



# THE BELLTOWN BULLETIN

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

February, 2022

## NEXT MEETING

**Saturday, February 5, 2022 at Karl Helming's in Portland, 12:30 p.m.**

*> A Pot-Luck Lunch will precede the business meeting <*

- + Please bring a **chair**, plus a **mask** if you have not been fully vaccinated for COVID-19.
- + Stay home if you show any signs of illness or have underlying health conditions.
- + In the event of bad driving conditions due to snow, the meeting will move to Sunday the 6th

On the Agenda: - Venue status / planning for our 2022 Antique Engine & Tractor Meet  
- Suggestions for spring activities and tours  
- Schedule & locations for upcoming Board and business meetings

## FUEL FOR THOUGHT

*"There are doubtless those abroad in the land who consider car people johnny-one-notes. An enthusiasm for automobiles, it is thought by some, is a mania narrowly confined, a diversion of limited scope enjoyed by people whose emotions are revved by getting their hands rather dirty and their wallets quite depleted - all in pursuit of a recreation which is at best ephemeral.*

*We think that is silly.*

*... The automobile is history, it is art, it is technology, it is sport. It is all this ... and more.*

*Car people know this."*

- Beverly Rae Kimes, from her introduction to *Great Cars & Grand Marques*, published by Automobile Quarterly, Inc., copyright 1976

## CLUB NOTES

The first BACC business meeting of 2022 was held January 8. In addition to all four Club officers for 2022, about 20 members and associate members were in attendance. Our thanks go to *Karl Helming* for hosting it. Treasurer *Cliff Baker* noted that Chubb Insurance indicated that our premium was scheduled to increase 69% at renewal. Although that is still well below what we were quoted by our previous insurer last year, Cliff will investigate alternatives with our insurance agent.

*Alan Carlson* opened the meeting by having the members present each introduce themselves and say a word or two about their position with the Club and the cars they own. Unexpectedly, *Don Liepelt* had a lot he wanted to share and it served as a fine substitute for not having a guest speaker this month.

Miscellaneous updates:

- ◆ Secretary *Peter Christianson* said he would build a duplicate member email mailing list to the one used by *Dan David* for Club announcements in order to have a back-up capability for this function. [This arose from an off-the-record discussion prior the meeting. - *Ed.*]
- ◆ A 'Thank You' letter was received from the Newtown Lions Club for allowing them to display their Ford Mustang raffle car at last year's Vintage Motorcar Meet. The car was won by a man from Toms River, N.J. They hope to display their 2022 raffle car at our Meet in August. We say, "Please come again."

CLUB NOTES, continued from p. 1

- ◆ *Charley Hnilicka* was absent due to having tested positive for COVID-19. We heard that he had sold three of his four cars prior to his pending move to Belfast, Maine to live with his daughter Lainie [the fourth, a 1928 Chevrolet AB was also sold, later in January ... see p. 5 - *Ed.*]. Although we will miss seeing Charley as often as we were used to, we are delighted that he has renewed his Belltown membership.
- ◆ As this issue went to press, a small number of members have not yet paid their dues for 2022. Renewals received on or after March 1, 2022 are subject to the higher dues levels approved at the Annual Meeting in November, i.e., \$20 for the basic membership with all-digital communication or \$30 including printed newsletters mailed via the USPS. An updated membership renewal form with the new dues levels will be posted on the web site in mid-February.
- ◆ Thanks go to *Peter Christianson* for updating our Constitution and Bylaws with the changes approved in late 2019 and late 2021, and to *Ralph Phil* for posting the document on the BACC web site. All members are encouraged to read BACC's Bylaws. You can find the link on the web site on the Newsletters and Membership page in the right hand column. If you do not have internet access you may request a paper copy from Peter or *Cliff Baker*.
- ◆ *Jon Grant* said he wants to propose term limits for Club officers at the next Board of Directors meeting. Last year the Board approved a term limit for elected members of the Board. Jon strongly believes that it would be good for the Club if more members participated in taking on leadership roles. Anyone who might have some reservations about becoming an officer (or board member) can be assured that current and former Club leaders are always willing to share their experience and be a resource for them.
- ◆ Regarding this year's VMM, *Ralph Phil* showed his mock-up of a new show field car class location sign that displays the class description in addition to class letter, as suggested last year by *Rick Scott*. Ralph will incorporate feedback from the meeting.
- ◆ *Don Liepelt* offered his vintage camping trailer as a potential display item at VMM along with a cutaway Model T transmission on the assumption that we make the Ford Model T our "featured marque" this year.

