



*Mike Stowe with his wife, Ralph*

## 5-MINUTE DRIVE: Q&A WITH KEITH MARTIN AND MIKE STOWE

Keith Martin and Mike Stowe have been on our Board of Directors since the Collectors Foundation became a reality six years ago. Their continuing contributions to the hobby – and the Collectors Foundation, in particular – are immeasurable, and their vision and advice have been greatly appreciated. As they step down as members of the Board, we asked them to share their thoughts about the future of the Foundation and the hobby.

**Q:** What do you think the Foundation has accomplished for the collector car community in the past six years?

**KM:** Six years ago, the Foundation was completely unknown. It has since created an awareness of the need to support educational programs to teach young people how to become engaged with the hobby, and perhaps the business, of collector cars. I also believe the community is beginning to understand that the Collectors Foundation, while supported in a major way by Hagerty, is in fact a stand-alone organization. The proof of that is the increasing number of donors.

**MS:** The impact that we've had on getting young people excited about classic cars has been huge. We've helped a

lot of kids who had the passion for classic cars, but not the finances to accomplish their goals. We've made a giant impact on those people, offering them the opportunity for a career in the hobby.

**Q:** Have there been any surprises?

**KM:** The strong response from some of the grants we have given, where small seed grants have blossomed into large projects. I'm thinking of the Missoula, Mont., project that introduces high school youth to restoration technology since the high schools no longer had vocational education programs, and the Gilmore Museum's Gilmore Garage Works program with at-risk youth, and the Berks County Career Technical Center in Pennsylvania and the

*Continued on back ...*

# BOARD MEMBER CLAUDIO BALLARD NAMED 'INVENTOR OF THE YEAR'



The United States Business and Industry Council (USBIC), a national organization of business owners and executives dedicated to improving the U.S. domestic economy, has named Claudio Ballard as its 2010 "Inventor of the Year." Ballard, founder of Texas-based DataTreasury Corporation, will receive the award during a 2011 gala event in Washington, D.C.

A lifelong innovator, Ballard is best known for creating the Global Repository Platform, a patent-protected shareholders' intellectual system that dozens of banks have licensed in order to process digital versions of checks and other financial instruments. The U.S. banking industry now saves billions of dollars annually through the use of this revolutionary technology.

– *The Kansas City Star*

## FOUNDATION BOARD ELECTS NEW MEMBERS

The Board of Directors, at its Fourth Quarter Meeting, elected five new members. They are:

- **Jim Cozzie**, immediate past President of SEMA and Executive Vice President of RTM Productions
- **Matthew Crawford**, restorer and author of the book *Shop Class as Soul Craft*
- **David Maderia**, CEO and President of LeMay Museum
- **Jim Menneto**, Publisher of *Hemmings Motor News*
- **Dr. Paul Sable**, collector, restorer, automotive judge and professor of business at Kutztown University

# CF BOARD AWARDS \$437,130 IN 2010

Here is a summary of scholarships and grants awarded by the Collectors Foundation in 2010:

**American Youth Motorsports Team (\$1,500)** – Race car drivers take their passion (and their cars) to young cancer patients in North Carolina and Florida hospitals for encouragement and support.

**Maple Valley School, Vermontville, Mich. (\$1,230)** – For supplies and equipment in support of the small, rural school's vocational program

**Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, Calif. (\$50,000)** – For scholarship support over the next five years

**College for Creative Studies, Detroit (\$50,000)** – For scholarship support over the next five years

**McPherson College, McPherson, Kan. (\$200,000)** – For scholarship support over the next five years

**Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, Mich. (\$50,000)** – For scholarship support over the next five years

**Great Lakes Boatbuilding School, Cedarville, Mich. (\$5,000)** – Scholarship

**Northwest Boat Building School, Port Hadlock, Wash. (\$5,000)** – Scholarship

**The Landing School of Boat Building and Design, Kennebunkport, Maine (\$5,000)** – Scholarship

**Art Center College of Design's Young Person's Outreach Program, Pasadena, Calif. (\$2,500)** – Scholarships and supplies

**Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum, Auburn, Ind. (\$5,000)** – For education program

**Northwest House of Hope, Traverse City, Mich. (\$7,500)** – Matching grant for instructional support

**Sloan Automobile Museum, Flint, Mich. (\$10,000)** – Museum apprenticeships and internships for high school and college students

**Herreshoff Marine Museum, Bristol, R.I. (\$10,000)** – For after school boat restoration program for high school youth

**LeMay Museum, Tacoma, Wash. (\$4,800)** – Internship

**Studebaker National Museum, South Bend, Ind. (\$4,800)** – Internship

**America On Wheels Museum, Allentown, Pa. (\$4,800)** – Internship

**The Phoenix Garage, Fort Collins, Colo. (\$20,000)** – Matching grant for at-risk youth program with old cars and new technologies

**Discovery World, Milwaukee, Wis. (\$7,500)** – For Milwaukee Public Schools outreach program (involving high school freshmen), to teach restoration, maintenance and maritime skills aboard Discovery World's 137-foot lake schooner, the S/V Denis Sullivan

**Eastfield College, Mesquite, Texas (\$10,000)** – Matching challenge grant to assist in funding start-up equipment for school's newly approved Street Rod and Custom Car Fabrication program

**Saratoga Automobile Museum, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. (\$7,500)** – To expand the museum's educational outreach program

**Universite Lavel, Quebec, Canada (\$2,000)** – To assist in funding the fabrication of a new shell for the University's Alerion Supermileage competition vehicle. The Alerion has won the SAE Supermileage competition three years in row and holds the North American championship title with fuel consumption of 1,347 km per liter (3,168 miles per gallon).

## DIRECTIONS

### News from the Executive Director

Behind every good not-for-profit organization is a dedicated, experienced and generous Board of Directors. The Collectors Foundation is no exception. With that in mind, I want to highlight two Board members who have served two consecutive terms and must therefore step down due to the rotation plan set by the Board. Mike Stowe, of Boyne City, Mich., has served responsibly as Treasurer for all of his six years on the Board. Keith Martin, of Portland, Ore. has provided the Board with his past knowledge and experience in nonprofit management, as well as current information from his work in print media for the collector vehicle community.

I want to take a few moments to salute all members of the present Board of Directors. When you serve on a not-for-profit Board, the commitment can be time consuming and often thankless, as many of you know already.

John Hollansworth, of Hot Springs Village, Ark., has chaired the Board since its inception. He will leave this position at the end of the year but will continue on the Board. Bruce Knox, of San Antonio, has been our secretary since 2005 and now yields that position but remains on the Board. Other current members are: Claudio Ballard, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Corky Coker, of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Ken Gross, of Hamilton, Va.; McKeel Hagerty, of Traverse City, Mich.; Jean Hoffman, of Clifton Falls, N.Y.; and Raffi Minasian, of Seattle, Wash.

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of school children who have been introduced to the beauty and heritage of historic vehicles at some of the finest automobile and boat museums in the country, the thousands of high-school-age youth who are getting hands-on training and mentoring by passionate enthusiasts, the hundreds of post-secondary students (supported by our scholarships) as they perfect their

knowledge and skill for a career within the industry, and the many current enthusiasts who receive information from the automotive and boat libraries that have received grants from the Foundation, I thank each member of the Board for their devoted leadership in driving the future of the collector vehicle community.

It is my privilege to continue serving the Board of Directors as Executive Director and the organization as President.

Sincerely,



(L to R) The Landing School of Boat Building and Design, McPherson College Model T Building Team, Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum



## 5-Minute Drive continued...

establishment of an automotive restoration program within their automotive technology department, among other initiatives we've helped with our funding.

