



NCKCC News

Handcrafted Automobiles

February 2012

Volume 30 Number 2



Here is our lunch group before the 2012 Planning Meeting. We enjoyed a private room decorated with lots of Automobile Events Posters.

COMING EVENTS

- February 25, 2012 - Tour of Hiller Aviation Museum, San Carlos starting at 10 a.m. Lunch at Waterfront Restaurant. RSVP to Jim Wagner or Vern Hance (See page 3)
- March 10, 2012 - Visit to Hall Fabrication & Racing in Benicia. Visit starts 10 a.m. Chuck Maddux, Champion. Sue Maddux is planning a side event for ladies only. Details in March newsletter.

FROM THE PREZ

A highly successful planning meeting was held in Walnut Creek on January 14th. The planning committee did an excellent job in generating a new Calendar of Events for 2012 that truly has something for everyone. There is a couple of car shows to attend, a museum, a race car shop visit, a party, a parade, a holiday brunch, and, of course, the NCKCC show. Although some “car” activities on the calendar are not “official” club events, they could be of interest to many of our members, so they are included on the newsletter calendar and/or, in the Club website calendar. Be sure to check page 11 for details. In fact, if you know of other additional activities, events, or day trips, “car” related or not, that you think might interest our members and you would like to see on the calendars, please forward your suggestions to me or to Vern. I think we have another opportunity to make 2012 another very special year for Club members, but we do need to have more of our members participate in the events and activities. So check out the new 2012 calendar in this newsletter and be sure to add these dates to your personal calendar, ipad, pda, laptop, or cell and enjoy the camaraderie and fun with other club members. Many thanks go to the members of the planning committee for yet another job well done.

Hope to see y’all soon,

Jim W

DUES PAYING TIME AGAIN

We still need about 26 of our 2011 members to pay their \$24 dues for 2012.

I will use my usual procedure of listing the last names of those whose dues have been paid. 30 have already paid for 2012 and their names are listed below.

Amsberry	Latty
Bales	Leavitt
Barrilleaux	Maddux
Bello	Rehfeld
Bohr	Rhodes
Clavelli	Rodarte
Craycroft	Rubenstein
DeCato	Smith

Ellis	Thomson
Fewell	Tung
Foote	Ullman
Hance	Wagner, J.
Ketchel	Wagner, R.
King	Wallters
Koch	Kinzy

Please check this section each month to see that I have received your dues payment. That way we can cross check on you, me and the USPS.

Also, for those who would prefer to pay by PayPal, we have an account to handle that option. If you already have a PayPal account you can select a ‘personal’ payment to nkcc@astound.net and there is no PayPal fee. However you can also use a Visa or MasterCharge credit card through PayPal, but in this case we ask you to add \$1 (\$25 total) to cover the PayPal fee.

To make a payment to NCKCC just send it to nkcc@astound.net

That way I will receive an email advising me of your payment.

**HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM TOUR
FEB 25th 10AM**

This was selected as our first outing event for 2012 and President Jim Wagner will be our Docent for the tour. Please give him a call or email if you are coming. (650) 341-0211 jamesuu@comcast.net or you can let Vern know at (925) 938-1442 nkcc@astound.net

Location:

601 Skyway Road, San Carlos, CA 94070. The museum is located at the Northwest corner of the San Carlos Airport, San Mateo County, and immediately adjacent to US 101.

Admission:

Adults \$11.00
 Seniors \$7.00
 Youth 5-17 \$7.00
 Children 0-4 Free (with paid adult)

Directions:

From southbound US 101, take exit No. 411 to eastbound Holly Street/Redwood Shores Parkway (cloverleaf). Turn right at first stoplight (Airport Drive) and immediately right again on to Skyway Road. Proceed to the Hiller Aviation Museum at 601 Skyway Road. Park in the lot at the Museum main entrance.

From northbound US 101, take exit No. 411 to eastbound Holly Street/Redwood Shores Parkway. Turn right at first stoplight (Airport Drive) and immediately right again on to Skyway Road. Proceed to the Hiller Aviation Museum at 601 Skyway Road. Park in the lot at the Museum main entrance.

Plan to meet at the Museum at 10 AM when it opens. Guided tour led by Museum docent and Club member Jim Wagner.

Here is some information about the museum that you should find interesting:

The Hiller Aviation Institute & Museum was conceived in the early '70s and founded some twenty years later by Bay Area helicopter pioneer Stanley Hiller Jr. in June 1998.

