



THE BELLTOWN BULLETIN

Belltown Antique Car Club - P.O. Box 211, East Hampton, CT 06424

June, 2015

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the E. Hampton Library

- On the Agenda: - Club tours
- Preparation plan for our upcoming 49th Annual Vintage Motorcar Meet

FUEL FOR THOUGHT

“When I drove into Victory Circle I think it was about the happiest moment of my life. They really make quite an occasion out of it. They present you with the huge Borg-Warner trophy - and a glass of milk - while everyone crowds around and takes pictures. ...But by far the most memorable part of winning was taking the victory lap in the Oldsmobile convertible pace car. A long time had passed since the finish of the race, and the stands were still packed with screaming, cheering spectators. ...It’s hard to describe the feelings I was having. Roger [Penske, team owner] and Karl [Kainhofer, chief mechanic] were there in the car with me. We had started out together back in 1966, never anticipating that six years later the three of us would still be together as winners at Indianapolis.”

- Excerpt from *The Unfair Advantage* by Mark Donohue with Paul Van Valkenburgh, Bentley Publishers, copyright 1975, new edition 2000



Historic context: Mark Donohue won the 1972 Indianapolis 500 in a McLaren M16-B, setting a then-record fastest-lap speed of 187.539 mph and posting a full race average speed of 162.2 mph, a record that stood for twelve years. It was his only Indy 500 win out of five attempts, and the first of many to come for team owner Roger Penske. Donohue was tragically killed in a practice crash in a Penske-March Formula 1 car prior to the Austrian Grand Prix in 1975.

CLUB NOTES

At our monthly meeting on May 6, Maureen Hartzell summarized the financial outcome of our 41st Annual Antique Gas & Steam Engine Show held on Sunday, April 26. The results were solid and up a tick from last year’s show. While spectator attendance was good and the flea market well supported, there continues to be concern that we are attracting enough exhibitors, with a definite shortage of representation in some classes. It was pointed out that, in fact, there were no antique steam engines at all. We need to be more pro-active in reaching out to this year’s exhibitors well ahead of next year’s show, and do more to attract newcomers and those who have stopped attending. Adding to the challenge is the graying of the hobby and competition from the larger Zagray event held soon after ours.

A recommendation was made to add the CT Tractor Pullers to our pre-show event notifications. Another was to review the class structure prior to the 2016 Engine Show. Other suggestions were made to include a show flyer in the newsletter mailed to all members (though it is available in advance to download from the Club web site, for those with computers), and to be sure to include the show start time in all show flyers.

CLUB NOTES (continued from previous page)

Ellie Sutton again brought up the idea to have a Club table at our shows as a place to learn how people found out about the show and capture interest in becoming a Club member. We have time to organize this for the August car show. We need volunteers to staff it and literature to hand out, including membership applications. [*Editor's suggestion: in addition, we ought to prepare a sheet with general info about the Club, including contact info and a brief history.*]

The head of the local Lion's Club chapter, which operates the food concession at the Engine Show, invited Jon Grant to give a talk about our show in order to better enable them to co-promote it amongst other Lions Clubs in the state. Jon said this hasn't been done before and could help us with awareness.

On the subject of Club tours, it was pointed out that while the Timex Museum in Waterbury is closing, the Bristol Clock Museum is not. Interest in going to the latter plus the industry-oriented historical museum in Bristol depends on the date, owing to the increasing number of other car-related activities in the coming weeks.

Ralph Phil brought up the subject of the importance of planning early for our 50th Annual Vintage Motorcar Meet coming up in August, 2016. Since the first show actually predated the official formation of the Club, he thought we could also use it to promote the start of the Club's 50th Anniversary Year. Jon Grant took this a step further and proposed that he form a 50th Anniversary Committee, one responsibility being to plan next year's August show. The meeting was in favor of this and Jon will go forward with it, with Ralph and others volunteering to participate. Ralph's idea to invite a collection of Connecticut-built cars to next year's show was expanded by Steve Rossi, who suggested having all makes built in New England as a focal point of the show. Ralph invited all Club members to email their ideas about the anniversary show to the Club's email address. He will take them up with the committee once Jon gets it organized.