April Antique Engine & Tractor Meet:

*Jon Grant* has not yet sought a permit from the State to hold this event at the old Fireman's Grounds at the entrance to Salmon River State Forest. It doesn't seem like a sure thing as it looks today, but the situation is apt to change. When the COVID trends turn more favorable he will take this up with them.

Other activities:

*Alan Carlson* asked that if anyone has an idea for a tour, or destination trip, to please bring it up at the next meeting. We need to be mindful of the soon-to-commence major reconstruction of the Swing Bridge between Haddam and East Haddam, and the state's intention to construct two roundabouts on the Haddam side. *Don Liepelt* volunteered to work on laying out a Spring driving tour.

Lastly, Alan asked if we wanted to revert to holding our monthly meetings at the East Hampton Library on Wednesday evenings once we get clearance from the library to do so. One alternative is to hold them there during the late Spring and Summer so they would not conflict with other weekend activities, and hold them elsewhere, e.g. at Karl's, on Saturday afternoons the rest of the year so older members don't have to drive to and from the meetings in darkness and working members are more apt to be able to attend. There was interest in a split schedule although no final decision was made.

Our next meeting will be at Karl's on Saturday, February 5, and it will begin with a Pot-Luck Lunch at 12:30 p.m. BACC will provide eating utensils, paper plates, cups and napkins. **Please bring an entrée or dessert for the buffet (with serving utensils, if required), or, a large-size soft drink or two to share. Bring along a bottle of water for yourself if that is your drink of choice. Coffee will be available.**



**Membership renewals are considered past due as of the end of January** - If you still owed dues for 2022 (as of press time), your copy of the February newsletter will include a reminder entitled ‘**LAST ISSUE**’ in the form of an adhesive label on your printed newsletter, or, for those who receive an emailed edition, the reminder will be in the cover email. As of the third week of January, 15 members had not yet paid their 2022 dues. Pay the Club treasurer at the February meeting or mail your check to the Club mailbox in East Hampton at your earliest convenience. If you need another renewal form you may download it from the Club web site or request one from the treasurer or secretary.

**MEMBER MILESTONES**

Happy Birthday to: Bruce Dutch February 2nd (65) Barbara Michael February 11th  
 Nancy Liepelt February 5th Audrey Brookes February 23rd  
 Carol Petras February 6th (85) Christopher Hallberg February 23rd  
 Edward Shumbo February 8th

Happy Anniversary to: Jon & Elaine Grant February 14th  
 Dick & Mary Everett February 23rd (65)

New Members: Please welcome new members *John (Jr.) & Theresa Bair* of Higganum, and *Brent & Deb Thompson* of East Haddam. The Thompsons own a ‘57 Chevrolet Bel Air. Correction to last month’s issue: new member *Christopher Hallberg* is the nephew of long-time member *Gordon Hallberg*.

Our Sympathies to: *Harold and Kathy Waters* on the unexpected passing of their daughter, Diane Campbell, in December, 2021.

**BELLTOWN CLASSIFIEDS**

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

For Sale – *Late 1930 Model A Ford Deluxe Roadster*, correct Ford maroon and black with red wheels and pinstripe. Just turned over 64,000 original miles. Runs excellent. Equipped with Motometer, quail, stone guard, twin side-mounts with metal side and tread covers and mirrors, clock mirror, step plates, trunk rack and trunk. Still maintains its original upholstery. Asking \$27,500.



John Beveridge, 860-767-3072, or email [beveridge18@att.net](mailto:beveridge18@att.net).  
 [BACC member]

For Sale – *Set of 4 Uniroyal Tiger Paw white wall radial tires*. Size P205/75 R15, like new, used only one season on my 1955 T-Bird before I changed over to wide whites. \$150. Additional non-matching white wall spare tire, same size, free of charge.

Contact David Degregorio by cell, 203-494-9193, or email, [ddegregorio55@gmail.com](mailto:ddegregorio55@gmail.com) [BACC member]

For Sale – *1929 Ford Model A Roadster with Rumble Seat*, Bonnie Gray with Chelsea Blue accent. Etched wind wings. Body off restoration about 15 years ago. New L-B upholstery kit installed. Good driver. \$22,000 OBO.



