



The Fuel Line

GOING PLACES



David P. Hartman, Editor

www.replicarclub.com

September 2008

From the Desk of “El Presidente”

I made it back from our trip safe and sound. A little bit poorer from buying enough fuel to go 3,565 miles.

Why I mention safe and sound is that we did have one close call. When we were heading to Astoria, OR on the Washington side of the Columbia River we had a little run in with a bird, not just any bird but a Buzzard. It seems the Buzzards in this part of the country have a little problem with depth perception. The Buzzard in question was soaring with one of his buddies when he soared right into the front pillar on the passenger side right by the rearview mirror as we were doing 70mph down the road. Needless to say this scared the H___ out of my wife and me. As I looked in the review mirror I could see the Buzzard flopping on the roadway. All I could think is “you stupid bird” and that his buddies were probably thinking the same thing along with at least they had dinner on the stove! Amazingly there was no damage done to our car beyond a little rub spot that can be polished out. We were very luck for had the Buzzard hit a few inches ahead or behind we might have had Buzzard in the car with us, they are a very big bird. My wife said it probably was an old female Buzzard looking for an old Buzzard and she spotted me.

Well it is election time and I am not talking about the other elections that are happening but the really important one: AHA board elections!!!!!! When you get your ballot vote and if you feel a need to write in another real candidate for any office feel free to do so. We are always looking for new ideas and approaches. Vote and make your voice heard.

Our next board meeting will be on September 20th at the San Dimas Sizzler. At this meeting we will be discussing our 30th Knotts, sort of an early kickoff. Normally we start in October but with it being the 30th we have a lot of things we are hoping to do for this special “Fun Under the Sun”.

I had a lunch meeting with the new marketing person, Anne Druhl, who we will be working with from Knotts the other day. Anne is looking forward to helping us make this one of the best shows we have ever had. She has come from the Aquarium of the Pacific marketing department. The Aquarium’s loss and Knotts gain.

We also have “Kit Cars on the Colorado” coming up in October. Thanks to my work I will be unable to attend. Instead I will be in beautiful Peoria. I think I would sooner be in Laughlin but how else do I feed my car addiction without a job. Oh well.....

Until next month,

Hasta!

“El Presidente” Dean Hornbacher

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Activities		
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Rumblings from the Editor's Desk - by David Hartman

So much to do this month! Ballots to fill out and mail in. Laughlin show reservations and T Shirt orders to make and mail in. Laughlin room reservations to make. Don't wait too long to make those room reservations! Last year I ordered a T Shirt. This year I'm going to order three. The shirt last year was very nice and judging from the photo on the flyer, this years shirt will be very nice as well.

I'm sure the A.H.A. guys will be meeting at **Peggy Sue's Diner** just off I-5 north of Barstow on **Friday the 24th**. I believe that last year we met about **10AM**, had lunch, opened the ballots and the convoyed to Laughlin (losing people and cars along the way). If you haven't been to Peggy Sue's Diner, it's an experience to do it least once. There are a lot of 50's and 60's stuff all over the place. They have great malts too! Oh, yeah, the food is very good as well. There's a lot of parking room (a requirement for those pulling trailers). I'm sure your ever dependable Board will flesh out the details and the info will be in the next newsletter.

Fill out those ballots and mail them in. If you want to run for a position on the Board, just write your name in.

Activities - ???

Kit Cars on the Colorado aka Club Sandwich

The Association of Handcrafted Automobiles (www.replicarclub.com), and the Arizona Cobra Club (www.azcobras.com) will be hosting the annual meeting of California, Utah, Arizona and Nevada kit cars at the luxurious Don Laughlin Riverside Resort in the town of Laughlin, Nevada on the weekend of October 25th & 26th, 2008. This event has been a Southwest staple for over 20 years and has become the end of summer weekend event for owners, club members and anyone looking for that last fix of nice cars, scenery and friends. Saturday show is a participant judged show and shine with awards in the early afternoon. After the awards, we head off on a car cruise to somewhere in the local area (location tbd). A t-shirt picture, order and registration forms are available on www.replicarclub.com.

Caravan in on Friday with friends and make it a weekend of fun by the river. For reservations at Don Laughlin Riverside Hotel call 1-800-227-3849 and mention Car Cruise to Laughlin and Group Code **CICRUIS**. A block of rooms at a group rate of \$55 per night will be available until September 24th. So, reserve early.

