



NCKCC News

Handcrafted Automobiles

August 2002

Volume 20 Number 8



This was a pretty wild custom Cadillac that I found at the Bethel Island Bash. You could easily believe it is a Handcrafted Automobile. I think it would look nice at our San Leandro show but I don't know the owner so there's little chance.

ACTIVITY NOTICE

August 10, 2002 - Wine Tour and Picnic at Bogle Winery near Clarksburg. Meet at the Ramada Inn in Antioch at 9:30 a.m. (See page 2 for details)

August 17, 2002 - Hot August Niles car show (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) sponsored by Niles Merchants Assn. Call Ginny Ferree (510) 792-9972 for more info.

September 7 & 8, 2002 - 20th Anniversary "HANDCRAFTED AUTOMOBILE CON-COURSE" at the San Leandro Marina.

A COOL WINE TOUR - AUGUST 10th

By Steve Cameron

Somewhere in the frigid months of December or January, the club planned an August tour of some wineries in El Dorado County. No one thought about record high temperatures in the valley and the foothills.

So, due to concerns of low attendance from the recent hot weather, we switched to a tour and wine-tasting picnic through the cool and breezy Sacramento Delta. The Delta is mostly known for its waterways, but it can also be appreciated for its historical value, fine old houses and gold rush era buildings. The river mansion on Grand Island Rd., Rosebud Ranch just north of Hood, and the old Bank of Cortland, are just a few of the historic buildings sprinkled throughout the Delta.

The waterways between San Francisco and Sacramento hold legends, fables and folklore that began with the birth of California. On August 1, 1839, John Sutter, a Swiss immigrant, began his journey in the labyrinth that is the Delta, in search of land for other migrating Europeans. From Yerba Buena (renamed San Francisco) he outfitted three boats and set sail through an area populated only by Indians and mosquitoes. Journeying closer to what is now Sacramento, it took Sutter twelve days to find the entrance to the American River where he set up camp and obtained a Spanish land grant.

California was a sleepy land for about a decade, until that fateful January day in 1848 when James Marshall set off the most frenzied gold rush in the history of the world, and the greatest mass migration of human beings ever known, by his discovery of gold.

The Delta covers 738,000 acres interlaced with hundreds of miles of waterways. Much of the land is below sea level and relies on more than 1,000 miles of levees for protection against flooding. Its land and waterways support communities, agriculture, and recreation, and provide essential habitat for fish and wildlife. There are over 50 bridges spanning navigable waterways of the Delta. Generally, bridges in these heavily used channels are opened for large craft and sailboats during peak boating hours. We may encounter a few traffic "stops" as we attempt to cross drawbridges on our outing.

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The Kit Car Sun is published monthly by the Northern California Kit Car Club. Opinions expressed by authors should not be considered the position of the club. We are a non-profit educational organization and as a club do not intend to influence legislation.

Our trip starts from the parking lot at the Antioch Ramada Inn, 2436 Mahogany Way, Antioch, CA 94509.

Here are the driving instructions: Take I-680 to Highway 4 East in Concord. Follow Hwy 4 to Antioch. Take Somersville Rd North Exit. Turn right onto Somersville Rd. Turn right onto Mahogany Way. Plan to meet shortly after 9:30 am, and leave at exactly 10:00 am.

From there we will leisurely cruise north on Highway 160. The trek will span about 45 miles, past the towns of Rio Vista, Ryde and Walnut Grove. Our destination is the picnic area at Bogle Vineyards, near Clarksburg (37783 County Road 144 Clarksburg, CA 95612.) If you won't be making the caravan from Antioch, you can meet up with us by following the directions to Bogle Winery from the internet at: <http://www.boglewinery.com/boglemap.htm>

Once at the winery, we'll take advantage of the picnic grounds for lunch. You will also be treated to a short presentation on wine tasting and pairing food with wine. After lunch you may visit the Bogle Tasting Room and perhaps purchase some of their delicious (and reasonably priced) wine. If you let me know you are coming before Wednesday, August 7, I'll make you a map of the Delta and a short history of the Delta towns and sights.

