



NCKCC News

Handcrafted Automobiles

December 2015

Volume 33



This is part of our Dec 6th dining group at the Basil Leaf Cafe in Danville. We missed Joe Tattersall, but you'll find him inside. We also caught Robert Wagner in the middle of a gulp of champagne.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 16, 2016 - Planning meeting for next year at the Hance residence in Walnut Creek. Starts at 11:30 with 'Soup & Salad' lunch followed by meeting at 1:00 p.m. Please call or email Vern at (925) 938-1442 or nckcc@astound.net to let him know if you are planning to attend; and to be sure there is enough food prepared.

FROM THE PREZ

The celebration of Thanksgiving in today's environment seems to me to be missing the point. It's supposed to be a day for all to come together and give thanks for all we have. This year I was lucky enough to return to my home town in Iowa to share the Thanksgiving meal with my extended family. I know many others weren't so lucky. While I urge you to give thanks for all you have, I also hope you might say a prayer for all those who have so much less.

Same as last year, our Annual "Brunch" at the Basil Leaf Café in Danville, was the final Club activity for 2015. The weather was a little cool, with a few soft sprinkles. It was really great to have a wonderful meal and socialize with our members. I had the pleasure of meeting our club newest members, Mohamed & Shayda Hammami (the new owners of Vern's M-B 500K) and really enjoyed talking with them. (See Vern's article and pictures elsewhere in this newsletter.) We all had a superb lunch with far too many calories for one meal and lots of great conversation.

The Club will have its annual planning meeting on the 3rd Saturday of January, the 16th, in Walnut Creek. Planning meeting details are also elsewhere in this newsletter. Be sure to forward to Vern or myself any and all suggestions or ideas for activities you would like to see on the calendar. Even better, come to the planning meeting and contribute your suggestion in person. Even if your suggested activity has no firm date, we can still add it to the calendar and fill in the date when info becomes available. As in past calendars, the 2016 calendar will have designated "club" events and also list other "car" events which our members might want to attend. I'm really looking forward to 2016 being a year to remember for the NCKCC. Please let Vern know if you plan to attend the meeting so he can have enough soup and salad on hand.

May the "Spirit of the Season" be with you and yours. Have a wonderful and safe holiday season! See y'all in January!

Take care,
Jim Wagner, NCKCC President

PLANNING MEETING SAT. JANUARY 16th 2016

Our planning meeting for the coming year will start at 11:30 a.m. with a hearty 'Soup & Salad' lunch at

the Hance residence, 3317 Ellesmere Court, Walnut Creek. The meeting will start about 1 p.m. so if you can't make lunch come for the meeting.

At the meeting we will discuss our 2016 choice of "official" club activities for the rest of the year. We hope you will give some thought to events you would like to have on our schedule. Also, do a little research about your suggestion so, if it involves a visit to some display, museum or show, we will know the dates it is open, the cost, who to contact, etc. You can also look at our website "Events Calendar" for 2015 to get ideas for our 2016 events menu.

We will also need to vote on who will fill the officer positions for 2016. We would like to see some new participants, so let us know if you would be willing to fill one of our positions.

Another item on our agenda will be to review our '32-year-tradition' of having an "Annual NCKCC Car Show". We have found over the past years a trend of fewer kit cars entered and fewer spectators. This has led us to embrace more restored and modified cars that were never offered as kits. Our experience at the 2015 show at the Blackhawk Automotibe Museum was a success but with fewer cars, mostly club members. Is this our new template?

Think about it and express your opinion. If you can't make the meeting please send an email to nckcc@astound.net or mail us a note via the USPS.

THE ANNUAL BRUNCH DEC 6TH

We had a smaller group this year than we expected, but 13 happy & hungry diners showed up for our 11:30 starting time. We missed Irene Wallters, who was under the weather with a cough problem. We also missed Marry Ellen Bales & Sal, who later reported that an emergency kept them away.

We were pleased to have our newest members, Mohamed & Shayda, join us and get acquainted with our group including other owners of M-B 500K replicas such as Chuck Maddux and Tom Wallters. As you probably know Mohamed & Shayda purchased Vern's Classic Factory 500K at the Art & Wine Fest in late May.

I heard some comments that the buffet choices seem to be more limited this year. However, I am an omlette enthusiast and I think they are still outstanding. We can discuss this further at our planning meeting, but it's hard to find a champagne

brunch buffet restaurant in the low \$20 range. Most are \$40 and up.

Anyway, I think everyone enjoyed the brunch and our conversations around the table.



