

Concord Transcript

November 16, 2007

Your Neighborhood



JACQUIE OLIVERIUS
Good Neighbor



Rick Hanson

UNDERSTANDLY PROUD, Martinez resident Rick Hanson shows off his custom built Black Widow 2, which took best of show honors at the 11th annual Car, Truck & Bike Show in Martinez.

‘Wheel’ fine

Martinez native **Rick Hanson** has heard the “oohs” and “aahs” about his handiwork. The longtime custom car hobbyist and builder has amassed awards for his sleek creations, including the popular and award-winning Black Widow 2, which received the best of show honor at the 11th annual Car, Truck & Bike Show in Martinez in September.

Hanson, an active member of the Rotary Club of Clayton Valley/Concord Sunrise and of the Pleasant Hill and Martinez Chambers of Commerce, is “a local handyman”, semi-retired from teaching graduate school and high tech,” he said.

Hanson said the Black Widow 2 was inspired by the famous 1960 1/24th scale model “The Black Widow,” by Monogram Models, which he built as a youngster. His semiretirement from the high tech and teaching arenas has allowed Hanson to build other full-scale hot rods and custom vehicles, like TOON T, based on the Disney movie, “Who Framed Roger Rabbit?”

Black Widow 2 took only a short eight months to build—instead of the years that some projects take—with the help of local fabricators and services such as **Don Clar**, Don’s Workshop; **Doug Mueller**, Auto

Electric & Fuel; **Kiril Popov**, The Metal Master; and more.

Even suffering a heart attack could not keep Hanson away from his project.

“I was only down for a week, but the doc said I had to take a month off from heavy work,” he said. “That gave me a great excuse to put off my handyman obligations in favor of light, yet detailed, work on Black Widow 2.”

His effort paid off, securing another win for the custom car. For more information and background, visit www.black-widow-2.com.