



THE BELLTOWN BULLETIN

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

March, 2022

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, March 5, 2022 at Karl Helming's in Portland, 1:30 p.m.

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

- On the Agenda:
- Membership renewal status
 - Venue & planning for our 2022 Antique Engine & Tractor Meet
 - Spring activities and tours
 - Confirmation of schedule & location for upcoming meetings

FUEL FOR THOUGHT

STUDEBAKER is proud to join with the Hartford Automobile Dealers Association in celebrating their Golden Jubilee.

Studebaker itself has been in business nearly 100 years. It has introduced many of the most important motor car advancements. Its latest and greatest achievement is the new postwar Studebaker—America's most admired and most desired new car.

All over the nation, the new Studebaker leads in style as well as in performance—adds brilliant new luster to Studebaker's time-honored good name.

75 years ago, in September, 1947, the Hartford Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Veteran Car Club of America, the Antique Auto Club and the Horseless Carriage Club, presented an Exhibition of Early Model Cars at the Conn. State Armory to celebrate the city of Hartford's Golden Automobile Jubilee.

The acknowledged birthplace of the American automobile industry, the greater Hartford area was where the earliest motor cars were built, with the first sales to the public taking place in May of 1897, heralded by headlines in the *Hartford Courant* declaring, "HORSELESS ERA COMES."

The 76-page promotional magazine prepared for the Golden Automobile Jubilee by the Chamber of Commerce, in which Studebaker placed a full page congratulatory advertisement (excerpt, left), was reprinted in 2005 by the Belltown Antique Car Club. [Studebaker itself did not build an automobile - an electric at first - until 1902. Its earlier "vehicles" were horse-drawn wagons. - *Ed.*]

Fun Facts: The cars displayed at the Armory were eligible for the Glidden Tour, which began on in Hartford on September 18, 1947, ran throughout New England, and ended in Newport, R.I. on September 23. The State of Connecticut also got into the act, issuing numbered souvenir license plates to the exhibited cars, good for the month of September. →



CLUB NOTES

BACC's second business meeting of 2022 was held February 5, preceded by a hearty pot-luck lunch. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the banquet table and to *Karl Helming* for hosting us.

At the outset of the meeting, *Matt Elgart* announced that his friend and our long-time colleague *George Birner* passed away the day before at age 96. George liked to say to those who assumed he was an original member of Belltown that he joined a year after the Club was formed in 1968. Doing the math, that means George was a member for some 53 years! He was known for being extremely helpful and knowledgeable, and always willing to lend a hand. There was no such word as "no" with George. For many years he owned a vehicle repair shop in Higganum, which is now owned by *Mark Hoydilla*. A World War II veteran, George lived his last years in the Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington, Vt. George's son indicated to Matt that there would be a memorial service for George here in the local area in the spring.

After a moment of silence, treasurer *Cliff Baker* explained that Chubb Insurance renewal quote discussed last month erroneously included an alcohol rider. With that removed our premium will be the same as last year.

Secretary *Peter Christianson* gave an update on his newly-acquired 1928 Chevrolet cabriolet. He said that it was sold new in Rutland, Vt. and the odometer reads about 62,000 miles. *Charley Hnilicka* bought it in 1957 from the family that originally owned it. Peter learned that the original color of the body was red, but the family member who had it in 1937 didn't like red and had it repainted black. Peter had some parts and tools, as well as documentation that came with the car. Parts that were not related to the car were sold in the auction at the end of the meeting.

Alan Carlson indicated that our next two meetings would be held on the first Saturdays of the month at Karl's garage. He will try to arrange for us to resume meeting on first Wednesdays thereafter at the East Hampton Public Library, for the duration of the summer at least. Members seem to prefer weekend meetings in the daylight hours during the winter, so we are likely to go back to this arrangement later. Alan also announced that there would be a Board of Directors meeting on Friday, February 11.

Miscellaneous updates:

- ◆ Antique Engine and Tractor Meet - *Mark Aldieri* said he was working on the advance publicity even though the venue is not 100% certain. He will keep in touch with the Scantic Valley antique engine club so they can include our event in their calendar. *Jon Grant* said he has not yet discussed the use of the field at Salmon River State Forest with the State of Conn. but he will soon do so. The expected easing of COVID-19 restrictions should be in our favor. *Scott Macgregor* explained that the rising cost of brass will likely affect what we pay for our dash plaques. He showed samples of brass-plated aluminum plaques as an alternative. These were generally well-received, however, a decision on which material to use will be deferred until we have firm quotes from the supplier for both metals.
- ◆ Scott asked for approval to renew the Club's membership in the Conn. Council of Car Clubs, plus a \$100 donation to same. A motion was made and approved.
- ◆ *Don Liepelt* said he was going to start working on a spring driving tour on the east side of the river. He asked for a volunteer to partner with him on developing the tour. *Cliff Baker* will look into having a dust-off rendezvous at Gillette Castle again and check out when the nearby Staehly winery will reopen.

