

# Futurliner News

GM Futurliner Restoration Project

(See more on our web site: [www.Futurliner.org](http://www.Futurliner.org))

Newsletter #42

April – 2013



## Futurliner #10 at the Gilmore Museum Hickory Corners, Michigan

Continuing the recent tradition of displaying the Futurliner in a museum during the winter months, our vehicle was at the Gilmore Museum as shown in the photo. This not only gives the public a chance to see the project and watch the video, it helps support the on-going restoration maintenance. These winter displays have been done at the AACA Museum in Hershey, PA, the Kalamazoo Air Museum in Kalamazoo, MI, Gilmore this year and hopefully next year at the Buick Gallery in Flint, MI.

This issue of our newsletter continues the semi-annual newsletters now that the vehicle is completed and being displayed during the year. This project has been an all-volunteer effort that started in 1998 with the goal of restoring one of the twelve GM Futurliners, originally built in 1940, to its original and functional condition. The vehicle was donated to the National Automotive and Truck Museum by Joe Bortz in the early 1990's and is still owned by the museum in Auburn, Indiana. The restoration project was led by **Don Mayton** in Zeeland, Michigan with a group of nearly 40 volunteers participating from 1998 to 2007 when it was essentially completed. This devoted group continues to maintain and show this unique part of GM's history.

## 2013 Futurliner Shows

Note that some are Under Consideration, most are Firm

*Check the web site for future updates.*

- June 8, Plainfield Motor Mile show, KOOL Chevrolet, 3780 Plainfield NE in Grand Rapids, (Chuck Snow in charge). The auto dealers on Plainfield Ave sponsor this event with a variety of antique, hot rod and custom cars at each dealership.
- July 13, Zeeland, MI annual car show (Don Mayton in charge). Downtown Zeeland has many small craft type shops and small restaurants. It still resembles a town in the 1950s and is an ideal town setting for an antique car show.
- Aug 24, Grand Rapids, 28<sup>th</sup> Street Metro Cruise, Harvey Cadillac (9AM – 4 PM), we may also have the trailer on display but not confirmed as yet, (Mike Ball charge)
- Aug 30-Sept 2 Labor Day weekend – NATMUS, Auburn IN, (Al Scholten in charge)
- Sept 7 – Robinette's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Car Show, 3142 4 Mile Rd NE, Grand Rapids, MI (Chuck Snow in charge)
- Oct 13, Swiss Valley Ski Area, MI, under consideration only at this time, this is in SW Michigan, (Paul Prinzig in charge)
  
- Winter 2013 - 2014 – We hope to have the Futurliner at the Sloan Museum/Buick Gallery in Flint Michigan during the 2013/2014 winter. The Buick Gallery is part of the Sloan Museum. When you purchase a ticket you can go into the Sloan and the Buick Gallery. The Futurliner will be on display in the Buick Gallery with the other Buick concept cars plus other significant Buick historical cars. More details to follow on the web site.

**You can help!** - If you are planning to attend any of the shows, and if you are inclined to give us a hand, let the "in-charge" person know or let Don or Dean know (addresses at the end). We'd love to have help telling visitors about the project and help selling memorabilia to support the project

## 2014-2016 Futurliner Shows

Preliminary

*Check the web site for future updates.*

- May 22, 2014 – Springfield, MO National Hot Rod Show (Under discussion)
- May 28-31, 2014 - Springfield, MO – Antique Truck Historical Society (ATHS) Show at the Fairgrounds (Chuck Snow in charge)
- 2016 – Buick National Meet, July 2016, Allentown, PA

## What's Happening Lately:

- After our trailer that is used to haul the Futurliner across all of the USA and Canada we needed to replace all the tires on it this spring. STAR trucking managed to get us new tires at a considerable discount and, under volunteer Fred Hoffman's directions, they are now on the trailer.
  
- Our annual maintenance work session on the Futurliner takes place at the end of April. The volunteers have already signed up for the various tasks that must be done to ready the Futurliner for its annual show season. Your support during all these years has allowed us to continue showing the Futurliner across the country.

## Other Futurliners

- Two other Futurliners are being restored. The original #8 is now in Sweden and is one of the vehicles that was most recently in California. The photo on the last page of this newsletter shows it as it was being delivered to Sweden a few years ago. The owner is Nicklas Jonsson who has visited Don and our team in Michigan a few years ago. We receive periodic Swedish magazines with photos of the progress but it is mostly in Swedish.

Moving this non-driveable vehicle from California to Sweden was no small task. They had to purchase a special trailer in Oregon to get it to the Long Beach, CA dock and ship it on the trailer to Sweden. This project has become a huge event for Sweden as you can imagine. The two groups stay in touch and our guys offer help when requested.

- The second Futurliner being restored is #3 that also came out of California. It is now in Salt Lake City for a 2+ year professional restoration. One photo is at the end of the newsletter.

## Futurliner Memorabilia for Sale:

Items available thru NATMUS serve as both fund-raisers for the Futurliner Restoration Project and interesting memorabilia for all of you.

- **DVD** The video, titled "**Miracle at Beaverdam**", is available on either VHS or DVD and can be requested from NATMUS for \$25 (including S&H). This makes a great program for your local car club and any group interested in history and is a neat "people story" in addition to the restoration challenges.
- **Model - The scale model is out of production but the few remaining are available only at our shows (at \$80 each).** This model is 1/64 scale or about 6" long and comes in a clear plastic display case.
- **Historical Book:** If you are interested in the full history of the Parade of Progress and the restoration project, pick up a copy of "**General Motors Parade of Progress & A Futurliner Returns.**" The book is available through the Futurliner web site [www.Futurliner.org](http://www.Futurliner.org) with links to the NATMUS store or by calling NATMUS at (260) 925-9100. The price by mail is \$35 (which includes postage, taxes and handling) or \$29.95 at the NATMUS museum store.
- **Donations** are still required for on-going repairs and maintenance of the Futurliner. Many people have been very generous in their financial support of the project and all donations are deeply appreciated. Donations can be sent to **NATMUS, 1000 Gordon M. Buehrig Place, Auburn, IN 46706** and they are fully tax deductible. *Be sure to mark your check for the Futurliner project.*

### Miscellaneous:

- We get numerous requests to bring the Futurliner to shows around the country. This is no small effort of course with a vehicle this size and which requires a sizable staff to accompany it. Because of the complexity of moving and showing the vehicle, the crew and NATMUS have established the guidelines that were detailed in a recent issue (#31 – Nov 2007). If anyone is interested in requesting the Futurliner for your show in 2011 or later, contact Don Mayton (address below).
- Our project was mentioned in the July 26, 2012 issue of Old Cars Weekly with a note to contact us if anyone has info on the locations of the 3 unknown vehicles.

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## Futurliner News

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# Futurliner News



Futurliner #8 – Sweden



Futurliner #3 – Salt Lake City

