

# Futurliner News

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

Newsletter #34

April 2009



## Futurliner Leaving Michigan For Florida Back In The Spring of 2006

This 34th 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 starting 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 above photo comes out of the archives to show you the specially designed "low-boy" trailer that the project had to purchase to allow us to take the vehicle to various shows around the country.

### 2009-2010 Show Plans (check the web site for updates, specific locations and other details)

- May 29 – NATMUS Fund raiser in Auburn, Indiana, Fri evening event.
- June 10 – Grand Rapids, MI, (Wed.) Millennium Park, AACA event.
- June 19-21, "Motor Muster" at the Greenfield Village in Dearborn, MI,
- July 25 – Cedar Springs Museum, MI – 10 AM – 2 PM  
(Located north of Grand Rapids, MI along U.S. 131)
- Aug 14-15 - Woodward Dream Cruise, Detroit, MI
- Aug 28-29 - Grand Rapids Metro Cruise, Rogers Mall
- Sept. 26 & 27 – Martinsburg, WV at the Fair Grounds
- Oct. 1- 4 – Carlisle, PA – Located at the big car show and swap meet field (OK)

- Oct. 7-10 – Hershey, PA AACA show at Hershey Park (OK)
- Oct 11 thru Spring 2010 – To be displayed at the AACA Museum, Hershey, PA (OK)
- 2010 - There is discussion with several groups in New York State about bringing the Futurliner to upstate NY. Nothing is definite as yet though. (u/c)

### What's Happening Lately:

- The crew gets back together each April for the 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).
- NATMUS building status – NATMUS has plans to build a new building on the north side of the existing museum building to house and display the Futurliner. Funds are being raised for this project. The 30' wide front of the building will be glass so people can see the vehicle from the street and parking lot (near also the ACD Museum next door). And the new building will be 60' long for the 33' long Futurliner so should be a great display area. A dinner on May 29<sup>th</sup> is a fund raiser for the project.
- NATMUS had a major flood this spring with 13" of water in the lower levels where cars, literature and information is stored.
- Don is collecting info on GM Concept cars from the 1930's thru the 1950's. We'd like to add photos and info on the web site to augment the Futurliner history. If you have info and/or photos we can use, please send them to Don (address below).
- One of Brad Boyajian's vehicles in now is Sweden. It was purchased by Nicklas Jonsson in Mora, Sweden and was delivered to him last year from California. The Futurliner #8 has been a big hit in Sweden with articles in 25 different magazines and numerous magazines.



### AACA Recognition:

At the Annual AACA meeting in February, the project team was awarded this plaque in "recognition of outstanding achievement in the preservation of the automotive industry". Ron and Elaine Elzinga attended the meeting and accepted the award on behalf of all the volunteers and support organizations that made it possible – a 7 year project that started in 1998 by a small crew with a vision.

Don added: "I would like to congratulate the Futurliner Volunteers, the support of the AACA organization as well as all the other car clubs, businesses that helped, those that donated money and services as well as the community. We also want to thank those organizations that hosted the Futurliner to allow the public to once again see a vehicle, the Futurliner, that was almost lost to history."



### Financial status - Poster, Hats, "T" Shirts & Video:

- Items available thru NATMUS serve as both fund-raisers for the Futurliner Restoration Project and interesting memorabilia for all of you. The video, titled "**Miracle at Beavertown**", is available on either VHS or DVD and can be requested from NATMUS for \$25 (including S&H).
- If you are interested in the full history of the Parade of Progress and the restoration project here, pick up a copy of "**General Motors Parade of Progress & A Futurliner Returns.**" With 232 glossy 8 1/2 x 11 pages (24 in color) and 380 pictures, the book tells two big stories: 1) the story of the General Motors Parade of Progress from 1933 to 1956 and 2) the story of the restoration of Futurliner #10 in Beavertown, Michigan by a group of highly motivated volunteers referred to as The Restoration Team.

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. Proceeds go towards the preservation, show expenses and the ongoing exhibit of Futurliner #10.

- A scale model is available for \$40 plus \$10 S/H. It is 1/64 scale or about 6" long and comes in a clear plastic display case.
- 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 requesting the Futurliner for your show in 2009 or 2010, contact Don Mayton (address below)

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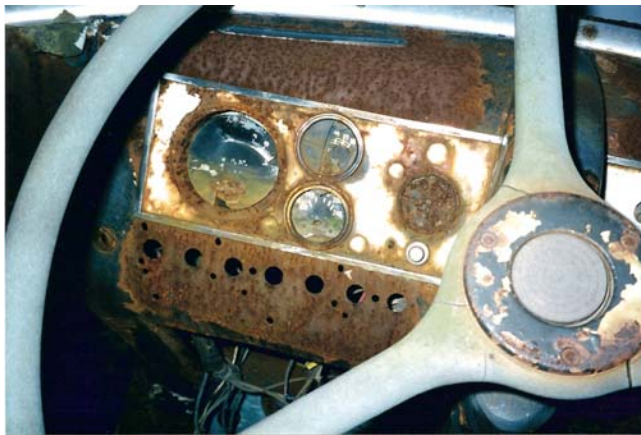
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Address corrections requested

# ***Futurliner News***



**Before Restoration**



**After Restoration**

## ***Futurliner Dash Restoration***