

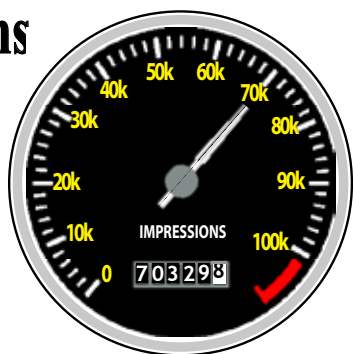
*NOTE: In order to better synchronize event timetable and publication distribution, the September issue of FMFP was re-dated 'OCTOBER'.

Kiwanis Club of Columbia, Illinois joins growing list of TKCS sponsors



Pablo and The FIN MAN™ holding the check they received from the generous folks of the Kiwanis Club of Columbia, Illinois recently. Support from people like these will help them continue their mission into 2011 and beyond. (See show story on page 2)

TKCS Impressions Climbing Steadily Toward Our Goal of 100,000 as the 2010 Season Nears End...



St. Louis, MO— Story by Sabrina Lunn

The FIN MAN™ and his grandson, protégé and best friend Pablo, have been shaking a lot of hands, passing out a lot of coloring book pages and talking to a lot of *Old Car Column* readers over the past seven months. Based on estimates by park officials and show producers, the number of people who have encountered the duo at various events, starting with the HCCM Easter Concours Car Show in Forest Park on Easter Sunday, may top 100,000 by

Continued on page 3—



Vegas Air Fare PAID IN FULL thanks to generosity of friend and SWA flight attendant...

A heartfelt FIN MAN™ and Pablo thank you goes out to Southwest Airlines flight attendant Cassie Wallace. On a recent layover in St. Louis, Cassie, a former Washington University student worker for Kathy Kunz (a.k.a. Mrs. FIN MAN), learned of Bruce and Pablo's goal to attend the 2010 SEMA (Specialty Equipment and Market Association) trade show at the Las Vegas Convention, during the first week of November. "When Cassie learned of our plans, she said 'no problem' and told us she would take care of our air fare" said Bruce Kunz.



Flight attendants often earn complimentary passes for air travel based on their performance on the job, including attendance, customer service and more.

Thanks Cassie! It's great to have friends like you!

Over 200 vehicles on display!

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Kiwanis club show takes trophy for 'Best of Year' weather!



The Fulton family from Red Bud, IL, from left to right: Alexis, 9; Maria, 15; Morgan, 7; Jordan 13 and Tristen, 6, spent time at the TKCS booth coloring muscle cars of the sixties and seventies.

Car shows in early August are often brutally hot and humid, but such was not the case on August 4th when the Kiwanis Club of Columbia, Illinois held their 5th annual car show at Bolm-Schkraft Park, a.k.a. the City Park. The FIN MAN and Pablo were there with the Take A Kid To A Car Show booth, situated right next to the food tent. I think we put on a few pounds after this event. We saw some cars that we had never seen before and George 'Skip' Weber was there to present trophies to the winners in each class. As we had hoped, Corvettes and Camaros were well represented at this memorable event. We thank the members of the Columbia, Illinois Kiwanis Club for their sponsorship and support!

Rediscover the American Automobile!™



13-year old Jordan Fulton rendered this '71 Chevelle.



7-year old Morgan Fulton colored this '68 Chevy pickup.



Although he turned 17 on October 1st, Pablo isn't afraid to grab the crayons and show off his artistic abilities when it comes to muscle cars. Or maybe he's just showing off for Maria. Hmmm.



Leo Fulton wasn't fooling with crayons. He brought the real deal including a Mustang, PLUS this beautiful, Plum Crazy Dodge Challenger.



Proud sponsors of *The FIN MAN and Pablo's Take A Kid To A Car Show*

We came home from Columbia with more than just a suntan!



He's a handful, in more ways than one! 'Rory' had to be restrained by Pablo after romping through the house, sounding more like a herd of horses than a dog. The stocky and rambunctious, little one-year-old Basset/Beagle mix and Pablo have much in common. They're both young, full of energy, strong as an ox— and yes, just a little bit crazy!