Exhibits: A collection by Stanley Hiller of Northern California aviation history exhibits spanning the past 150 years. The collection includes 50 aircraft exhibits and numerous displays such as:

- 1869 "Avitor" Hermes Jr. (first aeroplane to fly - unmanned).
- 1883, 1905, & 1911 gliders (John Montgomery).
- 1911 Eugene Ely's Curtiss Pusher (the first plane to land on a ship).
- 1913 Lincoln Beechey's "Little Looper" (first aerobatics airplane).
- 1945 Hiller 360 (first inherently-stable helicopter to be licensed by the FAA).
- 1955 Flying Platform (first ducted fan, man carrying, VTOL).
- 1956 XROE Rotorcycle (fully collapsible helicopter).
- 1970 Boeing 747 cockpit (interactive display).
- 1986 Boeing Condor (spyplane with 201-ft. wingspan)

More Museum Info at the Hiller Aviation Museum Home Page: <http://www.hiller.org/>

Following the Hiller tour which takes about an hour and a half, we will proceed to the "**Waterfront Restaurant**" located at the Redwood Marina, #1 Uccelli Boulevard, Redwood City, CA 94063.

More restaurant info at the Waterfront Restaurant Home Page:

<http://www.waterfrontwc.com/Waterfront/Home.html>

Directions: From the Hiller Aviation Museum, retrace route to US 101 southbound (right lane on overpass). After entering US 101, take exit #409 – Whipple Street and keep to left. At first stoplight, turn left to Whipple Street eastbound. Crossover US 101 and turn right on East Bayshore Blvd. Follow East Bayshore Blvd. and turn left on Bair Island Road. Bair Island Road becomes Uccelli Blvd at the Redwood Marina and the Waterfront Restaurant.

To return to US 101: Retrace route to Whipple Street.

- US 101 northbound: Far right lane.
- US 101 southbound: Overpass right lane (cloverleaf).

JANUARY 14th PLANNING MEETING

By Vern Hance

For those that came at 11:30 a.m. we had a good lunch in a private room at Rocco's Pizzoria in Walnut Creek featuring 'The Dominator' and 'Dante's Inferno' House Specialty pizzas. We washed them down with some Pepsi and Lemonade (see cover) then headed for our meeting room at the Ygnacio Valley Library a couple blocks down the road.

We started out by nominating the existing officers for another yearly term. That was passed by 100% of those present. Then Jim Wagner led us through a bunch of ideas supplied from several members and gave out some assignment to get more info on some of the potential events. The results are shown in the 'Events Calendar' on our website www.nckcc.com

We also agreed to list other events (throughout the year) in the newsletter and website that look like they would be fun for Kit Car people. Those attending included; Al & Pat Bello, Marshall Bradley, Dave & Joyce DeCato, Vern & Carol Hance, Paul &

Ruth King, Chuck Maddux, Jim Smith, James Wagner, Robert Wagner and Tom Wallters.

Thanks to the attendees for bringing their ideas, especially Jim Smith, who drove his Cobra (below) from Oakdale and Tom Wallters from Mountain View.



Shown below is our hard working crew, except for Al & Pat Bello who had to leave a bit early.



VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AND VEHICLE HISTORY REPORTS

As cars were first being introduced into California, there was no orderly way to track the vehicles or the owners until 1905. To keep track of all vehicles, the state required cars, bicycles, carriages, carts and similar vehicles to be licensed. However, the automotive industry used a different method to track their vehicles- Vehicle Identification Numbers (VINs). A VIN is a unique serial code that is assigned to every vehicle and was first used in 1954. They were typically placed on the driver-side door or at the bottom of the front windshield. Different manufacturers used different formats of VINs until 1981, when the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration required VINs to be 17 characters and must exclude the letters I, O and Q. By excluding these letters, any confusion with the numbers one and zero was avoided.

A VIN is not merely a random set of 17 characters. Each digit signifies information about the vehicle. A VIN is a vehicle's DNA; it is unique and unduplicated. For example, the first character identifies the country where the vehicle was made. Each country has a letter or number associated with it- the US is either 1 or 4. The second character identifies the manufacturer such as Toyota or Volkswagen. Each digit of the VIN provides more and more information on the vehicle.

VINs are also printed on several car parts to cut down on part theft. Car parts that are labeled with VINs include transmissions, front and rear bumpers, engines, hoods, right and left doors, sliding cargo doors, right and left quarter panels and side assemblies, pickup/cargo boxes, rear doors and hatchback/deck lid/tailgates.

