



The Fuel Line

GOING PLACES



David P. Hartman, Editor

www.replicarclub.com

December 2005

From the Head Lug Nut by Dave Martin

the club provides that is of value to its members and to the industry.

Hi All,

Since this is my last entry as your President I thought I'd reminisce about the last year...

The club's membership has stayed around the 40 to 45 member mark for the past three years despite all of our attempts to increase that number. We've done surveys and planned meeting spots near the center of the membership circle – yes, I'm an engineer and plotted it! So Why?

My observations over the last year from talking to a number of people have been the following:

1. Events - As our club is a diverse group of people with cars from Bugatti's, Ferrari's, Porsche's, Cobra's and Neo Classics it's impossible to cater events to all so we don't have a "focus." A number of clubs have suffered from a loss of membership to other "car specific" groups as can be seen by the number of Cobra and Porsche groups that are out there as these car model focused groups can tailor their events to their members. I'm associated with the local Cobra crowd and they drive the cars... once every couple of months they meet for brunch and then power off to a run that suits their cars – windy roads with high-speed straights. They typically get 20-25 cars at an event and 12-15 usually go on the run. Most of them are not a club. Most of them don't want to be a club. They just happen to own replicas and have a common basis for bench racing.
2. The time they are a-changing... Soccer, work, school, dancing, gymnastics, baseball, football, ok you get it. Personally it's harder for me to carve out a weekend in order to attend an event then it was for me five to 10 years ago, and even then my wife is notoriously absent. And since I never figured out how to put a rumble seat into the Cobra so the kids could come along, choices were made. We're all consumed with life and our hobby is a part of it, for which we make tradeoffs against it for our time.

So what's the point?

Our club is more than membership numbers and we must continue to focus on what

We sponsor Knott's every year, which provide a tremendous service not just for the club and its membership but also to the industry and enthusiasts around the country. We provide a forum for manufacturers and vendors to display their wares to the largest audience possible and allow enthusiasts to show their passions in any state of completeness. During Knott's I'm surprised at the number of people that wait all year so that they can fly to Southern California just for Knott's. I've gone to Knott's for more than 20 years. The first eight were to figure out what and how to build it and since then it has been how to make it better. All done by seeing other peoples dreams and talking to a lot of wonderfully helpful and friendly people.

Our club also exists to support the enthusiasts in our area and if Knott's is the main reason for being. Ok, lets do Knott's really well. But we also provide information to people in the hobby. We publish a monthly Newsletter where we continue to give members some insight and humor. We started tech articles this year and have started to get some stories from other members on their trials while building their rides. We continued to expand on our website and have added event calendars, members rides, and will soon be putting our tech articles and archived newsletters on line.

And yes we still have club events. This past year we visited the Otis Chandler Museum, Chuck Beck Motorsports, made a river run to Laughlin Nevada and saw our friends from Arizona, got rained on at Knott's and participated in the Braille Ralley where the club contributed \$2,000 to the Teen Center there. We also had half a dozen club meetings and enjoyed some dynamite chili and we're finishing the year at the Queen Mary for our Holiday event.

As long as there are enough active members to drive these types of activities I'm in. Numbers are interesting, if the mark of success is numbers, but I'll bet if you ask our founders if they chartered the A.H.A to have a big club membership number they'd laugh at you as they drove their Bugatti's off into the sunset. Thank you all for the fun, memories, runs, inputs to

my car and your willingness to ask me my opinion sometimes.

Enough for me... I'm cruising into the sunset...

P.S. Gotcha! Thought I was leaving but next month I'll be back as Treasurer and Knott's Show Chairman. See ya.

**The deadline for the January newsletter is December 30th.
Please have submissions to the Editor by that date.**

Rumblings from the Editor's Desk by David Hartman

Well, the last newsletter of the year. I have made it through my first year back as Newsletter Editor and I hope that all of you members are happy with my performance. You must be. You didn't vote me out at the ballots. Oh, wait. You didn't vote me out because nobody wanted to take over the job! I do get an email once in a while that lets me know that someone out there on the mailing list is reading.

Curt Scott sent me a web page link for all you people that like to take photos of your car. His link is a PDF file page that you can download and print out at your leisure. It has all kinds of good tips of things you should do when taking photos of your car so that the photos turn out exceptionally good. The link is as follows;

<http://www.KitCar.com/curts-fototips.html> There you can find out all the knowledge that Curt says he's gleaned in all his years of Professional Photography, reduced to a page of good to follow tips. Of course, having a Very Nice Camera helps also.

Winter is just about upon me here in Chicago. I've had the "winter oil change" for the car and as soon as I have a nice day, that's dry, I will take a few things out of the car I want to work on this winter and cover it until late February or early March.

I've been helping my friend, Steve, with his Cobra. He's doing a Factory Five Cobra and I've been helping by doing the dashboard wiring and hookups for him and checking out any other wiring things he might have to do. Steve is hoping to have his Cobra done for this next year and has even thought about doing the drive to Knott's, at least once. I think I found another Drive To Knott's Show victim. Now, if only I can come up with the funds to make the drive myself.

In this issue you will find a renewal sheet for the club. As you know, the club operates on a calendar year budget and memberships are due in January. We usually give a little leeway through the spring, but we would really like it if you could pay your renewals, since that is what keeps the newsletter coming. Last year the Board change over had things a bit confused, but this year I'm keeping track of the mailing list pretty good (I

hope) and those of you that have not paid will have an "EXP" on your mailing label. Except for those of you that have already paid through 2006, you might notice that I've already made the change in the label database and everyone has an EXP on their label. As the dues are paid, and I'm notified by the Membership Director, that will change to reflect the current date.

Hopefully I will have Knott's Show Flyers to include in the January newsletter as well as information about the Knott's Show that will need to be passed onto the members from the Board.

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