Story by Bruce Kunz—

One of the exciting things about attending a car show, whether you're a participant or spectator, is that you just never know what to expect, and you also never know what you might come home with. Such was the case when Pablo and I took our TKCS booth to the Kiwanis Club of Columbia Car Show. Along with some spectacular cars and trucks, displays of Corvettes and Camaros, antique fire trucks and more, the Monroe County Humane Society brought in a dozen or so rescue dogs and cats in wire cages. One was cuter than the other of course. As we strolled the park where the dog cages were scattered in the shade of giant trees, one little blonde and white dog caught our eye. Low slung, like a Chevy Corvette, this basset mix seemed to be calling our names. Remembering that my wife once said she liked Basset Hounds... well, need I say more? After many rounds of should we or shouldn't we, I decided to fill out the adoption request forms. The people from the shelter couldn't tell us for sure if we would be accepted to be Rory's new owners until they checked with our veterinarian to see if we were maintaining required shots and

medications for the two dogs we already had at home. Taking an approach that my wife and I have employed in many such situations through the years, I told Pablo, "If it was meant to be it will be. And if not, then it will not be." It was a day or two later that the shelter called with the news, Rory was ours if we were still interested. My wife and I met Rory's foster mom and an employee from the shelter at the McDonalds on Route 3 in Columbia that night at six PM. The stocky, little pup seemed eager to please and it was apparent that he was going to be a comical member of our household.

TKCS impressions climbing steadily... ***Continued from page 1—***

the time the season is over in October. "We had no idea, when we started this thing, that it was going to get this big" said Bruce Kunz, a.k.a. "The FIN MAN™", during a recent interview. "It's taken on a life of its own" he quipped. "We started this more or less on a whim, and it just took off like a Rocket 88 on nitrous!" said the columnist who has been writing the popular *Old Car Column* for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for the past seven years. The popularity of the weekly column, which is written in a friendly, home-spun style, has kept the readers coming back week after week, month after month, for nearly a decade, through some of the most turbulent times in the newspaper industry. "I think we'll be around for another seven... God willing and the creek don't rise" said the friend of collectible car hobbyists and connoisseurs everywhere. "I'm looking into possible syndication after the first of the year, so I can share my stories with 'special car' lovers in other markets" said The FIN MAN™.

Coming in next issue...

- ***Sharing our Las Vegas adventure at SEMA***
- ***Webster Jazz/Blues Festival***
- ***'Fly-In' St. Louis Regional Airport, Bethalto, IL***
- ***The Richard Petty Driving Experience***
- ***Advance Auto Parts car show, Granite City, IL***
- ***Museum of Transport Fall Color Tour***
- ***Art of the Motorcycle show at the Foundry***
- ***The FIN MAN and Pablo DJs at Lions Club event***
- ***Pablo and the FIN MAN 'take the car show to the kids' at local area children's hospitals***
- ***It's not just about cars— the Illinois State Fair***

...and more!

Gateway Classic Cars President calls on The FIN MAN's expertise to produce monthly 'Cruiseletter'—

Story by Bruce Kunz—

What started out as a Take A Kid To A Car Show sponsorship sales call to Gateway Classic Cars ended up being much more. When Pablo and I sat down across the desk from GCC owner/president Sal Akbani to present our TKCS sponsorship program, we could almost see the wheels turning inside his head. After we made our case and had our say, it was Sal's turn. He was all in favor of being a premium Gold sponsor for TKCS, but he wanted something more. Undaunted by the present gloom and doom economy, Sal, an astute businessman who I've known for the past dozen years, is always looking for ways to grow his business even more. Through our lengthy association, Sal knows that I have an extensive background in retail marketing, advertising, graphic design and writing. He also knows that I have been writing the Old Car Column in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for the past seven years. What Sal wanted was a GCC-specific, monthly newsletter, tailored to his operation... one which could be printed for handout at local shows, but perhaps even more importantly, be featured on his web site which consistently produces over 1,000,000 'hits' per month. The result was the Gateway Classic Cars 'Cruiseletter' shown here. It features information on the current state of the collector car hobby, sales forecasts and the latest showroom arrivals.

NOVEMBER Cruiseletter NOVEMBER 2010

OVER 350 CARS AVAILABLE, READY FOR IMMEDIATE SALE!
CLASSIC CARS as INVESTMENTS... We Have Buyers— We Need Cars!

This just in... GCC needs your Mustang! All years are flying out the door!

Pablo's Picks — featured vehicles, hand-selected by FIN MAN protege, Pablo Rodriguez.

Who is Pablo? Go to www.thefinman.com and click on "Who is Pablo?"

