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Building dreams on four wheels

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If you've ever dreamed of sitting behind the wheel of your very own hotrod, Dave Munkelt is the man who can make it happen. As owner of Brentwood's Red Barn Hotrods, Munkelt is making it his business to roll out dreams.

"You can come in and we'll figure out what your dream is and make it come true," said the 41-year-old hotrod specialist who can assemble a 1965 Cobra Roadster kit from the ground up or turn your 1932 Roadster into an everyday driver. "Whatever it is, we can do it." Red Barn Hotrods, nestled in Suite C3 at 570 Valdry Court (behind Pee Wee Muldoon's), incorporates all the latest technology with a lot of old-school automotive know-how to build kit cars or modify originals.

Munkelt prides himself in the ability to fabricate parts, soup up engines and whatever else it takes to breathe life into a pile of metal and create a shiny new hotrod.

"Hey, it's not a hotrod unless you can see yourself in it," chuckles Munkelt while staring over a shimmering blue '65 Cobra he's just about completed.

With a 450 horsepower engine and titanium racing stripes stretching the length of this beauty, Munkelt beams with pride at his nearly finished product that will soon be leaving his spotless garage for its permanent home in Dublin, Ireland.

Munkelt hasn't always built dreams for a living, but he has always had his hand in the automotive industry in one way or another.

"I started working on cars when I was 10 or 11 years old, changing spark plugs and doing tune-ups," said Munkelt, who grew up in Orinda, the son of a doctor with an appreciation for fine autos. "I then got into drag racing – first on the streets and then the track."

Munkelt attended Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo and worked for Ritz Camera in management for many years. He's also a professional photographer who fell into a construction management position when he and wife Pam moved to Shadow Lakes six years ago. He has never lost his love for wrenching on cars, so when the real estate market slowed down, Munkelt decided it was time to make his own dreams come true.

Opening Red Barn Hotrods last August has enabled him to live those dreams. And if you're wondering about the name of his shop, Munkelt points to the car lover's axiom: "Everyone knows that the best cars are always found in the barn."

To contact Munkelt, call 634-4848 or visit www.redbarnhotrods.com and make your dreams come true. Enter your body text here.



At Dave Munkelt's Red Barn Hotrods in Brentwood, you can have a custom car put together from a kit, built from the ground up or re-built from a rusty bucket of bolts.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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