



NCKCC News

Handcrafted Automobiles

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This was part of our enthusiastic spectator crowd at the Kensington "Cruis'n By!" event on August 28th. More details inside.

UPCOMING EVENTS

About the Madman Muntz movie, please let your editor know if you are interested in a Zoom virtual meeting to show the movie. I also need to get Wayne Wenger's OK before we could do it. But it could be a plan!

I explored the possibilities for an Annual Brunch at Incontro Ristorante in Danville. They can serve diners outdoors, but there is no opportunity for a Brunch Buffet like we have enjoyed in the past. This means individual orders for each diner, which makes our historic club subsidy awkward, since they are not likely to provide separate cheques. If anyone has a practical plan for an Annual Brunch, please pass it on to your editor or other officers.

FROM THE PREZ

March was the last month that Vern sent out a Club newsletter. When I look back, it's amazing how a virus has so disrupted all of our daily lives. Six months and counting. Seems like six years. As a "senior", I know all too well how precious six months with family and friends can be. Hopefully, when 2021 arrives, we will have a viable vaccine, more businesses will be open and we can try and everything can start to get back to a new "normal". I'm sure we all will appreciate time with our families and friends more than ever.

I would really like to try to schedule our annual "brunch" when the virus restrictions are lifted. That will probably not be this year. Maybe in the new year.

Vern has more news to pass on, so I will close for now.

Take Care, Stay Safe, Hope to see y'all as soon as restrictions permit,

Jim W

FROM THE EDITOR

By Vern Hance

It's hard to know what to say about 2020 for the NCKCC.

We had a good start with our outing to the California Auto Museum on Feb 22nd to see the Reel Car display and the surprise appearance of Wayne Wenger's Muntz Jet. I hope you were able to view the 9-minute video to document that event. It is still available on YouTube via our website under the 'Photos/Videos' tab. Probably you could get it direct from YouTube by searching for "NCKCC at CAM's Reel Cars Exhibit".

Then March came, along with COVID 19! That torpedoed our March visit to the Walt Disney Museum – and everything following it – up to the present.

I made an effort to keep you all updated via the 'Hotline' on our website and an occasional email, but it just turned into cancellation of events, month by month.

The bright spot about "Sheltering in Place" came from a September email from Gary O'Connor. He

set a positive example on how to cope by doing a number of projects. See the story nearby!

It looks like some restaurants have been starting to open up to serve outdoors and some restricted inside service. (Depends on the local County regulations.) After exploring the Incontro Ristorante website it's not possible to do a Buffet Brunch and Mini-Carshow, like we did last year. (See more on the cover page and share your thoughts)

I have just learned the the California Auto Museum is reopening on October 9th and an email from Blackhawk Museum says they are opening at 25% capacity only on Saturdays & Sundays starting October 24th. Visits will be limited to 2-hours and an advance reservation is required.

HERE'S A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY TO SHELTER IN PLACE

By Gary O'Connor

To cope with a shut-down world, I have chosen to stay busy on lots of my projects, but it drives me slightly crazy not being able to run down to my local hardware store for an item. Gotta wait for the delivery driver which is usually a couple days.

Background: My Woodster finally got into the shop for some long overdue attention. There has been a noise in the engine for probably 12 years but I wasn't sure what it was. It initially sounded like a bad lifter but after changing all of them on the left side (where the noise was coming from) it was still there. It only occurred when the car was at speed and there was no load on the engine. If I was on the gas or off the gas there was no noise. Eventually if I brought the engine to a steady rpm while sitting still it would make the noise. It was very slowly getting louder and if I pulled the plug wire on #6 it went away. A friend and I commemorated the 40th anniversary of our first long road trip last August by going down to Monterey car week. The noise, while still not alarming, was getting more obvious. I knew it had to get fixed.

Enter COVID 19..... How to pass the time? So far I have painted my '32 pick up, replaced the transmission pilot bushing and rerouted the exhaust.

On our '51 Ford woodie I revarnished the wood frames and made new panels with ribbon grain mahogany veneered on to it and repaired several niggling problems.



I kept putting off the roadster because I was nervous about what the problem may be. It was either a loose wrist pin or rod bearing. A loose wrist pin would likely preclude a rebuild since so much of a Corvair engine has to come apart to fix that so I was rooting for a bearing.

I pulled the top off the engine (the crankshaft is on top on those engines) and pulled the cap off #6. The bearing shells literally fell out and showed massive grooves in the bearing surface. Hopeful that this was the problem I found .002" undersize bearings and reassembled the engine. I started it, and gave it a few minutes to warm up and the noise was gone!!!! Hallelujah!!!! (that was three days work in a few sentences)



While I had the car in the shop I stripped it down and put a coat of spar varnish over the existing urethane surface. Spar varnish on redwood makes it very dark but weatherproof and urethane keeps it light but offers little weather protection. BUT varnish OVER urethane keeps it light AND protects from weather. I had to re-glue a few strips that had come loose through previous rain storms but once it was done it was worth it. (See upper right)



It's ready to hit the road again!



Carry on and stay safe!

Gary O'Connor

HOW CAN WE SHOW THE MADMAN MUNTZ MOVIE?

The April event for a showing of the Madman Muntz movie at the Hance residence in Walnut Creek got cancelled like everything else.

One thought that has emerged from the ZOOM meetings that seem to be happening regularly, is to set up a zoom meeting and play the DVD as the main part of the ZOOM meeting. It is a possibility that you should vote on. Send the editor an email or phone message if you are in favor, along with your preferred day of the week and time.

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. Maybe Wayne could participate from his garage where his Muntz Jet is parked?

Muntz had an busy life of marketing, including gaining and loosing several fortunes in used car sales, TV sales and manufacturing and building & marketing a new Sports Car brand (the Muntz Jet). 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.

WE DID HAVE AN AUGUST EVENT – SORTA!

Our plan to have a small car show on August 15th at the Kensington Senior Residence took place – sort of. It was originally scheduled for a small car show for Kensington residents and a picnic lunch exhibitors who brought their cars for display.

But due to Covid 19 things got changed. First the date got changed and then it turned in to a “Cruise-By” where we made one lap of the Kensington building and then milled around – maintaining social distance and wearing our masks.

These last minute changes caused me to restrict my promotion efforts to the nearby areas to Walnut Creek.

Turns out the NCKCC was represented by Mark Rubinstein and his M-B Baron and Vern with his Chrysler TC by Maserati.



Vern also recruited on of his neighbors with a Porsche 911 and Mark recruited a neighbor with a 356 Porsche.

Kayla Pierce, the activity organizer, did a good job getting a good turnout of vintage cars. (See pix of several upper right)



Anyway, I think the residents appreciated it and it was a chance to “do something” other than “Shelter in Place”.

SAD NEWS TO REPORT - IRENE WALLTERS PASSING

I learned in early October the Irene Wallters passed away earlier in the year.

I talked briefly with Tom Wallters and learned that Irene was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. There are different types of pancreatic cancer, so I don’t have any details about Irene’s cancer.

Many of you will remember several of our yearly Spring events were held at the Wallters residence where we enjoyed the good food and hospitality that Irene and Tom provided. Those were great times.

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 Maintenance performed by AAA Certified
repair shop in Benicia. Asking \$27,000. Contact
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