

KOPPIN'S

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE KING OF THE ROAD ANTIQUE CAR CLUB



KING OF THE ROAD ANTIQUE CAR CLUB

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Visit our website; KOTRACC.org to see more of what we are all about



LAZY, HAZY, CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER

To quote an old Nat King Cole tune from years ago, it has been a time of "...sodas and pretzels and beer." This summer has certainly been a hot one here in Florida as it was most nearly everywhere. Maybe those of you that went to Switzerland got some relief, but we made the most of the season here with our activities.

July had us travel to nearby Leesburg for dinner on the waterfront at Ski Beach Restaurant and then take in a baseball game next door at the Pat Thomas Stadium to watch the Leesburg Lightning in a night game.

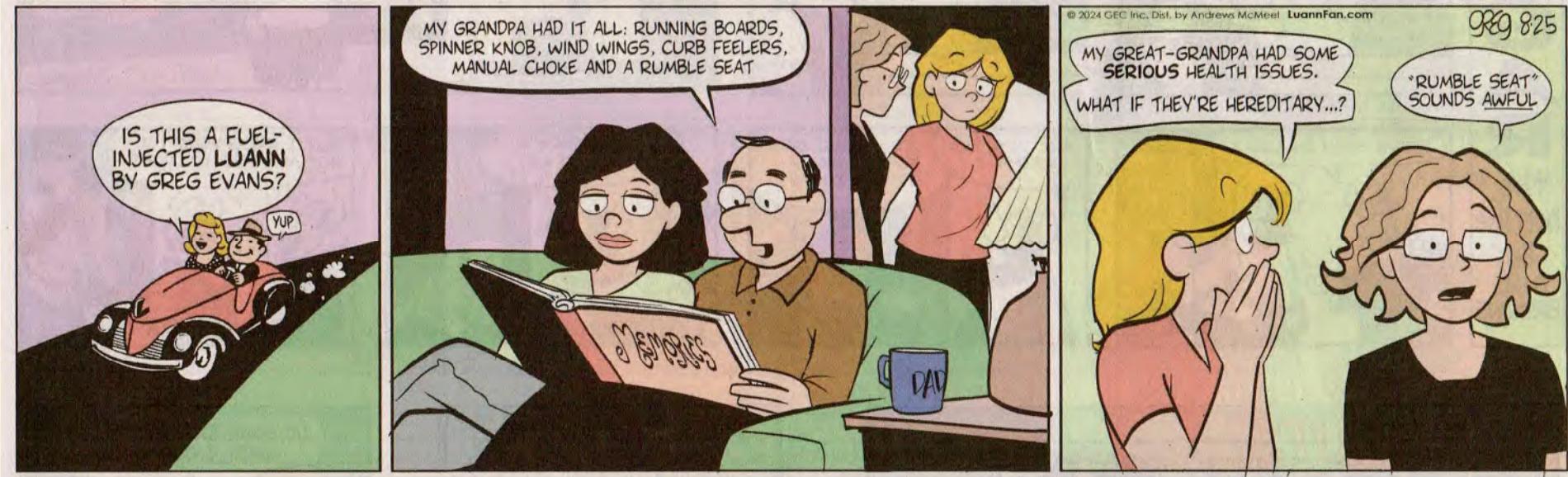
We followed that up with a DQ ice cream run and birthday party. You can read all about July activities in this issue.

August found us on the road to Mount Dora for pizza at the Mellow Mushroom, an evening of good food and good friends. To end the month we made one last ice cream run to Darlin's sweet shop in Sawgrass Grove right here in The Villages.

Many of our members managed to have fun with their cars in other areas of the world as well. Some ran in the Great Race back in June while others toured Europe in their Studebaker. Some took their car home to Ohio for the summer and won "best Ford" at a local car show.

KOTR members certainly are the kings of the road. We plan to keep it that way too with plans for the fall. Let us know what you would like to see us do in the future, We're makin' plans now. Don't dilly-dally, get on it NOW!

Torn From The Funny Pages



Saw this in the Sunday funnies for August 25th in the Villages Daily Sun. Something I thought that we could relate to. Today an old car is a 1999 something or other.

Used to love riding in a rumble seat, what an experience very few will ever have in the future. Not on the horizon for the Tesla toddlers.

