

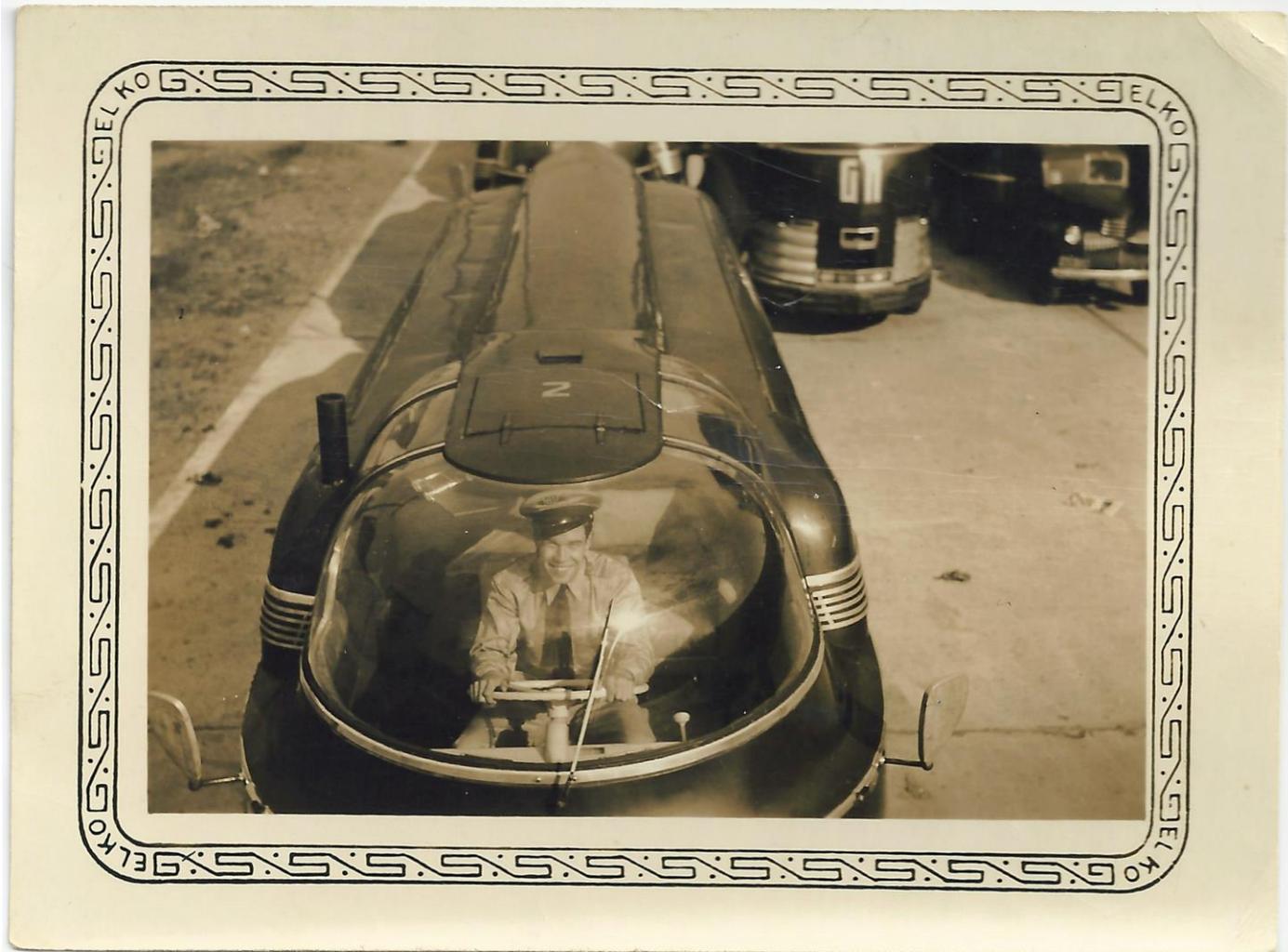
# Futurliner News

GM Futurliner Restoration Project

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

Newsletter #44

April – 2014



## Original 1940 Futurliner

This issue of our newsletter continues the periodic updates to our supporters 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.

In the above photo, you can see why the bubble was replaced in 1952 with a solid top (plus they were air conditioned in 1952). These must have been miserable vehicles to drive in the hot summer sun as Paraders have told us many times.

