



NCKCC News

Handcrafted Automobiles

November 2007

Volume 25 Number 11



Here is our destination for the Annual Brunch on December 2nd. The Pleasanton Hotel is at 855 Main Street, Pleasanton.

ACTIVITY NOTICES

December 2, 2007 - Annual Brunch at Pleasanton Hotel 10 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.
Please send checks to the Treasurer. (Details Page 8)

January 12, 2008 - Planning meeting, Noon to 3 p.m., at the Wheelchair Foundation Meeting Room at Blackhawk Museum. (Date subject to room availability)

FROM THE PREZ

By Dave Jones

The topic for this month is the possibility of a change in venue and a change in format for our annual show.

I asked some of you members to look around and see what was available in your local areas as possible alternatives to our current show format. The reason for this consideration is based on some feedback that was given at the show about the lack of attendance on Sunday and the concern for the future success of our club show. The following is the first response to that request.

I ask all of you, the membership, to look it over and please let me know what you think. It does have many positives in the scenario along with a negative or two. But overall it sounded more on the positive. Please let me know what you think by responding to www.vnimus1@yahoo.com that is my e-mail address. I would very much like to know if we should pursue this lead or not. It is time sensitive so please return your thoughts asap. If your response as a club is positive I will put this as number one on my future agenda.

At the show I mentioned I would contact the following people based on a venue change to have a one day show on Saturday with a wine tour or "whatever" on Sunday. I will leave the wine tours to Leanne. It was requested I look into

costs and availability. The following is the information I was able to acquire from the Solano County Fair Association and the Marriott Hotel at the Fairgrounds in Vallejo. The Fairgrounds are at the corner of Hwy. 80 and 37 in North Vallejo. There is generally a gun show on that weekend, but they are in one of the buildings on the grounds, so there would be no conflict and it could add attendance to our show Saturday (Sunday there is a Ford car show). I have the name and phone of the gun show organizer (Rick & Peggy Smith, (530) 676-8762, for a possible advertising connection.

1. We would use one or more of the eight well shaded lawn areas on the grounds, They rent for \$250 per area (we would have to visit to see how many cars per area).
2. No special permits required by them. He was vague re Vallejo, but said they don't come out on weekends)
3. They have an on grounds food service available at no cost to us.
4. We would be required to have liability insurance.
5. They control the main visitor parking lot & charge \$5.00/car.
6. Contact person is Roy Wanomi, (707) 551-2002.
7. He indicated a 6 month reservation time would work.

Attached is information regarding the Marriott Hotel, which is across the parking lot from the Fairgrounds.

1. They can hold 10+ rooms with 10% off the posted rate for that time of year.

2. The Banquet room would cost \$200 and holds up to 100 people.

3. They have Buffet or sit down dinners. The buffet has a \$24.95 & \$34.95 per person cost, with a minimum of 15 people. If we over estimate a reasonable amount there would be no additional cost for the overage.

4. They would need a 90 day minimum notification time to reserve the room, but would be flexible on the exact number of diners (a rough count 24 hrs., a hard count by noon or so on the date of the dinner).

5. The contact person is shown on the attachment below.

This could be a good topic for our January meeting or not. Since I had stated I would follow up. If you have additional questions feel free to call Mr. Wonomi or Ms Jackson direct as what I have shared with you is what I know.

This was but one piece of news that I have to share. I have two more. One good one not so good.

The good one has to do with the club being offered to work up a package deal

for new tee shirts and other merchandise with a new Club LOGO by the gentleman that had the shirt vendor booth at the show. He has access to very reasonably priced tee shirts or polo style shirts and jackets and was very positive about wanting to do business with our club. His shop is located in the Niles district of Fremont where the Niles car shows are held.

He is willing to help us design or transfer our own design into reality on any of the above mention products and then some others that were not mentioned. If interested please let me know.

The other topic, the one that is not so good has to do with this years wine tour. We were unable to contact the winery mentioned in last months article and have not been able to put together an alternative tour. Unfortunately Leanne is now into her busiest time of the year, the holiday season, and cannot put together the tour for this year. She sends her sincerest apologies but hope you will all understand. We WILL do better next year.

So until we see you at the banquet on Dec 2, 2007 please give the above your attention and please respond so that we as a club can make plans for the future.

KNIGHTSEN CAR SHOW

By Vern Hance

October 6th was the date and the weatherman provided a beautiful fall day. The town of Knightsen went all out again to put on a great afternoon of food music and cars.

NCKCC Members, Al Bello and Gil Somerhalder, were the main spark plugs of this event but there are others that I may not be aware of. At any rate a free car show with raffle prizes (supporting the Knightsen Firefighters) of a late model Chevrolet Cavalier and other significant prizes is hard to beat.

