



NCKCC News

Handcrafted Automobiles

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This was our group at the May 27th visit to Wayne's Garage and Museum. Clockwise from our host, kneeling, are Anita & Pat Cooley, Gil Somerhalder, Rosie & Steve Rhodes, Chuck Maddux, Al Bello, Carol Francisco and Jim Wagner. Wayne's large shop and museum room were filled with collectibles.

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WAYNE WENGER "MUSEUM"

May 27th was our day visit to the car collection of our long time member, Wayne Wenger, in Placerville, CA. We had 10 people attending this event which turned out to be not just a car collection but museum and automotive library as well.

Wayne's has been personally involved in the automotive scene since the 1950s and interacted with many of the first people to bring customized fiberglass bodied sports cars to the attention of California car enthusiasts of that era.

TVs, auto radios and tape players and the design and sale of the "Muntz Jet" sports car. These Muntz articles range from cigarette lighters and cocktail glasses to a pristine 1952 Muntz Jet shown below. Wayne was also the Associate Producer of the movie documenting the life of 'Madman' Earl Muntz.



The shop tour was interesting for the variety of vehicles, which included a 1953 Allstate (below), which was sold by Sears and was also marketed by Kaiser-Frazer as the "Henry J" with only minor grille and badge modifications.



Shown above is his living room library of auto history, where he can retrieve a document to support any automotive question, usually in few seconds.

We started our tour in a special room in his shop that was filled with every type of collectible which included photos of Hollywood celebrities and auto enthusiasts, dozens of model cars, including an original design he submitted to GM in a contest for aspiring designers. Also included were personal articles obtained from Earl 'Madman' Muntz, who was noted for his flamboyant sales operations for



1948 Willys Jeepster (below) and 1952 Woodill Wildfire - early fiberglass sports car (below).



1940 Hupmobile Skylark (below)



In 1938, Hupmobile acquired the production dies of the Gordon Buehrig-designed Cord 810, hoping the striking design called the Skylark, would return the

company to financial health. Hupmobile partnered with the ailing Graham-Paige Motor Co. to share the Cord dies and both sold similar models.

1927 Marmon - 8-cylinder OHV engine (below)



This was probably a Model 78, a luxury car that was good for as much as 85 MPH with its 217-cu.in. OHV straight-eight under the hood and a comfortable 120-inch wheelbase. Finances of luxury cars in a depression led to Marmon's demise.

Below - 1950 Glasspar fiberglass sports car from the early days of home built roadsters.





Wayne's Dodge Viper V-10

The hospitality continued (below) as we enjoyed a delicious pizza lunch with elegant salad, fresh fruits



and drinks prepared and served by Betty Wenger. Our thanks go out to Wayne and Betty for their hospitality, a great lunch and a fascinating glimpse into the treasures that Wayne has collected and displayed from years of participation in making automobile history.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In our last news publication we outlined how we will try to organize events that people really want to attend, by asking them to make their choices known and helping to promote them within our group.

So we are waiting for you to let us know what you would like to do next. If you plan to attend any of these let us know. Or tell us your favorite show. We will spread the word within NCKCC so others can contact you to say they too will attend. Here are some upcoming shows that may be of interest to you:

June 11, 2023 - The Shadelands Classic Car Show will be 10 am to 3 pm. The show is at the Shadlands Ranch Museum, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. Go to <https://wchistory.org/events/classic-car-show/> for more information. Car registration fee is \$25 up to Jun 4th.

June 18, 2023 - Father's Day Car show at Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville, is on 7:00 am to 1:00 pm and car registration is \$40 early, \$50 day of show. More info at <https://blackhawkmuseum.org/fathersday>

July 29, 2023 - Gold Coast Rods – Cannery Row Show is 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the El Torito parking lot , 600 Cannery Row, Monterey. Registration is \$60

August 3, 2023 - Pittsburg Annual Thursday Afternoon Car Show 6PM to 8PM on Railroad Ave between 3rd & 6th Streets. Try Facebook for details.

August 4 & September 1, 2023 - Danville Livery Cars & Coffee 8:30 am to 10 am. 601 Sycamore Valley Road, Danville.

September 9, 2023 - Orinda Classic Car Show at north side of Safeway lot, Registration \$60

September 9, 2023 - East Bay Street Dreams Car Show 10 am to 3 pm. Blackhawk Museum. \$??

September 10, 2023 - Danville Hot Summer Sunday Car Show 11 am to 4pm. \$40 early – \$45 at Show.

October 7, 2023 - Cal State University - East Bay 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd, Hayward \$20 9 am to Noon.

October 15, 2023 - All British Motor Show 8 am to 1 pm. Blackhawk Museum. \$??

September 16th, 17th, 23rd & 24th - have been requested for the NCKCC Annual Show at Blackhawk. Check our website nckcc.com hotline to see what date is available.

CARS FOR SALE



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. Call Chuck at (707) 745-4361 or (707) 373-3469. Email: camnsam@tat.net