Guest speaker: New member *Paul Seely* (2021) explained that he was a Ford guy who came from a Ford family. His mother always had a lower priced Ford and his father the more expensive one. His father once had a two-tone 1955 Ford Sunliner that had a pink upper body with white below, the opposite of the norm. At age 20 he got his first car, a 1969 Torino Cobra. He went from that to a Pinto, which met with a telephone pole. He graduated to a Lincoln Continental just as gas prices went up again. Later he bought a '57 T-Bird that he admits was a mess, but said at least it was a prettier mess when he sold it. After turning 60 he found the one that got away - another 1969 Torino Cobra, the car he intends to keep. He favors cars that were built during his lifetime and admits not being as knowledgeable about earlier cars.

MEMBER MILESTONES

<u>Happy Birthday to:</u>	Mark Hoydilla	March 1st (70)	Frances Dutch	March 18th
	Kaye Cannon	March 4th	Jon Grant	March 18th
	Nonie Diebold	March 4th (70)	Carl Bjorge	March 20th (80)
	Richard Shipman	March 9th	Bill Nitschke	March 26th
	Paul Rich	March 11th	Jared Lamenzo	March 28th
	Charley Hnilicka	March 16th (93)	Paul Seely	March 31st

Happy Anniversary to: Stan & Terri Mirecki March 26th

[Photo by Ralph Phil]

In Memoriam: *George Birner*, 96, passed away peacefully on February 4th in Bennington, Vt. George had been a member of BACC in very good standing since the year following its founding in 1968. George made a surprise visit to our 50th Anniversary Vintage Motorcar Meet on Aug. 7, 2016, where he enjoyed reuniting with our show announcer, *Bill Reardon*, one year his senior, who passed away five months after the photo at right was taken. In prior years, George was always the one who took charge of the flea market at our meets. He will be missed by his many friends in the hobby.



BELLTOWN CLASSIFIEDS

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

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 [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. [BACC member]



For Sale – **GET YOUR BELLTOWN LOGO SHIRTS HERE!**

The spring car show season is just around the corner and there is nothing like showing the Club's colors, whether at one of BACC's events or any other old car gathering. These shirts are made to order, so order yours soon. Choose from two styles, T-Shirt or Golf Shirt, available in six sizes. Best of all, prices are the same as last year!

Call in or email your order to *Cliff Baker*, 860-301-4736 or ctech1950@hotmail.com.

STYLE 1 - Men's Royal Blue T-Shirt with stenciled yellow club logo

Cotton/poly blend, no pocket



SIZE	PRICE EACH
SMALL	\$10
MEDIUM	\$10
LARGE	\$10
X LARGE	\$10
2 X	\$12
3 X	\$13

STYLE 2 - Men's Royal Blue 3-button Golf Shirt with embroidered yellow club logo

Cotton/poly blend, no pocket



SIZE	PRICE EACH
SMALL	\$20
MEDIUM	\$20
LARGE	\$20
X LARGE	\$20
2 X	\$23
3 X	\$24

CONNECTICUT AUTOMOBILIA

Submitted by Steven Rossi

Motoring accessories to protect you and your 1906 automobile from the elements - made in New Haven, Conn.

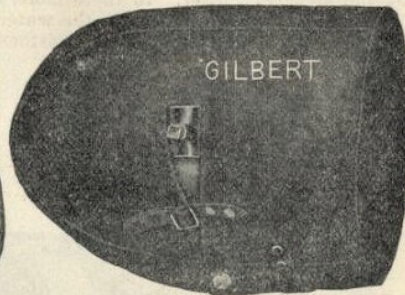
CYCLE AND AUTOMOBILE TRADE JOURNAL

265

Gilbert Automobile Fabric Supplies



INNER TUBE CASE. Price, \$1.50



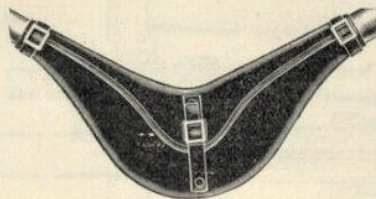
LAMP COVERS. Price, \$1.50



GILBERT TIRE CASE
Price, \$4.00



STORM APRONS.
Prices, \$10, \$14 & \$16



STEERING KNUCKLE BOOTS
Prices, 50c. to \$1.00



LEGGINGS.
Prices, \$2.00 to \$3.50

Send postal for new 1906 catalog.

