
Contact: Car Concepts by Merlin Cofano 415-320-0678 (10/09)

"Cars for Sale" ads in the NCKCC News are for members only. Rate is \$10 for 12 issues.

PICTURES OF RECENT CARS FOR SALE

David Fernandez Bugatti Type 35 (Below)



Claude Calderon Ferrari F-40 (Below)



Steve Bales Mercedes 500K (Below)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2010

- April 17, 2010 – Annual Coming Out Party to celebrate new members and new cars. James & Robert Wagner, Champions
- April 24, 2010 – AHA Handcrafted Auto Show, NHRA Museum, Pomona, CA
- May 8, 2010 – Niles Spring Fever Car Show, 9am – 3pm. (See www.nilesmerchants.com)
- May 22, 2010 – Wine Country Castle & Winery Tour, Napa area. Larry Fewell, Champion.
- June 5 & 6, 2010 – Art & Wine Festival with NCKCC Handcrafted Car Display. Paul King, Champion
- July 3, 2010 – Benicia Torchlight Parade & Dinner. Chuck Maddux, Champion.
- July 10, 2010 – Party at King residence. Paul king, Champion
- August 21, 2010 – Hot August Niles Car Show, 9am – 3pm. (Jim Wagner, Champion)
- September 11-12, 2010 - NCKCC Annual Car Show. Concord Hilton Hotel, Concord, CA
- October 16, 2010 – S. F. Bay Cruise. Tom Wallters, Champion
- October 23, 2010 - Vintage Fair & Car Show, East C.C. Museum, Knightsen. (NCKCC is invited to attend)
- November 20, 2010 - Christmas Parade, Brentwood, CA. (NCKCC is invited to attend)
- December 5, 2009 - Annual Brunch, The Farmer Restaurant, Pleasanton Hotel. Vern Hance, Champion

The kit car industry on the Internet:

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cobracountry.com

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