VINs do not just assist the automotive industry in identifying their vehicles, but can help car buyers avoid fraud. A vehicle's history is tracked by its VIN and can provide useful information to car buyers. Anyone can view a car's history using the VIN. Simply enter the VIN into one of the many websites that offer this service (e.g. CARFAX, InstaVIN, AutoCheck). Information that a VIN can disclose include:

- Vehicle registration
- Title information, including salvaged or junked titles
- Odometer readings
- Lemon history
- Total loss accident history
- Frame/structural damage
- Collision indicators, such as airbag deployments
- Service and repair information
- Vehicle usage (taxi, rental, lease, etc.)
- Recall information

Vehicle history reports not only help car buyers, but also assist dealers in their sales. Sellers check the history of the vehicle they are trying to sell so they are prepared to answer any questions regarding the vehicle's background. Dealers often buy vehicle history reports to provide to their customers to ensure the potential buyer that all information about the vehicle is being disclosed. Dealers also run vehicle history reports prior to acquiring vehicles at auctions to help ensure they are obtaining the vehicle at a fair market value.

What started off as just a tracking system, the VIN has become a useful tool in buying and selling cars. The next time you plan on purchasing a vehicle, remember the VIN is a valuable asset, so use it to

look up the vehicle's history and arm yourself with the tools to make a sound purchase.

For more information on VINs, vehicle history reports and the DMV, please visit www.DMV.ca.gov. Save Time. Go Online!

SOMETHING DIFFERENT - THE MONOTRACER

This is something completely different in transportation. The MonoTracer is built in Switzerland on a stretched BMW motorcycle with an aluminum roll cage and a Kevlar body. You ride it like a motorcycle, leaning into turns on its two main wheels, but you are completely enclosed in a body with a single 'gull-wing' type door to provide ingress and egress. There is seating for two in a fore/aft arrangement.

The powertrain is a 116-hp, 86-lb-ft liquid-cooled inline-four from a BMW K1200LT motorcycle; Peraves-engineered four-speed manual transmission, RWD with reverse.



When coming to a stop or moving very slowly, you must flip down two more little outrigger wheels to remain upright. Because of the manual 'wheels-up'/'wheels-down' control you have to learn a whole new driving skill and with a number of unfamiliar controls there is a steep learning curve. The throttle is a twistgrip on a motorcycle-like handlebar, but the brakes and the clutch are foot-operated (with additional braking available at the right-hand lever). And the shifter is an electric switch on the left, forward of the left-hand grip.

Most of the guys involved in the development of the MonoTracer are airline pilots, and that tells you something about the vehicle right there. Those guys are used to dropping the landing gear every time they want to stop, and they don't indulge in casual, mindless driving like so many of our fellow drivers. And, of course, the experience of being in an

enclosed cockpit while banking and swooping is completely natural to them.

"It's not for everybody," a manufacturer's rep allowed.

There are also other challenges to ownership, such as the \$86,000 price tag. An electric version with a 180-mile range, a 0-to-60 mph time of less than four seconds is expected to sell for \$115,000 and should be coming this summer.

The MonoTracer handles like a very long-wheelbase motorcycle. Which means you need a lot of lean angle to turn. Not a problem, since the MonoTracer has 52 degrees of available bank angle. Being fully enclosed you can travel comfortably in the cold and rain. There is air conditioning and heating as well as a navigation system and a stereo. The makers have even modified the transmission to provide a reverse gear where fifth usually is in the stock box, so you can even back into parking spaces.

For more info, visit www.21stcenturymotoring.com or <http://www.autoweek.com/article/20110418/CARREVIEWS/110419869#ixzz1JwR3QZwQ>

21st Century Motoring was established to act as a North American Agency for MonoTracer of Switzerland.

2011 FINANCES IN REVIEW

1/1/11 Through 12/31/11

INCOME

Mbr Renewal	1,088.83
New Memb (1)	46.00
Advertising	20.00
Interest	0.13

Carshow Income:

Regist. Fees	800.00
Banquet Inc	825.00
Gate Revenue	293.00
Food-Drink (2)	75.50
Dinner Raffle	182.00

Total Carshow Inc.	2,175.50
Other Events	340.00
Gear sales	22.00

Total Income **\$3,692.46**

EXPENSES

Misc. Club Exp. (3)	20.00
Newsletter (4)	813.76
Insur. Exp	
Promo Exp. (5)	118.39

Carshow Expense:

Printing	51.92
Meals@Wheels	553.00
Advertising (6)	340.09
Banquet Exp.	825.77
Clean-up Fee	200.00
Trophy	144.53
Plaques	16.00
FoodDrinkExp	43.02

