



NCKCC News

Handcrafted Automobiles

December 2007

Volume 25 Number 12



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

ACTIVITY NOTICES

January 12, 2008 - Planning meeting, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Wheelchair Foundation Meeting Room at Blackhawk Museum. If you want to join other members for lunch at 11:30 lunch in the Blackhawk Grille, call or e-mail Vern Hance so we can get the right size table reserved for us. (See page 7)

FROM THE PREZ

By Dave Jones

GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL! I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and spirits. It is a busy time of the year so I will try to make this installment short and sweet.

We had a great time at our annual brunch at the Pleasanton Hotel on Dec 2nd. The food as always was delightful as was the camaraderie. Our club has finished our 25th year with another great showing of support for the Wheelchair Foundation. We were able to just about match last years donations from the show proceeds. Hopes are that with some new ideas we can expand that support next year.

Speaking of next year, please come to the Jan.12th, 2008 planning meeting and officers elections to be held at the Bering Auto Museum at 1:00 P.M. Bring your ideas for up coming events and become involved in your club as an officer. The more hands there are the easier it is to get things done.

It will also be an opportunity to display your car on the plaza in front of the museum. Vern is trying to confirm those arrangements so if you are interested in that please contact him. We may also receive a visit from Jeff or David Bering themselves at this Jan meeting. It would be nice to meet our charities founders.

Well, I did promise to make this short. So for right now that is all that I have that is new. All I can say for this next year of activity is, " Get'er Done!!" See Ya!

DUES ARE DUE FOR 2008

Well, it is dues time again and the prices have not gone up. \$24 per year will keep you a member in good standing and keep you on the newsletter mailing list. Those who have paid their dues each month will be congratulated here, so watch for your last name to appear in this space. Those that don't respond within a reasonable time period will receive a "Goodbye" postcard saying they have been dropped from membership. Don't let it happen to you !

We already have some nice people that have paid their dues in advance, so here are their names.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| Bello | Knebel |
| Jacobs | Landers |
| Maddux | Wallters |
| Williams | |

As the months go by this system requires you to check a few older newsletters if you are not sure if you paid, but it seems more polite than publishing names of those who are delinquent on their dues. Anyway you can always e-mail Vern at nckcc@astound.com to see if you are paid up - or call (925) 938-1442.

PLANNING & ELECTION MEETING JANUARY 12th

We will be meeting to plan our activity schedule for 2008 on Saturday, January 12, 2007 at the Wheelchair Foundation meeting room at the Blackhawk Museum in Danville, CA. We have the room reserved from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. We plan to hold our election of officers at the same time. Please forward your nominations to President Dave Jones at 32365 Payne St. Hayward, CA 94544 or e-mail to vinimus1@yahoo.com

Here are the driving instructions.

Take I-680 to Crow Canyon Road exit, then go east for 4.2 miles and turn right on Camino Tassajara. Take the next left (at the Movies 7 Theatre) to the Shops at Blackhawk. The Museum is on the hill above the gated Plaza entrance.

Another idea, If you haven't visited the Museum, come at 10 a.m. and enjoy the cars for a couple of hours, then have lunch with some club members at 11:30 in the Blackhawk Grille. Call/e-mail Vern if you want to reserve a spot at our table. The Museum is open from 10 to 5 and admission is \$8 (\$5 for seniors).

More info available at:

<http://www.blackhawkmuseum.org/>

THOUGHTS FOR 2008 EVENT PLANNING

Here is a list of events our club has done during the past several years.

- NCKCC Annual Show (Sep)
- Mini Car Show-W.C. Art & Wine(Jun)
- Torchlight Parade-Jul 3
- Wine Tours (Oct-usually)
- Pacific Grove Auto Rally (Aug before ...Pebble Beach Concours)
- AHA Show-Knott's Berry (Apr)
- Annual Brunch (Nov-Dec)
- Sacramento Autorama (Feb)
- Knightsen Car Show (Oct)
- Knightsen Museum (1st Sat-summer)
- Picnic & Towe Museum Tour ...inSacramento. (May)
- Hot August Niles Car Show (Aug)
- Niles Spring Fever Show (May)
- Club Sandwich-Laughlin, NV(Oct)
- Chabot Space Museum visit
- April Fools Rally-Santa Rosa(Apr)
- Road Tour - Oregon, No. Calif (June)
- Boat tour of Mothball Fleet
- Blackhawk Museum Tour
- Snakes to the Lake Cobra cruise
- Driving Tour of Monterey area (Oct)
- Pacific Coast Dream Machines at ...Half ...Moon Bay (Apr)
- Palo Alto Concour
- San Francisco Rally
- USS Hornet Tour (Mar)
- Suspects Mystery Dinner (Jun)
- Carmichael Founder's Day (Sep)
- Hiller Aviation Museum-San Carlos
- Hays Truck Museum-Woodland, CA
- Aerospace Museum-McClellan Park

How about something new & different??

