

Futurliner News

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

Newsletter #39

April - 2011



Our Futurliner #10 in 1998

(And the first 5 volunteers – looks like all it started with 2 brooms)

This 39th 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 volunteer **Don Mayton** in Zeeland, Michigan with a group of nearly 40 volunteers participating.

The volunteers above in 1998 are (l-r): Wes Myrick, Del Carpenter, Ed DeVries, Don Mayton and Wayne Jackson. This group soon grew to over 35 members in Michigan alone.

2011-2012 Futurliner Shows Status

Check the web site for future updates.

There are a number of changes from the early schedule in our Oct 2010 newsletter so read carefully.

- **Jan thru March 2011**
 - **Kalamazoo Air Zoo** – Our Futurliner has been on display during the fall and winter 2010-2011 in the Kalamazoo, Michigan museum. This is an airplane museum with a lot of interactive displays for children and adults. There is a display of the same vintage jet engine that was in one of the Futurliners. The Futurliner was in a very prominent location in the museum and received a lot of visibility all winter long. And again, our volunteers “manned” it on Saturdays all winter. 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.

- **May 12-15, 2011**
 - **Auburn Indiana**, R&M auction where one of Brad Boyajian's unrestored Futurliners will be auctioned off. Joe Bortz is coordinating this event with Don Mayton.
 - One of the highlights of the auction is one of Brad Boyajian's mostly original Futurliners. The display will include our vehicle.
- **May 26-28, 2011**
 - **South Bend, Indiana**, National Truck Antique Historical Society (ATHS) Truck show at the County Fairgrounds – Fred Hoffman in charge
- **June 9, 2011**
 - **Muskegon, MI**, Hot Rod Show, 10 AM – 8 PM, Paul Prinzig in charge
 - We will be on display at the Lakeshore Museum Center at W. Clay and 4th St. in downtown Muskegon and may include our display trailer.
- **Aug 5-7, 2011**
 - **Norwalk, OH** Pontiac National's 20th Anniversary, Paul Prinzing in charge
 - The Futurliner will be on display 12 to 5 PM on Fri., 8AM to 6 PM on Sat and Sunday 8 AM to 3 PM.
 - 1300 Ohio 18, Norwalk, OH
 - See also www.pontiacnationals.com
- **Aug. 26-27, 2011**
 - **Grand Rapids** Metro Cruise, Ron Mortensen in charge
 - This event commemorates West Michigan's 100-year old love affair with the automobile, and features "15 miles of cool cars" on famed 28th Street through the communities of Grandville - Wyoming - Grand Rapids - Kentwood and Cascade Twp. The 28th Street Metro Cruise® is presented and trademarked by the Wyoming Kentwood Area Chamber of Commerce and began in 2005. The Wyoming Kentwood Area Chamber of Commerce began the event to help bring business back to the 28th Street business corridor when M-6 expressway opened on the south end of Grand Rapids. The cruise has been held every August since 2005.
 - The Futurliner will be at Harvey Cadillac/Lexus dealership, 2600 28th St SE. On Friday, it will be paraded up and down 28th street on the trailer. On Sat, there will be a continuous "parade" of unique cars up and down 28th St. and the Futurliner will be on display at the dealership.
 - This also will be a rare showing of our Futurliner display "trailer" which has a working original engine, transmission, driveshaft and generator that was originally in the back of 6 of the 12 Futurliners.
- **Sept 16-18, 2011**
 - **Dayton Ohio** Concours d'Elegance, Chuck Snow in charge
 - Show location is Carillon Park, 1000 Carillon Blvd, Dayton, Ohio 45409
 - It begins with a preview party Saturday 9/17/11 from 4:00 PM to 11:00 PM and the Sunday show is 10 AM to 4 PM.
 - Website is <http://www.daytonconcours.com/dates.html>
- **March 12, 2012**
 - **Cleveland, Ohio** – Autorama (*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 "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.

What's Happening Lately:

- The Futurliner was moved back to Grand Rapids in March for annual maintenance and prep for the summer show season.
- We are also considering several museums for the winter of 2011/2012. Having the Futurliner on display at the ACAA and the Air Zoo has proven to be very valuable to both the museums and the project. Sue beats having it sit in a storage unit all winter.
- Rennie Goyette sent 4 interesting photos from the early 50's and they are posted on the web site.

History:

- Joe Bortz sent us the photo showing how the Parade of Progress tent was set up. Note the lack on internal supports – a very unique feature in the 50's. It looks small here but compare it with the guys setting it up.



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.
- **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).
- We have learned recently that we have lost two former Paraders – Doug Dean of Lansing, Michigan died in October and John Conroy of Ohio in January.

Don M. Mayton

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2005 Show at Gilmore's Museum in Hickory Corners, MI