



# THE BELLTOWN BULLETIN

Belltown Antique Car Club - P.O. Box 211, East Hampton, CT 06424 Dec. 2022 - Jan. 2023

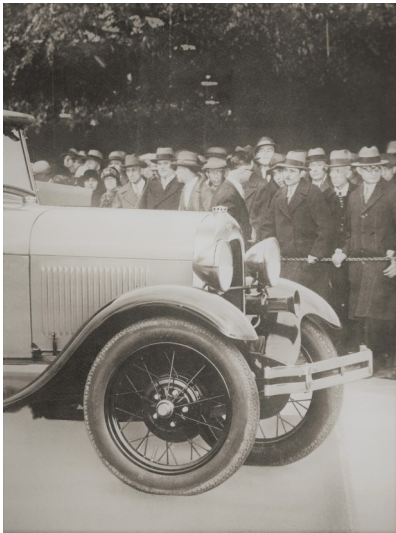
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## NEXT MEETING

**Saturday, January 7, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at Karl Helming's in Portland**

- On the Agenda:
- 2023 officers presiding
  - Approve the list of classes for our 2023 Vintage Motorcar Meet
  - Ideas for first quarter tours and activities
  - Pre-planning for our Antique Engine & Tractor Meet in April
  - Membership renewal update

## FUEL FOR THOUGHT



The Ford Model A was introduced on December 2, 1927 to worldwide acclaim. Noted Ford historian Allan Nevins once said, **“By any standards of measurement, this rebirth of the Ford automobile must be accounted one of the most striking achievements of the twentieth century industrial history. Indeed, a changeover of such scope and urgency was then unknown in [American industry].”**

The Model A was the first complete car produced at Ford's River Rouge plant, a gigantic, vertically-integrated manufacturing complex located in Dearborn, Mich. At launch, the 1928 Model A line-up was comprised of eight body styles (plus an additional five commercial vehicle types), offered in a choice of seven exterior color schemes, at the time an almost unheard of variety for an all-new motor car. The new Ford's instant market success derived from its modest elegance, clever engineering, ease of maintenance, and dependability, traits that have helped secure its popularity for 95 years and counting.

## CLUB NOTES

Our last business meeting of 2022, the Annual Meeting, was held on November 2 at the East Hampton Public Library.

Treasurer *Cliff Baker* announced that an unsolicited donation of \$100 was received from member *Bob Fiala*. His contribution is greatly appreciated by all!

*Alan Carlson* acknowledged one visitor at the meeting, Mr. Jay Hartling, who told us that he is the owner of a 1963 Cadillac and is considering joining BACC. The members, one by one, introduced themselves.

### Old business

We received a “thank you” letter from the Newtown Lions for allowing them to showcase their charity raffle car at our August Meet. They look forward to participating again next year. The letter noted that the winning ticket holder for the 2021 Mustang convertible was a woman from Wilton, Conn.

Continued on p. 2

CLUB NOTES, continued from p. 1New business

Decisions were taken on the following agenda items:

- ◆ After thoughtful discussion the members chose Studebaker as the Featured Marque for our 2023 Vintage Motorcar Meet. All stock, unmodified, pre- and post-war Studebaker vehicles will be eligible for this class, including the 1963-64 Studebaker Avanti and all Studebaker truck models. The last Studebakers were built in model year 1966. Note: “continuation” Avanti II’s, built independent of Studebaker as from 1965, are excluded from the Featured Marque class.
- ◆ Members voted **not** to increase Club dues in March. Throughout 2023, dues will remain at \$20 for the basic membership with electronic delivery of the newsletter, and \$30 for those who opt to get a paper newsletter delivered by mail (if your email address is on file you also receive the newsletter via electronic delivery).
- ◆ Members voted to hold future monthly business meetings at Karl Helming’s home garage in Portland on Saturday afternoons throughout the year EXCEPT for the May, June, July and September meetings, which will be held at the East Hampton Public Library on Wednesday evenings, and the “August” meeting that is traditionally held at the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds on the Wednesday evening prior to our Vintage Motor Car Meet (often the date of this meeting falls during the last week of July).
- ◆ Election of officers for 2023 - There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made and passed to have the Club secretary cast a single vote, on behalf of the members, in favor of the Board of Directors proposal for a slate of officers that was presented in October:

*Mark Hoydilla, President*

*Ray Lichota, Vice President*

*Peter Christianson, Secretary (incumbent)*

*Cliff Baker, Treasurer (incumbent)*

*Jon Grant, two-year term as a member-at-large on the Board of Directors*

*Dan David, to fill the one year remaining on the other member-at-large seat on the Board (vacated)*

Activities

No new activities were proposed.

