



The Windshield Post

Mid-Peninsula Old Time Auto Club

MARCH 2023

mpotac.com

ISSUE THREE



All Aboard!

Read about the recent train tour to
Sacramento

See the next page for more photos

President's Message

Hello MPOTAC friends,

Ask yourself “would I join this club again?”, and the reasons why, will lead us to a healthy future.

Our last meeting was well attended by our superstars - always helping to get things done. We overheard the standard conversations about “how have you been”, how’s that car coming along”, “whatcha been up to”, “how’s the family”, “did you get new hearing aids yet”; folks had a chance to be heard and re-connect with friends. We also solicited willing speakers to share their interesting car, travel, and club history stories, and the sound system wasn’t necessary because everyone listened intently to Ed Krantz’s details about the evolution of the Hershey PA Swap Meet. What started as a 5 minute dissertation evolved into a 12 minute conversation with input and questions from interested members about this singularly significant event for car collectors in the U.S. I loved it! Thank you Ed, for always being willing to get up and share your knowledge with our club - respect.

President: Charlie Drechsler Jr., 650-270-4925
Secretary: Ed Wong and Maureen Krantz
Treasurer: Ted Panofsky
Editor: Jim Remington, 650-342-0852

Continued on page 3



What car company did this building belong to?

Last month there was an article on the old Packard manufacturing plant coming down. This month I have another plant soon to be on the chopping block for demolition.

Can you guess which cars were manufactured here? Hint: this 56 acre site and 1.5 million-square-foot building was originally built for Kelvinator back in the late 1920s as a three-story factory and office complex with a power plant in the back.

See the next page for the article

February 4th train trip to Sacramento by Ed Archer



Well, I'm sure I don't need to tell you, but you missed out on a very relaxing, fun, old car club train trip to Sacramento on February 4th. Karen and I decided to board in San Jose so we could get the longest ride possible but sure hated to get up before the chickens at 6 AM in order to make that 8:05 San Jose departure time. Once we settled in at the Diridon Station with a little

time to spare, we were greeted by Vintage Chevrolet Club members Marc Riehl, Neal Rodrigues, and Dave Cadena and Daughter Lisa, and we all boarded the five coach long Capitol Corridor #724 headed for Sacramento.



(Above: Old Sac. Right: Mothball fleet). *Continued page 4.*

And the building set for demolition is...

the American Motors Corporation's corporate headquarters. The headquarters actually remained in operation until 2009, when Chrysler (which bought AMC in 1987) moved the final 900 employees to offices in Auburn Hills, a Detroit suburb.

It was built to house massive, booming manufacturing operations. Detroit has no shortage of factory space, no shortage of cool old buildings that would require massive investments to be made operational again.

Other automotive buildings like The Rouge plant and The Cadillac Plant still find ways to continue operating.

Hopefully some of these other old buildings can hold on long enough to be made useful again.

From Jalopnik

President's Message Continued

Can you provide snacks for an upcoming meeting? If so, please contact Bill Bratt to pick a date. A few members volunteer to commit their time and energy to provide refreshments for everyone at future meetings, as a contribution to the club.

We discussed upcoming tour activities (see calendar), and asked for any volunteers to lead a tour ... is something you'd like to do? Did you know that our club participated in the Golden Gate Bridge's 25th anniversary in 1962, and its 50th anniversary parade again in 1987, and most of the Redwood City Fourth of July parades until last year. Maybe we'll re-institute a recent favorite, that of having our own downtown tour, on our way to a group lunch. We know Hometown Days in San Carlos is happy to have us join their annual festivities.

We are very proud of our classic event named Friendship Day. We are so very thankful for Tanya Pomposo, Jim Remington, Bill Bratt, Ed Wong, Ted Panofsky and Ferris Lewald for their leadership in the months prior to Friendship Day 2023. According to our club historian and president in the 1994 event program, Friendship Day started as a Huddart Park rally in 1963, moving to Stanford Linear Accelerator in 1967 to 1971. Since then, it's had different homes and has always provided a low key non-judged environment for family and friends of all makes and models, to share their love of the automobile. This year's event will be on Sunday, May 21st, at the Port of Redwood City.

See you on a tour soon,
Charlie & Cynthia

Sacramento Train Trip Continued.

Departing on time, we picked up Bay Area Horseless Carriage and Santa Clara Model T Club member Jim Lukash at the Fremont station. Somewhere along the way, I think our stop at Jack London Square Oakland depot we picked up Bay Area Horseless Carriage member Bill Hund, the magic metal Maestro. The remainder of attending club members boarded in Martinez, Paul Borgwart and Connie from the Classic Car Club, and the remaining Bay Area Horseless Carriage members, Vince O'Brien and Carol, and our tour organizer Gerald Robinson. 13 people in all. A good group, from five different car clubs all seated together aboard the same passenger coach.

