



NCKCC News

Handcrafted Automobiles

December 2005

Volume 23 Number 12



This is the Ryde Hotel dining room, where our Annual Brunch was held on December 4, 2005. Loading up on food are: (front to rear) Pam & Steve Cameron, Chuck Maddux, Greg Hampton and Alex Penalosa.

ACTIVITY NOTICE

January 8, 2006 - Blackhawk Auto Museum tour + 2006 activity planning meeting. Meet at 1:45 p.m. at Museum. See <www.blackhawkauto.org> for driving instructions or call Editor (925) 938-1442

ANNUAL BRUNCH RYDE HOTEL - DECEMBER 4th

By Tom Wallters

For the second year running, we brunched at the famous Ryde Hotel. It was a gorgeous day for the drive along the Sacramento River. Unfortunately, we had only two hours to schmooze, enjoy the brunch, and have a short business meeting. The business meeting got cut short after reviewing the list of club officer nominees and hearing from Terry Geiser about "Marque Madness", a gathering at Laguna Seca, which includes an opportunity for participants to test their cars and driving skills on the track. We should be hearing more about "Marque Madness". The dates are May 4-8 and the 4-day price is in the \$125 range, which includes the track time. Volunteers can get some credits toward the fee. See the website (and p. 4) for more info. <www.marquemadness.com>

Club officers elected were:

- Dave Jones for President
- Bill Navratil for Vice President
- Greg Hampton for Secretary
- Vern Hance for Treasurer

Events for the following year were not discussed, but a planning meeting is planned for January 8th at Blackhawk.

The brunch was very good. Our private room was very nice and the service (orange juice, champagne and coffee) was good. The brunch included the standard breakfast items, including made to order omelets. There was a nice selection of boiled shrimp, seafood and some casserole dishes and salads, and of course, carved beef roast. For dessert, we enjoyed a nice variety of delectables which included yummy cheesecake and mousse cups. We also enjoyed entertainment by a local youth choir from Antioch High School.

Kit cars were somewhat scarce at this gathering, but we do thank Doug and Sandra Wallace for bringing the Ford 1957 T-Bird and Chuck and Susan Maddux for bringing the Mercedes Benz 500K. Special recognition goes to Alex Penalosa and his wife & daughter who braved the cold morning trip from Concord in their Mercedes SSK replica, without side curtains!!

Attendees were:

Terry Geiser, Janet Mark, Alex and Amelia Penalosa and daughter, Shane and Carolina Williams with new daughter Sophia, Dave and Leanne Jones, Vern and Carol Hance, John and Marie Knebel, Bill Landers, Greg and Lisa Hampton, Steve and PamCameron, Bill Navrtil, Chuck and Susan Maddux, Doug and Sandra Wallace, Bob and Barbara Bohaboy, Tom and Irene Wallters.

December 4th - Brunch Photos:

Clockwise below: Sandra & Doug Wallace, Carol Hance, Chuck & Sue Maddux.



New Father, Shane with Sophia on her first Car Club meeting. (Above)



John & Marie Knebel are toasting the occasion, (Below)



Clockwise above: Bob Bohaboy, Tom Wallters, Dave Jones, Leanne Jones, Barbara Bohaboy and Irene Wallters.



(More pictures on page 11)

MARQUE MADNESS 2006 **AT MAZDA RACEWAY** **LAGUNA SECA MAY 4 – 8**

The annual MarqueMadness “all Marque” car festival will be held in conjunction with the Rolex Grand-Am pro races at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. Providing events for virtually all interest areas of club members. Marque Madness will make the marque club member a participant rather than a spectator in this great show. Marque Madness including:

- Parade Laps of the Raceway with Pictures at the Corkscrew (limited supply - preference to early ticket purchasers).
- Thursday – MarqueMadness Hot and Loud Laps – a Special Track Day event at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca – interspersed with the Rolex Grand-Am test day, a rare unlimited sound day at MRLS.
- Marque Club Driver Shootout Autocross - Marina Airport. This event is a “run what you bring” for prizes and bragging rights.
- Leadership Forum - Current and future leaders of clubs will be gathered together again this year for more time to share ideas, successes and trends for the health and welfare of all marque clubs.
- MonteMadness TSD Rallye - Mastered by rallye guru Bill Jones, this event will be ideal for those new to rallying and offer awards for experts with equipment as well.
- FotoFun Rallye - a great way to get to know your navigator better, and

have a blast touring the Monterey Peninsula area – leading to the raceway by mid-morning.

