



The Fuel Line

GOING PLACES



Dave Martin, Editor

www.replicarclub.com

July, 2010

From the Desk of "El Presidente"

The 4th of July is here already, which is a sign that the year has started on its downward slide headed to 2011. So far 2010 has been a good and bad year for our club. By good I am talking about how well our Fun Under the Sun show turned out considering how bad the economy is. A good time was had by all who attended. By bad - the fact that show attendance did not lend to profit instead we had a sizeable loss. Fortunately we had anticipated this and our club coffers could absorb it. Hopefully our 2011 show will head us in the right direction.

Early this month I will be meeting with the Fairplex people and setting up next years show. In August I will be meeting with Tony Thacker with the NHRA museum and discussing our event. If you don't know next year is the 50th anniversary of the Cobra. So you can see that this will fit well with our show. As plans unfold I will keep you all abreast.

Fiberglass day at the Petersen was a fun event. I left early to head to the Petersen which is located west of downtown LA in the Wilshire district. Going in the morning was not a problem, almost no traffic. But coming home in the afternoon was not too pleasant, stop and go traffic on the 10 until I was past the LA downtown area. Cobras, as a rule, do not like stop and go traffic but luckily my cobra does thanks to all my trips to Hot August Nights in Reno. Because of being stuck in cruse traffic in 95- 100+ degree heat I have made numerous improvements to the cobra to handle this and boy it sure showed on this day. No more than 190degree temp in the stuck traffic for 10 miles.

Getting back to Fiberglass day there were about 50+

cars that showed up for the event, surprisingly only 3 Cobras were there. The museum was great. A lot of fiberglass creations were in it highlighting the theme. In the afternoon there was a series of speakers from the early history of fiberglass cars. The Hansen brothers who built the original Cobra (not to mistaken with the AC/Shelby creation) which is in the museum spoke and the one thing their sorry for over the years is that did not register the name Cobra. Also our good friend Bruce Meyers spoke and told of the history and the technology faced with early fiber glass. Harold Pace ended with an overall view of what has gone on in the industry through the years. The panel was real informative, listening to all these individuals who played a big part in the specially constructed and replica car industry.

As customary we do not have a scheduled meeting in July but come August we have 2 of them. August 7th is the Braille Rallye, If you have never attended this you should. It is a true experience to see the joy this event brings to these kids. August 21st will be our Riverside Raceway museum outing. There is more information in the news letter on both of these events.

Until next month,

Hasta!

"El Presidente" Dean Hornbacher

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The Editors Rack—Dave Martin

Vacation Time! The kids are out of school and the rest of us are still working like normal people. Takes your mind back to the days when we all enjoyed summer vacation. Summer vacation... validation that school is over for the year (no one I knew HAD to take summer school). I was always looking forward to the backpacking trips with Boy Scouts or working for my Dad at the station saving for a car of my own. Oh yeah, there were girls somewhere in there along with trips to the beach and parties with friends.

I look back on those days now through the eyes of my daughters, and even though the activities are different, the excitement of summer vacation still lives on. It's different music to be sure, but the activities and the carefree attitude is still there. It's still the beach, parties with friends, movies - not yet boys but really close for my older one. Work, but for now, its volunteering with the city of Agoura Hills working at day camps, concerts in the park and other activities one day a week. No pay of course since they are under 16 but instilling a work ethic at the same time as making the summer fun.

It's nice to see that kids are still kids. More high tech toys but the pleasures of summer vacation remain the same. Maybe there is hope? I think my Dad may have also said that about 40 years ago...

From the Bean Counter—Dave Martin

July and August are the low months for the club as kids are out of school and families are on vacation. It's also the most dull period for the Treasurer - for the same reason - as there are no monies coming in or going out. That's also why we typically don't plan a club event for July other than the Braille Rallye which this year also skipped July and went to August. A short Treasurer's report!

Activities—Elliot Smith

The AHA will be heading to the Riverside International Automotive Museum (RIAM) for its August 21st meeting. RIAM commemorates the history of auto racing in California, in particular, Ontario Motor Speedway and the legendary Riverside International Raceway, where, when I was a boy, I saw Stirling Moss race.

The museum has a lot more than raceway memorabilia, however. It has six Gurney Eagle race cars and several street cars as well. But the most impressive part of its collection is its rare and exotic sports cars, including a Maserati MC 12. The MC 12 took first and second place at Le Mans in 2005 with its 630HP, 12-cylinder engine and top speed of 205 mph!

To whet your appetite, go to their website at www.riversideinternational.org . There memorabilia collection is worth the trip.

Membership – Ron Biggerstaff

Some thoughts from the “membership guy” as we're at the mid-point of calendar year “ought-ten” or as some call it “Oh-ten”. June is when we stop mailing the AHA Newsletter to 2009 Members who have not renewed. This condition applies to a couple of members.

