

Western Region Lincoln and Continental Owners Club Publication Volume 41 No 1, January, 2012



John Rutenberg's low mileage all original 1980 Continental Mark VI Bill Blass Series at the 2011 Early Ford V-8 Ford Picnic in Anaheim, California.

# John Rutenberg's 1980 Bill Blass Mark VI

John Rutenberg, Palm Springs, California, entered a 1980 Mark VI Bill Blass at the Early Ford V-8 Picnic in Anaheim in September. He bought the car in Biloxi, Mississippi, finding it through the Old Car Trader. The car looks brand new and has only 45,000 There are probably only 10 miles. 1980 Bill Blass Marks left and John had been looking for one for 10 years. He guesses that there were only about 200 made originally. He has had this car for less than two years. He has only had to replace the aftermarket exhaust system and the original tires with new steel belted radials.

He believeves that this car is the finest 1980 Bill Blass Mark VI in existence. It is certainly the finest example of a 1980 model ever shown at a LCOC event.

1976 was the last year of the Continental Mark IV and the first year of the Designer Series which included the Bill Blass, Cartier, Givenchy, and Pucci. Three of the rare 1976 Bill Blass models were entered the 2010 Mid-America National Meet in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The 1976 Bill Blass had a metallic blue body with a cream Normande grain half vinyl roof, cream and gold paint/tape stripes, and either cream or dark blue body side moldings. Twin comfort seats were either blue majestic cloth or blue leather with cream accent straps and buttons. The Bill Blass script was carried in the oval opera windows. If you can imagine it, the Bill Blass was a \$1,500 to \$2,000 option on a car that already cost over \$10,000.

The 1977 Mark V was a complete redesign on the same 120.4 inch wheelbase as the Mark IV but weighed 400 pounds less. This year the Bill Blass had midnight blue paint and a chamois colored Landau vinyl roof with a full vinyl roof optional. The leather or velour interior matched the roof in color. Body side moldings were chamois or midnight blue. There were dual chamois paint stripes on the body sides and decklid and there were Bill Blass insignas on the front fenders. Once again the Bill Blass signature appeared in the opera windows.

The 1978 Bill Blass Mark V was offered in Midnight Cordovan with a Valino grain deep padded Landau roof in light champagne. The model was also available with a full vinyl roof. The light champagne was carried on the body side moldings and in the **(Continued on Page 4)** 



## Board of Managers & Officers LCOC Western Region

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# Director's message

Dear fellow Western Region Members:

Happy New Year to all of you out in the Land of Lincolns (no, not Illinois)!

2012 should be one of those special years for those of us in the Western Region with many entertaining gatherings planned.

As has been tradition, we start off with the Kickoff Banquet on February 11th at the famous Sportsmen's Lodge.



This is a great opportunity to get out from under the Lincoln, get out of your coveralls, and attend a great semi-formal event. You can even leave the Lincoln at home and nobody will be any the wiser. You can still make reservations for the banquet by contacting hosts Bruce and Helen Hutchinson who have done such a bang-up job as banquet wranglers for a number of years now. Northern California and Nevada Members: I know it's a long trek to SoCal, but if you really, really, want to chat and bend elbows with your fellow Western Region comrades you won't find a more hospitable setting. Oh, and speaking of comrades, how about those neat mid-70's Lincoln limos that the North Koreans have? I wondered where those all went.

Yet more one-day and week-end events are in the planning stages, but there's always room for another, so if you have an idea for a Lincoln event, volunteers are always in demand to stage new and different events for Lincoln lovers to attend.

The "Super Bowl" of Lincoln festivities this year will be the Western Nationals that the Region will be hosting in Concord in September. I was re-reading Meet Chairperson Jeremy Sanford's draft schedule for this important event, and it appears that we're in for lots of Northern California charm and hospitality. Want to be a part of the action even more? It's not too early to volunteer to give Jeremy a hand with the festivities. I've found that working with the "crews" who make these things happen is as much fun as the function itself. So give Jeremy a call if you'd like to lend a hand.

Oh, did I mention "Super Bowl"? How about Bill Ford's Detroit Lions this season!?

Have a Happy 2012!