*Polly Beckwith* confirmed that Farrell’s will again cater our holiday party at the new location in Portland. The members decided to stay with the voluntary gift “grab bag” as introduced last year.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Club participation events in bold)

Saturday, January 7 - **BACC monthly business meeting**, 1:30 p.m. at Karl Helming’s home garage in Portland, Conn. First meeting of 2023; newly-elected officers presiding.

Friday-Sunday, Jan. 20-22 - Carlisle Events presents Auto Mania, an indoor flea market and corral at the Ag Hall at the Allentown, Penn. Fairgrounds. Info: <https://carlisleevents.com/events/events-detail/index?id=auto+mania>.

Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 21-22 - Auto Parts Swap ’N Sell, Eastern States Exposition Better Living Center, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, Mass. Info: <http://www.apswapnsell.com/visitor-info.html>.

Saturday, February 4 - **BACC monthly business meeting**, 1:30 p.m. at Karl Helming’s home garage in Portland, Conn., preceded by a pot-luck lunch at 12:30 p.m. (details to come at the January meeting).

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For more old car event listings check out the Conn. Council of Car Clubs @ <https://ctccc.net/events-calendar.html>, the Conn. Seaport Car Club based in Fairfield area @ <https://www.ctseaportcarclub.com/carshows.htm>, and Shoreline Antique Auto Connection based in Branford area @ <http://www.shorelineantiqueautoconnection.com/calendar.htm>.

**MEMBER MILESTONES**

<u>Happy Birthday to:</u>	Peter Christianson	Jan. 1st	Alan Miller	Jan. 19th (77)
	Sean Grant	Jan. 11th	Kathy Miller	Jan. 19th (78)
	Charlie Murphy	Jan. 11th (75)	Stan Mirecki	Jan. 20th
	Robert Szczepanski	Jan. 12th (65)	Garrett Grant	Jan. 26th
	Nancy Shaw	Jan. 14th (65)	Jim Mulconry	Jan. 26th
	Mike Somma	Jan. 16th (80)		

Happy Anniversary to: Paul & Margaret Seely Jan. 26th (53) Robert Szczepanski & Gayle Kellas Jan. 31st

Condolences to: Tony Adams, whose granddaughter Lexy, 18, passed away due to a serious illness on November 23.

Get Well Soon to: Phil Hamilton, who was hospitalized, unexpectedly, shortly after he and Debby attended our November meeting. Phil is recuperating at home.

New Member: Please welcome Jay Hartling of East Hampton to BACC. Jay gave us a “test drive” by attending our November meeting. Apparently we “made the grade.”

**Membership renewal reminder** - BACC’s annual dues are to be paid by the first of the year. Renewals are considered late as of the end of January. A reminder will accompany the next newsletter for those members whose dues are still outstanding when the February issue of the newsletter is published. As of the third week of December, 45 members (44%) had not yet paid their 2023 dues. See the treasurer at the January meeting or mail your check to the Club mailbox in East Hampton at your earliest convenience. You may download the renewal form from the Club web site or request one from the Club treasurer or secretary at the next meeting.

**BELLTOWN CLASSIFIEDS**

Send your sell/wanted ads for cars, parts and hobby-related services to dan12david@yahoo.com

For Sale – 1929 Essex Super Six Rumble Seat Coupe  
Runs and drives great.  
Asking \$15,000.

Call Don Super, 860-304-4634 [BACC member],  
or Randy Hale, 860-662-0649



**CONNECTICUT AUTOMOBILIA**

Submitted by Steven Rossi

Carlisle-Hershey Double Couple

Haddam, Connecticut’s Richard and Polly Beckwith are a Fall Meet double couple. The pair partakes in both Hershey and Carlisle (which also takes place in Pennsylvania, the week before) and have been doing so since 1975. Fortunately, they’re self-contained with their own motorhome and following box trailer ... in tow.

According to Richard, the combination of events is “a good mix of selling and socializing. After so, so many Meets, we now have friends from all across America ... and around the world ... and make new ones every year, too.” So in addition to being vendors, the AACA Eastern Fall Nationals is somewhat of an annual reunion ... if not ritual ... for them.

The one-day-back shift in schedule (with what is now a Monday load-in) has made for an easier transition ... from Carlisle to Hershey. The Beckwiths very much rely on the annual Hershey meet program, which allows all those old acquaintances



and customers to find them ... now on the Green Field (GBH 19-23). “But we wish that our cell phone numbers would be included in the guide as well, so people could follow-up with us later if they saw something they liked but didn’t buy it on the spot. Because for us, the fall events are an important part of our business for the year.” Doing the double obviously requires a significant back-to-back commitment ... both personally and financially, but when it comes to the busy Beckwiths, being a husband-and-wife team ... and dedicated AACA family ... the two-up tango keeps Richard out of trouble. And Polly, too ....  
— Steven Rossi

Belltowners Polly and Richard Beckwith, who we know as early Ford enthusiasts as well as dyed-in-the-wool automotive flea market vendors, were spotlighted in a sidebar story that appeared in the Nov.-Dec., 2022 issue of AACA’s bimonthly magazine, *Antique Automobile* [left].

[According to a famous quote from the program for an exhibition of Andy Warhol’s work at the Moderna Museet in Stockholm, Sweden in 1968, “In the future, everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes.” - Ed.]

### Scenes from BACC's Holiday Party in Portland on Dec. 10th

68 members and guests attended this annual event. Thanks go to **Karl Helming** for making the arrangements to hold it at Fellowship Hall at Zion Lutheran Church, to **Polly Beckwith** for organizing everything with her usual efficiency, and to Farrell's for the meal catering. Our appreciation also goes to **Mary Criscuolo** for baking cookies & brownies and to **Joan Frey** for baking cookies. Polly also wishes to recognize her husband **Richard** and **Cliff & Diane Baker** for their help in setting up the hall, her son **Chris** for handling the PA system, **Doug Mackeown** for his donation that paid for the dessert cake, **Jon & Elaine Grant** for washing the coffee pots afterwards, and everyone else who assisted with clean up.

**“Thanks everybody and Happy Holidays!”**



Photo Credit: Dan David

### Annual BACC Awards Presented at the 2022 Holiday Party

This year the Board was pleased to recognize the following members (*Alan Carlson*, presenter):

- ◆ ***Don Liepelt*** received the Bill Perry Award [for Outstanding Service to BACC]
- ◆ ***Richard Beckwith*** received the Henry Burr Award [in Recognition of Commendable Club or Community Service]
- ◆ ***Dan David*** received the John Marinelli Award [for Enhancing the Overall Enjoyment of the Old Car Hobby]

Congratulations to our three 2022 award winners! In addition to these awards, the customary honorary gavel was presented by *Mark Hoydilla*, 2023 president, to our outgoing president, ***Alan Carlson***, for his service in that capacity over the past five years. Well done!



**Bill Perry Award to *Don Liepelt***



**John Marinelli Award to *Dan David***



**Henry Burr Award to *Richard Beckwith*\***



***Alan Carlson* receiving the inscribed honorary gavel from president-elect *Mark Hoydilla***

\*) Fun Fact: When BACC was established in 1968, Richard was the one who invited Henry Burr (RIP) to become a member.

> Go to the **BACC Facebook page** for more photos from the holiday party, taken by *Betty Lichota* <

## GOAL LINES

*Unmuffled Exhaust from the Editor*

Like many of you, I aim to set a few goals for the coming year, some of which are connected to old cars. This inspired me to ask some members at the holiday party, "What's your #1 goal for 2023, as far as the old car hobby is concerned?" Their answers were brief and to the point, considering that dessert was about to be served:

**Karl Helming** - "To have a great engine show and car show."

**Mark Hoydilla** - "I want everyone in the club to have fun and enjoy themselves...let's do some more tours! I'd also like to see the membership grow by ten percent."

**Tim Cone** - "To get some of my vehicles running, including my two tractors."

**Fred Glabau** - "I want to use my 1930 Model A Ford more often."

**Chris Beckwith** - "Recently I bought a dynamometer, which I hope to have working within the year ... so I can use it!"

**Stan Mirecki** - "To have all three of my cars running, a Ford and two Packards (one Packard is running as of this year)."

**Jay Hartling** - "I'd like to take my '63 Cadillac out for a drive at least once a week."

It's good to be optimistic about what we can accomplish next year. Of course, here in Connecticut, achieving our goals comes with at least one caveat, "Weather permitting!" Right now we are staring Old Man Winter in the face ...

## HOBBY HEADLINES & HISTORY

**Connecticut Council of Car Clubs Chairman Passes Unexpectedly** - John Bajumpaa, 67, died peacefully at his home in East Windsor on Dec. 3. John had been re-elected chairman of the organization at its most recent meeting in early November. Aside from his role as chairman, John managed the group's Facebook page and web site, including their on-line old car events calendar. He, along with his brother David (also on the board of the 4C's), was a member of the Studebaker Driver's Club. [BACC is a long-time active supporter of the 4C's.]

**Corvair Museum Officially Recognized by General Motors** - The Corvair Preservation Museum on Rte. 66 in Glenarm, Ill. announced that it has been approved by GM as the official Corvair museum for North America. As such, it will be renamed the National Corvair Museum. For information go to [www.nationalcorvairmuseum.com](http://www.nationalcorvairmuseum.com). The museum is independently run by the non-profit Corvair Preservation Foundation.



**Underway 50 Years Ago: Phase-In of Tougher Bumper Standards** - Cars built for the U.S. market had to have stronger bumpers beginning in 1973. Standards were toughened in 1974 and again in 1979, making the decade of the 1970's the one in which the styling for a given vehicle package began to be dictated by more than just aesthetics and product cost. Car designers then had to cope with additional demands associated with downsizing and aerodynamics in order to reduce fuel consumption. It took nearly two decades, helped by some regulatory relief and the introduction of new materials and better manufacturing quality, for automobile design to blossom once again.

## BELLTOWN ANTIQUE CAR CLUB - 2023 OFFICERS

President - Mark Hoydilla	Elected Directors* - Jon Grant (yr. 1 of 2) & Dan David (yr. 2 of 2)
Vice President - Ray Lichota	Sunshine Chairperson - Polly Beckwith (860-345-4256)
Secretary - Peter Christianson	Newsletter Editor - Dan David (dan12david@yahoo.com, 860-575-6194)
Treasurer - Cliff Baker	

\*) The BACC Board of Directors is comprised of the four current officers plus the previous president (Alan Carlson) and two elected from the membership at large

Club web site - [www.belltownantiquecarclub.org](http://www.belltownantiquecarclub.org) [webmaster: Ralph Phil, mail@rjphil.com]

E-mail address - belltowncarclub@gmail.com

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

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/BACC-Belltown-Antique-Car-Club-116729245345421/](https://www.facebook.com/BACC-Belltown-Antique-Car-Club-116729245345421/) [FB mgr.: Betty Lichota]

## WHO, WHAT, WHERE OR WHEN

*Challenge your automotive history IQ*

Match the Connecticut city to the automotive activity that took place there. **Bonus:** Identify the man who was the driving force behind each one.

The cities: Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, Stamford

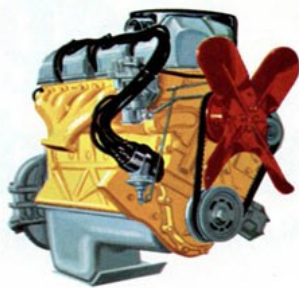
- Where the Zeppelin-inspired Dymaxion Car was created in 1933
- Where the still-born, BMW-powered, hydro-pneumatically suspended, mahogany-fendered, aluminum-bodied Martinique sports car was developed in the early 1980's
- Where Saab Motors, Inc., the American subsidiary of the Swedish car manufacturer Saab, co-located its national headquarters with where it would import cars and warehouse spare parts in the 1960's
- Where the United States Motor Co. acquired the Columbia Motor Car Co. and the rights to the Selden patent in 1910 as part of a long-shot effort to compete with General Motors for dominance of the American auto industry

The men: Aeronautical engineer Ralph T. Millet, architect and inventor R. Buckminster Fuller, Detroit industrialist Benjamin Briscoe, and automotive designer Robert Cumberford

*The correct answer to Who, What, Where, or When in the last issue, "Two, unrelated, OHC in-line six-cylinder engines were produced in the U.S. between WWII and 1970. Identify them and the five vehicle lines in which they were offered.":*

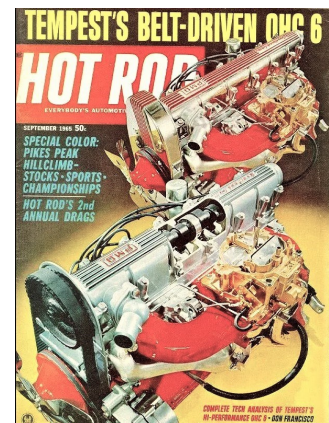
One engine was the **Tornado OHC six developed by Kaiser Jeep Corp.** that was offered in the mid-1962-1965 Willys Jeep Station Wagon and Pickup models, the 1963-1964 Jeep Wagoneer line, and, the 1963-1964 Jeep Gladiator pickups (with continued availability in military versions through 1969).