Call Phil Guertin, 860-402-1423 (cell), or email him at [pguertin@att.net](mailto:pguertin@att.net).  
 [BACC member]

For Rent – *Detached garage bay at my home in Essex*, \$100/month.

Call John Beveridge, 860-767-3072 [BACC member]



**CONNECTICUT AUTOMOBILIA**

*Submitted by Steven Rossi*

**CORBIN CARS**



For  
**WINTER USE**

Air-cooling, which is highly desirable at all seasons, is especially advantageous when applied to cars for cold weather driving.

**Corbin Model D Limousine**  
**\$3,000 to \$3,500**

**The Corbin Motor Vehicle Corporation**      **NEW BRITAIN, CONN.**

NEW YORK, 4 West 38th St.    BOSTON, 43 Columbus Ave.    PHILADELPHIA, 629 North Broad St.    CHICAGO, 1404-6 Michigan Ave.



**THE CORBIN MOTOR VEHICLE CORPORATION**  
by Mark H. Johnson

The reputation of fifty years of honorable manufacturing history is preserved and maintained in the



The 1910 Corbin car honestly inherits its share of the prestige of the various Corbin industries. 1910 Advance Catalogue now ready.  
The Corbin Motor Vehicle Corporation, New Britain, Conn.

Left: Mark H. Johnson of Klingberg Family Centers wrote the story of Corbin Motor Vehicle Corporation (pub. in 2011). It was a subsidiary of New Britain's American Hardware Corp. Corbin passenger cars were built from 1905 to 1912. Air-cooled engines were used up to 1910. They began to phase-in water-cooled engines in 1908.



## KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

*Unmuffled Exhaust from the Editor*

Club secretary *Peter Christianson* wanted an old car for a long time. He may not be 100% retired yet, but the timing seemed to be right when a win-win opportunity presented itself to acquire *Charley Hnilicka's* 1928 Chevrolet National Model AB Convertible Cabriolet (with rumble seat). It "ran when parked" so it shouldn't take much for Peter to have this solid old Chevy back on the road, keeping company with the Model A Fords and touring with the myriad assortment of old cars under the care of other Belltowners.

Charley is thrilled that his Chevrolet AB found a good home in the Club. For his part, Peter is very pleased with his new baby. He reports that he also got a spare engine for it (mounted on a cord saw), plus miscellaneous spare parts and tools that he is sorting through. Peter is temporarily storing the car in his brother's garage. His first priority is to fix the problem of the starter not engaging, and then to tackle some minor items. Peter says he hopes to get some "good education" from fellow Club members - about the wheels and other things.

Congratulations to buyer and seller, and best wishes to both!



Left: Peter completes his pre-purchase inspection in East Haddam.

Far Left and Below: The 1928 Chevy AB after it rolled off of the trailer at its temporary home in Chester on January 19th. Looking sharp!



Fun Facts: The 1928 Chevrolets were longer than in 1927, with a 4 in. increase in wheelbase. Their demountable wheel rims were widened to 3" and available with either wood-spoke or solid disc centers. 1928 was the last year before the six-cylinder engine was introduced. The 171 c.i.d. in-line four-cylinder developed 35 hp at 2,200 rpm. According to *The Standard Catalog of American Cars*, nearly 1.2 million Chevrolets were produced for 1928, outselling the Ford Model A in its debut year.

## HOBBY HEADLINES & HISTORY

**First Bentley Customer Car Delivered 100 Years Ago** - A 3-Liter Bentley saloon with aluminum bodywork and brass trim, chassis number 1, was the first Bentley delivered to a new car customer. The buyer, a wealthy Londoner named Noel van Raalte who was passionate about auto racing, paid £1,150 for it in November, 1921. In celebrating the 100th anniversary of the occasion, Bentley announced that it has sold over 200,000 cars since then and it claims that 84% of those sold in the U.K. are still in existence. Bentley Motors was founded by W.O. Bentley 102 years ago.