Enroute, old time music came from the duet of Jim Lukash and me, both playing the ukulele and vocalizing. We even drug out our harmonicas for a few duets. Hey, when you have a captive audience you milk it for all its worth.

Out the window the view was water, water, water everywhere. More than I've ever seen, especially between Santa Clara and Niles. Those normally grassy meadows were saturated enough to form shallow lakes, beauty abounds. Part of the reason we live in California! You get to see awesome views from the train that you would normally never have the opportunity to see, including some of the unkempt homeless/bums/tramp encampments.

Club members in our coach were from the Greater South Bay Region Vintage Chevrolet, Santa Clara Valley Model T Ford, Northern California Region Classic Car, Mid Peninsula Old Time Auto, and host, Bay Area Horseless Carriage Club, although just a sprinkling from each, all had a great time.

Once we arrived in Sacramento the first stop was lunch. Gerald had made arrangements at a place right alongside of the Sacramento River. The size of our group made it easier to get a group seating at the ever popular Joes Crab Shack in Old Sacramento, and don't let the name fool you, I had a delicious Hamburger with all the fixin's. From there we separated with most of us heading to the California Auto Museum to see what's new (and old!) while some wandered through the historic Old Sacramento buildings, museums and tourist shops. The California State Railroad Museum is one of the best in the world. As it turned out the weather man was pretty accurate with his prediction of possible rain late afternoon, and it began around 2:45 PM. It was rather light but wet! Prior to that, all day the weather had been really pleasant. Some of us took the early train back home at 3 o'clock, and the rest returned on the 4 o'clock.

Many thanks to Gerald Robinson Bay Area Horseless Carriage Club, for putting it all together and thanks to Vintage Chevy Club Neal Rodrigues, for sending the memorable pictures that accompany this story.

Right: Big monster Santa Fe 2-10 4 looking for a place to live and get some love. "Save Me, Please"



Upcoming MPOTAC Events

March 20 - Board Meeting, 7:30

March 24 - Regular Meeting, 7:30, Highlands Club

April 22 - Portola Valley Alpine Railroad tour.

See details below.

May 21 - Friendship Day, Port of Redwood City

October 14 - Mini Concours, Magnolia in Millbrae

Portola Valley Alpine Railroad Tour

The April 22nd tour will be to Portola Valley Alpine Railroad. We will meet at the community center at 9:30 and leave at 10. The cost per car is \$10. You may bring as many people that will fit in your vehicle. This will be a running board lunch (bring your own lunch). There are tables for those who do not have running boards. We really hope you will join us and ride the RAILROAD. *(from Bill Bratt)*

Old Dodge Truck gathering and BBQ in Clements *(not a MPOTAC event)*

Come to the longest running gathering of old Dodge trucks, and other interesting iron, at the Estrada Ranch. It's on a private ranch, no admission, no tickets to buy. Date: April 1, 2023. Time: 10:00 am. Contact: Ted Panofsky, 650-747-0907

Pacific Coast Dream Machines *(not a MPOTAC event)*

This year's spectacular show will be held on Sunday, April 30, from 10 am to 4pm at Half Moon Bay Airport's Eddie Andreini Field, located in the picturesque seaside town of Half Moon Bay. This show features some 2000 magnificent driving, flying, and working machines from the 20th and 21st centuries.

Volunteers Wanted for the WWII merchant ship Jeremiah O'Brien

The Jeremiah O'Brien has recently been moved to Pier 35 in San Francisco. Volunteers of all skills (or no immediate skills!) are needed. You will be trained. For example, the galley is in need of people and you will be trained on your responsibilities. Days and times work around your schedule. Parking is being arranged. For more information check out the website: www.ssjeremiahobrien.org

FLASH! Bill Bratt and Charlie Drechsler transported Debbie and Len Flaherty's 220,000 mile 1-owner 1973 VW Super Beetle the from San Mateo Ca up to their new home in Medford Oregon. Six hours and 380 miles later they arrived safely. It proved to be a fun trip for the MPOTAC boys with a happy ending in front of their home. Just look at Debbie's smile!

After securing a local hotel room for the boys, they all caught up over an Italian dinner at a favorite spot in town.



Maltese Heritage Association Car Show

The **MHA's 9th Annual Classic Car Show** is on **Sunday May 7th** at College of San Mateo! Free admittance for all spectators! Enjoy....