# 2014 Futurliner Shows - Preliminary

*Check the web site for future updates.*

- Winter 2013 - 2014 – We had the Futurliner at the Sloan Museum/Buick Gallery in Flint Michigan during the 2013/2014 winter from Nov 1, 2013 thru March 2014. The Buick Gallery is part of the Sloan Museum. When you purchase a ticket you can go into the Sloan and the Buick Gallery.
- May 8-10 - AACA National, Auburn IN, This is held at the World Wide Auction area which is just off I-69, exit 126 and on the east side of I-69 and just south of Auburn IN, show managers Al and Carol Scholten
- May 16-17 – Flint, MI, Kettering University, Alumni Reunion (exact location TBD)
- July 4 – Holland MI, Graafschap Christian Reformed Church, 5973 Church St, Fillmore Twp.
- June 11 – Millennium Park, Grand Rapids, MI, show manager is Mike Ball. The location is 1415 Maynard Ave SW, Walker MI ( SW of Grand Rapids near I-196).
- July 12 – Dublin OH (near Columbus), Arthritis Foundation Classic Auto Show, show manager is Don Mayton. (Note that the event runs July 10-12 but the Futurliner will only be on display on Sat. 7/12.)
- July 19-20 – POCI Club (Pontiac), Milford MI, 2025 Milford Rd (Bakers restaurant), show 10AM-2:20PM on 7/19, and the cruise is 3-7 PM on 7/20, show managers Paul and Margo Prinzig.
- Aug. 30 – Sept 1 – Labor Day, NATMUS (National Automotive and Truck Museum of the US), Auburn IN, show manager Don Mayton
- Sept 7 (Sunday) – Sylvania OH, GM Powertrain Auto Show, 10 AM-3PM, the show is located at the Oscar Bunch Family Park, just south of the GM Powertrain plant, 1455 West Alexis, (off 5411 Jackson Rd-use this GPS address), Toledo OH 43613, show manager Don Mayton

**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 “show manager” person know or contact Don or Dean (addresses at the end). We’d love to have help telling visitors about the project, showing them the details of this unique vehicle and help selling memorabilia to support the project

## 2015-2016 Futurliner Shows Preliminary

- Winter 2014/2015 – The Futurliner will be on display at NATMUS in Auburn IN and inside! NATMUS now has the capability to drive the vehicle into the museum.
- July 2016 – Buick Club of America (BCA) National Meet, Allentown, PA, (under consideration), D. Mayton

## What’s Happening Lately and Other Futurliners



- Brad Boyajian in California has taken one of his Futurliners that was beyond restoration and converted it to a car hauler. It looks like an interesting project as you can see in the photo. The rear section opens up (horizontally) to reveal the loading ramps and the whole front cab tilts forward to reveal the engine. Brad was a big help to our project when it started in 1998 with parts from other vehicles.
- A new DVD is complete. Through the 4 year efforts of Futurliner Volunteer **Don Bratt**, a new video will soon be available about the Futurliner - "**FROM A – Z & SEA – TO – SEA**". It describes the cross-county adventures of resurrected Futurliner No. 10 as it travels to a variety of local shows and even the big show at Pebble Beach. Come along as Futurliner #10 visits the rich, famous, and obscure car shows of America. This DVD shows the Futurliner visiting the east to west shores, the north and the south, visiting large and small towns and their car shows. You will enjoy this Americana adventure.
 

The new video is 1 hours 43 minutes but has a detailed play list of the 19 distinct segments with the time on the DVD for each segment so you can locate specific areas or use it for club meetings as you wish,
- NATMUS has taken the first step in revising their building to move the Futurliner inside. A large door has been purchased and they hope to have it installed by the end of this year.
- The "crew" that restored the Futurliner from 1998 thru 2007 (and continues to maintain and show it), has so enjoyed the camaraderie of working together 1 day each week that they have helped finish Don's 1929 Buick (Model 55X) and are working with him on a 1956 Buick Model 56X – a one-off GM Design Staff car with many unique features.

## 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).**
- **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 issue #31 – Nov 2007. If anyone is interested in requesting the Futurliner for your show in 2011 or later, contact Don Mayton (address below).
- Note Don's new e-mail address below.

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# Futurliner News

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GM Caravan of Progress – 1936 Streamliner (the predecessor of the 1940 Futurliners)