



The Belltown Bulletin

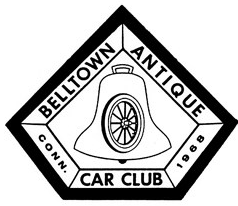
News & information from the Belltown Antique Car Club

April 2024

***BREAKING NEWS:* Packard Sues Subaru For Stealing Idea Of Dogs Driving Cars!**



APRIL FUEL ISSUE



The Belltown Bulletin



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

April, 2024

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. at Karl Helming's in Portland

Timely Topics: - Final preparations for our April Antique Engine & Tractor Meet
- Spring tours and activities
- Finalize flyer for August Vintage Motorcar Meet ...and more!

APRIL FUEL

“When you first meet him, you think he is a mechanic with a bent for farming; later you decide he is a farmer with a bent for mechanics.”
- *Fortune* magazine, 1933, on interviewing Henry Ford.

Right: Henry Ford's first tractor, ca 1907, the "Auto Plow"
[The collections of The Henry Ford Museum]



CLUB NOTES

Our third business meeting of 2024 was held on March 2 at *Karl Helming's* garage in Portland. Special thanks to *Betty Lichota, Joan Frey, Beverly Astles, Diane Baker* and guest *Joan Liska* (Middletown Military Museum) for the meeting refreshments and goodies!

Cliff Baker reported that he has paid our annual insurance premium but hasn't got the bill yet for the new D&O insurance policy.

Old Business

Bill Nitschke stated that the student learning exercise at Valley Regional High School is set for May 24, from noon to 1:30. Members interested to participate should contact Bill. He also said he will explore whether students would be interested in satisfying their commitment to do community service by volunteering at our show (to assist with parking, for example).

Peter Christianson said that he and some other BACC officers will meet with the board of the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds Association on March 14 at 5 p.m. to discuss our contract for using the field as well as ways to improve the facility and the show. He noted that the HNFA would like to add additional events during the season.

Peter also said the East Hampton Library was booked on the first Wednesdays of May, June and July when he went to reserve the conference room for our upcoming monthly meetings. For those months he put in a reservation for the second Wednesdays instead. Members indicated their approval.

New Business

Guest *Joan Liska* of the Middletown Military Museum announced that they will hold a military vehicles show on July 20. COMVEC is invited, however, this is not their show. The location is 200 Walnut Grove Rd. in Veterans Park in Middletown (said to be behind Palmer Field, accessible from Rte. 66).

CLUB NOTES (continued from p. 1)

Alan Carlson confirmed that the East Hampton Masonic Lodge will be the food vendor at our August Meet. Trophy and dash plaques have been ordered by *Scott Macgregor* from the vendor in the same quantities as last year for both Meets. Price is up \$75 to \$1,475.

Polly Beckwith stated that we have enough trophy bells for this year except for the large #10 size used for the special awards at the August Meet. She ordered six of them at \$37 apiece.

Polly also indicated that *Mark Johnson*, retired former Klingberg concours manager, shared a list of owners of Connecticut-made cars who had previously registered examples for the Connecticut car display that had traditionally been part of their event. He will send them a post card alerting them that our August Meet will feature Connecticut-made cars. He advised *Polly* that Klingberg did not intend to continue their concours.

Guest *Rich Drambowski* of AACA-CCR stood up to announce that, while Klingberg is no longer in a position to put on a show themselves, he is in talks with them and potential sponsors to produce a scaled down event, tentatively called "The Klingberg Reunion" that would continue their pre-war concours tradition. Klingberg would lend their facility to the event but would not sponsor or insure it. Rich is proposing to augment the concours with a car club showcase. Interested clubs would display some of their members' cars and staff an adjacent table to promote the club to the attending public. Members would also be welcome to volunteer assistance in running the event. Rich, who is a senior master AACA judge said he would serve as chief judge of the concours and would recruit other AACA certified judges for the concours. He indicated that *Wayne Carini*, who previously was Grand Marshal for the Klingberg Motorcar Series, was interested to reprise that role. The event Rich envisions would be smaller than past Klingberg shows, allowing room for spectator parking on-site in the lower lot of the Klingberg campus at 370 Linwood St. (past events had parking at the New Britain baseball field, with shuttle service to Klingberg). The benefit for Klingberg Family Centers is that all profits realized after expenses would be donated to Klingberg's car restoration program. BACC members were receptive to participating in the car club showcase and we await word as to whether Rich can meet his objective to be able to put on an event on the Saturday of Father's Day weekend, its traditional date.