Continentally yours, Marv

The Continental Confab is published and mailed every six weeks. Dates are published annually. The deadline for submitting articles and ads is 20 days prior to the planned mailing date. All articles and ads should be submitted in writing to: 1780 Iris Way, Escondido, CA or e-mail t,howley@cox.net.

## **Coming Events**

Valentine's Kick-Off Banquet Sportsmen's Lodge, Studio City February 11

Getty Villa, Malibu March 24

Fabulous Fords Forever Knott's Berry Farm Buena Park April 22

Marin BBQ at Mike Cunninghan's Estate 20 Ayala Ct, San Rafael April 28

Annual Wine Country Picnic Winery to be announced July 28

Fun Ford Sunday Vallejo September 9

WESTERN NATIONAL MEET Concord, California September 26-30

Visit us on the World Wide Web Region: www.<u>LCOC Western.org</u> National: <u>www.lcoc.org</u> 2012 Valentine's Klok- Off Banquet Baok to The Sportsmen's Lodge! Saturday, February 11, 🔺 2012 6:30 p.m.

> See complete details on this event at the very end of your e-mailing after the classified advertising section, or if you receive the Confab by regular mail see the enclosed flyer.

> A Meeting of the Board of Managers of the Western Region will take place prior to the dinner at approximately 2:00 pm.

## Welcome New members to the Western Region

Wayne and Marty Warner of Fallbrook. Several Lincolns which include three 1963 convertibles, a 1963 hardtop, 1970 Mark III, 1972 Mark IV and a 1979 Mark V Collectors Series. E-mail: martyandwayne@yahoo.com

Joe Quader and Johnny Follin of Long Beach. They have two Lincolns: a 1962 hardtop and a 1997 Town Car - Cartier. E-mail: joeyQ80@gmail.com

Allan Clarak and Susan Lyons of Chowchilla. They have four Lincolns, a1956 Mark II, 1948 Lincoln Continental, 1960 Premiere, 1971 Lincoln Continental with glass top.

Vince and Laura Scully of Long Beach have a '31 Lincoln Town Car. E-mail: vincentscully@verizon.net

John and Regina Scully of Mill Valley have a '32 Murphy Sport Phaeton. E-mail: is john.scully@spopartners.com

Western Region dues are \$30 a year; add \$10 for Western Region membership outside the U.S. (Canada or Mexico). All dues are payable in U.S. currency to Western Region Membership Chairman, 9318 Chaparral Road, Canoga Park, California 91304-1206. Membership in the Western Region of LCOC is open to all parties interested in Lincoln Continental automobiles. Ownership of a Lincoln automobile is not necessary to join LCOC. You must, however, be or become a member of the National LCOC to be eligible to join the Western Region. Dues are in addition to Region dues. The Continental Confab is the official publication of the Western Region LCOC. It is distributed by First Class Mail to Western Region Members. Material contained in the Confab is intended to be as factual as possible, but neither the Western Region nor the editors assume any responsibility for the correctness of the material or its sources. Nothing in the Confab will be reproduced without the written permission of the editors and the Western Region Board of Managers. Car-related marketplace ads are free to members, except those conducting a commercial enterprise. Ads will run for three issues. Advertisers must contact editors to extend or modify ads. Non-member ads are \$10 per issue, with a three issue minimum. We request you notify editors when vehicle or parts are sold. All free ads are subject to editing and space availability. The deadline for submission of articles or ads is the 20th of the month prior to the issue requested. All article contributions may be submitted in writing to: Confab, 1780 Iris Way, Escondido, CA 92027.

## (1980 Bill Blass Mark VI Continued)

dual pinstripes. The interior was either cordovan ultra velour cloth or cordovan vinyl and leather.

The 1979 Bill Blass had the most unique paint scheme of the Mark V series. The hood, decklid, and upper sides were white. The lower body sides and decklid contour were in midnight blue. The carriage roof was white with a bright dicast rear pillar ornament. If the optional full vinyl roof was ordered the Bill Blass name was in the opera windows. The interior was either white leather with midnight blue accents or all midnight blue. Thee were dark blue side moldings and dual gold paint stripes on the body sides and decklid. There were color keved cast aluminum wheels. The 1979 Bill Blass carried a nautical theme which was the Bill Blass theme of the time. Small anchors were incorporated into the exterior accent striping and interior accents within the Bill Blass Back to Back "B" design theme.

