



# NCKCC News

Handcrafted Automobiles

December 2016

Volume 34



We got lucky when a bystander offered to trip the shutter, catching the whole group.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Merry Christmas*

## **FROM THE PREZ**

Same as last year, our Annual “Brunch” at the Basil Leaf Café in Danville, was the final Club activity for 2016. Since we had the “early seating” reserved, the thirteen of us were seated in the main dining area at a long table. It was really great to have a wonderful meal and socialize with our members. We all had a superb lunch with far too many calories for one meal and lots of great conversation.

The Club has a different idea on planning the agenda for Club activities for 2017. Keeping up with the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we will be doing the activity planning by e-mail. Be sure to forward to Vern or myself any and all suggestions or ideas for activities you would like to see on the calendar. Vern will include a list of suggested activities in this newsletter. All can respond via e-mail with your preferences and Vern will publish the “final” list in the January or February newsletter. 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 2017 calendar could have designated “club” events and also list other “car” events which our members might want to attend.

I’m really looking forward to 2017 being yet another “Year to Remember” for the NCKCC.

May the “Spirit of the Season” be with you and yours. Have a wonderful and safe holiday season! See y’all in the New Year!

Jim W



## **ANNUAL BRUNCH BASIL LEAF CAFE**

On December 4th our whole ‘Brunch Group’ arrived a few minutes before the Cafe doors opened, so we enjoyed the Sunday sunshine visiting around our cars.

We were surprised to find the Basil Leaf’s former parking lot has a house on it this year; all the better that we arrived early for the first seating and had no trouble finding close-by parking.

The Champaign, Mimosa, Orange Juice, Omelets, Eggs Benedict, French Toast, Belgian Waffles with Strawberries, Cream, or Syrup, Breakfast Sausage, Bacon, Roasted Potatoes, Fruit Salad, Caesar Salad, Spinach Salad, Pizza, Tortellini Carbonara and Rigatoni Neapolitan provided an abundant source of calories so that no one departed hungry!

We were seated in the front dining room this year, which looked like a problem for multiple trips to the food source but we solved it with a slight table movement.

Attendees included Mary Bales & Sal, Dave & Joyce DeCato, Vern & Carol Hance, Chuck & Sue Maddux, Joe Tattersall, Jim & Robert Wagner and Tom & Irene Wallters.

*Above & Next page: Here are some photos of our ‘Brunch Bunch’.*



Below: We even had the driver of a driverless 'Uber' car at the restaurant. I caught this shot as he or it drove away.



**2016 EVENT SCORE CARD - WHAT DO WE WANT IN 2017?**

The attendance at many of our 2016 events was small or less. The club officers have concluded our past event planning is not properly serving the clubs desires. The list below shows the attendance at each 2016 event.

- February 12-13, 2016 - Sacramento Autorama, Cal Expo Attendance = 0
- March 12, 2016 - Black Diamond Tour of Hazel-Atlas Mine. Attendance = 7
- April 3, 2016 - April Fools Ralley, Santa Rosa. Attendance = 0
- April 16, 2016 - AHA Annual Show at Nethercutt Museum Attendance = 0
- April 16, 2016 - 'Spring Fling' Patio Party at Wagner residence Attendance = 4

- April 24, 2016 - Benicia High School Band car show Attendance = 0
- May 14, 2016 - Niles 'Spring Fever' Car Show Attendance = 5
- May 22, 2016 - Wine/Castle Tour at Castello di Amorosa Attendance = 0
- June 4 & 5, 2016 - Walnut Creek Art & Wine Fest Attendance = 15
- June 19, 2016 - Father's Day Car Show at Blackhawk Auto Museum Attendance = 0
- July 3, 2016 - Benicia Torchlight Parade Attendance = 1
- August 6, 2016 - Cal Auto Museum Car Show & Cruise - Sacramento Attendance = 0
- August 20, 2016 - 'Hot August Niles' Car show Attendance = 8
- September 18 - NCKCC Annual Car Show at Blackhawk Attendance = 22
- October 15, 2016 - Woodbridge Winery; Car Show, Chili Tasting Attendance = 3
- December 4, 2016 - Annual NCKCC Brunch at Basil Leaf Cafe Attendance = 13

Based on the record above we are launching a "trial balloon" proposal to officially schedule only the Walnut Creek Art & Wine car display and our Annual Show in September. We are open to hearing your ideas and we want your suggestions. Please respond by email or phone to any of the officers listed in page 7 of this newsletter. **We need your input !! Send your event proposal with a suggested month and/or date.**

## NEW NAME FOR CAR BUILDER MAGAZINE IS REAL - NOT JUST DIGITAL



In our January 2016 issue we told you about the transfiguration of CAR Builder to ReinCARnation magazine. I just received my November-December issue and thought I would remind you that you can still get a free subscription (in USA) to the magazine in print, digital - or both. You can subscribe online by going to website [www.reincarnationmag.com](http://www.reincarnationmag.com)

I have enjoyed the frequent digital updates and its nice to get a slick paper version that you can hold in your hands!

