

KOTR PINS VOLUME IX ISSUE VI DECEMBER MMXXIV



NEWSLETTER FOR THE KING OF THE ROAD ANTIQUE CAR CLUB



KING OF THE ROAD ANTIQUE CAR CLUB

Staff and Management

CEO: Jim Rentz President@KOTRACC.org

President of Vice: Gordon Platt Vicepresident@KOTRACC.org

Bursar: Gordon Platt Treasurer@KOTRACC.org

Club Stenographer; Dee O'Donnell Secretary@KOTRACC.org

Certified Web Mechanic; Rich Courmettes Webmaster@KOTRACC.org

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



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Did you take a good look at the publication information on the cover this month? Look again, this is Volume IX. That means we have been at this KOTR thing for nine years now. That's pretty good I think, that we have been able to persevere for the fun of it. We've gone through ups and downs but we are still at it because of you, the members and your commitment to the club.

In this issue we not only look back at the past twelve months, but also peer into the future to see what lies ahead for us in the new year. With your continued support we can look forward to the future with renewed vigor.

We need to reach out to fellow enthusiasts and let them know what we are all about. For the good health of our club we need to encourage others to join with us as we

cruise into the future. We need to look at communities outside of The Villages for those folks that do not have the support group that we enjoy for this hobby that we hold so dear. We have a number of cards available to hand out whenever we happen to see someone with a "classic" that might be looking for fellow buffs to gather with to talk cars and have a good time doing what we do.

KOTR should let the people know that we are a unique and different kind of organization. We are a caring group of friends looking to share the road and good times. Some of us have invited friends to join us and they in turn have become our family too, enjoying each others interests and expanding our horizons.

Let's keep up the good job we have been doing for the past nine years as we jump into the new year!

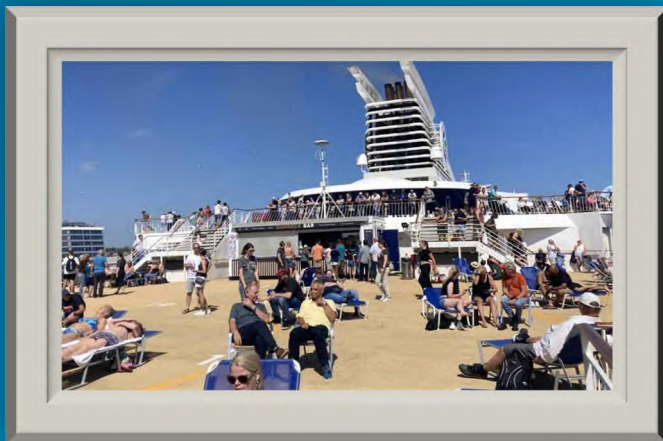
KOTR AROUND THE WORLD

As a matter of fact, KOTR members do get around when they are away from central Florida. You may recall that our good friends Urs and Stefanie Nyffeler call Switzerland their home. They are avid Studebaker collectors and this past August they joined with five other Swiss Studebaker club members for a tour of Norway. Joining Urs and Stefanie were two other KOTR members, Lark and Steve James.

It's nice to see that the spirit of KOTR carries on in the far reaches of this great world. Getting out with good friends and driving our great cars.



The Swiss club transported 5 Studebakers on the overnight car train near Basel, Switzerland to Hamburg, Germany. Urs is packed for the journey.



The overnight ferry from Kiel, Germany to Oslo, Norway was like a palatial cruise ship and transported hundreds of vehicles, including a dozen Studebakers.

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Stefanie Nyffeler



Above is a 1935 Studebaker President from Norway.

Below, Urs stands by his 1954 Commander while behind is a 1931 four season roadster from the United Kingdom.



Joining Urs and Stefanie at the American Orphan Car Museum in Oslo, were Steve and Lark James, also KOTR members from Mount Dora.

The museum features Nash, Studebaker, DeSoto, Hudson, Kaiser and Packard automobiles among others.



In Norway, it is not unusual to find sheep roaming in public spaces. Here, they happened to take a rest next to our '54 Commander.

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This was the first time for the Norwegian Studebaker Drivers Club to host this international meet. It was held August 7-11, 2024, just outside of Oslo. Forty-five Studebakers from all over Europe were in attendance. Cars came from Norway of course as well as Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, Holland and England. Additional guests from the US, Australia and New Zealand made the trip an enjoyable activity for all.

