

# Futurliner News

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

Newsletter #45

December – 2014



## GM Powertrain Show – Sylvania, OH - 9/8/14

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.

## 2015 Futurliner Shows Preliminary

*Check the web site for future updates.*

- Jan. 23 to Feb 1 - Washington DC Auto show, Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place. Don Mayton Mgr.
- May – Washington, DC area – A possible Futurliner display is under consideration for early May. We will advise if and when it is finalized.
- June 5, 2015 Sunday – Ault Park, Cincinnati, Ohio, – Ed DeVries Mgr
- June 17, through June 19 – GM Tech Center, Warren, Michigan
- June 28 – Art of the Car Concours, Kansas City, MO, 4415 Warwick Blvd at the Art Institute, Chuck Snow Mgr
- August 10, Saturday – Clarksville, MI, downtown, 12 noon to 5 PM, Art Meidema & Connie DeJong
- August 22, Saturday – Grand Rapids 28th Street cruise, Harvey Cadillac, Al Scholten Mgr, Del Carpenter will be bringing the display trailer.

- August 14 & 15 – Bowling Green, Kentucky, 60th anniversary of the 1955 Chevrolet, Don Mayton / Chuck Snow Mgrs.
- Sept 7 - Labor Day show in Auburn, IN at NATMUS. Al Scholten Mgr
- Sept 11 - Trendway Corp show in Holland, Michigan, 13467 Quincy St and 136<sup>th</sup> Ave, east of #31 & north of Holland, 4 PM to dark, Al Scholten Mgr

## • 2016 Futurliner Shows

### • Very Preliminary

- **Check the web site for future updates.**

- June 2016 – Back to the 50's – Minnesota, (under consideration)
- July 15 – Iola WI
- July 21-23 - 2016 – Buick Club of America (BCA) National Meet, Allentown, PA, D. Mayton Mgr (under consideration)

**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” 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. The Washington DC show will be 10 days so help is certainly needed.

## What’s Happening Lately

- The Futurliner is a candidate for selection by the HVA as one of the very important vehicles in the history of the automobile and transportation. This would put the GM Futurliner on track to be listed on The National Historic Vehicle Register – a significant achievement. The Futurliner was taken to Washington DC in early Nov (to get ahead of any bad weather) and to prepare it for the Jan 23-Feb 1 Auto Show. It is planned to be stored in DC thru May 2015. See more info about the HVA below.
- NATMUS now has the capability of displaying the Futurliner inside. A new door has been installed and a location set aside. This winter though it is in Washington DC as described above.
- We learned recently that we have lost two Paraders – Tony Gagliardi (age 91 from Michigan) and Tom VanVoorhis (age 89 also in Michigan). Thanks to Vic Garske for letting us know.

## HVA - Historic Vehicle Association

<http://www.historicvehicle.org/HVA/About-HVA>

The Historic Vehicle Association’s mission is to preserve our national automotive heritage and their goals dovetail nicely with the Futurliner volunteer goals of preserving and sharing a key part of history.

### **From the HVA web site:**

*“The mission of the Historic Vehicle Association (HVA) is to promote the cultural and historical significance of the automobile and protect the future of our automotive past. The organization aims to achieve this mission by:*

1. Documenting and recognizing historically important vehicles in a National Historic Vehicle Register.
2. Establishing and sharing best practice guidelines to ensure that authentic examples of our automotive past will be available for future generations.
3. Promoting the historical and cultural significance of the automobile through media and events.

4. Protecting the future of our automotive past through affiliations with museums and academic institutions, educational programs, and support of legislative action.

The HVA is the world's largest historic vehicle owners' organization with over 375,000 members. The HVA was founded in 2009 through the philanthropic support of Hagerty and became the designated North American representative of the international federation of historic vehicle organizations."

## Futurliner Memorabilia & Future Show Requests

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.
- **New DVD** - A new DVD is available from NATMUS for \$25 + S/H through the 4 year efforts of Futurliner Volunteer **Don Bratt**. The DVD (entitled "**FROM A – Z & SEA – TO – SEA**") describes the cross-county adventures of our restored Futurliner No. 10 as it travels to a variety of local shows and even the big show at Pebble Beach. This DVD shows the Futurliner visiting crisscrossing the country visiting large and small towns and their car shows.  
The new video is 1 hours 43 minutes but has a detailed play list of the 19 distinct segments on the DVD so you can locate specific areas or use it for club meetings as you wish,
- **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. Address is 1000 Gordon M Buehnig Pl, Auburn, IN 46706.
- **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 restoration project.
- **Future show requests** - 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).

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