**Ford Motor Company Making Progress on Restoration of Michigan Central Station** - In June, 2018 Ford announced that it bought the iconic, but dilapidated and long-shuttered passenger rail station and adjacent property in the



Corktown neighborhood of Detroit for \$90 million, with the intention of creating “an innovation hub for Ford’s vision of the future of transportation.” The company recently gave the media a tour of the restoration work in progress, which is extensive to say the least. Ford is also in the process of revamping its facilities in Dearborn, including the engineering campus and its corporate headquarters known as “The Glass House” (all this despite COVID-19 having forced many employees to work from home). Will all of that new office space make sense for Ford Motor Co. in the future “new normal?” We’ll see... No matter what, history buffs will appreciate Bill Ford’s commitment to reviving the city of Detroit, in

this case in Corktown, by saving and repurposing important structures that date to the heyday of the Motor City.

**Mecum Auctions Breaks World Record at Kissimmee** - Sales at Mecum’s lead-off auction for 2022 registered \$217 million, the highest ever seen for a single live collector car auction, breaking the previous record of \$176 million, according to the company. In all, thirteen vehicles sold for over a million dollars apiece at the Florida event. A total of 2,954 cars and trucks found new owners (also a record), with a sell-through rate of 90%. If you got to watch any of the Mecum action live on MotorTrend TV you know it was positively crazy from start to finish!

## UPCOMING EVENTS (Club participation events in bold)

Sunday, January 30 - Essex Ed Parade to celebrate Ground Hog Day, Essex, Conn. Old vehicles welcome. Line-up at the Essex Boat Works (a block from the Griswold Inn) at 1:15 p.m. Parade begins at 2 p.m. If you plan on taking part kindly notify Garry Johnson of the Essex Automobile Club by email at [garryjohnsonF1@gmail.com](mailto:garryjohnsonF1@gmail.com).

Saturday, February 5 - **BACC monthly meeting and pot-luck lunch** at Karl Helming’s heated home garage, 220 Jobs Pond Rd. in Portland. Lunch starts at 12:30 p.m., meeting begins about an hour later. Plates, eating utensils, napkins, cups and coffee provided by BACC. (Snow date: Sunday, February 6, by prior announcement.)

Saturday, February 5 - Northeast Gas Bash, American Legion Post #127, 630 Grassy Hill Rd. (Rte. 121), Orange, Conn., 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. For info visit the “Primarily Petroliana” events page on [https://www.oldgas.com/pp\\_swaps.htm](https://www.oldgas.com/pp_swaps.htm).

Wednesday, February 9 - Branford Historical Society presents a lecture entitled “Bicycle Craze to Auto Age: CT Leads the Way” by local author Ted Braun. Starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Blackstone Memorial Library, 758 Main St., Branford, Conn. Info at <https://branfordhistoricalsociety.org/events>. [See poster on p. 9 of this eDelivery issue.]

Sunday, February 13 - Antique Auto Parts & Memorabilia Swap (pre-1963 only), American Legion, 114 West St., Vernon Rockville, Conn., 8 a.m. to noon. Free admission, \$20 to vend (set up at 7 a.m.). Call Josh Wilson at 860-209-3990 for info or to pre-register as a vendor (required). [This event was formerly held at Powder Mill Barn].

Sunday, February 20 - Watch the Daytona 500 from sunny Daytona, Fla., and remind yourself that Spring is coming!

Saturday, March 5 - **BACC monthly meeting** at Karl Helming’s in Portland, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

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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>.

**WHO, WHAT, WHERE OR WHEN***Challenge your automotive history IQ***Rank the following nameplates in terms of total years produced, longest-lived first:**

Ford Galaxie  
 Studebaker Commander  
 Buick Skylark  
 Chevrolet Bel Air  
 Plymouth Belvedere

*The correct answer to last month's Who, What, Where, or When, "What were the three biggest American car companies in 1921 and 2021, by sales volume?":*

**1921:**

1. Ford Motor Co.\*



2. General Motors



3. Dodge Brothers

**2021:**

1. General Motors (#2 overall)\*\*



2. Ford Motor Co. (#3 overall)



3. Tesla (#13 overall)\*\*\*

\*) 61% of all new cars sold were Ford Model Ts

\*\*) Foreign-owned Toyota outsold GM for the first time (close)

\*\*\*) Foreign-owned Stellantis (Chrysler, et al) was #4 overall

**NEXT ISSUE**

The next *Belltown Bulletin* will be the March, 2022 issue. The copy and classified ad deadline is Friday, February 18. Tuesday the 22nd is the publication date. E-delivery will take place no later than February 26.