ANNUAL BRUNCH - PLEASANTON HOTEL

By Vern Hance

The annual champagne brunch was held on Sunday, December 2, 2007 at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main Street, Pleasanton, starting at 10 a.m.

The attendance was good with 32 adults and 4 youngsters attending. We filled the dance floor with 3 tables of 9-10 people, then had to set up four more small tables on the bandstand for the latecomers.

The food was plentiful and delicious, with everything from fresh cracked crab legs and salads of all types to made-to-order omelettes, waffles and roast beef. Oh yes, and a zillion deserts. Ruth King made a valient effort to try them all, but just could not handle a thrid plate. (Below)



We passed around the nice 25th Anniversary card we received from the Grand Touring Sports Car Association (GTSCA) in Michigan. We trade newsletters with them each month and this was their recognition of our milestone. The GTSCA was formed in 1975, so they are heading toward their 35th in 2010. (See article elsewhere, with the card and their club cars)

We tried to show some video from the Knightsen car show in October along with some clips of our 1984 show, but with a small laptop and lots of noise it was not adequate entertainment.

Dave Jones announced that our election of officers will be at our January Planning meeting on Saturday January 12, 2008. We will be planning our 2008 events at that meeting. Dave appealed for people to come up with an event plan for 2008 and to shepherd it along and help promote it from start to finish.

Those attending included Steve & Mary Ellen Bales, Al & Pat Bello, Dave & Joyce DeCato, John Ebersole, Vern & Carol Hance, Dave & Leanne Jones, Paul & Ruth King, John Knebel, Peter Kunedt, Bill Landers & Carmen, Chuck & Sue Maddux, Will & Sarah Smith + children, Gil Somerhalder, James & Wendy Wagner + James' father, Robert, Doug & Sandra Wallace, Tom & Irene Wallters and Shane & Carolina Williams with their children.

Pictures of the diners are on page 5.



Below-CW from left: Dave & Leanne Jones, Sarah & Will Smith (+ kids, both sides), John Ebersole, Carolina & Shane Williams.

Above-CW from left: Gil Somerhalder, Al & Pat Bello, Joyce & Dave DeCato, Carmen & Bill Landers, Chuck Maddux.



Below L to R: Paul & Ruth King, Peter Kunedt, Sandra & Doug Wallace.

Above-CW from left: James & Wendy Wagner, Carol Hance, John Knebel, Irene & Tom Wallters, Mary Ellen & Steve Bales, Robert Wagner.



As I mentioned earlier, we exchange newsletters with several clubs and I have found some pretty interesting writers, which are agreeable to having their writings pilfered for your benefit. This article taught me some things I had never knew before. Hope you enjoy it and thanks to Cliff Flath, of the Greater St. Louis Kit car Club, for a nice article.

KIT CAR WINDSHIELDS

By Clifford Flath, GSLKCC Member

Detroit probably has a good handle on what is the best material for windshields, so safety plate glass is probably the best. For kit car installation, however, glass sometimes breaks when being installed and it can get pretty expensive buying custom-made glass windshields. Plastic is nice because we can buy it inexpensively from a plastic supplier and then cut it with the tools we all have in our shop. Also, plastic can be bent and curved to a nice shape, but a custom-made glass windshield is usually flat.

The Illinois windshield requirement is "safety plate, Lexon, or tempered glass." However, Lexon doesn't exist anywhere. I've also seen the requirement printed as lexon with a lower case (lexon). Fortunately, the Illinois government has delegated safety inspections to the National Street Rod Association, and the volunteer inspectors know what is required and they are nice people who

like cars like ours. However, there is obviously confusion over what exactly is the required material needed for a safe windshield.

When I was deciding what to use for my Stalker, I did a bit of Googling to see what was available and where I could buy it. Finding no Lexon, I assumed that they meant Lexan, which is General Electric's brand of polycarbonate. Additionally, because a lower case (lexon) was sometimes specified, I also assumed that they intended to require any brand of polycarbonate.

