



# NCKCC News

## Handcrafted Automobiles

July 2016

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Here is view of our Saturday cars at the Walnut Creek Art & Wine Festival. More pictures inside.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 3, 2016(Sunday) - Benicia Torchlight Parade in late afternoon. RSVP to Chuck Maddux - See Page 5
- August 6, 2016 - Cal Auto Museum Car Show & Cruise - Sacramento
- August 20, 2016 - Niles 'Hot August Niles' Car show, Niles District of Fremont
- September 18, 2016(Sunday) - NCKCC Annual Car Show at Blackhawk Museum. Registration forms at [www.nckcc.com](http://www.nckcc.com)

## **FROM THE PREZ**

The month of July has a single car activity on the club agenda. The Benicia "Torchlight Parade" is on the afternoon of Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Torchlight Parade is always great fun and Benicia's small town atmosphere makes for really "good time" event. Chuck Maddux is the champion of this annual event. A post-parade dinner at a local Benicia restaurant is usually scheduled as well. Be sure to give Chuck or Vern a call or e-mail if you are planning to attend. Detailed info is elsewhere in this newsletter.

Also, on the third Saturday of August, the 20<sup>th</sup>, Niles has their second car show of the year. "Hot August Niles Car Show" is a great show with lots of "cool" cars and great shops and restaurants to visit. Deadline for pre-registration (\$25) is August 1<sup>st</sup>. Dave DeCato is champion for this event. Be sure to give Dave or Vern a call or e-mail if you are planning to attend. Additional info is elsewhere in this newsletter and registration forms are available on the club web site. Complete info for "Hot August Niles" will be in the August newsletter.



With the first of July nearly here, I would ask you all to take a few moments to reflect on all the patriots who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our right to fly the "Star Spangled Banner". Come "Independence Day", I hope that you will all take the time to unfurl those beautiful "Stars and Stripes" in their honor.

Take care, Jim W

## **WALNUT CREEK ART & WINE FESTIVAL JUNE 4 & 5, 2016**

By Vern Hance

The Art & Wine Festival again allowed us to enjoy a great, low-key car display with plenty of time to share car stories and knowledge with visitors and club members. We were at our traditional location on the hill and heard only some thank-you's from 'presumed' Art & Wine staff people.

Saturday (cover photo) we had six cars on display including Dave & Joyce DeCato's yellow '34 Chevy Panel van, Mark Rubenstein's M-B Baron, Chuck Maddux M-B 500K, Gerald & Holly Case's Shay Model A with a new red paint job, Jarl & Carol de Boer with a 'one-of-its kind' handmade roadster called the 'Tapertail', and Mohamad & Shayda Hammami's M-B 500K. The latter was a welcome treat for me because Mohamed allowed me to drive it to the display both days, but did stop by each day to be sure I was properly caring for it. We were also pleased to have a nice visit with Tom Wallters, who made the trip from Mountain View.

Sunday we had eight cars including some of those displayed on Saturday, including the Rubenstein M-B Baron, the Maddux M-B 500K, the Case Shay Model A, the deBoer Tapertail and the Hammami M-B 500K. We also had four new cars: DeCatos brought a '33 Ford Hi-boy roadster and they also recruited a dramatically lowered Chevy that they befriended at a car show, but I failed to get the owners name. Jim Wagner displayed his newly acquired, Chevy powered, '36 Ford Slantback and Jarl de Boer brought a second car, a tiny mid-engine Honda 'Beat' in addition to the Tapertail.



I also must provide some information, as best I can remember, about the unique vehicles provided by Jarl & Carol de Boer.

The Tapertail has a handcrafted aluminum body over a custom frame and is powered by a mid-engine

move the ~1,200 pound car very briskly. The car started out to be a midget racer in about 1943. Then after a 50+ year pause it got repurposed as a small roadster shown below. The engine compartment holds the fuel injected, supercharged, inter-cooled Ford 60 V-8.



Ford 60 V-8 with a Mercedes supercharger and is inter-cooled. Looking through Jarl's notebook it looks like its dyno test showed about 90 HP which should



Jarl's Honda 'Beat' is also a mid engine convertible with a 3-cylinder, 600+ cc engine that cruises at around 6,000 rpm at 70 mph and redlines at somewhere around 9,000 rpm.



The Art & Wine Festival had quite a few new features. They reportedly added Scotch & Vodka tasting in addition to beer & wine, but I didn't see anyone embracing that option. Also new was a rock climbing pillar, complete with harnesses for the climbers that lowered them safely if they lost their footing. And there was a super-long waterless slide, a giant inflatable bubble that would hold kids and adults that wanted to try walking on water. The most dramatic was a motocross that defied gravity and looked dangerous.



I got carried away watching all these new 'Thrill' features, so I had to make a You-Tube video to memorialize these activities. If you want to watch it you can go to our website [www.nckcc.com](http://www.nckcc.com) then click on "Photos/Video" and select the top item on the list.

## **BENICIA JULY 3rd PARADE IS ON !**

By Chuck Maddux

The annual Benicia Torchlight Parade is on tap for the evening of Sunday July 3rd. Benicia has one of the most appreciative parade watchers who will hoot and holler at your every wave.

It starts at 6:30 pm, so you can start arriving at our house around 5 or so, where we have snacks and drinks while you decorate your cars. You can park in our driveway before and after the parade. At the conclusion of the parade we will all proceed to The Union Hotel, a very short walk away to enjoy a tasty dinner and chit chat the evening away.

Currently it looks like we will have about 2 or 3 cars in the parade and about six people joining in the dinner. Call Chuck if you're coming but haven't responded yet.

Our address is; 126 East D St., Benicia. If you plan to attend, phone us at (707) 745-4361 or email [camnsam@att.net](mailto:camnsam@att.net)

To get here take either Hwy 680 or 80 to 780, follow the signs to Benicia and take the East 5th St. off ramp. Turn South toward the river and proceed to East H St.(Stop sign), turn right and go to East

2nd St.(stop sign), turn left to East D St.(stop sign), turn right to 126 (two story 1852 brick house on the left on the hill. Proceed carefully up the driveway to the backside of the house.

## **"HOT AUGUST NILES" CAR SHOW - AUGUST 20th - FREMONT**

The Niles show is two months away but you should plan now to enter. I understand that DeCatos will be bringing one of their cars and that Jim Wagner will be showing his '36 Ford.

If you are planning to enter a car, please contact Dave DeCato 925-679-1024; [decato@juno.com](mailto:decato@juno.com) or Jim Wagner 650-341-0211; [jamesuu@comcast.net](mailto:jamesuu@comcast.net) so that they can reserve an adjacent spot for your car. Show runs 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. but veteran attendees say to get there early to get a good spot. Registration forms are on our website under "Hotline". Fee is \$25 up thru August 1st and \$30 at the gate.

To download a registration form go to [www.nckcc.com](http://www.nckcc.com) and click on Hot Line.

If you are dropping by the show to say hello, look in the off-street area across from Bronco Billy's.

## **U.S. POSTAL SERVICE TO DEBUT PICKUP TRUCKS FOREVER STAMPS**

The United States Postal Service has a thing about old cars. After honoring hot rods and muscle cars with a series of Forever stamps (not to mention domestic cars of the 1950s with a variety of first-class stamps), the USPS's latest line of Forever stamps pay tribute to the most American vehicle of all, the pickup truck.

With artwork created by Chris Lyons, the four Forever stamps will honor the 1938 International Harvester D-2; the 1948 Ford F-1; the 1953 Chevrolet Advance-Design; and the 1965 Ford F-100. As with earlier automotive tribute stamps, the vehicles chosen are representative of a broad cross section, though some would argue that milestone vehicles were overlooked. Ford's 1925 Model T runabout with pick-up body, considered by many to be the first factory-produced pickup (as earlier examples were generally cab chassis fitted with beds), isn't one of the offerings, and neither is the



1955-'58 Chevrolet Cameo Carrier, arguably the first "luxury" pickup.

That's not to say the selections weren't worthy of recognition. The 1938 International Harvester D-2 may well have been the first pickup to emphasize styling along with utility, from its barrel shaped grille with flowing, chrome-trimmed vents to its V-shaped two-piece windshield and its crowned, pontoon-style fenders.

America may not have fully emerged from the grips of the Great Depression, but the D-2 must have been a sign that better days were on the horizon.

The 1948 Ford F-1 represented the brand's first all-new truck following the Second World War, and its "Million Dollar" cab featured more room, improved outward visibility and a suspension system that used rubber pads and bushings to reduce noise, vibration

and harshness. The changes struck a chord with consumers, who purchased a total of 301,791 Ford trucks during the 1948 model year.

Chevrolet's Advance-Design models debuted for the 1947 model year, becoming the first postwar pickup introduced and thus giving the bow-tie brand a significant marketing advantage over its competition. Wider, lower and longer than the models they replaced, the Advance-Design pickups proved so popular with consumers that Chevrolet made very few external changes between 1947 and 1953. Perhaps it's fitting, then, that the USPS would honor the final year of the model's original postwar styling instead of its first market year.

Though Ford's F-100 pickup had been on the market since the 1953 model year, the pickup had gone through three generations of styling by the time the 1965 model was introduced. The big news for 1965 was the introduction of a new chassis using

a Twin-I-Beam independent front suspension that promised to deliver a smoother ride than ever before. The design proved so effective that variations of the Twin-I-Beam suspension were used on Ford F100 (and later, F-150) pickups until the 1996 model year.

The Pickup Trucks Forever stamps will debut on July 15 at 1:00 p.m. at the Syracuse Nationals, held at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse, New York. Following their release, the stamps will be available at post offices (and at USPS.com) in books of 20, and will be valid for first class postage regardless of future rate increases.

## **SENATE SHELVES SB1239 SMOG EXEMPTION BILL - SAD NEWS FROM ACCC**

June 5, 2016

Senate Bill 1239 was placed in the Inactive File after the 3rd reading by Senator Monning (Democrat Senate District 17) Friday June 3rd. The bill failed passage. The vote on the senate floor was 18 yeas and 17 noes with 4 abstentions. The bill needed 21 yes votes to pass.

It is peculiar that 5 of the Democrats who voted yes on the bill in the Appropriations Committee, voted no on the bill from the floor. Left leaning and green Senators treated this bill as if it were a direct assault on the carbon emission bill, AB32. One would have thought after hearing some of the dialogue that the whole world was coming to an end if this bill passed.

This was the bill sponsored by the ACCC and carried by Senator Gaines to expand the smog inspection exemption to 1976 through 1980 classic cars & trucks. The bill actually has a "Sunset Provision" in the bill that would have rescinded the new law after 2 years if it was not working. Senator Gaines worked hard on this bill and is to be commended on his efforts for getting the bill as far through the process as he did. We will introduce this bill again in the next session.

This common sense legislation would have given some relief to owners of 1976 through 1980 classic cars & trucks from an unnecessary smog inspection. It goes without saying that common sense in the California legislature is severely lacking.

As for some of the legislation pending that will increase taxes and fees, some lawmakers in

Sacramento seem to have negative attitudes towards anything good for Californians.

We already have some of the highest taxes in the country and they want more. Currently, California's electricity price is almost 1.5 times higher than the national average and regular gas prices are almost 1.3 times higher.

It is interesting that in states with more conservative lawmakers, taxes, fees, gas prices, and energy prices are lower and more reasonable. What does that tell you? Its a shame that in a beautiful state like California we all have to endure the left's increasingly unbearable agenda.

We at the ACCC will continue to keep you informed and up to date on bills and regulations that may harm the car hobby as well as bills that support or favor the car hobby.

Rex Roden  
President-ACCC  
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## **ASSEMBLY BILL 1610 & SENATE BILL 838 LOOK TO INCREASE VEHICLE REGISTRATION**

June 14, 2016

Here we go again. More increases in taxes and fees. California currently has a budget surplus of over \$10 billion and so as to feed their spending addiction they want to increase vehicle registration fees from \$43.00 per vehicle to \$53.00 per vehicle.

There are two Budget Trailer bills for Transportation (AB 1610 and SB 838) both contain an increase of \$10 per vehicle per year for vehicle registration. Republicans are opposed, but the bill is a majority vote bill.

Republican consultants argue (and I agree) that it should be considered a tax and require a 2/3 vote. But Legislative Counsel has opined it is a majority vote bill. Thus the likely scenario is that one of the bills will pass in the next few days and whether it should have been a 2/3 vote will be decided in court assuming somebody contests it.

This is urgent. Please contact both your representative in the Assembly as well your Senator to voice your opposition to these bills. Unsure of your representative? Go to this website to locate your legislator. <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>.

For questions or concerns please contact me at:  
[acccpres@gmail.com](mailto:acccpres@gmail.com)

Thanks, Rex Roden, President-ACCC

## **SURPRISINGLY GREAT INVESTMENTS**

The classic car market has been doing quite well in 2015 from its Great Recession-induced correction. So, it's not surprising that certain cars have increased in value in the last year. But the identity of some of the cars that did especially well can be somewhat confounding. Here are five that were surprisingly great investments:



The VW Type 181 (known in the U.S. as The Thing) was a modestly updated version of the WWII-era Volkswagen Kübelwagen, the German army's version of the Jeep. VW figured that if AMC was doing well with a civilian version of the Jeep, why not give it a shot? With its simple top, side curtains and removable doors, The Thing made a decent beach car. Every model year is up, the 1972 model increased in value by 48 percent this year.



The Fiero, as is widely known at this point, was sold to gullible GM brass not as a sports car, but as a two-seat "commuter" car. The bean counters had their revenge in making the engineers use suspension bits from dubious GM cars of the time (like the infamous X-car), none of which did wonders for the car's handling. But the '84 pace car replica at least looked great. It represents the first year of Fiero production and as such, it's noteworthy. Fiero pace cars handily outperformed the stock market at 11 percent this year.



This 1960 Peugeot 403 Cabriolet is a head scratcher. Maybe call it the "Columbo" effect, as this car happens to be the car that Peter Falk's legendarily rumpled detective drove in the TV series of the same name. This particular Pug is up a whopping 74 percent.



KGs are hot. If you've always liked one of these fancy Beetles (Road & Track famously called it "a Beetle in an Italian suit"), you might be too late. Every year is up in both coupe and convertible, but the 1963 coupe is especially hot, rising an impressive 87 percent year-over-year.



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Ron Sutherland's MG-TD

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