



NCKCC News

Handcrafted Automobiles

August 2022

Volume 40 No. 7



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 18, 2022 (Sunday) - NCKCC Annual Show, Blackhawk Museum. 10 -3 pm. - Please register your car soon. Registration Forms are on www.nckcc.com under the 'Annual Show' tab.

November 6, 2022 (Sunday) - Annual Brunch, Incontro Ristorante, Danville - **Sunday Brunch is back !!** Reservations have been made for 10 at 12 Noon. Email the Prez or Editor if you will attend. The basic cost is about \$30 plus 9% tax & a gratuity.

FROM THE PREZ

The "Dog Days" of August have arrived. That only can mean the annual NCKCC Car Show at Blackhawk is just around the corner. If you haven't already, now is the time to bring your show car back to its former glory with a fresh wash and shine, an oil change?, and fresh tank of petrol. They say that gas prices are going down however slowly. Maybe now I won't need to get a second mortgage just to fill the tank.

The Blackhawk show date is Sunday, September 18. Pre-registration is preferred, so if you don't already have one, registration forms are available on the club web site. Vern would certainly like to hear from you as soon as you can fill out a form. Just remember our show is not limited to "kit cars". Antiques, classics, hot rods, street rods, restros, and supercars are all welcome. If you have a car that you're pretty damn proud of, bring it to the show and share it with your fellow car buffs. If you have more than one collector car in the garage at home, ask your spouse, brother, sister, son, daughter, and even your neighbor to drive car number two to the show. There is plenty to see at Blackhawk with two different museums and lots of shops and restaurants.

As of mid-August, we have around ten cars committed. I, for one, would really enjoy seeing a lot more. Hope to see you all at Blackhawk.

Take Care & Stay Safe, Jim Wagner, NCKCC President

SEPTEMBER 18th 2022 – NCKCC ANNUAL CAR SHOW at BLACKHAWK

by Vern Hance

You may ask; "Why do we need to get our car show attendees on the record?" My best answer is that I post a list of our show cars on our website under the "Annual Show" tab called **WHO's Coming. That can have an effect on who comes to see our cars and also benefits the Blackhawk Museum - by showing how many people are attracted to our "Show Cars".** Promoting our show is also a way to say THANKS to Blackhawk Museum for providing us this prestigious venue for our show.

I say **Thanks** to those who have registered their cars and we have 8 cars entered with about one

month to "Show Time". We could use 25 to fill the Plaza.

If you know of someone with a kitcar or any interesting car, please invite them to our show and direct them to our website for a registration form - or print one yourself and hand it to them.

Hope to see more registrations coming in soon.

PREVIEW FOR SHOW DAY:

Plan to bring your car to the lower parking lot on September 18th at 9:30 to get your name tags, name tag holders and Car I.D. cards filled out. When the Museum opens at 10:00 am the museum will allow us to position cars on the plaza. You can do some friendly negotiating with other exhibitors to select a spot you like.

Your distinctive NCKCC name badge will admit you and your team to all the Museum displays for the discounted price of \$9 per person, rather than the regular \$15 adult admission.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

By the time you read this the "Hot August Niles" Car Show on Sunday August 14th will be over. My error, for not giving you a heads-up by email in time.

Regarding plans to attend the August 17th "**Little Car Show**" in Pacific Grove; So far I have heard from no one, so it is not likely we will be represented at this spectator event.

The possibility of a weekday trip, in October, to **Canapé Auto Sport Museum** in Scott's Valley has also brought no responses, but could still be revived with a show of interest.

Finally, a reminder to let Vern - (925) 954-2866 or (925) 378-8180 or Jim at (650) 341-0211 know if you plan to attend the **November 6th Annual Brunch** at 12 noon at Incontro Ristorante in Danville, starting with a small car show in the parking lot at about 11:30.

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR EDITOR

I find it difficult to produce a newsletter without much to report. In the past I have tried to fill in with reports of automotive happenings that I found interesting and thought you might enjoy too. But it still leaves me thinking that I'm not really doing what a club newsletter should be doing.

Part of this is probably due to the fear generated from news reports about communicable viruses we can pass on to each other. First it was COVID 19. then several mutations, most recently BA.5 and a different virus called Monkeypox being the latest worries.

But, for whatever reason, it just seems to be more difficult to inspire participation by our members to our planned activities. I have received 'notes of inspiration' from a number of members, and I appreciate that, but maybe we should be hearing complaints about the way the club is being run - so we can make improvements that we haven't thought of or considered.

Another thought is about the way the whole automotive hobby has declined as a result of the growing emphasis about climate and distain for anything that emits carbon dioxide.

I am including, below, an article written by David Brinkley, who died at age 82 in 2003. It has been in my clippings file for decades but I find it thoughtful to review periodically as a counterpoint to the direction our culture seems to be headed today.