Shown above c.w. from left: Tom Walters, Sue & Chuck Maddux, Carol Hance, Dave & Joyce DeCato and Joe Tattersall.

Shown below c.w. from left: Robert & Jim Wagner, Carol Hance, Shayda & Mohamed Hammami.



NEW LAW IN WASHINGTON STATE LIBERATES COLLECTIBLE CARS

Washington State Bill to Exempt Collectible Vehicles From Emissions Tests Signed Into Law

Legislation (H.B. 2359) to exempt collectible vehicles of any age from emissions testing was signed into law by Washington State Governor Jay Inslee. The new law defines collectible vehicles as a vehicle of unique or rare design, of limited production, and an object of curiosity that is maintained primarily for use in car club activities,

exhibitions, parades, or other functions of public interest or for a private collection, and is used only infrequently for other purposes. The law requires that the vehicle have collectible vehicle or classic automobile insurance coverage that restricts the collectible vehicle mileage or use, or both, and requires the owner to have another vehicle for personal use.

BACKUP ASSIST REDUCES NEED FOR SKILL

Every camper or fisherman has at least one horror story about trying to back up a trailer or boat. Ford claims to have found a solution with its Pro Trailer Backup Assist system.

The 2016 [F-150](#) offers the new tech, which will allow drivers to steer their trailers using a knob on the dashboard instead of counter-steering the wheel. How does it work? The driver shifts the truck into reverse and then uses the rearview camera in conjunction with the Backup Assist knob to guide the trailer into the desired spot. The truck steers the front wheels while the backup camera tracks the trailer angles, making movements easier and smoother. The driver will still have to control the brake and throttle, but if the angles get too tight the truck will stop or limit the speed. In essence, it's a lot like the parallel-parking assist systems now available on many models, applied to trailer towing. Let's hope it works as well as advertised.

ANOTHER AUTOMOTIVE LEGEND GONE



Art Fitzpatrick passed away a few weeks ago at the age of 96. Many of you may not know him by name or face, but most of you will recognize his work.

Fitz as he was called, is regarded as one of the best automotive artists ever. He started his career going into automotive design. According to a biography on his website, Mr. Fitzpatrick took a job as a designer at Briggs Body Co., where he worked on various projects for Chrysler and Ford's Lincoln Zephyr. He is also credited with designing the 1940 Packard 180 sedan.

He wound up turning his attention, and talent, towards the advertising side. From the late 50's into the early 70's he and his business partner Van Kaufman, drew ads for General Motors, most of them for Pontiac. Art drew the cars, while Van drew the backgrounds. These ads appeared in many magazines; Life, Post and Look, along with many others. The work was so impressive that Pontiac's general manager at the time, John DeLorean, banned the use of photographs and decreed that only Fitz and Van drawings could be used in Pontiac ads.

Today you will find many of them torn from the pages of those old magazines and framed as art, which they are. Many antique stores have them already removed, and for sale in bins. You can identify his pictures by his and Vans signature. Look for "AF VK" in one of the lower corners of the picture.



In the ad above, they are just under the right hand end of the front bumper, almost blending in with the sidewalk. (Left hand bottom corner of the picture.)

Fitz was almost fanatical in his work. He would take hundreds of pictures of the car, from as many angles as he could, and then cut them up and paste up what he wanted. He then used this mock-up to draw from. He started the idea of making cars look lower and wider than they really were. This played well with Pontiac's "Wide Track" theme. But his work was not limited to GM ads.

More recently, Mr. Fitzpatrick drew two series of commemorative stamps for the U.S. Postal Service. "America on the Move," released in 2005, celebrated

1950s sporty cars, such as the Chevrolet Corvette, (shown below) Ford Thunderbird and Kaiser Darrin.



The second, "Tailfins and Chrome" was released in 2008 and featured such cars as the 1959 Cadillac Eldorado, Chrysler 300C and Lincoln Premiere.



Besides this, Fitz was a consultant on the movie "Cars", created by Pixar and Walt Disney. Go to www.fitz-art.com if you'd like to know more.

IT'S DUES TIME AGAIN

Almost forgot ! It's time to remind you that your \$24 annual dues are due on January 1, 2016.

I will follow my usual practice of listing the last names of those who have paid in each month's newsletter. So if you don't see you name, it means I haven't received your dues payment. Right now I have one member that paid his 2016 dues in advance:

Foote

Lets add a few more names soon.

FOR SALE

1952 Red MG-TD Replica built by Daytona. VW 1600 engine. New everything. Always garaged. \$6200 Call Ron for info: 925-829-4046 or email honestronn@yahoo.com



Ron Sutherland's MG-TD