Take a look at this black beauty! It's not every day you find a True Air Freshener on the market. This '98 model has the LS1 engine, rated at 230HP, a 6-Speed manual transmission complete the excitement that Pontiac was known for. These cars delivered 13.6 second quarter miles and 5.1 second 0-60 times from the factory. Fitted with 3.73 gears, Hooker headers, a Hypertech III program, Fast Toys Ram Air kit and much more, this one's ready for road or track. MSRP of \$99 made in 1999.

Gateway Classic Cars at a Glance... "The buzzword of this election season is: The Economy. We can only go by what our economic environment is. In 2010, we are up, over 2009. Here are the statistical facts as of August 31, 2010:

- Our consignments are up **42.8%**
- Number of cars sold, up by **31.5%** and opening revenues are up by **15.7%**.

We are not bragging, just giving hope to others that the economy is on the upswing. So let's stop listening to those doom and gloom pundits and look towards 2011 as the year of recovery and the start of prosperity for the next 10 years.

Thank you, **Sal Akbani** — Gateway Classic Cars

About Gateway Classic Cars: Gateway Classic Cars is the Midwest's largest and most popular consignment sales dealership for classic and collector vehicles, selling them primarily for private owners, collectors and estates. Gateway Classic Cars is a trusted partner for its customers in three key areas: inspection/consignment sales service, second-to-none inventory, and worldwide marketing of consigned classics. Their experience and depth of expertise in these areas allow them to offer their customers the perfect solution, whether the need is to sell their classic or to purchase one.

Founded in 1976, the company is based out of Farmington, CT. Call for rates and brochures: St. Louis, MO: 314-996-9999

www.gatewayclassiccars.com OR CALL: 800-231-3616 OR 618-271-3000

Produced by FMP - e-mail at the_fin_man@msn.com - visit thefinman.com

Visit www.gatewayclassiccars.com to see the latest issue.

The FIN MAN™ and Pablo's TKCS Sponsors List Continues to Grow

Needless to say, with the state of the economy what it is today, this is not the best time to be asking businesses and individuals for money. That said, we have been fortunate to have met a handful of generous parties who believe enough in what we are doing to step up to the starting line with contributions to our Take A Kid To A Car Show, Midwest Mission. Anyone who's the least bit interested in the resto-

Take A Kid To A Car Show Sponsors

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Individual Sponsors

- **Doc & Kathleen Albers**, Memb. Archway Olds Club
- **Dale Oestreich** on behalf of Precision Restorations
- **John and Carol Relleke**, Granite City, IL
- **Charles M.M. Shepherd**, The Shepherd Foundation
- **Bob Uecker**, Chesterfield, MO/Playa De Carma, Mexico
- **Richard & Debbie Vest**, Collinsville, IL
- **Cassie Wallace**, Las Vegas, NV

Club Sponsors

- Archway Oldsmobile Club
- Gateway Area Chevelle Club
- Gateway Chapter—Buick Club of America
- Kiwanis Club of Columbia, Illinois

ration and preservation of the cars that mom and dad drove back 'in the day' has an interest in seeing to it that this great hobby continues for generations to come. If you would like to add your name to the list of sponsors, please find more information on page 6 of this newsletter.

Thank you!

Pablo passes driver's test with flying colors



Granite City, Illinois— Story by Bruce Kunz

On a recent Saturday morning, Pablo made his last trip, under my supervision, in accordance with the State of Illinois required nine-month driving permit process. Our destination was the Secretary of State office in Granite City to take his driving test.

Pablo had completed his classroom and behind-the-wheel lessons at the *Tri-City Driving School* in Granite City under the tutelage of owner/instructors *Jim and Linda Bell* and driving instructors Pat Bregen (Ms. Pat to the kids) and Matt Donaldson. He eagerly attended classes on a regular schedule, prompted, I'm sure to some degree, by a couple of attractive, coed classmates.

While his formal instruction included ten hours of driving experience, most of his behind-the-wheel experience was with the FIN MAN™ driving either my red Mustang rag top or my wife's hemi-powered Lincoln Continental. It was hard for him to choose his favorite of the two as the Mustang was sportier, and of course the top went down... a big plus. But the Lincoln was much quicker with it's 32-valve, DOHC V-8— the same one Ford dropped into Mustang Cobras of the same era. (And the Lincoln sounds so good with it's "NO-Master" exhaust system! Although I'm not so sure Pablo's neighbors shared our enthusiasm on those nights when I took him home late!) Our trips included destinations as varied as the Illinois State Fair in Springfield, Illinois; the Kustom