UPDATE ON SB 1578

This bill passed 75 to 1 on the Assembly floor on July 10th. Since it previously passed on the Senate floor, Gov. Davis has the next move.

BETHEL ISLAND 50's BASH

By Vern Hance

July 13 was the day for the Bethel Island car show but we only had four members that brought cars.

Dave Jones displayed his Cobra and collected 3rd Place in "Special Interest" class. Dale Bates brought his fabulous Porsche Speedster from Dixon and should have won a trophy, but he probably entered the "Classic" competition which is a tough class when all the 50s Fords and Chevys are Classics. Paul King brought his M-B SSK, then sneaked off for 9-holes of golf, thus missing out on most of the spectator talk. I brought the Mercedes 500K and got some nice comments but no trophy. One spectator expressed surprise to see a M-B 500K, since he had recently visited the Stuttgart Museum and learned that 500Ks were very scarce. I had to tell him the real truth!

Among the 100+ cars there was a good variety which included a customized DeSoto, several Lincolns and a number of Cadillacs. PT Cruisers were abundant and there was a good assortment of Fords and Chevys of all decades. An unrestored original 38 Buick Convertible was very impressive.

Page 4 has some photos of our cars. On page 9 you can take my photographic tail light quiz.



This was our display area at Bethel Island. It was a nice shady spot for almost all the day and we are indebted to Hal Underwood who negotiated this spot and reserved it for NCKCC. It was a shame we didn't have more cars to fill this spot. We even invited a nice '63 Corvette to join us. After all we fiberglass car guys have to hang together.



Dale Bates chose to park his Porsche Intermeccanica Speedster out on the main street, in the sun, where it got a little more attention. This car is easily mistaken for a restored original. His yellow YOM plates add to that impression.

20th ANNUAL HANDCRAFTED AUTOMOBILE CONCOURSE

By Vern Hance

It is getting close to the September 7 & 8, 2002, 20th Anniversary Show and now is the time to get those registration forms turned in. The registration form was included with last months newsletter but so far I have received only five of them back.

It's hard to believe we have done this show for 20 years, but its true. The first show was in 1983 and was held in Walnut Creek in a lot behind the Train Depot (a restaurant) and had 17 cars entered. The 1984 show was at the same location and had about 60 cars. The 1985 and 1986 shows were held at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds where the size grew to over 100 cars.

Pleasanton Fairgrounds then raised the price for a car show to thousands and forced us to seek a new location, San Leandro Marina, for 1987. We have stayed at San Leandro every year since, except for 2000 when we tried the Berkeley Marina. The car show has bounced between 70 to 90 cars each year. Last year we dropped under 70 for some reason.

Now that you have a historical sketch of our past shows, its time to make this a special celebration. Even if your car is not finished, bring it. We even have a trophy for Best Unfinished. This is a "Concourse" not a "Concours d'Elegance" so don't be dissuaded from bringing your car just because

its not "drop-dead elegant". This Concourse is a meeting place or gathering for cars and their owners. Come enjoy it.

If you need a registration form call me at (925) 938-1442 and leave a message where to send the form or go to our website:

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/nckcc>

Speaking of car shows, I should remind you that Curt Scott of Crown Publications has covered many of our NCKCC shows as well as the AHA - Knott's Berry Farm show and the Carlisle show. Visit his website sometime and look at some of the beautiful stuff that is posted for your viewing pleasure.

The kit car industry on the Internet:

kitcar.com
and
cobracountry.com

- *kit cars For Sale by Owner...*
in 22 kit categories plus Cobras!
- *Consumer Alerts, show coverage*
- *over 1200 web pages*
- *Pro tips on motorcar photography*



661-251-2223

CHRONICLES OF A HANDCRAFTED AUTOMOBILE

By Joel Heinke

The rear portion of the 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO body is starting to take form. It's amazing how rigid foam and fiberglass composite materials can be used to sculpt a car body. I now refer to this stage of the project the artistic phase. While earlier phases involved engineering, cutting, fabricating, and welding, this stage is all about crafting the proper shape. It's much more akin to sculpting a statue as compared to building a bridge.



Shown above: Body sculpting is started by gluing pieces of rigid urethane foam to the rear fender surface. An 1/8" plywood form is used as a guide for foam placement and height around the rear portion of the wheel opening.

Shown at top right: Foam is cut from a sheet into strips and glued onto fender.



I fashioned my approach in this stage after techniques used in home built composite aircraft. Rigid foam is used to create the shape and fiberglass is formed over it to make a hard skin. It's important to use foam that won't dissolve from the chemicals in fiberglass resin. Urethane foam has that characteristic and is available in liquid (make your own foam), block and sheet form. I chose to use sheets in 1" and 2" thickness that I found being sold as building insulation at the local Home Depot store.

Below: Spaces between foam strips have been filled with foam from a can and fender is sanded into the desired shape. #36 grit sandpaper on a manual long board works well to shape foam.



Urethane foam is easy to cut into strips with a razor knife. Strips were required as I was applying a flat rigid material to a curved surface. A hot melt glue gun works well for gluing the foam to the fiberglass and wood under it. A mixture of 1" and 2" thick strips are used depending on how much fill is needed in the different areas of the fender.



Above: Fiberglass is applied directly over the foam to form a fender of the desired shape.

I used a razor knife to cut the foam roughly to shape and then sandpaper on a long board to finish shaping it. Foam sands fairly easily so it doesn't take much time to cut away quite a bit of material. I used liquid urethane foam for a pressurized can to fill spaces between strips. I highly recommend use of disposable gloves when working with liquid urethane foam. It takes several days to wear it off once it touches your skin.

Polyester resin and glass matte/cloth is applied directly over the foam. The fiberglass hardens to a rough surface because of cloth print through and overlapping edges from cloth sections. The good news is that a thin skin of bondo is all that's needed to finish it up.

Below: Fiberglass roll pan is joined to the rear fenders.



Below: A new fiberglass piece was built from scratch to fill the Kamm-back portion of the rear body work.



I made the flat panel for the middle of the Kamm-back area by laying up fiberglass directly on top of a flat workbench surface. A good coat of wax and PVA mold release made
(continued on page 8)

Below: The rear spoiler is formed by joining pieces cut from the rear clip and then adding some additional fiberglass to fill the holes.



for easy removal. The roll pan and spoiler had been cut out of the rear clip I purchased. The spoiler will require some reshaping to give it an original GTO look and the roll pan requires only minor touch up.

My enthusiasm for the project is building as the body begins to take shape. At least peoples first comments are now, "Boy, this really looks like a GTO." Not too long ago it was, "What kind of dune buggy is this?"

SPEAKING OF CREATIVITY

We received the following message from Dave & Leanne Jones:

"Dave & I are proud to announce that we are grandparents AGAIN! Our daughter, Sarah, gave birth to Nicolas Lee on 7/29 @ 11:45 pm. He weighed 8 lb 4 oz and was 20" long. Everyone is doing well.

Our family has finally received some GOOD news and HAPPY events! It has been a long time waiting. I am sure they will be at the show also!"

And just to prove it they sent this picture.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We received one new member in July and give him a hearty **Welcome Aboard.**

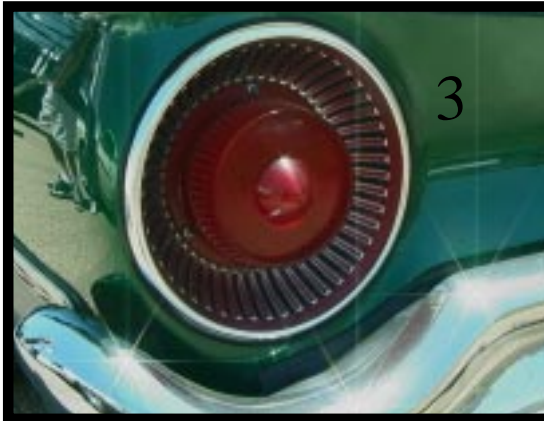
Al Clavelli lives in San Mateo, (650) 573-8125, and drives a Heritage Mercedes 500K. He didn't spell out any special club interests, but we hope he will enter it in the September San Leandro show.

