

# THE KLAXON

APRIL 2008  
VOLUME 15, No. 4

---

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of HCAC

We had a fun drive to Bandera Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> for lunch at Von's Place near the city park. We had 25 members and two guests present, everyone having a good time and real good food. They served our food so quickly that we waited until the meal was over to start the monthly meeting. Twenty five is a good group considering the drive takes longer than driving to a meeting in Kerrville, but remember that a couple of months ago we had forty at the Jazz Restaurant. I hope each of the members will join in on the fun of the monthly meetings and have their say in the decisions of the club. A new idea we are doing at the meeting is to have a 50/50 drawing, selling tickets for \$1 each or six for \$5. Half the funds go to the club coffers, the other half to a lucky winner of the drawing.

Since this letter is a little later than normal, I can talk about our second of the tours we took Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> to the motorcycle museum near Vanderpool. There were seven cars of us on the tour and after a nice lunch and all of us gendering at the old rides, we caravanned to Medina to the great apple pie place for a break. Most of us took Highway 16 home, but a couple of diehards went on to Boerne to the Corvette and open car show. Thanks again to Marty and Martha Davis for heading up the tour committee and coming up with such good trips to enjoy as we drive our cars instead of just looking at them. The touring committee will decide if we can squeeze in one more tour before the hot weather.

We are down to 75 days until the annual July car show on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Les Ferguson for handling the April 14<sup>th</sup> committee meeting to continue planning. Looks like they accomplished more than when I am there, maybe that is telling me something! In any event, let us begin to ask what we can do for the club to prepare for that important event to make it a big success. In the interim, our club is having a Show and Shine day on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at Louise Hayes Park across from the Mall. Bob and Carol Nichols have agreed to represent the club, show up for the fun and help recruit new members and interest the public about the club.

We have moved our May meeting to the 4<sup>th</sup> of May because of Mother's day on the 11<sup>th</sup> so mark your calendars. The Klutings are sponsoring the meeting at the Cypress Springs Estates park on the Guadalupe River as we do once each year. Be at the courthouse in time to head to the park at 1:30 pm and bring a covered dish or dessert. The club will furnish the drinks and the meat offerings so come on and bring a potential member to show them how much fun we have. See you there!

God bless each of you and your families, Robert Kluting, President

# NEWS

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 26, 2008** – Show & Shine  
Kerrville Louise Hays Park  
Look for the Club Sign

**May 4, 2008** – Laredo, Texas  
Outsiders Hot Rod & Vintage Car Club 6<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Car Show

**May 4, 2008** – HCAC Monthly Meeting  
Cypress Springs Estate Park – Meet at the  
Courthouse at 1:30 PM to caravan over -  
Hosted by Robert Marty, Steve & Donna  
Kluting. Bring a covered dish.

**May 26, 2008** – Audie L. Murphy's  
Memorial Day Car Show – VA Hospital  
Grounds, San Antonio, TX

**May 30 – June 1, 2008** - Boerne TX  
9<sup>th</sup> Annual Boerne Swap Meet, Kendall  
County Fairgrounds, Boerne, TX

**June 1, 2008** – 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Boerne Car Show  
Kendall County Fairgrounds, Boerne, TX

**July 5, 2008** – Hill Country Automobile  
Club

**COMING SOON –**

*FVCC Annual Swap Meet*  
*HCAC Annual History of Wheels*

**At the executive meeting, the board voted to cancel having a door prize at the general membership monthly meetings and instead have a 50/50 drawing. members can buy chances as they come in the door.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**REMINDER -**

**MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE PAST DUE  
DON'T BE A DROPOUT AND  
MISS OUT ON ALL OF THE FUN**

\*\*\*\*\*

**- IN THE NEWS -**

**- Danica Patrick –  
became the first female driver to  
win an open wheel race, in last  
Sunday's Indy Japan 300.**

***It is not too early to pick up  
registration forms for the big  
HCAC July Car Show.***

**STORIES FROM HCAC MEMBERS**

Tell us about your first car, your favorite car or just an interest story. Thank you, JoAnn Heck, for sending us the Kilroy story. If you are not inclined to write it up, just give the editor a call. A different story will be published in each edition of the Klaxon. May is coming up, and the editor may be calling you!

***BE A VOLUNTEER!***



# *FEATURES*

---

**KILROY WAS HERE!** Who the heck was KILROY??

In 1946 the American Transit Association, through its radio program, "Speak to America," sponsored a nationwide contest to find the REAL Kilroy, offering a prize of a real trolley car to the person who could prove himself to be the genuine article.

Almost 40 men stepped forward to make that claim, but only James Kilroy from Halifax, Massachusetts had evidence of his identity. Kilroy was a 46-year old shipyard worker during the war. He worked as a checker at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. His job was to go around and check on the number of rivets completed. Riveters were on piecework and got paid by the rivet.