Upcoming Club Activities

Cliff Baker announced that this year's Spring Dust-Off will be held on Sunday, May 5. We will meet at 11:00 a.m. at the parking lot at Gillette Castle in East Haddam, where we will have to time to socialize and walk the grounds before eating lunch (BYOL). Afterwards we will caravan to Moodus Ice Cream for dessert and an impromptu car show, then dispersing for home.

Special HFHA Presentation

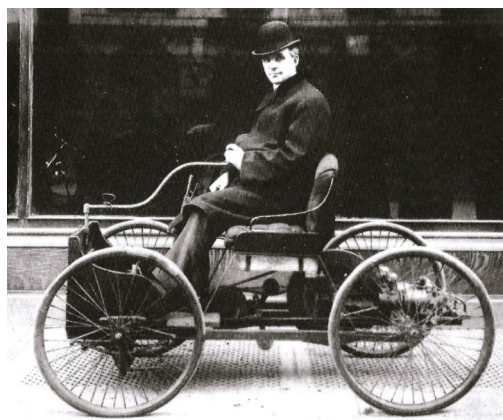
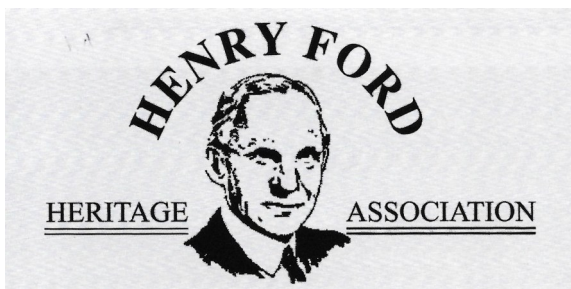
Scott Macgregor gave an illuminating talk on the life and times of Henry Ford that he obtained from the Henry Ford Heritage Association. There were a number of non-member guests in attendance, making this one of the largest meetings we have hosted in the post COVID-era.

The presentation gave a good overview of Henry Ford's life, his many accomplishments, and his impact on society, as well as touching on some of his eccentricities and more controversial aspects.

Any member who would like more information about the HFHA and its work may contact Scott (he also has sample HFHA newsletters), or visit the organization's website, www.hfha.org. You can become a member of HFHA for as little as \$20 per year.

Kudos to Scott for a job well done, and also to *Peter Christianson* for running the slide show.

[Photo credit: *Betty Lichota*]



Right: Henry Ford on his first car, the "Quadricycle"
 [The collections of The Henry Ford museum]

MEMBER MILESTONES

<u>Happy Birthday to:</u>	Mark Aldieri	April 2nd	Jonathan Foote	April 14th (77)
	James Borbas	April 4th (93)	Gordon Hallberg	April 14th (75)
	Marilyn Christianson	April 4th (75)	Maureen Hallberg	April 17th
	Corky Lieder	April 9th (81)	John Hoban	April 18th (80)
	Dorine Mosher	April 9th	Caroline Glabau	April 19th (79)
	Richard Everett	April 10th (93)	James Borbas, Jr.	April 21st
	Alan Carlson	April 13th (80)		

New Member: Please welcome back *Gunnar Gudmundson* of West Stockbridge, Mass. To BACC!

Membership roster update - As of the publication date of this issue, our BACC roster contains 94 full members in good standing, including 5 lifetime members. 12 new members joined BACC since last May when the "2023 roster" was published. In addition to these full members we currently have 52 paid associate members. A complete "2024 roster" will be distributed together with the May newsletter.

CONNECTICUT AUTOMOBILIA

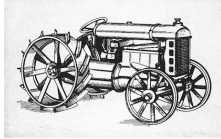
Submitted by Steven Rossi



Scene opposite the Colchester Green ... before the war (WWII), and well before the modern day cruise nights held on the green, which are slated to begin April 17 this year, weather permitting.

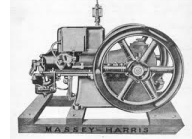
BELATED RECOGNITION

Belltowner *Randy Greenberg* received a Class HPOF - Original HPOF award for his unrestored 1980 Cadillac Coupe DeVille at AACA's 2023 Eastern Fall Nationals on October 6 in Hershey, Penn. Congratulations Randy!



*Less than 30 days to go until this year's Belltown
Antique Engine & Tractor Meet!*

>> April 28 is the date <<



UPCOMING EVENTS (Club participation events in bold)

Friday - Sunday, March 29 - April 7 - New York International Auto Show, Jacob Javits Center in Manhattan; info: <https://www.autoshowny.com>.

Saturday, April 6 - **BACC monthly business meeting at Karl Helming's home garage**, 220 Jobs Pond Rd., Portland, Conn., 1:30 p.m. [Last Saturday meeting of season. Mid-week meetings resume at the East Hampton Library in May.]

Saturday, April 6 - Automobilia and Literature Auction at Winter Associates, 21 Cooke St., Plainville, Conn. Consignors should contact Jerry Lettieri at 860-655-8682 or glettieri@cox.net. Snow date Sunday, April 7. For info go to <http://automobiliaauctions.com>.

Sunday, April 7 - 36th Annual Ty-Rods Spring Automotive Swap Meet, Stafford Motor Speedway, 55 West St., Stafford Springs, Conn. \$15 general admission. Info: <https://staffordmotorspeedway.com/events/36th-annual-ty-rods-spring-auto-swap-meet>.

Sunday, April 7 - Season opener for Connecticut Shoreline Cars & Coffee at Moroso Performance, 9 - 11 a.m., 80 Carter Dr. (Goose Lane Exit, I-95). \$2/car. Every second Sunday - Next up: Sunday, April 21 & May 5.

Wednesday, April 17 - First 2024 monthly cruise night on the Green in Colchester, Conn. presented by the Good Times Motoring Club, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Rain date following Wednesday. Info: <https://www.goodtimesmotoringclub.com>.

Wednesday - Sunday, April 17-21 - Spring Carlisle collector car flea market, corral & auction, Fairgrounds at Carlisle, Penn., kicking off Carlisle Events' 50th Anniversary. Info: <https://carlisleevents.com>.

Sunday, April 28 - **49th Annual Belltown Antique Engine & Tractor Meet**, Fireman's recreation area, Salmon River State Park, Rte. 16, East Hampton, Conn. Event opens at 8 a.m.; free admission, donations accepted. Flea market restricted to items related to the engine and tractor hobbies.

Sunday, April 28 - 3rd Annual Wings & Wheels held in conjunction with the Early Ford V-8 Club of New England's 52nd Annual Swap Meet & Car Show, Fitchburg Airport, Exit 99B or 100 off Rte. 2, Fitchburg, Mass. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. Info: <https://www.facebook.com/v8clubofnewengland>.

Friday - Sunday, May 3-5 - Rhinebeck Auto Show at Dutchess Cty. Fair Grounds, Rhinebeck, N.Y.; Fri. swap meet, Sat. hot rods/race cars; Sun. unmodified classic cars (-1998). Info: <http://www.rhinebeckcarshow.com>.

Saturday - Sunday, May 4-5 - Zagray Farm Spring Show & Swap Meet, 544 Amston Rd. (Rte. 85), Colchester, Conn., 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. Info at: <http://www.zagrayfarmmuseum.org>.

Sunday, May 5 - **BACC Spring Dust-Off tour**. We will meet up in our collector cars at Gillette Castle in Hadlyme, Conn. at 11 a.m. Bring a box lunch to have at noon. Then we will caravan up to Moodus Ice Cream for dessert.

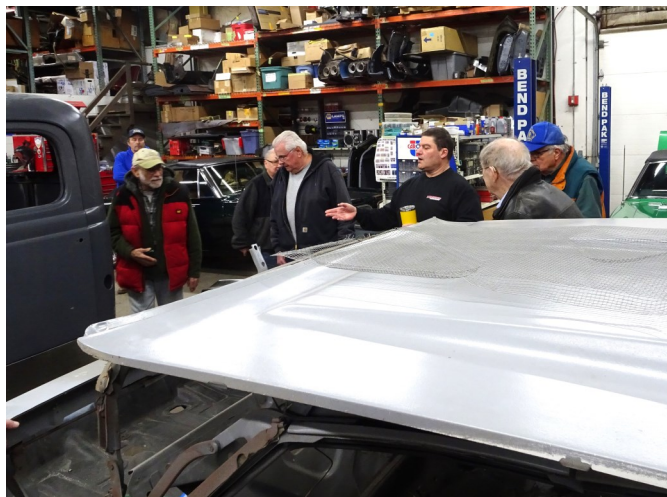
Wednesday, May 8 - **BACC monthly business meeting at the East Hampton Public Library**, beginning with a pot-luck supper at 6:30 p.m., business meeting at 7:30 p.m. Let *Polly Beckwith* know what you intend to bring (860-345-4256).

Saturday, May 18 - **BACC tour of Wayne Carini's collection** in Portland, Conn. Pre-registered members only (limited head count). Contact *Cliff Baker* for availability (860-873-9587). Drive your vintage vehicle to display at Wayne's!

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

BACC VISIT TO LABRECQUE AUTOCRAFT IN EAST WINDSOR

A dozen Belltowners joined members of AACA-CCR and the Valley Collector Car Club for a February 24th tour of this modern auto restoration shop, hosted by owner Mike Labrecque. We thank Mike and his staff members for showing us their facility and explaining what they are capable of doing there. Thanks also to AACA-CCR for arranging the tour.



Right: Cliff set a good example by wearing his Belltown hat!



[Photo credit: Dan David]

SPRING BREAKS AGAIN

Unmuffled Exhaust from the Editor

The seasonal clock flipped from Winter to Spring on March 19 (at 11:06 p.m. Eastern Time, if you must know). Major League Baseball’s 2024 season is about to officially begin and all major auto racing series are well underway already. St. Patrick’s Day is behind us as I write this, and Easter will be here before you know it. (Followed by “April Fuel!”)

BACC’s first event of the show season, the Belltown Antique Engine & Tractor Meet, happens on April 28, ready or not. Our Spring Dust-Off follows two Sundays later on May 5. Cruise nights are beginning to populate the calendar too.

This year, winter didn’t seem to create such a long break from old car-related activity as in previous years. The rather mild weather probably had something to do with this. I managed to take my Citroen out for a bare-road ride once or twice a month from November onward. I even put about 250 miles on my never-seen-rain Miata during the many dry spells, although the top always remained up.

On the other hand, maybe winter doesn’t seem to last as long as it used to because time flies faster the older we get. Either way, count me happy to see my daffodils defying the still-chilly morning temperatures.

So, now is the time to get ready for another season of old car enjoyment. Check the tires, charge the battery and change the oil! Make sure the fan belt is tight and all the lights work right! Rev up your vacuum cleaner! Clean the windows and wipe things down with your microfiber cloths, too. Make a list of whatever you discover needs attention so there can be no excuses when the call of the road beckons!

Drive safely and *happy motoring* in 2024.

BELLTOWN CLASSIFIEDS

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

For Sale – 1991 Ford Taurus Station Wagon - \$1,500

New computer board, distributor gears, front brake pads, muffler.
Includes extra tailgate glass + some body parts.

Call **Phil Hamilton**, 860-304-8125 or email philoldcar@gmail.com, Deep River. [BACC member]

For Sale – One Roll of Mattress Slats, 39" Wide - \$25

Also have a full/twin bed frame - FREE.

Call **Scott Macgregor**, 860-391-2889 or email jscotmac53@gmail.com, Moodus [BACC member]

For Sale – Vintage Gas Pump Price Sign (1920s -'30s era)

Original numbers & letters, head piece not orig. Asking \$260.

Call **Bill Nitschke**, 914-323-8958 [BACC member]



For Sale – 2012 Subaru Outback 2.5i Premium - Asking \$11,500 OBO

Cold weather pkg., auto., AWD, 80,000 miles, dealer serviced.
Best car I've ever owned, but I no longer need it.

Text **Jackie Reardon** at 860-338-6118. [BACC member]



PRICE
REDUCED

For Sale – 1987 Cadillac Allante - \$7,900

Maroon/dark red leather interior, removable hardtop.
Low miles, stored four years, no rust, all original.

– 1927 Ford Model T Roadster - \$14,000

Recent total restoration, excellent condition.

Call **Richard Beckwith**, 860-343-3056, Haddam [BACC member]



For Sale – 1917 Ford Model T Touring - Best Reasonable Offer

Looks good and runs, but may need some attention to put it back on the road.
Being sold to settle an estate.

– 1931 Ford Model A Sport Coupe - \$10,500

Registered, runs well, and is a high driver-quality car. Black on black, with red wheels.
Elderly owner can't push a clutch anymore.

Call **Richard Beckwith**, 860-343-3056, for info [BACC member, representing both owners]

HOBBY HEADLINES & HISTORY

Gooding & Co. Auction Makes Some History at Amelia Island

The premier auction house held its 14th annual sale at the recent Amelia Island Concours, grossing over \$67 million on 111 cars sold (out of 127 on offer). A 1903 Mercedes-Simplex 60 HP "Roi des Belges" was the top seller at just over \$12.1 million, making it the most expensive pre-1930's car ever sold at auction. In all, 14 vehicles sold for one million dollars or more. The sale was also notable for the 20 Art-Deco era European cars (mostly French) sold from the former Mullin Museum in Oxnard, Calif., many of which achieved higher than their pre-sale estimate. Leading that group was a 1935 Bugatti Type 35C Grand Prix that sold for \$582,500. Several coach-built Citroens were among the others that changed hands. (Gooding will hold a second auction of the remaining Mullin collection cars in Oxnard on April 26. It will be live-streamed at <https://www.goodingco.com>.)

Lime Rock Park Announces Featured Marque for Historic Festival 42

Ford has been chosen as Featured Marque for Lime Rock's Historic Festival on Labor Day Weekend. The event will showcase Ford innovation and competition, while simultaneously honoring the 60th anniversary of the Mustang.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE OR WHEN

Challenge your automotive history IQ

Although it was not built in series production, what is considered to be the first modern day electric car, one that pioneered the “propulsion system that is still the basis for all EVs today,” according to the editors of SAE’s **Automotive Engineering**?

- a. General Motors’ EV-1, deployed in an extended field test beginning in 1996
- b. Chrysler’s Turbine Car-based “e-jet” prototype of 1964
- c. The Ford Probe ElecTrick concept car of 1995
- d. GM’s Corvair-based Electravair II prototype of 1966
- e. The DeLorean Time Machine movie car of 1985 [photo, right]



The correct answers to Who, What, Where, or When in the last issue, “Thinking mainly about the analog automotive world that pre-dated the 1990s, match the ‘timing device(s)’ from column A to the function that is controlled in column B”:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| A1 Gear driven camshaft ... | B5 Valve opening/closing |
| A2 Thermal flasher relay ... | B4 Turn signal blinking |
| A3 Distributor-type mechanical pump ... | B1 Fuel delivery to diesel injectors |
| A4 Odometer, stopwatch & chronometer ... | B2 Checkpoint arrival |
| A5 Distributor + advance mechanism ... | B3 Spark (Otto-cycle engine) |

NEXT ISSUE

The next **Belltown Bulletin** will be the May, 2024 issue. The copy and classified ad deadline is Wednesday, April 24. Friday the 26th is the publication date, with mail-out on April 29 and e-delivery no later than May 1.

Club member suggestions, comments, classified ads, and content submissions are most welcome. Send them to the editor at dan12david@yahoo.com (or call 860-575-6194). **Thanks go to this month’s contributors: Steve Rossi and Joan Frey, plus Doug Mackeown** (e-delivery issue).

BELLTOWN ANTIQUE CAR CLUB

President - *Mark Hoydilla*

Vice President - *Ray Lichota*

Secretary - *Peter Christianson*

Treasurer - *Cliff Baker*

Elected Directors* - *Phil Schuster* (yr. 1 of 2) & *Jon Grant* (yr. 2 of 2)

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

Newsletter Editor - *Dan David* (dan12david@yahoo.com, 860-575-6194)

*) 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 [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/ [FB mgr.: *Betty Lichota*]