WHEN ALL YOUR HARD WORK PAYS OFF

FRANK
O'DONNELL



It's stressful driving a car designed in the early 1950's on a two-lane road at 5:30 in the morning....in the dark. To get to the 2024 Lake Mirror Classic Concours in Lakeland, Florida by our assigned entry time, that is what we had to do.

We were showing my wife Dee's all-original 1962 Mercedes-Benz 190 SL convertible for the first time since its return from the restoration shop. Dee had told her friends the car had been, "At the spa." for the last 14 months.

I had completed all the restoration work I was qualified to do and passed it on to a shop in Georgia to tune the engine, install new brakes and rotors and fit the new carpet I had ordered. The trip to the Lake Mirror Classic represented the longest distance we had ever traveled since purchasing the car online back in 2018. The car traveled well and gave me no problems. Its small, 4-cylinder engine did the job as it probably did countless times over the 56 years before we acquired it.

We arrived on time and were parked along the lake in the Mercedes Benz show class. What a beautiful location and the perfect setting for a car show. Although you must apply to be considered for entry, The Lake Mirror Concours is not like the Amelia Island or Hilton

Head events. While there were some 100+ plus classic vehicles on hand from private collections and museums, most of the automobiles being shown belonged to collectors from the Southeast.

Another unusual aspect of the concours was the classic wood-bodied boats displayed and speeding around the lake during the day. Our parking area was next to the boat ramp and Amphicar owners were giving rides in and around the lake to showgoers throughout the day.

We received many compliments from those attending the show, but the most treasured remarks came from the other Mercedes-Benz owners who were showing their cars. It is always special conversing with "car people" who know and appreciate what you put your heart and soul into.

I walked the entire show field twice and toured the adjacent downtown area that was featuring its own classic car show featuring over four hundred vehicles. Classes included domestic, foreign, muscle cars, hot rods, and trucks.

At the show's end we were incredibly pleased that Dee's Mercedes was judged First in Class for all Mercedes Benz produced during the 1900s. She received a beautiful Swan Award for showing the car.

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I was impressed with all aspects of the show. The people who attended both the concours and the cruise-in were very appreciative of those who brought and showed their vehicles. I would encourage you to attend the 2025 event next October 17-19 with or without taking your classic car. For the concours event, the admission price includes a descriptive placard in which you provide the information about your car and a nice, boxed lunch for the driver and their guest.

The show usually starts taking entries online for the concours around the lake in the summer. The drive from The Villages is under two hours and is certainly worth the trip. I will be going again next year, taking my newly restored 1970 Maserati Ghibli.





TACO TUESDAY

KOTR CHEAP DATE NITE

Always looking for a good value for our members, Fresh Jalapeño in Lady Lake fit the bill. Every Tuesday is \$2.00 taco nite. What a deal! Great food in a friendly atmosphere with wonderful friends. That's the KOTR way we do things around here.



Fourteen members showed up for the KOTR Cheap Date Nite on November, 12th. Two couples drove their classic cars, Frank and Dee O'Donnell brought their Maserati and Frank Fox and Marcie McDowell drove their Model A Ford hot rod.

Above, Rich Courmettes, Ellen Harcourt, Frank O'Donnell and Dee O'Donnell enjoy the evening together. To make it even better was the fact that it didn't "break the bank" to have a good time.



Some of us were lucky to make this event a true Double Header, because the Orange Blossom Opry matinee was sold out very early, making it difficult to get tickets. The Opry experience was fantastic if you like your MUSIC LOUD. The facility has had a major face lift since the last time we visited. The seating, the lighting and the sound system have all undergone significant up grades. Also added was a little warm-up band outside to keep us entertained while we waited to be seated.



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KOOR DOUBLE HEADER



Following the two and a half hour show, we motored on up Route 25, a mere four miles for the second half of our Double Header. It was dinner at Gator joe's on beautiful Lake Weir. There we met up with

those folks who chose to skip the Christmas Show and yet dined with the rest of us.

The evening was delightful as we watched the awesome Florida sunset from our lakeside seats. Acquaintances were renewed amid the flurry of "dinner decision" making. We even had a very special guest join us, Jesse, JL Trunell's service dog.