The second engine was the **Pontiac OHC six offered by Pontiac Div. of General Motors** in the 1966-69 Pontiac Tempest and Tempest Sprint models, and the 1967-69 Pontiac Firebird and Firebird Sprint models.



### **Jeep Tornado-OHC ENGINE**

Big 6-cylinder power and exclusive overhead cam design are yours in the TORNADO-OHC engine. Features low fuel consumption with regular-grade gasoline, low maintenance costs, and greater load-moving efficiency resulting from high torque at low R.P.M. Spheroidal combustion chambers, "Tufftrided" crankshaft, positive crankcase ventilation and extra-large valves assure longer life . . . superior performance. Under the hood of every new 'Jeep' Wagoneer or Gladiator, the TORNADO-OHC provides big power, top performance, unbeatable economy!



## NEXT ISSUE

The next *Belltown Bulletin* will be the February, 2023 issue. The copy and classified ad deadline is Thursday, January 19. Monday the 23rd is the publication date, with mail-out on January 25 and e-delivery no later than January 27.

Your content suggestions, comments, classified ads and other contributions are most welcome. Send them to the editor at dan12david@yahoo.com (or call 860-575-6194).

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## By the Way...

As a once-upon-a-time amateur cartoonist and wannabe car designer, your editor appreciates a good doodle, whenever and wherever he sees one. The drawing below appeared on the back of the envelope that conveyed *Jared Lamenzo's* 2023 BACC membership renewal. No word on which member of the Lamenzo family deserves the credit for it.



***“Keep up the good work!”***

**Happy New Year!** Don't forget to renew your BACC membership for calendar year 2023, if you haven't already done so! (Doodles optional.)

## E-Delivery Bonus\*

- ◆ Back in the days when Ford offered a two-seater to compete with the Chevrolet Corvette, there was a special Thunderbird model built in Mystic, Conn. by the PowerCar Co. (see page 9 for images).

This is a video of that product in action:

<https://vimeo.com/766684810?from=outrio-embed>

One of these little rarities recently sold on Bring a Trailer for \$3,500! Here is a link to the auction:

<https://bringatrailer.com/listing/1955-thunderbird-jr-by-power-car-company/>

- ◆ Back in August we visited Tom Tkacz to sample his famous pizza and take a look at his restoration handiwork, including an up close inspection of his supercharged 1937 Graham coupe. If you would like to learn more about the supercharged engines used in the latter day Graham cars, check out this story that was just published by Mac's Motor City Garage:

<https://macsmotorcitygarage.com/secrets-of-the-1934-41-graham-supercharger/>

- ◆ Car guys of a certain age will remember the “bubble top craze” of the late 1950's and 1960's. Car company styling departments built concept cars and customizers followed suit with creations for the show circuit. The Norwegian custom car history web site, *Kustomrama*, has compiled a history of these one-offs which you can read here (read it on a cool day!):

[https://kustomrama.com/wiki/Bubble\\_Top\\_Cars](https://kustomrama.com/wiki/Bubble_Top_Cars)

\* ) The E-Delivery Bonus is a feature not found in the printed version of this newsletter that is distributed via the USPS.

Note: All links in the electronic version are “clickable” as long as your browser is open.





## BONUS CONNECTICUT AUTOMOBILIA

*Submitted by Steven Rossi*

Here's more on the "Thunderbird Jr." from Mystic, Conn.'s PowerCar Co.

**ATTENTION!**

- Kiddieland Owners
- Park Owners
- Drive-In Theatre Owners
- Fair Managers

**GREATEST ATTENDANCE GETTING PREMIUM TODAY**

*Thunderbird Jr.*

IT HAPPENED TO PEPSI-COLA SYRACUSE BOTTLING, INC. (N. Y. STATE FAIR). OVER 15,000 ADULTS REGISTERED THEIR CHILDREN TO WIN A THUNDERBIRD JR.



Use this fascinating juvenile prize as an attendance-stimulator at your location or event and just watch the thousands of ADDITIONAL Kids (6-60) you will draw. Added gross receipts for just one day will certainly more than pay for the cost of this popular car. Electrically powered and supplied complete with battery and recharger. Nothing more to buy.

WRITE US TODAY FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND THE SURPRISINGLY LOW COST OF THE THUNDERBIRD JR.

**POWER CAR COMPANY** WILLOW STREET, MYSTIC, CONN.  
TELEPHONE: JEFFERSON 4-1641



Real working headlights, too ... just like mom's car has!