Besides that, Chuck Maddux got to give a pitch about the NCKCC to the C.Ochoa Productions cameraman. This 20-minute video will be shown by Comcast some time in November. (Don't know the date, but Al obtained a DVD which we may show at the Pleasanton Brunch)

On top of that publicity, we got a picture of the 3 M-B 500K replicas, along with other car and tractor photos in both the



Brentwood and the Oakley editions of the Contra Costa Times. (See picture)

So who showed up? First, Al Bello had his 3 kit cars (MG-TD, Bugatti, and Dune Buggy) plus 2 Studebakers, 3 Model A's, 2 Mustangs, '56 Ford, '56 T-Bird, '59 Chev, '71 Chev, '64 VW, '69 VW Convert and a Dodge Dart. But there is more, Gil Somerhalder displayed his '50 Ford (Thunderbird) Easy Rod. Jerry Barrilleaux brought his MG-TD, Bill Landers brought his Cobra and Chuck Maddux, Steve Bales and Vern Hance

brought their M-B 500Ks. That makes 9 NCKCC cars !

I didn't win the car but someone in Oakley did, so I'm content to have helped the Knightsen Firefighters.

I didn't stay for the evening slide show of the Knightsen History, since I saw and enjoyed it last year.

Anyway, I thought it was a great show and talked to a lot of people that have restored cars with all the tender loving care that many of us have put into our Kit Cars.

Hats off to Al and Gil for their work in organizing the show.

Here are some of the pictures I took at the show:

Shown below is Jerry Barrilleaux and his 1952 MG-TD.



Steve and Mary Ellen Bales Mercedes 500K is in the foreground and admiring spectators block the view of the Chuck Maddux and Vern Hance 500Ks in the background.



Bill Landers' Superformance Cobra gets some envious study by one of the many spectators.



Shown above is just part of the Al Bello car show, showing two of the 3 Model As and a piece of the Ford 1955 Thunderbird.

THUNDER HILL RACEWAY

By Bill Landers

Motorized racing has always been a passion of mine, I have raced boats, motorcycles and cars. I have never gotten hurt in an event but a few motorcycles have stomped all over me on the street. Even the Bass Boat I have now is a water borne sports car and can do 70 almost any time and 80 on a really good day. Getting to the fishing grounds can be almost as much fun as fishing (my other passion). I missed our car show last month because the Shelby club was putting on an event at Sears Point Raceway (Infineon Raceway now).

Thunder Hill is a 3.1 mile road course which consists of uphill, downhill, off camber turns and blind hills where we can't see a thing until we crest the hill. Fortunately they have a full complement of corner workers who are constantly on the radio to each other and can give us flag signals to tell us when there is danger ahead. The course is much like driving on the street with no speed limits and no police.

Our events are put on by the Shelby Club of which I am a member. Some of our events are for Ford cars only but this one was an open event, which means any make car can run that could pass tech. The main focus of our club is safety with fun as a close second. In all

the years I have been attending these events, I have never seen one car hit another. I have seen them hit walls and tire barriers and some of them have been totaled, such as a new Mustang this weekend, and a BMW the day before.

The club divides us into four categories according to how fast we feel comfortable and what speed the car is capable of. The slowest category is for cars and drivers who don't feel safe in a faster class and for beginner drivers on the track. This wasn't a kit car event but many kit cars were running there. Most of them were either Cobras or GT 40 replicas. We also had Corvettes, Miatas, Minis, Ferraris and many others. The attendance at this event wasn't as great as it sometimes is so we only had three categories, they combined the two fastest, so we got in lots of track time.

If any one would like to try this fun event let me know and I will tell you how to enter one of the open events. You don't need to be a member of the Shelby club but they do charge \$20 extra for non-members. The events are not inexpensive as you can plan on spending over \$500 for a weekend.

I loaded the Cobra on the trailer and left on Friday afternoon. It was drizzling rain so I put the tonneau cover on to protect the inside. It was about 5

p.m. when I got to the track and asked for a tech inspection. These tech inspectors have teched my cars for so long they know they are not going to find anything wrong so it goes pretty quick. In fact, they didn't even take the car off the trailer to tech it. Once the tech line was quite long so the inspector asked if my car would pass tech so I told him "of course it will". He gave me the tech form and told me to fill it out and sign it.

I unloaded the Cobra and covered it and left it at the track then took the van into Willows to the hotel. The club puts on a hospitality house at one of the rooms each Friday and Saturday night and they have drinks, snacks and car movies and lots of bench racing.

The next morning most of us were at the track about seven AM for car prep. and a driver's meeting before getting out on the track. It had rained during the night so the track was still wet but I was in the third group to go out and it had pretty well dried out by then. They opened the track first thing for any of us to go out and run a few laps at freeway speeds to get warmed up for the events of the day.