Again, welcome to NCKCC and we hope we will see you at many of our monthly events.

TAIL LIGHT QUIZ

The pictures are numbered 1 thru 6 starting at the top and reading left to right.

Submit your answers to the NCKCC News. The one with the most correct answers will receive honorable mention as the smartest tail light guy. Don't forget the year model.



FOR SALE

BACK ISSUES of Kit Car and Kit Car Illustrated, 1985 to the present. For complete listing send self addressed envelope to Alan Atherton, 1964 Villarita Drive, Campbell, CA 95008-1524

COBRA- Registered 2001 Shelby <200 miles, smog exempt, Armtz styling, Butler quality. 351 Cleveland w/ 10" setback, Jag rear-end, 4-spd top-loader, Hurst shifter, H.D. half-shafts and strut assy. 52% wt on 12" Z-rated rear rubber, 10" rubber front. 6-piston 13" Wilwood brakes. Hood, trunk, doors molded inside & out. Finished eng. compt. Marty Krueger 775-852-1453 or E-mail mck427@msn.com (3/02)

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

FERRARI 308 replica on '86 Fiero fitted with Quad 4 engine by Joe Huffaker at Sears Point. **Reduced to \$10,500** o.b.o. Ken Krohncke 707-374-5119 (7/01)

FIERO parts and services for Kit Cars. Dash kits for Lambos, brake & suspension upgrade parts, Fiero frames - regular and stretched. Contact George Miller (510) 233-4376 at the Fiero Shop. or check www.fieroshop.net

FORD 1929 Model A roadster (Shay replica) Originally sold thru Ford Dealers in 1980. 2.3 L 4-cyl. auto, wide whitewalls and 2 side-mount spares. Yellow w/ black fenders, black convertible top, 11K original miles. Runs & looks great. \$11,900 o.b.o. Call Les Borsuk (925) 937-4760 (7/02)

KELLISON J-6 built on 1960 Corvette chassis with 350 Chev engine and turbo-hydrumatic tranny. California licensed since 1963. . E-mail Jim at showdown@earthlink.com or call 925-930-0215. <http://kellisonpage3.homestead.com/locodo-main.html> has several photos. (8/01)

MERCEDES 500K 4-PASSENGER. This all metal replica was built by H.T. Price with leather interior, 400cid Ford power, auto tranny, A/C, stereo/cassette, wood steering wheel. Call Diana (219) 277-3798 or (219) 291-0274. Write 51500 Orange Rd., South Bend, IN 46628-9419. (3/02)

MERCEDES 500K (Heritage) Built by Renaissance Motors. Chev 350 engine and auto-tranny. Black with black leather seats and black top. **Reduced to \$24,000** o.b.o. Call Fred Schiele (707) 765-2250. (9/01)

MERCEDES 500K PARTS - For Heritage: 2 steel grille shells (unchromed). For Classic Factory 500K: (1) brass hood star emblem + (2) bases, (4) door latch plates, patterns for tall tail light bases and side window frames. Also windshield frame patterns for 4-pass 500K. Call Diana (219) 277-3798 or (219) 291-0274. Write 51500 Orange Rd., South Bend, IN 46628-

9419. (3/02)

MERCEDES 500K (Marlene) replica. Soft and hard tops, 17,000 miles, pwr brakes and steering, 351 V-8, Blaupunkt radio/CD player, anti-theft alarm. Excellent condition. **Reduced to \$15,000.** Maury Schwarz 415-931-7501 or 925-938-8331. (6/00)