- Marque Club Corrals - For members and non-members to enjoy - You’ll see Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca dressed up to create a festival atmosphere.
- Funcours - show your car in a fun format and vote on “car that looks the fastest standing still,” “Car I’d want most to drive,” and other unique categories.
- A full Track day immediately following the Grand-Am race series. Watch on Sunday and Drive on Monday at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca.
- MarquisMadness Mixer – Social gathering with all clubs and participants and VIP guests.
- MarqueMadness Central – exclusive location -Viewing area, TV Feed, place to hang out and enjoy the day.
- All Marques Tour de Vin - arranged scenic country drives visiting regional wineries.

Led by motorsports enthusiasts and marque club members Terry Geiser and Jim McCord, MarqueMadness has committed a percentage of event proceeds to the Wheelchair Foundation and Rancho Cielo. Their vision is to gather clubs from all over the Western U.S. in creating a one of a kind event, where a simple stroll around the track property will get everyone’s engine running. Not to mention - world class Daytona Prototypes and Sports Sedans will be fighting it out on the track.

BLACKHAWK TOUR & PLANNING MEETING

In an effort to get NCKCC off to a faster start in 2006, we have scheduled a meeting at the Blackhawk Museum at 1:45 p.m. on Sunday January 8, 2006. This will allow us to do some serious planning of our activities for the year and get a little automobile stimulus too.

We can start by joining the 2 p.m. Docent guided tour to get the low-down on some of the recently added vehicles. For those that are model train enthusiasts, January 8th is the last day for a magnificent display of European model trains.

Following that we can sit in the lounge area between the upper and lower car displays and decide what we want to do for 2006. To help you evaluate some possibilities, the list below includes some events we have scheduled in the past 3-years along with comments about how well attended they were. These are just listed to spur your thinking and are not "required" in any sense of the term.

JANUARY – **Nothing** for years !!

FEBRUARY – **Autorama Show in Sacramento.** (Poor attendance) **Tour of Chabot Space Museum in Oakland.** (Well attended; the Mars display matched the time of the Rover landing)

MARCH – **Hiller Aircraft Museum in San Carlos.** (Well attended) **Cruise to Mothball Fleet** (Cancelled due to lack of support – cost high ~\$25 per head)

APRIL – **Coming Out Party** for new cars & members (Well attended 15-20 mbrs.) Usually held at a members home. **Knott's Berry Farm Kitcar Show.** (Long drive, but we usually have 5-10 attend)

MAY – **Marque Madness** (New for 2006) We should push for wide participation by NCKCC. **Picnic and tour of Towe Museum in Sacramento.** (Sometimes well attended – sometimes not)

JUNE – **Walnut Creek Art & Wine Fest.** (Usually have 10 cars for 2 days) **Oregon Trip;** Crater Lake, Oregon Caves, [meet with Oregon club.] (Attendance varies; 3-6 cars)

JULY – **Benicia Torchlight parade + dinner** (Lucky to have 3 cars past 2 years) **Bethel Island 50s Bash Show.** (Attendance dropping past 2 years – mostly 50s Fords, Chevys & custom rods)

AUGUST – **Hot August Niles show** (5-9 cars; good place to promote NCKCC show)

(Continued on page 8)

THE ULTIMATE IN CAR CLUBS

Excerpts from a Wall Street Journal article by Rachel Emma Silverman

Ralph H. Doering III just bought a new condo in Oakland Park, Fla. Like many upscale developments, the property boasts such amenities as a lounge for entertaining with a catering kitchen and wine storage, a guest office with Internet access, and even an art gallery and photography studio.

Mr. Doering, a real-estate company executive, has no plans to live in the condo development, however. But his car will.

The new development, called the Dream Car Carriage House, is an "autominium" for luxury cars. Spaces start at about \$50,000. About 20 have been sold since sales started in October.

A rising number of membership clubs and high-end garages are catering to collector cars and the enthusiasts who drive them. Some clubs own their own fleets so members can try out different cars. The business models vary, but they generally feature posh amenities, ranging from private driving courses and climate controlled garages (some with Web cams so you can view your car in storage at your desktop com-

puter) to luxury meeting spaces for parties and onsite car portrait studios. Among the latest options are clubs that are centered on private-road courses with lots of hair-raising turns, such as the Autobahn Country Club in Joliet, IL., which opened in April the Alpine Motorsports Club, being developed in Pennsylvania's Poconos region; and Valley Motorsports Park, being built in Tamworth, NH. The clubs are designed so that members can see what their sports cars are capable of doing, without traffic or fear of a speeding ticket.