Nationals Car Show in Washington, Missouri; concerts at POPs in Sauget; blues at BB's Jazz, Blues and Soups and Beale On Broadway; sightseeing along Lenore K. Sullivan Boulevard as the Mississippi crested back in May; an overnight trip to Columbia, Missouri for the annual "It's A Gas" petroliana show; cruising the graffiti wall just south of the arch; Eagle watching on a frosty, overcast, January day in West Alton; an art fair in old town St. Charles; countless trips to the Wal-Mart Supercenter in Collinsville and a trip to Ted Drewes when my daughter Sabrina and her husband Chris were visiting from Australia in July. (I know I've forgotten a bunch.) We logged thousands of miles over the past nine months. It's been a heck of a year, and through it all, we can count on one hand, the near death experiences that I suppose most young, student drivers encounter during their early learning stages. (I think my hair has turned much grayer over the past nine months!)

When all was said and done, his instructors and the examiner said he did a great job and was a wonderful student. I find it strange now when he comes over to the house and says, "Well, I'll see you tomorrow", and cruises off down the road in his "CHEV-ee" Blazer. What happened to my carefree days of being chauffeured nearly everywhere I went?



To advertise in THE FIN MAN FRONT PAGE™
 e-mail Bruce Kunz at the fin_man@msn.com
 or call 314-954-0200 for more information

Advertising Rates

Quarter Page.....	250.00
Eighth Page	175.00
Sixteenth Page	95.00

Rates shown are quarterly.
Ads will run for three consecutive issues.

You can help The Fin Man™ and Pablo as they work to keep the collectible automobile hobby alive by introducing children to the joys of vintage automobile restoration and preservation at an early age through SEMA's 'Take a Kid to a Car Show' program.

How to Sponsor this Program:

Car clubs and service clubs (Kiwanis, Optimists, Lions, etc.) rate is \$250.00— that's just *ten members contributing \$25 each*, or \$250 from your club's treasury!

Corporate rates: \$500.00 (bronze); \$1,000.00 (silver); \$2,000.00 (gold)

Individual rates: \$50.00 (bronze); \$100.00 (silver); \$200.00 (gold)

Funds received now cover your sponsorship for any remaining appearances or events in calendar year 2010 and all of 2011.

Club sponsorship includes acknowledgement on our web site www.thefinman.com.

Corporate and Individual sponsorship includes further acknowledgement.

E-mail the Fin Man at the_fin_man@msn.com to confirm your pledge, then send your check, in the appropriate amount and *made out to TKCS*, to: *The FIN MAN, 1368 Bischoff Road, Granite City, Illinois 62040, USA*

What is Take a Kid to a Car Show?

SEMA, the *Specialty Equipment Market Association*, started the Take a Kid to a Car Show program many years ago in Southern California, and we are supporting their mission here in the St. Midwest with goals to:

- Get youngsters involved and fuel their interest in collectible automobiles at an early age.
- See that the hobby continues to thrive in future generations.
- Ensure there are always people who will turn their heads and exclaim "Did you see that?!?" when a brightly colored fifties cruiser goes past.
- Help groom the future members of your club!

What will The Fin Man and Pablo do with your money?

Your club's donation will provide the funding necessary to participate in events across Missouri and Illinois such as:

- Highly attended, family-oriented car shows
- Swap meets, cruises and parades (like this year's Florissant Valley of Flowers Parade where we were honored to drive the parade marshalls, baseball legend Lou Brock and his wife Jackie!)
- Events which benefit children with special needs (like this year's Shriners Children's Hospital Car Show)
- Events that deliver a positive message (like this year's D.A.R.E. Car Show)

Our booths at these events include activities like coloring books, games, model cars, and stories to ignite kids' passion for cars. During the down time this winter, we will be bringing our activities to children in hospitals— kids who are not otherwise able to make it to these events, in effect *'taking a car show to a kid'*. We would also like to add a Wii game console to our activity booth during the 2011 season.

Finally, the first week of November is the 2010 SEMA convention. Your contribution will help us connect with SEMA representatives as Pablo learns lessons in building professional relationships (and gets on a plane for the first time!)

PLEASE NOTE: Sorry, we DO NOT offer sponsorships to, nor do we accept advertising funds from, independent automobile dealerships or automobile dealer groups which sell foreign 'brands' or 'import' vehicles.



We ♥ Cassie Wallace!
...and Southwest Airlines too!



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- muscle cars
- hot rods
- street machines

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