Kilroy would count a block of rivets and put a check mark in semi-waxed lumber chalk, so the rivets wouldn't be counted twice. When Kilroy went off duty, the riveters would erase the mark.

Later on, an off-shift inspector would come through and count the one day Kilroy's boss called him into his office. The foreman was upset about all the wages being paid to riveters, and asked him to investigate. It was then that he realized what had been going on. The tight spaces he had to crawl in to check the rivets didn't lend themselves to lugging around a paint can and brush, so Kilroy decided to stick with the waxy chalk. He continued to put his checkmark on each job he inspected, but added KILROY WAS HERE in king-sized letters next to the check, and eventually added the sketch of the chap with the long nose peering over the fence and that became part of the Kilroy message. Once he did that, the riveters stopped trying to wipe away his marks. Ordinarily the rivets and chalk marks would have been covered up with paint. With war on, however, ships were leaving the Quincy Yard so fast that there wasn't time to paint them.

As a result, Kilroy's inspection "trademark" was seen by thousands of servicemen who boarded the troopships the yard produced. His message apparently rang a bell with the servicemen, because they picked it up and spread it all over Europe and the South Pacific. Before the war's end, "Kilroy" had been here, there, and everywhere on the long haul to Berlin and Tokyo.

To the unfortunate troops outbound in those ships, however, he was a complete mystery; all they knew for sure was that some jerk named Kilroy had "been there first." As a joke, U.S. servicemen began placing the graffiti wherever they landed, claiming it was already there when they arrived.

Kilroy became the U.S. super-GI who had always "already been" where ever GIs went. It became a challenge to place the logo in the most unlikely places imaginable (it is said to be atop Mt. Everest, the Statue of Liberty, the underside of the Arch De Triumphe, and even scrawled in the dust on the moon.)

And as the war went on, the legend grew. Underwater demolition teams routinely sneaked ashore on Japanese-held islands in the Pacific to map the terrain for the coming invasions by U.S. troops (and thus, presumably, were the first GI's there). On one occasion, however, they reported seeing enemy troops painting over the Kilroy logo! In 1945, an outhouse was built for the exclusive use of Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill at the Potsdam conference.

The first person inside was Stalin, who emerged and asked his aide (in Russian), "Who is Kilroy?" .

To help prove his authenticity in 1946, James Kilroy brought along officials from the shipyard and some of the riveters. He won the trolley car, which he gave it to his nine children as a Christmas gift and set it up as a playhouse in the Kilroy front yard in Halifax, Massachusetts.

So now You Know!

---

*? Question of the month ?*

*What postwar car turned automotive design on its ear - you couldn't tell whether it was coming or going?*

- a. Studebaker*
- b. Nash Metro*
- c. Tucker*

*See next months Klaxon for the answer and the next brain teaser*

*Answer to last month's question: On the floor, to the left of the clutch. Hand Controls popular in Europe, only caught on in the US in the '60s*

**FOR SALE** – Owner does not have time to enjoy this 74 MGB, 45,000 miles, newly painted fire engine red, new carburetors, new gas tank, new fuel pump. In Kerrville - If interested, Contact Bob Barton 830-257-8773.

# EDITORIAL

## GOOD NEWS

HCAC “Show & Shine” will be on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at Louise Hays Park in Kerrville, beginning at 10 am. This will be just a fun day of enjoying our cars and fellowship, with the public having a chance to bring their cars and consider joining in on the fun of being a club member. There will be no set agenda – just show up and shine your vehicle and visit!

### From the Editor

- Mary Lyn Gerken -

**Business Directory** - At the next meeting, give me your name, Business Name, Business Address & Phone Number. I will be adding a list of member business owners to the Klaxon as soon as I get the list compiled.

What is going on in your world? Fill us in on your latest trips, hobbies, visits from family and friends. Do you have family or friends in the military? We would like to know.

### Hill Country Automobile Club

A Non Profit Organization

#### Officers and Contact Information

President – Robert Kluting

rkluting@ktc.com

Vice President – Herb Gerken

hckk@ktc.com

Secretary – Jan Platts

jaquayjj@ktc.com

Treasurer – Ed Jackson

Editor – Mary Lyn Gerken

hckk@ktc.com

Web Master – Marty Davis

otbiker@mac.com

Hill Country Automobile Club

P O Box 293002

Kerrville, TX 78029

[www.hillcountryautoclub.com](http://www.hillcountryautoclub.com)

*The Hill Country Automobile Club meets monthly as announced in the Klaxon and on the web site.*

## Friday Night at Culvers

\*

**Beautiful Cars  
Good Friends  
Ice Cream**