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).

**BELLTOWN ANTIQUE CAR CLUB - 2022 Officers**

President - Alan Carlson

Vice President - Mark Hoydilla

Secretary - Peter Christianson

Treasurer - Cliff Baker

Elected Directors\* - Ray Lichota (yr. 2 of 2) &amp; David Degregorio (yr. 1 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 (Jon Grant) 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]

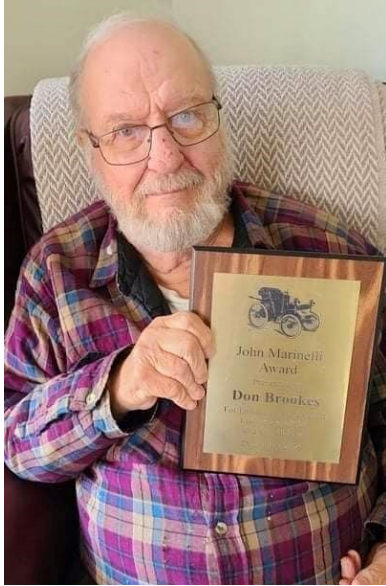
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## By The Way...

*Don Brooke's* daughter posted this message and photo on the Misfit Car Cruisers Facebook page:

**“A very heartfelt thank you to the Belltown car club for presenting my dad with this John Marinelli Award. He is thrilled and happy to know his car shows have brought so many happiness over the years.”**



The John Marinelli Award is presented annually to a deserving member of the Belltown Antique Car Club for **“Enhancing the Overall Enjoyment of the Old Car Hobby”**

Don, long known for organizing the Misfits Cruise Nights, a Tuesday night Belltowner favorite, missed the awards ceremony at BACC’s Holiday Party in December. So, here he is at home with his award plaque.

Congratulations Don, and “Thanks!”

## E-Delivery Bonus\*

Here is a web site that attempts to present samples of the radiator emblems, badges and data plate logos of auto manufacturers from the horseless carriage era through about 1950. It is searchable by brand and state in which the companies were headquartered [submitted by *Steve Rossi*]:

<http://www.americanautoemblems.com/>

The Haddam/East Haddam Swing Bridge rehabilitation project will get underway in April, 2022 and will last until autumn, 2024. We will have more news on this, as well as the expected construction of two roundabouts on Rte. 154/Rte. 82 in Tylerville, on the western side of the Swing Bridge, as the start date for the work approaches. In the meantime, you can learn about the Swing Bridge project and how the expected one-way operation and full closures will be handled by visiting:

<https://www.easthaddamswingbridgeproject.com/>.

See bonus page 9 for the flyer for “Bicycle Craze to Auto Age: CT Leads the Way.”

\*) 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.





**Branford Historical Society Presents**

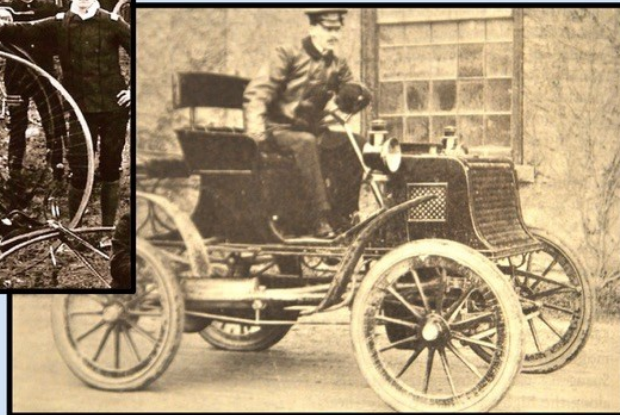
**Bicycle Craze to Auto Age:  
CT Leads the Way**

**Highlighting Hartford, Bridgeport, and Branford**

**6:30 PM, Wed. February 9, 2022  
Blackstone Memorial Library**



**Local author Ted Braun  
returns to the BHS  
lecture series**



**His talk answers the following questions:**

**Why was it said that before there was a Detroit, there first had to be a Hartford?**

**How did bicycle improvements help usher in the Auto Age?**

**What international auto event in Branford was drawing William K. Vanderbilt II and his fellow elites from their Newport mansions?**