Let's enjoy what we've got while we still can! Even the rumble seat.



take me out to the old ball game

a KOTR DOUBLE HEADER

JULY 5TH

Jim Rentz

What better way to celebrate our nation's birthday than to go out for dinner and spend the evening with America's pastime, baseball. KOTR traveled to the Lake Harris eatery, Ski Beach, in Leesburg. It was a beautiful evening along the waterfront for dinner and then a stroll across the parking lot to Pat Thomas Stadium for a 7 pm game for the Leesburg Lightning.

Some of nine members sat behind home plate for the game while one of us, me, sat just off 1st base to get some action photos up close.



Far left is just part of the eclectic décor of Ski Beach at the entryway, lower left is one of the game attendees sitting next to me close to first base. What is a baseball game without Cracker Jacks?

In the center is Rich Courmettes' photo featuring Ellen Harcourt and Dee and Frank O'Donnell in the grandstand. Below is just some of the action at home plate. By the way Leesburg, in white won the game that evening, 5 to 1.



Summertime, Summertime...



It was a warm evening, just right for ice cream and a celebration.

You can see the beautiful cake we had for Flo. To the left Flo and her husband Steve prepare to slice up the cake for everyone. On the right is the 1951 Kaiser of Alan Eckensgard, the only "classic" to make the trip. Some of us arrived early and had dinner there as well. We made an evening of it all.

What a great time it is, even here in sunny Florida. A time for an ice cream run, a KCTR specialty. To make it even better we celebrated Flo Rodes' birthday! July 18th found us at Dairy Queen on route 301 for the fete.

Thirteen of us joined in on the party to honor Flo's grand day with a special "Black Forest" ice cream cake. Plenty for everyone.





Dé ja vu, all over again. We've been here before, just a year ago to be exact. Twelve KOTR members made the journey on August 20th, to Mount Dora for this wonderful pizzeria. Always a good time there.

Above Barb Platt and Richard Buerhig prepare for dinner, above is the company mascot. Top right shows Marcie McDowell and Frank Fox with their custom 1951 Henry J. On the right is the star of the evening, hot, gooey pizza. Yum, yum!



*mellow
MUSHROOM*

Darlin's

• SWEET SHOPPE •



We just had to squeeze in one more activity for the month of August. Twas another famous KOTR Ice Cream Run. This time we kept it local and went to Darlin's Sweet Shoppe at Saw Grass Grove. You could tell that it was exclusive, they spell shop with two "p"s and an "e". That means high class and pricey to boot. Our servers were Tracy on the left and Sandy on the right. Fourteen members enjoyed the 7 pm soiree and caught up on the latest gossip.