MERCEDES 540K Throughbred with dual side mounts. Priced for quick sale at \$7,500. Ford 5.0 liter, 3-spd automatic and column were professionally installed. Includes fuel tank, wipers, paint and SB-100 registration. Call Steve Cameron at (916) 399-9393 or e-mail steve@usa.com (8/02)

MG-TD by Fiberfab.. Red w/ Black top and seats. VW 1600 with Auto-Stick tranny. 342 miles on speedo. Death of owner forces sale. Asking \$5,000 o.b.o. Contact agent (for John Morrissey), Vern Hance 925/938-1442 or e-mail nckcc@compuserve.com (4/02)

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

SEBRING 5000 parts. Two complete new bumpers w/ mounting hardware, set of fiberglass seat pans, chrome grille surround, chrome fender beading. \$75 for all. Also new GM HEI distributor for \$100. Don Owens (530) 677-2690 or e-mail owensdon@pacbell.net (1/02)

STERLING powered by '63 Buick 3.8 liter V-8. Fast, reliable, smog legal. White w/ brown interior. Removable sunroof, stereo, CB. Gorgeous, one-of-a-kind looker. Ya gotta hear the engine snarl. Excellent condition. **REDUCED TO \$4,000.** Roy Yates 650-365-1909. (2/01)

LUXURY HOME with SHOP. 4-Br, 3-bath, 3,600 sq. ft. designed for casual or formal life style. Landscaped backyard and patio overlooks a 4,000 foot paved & lighted runway in this Air-Park development. Attached heated hanger and shop perfect for auto & plane enthusiasts to live in a friendly community. Located 30 miles east of Sacramento near mountains, skiing and water sports. Offered at \$595,000 by Don Owens (530) 677-2690 - e-mail owensdon@pacbell.net

2002 AHA Knott's Berry Farm Show 90 minute video covering cars and awards. Available as DVD disc \$19 or VHS tape \$16 postpaid in U.S. Send check to VMH Services, 3317 Ellesmere Ct. Walnut Creek, CA 94598. Or use a credit card and e-mail funds via "PayPal" to vmh@mac.com (6/02)

WANTED

DONOR CAR for Gazelle kit. Prefer '74-'80 Pinto or Bobcat or '74-'78 Mustang II with auto tranny. Call H. 'Buck' Rodgers 925-937-5181. (12/00)

"Cars for Sale" ads in the Kit Car Sun are for members only. Rate is \$10 for 12 issues.

2002 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 10, 2002 - El Dorado County Wine Tour. Steve Cameron to organize.

August 16 & 17, 2002 - "Car Show in the Park" in Weaverville, CA. (west of Redding on SR-299)

August 17, 2002 - Hot August Niles Car Show in Fremont, CA. \$18 pre-registration before 8/3/02 (\$25 at show)
This is a low-key close-to-home car show with gimmick awards.

September 7 & 8, 2002 - 20th Annual "Handcrafted Automobile Concourse" in San Leandro. Show Chairperson Carolina Williams. Go to www.kitcar.com (Announcements) to download registration form.

September 14-15, 2002 - Cool September Nights at South Lake Tahoe. Horizon Casino.

October 5 & 6, 2002 - Snakes to the Lake. Coordinator Jonah Tollefson, E-mail STTL2002@hotmail.com
More info on www.norcal-cobras.com or through Mary Borden, E-mail: mary.s.borden@intel.com

October 19, 2002 - (Back to orig. schedule) Driving tour of Monterey area arranged by Wallters.

October 12 & 13, 2002 - Club Sandwich kit car show in Laughlin, NV

November 23, 2002 - NCKCC 20th Anniversary, Ryde Hotel in The Delta. Ruth King to organize.

December 8, 2002 - Annual brunch. Location TBA. **We need someone to organize.**

The '59 Chev convert and the Austin Healy were a couple other cars that I liked at the Bethel Island Show.

