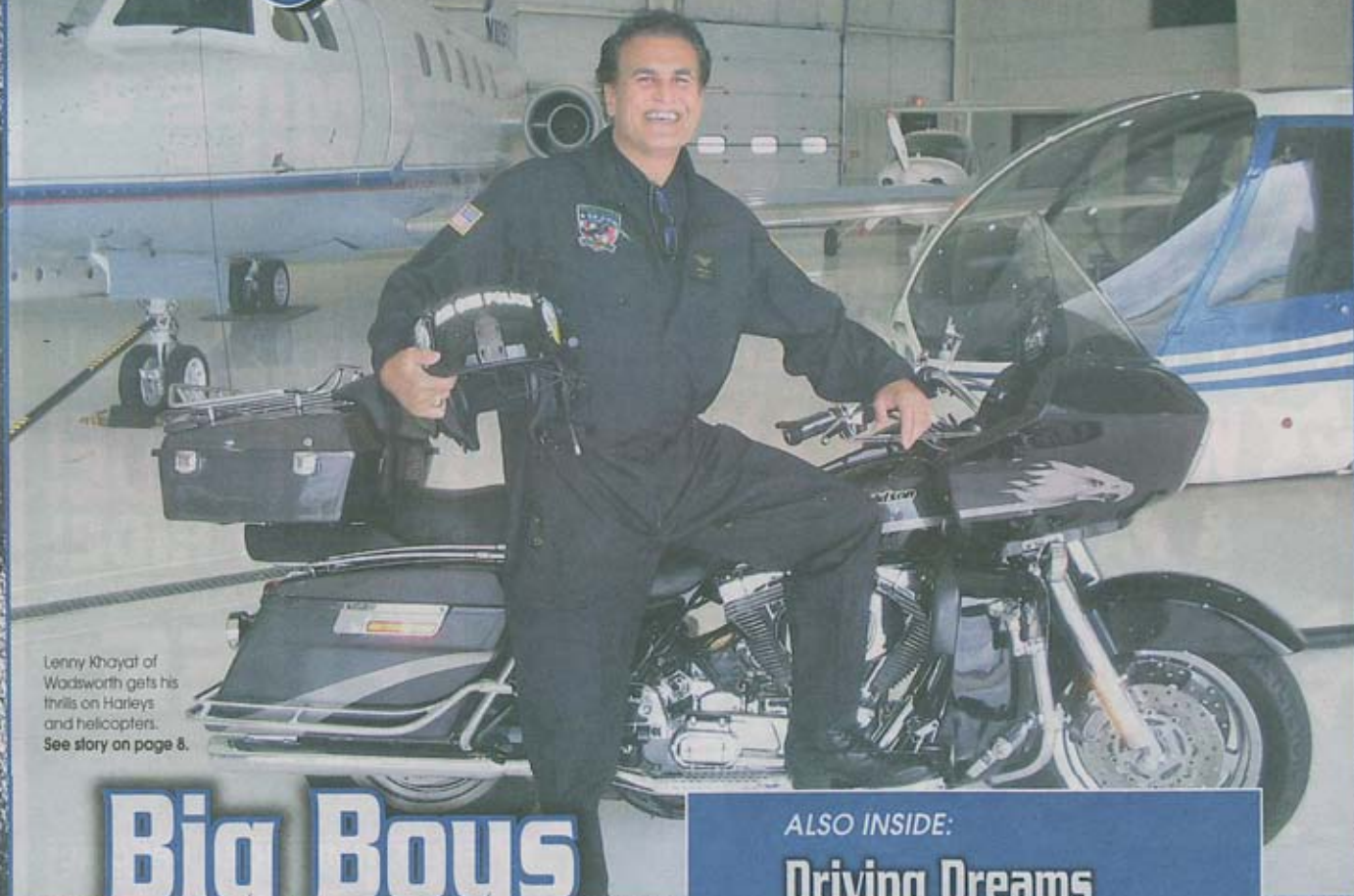


Maverick

No Guts - No Glory - Make Life An Adventure



Lenny Khayat of Wadsworth gets his thrills on Harleys and helicopters. See story on page 8.

Big Boys Toys & Joys

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Big Picture - Local Focus

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ALSO INSIDE:

Driving Dreams

PALATINE'S EXOTIC CAR SHARE

Axles In Action

CORNER YOUR OFF-ROAD CRAVINGS

Extreme Adventures

CRANKED UP COOL

Take an exotic 'ride' for a spin at Car Share

BY DAVE BOE
dboe@dailherald.com

You want to make a great impression this weekend by getting behind the wheel of an eye-popping dream machine, but don't have \$74,000 floating around in the checking account to spring for that sporty Boxster at the neighborhood Porsche dealer. It's time to ponder the available choices:

A. Decide on a temporary life of crime and 'borrow' the car without the dealer's permission.

B. Get a high-interest cash advance from the friendly neighborhood loan shark.

C. Count on the Illinois State Lottery to finally come through big time.

D. Pay a visit to the Exotic Car Share in Palatine.

A quick conversation with George Kiebala provides the most prudent answer.