Questions may be directed to Ron Biggerstaff at (909) 796-9946 or Mike Canning at (623) 486-2299.

On September 27th there is an Air Show at the Victor Valley Airport. The organizers will be setting aside parking on the runway tarmac for a Car Show type event. All members are encouraged to attend. We will be

able to all park together and I believe entry is free for the Car Show people. If you are going to attend, contact either David Hartman or Elliot Smith through email. The URL for the Air Show is <http://vvs.com> Where you can find more info and a map.

The next Board meeting is September 20th at the Sizzlers in San Dimas.

SUGGESTIONS FOR MONTHLY MEETING ACTIVITIES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. GIVE ANY ONE OF YOUR BOARD MEMBERS A CALL WITH YOUR SUGGESTION.

Membership – Ron Biggerstaff

None

Treasurer - Dave Martin

None

Braille Rally by Mike Dresbach

Well, my 7th Braille Rally has been completed. This year, I drew a 1st timer. He was a 6th grader (going into 7th grade) from Baldwin Park. He was a large print reader, not a braille reader. He was also the youngest navigator that I have been teamed with.

Because the AHA has been the largest contributor for this event during the last few years, I was considered a "Celebrity". Celebrities are assigned start times ahead of the rest of the field. All other drivers are assigned start times based on arrival sequence to the event. The other Celebrities were another Club from the Lone Pine area, a few Law Enforcement Officers and several Media people.

The pre-rally drivers meeting was held at 9:30 AM. The rules are explained in detail and any last minute questions are answered. The drivers are then assigned their Navigators. So, you've got about 10 minutes to get acquainted with your Navigator, go toidy, grab some water and get set to start.

Our start number was 10. The 1st vehicle out was at 10:01, so we were sent off at 10:10. Since my Navigator was a 1st timer, I had to help him with how to give the Driver instructions, like read ahead (out loud) approximately 2 to 3 instructions so the driver can be prepared for the next execution as some instructions require quick reaction one after another. Since I don't use a stop watch to keep time, I also don't worry about passing people that I know started before me, nor do I worry about those who pass by me. The idea is to teach the Navigator to properly communicate using the rally instructions. So, I basically don't worry too much about time. The next thing you absolutely have to remember is "**DO NOT GET FRUSTRATED**".

A side note, 4 years back I had a braille reader who was 17 years old. It took me 40 minutes to get out of him that he was also Dyslexic. We reached the 1st check point 30 minutes late. After that, I knew we were out of contention. But, you can not let the Navigator know this ----Keep it positive. 42 finishing positions were recorded, Norm Phair was upset that his team finished 41st. My team wasn't even on the finishing list. But my navigator still had a good experience. Just to let you know, in 7 starts, I have found all of the check points and finished every one (I did blow a radiator on the Dino AFTER the last check point one year).

OK, back to this year. You must be fully aware that these are kids and they can be unpredictable. My Navigator had gone to a party the night before, gone to bed about 2AM, gotten up at 6AM and gotten to the institute around 8AM. Wide awake? Sure! He drifted off several times throughout the rally. So, since he was a large print reader, I just kept glancing over at his instructions and woke him up to turn the page. I took a wrong turn in San Pedro, but realized what I had done wrong within 2 miles, back tracked, corrected my mistake and continued on. It's a good thing I did go back, because I would have missed the final check point.

We were directed to the Honda Headquarters in Harbor City to meet with all of the finishers, have some eats and find out which Navigators would receive a medal or a trophy. The awards are 1st in Celebrity class, 1st in Law Enforcement class, 1st thru 5th in Large Print Reader class, 1st thru 5th Braille Reader class and 1st Over All. I am proud to say that my team finished 1st in the Celebrity Class. We finished 6th over all with a deviation of 12.07 minutes. Needless to say, my Navigator was a happy camper.

I sure could use some company next year guys.
Regards,
Mike D.

2008 Calendar of Events

September

Northern California Kit Car Show
September 6th and 7th. Get the registration from www.nckcc.com.
San Leandro Marina

October

Our Annual Laughlin River Run Event
Oct. 24th, 25th, 26th

November

TBD

December

Annual Christmas Party