The 1980 Mark VI. John Rutenberg's car, was the first downsized Mark. In the Bill Blass the color scheme was very similar to 1979 but the car was all new. The carriage roof was white, the hood and top of the decklid were white, the body sides and decklid contour were dark blue. The interior was either all white, as is Rutenberg's car, or all blue. This was the last year of the white and blue nautical theme.

The 1981 Bill Blass Mark VI had dark blue metallic uppers with body sides in light fawn metallic. 1982 brought extreme color change. For the first time there were three Bill Blass color combinations. First, there was a white carriage roof and white uppers with a red midsection and white lowers. Then, there was a diamond grain white carriage roof over a stark white body. Finally, there was a black carriage roof, black uppers and lowers, and a red midsection. Brad Luse in New York State has one of these rare Bill Blass models. 1983 brought more color changes. There were either black uppers and lowers with french vanilla body sides or french vanilla



uppers and lowers with black body sides. The late Doug Mattix had one of these cars with the french vanilla body sides.

1984 brought an all new and even more downsized Mark VII with extreme aerodynamics and air suspension. Now only the Bill Blass remained with the Versace added in the Mark series. The 1984 Bill Blass was painted Goldenrod Glamour and Harvest Wheat with cream and dark green stripes. The interior was gold and there were Bill Blass touches all over the car. Ed Harants in Ohio has owned a 1984 Bill Blass Mark VII since new. Bill Schmidt in Florida has a 1984 Bill Blass with a diesel engine which he has owned since new.

The 1985 Bill Blass Mark VII came in Silver Sand and Burnshed Pewter. We do not have information on the color scheme on the 1986 or 1987 models. The 1988 Bill Blass Mark VII was painted light metallic blue with a dark blue interior. One of these still in the hands of the original owner was entered at the 2009 Eastern National Meet in Lancaster, Pennsylania. Tim Howley also owns a 1988 Bill Blass Mark VII which he bought several years ago in Oakland. A 1989 Bill Blass Mark VII was entered by Gordon Taylor at the 2011 Eastern National Meet in Laconia, New York. This car is a wine red with a gray interior. The Bill Blass was continued the end of the Mark VII series but we have no information on color schemes.

## The Western Region is now accepting display advertising in *The Confab*.

Business card size ads are \$50 for six issues or a full year. Double business card size ads are \$75 for six issues or a full year. Send your checks payable to LCOC Western Region to Bob Reed at 7026 Deering Avenue, Canoga Park, CA 91303 Send your ads to *The Confab* at 1780 Iris Way, Escondido, CA or e-mail them to: t.howley@cox.net



Get Ready For the Getty Villa!

Our trip to the Getty Villa in Malibu is scheduled for March 24. We'll meet there at 10:30 am, and have lunch around 11:30 or 12:00.

The Getty Villa is modeled after a first-century Roman country house, the Villa dei Papiri in Herculaneum, Italy. It houses the J. Paul Getty Museum's collection of approximately 44,000 Greek, Roman, and Etruscan antiquities. Over 1,200 works are on view in 23 galleries devoted to the permanent collection,

with five additional galleries for changing exhibitions. With objects dating from 6,500 B.C. to A.D. 400, the collection contains monumental sculptures as well as artifacts of everyday life.

Gardens are integral to the setting of the Getty Villa, as they were in the ancient Roman home. Open spaces around the site feature bronze sculptures, fountains, and lush plantings of trees, herbs, and flowers used by the Romans.

Renovation of the Villa began in 2000 and was completed in 2006 at a cost of 275 million dollars.

So if you haven't been in a while you're in for a real treat.

Entry to the museum is free, but parking is \$15. Lunch will be around \$10-\$15.

I'll be sending out more details about this event as the time nears. Also, there will be more details in the next *Confab.* For more information and a short video about the Getty Villa, go to http://www.getty.edu/visit/

Guided tours of the grounds and interior are available, but space is limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible to Jim Ayres at so.cal.events@lcocwestern.org, or call 949-689-8471. *Jim Ayres* 



Some of the Board Managers at the Flamingo Hotel in Santa Rosa. The next Board Meeting will be at the Sportsmen's Lodge. (Jim Ayres photo.)