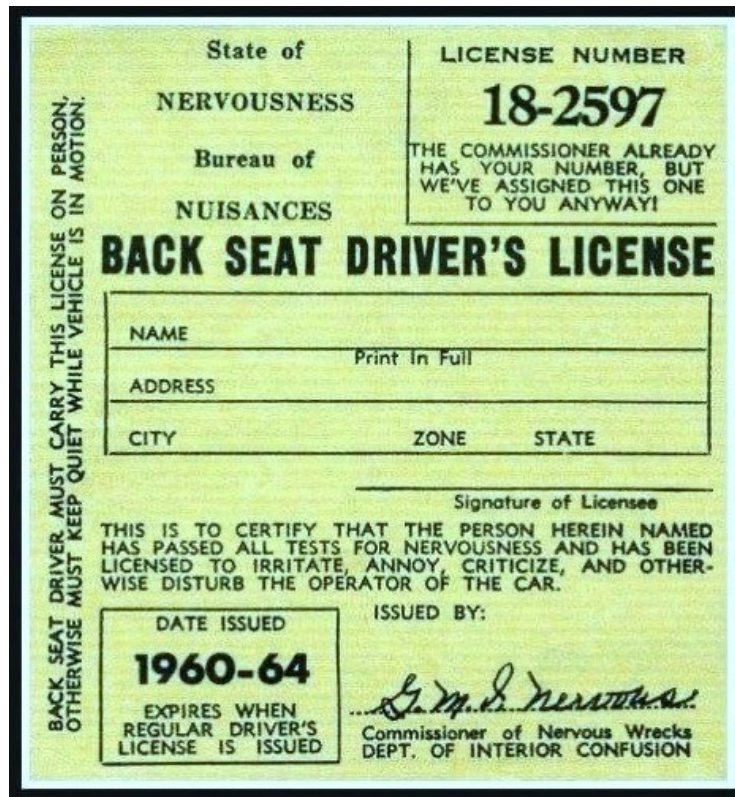
Disclaimers and Words to the Wise: The opinions expressed by the authors of the content of this newsletter are theirs and are in no way intended to represent a position taken by the Belltown Antique Car Club or its officers. The information presented herein is for the edification and entertainment of antique automobile enthusiasts who should use their experience, prudence and good judgment in applying it. Product mentions should not be interpreted as endorsements.

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BY THE WAY...

This "APRIL FUEL" flashback was issued 60 years ago and reached its expiration date, along with jokes about women drivers and mothers-in-law, soon after that!

[Submitted by Joan Frey]



E-Delivery Bonus*

Cover Image - Scene on Cape Cod: dog behind the wheel of a Packard. [Photo credit: Doug Mackeown]

- ◇ Cars Made in Connecticut are the focus of the Featured Marque for our Vintage Motorcar Meet next August. However it is our upcoming Antique Engine & Tractor Meet at the end of April that begs the question, "What companies made industrial / farm / marine engines in Connecticut?" See the full list on p. 9, courtesy of *Steven Rossi*.
- ◇ We have the answers to a couple of other pressing questions nobody has asked:
 - How many exotic birds can accompany two lucky old guys in an open Duesenberg?
 - What will the new roundabout look like at the west end of the Rte. 82 approach to the East Haddam Swing Bridge? See p. 10. (2 x "April Fuel!")
- ◇ The flyer for our upcoming 2024 Belltown Antique Engine & Tractor Meet on the Last Sunday of April is reproduced on p. 11. Flyers printed on heavy blue paper are available at meetings to post in public places. Seriously.

*) The E-Delivery Bonus is not included 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.



CONNECTICUT-Made Industrial Engines

American & British Manufacturing, Co. - Bridgeport: *from 2 1/2 to 18 horsepower*

Automatic Machine Company - Bridgeport: *two-cycle, adapted from a marine application*

C.L. Barker Company - Norwalk: *two-cycle, with make-and-break ignition*

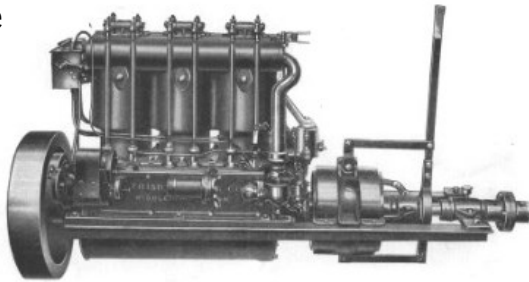
Bridgeport Motor Company - Bridgeport: *eight two-cycle and five four-cycle choices offered through the 1920s*

Denison Electric Engineering Co. - New Haven: *offered in 1900 as a complete engine or assemble-it-yourself casting package*

Foster Motor Company - New Haven: *1907 compound compression engine*

Frisbie Motor Co. - Middletown/Cromwell: *automotive/marine style, also built cars and produced Frisbie pies and then Frisbie toys*

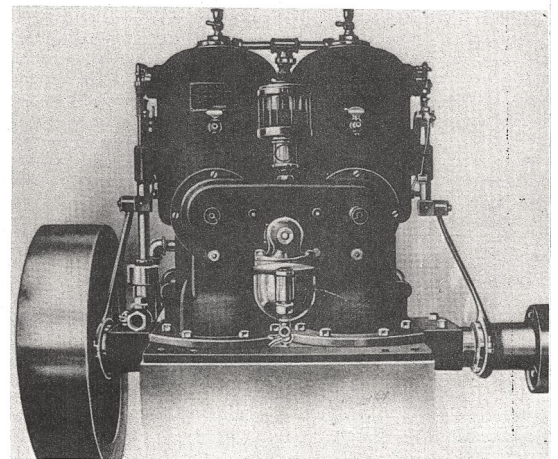
Frisbie



Three Cylinder Motor, 18 and 25 H. P.