There are many brands of polycarbonate. My windshield is 3/16 inch Tuffak CM2 polycarbonate. I kept the left over scrap piece with the brand and description printed on it to show the inspector. It passed. The CM2 indicated that my windshield has an abrasion resist coating on both sides. This coating makes a dramatic difference and is something all kit car builders would want. The thickness of my windshield was just a guess and I decided on 3/16" because it fit nicely in the frame provided by the kit builder. NASCAR requires Lexan with a minimum thickness of 1/8", so I suppose my 3/16" is good enough for me.

Just as Coke is a brand of cola drink and Lexan is a brand of polycarbonate, Plexiglas is a brand of acrylic glass.

A sheet of acrylic and a sheet polycarbonate look so much alike, I can't tell the difference. However, from my research, Plexiglas or any brand acrylic is NOT appropriate for our windshields. Polycarbonate stretches, but acrylic shatters—not good.

Makrolon is a polycarbonate brand, and its web site says its polycarbonate is 250 times stronger than glass, and 30 times stronger than acrylic. 30 times stronger is enough for me to pay a couple dollars for the additional protection. Don't use Plexiglas or any other brand of acrylic glass for a windshield.

When installing a polycarbonate windshield, observe the ripple direction. I couldn't see the ripples, but the protective cover on my polycarbonate specified the ripple direction. I had to Google to find out what ripple direction meant and why I needed to know about it. The extrusion process used in the manufacturing of polycarbonate results in a ripple. The direction of the ripple causes the least distortion when it is in the horizontal direction (I have no idea why).

I must add that I have no credentials and I confess that I knew nothing when I started to look into windshield materials and only little more now, but I suspect that most kit car builders should know these things before they started a build. The windshield is too important to take

my word for these things, so do the research to make sure you are using a safe material. I only present information that I rooted out when I was deciding what to use. If I've gone awry, please tell me.

JANUARY 12th PLANNING MEETING

Our 2008 planning meeting date is January 12th at the Wheelchair Foundation meeting room on the lower level of the Blackhawk Auto Museum. You can enter by the door to the far left of the main entrance.

At our Brunch, I saw 3 or 4 people that wanted to meet for lunch before the meeting. If you would call/e-mail Vern Hance of your intentions he will get an appropriate size table reserved for our group.

I haven't confirmed if we can park our kit cars in front of the Museum, but plan to drive your kit car if the weather permits. I will try to get it cleared with the Museum and will post the result on our website <www.nckcc.com> Just log on and click on HOTLINE to see what I was able to arrange.

Consider coming early to enjoy the Museum cars when they open at 10 a.m.

