



NCKCC News

Handcrafted Automobiles

July 2022

Volume 40 No. 6



Vern's 1978 Kelmark – That nobody ever saw.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 17, 2022 - Little Car Show. Downtown Pacific Grove on Lighthouse Ave. 12 noon - 5 pm. Spectators free. More info: <https://whatsupmonterey.com/events/monterey-car-week/the-little-car-show/433>
(See page 7 – We need to organize an NCKCC group to attend)

September 18, 2022 (Sunday) - NCKCC Annual Show, Blackhawk Museum. 10 -3 pm. This is a firm date. Please register your car soon. Registration Forms are on www.nckcc.com under 'Annual Show' tab.

FROM THE PREZ

Since July is well underway, a quick reminder that the NCKCC Annual Show at Blackhawk is coming up in just two months. Sunday, September 18 to be precise. Now is the time remove the car covers, check the fluids and, of course, check that all important battery and get your ride ready for the show. If you don't already have one, registration forms are available on the club web site. Vern would certainly like to hear from you as soon as you can fill the registration form. As of this time, we only have a few cars committed. I, for one, would really enjoy seeing a lot more.

MY COLLECTOR CAR ADVENTURES

Hold it right there! For a year in which the days seem to be just creeping by, how in the world is July already here? After two years of the sit-down doldrums and far too much TV, half of 2022 is already gone. At least I had some opportunity to think about what I did or didn't accomplish this last two years. After what seemed to be a never-ending series of misfortunes concerning my two collector cars, things are finally turning to the positive.

The '86 Fiero is back on the road with a new smog check in hand. Test Only Smog Checks are never a "given", especially with 150,000 miles on the original V-6. Because of its age, the Fiero is automatically designated as a "gross polluter" by the DMV. This time, however, the DMV gods have truly blessed me. The Fiero has a new 2023 orange tag and is celebrating its 36th birthday. The Fiero made its first appearance at an NCKCC Show at the San Leandro Marina in the early 2000s. Talk about "hanging in there".

The '36 Ford on the other hand is still clawing its way out of the garage. Make that several different garages. In late 2020, it was a leaking transmission seal. Off to the trans shop. Seal replaced...no leak! In early 2021, the engine would start but ran rough and died within a minute. Off to the mechanic shop. It appeared to be some clogged carb jets. The carb was removed, and inspection of the Intake manifold revealed it was coated inside with a black sticky substance. Inspection of the fuel line connection revealed the same. Next on the inspection list was the fuel tank. The tank was not an original but probably installed when the car was built-up in the early 1990's. When the tank was removed, there was an obvious rattle inside the tank. The mechanic was able to remove five gelatinous "blobs" from the

bottom of the tank. The "blobs" looked like jellybeans only without the sugar coating. Now the entire fuel system was suspect. My mechanic recommended: 1) replace tank, 2) replace fuel line, 3) replace carb with a rebuilt, 4) clean intake manifold. Parts were ordered. The replacement tank took almost 3 months to arrive from Indiana. The fuel line arrived in 6 weeks from SoCal. The rebuilt carb from a well-known speed shop arrived in just a week. All this time the '36 was taking up one bay of the three-bay shop. Finally, all was ready. I had a friend drop me off at the shop. After a major hit to the Visa card and months in one shop or another, I headed home and tucked the '36 in the garage. The next day I planned to drive around town a bit and go to breakfast at our local IHOP. However, the plans quickly changed. That morning the battery was dead! Not good! I must admit to losing my cool, well just little bit. I did kick a tire, but not too hard. I didn't even look at the car for over a month. I suspect a short in the electrical line from the fuel sensor to the gas gauge. I am still working that issue as we go press. By the way, I also suspect that the jellybeans took up residency in the tank while at the trans shop. The Ford was outside overnight, and their security was evidently not up to par. And no, at that time I did not have a locking gas cap, but I do now. I'll keep at the electrical problem this next couple of months and hopefully by September, I'll have a choice as to which car to bring to Blackhawk.

Take Care & Stay Safe,

Jim Wagner, NCKCC President

SEPTEMBER 18th 2022 – NCKCC ANNUAL CAR SHOW at BLACKHAWK

by Vern Hance

This is a subject that **NEEDS YOUR ACTION** – soon! OK, I know it's about 8 weeks ahead, but we really need to get our car show population on the record. An important reason is that I post a list of our show cars on our website under the "Annual Show" tab called **WHO's Coming**. That can have an effect on who comes to see our cars and also benefits the Blackhawk Museum - by showing how many people are attracted to our "Show Cars". An additional reason is that our actions to promote our show is a way to say THANKS to Blackhawk

Museum for providing us this prestigious venue for our show.