The clubs are opening at a time when interest in collector cars is booming. In addition to favorable demographics, a big cohort of wealthy baby boomers who grew up during the height of American, car culture as well as televised car races and reality television shows featuring car makeovers, which have also driven interest. Barrett-Jackson Auction Co. generated \$61.7 million in sales at its January collector car auction in Scottsdale, Ariz., a 60% jump from the \$38.5 million it earned last year and way up from \$28.5 million in 2003. The company plans on breaking ground on its own "automotive country club" in Scottsdale in the next year, says Chief Executive Craig Jackson.

Prices for the clubs vary greatly, depending on whether you are joining a private road-course club or a high end

storage garage. The Autobahn Country Club charges a \$25,000 initiation fee and annual dues of \$3,000 for use of the country club's driving track and clubhouse. The Bridgehampton Motoring Club charges \$3,950 a year for garage services. And the Classic Car Club Manhattan, a luxury car share service, levies a \$1,500 one-time signing fee, and annual dues that start at \$7,000, for a choice of more than 20 cars that members can drive throughout the year.

Most of the clubs require drivers to provide their own auto insurance, in case anything happens to a car or driver on the road or in a garage facility.

Enthusiasts say the clubs' amenities are worth the price. The driving-course country clubs and car-share clubs include orientations, so that drivers learn how to handle unfamiliar vehicles or road courses. Some of the clubs feature trackside housing. At the Virginia International Raceway Motorsport Country Club, in Alton, Va., a restored antebellum mansion serves as the clubhouse.

Membership growth has been brisk. Both the Alpine Motorsports Club and the Valley Motorsports Park, which haven't even been built yet, have already signed up some 200 members each. The Autobahn Country Club has nearly reached its cap of 300 members.

High-end garages typically serve clients who may lack the facilities to store their collector vehicles properly. Among recent offerings are the DreamCar Carriage House and the Collectors Car Garage, in Bedford Hills, N.Y. These garages are humidity and temperature controlled to prevent leather interiors from cracking and exteriors from rusting. The Carcierge, a recently launched Boca Raton garage, will "exercise vehicles on local, secluded roadways," according to its Web site. Most of the garages also offer club lounges so you can get together with fellow car lovers and watch car races.

For those who simply want to drive fun cars but don't want to own them, there are a rising number of car-share clubs, such as the Classic Car Club Manhattan, which opened in July, the new Van Horssen Group, in Scottsdale, Ariz., Exotic Car Share in Palatine, IL, and Club Sportiva in San Francisco.

Oliver Hildenbrand, a 39-year-old New York banker, recently became a member of the Classic Car Club. So far, he has taken out several cars, including a 1957 Porsche Speedster, which he drove to the upscale Hamptons on New York's Long Island, and a 1965 Mustang Convertible, which he used to visit the New Jersey shore. "I have a real weakness for cars," he says. "A Ford Taurus doesn't really do it for me."

(Continued from page 5)

SEPTEMBER – NCKCC Annual Show in San Leandro. (Dwindling spectator attendance – trouble attracting more than 60 cars)

OCTOBER – Wine Tour to different areas (Good attendance 10-15 members) **Driving Tour of Monterey** (Lightly attended) **Club Sandwich – Laughlin, NV** (Poor attendance – 1,000 mi. round trip)

NOVEMBER – Annual Brunch (Typically 25-35 members)

EDITOR'S ADVENTURES

By Vern Hance

Since the club didn't do much in October and November, I decided to do some "car related" activities while my son, Brad, visited us from Albuquerque in late November.

We started with the San Francisco Auto Show at Muscone Center. I was not dazzled by most of the run-of-the mill new cars, but was interested in some of the concept cars, the Steve Moal (Oakland) Custom Street Rod display and new limited production cars like the Ford GT and the Pontiac Solstice.

