



NCKCC News

Handcrafted Automobiles

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This was the mid-afternoon surprise at our California Auto Museum visit to the "Reel Cars" exhibit. Wayne Wenger drove his Muntz Jet from Placerville arriving about 1:30. By that time some of our group had left and missed out on this added attraction.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Saturday, March 21, 2020 – Visit to Walt Disney Museum at the Presidio in San Francisco. They are open 10 am to 4:45 pm daily. Admission \$25 Adult, \$20 Senior, \$15 Youth 6-17. Go to <https://waltdisney.org> for more info. Let Jim W or Vern know if you will attend. A special shuttle bus runs from BART Embarcadero Station to the Presidio.
- Saturday April 25, 2020 - Madman Muntz movie time at Hance residence 3317 Ellesmere Ct, Walnut Creek. We will start off with a 11:30 lunch at Rocco's Pizza, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd. (In shopping center at SW corner of Ygnacio Valley Rd. and Oak Grove Rd.) Then we will start the 1-hr:45-minute Muntz video at 1:00 p.m. at the Hance residence.

FROM THE PREZ

The first actual “official” Club event of 2020 occurred on Saturday, February 22nd. A trip to the California Automobile Museum in Sacramento (<https://www.calautomuseum.org/>) to see their newly opened exhibit, “Reel Cars: The importance of cars in filmmaking.” This exhibit on “Reel Cars” runs from February 14 – July 6th. We had a good turn out with ten of our members and a couple of friends. Our arrivals were spaced out but when my group arrived, we were greeted by “Ed”, a very knowledgeable docent who gave us a guided tour of the entire museum. It was amazing to watch docent Ed, Vern Hance and John Knebel sharing their vast knowledge of automobiles. We also got to see member Wayne Wenger’s beautiful restored orchid Muntz convertible in the museum parking lot. Vern will have all the details and pictures in this newsletter.

Our next activity for March is a visit to the Disney Museum located at the San Francisco Presidio. As of this writing, Vern is working out the details: date, time, and possible transportation options. Look for them in this newsletter. If you are planning to attend, please let Vern know if you plan to attend.

Our April activity on Saturday, April 25th will be in Walnut Creek at Vern’s home. Vern is setting up a private showing of the film “Madman Muntz” about the 1950’s Hollywood character and carmaker. Club member Wayne Wenger, who helped to produce the film, will help narrate and answer questions. Pizza at a local restaurant will be had either before or after the film. Look for details in this newsletter.

Take Care & Hope to see y’all soon,

Jim W

IT’S DUES TIME YET

2020 has arrived, so here’s my report on receipt of \$24 dues so far this year. As usual I will print the names of those who are 2020 ‘paid-up’ members each month.

Make your checks payable to NCKCC and mail them to the Treasurer at the address shown on cover. Payment via PayPal is also acceptable, Send your paypal remittance to nkccwebguy@gmail.com (This is also our new email address for club email communications)

The response has been good for 2020 dues, with about 50% of our members already responding. Here is the list.

Barrilleaux	DeCato
Ellis	Elster
Frederick	Fewell
Hance	Kealey (New)
Ketchel	Kluber
Knebel	O’Connor
Rhodes	Somerhalder
Tattersall	Thomson
Wagner	Wallters
Wenger	

Thank you for your continued support.

REEL CARS AT THE CALIF AUTO MUSEUM – EVENT

By Vern Hance

Saturday, Feb 22, 2020 was our day at the California Auto Museum, Sacramento. The objective was to savor the new exhibit, “REEL CARS” devoted to the importance of cars in Moviemaking. However, the day turned out to be a bit fractured in the way we went about it, thanks to Vern’s poor communications on meeting times.

So, Steve & Rosie Rhodes arrived about 10 a.m. but stayed until 12:30 to visit with John Knebel, Vern Hance, Jim Wagner and guest Enrique Perez, who arrived at 12:15 after brunch at the Black Bear in Fairfield.

About 12:30 p.m. Dave & Joyce DeCato, Al Bello & Friend and Gil Somerhalder checked in and did their tour of the Museum after getting too much information from our knowledgeable docent, Ed Combs.

Then about 1:30 Wayne Wenger arrived from Placerville. We soon found out Wayne and his Grandson drove down in his orchid colored ’52 Muntz Jet. I searched the Museum for the DeCato group but couldn’t find them to view the Muntz Jet. Guess they left minutes earlier.

It was a busy visit with a massive amount of information being provided by our docent and I think I’ve accounted for all 13 people that showed up. I think John Knebel really enjoyed the event and I hope others did also, but was disappointed that not everyone was able to share all the several highlights of the day.