Thinking back to 1984 when I first joined NCKCC, I think we had a small and specialized Utopia for people focused on kit cars. As times changed we attempted to broaden our focus to include more types of cars, to the point where we are now begging to populate our shows with anything that we consider 'Special Interest'. I am not saying that as a critic, but as an observation. I personally find Special Interest cars interesting!

So here's the story of the day:

"UTOPIA__ Nice Place to Visit, But . . .
by David Brinkley

The word "Utopia" was coined by Sir Thomas More in a book by that name. He created the word out of two Greek words, meaning "no place" or "no-where."

The idea-though not the word-had occupied philosophers and intellectuals long before Sir Thomas More. It goes back at least to Plato, whose Republic was his depiction of Utopia. Another and somewhat more recent book on the subject was by Samuel Butler and was called Erewhon. And "Erewhon," it is interesting to note, is "nowhere" spelled backwards (well, almost).

So the idea of an earthly Utopia has engaged the minds, and sometimes even the hearts, of

philosophers and planners for at least 3,000 years. It has been

seen, through the centuries, as a society that somehow would manage to eliminate evil, produce abundance for all, decrease life's pains, and increase its pleasures. And the theoretical result, in all cases from Plato's day to ours, would be a society of perfect peace and happiness for everybody all the time. Because all of this is so pleasing to contemplate and because some of it actually could be achieved (and a little of it has), political and social philosophers in America have persisted in dreaming of Utopia and persisted in believing that we could live in it if only the government could be induced to work at it and to spend enough money.

Well, it seems to me that these judgments are based on what might be called the illusion of bureaucratic omnipotence. This is the illusion that government can do everything, and should; the illusion that, if every government bureau had enough ideas, enough energy, and enough money to spend, every trouble in our country could soon be ended and we would all be enticed, induced into a state of earthly happiness.

There are four lines of poetry by Samuel Johnson which seem to me to be relevant:

How small, of all that human hearts endure,

That part which laws or kings can cause cure!

Still to ourselves in every place consigned

Our own happiness we make or find.

Whatever happiness there is in human life, most of it we have to find for ourselves because, in this area, the powers of kings and governments are small. Kings and governments can help, and should. That is what they are for. But about all they can do is furnish a framework, a system of fairness, protection, order. Within that, it is still up to every person to find the rest of it for himself.

A government cannot produce a Utopia, regardless of the frequent demand that it do so. No government ever has – though it is worth remembering that in our own time two governments have tried. Each, by its own lights, thought it was creating a Utopia. In both cases they had absolute power to organize society precisely as they thought it should be. The two governments I refer to are Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia.

Joseph Wood Krutch was writing in the Saturday Review about this grasping for a Utopia, and his conclusion was that even all of the fictional Utopias (there's never been a real one) were dictatorships.

He concluded that, if a real one somehow came into existence, at worst it would be a dictatorship and at best it would be dull.

My own opinion is that, if there were no pain in life, there would be no pleasure, and that if a Utopia did exist it might be an interesting place to visit, but you would not want to live there."

Editor's Note:

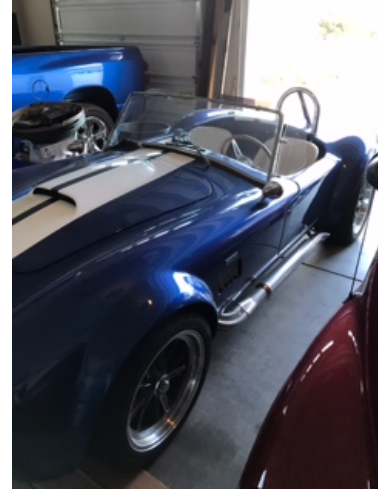
That's Brinkley's opinion. What's your opinion?

I say, lets get our cars ready for the September 18th Show on the Blackhawk Plaza and make it a Utopian quality event.

CARS FOR SALE

1965 AC COBRA Replica

Like New. Less than 1000 miles. Always garaged, Professionally built. New 351 Cu. In. Windsor Engine and Tremec Tranny. Asking \$32,000. Contact Mike at: (408) 847-4139



1934 MERCEDES-BENZ 500K replica, 350 Chevy engine, Edelbrock computerized EFI, R700 4-speed auto tranny, running gear from '75 Camaro, Vintage Air heat/air, power steering brakes, new wide whitewall tires in 2015. All black areas repainted in 2015. All Maintenance performed by AAA Certified repair shop in Benicia. Asking \$27,000.



The VW powered Lance (M-B SSK replica) is still available, but is being considered as a donation to "Cars 2nd Chance", so if you know of someone interested - act fast!

Call Vern at (925) 954-2866 or text (925) 378-8180



Lance with VW engine