The first session of each group is run under yellow flag conditions which basically means no passing to get a chance to warm up the car and driver, then the green flag drops and the track is open for full speed running. We would run about twenty minutes then come in and the next group would go out. Each group was given certain passing areas

and they were enforced. I got black flagged when a car in front of me was going around the track at about thirty miles per hour and the driver flagged me by in a safe but not legal passing zone. I assumed the car was disabled and passed it. They brought me in and explained the errors of my ways then sent me back out again.

On Saturday night, we all attend a local restaurant and have food, drinks and conversation. We also have what we call a "do-da" where they make fun of some of the members and give out gag awards. They also honor people who do something special. It is all taken in good humor and everyone has a great time.

On Sunday morning, I went back out to the track and did it all over again. Many of us take passengers out on the track and there is often a group who wait by the track, helmet in hand, for a chance to go out. I took one fellow out and before we left I told him if he wanted to get my attention to put his hand up in front of my face and wiggle it as I would never hear him if he tried to talk to me. Between the noise and concentration I am pretty out of it otherwise. After a couple of laps he attracted my attention and I looked over at him and he signaled for me to go in. I pulled into the paddock and asked him what was wrong and he told me he was getting sick and was about ready to throw up. Thank goodness he didn't do it in my car. About four o'clock I put the Cobra back on the trailer and took it home. A great weekend with no problems and a lot of fun.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

When Vern asked me to write this article I wasn't sure what aspect of the event the members were interested in so I focused more on the social aspect instead of getting involved in the actual running but if you are interested in some special part of this sport send me an email at cobra427bill@yahoo.com If I get enough interest in any certain aspect of this I will write another article on it.

ANNUAL BRUNCH - PLEASANTON HOTEL

By Vern Hance

The annual champagne brunch is scheduled for Sunday December 2, 2007 at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main Street, Pleasanton, starting at 10 a.m.

We will have our brunch on the Dance Floor area, which was where we were last year.

To reserve this space I must make a \$200 non-refundable deposit and promise to have a minimum of 25 people. The cost is \$33.55 including tip and tax but the club subsidized cost for members will be \$23 per person. Non-member guests are welcome but we must collect \$33 per person for guests.

If you plan to attend **please mail your checks to NCKCC, 3317 Ellesmere Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94598 by November 20th** so I can give the restaurant a final count before the week of the brunch.

We will have our election of officers at the brunch, but don't let that scare you away. You could be elected even if you're not there. (Actually, I don't know what preparation has gone into the election plan, but you could be thinking about who you might want to nominate)

I will try to bring a DVD of the Knightsen car show that Al Bello sent me. Unfortunately, it will be shown on a big 12-inch monitor. Paul King might even bring his 25th anniversary DVD to play.

FROM SAN JOSE, MILPITAS/FREMONT:
Take I-680 north, exit at the first Pleasanton exit, Sunol Blvd. Go to the right into town and continue straight for about 1.9 miles. Turn left at Ray Street (Shell Gas Station on the right). Continue on Ray through the light at Main Street into our parking lot.

FROM CONCORD & DANVILLE:
Take I-680 south and exit at Bernal Avenue. Keep right and go under 680 and continue on Bernal east 1.4 miles past the fairgrounds, underpass, library and police station to Main Street. Turn left onto Main St. and the Hotel is 7 blocks on the left.

FROM SF. OAKLAND /HAYWARD:

Take I-580 east, exit at Hopyard Road just past I-680, go right (south) 3.5 miles to the end of the road. Turn left on Main Street, "Hotel" is 2 blocks on the left.

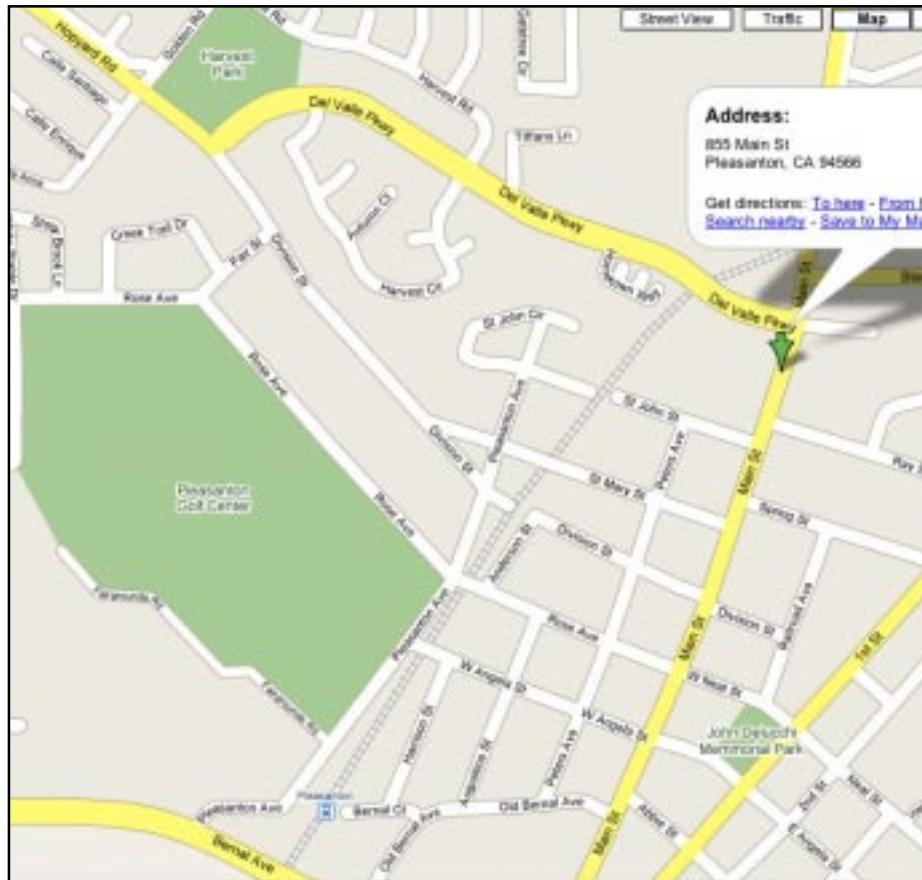
FROM STOCKTON, MANTECA:

