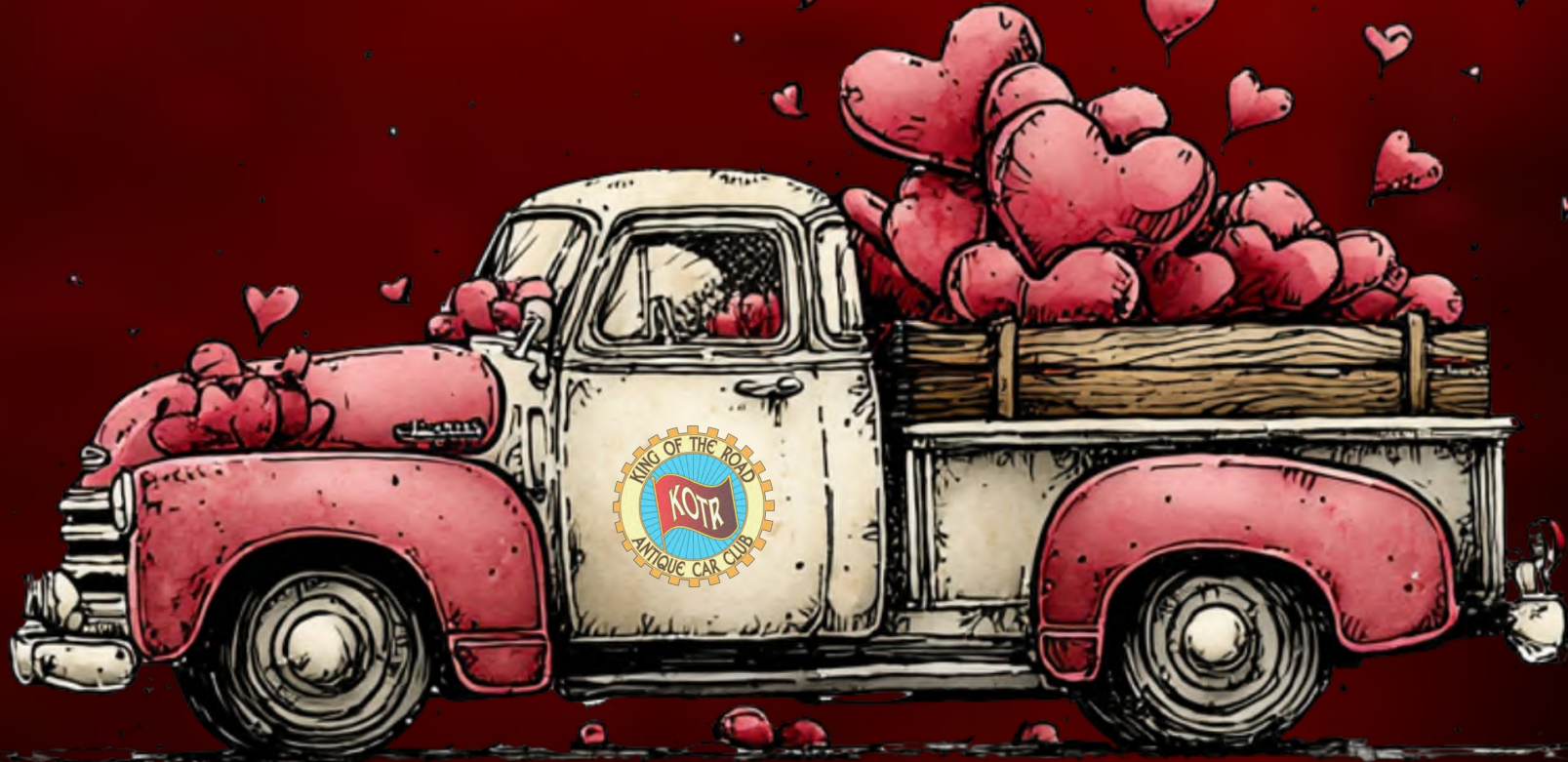


KOTR

VOLUME XI
MMXXVI

PINS

ISSUE I



HERE IS TO ALL THE SWEETHEARTS THAT MAKE THIS CLUB SO SPECIAL



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@KTRACC.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



A Call To Action

We now have two months of activities under our belts for the 2026 season here in KOTR. Attendance has been rather light so far, here's to hoping that will improve in the coming months. We cannot stress enough that when you sign up for an activity, please, please follow through on your commitment. On many occasions we have some costs involved that were based on attendance from you the members. If you find that you cannot participate after committing to an event, let us know so that we do not end up waiting for someone who is not going to show.