**MS:** One of the biggest was the truly fortunate luck of finding Bob Knechel to serve as executive director. We could not have found a more passionate guy for charitable efforts. When you hire someone for a position like that, you just don't know what you're going to get. But we got the absolute best person we could have found for the job. He's been wonderful for the Foundation and to all of us. He's been way more than we could have hoped for.

**Q:** Are you optimistic about the future of the collector vehicle hobby?

**KM:** I am optimistic and will remain so as long as the hobby, and the business, invests in its future. We need to be sure we have an active legislative presence to keep lawmakers from making it impossible to drive our cars on the open road, and we have to provide educational programs that give kids a way to learn about the business of taking care of old cars in a professional way.

**MS:** By all means. I just see more and more younger people getting involved. We have a generation in the middle – the gas crunch people; those in their 40s – who may struggle a bit. But more and more young people are getting excited about these cars, and I think we've really hooked that generation. Just look at the muscle car phenomenon. They're just eating those cars up, and it's really fun to watch. I think this hobby has such an incredible future.

**Q:** What role is the CF playing in the future of the hobby? Can, or should, the CF expand its role? What more could it be doing?

**KM:** The Collectors Foundation is playing a major role in the future of the hobby, and in fact is the only organization with national reach (and Canada) that has an overview of the educational activities going on in the collector car world. This broad perspective helps it channel its funds more effectively. The amount that the Foundation can and will do is determined directly by the contributions it receives – so write your check today!

**MS:** We have made a huge impact. It takes 5-10 years for any foundation to build credibility. Everyone starts with good intentions, but it's hard for others to see why you're doing it. Everybody gets impatient, but we've really gotten a lot of momentum in that regard. People are always coming up and saying, 'You're doing a great thing.' Credit again goes to Bob Knechel for getting out there and selling it hard – emphasizing that it's not about Hagerty, it's for the betterment of the



Keith Martin

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entire collector car community. We have to continue to grow. There's no such thing as stagnation. We haven't found all of the operations that impact the hobby. We knew about McPherson College because of Bob, but there are more out there. We need to find them. And we also have to be careful that we're in fact impacting the right people – that the money is going to right places.

**Q:** Has serving on the Collectors Foundation Board of Directors been all that you had hoped it would be?

**KM:** At the beginning I had no idea what it would be, but over the past six years I've developed some tremendous friendships and learned a great deal about the activities in the collector car (and vintage boat) world. My horizons have been broadened, and I have been consistently impressed by the thoughtfulness and attentiveness of my fellow board members. I will miss our meet-

ings very much, for the camaraderie and the intellectual give-and-take that they offer.

**MS:** It's been a ton more than I hoped it would be. When I was asked to do this, I don't think any of us knew what we were doing or where this would go. It's been an extreme honor to be part of this. The impact of the Collectors Foundation has been way beyond what I ever dreamed.

**Q:** Why should other enthusiasts support the Collectors Foundation? What would you like to say to them?

**KM:** I would like to suggest that every collector consider donating \$25 a year *per collector car* or motorcycle or boat that they own. That's less than one tank of gas, and for that \$25 you're buying the assurance that there will continue to be an active, non-profit group out there (the Collectors Foundation) working diligently to invest your money, in the best possible way, for the best possible future for you and your collector car. Think how much your car, and the people you know from your car ownership, mean to you. Investing a little bit in the Foundation is one of the old-car-smart things you can do. My check went in the mail today!

**MS:** It's not what I would say but what I already do say. If you want your collection to have value in the future – not just financial, but from a historical perspective – it's important to get young people involved, and that's what the Collectors Foundation does. It's grown to the point where it impacts the business of collector cars. There are so many facets to it. Saving these cars in any form is extremely important, and that's everybody's responsibility.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Director: Bob Knechel  
President: John Hollansworth  
Secretary: Bruce Knox

Treasurer: Mike Stowe  
Ken Gross  
Keith Martin

Raffi Minasian  
McKeel Hagerty  
Jean Hoffman

Corky Coker  
Claudio Ballard

Communications:  
Jeff Peek & Kory Felker