Take I-580 west, exit at Santa Rita Road, go over 580 and continue south 2.7 miles into Pleasanton. The "Hotel" is on the right just Across bridge into downtown. (Note that Santa Rita becomes Main St. just before the "Hotel")

FROM DOWNTOWN LIVERMORE:

Take Stanley Blvd. out of downtown Livermore, past the gravel pits and Shadow Cliffs Park, bear right on Stanley just after Ray's Electric. Stanley ends at Main Street. Turn left, cross the bridge and the "Hotel" is the first building on the right.

Here is a map to help you navigate.



FOR SALE

COBRA Ford power, Jag rear-end. Silver w/
black interior. \$21,500 Call Bob Elster 707-
938-3254 (1/02)

COBRA-NAF. Ford 289power, 4-speed, Jag
posi rear-end. Blue w/ black interior. 5,000
mi. \$23,900 Call Trifam (925) 820-1847
SB-100 smog-exempt (9/07)

COBRA - VW KIT - 427 Snake body fits on
your 3" shortened VW chassis. Two
available; **reduced to \$2,200 from \$3,200**
Call Wayne McAllaster (510) 656-5844 or
E-mail 427medusa@sbcglobal.net
(2/06)

FERRARI - TESTAROSSA Spyder. Based
on 1989 Corvette with 350 V-8 engine and
automatic tranny. **Reduced to \$12,000.**
Contact Anthony Ramsinh (408) 268-6554
or e-mail aramsinh@aol.com (11-05)

MANX SR-2 - 1678 cc VW engine with 4-
speed stick. New interior in 2002. Built in
1977 by present owner who has all receipts,
etc. Includes a spare 1600 VW engine and
extra parts. \$5,500. Call Don Wicks (707)
998-9383 or e-mail at dkwicks@mchsi.com
(11-05)

MERCEDES SSK (Gazelle) Parts: 4 fenders
(brown), windshield, radiator shell, bumpers,
interior leather and top (tan), tail lights,
supercharger pipes, doors (yellow), latches,
hinges, etc. Tim 510-278-3085 (04/05)

*"Cars for Sale" ads in the Kit Car Sun are
for members only. Rate is \$10 for 12 issues.*

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2007

- December 2, 2007 - Annual Sunday Brunch in Pleasanton at the Pleasanton Hotel. Starts at 10 a.m. and goes to 12:30 p.m. Cost \$23 per person for members. Non-member guests are welcome but they pay our cost of \$33 per person. The club subsidizes attending members.
- January 12, 2008 Tentative date for 2008 planning meeting at Wheelchair Foundation meeting room at Blackhawk Museum.

2007 OFFICERS AND APPOINTEES:

Dave Jones, President	510-471-6411
vnimus1@yahoo.com	
James Wagner, Vice President	650-341-0211
jamesuu@comcast.net	
Vern Hance, Treasurer, Editor	925-938-1442
3317 Ellesmere Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94598	
nckcc@astound.net	
Sarah Jones, Secretary	510-909-1822
one_wild_princess@yahoo.com	
Pat Cooley, Membership Chair	925-447-7239
myoozik@comcast.net	
Unfilled position, Activities Chairman	
Leanne Jones, Show Co-Chair	510-471-6411
Sarah Jones, Show Co-Chair	510-090-1822

The Kit Car Sun is published monthly by the Northern California Kit Car Club. Opinions expressed by authors should not be considered the position of the club. We are a non-profit educational organization and do not intend to influence legislation.