MEMBERS ON THE ROAD

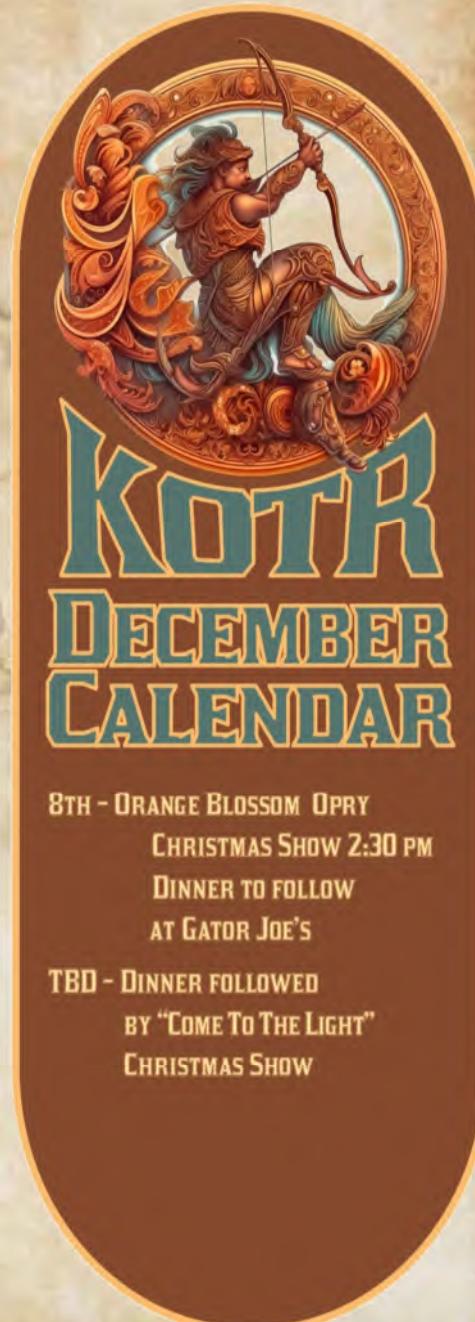
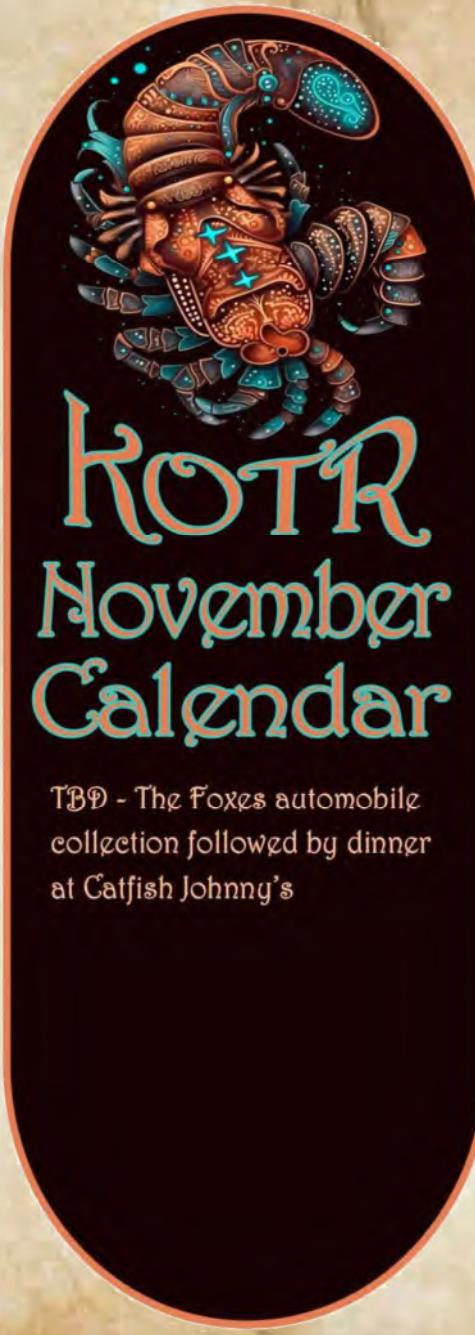
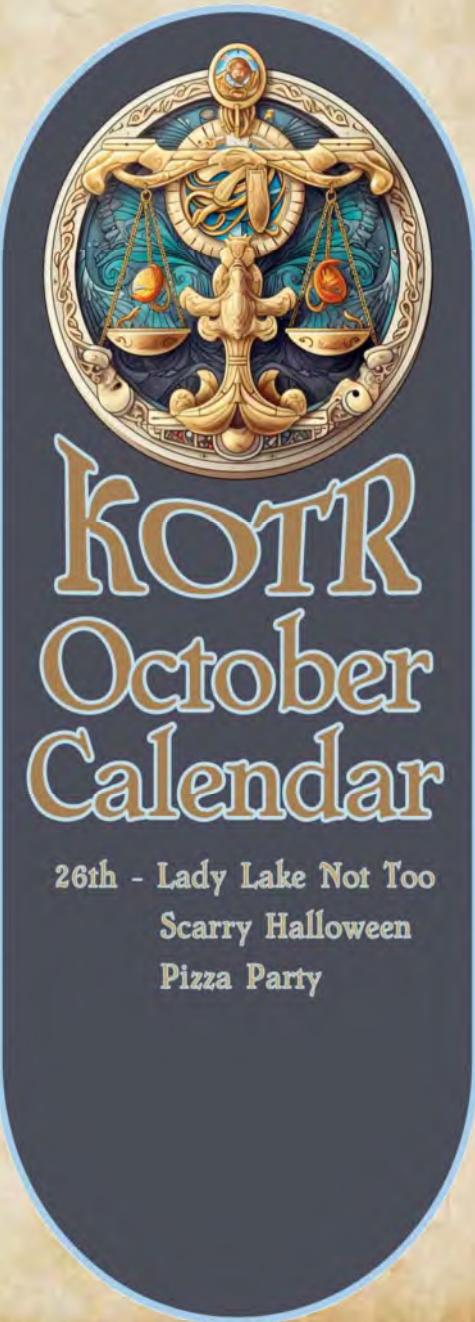


Bill and Diana Bray, “Snowbird” KOTR members from Leesburg move their beautiful 1966 Mustang back to Ohio when they return for the summer. Bill bought the car new and has maintained for the past 59 years in impeccable condition. This past August Bill and Diana attended the Uniontown, Ohio Annual Car Show and won the “Best in Class” Ford. The Mustang is a GT 350 and is signed by Carroll Shelby on the glove box door.