For information check out their website:

[Maltese Heritage Association - San Francisco Bay Area](#)

- Incredible Classic Cars
- Live music from the 50's - 70's
- Food Truck Options
- Awesome raffle prizes
- Best of Class Awards
- Best of Show Larry Barbieri Memorial Award

Club Newsletter

This newsletter is your publication. Have an event or article you'd like to submit? An idea for future Club events? News from another club? Please contact your editor, Jim Remington, at 650-342-0852 or e-mail: mtshastachalet@yahoo.com. Deadline for submission is the end of the month. This newsletter is published once a month except in December.

Concours Seminar at Auto Vino, April 1.

Learn About:

Overview of past and current
Norcal Concours events

People's Choice Voting classes

The many styles of Concours
Judging

Mock judging

Register at focnorcal.org



CONCOURS SEMINAR

at Auto Vino
380 Industrial Rd, San Carlos CA 94070
Saturday, April 1, 2023

Schedule of Events:

Start time 9am: Cars & BYO Coffee and People's Choice voting

Morning Session 10am-noon: Norcal Concours events
Overview of past and current Norcal Concours events
Three Concours Chairman will present their events

Lunch: Noon-1:30 (included in event fee)
People's Choice voting closes: 12:30pm

Afternoon Session: 1:30pm-3pm The many styles of Concours Judging
Presentation of People's Choice award
Overview of judging styles
Three top Judges will present how their judging is accomplished

Final Session: 3pm Mock judging
Three styles of judging will be done by teams of judges on three different cars (concurrently)
Interactive discussions as to what they are deducting and why, questions are encouraged

\$55
Register Now at focnorcal.org

AUTOVINO



MPOTAC General Meeting

February 24, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Charlie Dreschsler, Jr. at 7:30 PM.

Membership: Bill Mitchell was not available. He's in Africa visiting his daughter on a peace corp assignment.

Secretary: Minutes of the January 23rd board meeting and January 27th general meeting was approved as printed in our newsletter.

Treasurer: Ted Panofsky reported a positive income balance as membership dues were collected. Further information upon request.

Health/Welfare: Tanya Pomposo reported all is well, which is good news.

Tours: The following tours are scheduled: 1.) Saturday/March 18th, 10-12 noon- Allen Greenberg tour. Must rsvp by February 28th for a head count. Contact Charlie Dreschsler, Jr. for more info. 2.) Saturday/April 1st-Auto Vino-Concourse Tour. \$55/Cost. Contact Kevin Enderby for more info. 3.) Saturday/April 22nd-Portola Valley Alpine Railway Tour. Contact Bill Bratt for mor info.

Friendship Day: A committee has been set up. Jim Remington-site volunteers/gate admission. Bill Bratt-porta potties/garbage cans. Tanya/Frank Pomposo-coffee/doughnuts. Charlie Dreschsler, Jr. will announced a date to meet for discussions.

Webmaster: Ted Panofsky has added more pictures to the site. Our site update is progressing. Work on adding a QR code to our business cards is also ongoing.

Social Media: Ferris Lewald was not available.

Historian: Ed Krantz gave a talk on the famous Hershey Swap Meet and it's founding members. Ed's first visit was very muddy, follow by his bi-plane ride. Today, the event has 6,000 stall spaces and covers 125 acres. Ed Archer has attended Hershey also and could not see everything even after 4 days.

Refreshments: Thank you Jim Remington for the delicious chocolate cake and oatmeal cookies.

Unfinished Business: By-laws reviews and revisions are ongoing.

New Business: Fees, Deposits, and insurance riders have been paid for Friendship Day.

Meeting adjourned: 8:10 PM Submitted by: Ed Wong

MPOTAC Board Meeting

Feb. 20, 2023

Meeting was called to order by president Charles Drechsler at 7:30pm.

Membership: Bill Mitchel was not present to give a report.

Treasurer: Ted Ponofsky read a thank you note from ACCC Inc. for our donation of \$100.00 last year and requesting one for 2023. The board approved a donation of \$100.00 for 2023. We also received a donation request from CalAuto Museum that the board declined. Last year they sent us 42 paid entrance cards that were good for one month so the board voted not to send a donation for 2023. Ted also reported the club is solvent.

Health & Welfare: Taya had no one to report on.

Historian: Ed Krantz talked about the history of the Hershey Swap-Meet.

Social Media: Ferris Lewald has volunteered to fill this position.

Tours: Bill Bratt reported on the Portola Valley Alpine Railroad tour with the Model T Club scheduled for April 22, 2023. It's a bring your own lunch and a \$10.00 entrance fee per car.

Friendship Day: Question; should we have a raffle this year and how should the goodie bags be handled? This will be put to a vote at general meeting. The board decided that special FD committee meetings will be held for planning this event.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Krantz

Friendship Day is May 21st

We will need many volunteers to run the "gate." This means to collect money and direct traffic. A sign-up announcement will be coming soon, but if you want to get your preferred time in right away, call Jim Remington, 650-342-0852.