Check your mailing label for a date with a letter behind it. If the date is still 2009 and is in “red” next to it (means you have forgotten). The dues are the same as last year, \$24. This rate helps cover the cost of paper, ink and mailing of the newsletter.

2010 Calendar of Events

August 7th - Braille Rally

August 21st - Riverside Raceway Museum. 11am

October TBD - Kit Cars on the Colorado

Items for Sale

(items for sale is a free service to club members)

For Sale

1926 Model "T" Roadster. Complete with all original parts. Runs. \$4,000

Devin Roadster body – never installed. \$2,000

Contact Ed Russel (714)538-6812

For Sale

Magnum Replica of a Dino GT246 - This bright yellow baby was built in 1989 and currently has 29k miles on it. The car has won over 31 awards and was featured in *Kit Car Illustrated* magazine in October 2001 along with being featured on Speed Vision in January of 2002 on their "Car Crazy" segment.

The Engine is a 1984 Mazda Rotary with a 1971 Porsche 911 5 speed transaxle. Compomotive wheels. The interior is all custom with VDO black faced analog gauges, wood trimmed dash and tilt wheel. Clarion S600 AM/FM stereo. Black leather seats. A great road car at a great price. \$18,000

Contact Mike Dresbach (909) 657-0422 or email mike@rkitkar.com

For Sale

Manta Montage - Owned since 1989. I have 2 engines for it - 1600cc & 1835cc. VW chassis, trans-

axle, steering box & adjustable front end, Camaro steering column, Yamaha parking lights, Manta rear & head lights, VDO gauges

Body in original gel coat - never painted! Tan interior. The car has always been garaged, low mileage, and registered, street legal, licensed & insured in CA. Asking \$12,000

Contact - Harry Reese - 909-399-9179,
kate3051@verizon.net

For Sale

Ferrari Testarossa Convertible

Built on a 1987 Pontiac Fiero GT with a 2.8L V6 and manual 6 Speed. Only 71,000 miles on the engine. New clutch. Black on black with leather interior. Emblems, exhaust tips, wheel caps and interior accents finished in 18k gold. Incredible sound system.

Spent \$45,000, asking \$22,500

Contact Kami at kyouabian@yahoo.com

Fiberglass Day at the Petersen

June 26th, 2010

A great event and well attended by a number of club members including El Presidente, Mike Koken, Mike Imiola, Ron Bigerstaff and myself. Dean, Mike Koken and I brought our cars for the show and we all enjoyed the day of activities.

The show was held on the third level of the parking garage at the Petersen Museum and while this offered shade all day, it was pretty dark for showing cars well. Also had a nasty echo made worse when someone started their car up for any length of time. About 50 participants were on hand with a great cross section of fiberglass cars – remember this was a “fiberglass” only show. As such we had a lot of cars we all knew from our own show, but also included some other production cars including a couple of Corvette’s. The two most predominate marques were about 10 Porsche Speedsters and an almost equal amount of Manx buggies along with our good friends Bruce and Winnie Meyers. Surprisingly, with Cobra’s comprising greater than 50% of the current Kit Car Market, there were only 3 there including Dean’s Midstate and my Daytona Coupe. It was not a “judged” show but more of a celebration to compliment the indoor exhibits of the Petersen’s “Fantasies in Fiberglass” exhibition.

The event also included a number of discussion panels in the afternoon, conveniently right next to where Dean and I had our cars parked so all we had to do was turn our chairs and listen. A lot of early fiberglass and yes, kit car, history was remembered.

Merrill Powell: Co-Owner of Victress from 1953 thru 1961 and designer of the first production fiberglass sports car coupe based on an original design – The Victress C2 and C3.

Harry and Wally Hansen: The Hansen brothers created 3 coach built fiberglass sports cars in the 1950’s called the “Cobra” which debuted at the Petersen Motorama in 1955. Here’s a couple of brothers who only wanted to have nice cars and even though you may be led to believe these cars all were all built the same you’d be wrong. Harry and Wally had their own ideas on how to build them and what motor train to put into them so like our cars today, each was unique. Famous quip of the day –“I only wish I had copyrighted the name Cobra.”

Bruce Meyers: Bruce spent his early years working with fiberglass boats and later brought form and function to the “water pumpers” of southern California” – best known as Dune Buggys. It was interesting to hear how the early versions were created and were basically monocoque builds which later morphed into the VW based buggies we all know. Bruce also talked about the early days of “copying” or “cloning” and the effect it had on his own world.

Harold Pace: Also another well known person in the Kit Car industry having written a number of guides and books along with contributing articles and wisdom to the Kit Car magazines. A great look at the history of our hobby.

Inside the museum were a number of great exhibits with a wide selection of automobiles, including a number of Hollywood Movie cars of which almost all are fiberglass. Below are a few great cars.



Dean and Dave



Bruce Meyers