Total Show Expense	2,174.33
Other Events (7)	468.22

Total Expenses	\$3,594.70
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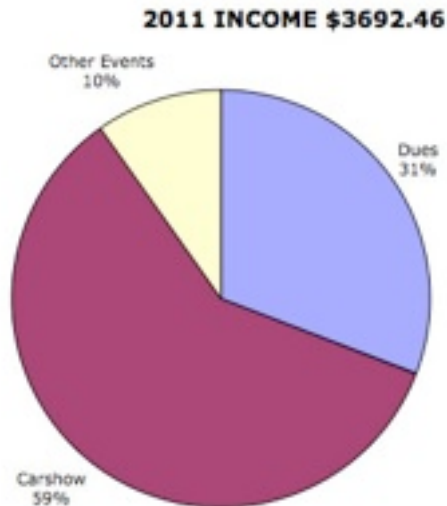
Total Inc. minus Exp.	\$97.76
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FOOTNOTES:

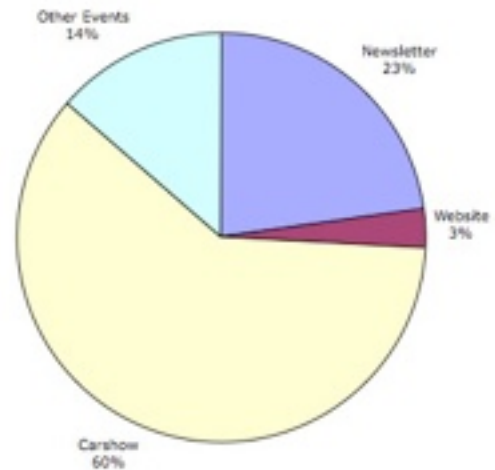
1. Four new members.
2. Donations to "Thank You" jar.
3. CA Sec of State Filing Fee
4. \$264.00 postage + \$549.76 printing
5. PowWeb internet hosting.
6. KCB advertismnt \$203,
Postcards & Postage \$137.09
7. Benicia Parade fee \$35, Brunch \$433.22

COMMENTS BY THE TREASURER

As you can see, we made it through the year without a decrease in our equity. In fact we ended the year with \$97.76 more than we started. We were able to control expenses at our car show so we broke even after contributing \$553 to Meals On Wheels. The pie charts on this page illustrate the major 'INS' and 'OUTS' of our dollars.



2011 EXPENSE \$3595.70



We have been slowly shrinking in the size of our club for the past several years. As of 1/1/12 we have 56 members, but we started with 71 at the beginning of 2011, for a net loss of 15 members after adjusting for 4 new members during the year.

Right now we have 30 paid-up members for 2012 and hope the 26 others decide to stay with us by paying their \$24 dues. (By the way; we have never raised our annual dues in almost 3 decades)

So the bottom line is "We're Hanging in There" and looking for new and active members, Tell someone about NCKCC today !!

EVENTS CALENDAR - 2012

- February 25, 2012 - Tour of Hiller Aviation Museum, San Carlos starting at 10 a.m. Lunch at Waterfront Restaurant. Jim Wagner, Champion.
- March 10, 2012 - Visit to Hall Fabrication & Racing in Benicia. Visit starts 10 a.m. Chuck Maddux, Champion. Sue Maddux is planning a side event for ladies only.
- April 14, 2012 - AHA "Fun Under the Sun" show in Pomona, CA
- April 21, 2012 - Charles Schultz Museum visit and Luther Burbank Garden Tour in Santa Rosa, CA. Carol Hance, Champion.

See 'Events Calendar' in our website for more detail.

FOR SALE

BUGATTI 1927 Bugatti, good cond. Never wrecked. Yellow paint, brown upholstery that needs rework. Less than 50 miles on 1600cc recond. engine. Consider delivery. \$3000.00. (See photo) Dave Fernandez 530-384-2778 email daf360hd@att.net (3-10)



From top:: Dave Fernandex '27 Bugatti

FINO – Built on 1987 Fiero with Cadillac Northstar V-8 & auto trans. Regular trophy winner. Custom suspension, brakes and interior. Special Purple BASF Extreme paint. **Reduced to \$19,900.** Call Al Bohr (503-632-8372) or e-mail: albohr@bctonline.com. (10/09)



Al Bohr's Fino with Cadillac Northstar power

FERRARI Testarossa (yellow). This beautiful and extremely well built smog exempt car won 7 awards including first place at Knott's and was featured in Kit Car Illustrated. The chassis is a lengthened Fiero, with a Chevrolet 327 engine, a Getrag 5-speed transmission, authentic Ferrari chrome-plated aluminum wheels, Eagle F-1 tires, plus many other amenities. This is my fourth replica and is by far the best. \$21,500. Al Clavelli 650 573-8125 or e-mail alclavelli@aol.com. (7/11)



Al Clavelli's Ferrari Testarossa

"Cars for Sale" ads in the *NCKCC News* are for members only. Rate is \$10 for 12 issues.

Shown above right are the cars listed.

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