So far this year we have had a BURGER BASH and a Valentine's Dinner for you to enjoy. Those who did participate had a good time even though attendance was light. Both of those activities are detailed in this edition

for you to ponder. We will also give you a heads -up for coming events for you to consider. We are a small club and your absence at our activities is disconcerting. Have we been in error in our planning? Is there something else you would like to see us try, to accommodate your wishes? We have had some suggestions and we will try to fit those in when and where we can in the coming months. But it makes all the effort that it takes to organize an activity seem worthwhile if we have more than a few participants.

For March, we typically to try find an Irish theme for our monthly dinner. Let us know what you are thinking ! For April we have our "Pies In The Park" concours de tarte, that has always been a favorite with you all.

It's more fun together!

The Greatest Show on Earth



Frank O'Donnell

I attended this year's annual Mecum Auto Auction in Kissimmee and it remains, the greatest automobile show in the world. The auction takes place on the grounds of Osceola Heritage Park outside Kissimmee and is just over an hour's drive from The Villages. A one-day ticket to the auction and the show field is only \$30. Parking is an additional \$15.00.

Most of the cars parked in the permanent buildings, big-top tents and grassy areas sit with their doors unlocked so you can view the interiors and inspect the engine and trunk areas. If you are a serious buyer, the lot managers have the keys to the cars and will start the engines for you on request.

This year's selection featured over 40 different personal car collections up for sale. One collection housed 48 different Ferraris.

More than **4500** cars crossed the auction block over the course of 13 days. Your ticket also includes admission to the main arena where you can watch the continuous stream of vehicles crossing the auction block's "red carpet". I use the arena as my rest stop in between visits to the different show-fields.

This year's top sale was a white 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO "Bianco Speciale", which sold for \$38,500,000. That's right, thirty-eight MILLION. How fast can you drive a Renaissance painting?



Hint: There are different eating venues all over the grounds, but the best place to catch a quick meal is the Chick-fil-a stand located in the food court just off the main arena.

I cannot think of any better way to spend a day (or a couple of days if you want to visit every single parking area, permanent building, and big-top tent on the grounds).

I strongly suggest you attend next year's event. It is **that** spectacular. After you go, I promise you will thank me and be bragging to all your friends just how good it was!



KOTR Burger Bash

KOTR kicked off the 2026 season of activities with a BURGER BASH at the Red Robin restaurant in nearby Ocala. Ten members made the trip for a great evening of good food and great stories. It was well worth the drive. People asked for a second “BASH” later in the season at yet another burger emporium. Keep your eyes out for that invitation!



Here are eight of the early birds at Red Robin. From the front; Frank and Dee O'Donnell, Pat and Jim Rentz, Carolyn Hunt across from Rich Udell, Bill Hunt across from Nancy Sutter.



On the right are Brad and Elaine Werner along with Pat and Jim Rentz.

HAPPY VALENTINE

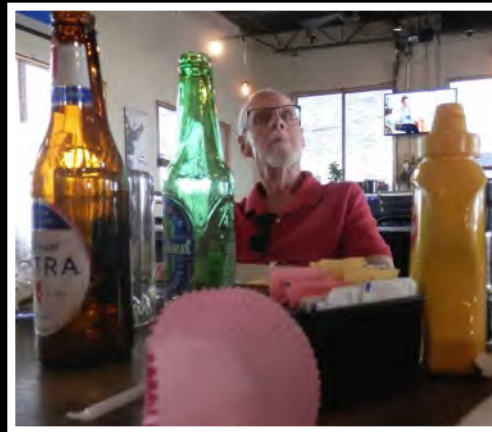
Sunday, February 15th



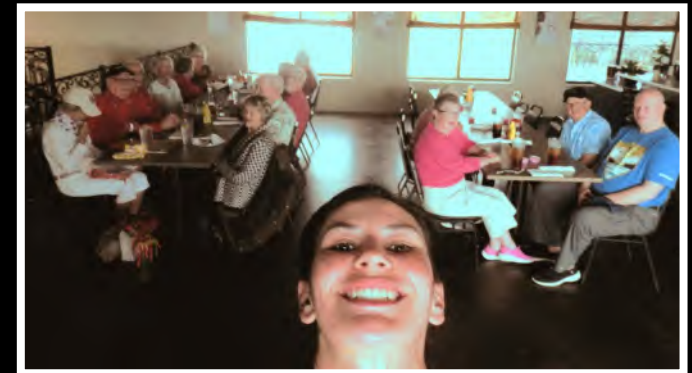
Each February, KOTR likes to take the opportunity to celebrate that certain someone special with a dinner for Valentine's Day, or close to it. This year we traveled to nearby Tavares and the sea plane base there. We dined at the lake front "Puddle Jumpers" restaurant on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Sixteen members and friends took advantage of the occasion. In turn the club offered long stem roses to each couple as they departed for the evening. The meals were good and the camaraderie even better. It's so wonderful when we have the chance to meet with our fellow members over some fine dining!