## **BLACKHAWK MUSEUM SPEAKER SERIES**

I had a chance on December 10th to attend a talk entitled; "The Autonomous Vehicular Future: The Road to Discovery or Monotony" by Raffi Minasian.

Raffi Minasian is an award winning artist and published illustrator. He has taught illustration and design at several universities. In 2003 he turned to his roots as a 'hands on' designer working on freelance projects. Today, in addition to his ongoing

design product design work, Raffi manufactures specialty parts for classic and muscle cars aftermarket as well as custom parts for hot rods and customs.

He described his life as a 'car guy' from about 7 years of age until the present.

He noted trends that have developed in recent years that show a decreasing percentage of young people that hold a drivers license. In 2014, just 24.5 percent of 16-year-olds had a license, a 47-percent decrease from 1983, when 46.2 percent did and 16.4 percent fewer 20-to-24-year-olds had licenses in 2014 than in 1983. Researchers in one study, surveyed young adults ages 18 to 39 without driver's licenses about why they don't have them. The top three reasons were: "too busy or not enough time to get a driver's license" (37 percent), "owning and maintaining a vehicle is too expensive" (32 percent), and "able to get transportation from others" (31 percent). However a preference for using public transportation did not rank high.

However, more older adults are staying on the roads as they age, enough to counterbalance the drop in younger drivers. People age 60 and above held almost 26 percent of all driver's licenses in 2014, up from 20.6 percent in 2004.

Interestingly, Americans drove more miles than ever before in 2015, a departure from totals that have stayed mostly flat since 2004. The long-term increase in miles traveled in the United States slowed starting in the early 2000s, hovering close 3 trillion a year up until about 2006. The data show that Americans drove more than 3.15 trillion miles in 2015, equivalent to around 337 round trips from Earth to Pluto. The previous record of 3 trillion miles, was set in 2007.

Even with the current emphasis on self driving cars, it is difficult to estimate when autonomous vehicles will become common. The preferences of many younger people to let their lives be guided by electronic communication is forcing automotive designers to focus on the entertainment and communication features of cars. To cope with the safety issues this creates, it may actually accelerate the adoption of self-driving cars sooner than we expect.

This harks back to the sub-title of the talk: The Road to Discovery (the electronic millennials) or "The Road to Monotony" (older generations that think driving is fun).

Maybe we will find a happy compromise with short term Zip-Car rentals and autonomous Uber cars mixed in with the old-fashioned "Driver-driven" cars.

Maybe electric cars will be part of the solution - or maybe they will be a new problem. In his 2015 inaugural speech, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. put forward a goal to reduce today's petroleum use in cars and trucks by up to 50 percent by 2030. This was part of his strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 as directed in Executive Order B-30-15. California set a long-term goal of reaching 1.5 million ZEVs on California's roadways by 2025. California has more ZEVs on the road than any other state, but with nine years to go until the 2025 goal, they make up just 3% of new car sales in the state.

New rebate rules came in during 2016 to cut rebates to the rich and increase them for the poor.

### Changes to the Clean Vehicle Rebates

Effective Nov. 1, 2016

No rebates for:

Single-tax filers, gross income exceeding \$150,000,  
Head of household-filers, gross income exceeding  
\$204,000 and Joint-filers, gross income exceeding  
\$300,000

Note: Caps do not apply to purchase of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles

Bigger rebates for lower-income buyers:

\$4,500 for battery electric vehicles  
\$3,500 for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles  
\$7,000 for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles

Note: To qualify as a lower-income buyer, gross annual income limit for an individual is \$35,640; for household of four, \$72,900.

Well, it's going to be an interesting few years to watch how California copes with a new government that is not so keen on making petroleum obsolete.

## 2017 DUES ARE DUE

Oh, I almost forgot. It dues time again, so plan to send your \$24 dues for 2017 to the Treasurer at the address shown at the left. PayPal payments are OK too; just send them to [nckcc@astound.net](mailto:nckcc@astound.net) and if you feel generous add \$1 to mostly cover the PayPal fees.

I know some of you have paid your 2017 dues already, but I'm already late so I will start to name the 'paid up' members next month.



*MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR*

---

## FOR SALE

1957 PORSCHE SPEEDSTER Replica  
Like new; 3,000 miles; 2332 cc VW T-1 engine.  
Professionally built by JPS Motorsports. Asking  
\$35,000.  
Contact: [brianc@chinnockcellars.com](mailto:brianc@chinnockcellars.com) or (707)  
259-1626 (510) 918-0155