Frisbie Three Cylinder Motor, 18 and 25 HP from Catalog No. 16, believed to be 1919

Gray & Prior Machine Co. Hartford, Connecticut



Hartford two-cylinder engines were available in 10 and 20 horsepower sizes. A 4 x 4½ inch bore and stroke was used on the 10 horsepower model, with 5 x 5½ being the dimensions on the 20 horsepower size. Hartford regularly equipped their engines with low tension make-and-break ignition, and supplied high tension spark plugs only on order. The company contended that low tension ignition was less susceptible to shorting out due to moisture, an idea with some merit. This 10 horsepower Hartford carried a 1916 price of \$203. Gray & Prior continued in business until about 1930.

Gray & Prior Machine Company - Hartford: *10 and 20 hp. two-cycles, through 1930*

Hubbard Motor Co. - Middletown: *from 1897 to the 1920s, known for its "Baby" 1 1/2 hp marine engine*

International Power Vehicle Co. - Stamford: *began in 1902, with 1 1/2 to 20 hp*

J.W. Lathrop & Co. - Mystic: *marine applications, from 1900-ish through the 1950s*

Mianus Motor Works - Mianus: *2 to 12 hp marine engines, starting in 1899*

New Departure Mfg. Co. - Bristol: *patented by Albert F. Rockwell, of automotive fame, in 1910, with exhaust pressure to control the intake valve*

New London Ship & Engine Company - Groton: *as the name implies, from 100 to 1,000 hp, built under German M.A.N. designs*

Palmer Bros. - Cos Cob: *from 1895 through WW II, with over 80,000 made (mostly marine)*

Wolverine Motor Works - Bridgeport: *two-cylinder, four cycle complete with a small air compressor to operate a marine whistle*

SOURCE: *American Gasoline Engines Since 1872* (C.H. Wendell, Crestline Publishing, 1983)

[Submitted by Steven Rossi]



NEW ROUNDABOUT COMING SOON



*Or is this actually
the new "flyover"
planned for Rte. 9
in Middletown?*

The Belltown Antique Car Club

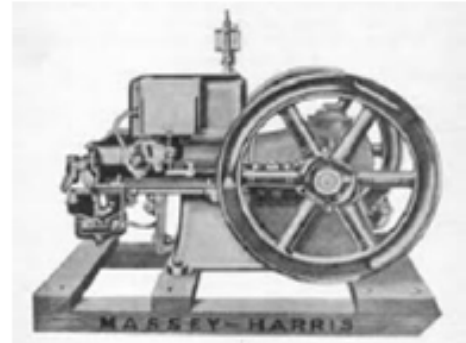


presents

The 49th Annual Antique Engine & Tractor Meet

Sunday, April 28, 2024

"Always the last Sunday in April"



Location:

Fireman's recreation area
at Salmon River State Park,
Rte. 16, East Hampton, CT
Entrance across from the
Comstock Covered Bridge

Show hours:

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rain or shine, field conditions
permitting

No charge for admission or
parking - applies to exhibitors,
vendors and spectators

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

Children under 12 must be
accompanied by an adult

Food & refreshments provided
by the East Hampton Lions Club



Important Note to Flea Market Vendors:

Due to our use permit for the show
field, *flea market vending will be
restricted to items related to the
engine and tractor hobbies.*

Household items, plants and
general merchandise *will not be
allowed on the field.*

Display and sales of guns and
knives are *forbidden.*

No unauthorized food sales.

Show Updates & Information:

www.belltownantiquecarclub.org

Peter Christianson, 860-510-3340

BACC's Other 2024 Show:

57th Annual Belltown
Vintage Motorcar Meet
Sunday, August 4

Haddam Neck Fair Grounds,
Haddam Neck, CT