Our first announcement of our 9/18/22 show went out to about 45 non-members and 29 members in May, most of whom had entered cars in one or more of our shows over the past decade. I have received 3 inquiries from this group and two responses from NCKCC members.

I know it's easy to put things off to the last minute, because plans often have to be rearranged. But I am appealing to you to register your car for our September show – SOON. Please look at the underlined sentence above for value of your early registration. Register now – If you have to cancel we will refund your full \$0.00 fee.

I may have made a mistake by sending out the May announcement with a short email and two attachments. I am realizing that many people don't open attachments due to fears of internet scams and hazards. So I will be sending members and the other past exhibitors another email invitation with no attachments.

Hope to be seeing your registrations coming in soon.

KIT CARS – ON SALE

The phone has been ringing lately, with requests for help find a new home for their orphan Kit Car. Two are almost finished but not driven for years, but the other is not completely out of the crate.

These represent opportunities to get started with a car building project at probably the lowest cost you can imagine.

1980 Gazelle (Classic Motor Carriages) in Florida. It has a 2.0L Ford Pinto engine and an automatic tranny. It also has a BAR sticker under the hood that looks like it has the right stuff for smog. Paperwork also shows DMV took \$74 for registration in September 2008, but it is marked incomplete. It started life in Concord, but is now in Escalon, CA, just east of Manteca. The seller suggested \$500 as a price, but is probably very motivated to sell. I have pictures of the car interior and engine bay along with DMV documents. Looks like it has been stored inside a shop building. (See pix on P. 5.)

1980s PIPER LANCE (Motorcar Classics) This kit was offered by brothers in the Piper Aircraft clan and appears to be visually identical to the Gazelle, but is mounted on a 1969 VW chassis and reportedly has a newly rebuilt engine. It too has been stored inside

but the dust looks like a 10-year accumulation. Name your price for this one but the VW mechanicals probably are worth \$500. It's in Chico.

(See pix on P. 5.)

1957 Thunderbird (?? Manufacturer) This one is also in Chico and has not been assembled. I haven't seen any pix, but it could be a real value at any price you might offer. No pix yet of this one.

Vern has promised these people that he would try to find a new home for these project cars. So if you, or anyone you know might be interested in one these cars, please let me know and I will set up a communications link so the owners and potential buyers can work out a deal.

THE KIT CAR YOU NEVER SAW

by Vern Hance

Back in about 1978 I got interested in Kit Cars and ended up buying a Kelmark GT, intended to replicate a Ferrari Dino.

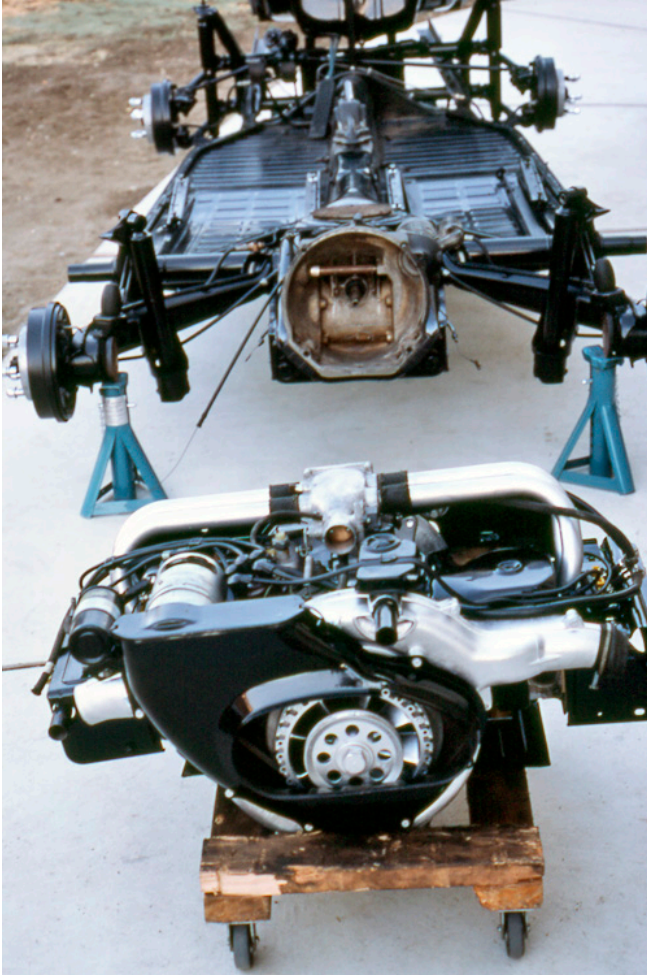
Below: The view on delivery day, with my son & his friends watching.