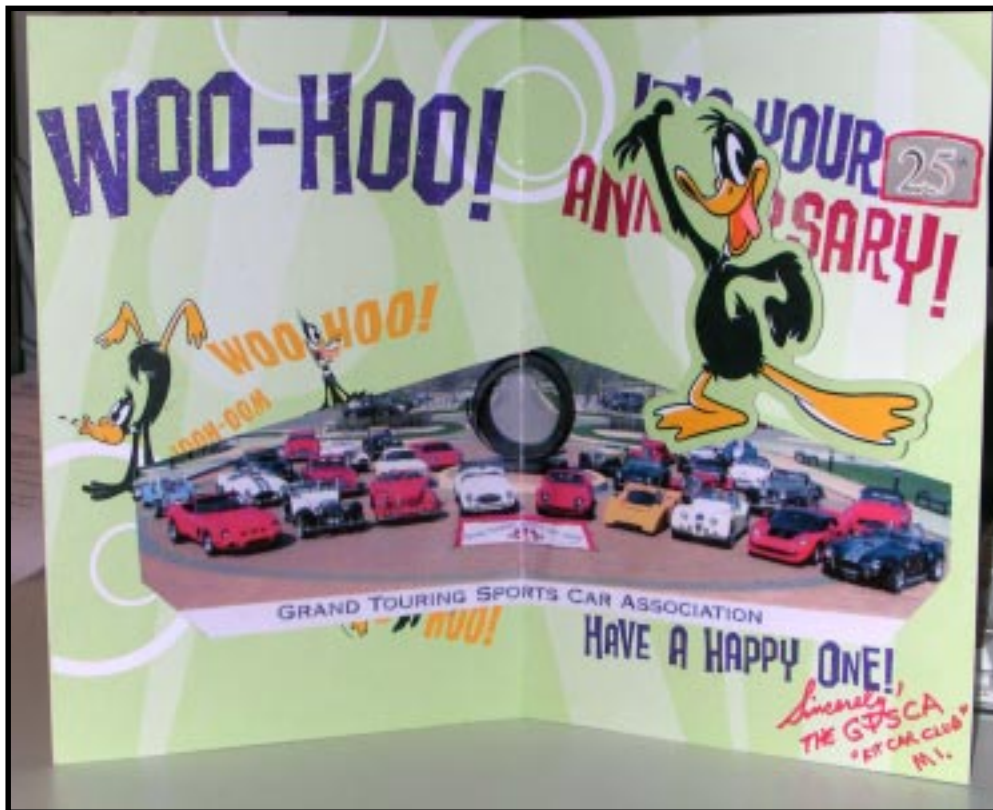
SOME THINGS ABOUT OTHER KIT CAR CLUBS

For those of you that attended our Annual Brunch you learned a little about the Grand Touring Sports Car Club (GTSCA) in Michigan. Their club was formed in 1975 by Founder Jerry Spezia and is heading for 35 years of operation in 2010.

Since we exchange newsletters with

half a dozen kit car clubs they were aware that NCKCC hit the 25th Anniversary Year in 2007.

The GTSCA graciously sent us a card, handcrafted naturally, to honor our milestone year. I recommend you check their website <www.gtsca.com> and look at the member profiles. You will learn a lot about how "Motor City" people build their cars. They also have a good "history" article.



DECEMBER ROSTER

As part of this months newsletter, members only, will receive a membership roster as of December 31, 2007. It also has a column on the right showing your dues status.

PLEASE review it and e-mail or write to the editor if any corrections need to be made. Particularly e-mail addresses are a problem, because they seem to get incorrect due to all the changes in telephone and cable company names. It's important to me because its the only way I can easily let you know about changes in club activities between monthly newsletters. (Yes, I know I could phone you, BUT. have you ever tried calling 100 people easily !)

Phone numbers are of primary importance if you don't have an e-mail address and of course U.S. Postal mailing addresses are important and change too.

Sometimes you change cars, sell one, buy another, etc, so that should be updated. I have made some changes in the car line-up based on my observations, but I still may not have it right.

So, again I appeal to you to check the roster and let me know of any needed corrections. nkccc@astound.net or call (925) 938-1442.

MYSTERY CAR

I got a call from a Canadian resident that had recently purchased a Thorobred Mercedes 540K replica in Southern California. After purchase the red tape of registering it in Canada became apparent. No kit cars unless they are at least 15 years old !!



Seems like there is a good chance it is 15 years old, but how to prove it? With Oregon plates it was determined from the Oregon DMV that the car came to Oregon in 1996 from another (unknown) state. But they don't know which. Carfax couldn't help since it has an 8 digit VIN number.

Another clue: It has a 307 Chevrolet V-8 engine.

Anyone that can help solve the mystery should contact your editor or e-mail your info to dlsprowl2@aol.com

It will be appreciated.

FOR SALE

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

COBRA-NAF. Ford 289power, 4-speed, Jag posi rear-end. Blue w/ black interior. 5,000 mi. \$23,900 Call Trifam (925) 820-1847 SB-100 smog-exempt (9/07)

COBRA - VW KIT - 427 Snake body fits on your 3" shortened VW chassis. Two available; **reduced to \$2,200 from \$3,200** Call Wayne McAllaster (510) 656-5844 or E-mail 427medusa@sbcglobal.net (2/06)

FERRARI - TESTAROSSA Spyder. Based on 1989 Corvette with 350 V-8 engine and automatic tranny. **Reduced to \$12,000.** Contact Anthony Ramsinh (408) 268-6554 or e-mail aramsinh@aol.com (11-05)

MANX SR-2 - 1678 cc VW engine with 4-speed stick. New interior in 2002. Built in 1977 by present owner who has all receipts, etc. Includes a spare 1600 VW engine and extra parts. \$5,500. Call Don Wicks (707) 998-9383 or e-mail at dkwicks@mchsi.com (11-05)

MERCEDES SSK (Gazelle) Parts: 4 fenders (brown), windshield, radiator shell, bumpers, interior leather and top (tan), tail lights, supercharger pipes, doors (yellow), latches, hinges, etc. Tim 510-278-3085 (04/05)

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

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

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

Carl Scott
661-251-2223

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2008

- January 12, 2008 - 2008 Planning Meeting at Wheelchair Foundation meeting room at Blackhawk Museum, strating at 1 p.m. Consider coming early at 10 a.m. to see the Museum cars, then join other for lunch at the Blackhawk Grille.

THIS SPACE IS LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY TO REMIND YOU TO COME WITH SOME FRESH NEW IDEAS FOR ACTIVITIES IN 2008 !!

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