At the front of the table are Pat and Stewart Griest, Pat is Gordon Platt's sister. Of course you know the ever present Barb and Gordon Platt, sitting to the rear.



Bill Bray looking satisfied after the meal, among some of the table clutter.



Our waitress asked if we would like her to take our picture. "Of course, that would be nice of you" I replied and handed her my camera. "I've never used a camera," was her reply. Now how old do you feel? This is what I found when I got home and opened the day's shoot.



Patty Rentz's roses on display at home later that evening. Nice memento for a great day with good friends.



LEESBURG CAR SHOW

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21ST

Here we gathering at Rohan Center at 3:00 for our caravan into town. In the foreground is Dave Engemann's 1940 Ford, then there is Bill Bray's 1965 Ford Mustang GT, original owner, and lastly Jim Rentz's 1979 Lincol Versailles.



You asked for it and KOTR listened. When it appeared to KOTR management that we had been left out of The Villages show schedule after years of participation, we had to look for other venues. It seemed that the owner of Chicago Fire Restaurant and Brewery and Tap Room in Leesburg wanted a car show on the town square to help the local businesses there.

Tw was a nice, intimate show of 32 to 40 cars, both antique and hot rod. We lined up on 6th street on the west side of city square while the food trucks lined up on the east side. A nice crowd of hundreds turned out for the live blues bands that were performing on stage.

KOTR members convened at Rohan Recreation Center to begin the "convoy" into Leesburg so that we could be staged as a group. Each car was presented a window flag with the KOTR badge on it to let people know just who we are. Eight cars had signed up to participate but a few had to drop out only to be replaced by three that did not register. Serendipity. As we drove into town another car, a hot rod, got in line with us, he is now our newest member! Congratulations Gary.



6

KOTR AT SHOW



continued from page 6

On the field, top left is Gary Hill's "C" cab model T Ford hot rod, below is Bill Bray's 1965 Ford Mustang GT, at bottom left is Dave Engemann's 1940 Ford power plant. Above Frank Fox's 1964 Corvette as Marcie McDowell explains the story behind the car. Top right is Ken Copé's 1954 Studebaker custom, below that is Tom Schweitzer's 1932 Chevrolet pick up truck, than at the bottom right is Steve Rodé's 1965 Oldsmobile and Jim Rentz's 1979 Lincoln Versailles.



DO YOU REMEMBER THESE?

Here's a little test for you. Let's see if you know what you are talking about when it comes to old car parts and accessories. How many can you identify?



This item, a dash accessory, was used back in the day when windshields were much smaller. A time when the roof came down to meet the windshield out in front of your head. When you were first in line at the traffic light and could not see it turn green.



This baby here was the follow up to the AM/FM radio in cars. Promoted by "MADMAN" Muntz for use in the automobile, a 4 track tape deck that mounted under the dash. I had one in my 1964 Comet Cyclone. Man, that was just the coolest thing. I had door speakers installed to get the most out of the tapes.



Long before there was ceramic coating for the paint on your car there was Blue Coral Sealer. You had to make an appointment with the dealer and it took the better part of a day to have the job done. I remember my father having it done to a new Cadillac 75 he bought in 1960.



**ANNUAL CAR SHOW
SATURDAY
MARCH 21ST
10:00 - 2:00
FUN TIME
CLOSE BY**



LET US KNOW



**KOTR
ANNUAL
ST. PATTY'S
CELEBRATION**



**MONDAY, MARCH 23RD
3:45 PM**



Third Annual



**PIES IN THE PARK
Sunday, April 12th
2:00 pm
Lake Miona Park**

This is our world famous homemade pie competition! Get your pie baking skills back in action for this gala party! Bring your very best! You don't bake? That's OK, bring a store bought pie instead, it just will not be judged.

Amelia Island Concours d' Elegance



Did you know, that just around the corner, March 5-8, and just upstate from The Villages, the premiere, east coast Concours d' Elegance will take place. Also that KOTR's very own Frank O'Donnell has been invited to show his 1970 Maseratti Ghibli at this prestigious gathering of fine automobiles!

This is a true spectacle for the automobile enthusiast. For a taste of what it is like, simply click on any one of the picture below and you will be transported to the 2025 showing of fine cars. Enjoy!