I paid particular attention to the paint quality of all the cars and found most of them to be nice and shiny (due to the final clear coat) but the underlying color

had a very "orange peel" texture that was evident when you looked at the reflections from the room lights. The Porsche and some Cadillacs were above average, but the Moal street rods were the only ones to give a mirror-like reflection. Picky, picky, you say? You're right, but I needed to tune-up my critical eye for other reasons. The next trip was to the Blackhawk Museum, which has many of the cars you have seen in the past - BUT - they also have some really striking Alfa models that I had never heard of before. The Museum also had a splendid display of European model trains. The operating display is large and is extremely detailed. It will be open until early January and is operated by different train enthusiasts every day the museum is open.

So much for the words; I must revert to photos to tell the rest of my story.



Chrysler Phaeton at the S. F. Auto Show.

(Continued on Page 9)



Top: The Lexus concept roadster.



Below left: Blackhawk display of "one-off" Alfa Romeo cars with radical styling.

Top: A view of the Ford GT engine room.
Center: The Moal "Agassi Royale" street rod.

Below right: A glimpse of the European Model Train display at Blackhawk.



FOR SALE

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

COBRA - VW KIT - 427 Snake body fits on your 3" shortened VW chassis. Two available at **reduced price of \$3,200** Call Wayne McAllaster (510) 656-5844 or E-mail 427medusa@sbcglobal.net (6/05)

FERRARI - TESTAROSSA Spyder. Based on 1989 Corvette with 350 V-8 engine and automatic tranny. Asking only \$15,000. Contact Anthony Ramsinh (408) 268-6554 or e-mail aramsinh@aol.com (See photo p.11) (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 500K 4-PASSENGER. This all metal replica was built by H.T. Price with leather interior, 400cid Ford power, auto tranny, A/C, stereo/cassette, wood steering wheel. Call Diana (574) 277-3798. Write 51500 Orange Rd., South Bend, IN 46628-9419. (3/02)

MERCEDES 540K - Thoroughbred factory built. Datsun 240Z engine + 5-spd tranny. Mustang suspension. New paint, carpet, leather interior, tires & canvas cover. Only \$18,500. Vicki Cavaz (510) 769-1123 or Vicki1757@aol.com (9/05)

MERCEDES 500K - TWO Heritage turnkeys. Blue w/ black top & interior \$22,500 or White w/ burgundy top & interior \$28,500. Also: MG-TD (Fiberfab) red w/ white hardtop & interior \$6,500. J.D.Cellars 541-862-7113 (9/05)

MERCEDES SSK (Gazelle) replica. 2.3 liter 4-cyl, 4-spd tranny. Excellent condition. **FURTHER REDUCED** \$7,950 o.b.o. Norval Gryte 707-942-8215 or e-mail <gryte@calicom.net> (2/05)

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)

PANTERA Factory built, only one known to exist. Red w/ beige interior, Chev engine \$35,000 Call Bob Elster 707-938-3254. (1/02)

2005 AHA Knott's Berry Farm Show and 2005 NCKCC San Leandro Show. Available as DVD or VHS tape. Each show is \$16 postpaid in U.S. Send check to VMH Services, 3317 Ellesmere Ct. Walnut Creek, CA 94598. Call 925/938-1442 (9/04)

"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 Cobracol
- Consumer Alerts, show coverage
- Over 1200 web pages
- Pro tips on motorcar photography

G. S. F.
661-251-2223

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2005

- January 8, 2006 Officers and members meet at Blackhawk Museum to plan 2006 activities. All members should bring their ideas for outings.
- May 4-8, 2006 - Marque Madness event at Laguna Seca raceway. See <www.marquemadness.com> for more info and history from 2005 event.



Upper, clockwise from right: Lisa & Greg Hampton, Bill Navratil, Bill Landers, Shane & Sophia Williams, Steve & Pam Cameron.

Lower : Alex and Amelia Penalosa with daughter in center.



2005 OFFICERS AND APPOINTEES:

Steve Cameron, President	916-399-9393
nkccc@usa.com	
Dave Jones, Vice President	510-471-6411
vnimus1@yahoo.com	
Vern Hance, Treasurer, Editor	925-938-1442
3317 Ellesmere Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94598	
nkccc@astound.net	
Tom Wallters, Secretary	650-961-8256
tom_walters@credance.com	
Pat Cooley, Membership Chair	925-447-7239
myoozik@comcast.net	
James Wagner, Activities Chairman	650-341-0211
jamesUU@att.net	
Carolina Williams, Show Co-Chair	510-353-9914
Leanne Jones, Show Co-Chair	510-471-6411

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.