Below: Steve & Rosie Rhodes, Jim Wagner & Enrique Persz, and John Knebel made up the first two of our groups.



Below: Next we caught the Decato's, Al Bello & friend and Gil Somerhalder as group three.



Below: Finally here is group four where we captured Wayne Wenger standing by his Muntz Jet along with John Knebel, Docent Ed Combs and Jim Wagner.



WHAT ABOUT THE REEL CARS?

With such a good docent we barely had time to study the "Reel Cars" exhibit, but here are some highlights and photos.

This is a Superformance replica of the #98 Shelby Cobra used in the "Ford v Ferrari" Oscar nominated film.



This is the 1918 Henney Hearse used in the 1955 film "Bad Day at Black Rock" starring Spencer Tracy. The owner insisted on having a 'bodyguard' to protect the vehicle during filming.



This 1928 Pierce-Arrow Truck (next page) was used in the 1930's and 1940's to film cars, chariots & horses in motion.



This 2000 BMW 323ci (below) was in a TV show “Lethal Weapon” and was mounted on a specially built 1986 Ford E-350 with a rear-facing seat for the camera operator to be strapped in.



Below: This '61 Ferrari 250 Testa Rosa is a replica but has a Ferrari V-12 engine and was used in “The Art of Racing in the Rain”, a movie about a racecar driver and his race-loving dog named Enzo Ferrari.



When “The Fast and the Furious” first came out in 2001, it wasn’t expected to launch a series of nine ‘Street Racer/Crime Fighter’ movies, plus another due out in 2021, but that’s how it turned out.

The 2016 Subaru (below) was used in “The Fate of the Furious” and used a ‘Rocket Bunny’ body kit to add style and improve aerodynamics.



WALT DISNEY FAMILY MUSEUM – MARCH 21st AT S.F. PRESIDIO

Our March event is scheduled for Saturday the 21st at the San Francisco Presidio.

Public transportation looks pretty good, compared to driving and parking. The key is to get off BART at the Embarcadero Station and board the “PresidiGo” shuttle which is a 25 minute trip to the Presidio. Departures from Embarcadero are hourly, 9:32 a.m. to Noon, then every half-hour until 6:32 p.m. Return trips depart every half-hour from Noon to 6:30 p.m.

The plan is to catch the 11:32 a.m. PresidiGo shuttle, which arrives at the Presidio about Noon. The Disney Museum, at 104 Montgomery Street, has a café that offers sandwiches, salads, soups, snacks, and hot and cold beverages, so we could grab some food whenever we choose. They are open 10 am to 4:45 pm daily. Admission \$25 Adult, \$20 Senior, \$15 Youth 6-17 and military are free.

I did not check BART schedules, since they will vary depending on where you start from, so check your BART schedules to arrive close to 11:15 to allow us to get on the shuttle at 11:32 a.m.

Some of you have already indicated you plan to attend or skip this one, but if you plan to attend please let Jim Wagner or Vern know your plans. (We probably could change the date to March 28, if that is a problem for you – let us know.)

The Presidio is operated by the National Park Service and has many interesting places to see, so plan to explore <http://presidio.gov> and <http://waltdisney.org> for opportunities.

PLAN NOW FOR THE APRIL 25 SHOWING OF THE MADMAN MUNTZ MOVIE

The April event is a showing of the Madman Muntz movie at the Hance residence in Walnut Creek.

We are indebted to Wayne Wenger for making the movie available. You will see that he is listed, in the credits, as the Associate Producer and has had the opportunity to meet many of the friends and relatives of “Madman” Earl W. Muntz. We are hoping he can bring his Muntz Jet for display at this event.

The plan is to meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Rocco’s Ristorante Pizzeria (hosted by Vern) in the Encina Grande Shopping Center at Ygnacio Valley Rd, and Oak Grove Rd. After lunch we will go to Vern’s place for a 1-hr 45-min movie about the life of Madman Muntz.

Muntz had an busy life of marketing, including gaining and losing several fortunes in used car sales, TV sales and manufacturing and building & marketing a new Sports Car brand (the Muntz Jet - shown on the cover). He also invented, developed and marketed 4-track tape players for cars. He was married eight times and managed to remained on good terms with most of former spouses throughout his lifetime.

Please let Vern know if you plan to attend the lunch and/or the movie so we can reserve space at Rocco’s Ristorante, and find enough chairs to seat you for the movie.

CARS 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:
707)259-1626
(510)918-0155



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: 1 408 847-413



1934

Mercedes-Benz 500K

replica, 350
Chevy engine,
Edelbrock
computerized
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