Kiebala is founder and owner of Exotic Car Share located at 648 E. Northwest Highway in Palatine. It's been open for business since August 2000.

At a glance

Name: Exotic Car Share and Curvy Road

Founded by: George Kiebala

Focus: Exotic Car Share is a membership club specializing in sporty, high-end vehicles; Curvy Road is a fractional ownership program for luxury and exotic cars

Address: 648 E. Northwest Highway, Palatine

Phone: (888) 358-7522

Web site: www.exoticcar-share.com

A passionate driver who enjoys time behind the wheel, Kiebala rolled his fondness for classic and exotic cars into a business where others can share his vision without breaking their own personal bank accounts.

His initial dream, however, did not start out as a car sharing program. In 1995 Kiebala and his wife opened D & V's Auto Nook in Rolling Mead-



MARK WELSH/MWELSH@DAILYHERALD.COM

Exotic Car Share founder George Kiebala drives a 2006 Z51 Corvette convertible, one of several cars members can drive for a week. The Palatine-based club has more than 700 members.

ows. This idea was spawned, in part, by Kiebala's amateur racing hobby.

Kiebala needed to park his hobby car and gear somewhere and started a company where he and other owners of specialty cars could house vehicles in a clean, safe, temperature-controlled environ-

ment. Business prospered and offered Kiebala the chance to interact with other car enthusiasts. That early experience planted the seed for the country's first exotic car exchange.

"We started realizing that all these people are not driving their exotic cars; they're

storing them with us," Kiebala said. "That can't be the best use of everyone's money when a car is sitting six to eight months out of the year."

In August 2000, Kiebala stepped out of the business of storing exotic cars and into

EXOTIC: Ferrari most popular vehicle at Car Share

business of offering opportunities for more quality drive time for his clients.

NO MILEAGE RESTRICTIONS

Exotic Car Share doesn't rent or sell sporty, high-end vehicles. Clients become members and reserve their choice wheels in advance. The initial \$250 membership fee, valid for five years, covers the person joining and one additional family member.

Exotic Car Share has more than 700 pre-screened members, up from 450 in 2003.

Members can choose to sign up for three- or seven-day vehicle usage. Usage fees vary depending on the time frame chosen. A three-day reservation (Thursday through Sunday or Friday through Monday) costs \$990 for most vehicles. Seven-day reservations (Tuesday through Monday) total \$1,280.

A dozen or so vehicles are available for members to select. "We have had the classic Ferrari 348 Spider ever since we started the membership club. It still is basically the most popular car," Kiebala said.



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The classic Ferrari 348 Spider is the most often-requested car by members of Exotic Car Share, said club founder George Kiebala.

Most cars have no mileage restrictions, so members are encouraged to drive within the four-state designated region of Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan. Each vehicle comes with a complimentary full tank of gas and members can return the cars with as much or as little fuel as desired.

NO HAZING INVOLVED

While membership does have its privilege, joining this club does require initiation rituals of

sorts. Members must be at least 30 years of age and have a good driving record with no recent delinquencies.

Member must agree to an orientation before each vehicle drive to minimize potential damages.

Members also must show proof of auto insurance. Exotic Car Share provides additional umbrella insurance as part of the membership. If a car is damaged during its time out, members are responsible for a

deductible ranging from \$500 to \$2,000.

CURVY ROAD AHEAD

Last spring, Kiebala went down a slightly different road and began developing a new division for his business. Curvy Road specializes in fractional equity ownership of ultra-luxury vehicles.

Think of it as a time share for specialty vehicles. Kiebala realized that while private jets, yachts, recreational vehicles and condominiums embraced the concept of fractional ownership, high-end automobiles were not in the fold. Last month, Curvy Road launched full time with locations in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and later this fall in Miami.

The private access plan of Curvy Road allows for a share of ownership in a particular vehicle. An enthusiast is with a one-tenth share is eligible to drive a particular car four weeks per year while a one-fifth share earns eight weeks per year.

Vehicles are delivered to customers' homes, detailed and ready for adventure. Owners

also may swap shares with owners of other vehicles in the Curvy Road network for more driving variety.

Unlike Exotic Car Share where classic vehicles like the 1969 Mustang are available for several years, Curvy Road vehicles have a two-year life cycle and then drive into retirement.

Collector's items

Exotic Car Share collection:

Corvette Convertible Z51
Alfa Romeo Quadrifoglio
Ferrari 348 Spider
Ferrari 355 Spider
Ferrari 355 F1 coupe
Plymouth Prowler
Porsche Boxster
1969 Corvette Stingray
1969 Mustang Mach 1
Dodge Viper

Curvy Road collection:

Ferrari 360 Spider
Lamborghini Murcielago
Lamborghini Gallardo
Rolls Royce Phantom
Ford GT
Bentley Continental GT
Porsche Carrera GT