# November, 2011 Region Board Meeting Highlights

The Fall, 2011 Board Meeting was held Saturday Nobember 12 at the Flamingo Hotel in Santa Rosa, California. Ten Officers and Board members were in attendance.

Under Membership, Mike Cunningham reported that with a loss of six members there are now 222 members in the Western Region. The renewal process involves sending an email to those who receive *Confab* electronically. After two emails, a hard copy is sent that includes a Lincoln Foundation pamphlet. Those who receive *Confab* by mail receive the renewal notices by mail.

On the National LCOC front, Bruce Hutchinson reports that the next National LCOC Bsoard Meeting will be in Orlando, Florida January 26-28.

Region Director Marv Wendt reported that monthly club expenses are approximately \$550 with most of this going to produce and distribute the *Confab.*- The Morro Bay Meet costs were \$795.23 (\$25 per attendee). Payment for awards, dash plaques, and the hospitality suite were included in this figure. This expense is well worth the exposure of the club to potential new members. Membership and event packets were sent to all National LCOC members in California who are not Western Region members and to Nevada members of LCOC-National now that Nevada is part of the Western Region. This effort cost of \$282.77, but the procurement of at least 10 new members to offset this cost.

The start-up cost for the club's new window flag project and a potential camp shirt project will be between \$300 and \$400. To date, the club has received \$270 from flag sales, and now that the project marketing has started, the region has the

potential to earn up to \$1,000 from the initial production run of 100 flags. An ad will appear in one *Comments* issue per year and on the National and Western Region websites.

The board discussed ways to recognize club members who have passed away. The idea of a \$100 brick at the new Lincoln museum was favorably received, although the criteria and process for making this happen still needs to be developed. Bruce Hutchinson will check with National to see what is being done in other regions before we finalize our process.

Dennis and Sandra Kay were asked to report on the five car clubs with which they participate to help us get a sense of strengths and opportunities that our club offers. The board discussed working more closely with other Lincoln clubs, such as the Zephyr and the LS clubs, and with other clubs, such as the Cadillac-LaSalle Club. Marv will do some follow-up on this.

Problems with overly strict car judging at the last Western Regional Meet were discussed, and the board unanimously authorized Bruce Hutchinson to bring this subject up for discussion at the next National Board Meeting.

The Western National Meet will be held in in Concord, California September 26-30, 2012. The Concord Hilton is confirmed as the meet site with \$99 room rates. A driving tour to the famous Blackhawk Collection is planned, and proximity to the sites of San Francisco and the Napa Valley wine region will give attendees great opportunities for getting



away for fun and adventure during the week of the meet. Meet Chair Jeremy Sanford has an outstanding event flyer that provides all of the key details. Building on feedback from our past meets, the idea of setting a reduced fee for early registration was discussed.

Advertising will start in Comments and Confab, and we will send information to the other LCOC regions and to key auto magazines that publish show promotions. We will pursue getting Lincoln Division and dealership support for this event in addition to the support we usually get from our classic Lincoln parts and service providers. Helen Hutchinson encouraged Jeremy to ensure that there was something of interest in the "goody bag" for the women who attend the meet. Jeremy will set up a separate bank account for this event and link it to an option for credit card payments. Mike Cunningham volunteered to join Jeremy and John Woodward on the initial meet committee.

2012 Northern and Southern Club Activities are covered elsewhere in this They will begin with the tradiissue. tional new year kick-off dinner February 11 at the Sportsman's Lodge in Studio City. This event will be combined with a Winter Board Meeting. A Spring/ Summer Board Meeting - to be confirmed /tied to a final club event schedule. A Western National Meet Board Meeting will be scheduled during September 26 through 30 Western National Meet. A November Region Board Meeting date and location to be determined.

The plan and economics of the flag project were discussed as part of the Director's update. The shirt project was discussed. The board concluded that \$70 per shirt is too expensive. Marv agreed to work on this further with Carol and Hal. Marv will also check into the current *Comments* policy for advertising club projects.

# Ride High with LCOC Flags on Your Lincoln

Now available, durable, satin car flag with LCOC logo screen printed on both sides. Easily attaches to Lincolns with frameless side glass (1970 and newer). \$30.00 for a set of two.



All prices include shipping. Make checks payable to Western Region LCOC and mail to: Baron Night, P.O. Box 5141, Anaheim, CA 92814 For questions about merchandise, e-mail Baron Night at nitrovb@netzero.net.