I think it took about a year to build, and my estimate was that it took 500 or more hours, which included building a fuel injected VW 1.6 L Type 3 engine that had the cooling fan mounted on the crankshaft. That way if the generator belt broke, you only lost the generator – but could get home without an overheated engine.

I had a lot of fun with with the car for about a year or so and attended one Bug-In shows in Southern California. However, there were so many Kelmarks, that my car was just another kit car. Later I went to a

Bug-O-Rama show in Sacramento and managed to bring home a 'First-in-Class' trophy.



Above: This is the fuel injected VW engine ready to be installed on the prepared chassis.

Below: Vern's Kelmark – side view



My son once borrowed the Kelmark tried to 'Cruise-the-Main' in Walnut Creek. He received a citation, but not a trophy, so I guess that means the car was attractive, at least to police.

I sold it about a year later for about \$500 more than it cost to build, but my \$1 per hour net gain didn't didn't drive me to quit my day job.

I often wondered what ever happened to the car, but was never able to see it again, in shows or otherwise.

Then about two more years went by (1983) and I joined the NCKCC. Then fast forward 39 years more and some of you know that story.

EVENTS UPDATE REPORT

June 19, 2022 - Father's Day Show

I have not heard from any of our club members that attended. If anyone attended, let the Editor know – we need stories and/or pictures.

August 17, 2022 - Little Car Show. Downtown Pacific Grove on Lighthouse Ave. 12 noon - 5 pm. Spectators free. More info: <https://whatsupmonterey.com/events/monterey-car-week/the-little-car-show/433> **Anyone planning to attend? Let the Editor or Prez know so we can organize a group – say lunch before show or ride sharing with \$6 gas.**

September 18, 2022 (Sunday) - NCKCC Annual Show, Blackhawk Museum. 10 -3 pm. This date is firm. We need car registrations now ! See page 2

Registration forms are available on the NCKCC website at the 'Annual Show' tab.

October ??, 2022 - Canapé Auto Sport Museum visit. I received some advice from a recent visitor. He suggested a week-day phone call to their office to try arranging a special visit by our group. Let the Prez and/or Editor if you can do a week-day visit. Maybe we can still make this work.

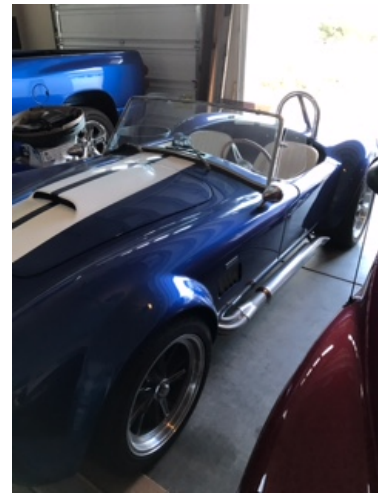
November 6, 2022 (Sunday) - Annual Brunch, Incontro Ristorante, Danville

Sunday Brunch is back !! Reservations have been made for 10 at 12 Noon. Email the Prez or Editor if you will attend. The basic cost is about \$30 plus 9% tax & a gratuity.

CARS FOR SALE

1965 AC COBRA Replica

Like New. Less than 1000 miles. Always garaged, Professionally built. New 351 Cu. In. Windsor Engine and Tremec Tranny. Asking \$32,000. Contact Mike at: (408) 847-4139



1934 MERCEDES-BENZ 500K replica, 350 Chevy engine, Edelbrock computerizes EFI, R700 4-speed auto tranny, running gear from '75 Camaro, Vintage Air heat/air, power steering brakes, new wide whitewall tires in 2015. All black areas repainted in 2015. All Maintenance performed by AAA Certified repair shop in Benicia. Asking \$27,000.



Lance with VW engine



Gazelle with 2.0L Pinto engine