As of the May 6th meeting there were about 20 members who had not yet paid their 2015 dues [*down to 16 as this issue went to press - Ed.*]. There was a request to distribute an updated roster to the membership once the 2015 roster can be considered "final." Members who asked to have a roster want to be able to contact each other in organizing Club tours and show activities. There was some concern that a published roster might be abused for commercial purposes. Nevertheless, the benefits seem to outweigh the risks so we will plan to do a print mailing to members along with an appropriate disclaimer. [*Note: the forthcoming roster will not appear in any posting on the Club web site as it is our practice not to include anything in generally-accessible electronic form that may have privacy implications for members or the Club.*]

WHAT'S NEW ON THE CLUB WEB SITE

Recent back issues of the *Belltown Bulletin* are available on www.belltownantiquecarclub.org. The latest newsletter is posted as a pdf document, usually on the weekend before the next meeting. The Club's 2015 Membership Application/Renewal Form is also posted and can be downloaded from the web site.

As of May 19, the new show flyer for our 49th Annual Vintage Motorcar Meet is posted as a two-page pdf which can be downloaded by members and copied for local distribution. [*A sample show flyer is enclosed with this issue of the newsletter and extra copies will be available at the June Club meeting. - Ed.*]

THE "STRAIGHT SIX"

This month the Bulletin asked six Club members to name an "old car friendly" local resource offering general auto repairs and maintenance services that other members might be looking for. Here are their recommendations:

- 1) Phil Hamilton - Auto Service of Old Saybrook, 4 Jade Court (behind M & N's Autohouse on Rte. 1), Old Saybrook; Bill Atwood, 860-388-6838
- 2) Larry Harder - Cardone and Daughter Automotive, 177 Boston Post Rd. (Rte. 1), Westbrook; David Cardone, 860-664-0727
- 3) Steve Rossi - Mike's Auto Service, 1573 Saybrook Rd. (Rte. 154), Haddam; 860-345-7700
- 4) Ellie Sutton - Rob's Auto Service, 21 Town St. (Rte. 82), East Haddam (Hadlyme section); Rob Panfili, 860-526-3835
- 5) Alan Carlson - Albert "Jay" Statts, Rte. 148, Chester; 860-526-4256 [Jay formerly operated his own shop in Westbrook for 22 years, now works part-time on old cars and will come to your garage]
- 6) Mark Hoydilla, "What else can I say?" - Hoydilla Garage, Rte. 154, Higganum; 860-345-8025

If you have additional local "old car friendly" service provider recommendations, including specialty shops working on specific makes or focusing on particular work (e.g., rebuilding early engines, magnetos, etc.), send an email to the editor at dan12david@yahoo.com. We will compile another list in a future issue of the Bulletin.

MEMBER MILESTONES

<u>Happy Birthday to:</u>	David Cardone	June 1st	Polly Beckwith	June 22nd
	Phil Hamilton	June 5th	Larry Harder	June 24th
	Lorraine Varney	June 8th	June Guertin	June 25th
	Linda LaRose	June 19th	Larry Emmons	June 29th
	Betty Lichota	June 21st		

<u>Happy Anniversary to:</u>	Gordon & Maureen Hallberg	June 7th
	Bill & Julie Miller	June 9th
	Doug & Tammy MacKeown	June 10th
	Bill & Jane West	June 18th
	Bill & Carol Petras	June 21st
	Lee & Ruth Harris	June 24th
	Jim & Jean Way	June 24th
	Larry & Mary Jo Emmons	June 29th

HEARD FROM BOB HELLSTROM

John Peterson's sister-in-law reported to me that John has regained partial use of his right arm. I thought I saw some improvement during my last visit and she confirmed that. That's welcome news!

ROAD TRIPPIN'

Unmuffled Exhaust from the Editor

While still in high school I took my first road trip on my own, traveling with my friend Gritzmacher in my mother's '62 Chevy Impala SS convertible (a 2-bbl. 283 Powerglide) from Old Saybrook to Cape Cod and back. Flash forward to earlier this month; in honor of my Big Birthday and Medicare eligibility, I left home in a different five-year old convertible (my recently -bought 2010 Saab 9-3) and headed west to Nashville. In the intervening years I've criss-crossed the Lower 48 many times, for business and pleasure. Over the past decade my now less-frequent road trips have always included one or more destinations related to automotive history, usually of the car show or museum variety. This time was no different. There will be more about that in upcoming issues of the Bulletin.



In the meantime, suffice it to say that now is an opportune time to "hit the road." Gas prices are still low, although they are creeping back up, and the traffic doesn't seem quite as bad as its pre-recession peak...at least not yet. There is a lot to see in this great country and traveling by car is the best way to go, assuming you have the time and the stamina to complete the round trip mission you want to take. It also helps to have a car that is enjoyable to drive, whether it's an old one or one that's not so old.

The biggest surprise on this trip? Since the last time I crossed the G-W Bridge over the Hudson River on the way back to Connecticut, the eastbound-only toll for a passenger car has doubled to \$14. Ouch!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 30 - Sunday, May 31 - Greenwich Concours d'Elegance, Roger Sherman Baldwin Park, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., American makes on Saturday, imports on Sunday. Info at www.greenwichconcours.com

Wednesday, June 3 - BACC monthly meeting at the East Hampton Library at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 7 - 29th Annual 4-C's Car Show & Aircraft Exhibit at the New England Air Museum at Bradley Field in Windsor Locks, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; contact Phil Hamilton, 860-526-5729 for info

Sunday, June 7 - Spring Open House & Tractor Show at DD Living History Farm, 102 Painter Hill Rd. in Roxbury, CT, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; contact Jon Grant, 860-267-7507 regarding Club tour participation

Sunday, June 14 - AACA Central CT Chapter's 41st Annual Car & Truck Meet, Glastonbury, field open at 8 a.m., show opens at 9 a.m.; rain date June 28. Info and flyer at www.cenconnaaca.org

Wednesday, June 17 - Monthly cruise nights on the Colchester Green, sponsored by the Good Times Motoring Club, are underway every third Wednesday through Sept. 16. Gates open at 4:30 p.m. Rain date is following Wednesday. Info at www.goodtimesmotoringclub.com

Thursday, June 18 - Sunday, June 21 - 2nd Annual Vintage Motorsports Festival at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, 205 East Thompson Rd., Thompson, CT. Info at www.thompsons Speedway.com

Saturday, June 20 - 23rd Klingberg Vintage Motorcar Festival, New Britain, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info at www.klingbergautoshow.org

Sunday, August 2 - 49th Annual Belltown Vintage Motorcar Meet, Haddam Neck, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

HOBBY HEADLINES & HISTORY

75 years ago, Graham-Paige Motors attempted to resurrect itself by introducing a “new” model called the Graham Hollywood, based on the body dies from the defunct Cord 810 Beverly Sedan. Instead of using the more expensive Cord front wheel drive system, the Graham was re-engineered to be rear wheel drive. The Hollywood also featured a pointed prow rather than the 810’s “coffin nose,” and had exposed headlamps. On May 21, 1901, Connecticut became the first state to enact speed limits for automobiles. Initially they were set at 12 mph in the city and 15 mph on country roads.

AD-DENDUM

Challenge your brand recognition IQ

“You can trust your car to the man who wears the star.”

That long-running service-oriented message was brought to you by:

- a) The Dodge Boys
- b) Mercedes-Benz Parts & Service Div.
- c) Texaco, Inc.

The correct answer to last month’s Ad-Dendum, “Lemon” - Volkswagen Beetle

NEXT ISSUE

The copy and classified ad deadline for the July issue of *The Belltown Bulletin* is June 18, 2015. The planned printing date is June 22. Please send your suggestions and feedback on the newsletter, as well as any classified ads for cars parts or hobby-related services, to the editor at dan12david@yahoo.com.

The regular newsletter feature, CONNECTICUT AUTOMOBILIA will return in the July issue.

BELLTOWN ANTIQUE CAR CLUB

President - Bob Sutton Vice President - Phil Guertin

Secretary - Peter Christianson

Treasurer - Maureen Hartzell

Directors - Scott MacGregor & Mark Hoydilla

Sunshine Chairperson - Polly Beckwith (860-345-4256)

Newsletter Editor - Dan David (dan12david@yahoo.com)

Editor Emeritus - Bob Hellstrom

Club web site - www.belltownantiquecarclub.org

Club e-mail address - belltowncarclub@gmail.com

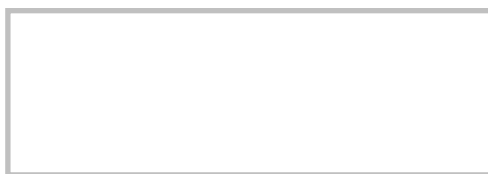
Club mailing address - BACC, P.O. Box 211, East Hampton, CT 06424

June Reminders:

- Make sure the cooling system in your collector car is as ready as it needs to be for a hot summer jaunt.
- Be an ambassador for the Club! As you are out and about in your old car, you may meet a kindred spirit who might be interested to join BACC. Direct them to the Club web site for a membership application.
- Many more car show listings can be found in the Events Calendar on the 4C's web site, www.ctccc.net
- "The show isn't really over until the last car leaves the field!"



Richard Beckwith turning onto Rte. 80 in Deep River in his 1929 Model A on Tuesday, May 19, following the Misfit Cruisers weekly show at Plattwood Park [Dan David photo]



RETURN ADDRESS
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c/o Dan David, Editor
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Chester, CT 06412-1317