*Confab* distribution will remain as it is currently executed (20-30% still distributed in hard copy form). Costs were discussed but no changes were recommended. Mike Cunningham will send out the new Region Directory in the June/July time period.

The current term in office for Mike Cunningham, Carol Reniger, and Marv Wendt will end at the end of 2012. Elections for these seats will be completed during the Fall and will be finalized in the November 2012 Board Meeting. Biographies for those running for a board seat in 2012 need to be submitted in August. Ballots will be sent out in September. More details regarding the election process will be discussed and finalized at the February board meeting.



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# marketplace...

<u>1957</u> Continental Mark II. Very nice white paint, solid red interior (factory special order), good chrome, new battery, new tires, new carb rebuild, new wheel cylinders and brake lines (at all wheels). Runs well and looks very nice. \$35,000 or best offer. George Walker (805) 207-5399. JUNE

<u>1996 Mark VIII.</u> Triple black, Lincoln Trophy winner (Reno 08) Senior Car 65K original miles, 24 mpg, fast; always CA car \$6,000. Call Norm at 760-990-4702. SEPT

<u>1957</u> Continental Mark II. Redone engine, transmission, brakes, water pump, etc. Air-conditionng. Needs upholstery, paint, some plastic parts. Car is located in Venice, California. \$28,500. Juliette Cummins, (310) 562-4367.s JUNE

1947 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet. Elliston Bell Winner. Den Fenske's car. Complete, authentic restoration down to the last detail. Maroon with maroon leather interior. V-12. Radio, heater, overdrive. Stainless muffler system. '47 air cleaner. '47 battery case with Optima battery. Car cover. Many extras. \$75,000. Jan Fenske. 805-985-8721. E-mail: denandjan10@hotmail.com OCTOBER <u>1998 Mark VIII</u> – Rare Spring Feature car – 1 of 117 in Gold with Ivory interior. Pristine condition with full documentation & records including window sticker. Always garaged & pampered. 65,000 carefully driven miles. Everything works. Car is like new. Lots of photos available. A very special car. \$8900 OBO. sandyedelstein@earthlink.net or 760-864-1147 MAY

<u>1978 Lincoln Versailles:</u> A very solid original car with a recent complete mechanical rebuild. Midnight blue with moonroof and Versailles blue interior with leather bucket seats. \$5,000. The mechanical rebuild alone cost that much! Drive this car cross country or detail for show. Also selling two 1988 Mark VIIs. Tim Howley (760) 739-0332 E-mail for photos and further information: t.howley@cox.net OCT

POLICY: Ads will run for three issues. 50 words maximum!! The advertiser must contact the Editor to extend or modify ads. Ads are NO CHARGE for Western Region members; non-member ads are \$10.00 per issue, with a three-issue minimum on the initial ad. Photo ONLY if space permits. We request that you notify the Editor when the advertised item is sold. Thank you.

www.lcocwestern.org

TO LCOC WESTERN REGION MEMBER:

2680 Park Hills Drive Sacramento, CA 95821



Kick-Off Dinner 2012

Please Join Us for The LCOC Western

Region Valentine's Kick-off Dinner 2012

Saturday, February 11, 2012 6:30 P.M.

Sportsmen's Lodge Events Center & Hotel 12825 Ventura Blvd, Studio City, Ca 91604

Your Hosts: Bruce & Helen Hutchinson

Please return your menu selection and a check payable to LCOC Western Region no later than February 5, 2012 to: Bruce & Helen Hutchinson 11129 Vanalden Ave. Northridge, CA 91326

Hotel Reservations Can Be Made By Calling: Sportsman's Lodge Hotel (818) 769-4700 Direct Contact: Syed or Charlotte information@slhotel.com

Questions: (818) 360-3865

A Meeting of the Board of Managers of the Western Region will take place prior to the dinner at approximately 2:00 P.M.

## Entree Choicer :

Sliced Tri Tip w/ Mushroom Sauce \$42

Grilled Salmon w/ Dill Sauce \$42

Χ\_\_\_\_

Χ\_\_\_\_\_

 Member Name:	

Χ\_\_\_\_\_ Guest(s):

Vegetarian Lasagna \$40

Total Amount Enclosed: