



NCKCC News

Handcrafted Automobiles

November 2012

Volume 30 No. 11



Chuck & Kay Honodel & Chuck & Sue Maddux heading home after the Charles R Vineyard visit.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **November 22, 2012 - Happy Thanksgiving to you all. No club event in November.**
- **December 2, 2012 - NCKCC Annual Brunch at the Basil Leaf Cafe, Danville.**
- **January 12, 2013 - Annual Planning Meeting. 11:30 a.m. at the Hance residence in Walnut Creek.**

FROM THE PREZ

Saturday, October 13th, saw members of the NCKCC visiting two small wineries within the Livermore Valley Appellation for our only Wine Tour of the year. The weather gods graced us with a nearly perfect day and all who attended appeared to enjoy the tastings and the camaraderie. Personally, I really enjoyed this tour so I'm really looking forward to see what wine tour may appear on next year's calendar. See the write-up of the "2012 Livermore Valley Wine Tour" elsewhere in this newsletter.

As is usually the case, there is no "official" club activity scheduled for the month of November. This not an oversight on the part of the Club's planning committee, but a conscious decision to spare our club members from an early onset of the dreaded "holiday overload". Yes, the holidays are quickly approaching. It seems every year they arrive earlier and earlier. Hopefully taking a month off from Club activities will allow our members to get a head start on their holiday preparations.

Having bypassed November, the Club still has one more activity for this year and it is usually one not to miss: The NCKCC Annual Brunch. Our location this year will be the same as last year: the "Basil Leaf Cafe" in the city of Danville. The restaurant is located at the corner of Hartz Avenue and Church Street. The date is Sunday, December 2. The time is 1:00 PM. More details on the "Annual Brunch" are also in this newsletter. Also, with the New Year just around the corner, it is time for our members to start thinking about what they want to see on our slate of Club activities for 2013. Please pass on your suggestions to any of the Club officers via e-mail, phone or at the Annual Brunch. The club will again schedule a 2013 planning meeting in January. All members are more than welcome to attend. Be sure to bring lots of activity ideas and suggestions. More planning meeting details will be in the December newsletter.

Take care, have a great Thanksgiving, and hope you can all make it to the Annual Brunch on December 2nd in Danville.

Jim Wagner, NCKCC President

LIVERMORE VALLEY WINE TOUR **OCTOBER 13th**

By Jim Wagner

With the weather a nearly perfect fall day, the NCKCC "troops" met up at "high noon" at our "first stop" winery: the Bent Creek Winery on Greenville Road in Livermore.

Our winery hosts seated us on the shaded patio of their tasting room and a winery volunteer served us at a very leisurely pace. We were served seven unique tastings, first whites and then reds. You can see our group awaiting the second round of Chardonnay below.



Following our tastings, we brought out our picnic baskets and coolers and had a very pleasant lunch during which we talked about club activities, next year's club car show and, of course, other requisite "car talk". Following lunch, we had one more opportunity to taste Bent Creek's dessert port wines and then a trip into the tasting room to purchase a few bottles (all in the \$15 to \$25 range.) Overall, a really good start to our fall tour. More info on the Bent Creek Winery at www.bentcreekwinery.com



Our final winery stop at around 2:00 PM was the Charles R Vineyards. Charles R is just a short distance from the Bent Creek Winery at the end of Greenville Road. Many of our group were pretty "tasted-out" by the time we visited Charles R, but a few hardy souls continued with some more tastings. The rest of us took refuge on their large shaded patio where we were greeted by Charles R himself, Charles Richard (Dick) Bartlett.



Following a little more "car talk" and one more opportunity to purchase a few bottles, we exited the winery and posed for group photo ops with our cars.



Saying goodbye, we concluded our 2012 Tri-Valley winery tour. Both the wineries that we visited were exceptional with really friendly hosts and some great wines. Of course, the weather could not have been better. I'm really looking forward to another winery tour in 2013. More info on the Charles R Winery at their website: www.charlesvineyards.com

BRUNCH - BASIL LEAF CAFE - DECEMBER 2nd

By Vern Hance

We again have reservations for our Annual Brunch at the Basil Leaf Cafe, but this year it starts at 1:00 pm rather than our previous earlier time. I must confess that I didn't get our reservation made before another group nailed down the earlier time. So, maybe that's not so bad. You can sleep in a bit later and have a cup of coffee and a sweet roll before you hit the road.

The brunch includes Coffee, Mimosa, Champagne, Orange Juice, Omelets / Eggs Made to Order, Eggs Benedict, French Toast, Belgian Waffles with Strawberries, Cream, or Syrup, Organic Breakfast Sausage, Bacon, Selection of Breakfast Breads, Roasted Breakfast Potatoes, Fresh Fruit Salad, Yogurt, Greek Salad, Caesar Salad, Organic Green Salad with Seasonal Berries, Spinach Salad with Mandarins, Homemade Pizza, Tortellini Carbonara and Rigatoni Neapolitano with Chicken.

To make sure you are included please reserve your place at the table by mailing a check for \$20 per person, payable to NCKCC, to 3317 Ellesmere Ct, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. If you have a PayPal account you can establish your reservation via a PayPal remittance to nckcc@astound.net Guests are welcome, but we need to collect \$26 per person,

since the club is subsidizing the Brunch for members.

Please respond to your treasurer before Thanksgiving, so we can give the restaurant a final count in advance of our brunch.

DISTRACTED DRIVING MEANS DANGEROUS DRIVING

Courtesy California DMV

We have all experienced that terrifying, "oh-no-they're-going-to-hit-me", moment, when we see another driver swerving dangerously in front of or alongside our own vehicle. Often times when we look over at the other driver and see them chatting away, we think to ourselves "oh, of course, they're on the phone!" We are a world of multitaskers and while many of us also engage in the same distracted driving behavior, we often don't consider ourselves as a risk to others in a similar situation. The reality is, once our attention is diverted from driving, even for a split second, the likelihood of causing a car crash increases tremendously.

According to studies done by Virginia Tech and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the number one source of driver inattention is the use of a wireless device. While it's no surprise that these advanced technological devices are widespread, the potential outcome of people using these devices while driving is cause for concern. Driving while using a cell phone, whether hand-held or wireless, reduces the amount of brain activity associated with driving by 37 percent (Carnegie Mellon), and delays a driver's reactions as much as having a blood alcohol concentration at the legal limit of 0.08 percent (University of Utah). This decreased reaction time means that you are four times more likely to get into a car crash (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety) and cause injury to yourself or someone else.

In California in 2011, the Department of Motor Vehicles reported that there were 460,487 hand-held cell phone convictions - up 22 percent from 361,260 convictions in 2010 and 52 percent from 301,833 in 2009. The cost of a ticket for a first offense is a minimum of \$159, and \$279 for subsequent offenses. While those costs may seem high, it's really nothing when you consider that the offender could have easily hurt or killed someone through their inability to pay full attention to the road ahead.

Although wireless devices are the leading sources of distracted driving, anything that takes your focus away from driving can be incredibly dangerous and may just as easily lead to a wreck. Grooming, putting on makeup, eating or drinking, and adjusting music players are just a few common behaviors that cause drivers to be inattentive and more susceptible to crashes. While many of us find these habits to be routine and convenient while driving from one place to the next, when we stop and consider that the outcome may be injury or death, we need to realize

that they are never worth the risk or even the potential cost of a traffic violation.

In an effort to bring awareness to the dangers of distracted driving, the California Office of Traffic Safety recently launched its annual campaign in April, as a part of National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. The campaign's goal is to stress the importance of staying focused while driving and minimizing all distractions. Drivers should be aware that crashes happen in the blink of an eye and any time spent focusing on something other than the road could lead to a crash or a traffic violation.

Make it a point to set aside your distractions, and encourage those you know to do the same.

Having a trip result in a car crash due to daily, yet avoidable, distractions is never an actual belief for most of us, but it is a likely result. For more information regarding distracted driving facts, please visit www.DMV.ca.gov.

PLANNING FOR 2013

We are doing a little variation on our "almost traditional" January planning session. It's still in Walnut Creek, but it will be at the Hance residence located at the return address on this newsletter.

From there we will follow past years procedure to lunch on some pizza and maybe a salad as well as some colas and maybe some beer to wash it down.

Then we will get down to business in setting up our plans for 2013.

This is where you should do your homework. Think of an event you would like to see us include, but try to get some information about it. For example if it's a visit to a museum or an event, try to get the date and hours and a contact so that someone can follow-up to schedule the outing.

Some years we have selected almost the same events, but some years we have had some "never-before" outings that turned out very well received.

We have tended to stick to some favorites year after year, which is OK, such as the Walnut Creek Art & Wine mini-display. Some of the other car shows are pretty predictable and unchanged each year.

A couple of car shows that I found pleasing during 2012 were the Danville 'Hot Sumer Nights' week-night shows and the City of Clayton Labor Day 'Car Show and Soap-Box Derby' event. There are probably other shows that you members have

attended and could recommend, so give it some thought.

We also need to think about our Annual September Show. We have experienced a declining number of cars entered and declines in spectator attendance. This years show had 25 cars and less than 150 spectators. The good news was that we were able to donate almost \$500 to the Food Bank.

Anyway, let your ideas run free for the next couple of months and try to bring some winning suggestions to our meeting.

Also, lets have some fun by bringing our cars out and stage a car show on our street. We have room for at least 10-15 cars, so all we need is to pray for a nice sunny day.

PAINTINGS OF CARS

(Excerpts from a WSJ 8/18 article by Mank Yost)

THOUSANDS of people flock to the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance to see rare, historic cars on the 18th fairway of the famed golf course by the sea. But many visitors may not have known that another car-culture celebration was sharing the lush grass in 2012: the annual show of the Automotive Fine Arts Society.

One problem for sports artists is that the broader arts community tends to look down on them because it's such a niche market.

Created in 1983, this small group of automotive artists works in watercolors, oil, acrylics, wood, gouache, pen and ink, clay and metal. In addition to California's Pebble Beach Golf Links, their artwork often turns up at the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance in Florida and the Salon Prive Concours d'Elegance and the Goodwood Revival, both in the UK. Two major sports-art museums in the U.S. show such art, the American Sports Art Museum in Daphne, Ala, and the National Art Museum of Sport in Indianapolis.

LeRoy Neiman, who died in June at age 91, is still the leader in the sports-art market. One of his most expensive works, "Le Mans," a colorful portrait of the famed car race, sold for \$10,550 at a December 2003 auction at Christie's in New York. Neiman made his money from serigraphs—prints made by a special process—of his originals. They originally sold for \$3,000 to \$6,000 each, and he sold an estimated \$10 million worth of serigraphs every year for more than 20 years.

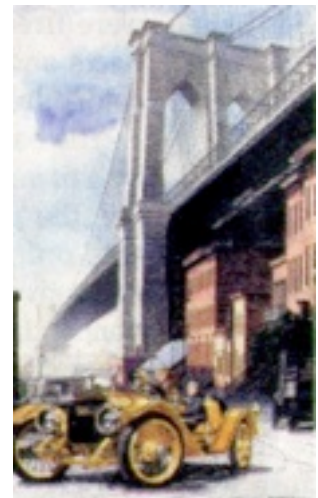
Charles Maher's painting of a 1938 Mercedes Autobahnkurier, titled "From The Valley Of The Kings" (shown below) was one of the many works displayed at the 2012 Pebble Beach event.



Another artist, Mr. Eberts showed "The Mercer and the Bridge," which features a 1915 Mercer Raceabout in the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge. Both the car and the bridge were designed by the Roebling family.

Another of the iconic automotive artists displaying his work at Pebble Beach this year was Art Fitzpatrick. At 93, he finds it hard to make the trek from his studio in Carlsbad, California, and says this will be his final Pebble Beach showing. Over his 70-year career as an artist and car designer, Mr. Fitzpatrick says he built custom cars for Clark Gable, Errol Flynn and Al Jolson.

One of Mr. Fitzpatrick's featured pieces was his original gouache-and-acrylic painting of a 1953 Studebaker Starliner, which was used in a US. Postal Service stamp series called "American Sporty Cars."



SEMA ACTION NETWORK ALERT



2012 Election Enters Home Stretch

Have You Registered to Vote?

The party conventions are in the books and the much-anticipated presidential debates are around the corner as we begin the home stretch of the 2012 election. On November 6, voters will head to the polls to elect the President of the United States, 435 members of the U.S. House, 31 U.S. Senators, 12 Governors, and thousands of state and local leaders. Don't let your voter registration slip through the cracks!

If you have not registered to vote in your state, now is the time to do it. The SEMA Action Network (SAN) has compiled a complete list of voter registration and absentee ballot application forms for all 50 states. [CLICK HERE](#) to find your state and information needed to register today!

With so much at stake for our country, the SAN encourages you to exercise your civic duty and vote.

FOR SALE

BUGATTI 1927 Bugatti, good cond. Never wrecked. Yellow paint, brown upholstery that needs rework. Less than 50 miles on 1600cc recond. engine. Consider delivery. \$3000.00. (See photo) Dave Fernandez 530-384-2778 email daf360hd@att.net (3-10)



Dave Fernandez '27 Bugatti

FINO – Built on 1987 Fiero with Cadillac Northstar V-8 & auto trans. Regular trophy winner. Custom suspension, brakes and interior. Special Purple BASF Extreme paint. **Reduced to \$19,900.** Call Al Bohr (503-632-8372) or e-mail: albohr@bctonline.com. (10/09)



Al Bohr's Fino with Cadillac Northstar power

FERRARI Testarossa (yellow). This beautiful and extremely well built smog exempt car won 7 awards including first place at Knott's and was featured in Kit Car Illustrated. The chassis is a lengthened Fiero, with a Chevrolet 327 engine, a Getrag 5-speed transmission, authentic Ferrari chrome-plated aluminum wheels, Eagle F-1 tires, plus many other amenities. This is my fourth replica and is by far the best. \$21,500. Al Clavelli 650 573-8125 or e-mail alclavelli@aol.com. (7/11)



Al Clavelli's Ferrari Testarossa

1954 MG-TF (SB100 smog free) Purchased in 1985 from Action Motorcar in San Leandro, who built the car using a 1979 Chevette frame, suspension and 1.6 liter engine. The car was called the Avalon MG-TF, manufactured in Brazil and sold by Kit Classics for \$14,000.

Asking \$6,500. Low miles. Contact Terry at 707-548-2434 or email terrillevitt@aol.com



Terry Leavitt's MG - TF