

Futurliner News

GM Futurliner Restoration Project

(See more on our web site: www.Futurliner.org)

Newsletter #38

October – 2010



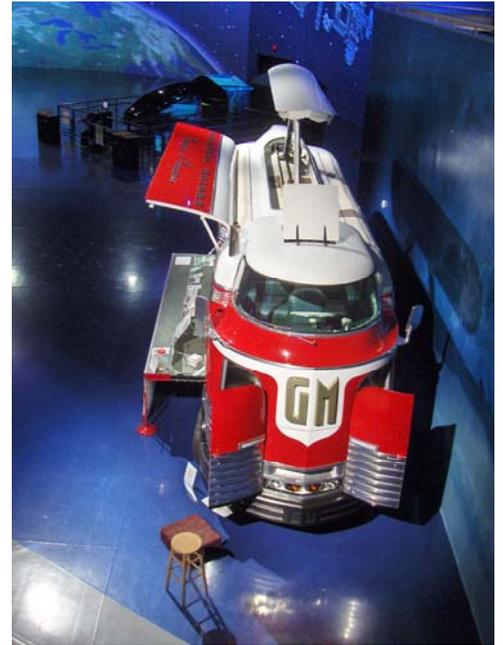
Futurliner Display at Rhinebeck, NY

This 38th issue of our newsletter continues the semi-annual newsletters now that the vehicle is completed and on the summer show circuit. 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 volunteer **Don Mayton** in Zeeland, Michigan with a group of nearly 40 volunteers participating.

2010 Futurliner Shows Completed

- Jan thru April – Futurliner was on display at the AACA Museum in Hershey, Pennsylvania
- April 30, May 1, 2 Hudson River Valley Antique Auto 40th Annual Swap meet and Car Show
 - Rhinebeck, New York – Dutchess County Fairgrounds, 6550 Spring Brook Ave
- May 21-23 Chautauqua County Fairgrounds (Greco Ln. and Central Ave)
 - Dunkirk NY – Exit 59 off NY Thruway
- June 18-20 "Back to the 50's"
 - St. Paul Minnesota – Minnesota State Fairgrounds
- July 9-11
 - Iola Wisconsin –
- Aug. 27-28
 - Grand Rapids Michigan – 28th Street Metro Cruise
 - This was Grand Rapids version of the big Detroit Woodward Cruise and they estimated that there were 300,000 spectators and participants. One interesting visitor was our friend Mel Boonstra who lives in Zeeland and had his first trip into the Futurliner cockpit – at age 94!

- Sept 19 Glidden Tour in Holland Michigan
 - Our volunteer Al Scholten managed to fix about 15 cars ranging from a 1909 Studebaker to a 1940 Buick for tour members.
 - Note also our volunteer John Wissink on his “Moxie Mobile” that he built on a Buick chassis. He has total control sitting up there in the saddle!
- **ADDED SHOW** – Sept 24-25. Somerset KY had a big cruise in and this year is their 75th anniversary.
- **NEW** - Kalamazoo Air Zoo – Our Futurliner will be on display during the fall/winter 2010-2011 in the Kalamazoo, Michigan museum. This is an airplane museum with a lot of interactive displays for children and adults. It has a movie theater with a digital movie of WWII actual air raids where only one man of a WWII bomber ended up coming home from the war. They also have a Blackbird in the museum and several WWII automobiles and many airplanes. There is a display of the same vintage jet engine that was in one of the Futurliners. The museum has placed the Futurliner in a very prominent place so it will get lots of visibility all winter long and is open all year. Check out their web site – www.airzoo.org/. It is located just south of the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek airport and south of I-94, 6151 Portage Rd, Portage, MI 48002, 866-524-7966.



2011-2012 Futurliner Shows Status

Check the web site for future updates and or changes.

- Jan thru April 2011 – see note above on the Kalamazoo Air Museum.
- May 19-21, 2011 – South Bend, Indiana, Antique Historical Truck Society (ATHS) Truck show at the County Fairgrounds
 - Fred Hoffman in charge
- Aug 5-7, 2011 – Norwalk, OH Pontiac National's 20th Anniversary – *Under consideration*
 - Paul Prinzing in charge
- Aug. 25-28, 2011 - Charlotte NC “AutoFair” – *Under consideration*
 - Al Scholten in charge
- Nov 6, 2011 – Hilton Head (SC) Concours d'Elegance & Motoring Festival – *under consideration*
 - Al Scholten in charge
- March 12, 2012 – Cleveland, Ohio – Autorama

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 (address at the end) know. We'd love to have help telling visitors about the project and help selling memorabilia to support the project.

What's Happening Lately

- The crew gets back together each spring and summer for annual maintenance, touch-ups and upgrades. The heavy show schedule requires continued work on their part to keep the vehicle in tip top condition but it is well worth the joy it brings to visitors (and to the crew). A key activity is to plan shows for the next 2 years to continue the exposure and coordinate travel requirements. Each meeting gets 20-25 volunteer out showing their continued commitment.
- This year, problems of the trailer latching mechanism have been corrected by volunteers Ed & Ryan DeVries and John Wissink.
- This winter, the trailer tires need a careful inspection with all the travel it has done since 2006. Hopefully, the 8 tires will last a bit longer since they are expensive to replace.

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). **Model** - A scale model is available for \$45 plus \$10 S/H. It 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 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.
- **Clothing and Posters** - Posters, polo and "T" shirts and hats are available thru NATMUS. Prices and photos are on the web site - (<http://www.futurliner.com/poster.htm>)
- **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.

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 this complexity, 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).
- Futurliner for sale – **Bob Valdez** has his restored vehicle for sale in Calif. Bob has converted the inside into an art deco motor home with a modern engine and drivetrain. This is vehicle #9 of the original 12 built by GM in 1940 and 1 of only 4 that are on the road. The asking price is \$975,000. Bob has sent us 22 photos so if you are interested, I can send them on or Bob can. You can contact him at 818-709-7572.



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April 2010 - Rhinebeck, NY Show



June 2010 Work Session