Janice Palmer Forster offers a salute to the good times at Gator





LIVE OAK COMMUNITY CHURCH COME TO THE LIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOW



Carolyn and Bill Hunt

KOTR got together for a second time this Holiday Season. First there was dinner at Olive Garden with 13 members in attendance for good food with old friends. It was great to see some of our "snow birds" for the first time this fall. It was great to see Tom and Carol Schweitzer after his long ordeal with cancer therapy since last spring. Bob and Linda Durst also joined in on the fun as did Carolyn and Bill Hunt. Brad and Elaine Werner, Dave Jenkins, Frank O'Donnell, Jim and Pat Rentz, JL Trunnell and finally Jesse.

Some of us made our way around the corner to Live Oak Community Church for a Christmas light show. A great season finalé!

VILLAGES-NEWS.COM PHOTO



JL Trunnell and Jesse

2024 IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR



Alan Lokensgard at the KOTR club show on February 9th in Brownwood.



Barb Platt and Bobbi Brown at Riccardo's for Valentine party on February 12th.



Terry Woods chats with Diana and Bill Bray at Sunset delights on February 28th.



Gordon Platt Shines at Pennbrooke show on March 9th.



March 13th had KOTR in Tavares at O'Keefe's for our St. Patty's Day feast.



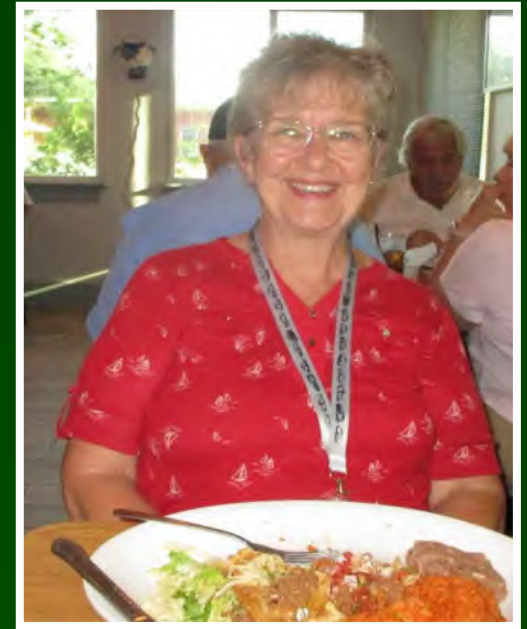
Mike and Dorothy Chernago at St. Pauls' fish fry on March 19th.



Frank O'Donnell, the 2024 annual Pies in The Park festival winner on March 24th.



Some of our gang waiting for us to go in for the Brownwood showcase Show on April 27th.



Janice Palmer Forster at La Perla Tapatia restaurant for Cinco de Mayo dinner.



KOTR had 16 cars on display as the feature car club at the May, Spanish Springs Cruise in,



JL Trunnell's 1931 Ford hot rod at the Summerfield Suites show on June 14th.



Ellen Harcourt and Dee O'Donnell enjoy the ball game on July 5th in Leesburg.



On July 15th, we celebrated Flo Rode's birthday at Dairy Queen, yet another KOTR ice cream run.



Frank Fox and Marcie McDowel drove their 1951 Kaiser to Mellow Mushroom in Mount Dora on August 20th.



A few but hungry for ice cream fans at Darlin's Ice Cream Shop in Sawgrass Grove on August 28th.



Members and friends gathered at Island Scoops for some good ice cream on September 18th.



Once again the KOTR faithful enjoyed dinner at Oak Wood Smokehouse on September 26th.



We helped Lady Lake celebrate Halloween with a Pizza Party on October 26th.

DOWN THE KOTR ROAD



January Events

4th - Brownwood Showcase

24th - St. Paul's Fish Fry



FEBRUARY EVENTS

12TH - VALENTINE PARTY



March Events

13th - St. Patty's Day Dinner

30th - Pies In The Park



KOTR

Brownwood Showcase

JANUARY 4th



SAINT PAUL'S FRIDAY FISH FRY

JANUARY 24 5:00 P.M.

FRIED SHRIMP AND CHICKEN TENDERS TOO



KOTR

ANNUAL

VALENTINE CELEBRATION

Wednesday, February 12th

Riccardo's



You Didn't
Forget
Did You?

That's OK, there's still time to pay your
\$20 KOTR annual dues!

Just send a check, payable to KOTR ACC:

to Pat Rentz, 1870 Caryle Lane, The Villages, FL 32162