They will be returning to Leesburg in October, be sure to look them up at one of our activities this fall and see their wonderful “ride.”

We could use more stories like this from you as travel in your home grounds. We like to know that you are “out and about” enjoying the old car hobby.

KOT'R IN THE MONTHS AHEAD





STEAMPUNK OVER 100 YEARS IN THE MAKING



Fads come and go throughout the years, but this one, a retro-futuristic, dream world has its origins in the nineteenth century sci-fi worlds of Jules Verne and H.G. Wells. Long before the word "Steampunk" was coined (1995), we had a very popular TV program from the days of our youth, The Wild Wild West with those fanciful devices that we thought were so neat.

From the age of steam locomotives and big equipment we now have steam cars in a modern vernacular. Steam cars were some of the earliest attempts at automobile power along with electric models, now on the scrap heap of history. Most of today's visions exist primarily in the minds of fanciful thinkers and artists and now on their computers.



Let's take a look at some of these "dream machines" and maybe, just maybe take a ride in a real to life "Steampunk" hot rod. To truly get into the mode it takes great attention to detail, meaning expensive. Perhaps that is why there are so few of them, unlike their kin, Rat Rods.





There is very definitely an obsession with gears and levers in these dream machines, a carryover from nineteenth century engineering. There is however a connection to the twentieth century art nouveau sensibilities of curved and flowing lines. The automobile, in a least a few designers minds was more than just a means to get from point A to point B. They are a form of self expression, ... "this is me." No cookie cutter cars here.



Would you like to go for a ride in one of these? Just click on the upper right picture, the "Automatron" and you'll be behind the wheel cruising in a really cool car. Enjoy!



THE REAL DEAL

Rich Udell

Rich Udell is the newest member of KOTR, he joined with us following our Spanish Springs show last May. He brings a new perspective to the antique car hobby. Rich has always been into high performance cars and his current choice is a 1963 Plymouth, Superstock 426. Following is the story of this amazing machine.

There were 18 of these cars built and this particular car is number 18 of the 18. These cars were specifically manufactured for selected superstock drag racing application. They carried no warranty, and in fact, there is a yellow notification in the glove box that the car was manufactured and sold as is where is.

This car was secured by a Chrysler Plymouth dealer in Northern California and kept it in the family for 40 years. The car still has the original interior and this run of cars had no power steering, radio delete, standard brakes, and no heater or ventilation. I have the original bound advertising presentation book that listed the available options and colors. I also have the original service manual as well as the original parts manual and the book written by Daryl Davis, who is the Mopar guru, verifying the authenticity of the car. It was also verified by Galen Govier and is listed and documented at the Chrysler historical museum.

At the end of the 40-year run, the original owner sold the car to a well-known Mopar collector who kept the car in his museum from 2006 to 2017.

(Continued on page 13)



Above we are on the award platform at Cobble Beach concours along with "Hoochi mama" on my lap.

Below is a shot of the original interior. "Big Daddy" Don Garlits signed the glove box door for me.



(Continued from page 12)

This collector then traded this car and two others plus a sizable amount of cash for a Shelby Cobra and I was able to secure the car as a result of that transaction. Unfortunately, at the time the deal was made, the car was in Toronto. Therefore, I had to make necessary arrangements to bring the car back into the United States.

The car has been in every major Mopar event in this country and in Canada. It was an invited car at Chrysler of Carlisle. It competed in the Muscle Car Nationals in Chicago, Illinois and was awarded the pick of the show by South Oaks Dodge, one of the major track competitors of the day.

The car was invited to the only Concours de Elegance in Canada, which is called the Cobble Beach Concours and was awarded the Specialty Debut Award of that event. There were only two major events that the car had not competed in, and that part of the pedigree was completed just a few weeks ago. We took the car to the Mopar Nationals in Columbus, Ohio, where it took the superstock category as well as the only specialty award of the show. The next weekend, we finished it's pedigree by taking it to the Canadian Mopar Nationals in Waterloo, Canada, where it won best of show.



Above is the Special Award we got at Cobble Beach Concours.

Far left, I stand by to answer any questions the judges may have had as they inspected the "Wedge."

Below is just some of the details that judges look for at a Concours event like Cobble Beach.