To the Trade

We are ready to furnish you electrotypes.

Will be pleased to see our friends at the New York shows (space 173, Madison Square Garden. Space 66, 69th Regiment Armory).

THE GILBERT MFG. CO.

New Haven, Conn.

SMALL WONDERS

Unmuffled Exhaust from the Editor

More than a few dedicated car guys own some miniature ones as well. Scale model ownership allows you to appreciate the design of a greater number of vehicles than you probably could ever afford to own or have time for. Another advantage of having models of the real thing is that you can enjoy them all year long. Full-size collector vehicles on the other hand, are usually confined to the garage for the winter or whenever there is bad weather in the forecast. Adds *Steven Rossi*, “Models don’t have ownership costs like taxes and registration, they don’t take up much space, and they don’t leak oil!”

Steve mostly collects models of cars that he likes but does not own, the exception being scale replicas of his Tatra 603 (photo, right). Otherwise, there don’t seem to be any guardrails to his collecting habit. He doesn’t have any elaborate displays either. The models are scattered about his home office wherever they can be fit in.



In my case, despite downsizing my model collection somewhat when I moved to a smaller home, not all of my models are able to be displayed at any one time, partly because I also made a conscious effort here to reduce clutter. Therefore, a number of models have to be stored in their original packaging on shelves in the basement. For variety, I will periodically rotate them with those on display in the living area. That practice does not extend to the 1:43 scale Saab replicas on permanent display in the bookcase called the “Saab Shrine” in my office. After all, there have to be some constants in life!

My own collecting proclivities do not center around any one brand of car, although I have several favorites. Mostly I buy models because I enjoy looking at them - the design is appealing or unusual. I have models from numerous sources, rendered in metal, plastic or resin, and in all popular sizes, from 1:64 scale to 1:18, as well as some 1:87 pieces that are just for the H.O. train display that runs across the top of my library shelving.

Rick Scott, another member in the Club who is a model nut, has much more disciplined criteria for collecting than I do. Rick’s interests are primarily directed at high quality, die-cast metal replicas in 1:24 scale. He is very passionate about Danbury Mint as well as Franklin Mint models. They were mostly made prior to the Great Recession that greatly disrupted the model manufacturing and marketing business. He hunts down out-of-production editions on eBay to add to his already extensive inventory. Rick says that what he values most about those replicas is their “high level of detail.”

Rick also puts a priority on displaying his collection in dust-proof cases or larger, themed displays in glass-fronted cabinets. During the summer months Rick says he displays his models of convertible cars with the top down; he will put the tops back up (or back on) for the winter. The perimeter of Rick’s game room is devoted to showing off his entire model collection to good effect. Included are some models and mementos related to his first collector car (a yellow 1965 Mustang convertible), as well as the original artwork he has created to enhance the space. Every model is labeled, too! The effort that went into the overall presentation is readily apparent.



[Photos by Rick Scott]



No two collections are alike, whether they are comprised of full-size vehicles or miniatures, because no two collectors are alike. There is no right or wrong way to go about it, just have fun with it year round!

HOBBY HEADLINES & HISTORY

100 Years Ago: Lincoln Acquired by Ford Motor Co. For \$8 Million - In February, 1922, Ford bought the bankrupt Lincoln Motor Co. when the Lincoln car brand was barely 2 years old. Henry Leyland and his son Wilfred had started the company originally to build Liberty aircraft engines to support the war effort, after having worked at General Motors (previously they founded Cadillac, which GM bought from them in 1909). After WWI the Leylands decided the time was right to get back into the business of building luxury cars. The company, and hence their new car, was named after Henry Leyland's hero, Abraham Lincoln. Financial difficulties arose due to high costs and tepid sales, blamed by some on conservative styling. Just 3,407 cars were built before production halted. After Lincoln became part of Ford, Edsel Ford saw an opportunity to burnish the design of the brand and make it a halo for other Ford cars. His success in doing so was confirmed when the 1928 Ford Model A was heralded as a "baby Lincoln."



50th Anniversary Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction Most Successful Ever - Hot on the heels of the record-setting Mecum Kissimmee auction, Barrett-Jackson's top dog auction in Scottsdale, Ariz., held on the last weekend in January, netted a similarly impressive \$195.9 million on the sale of 1,857 collectible vehicles, all at no reserve. The average selling price was \$105,517! Ten non-charity vehicles sold at over \$1 million each. The auction also featured automobilia sales topping \$7.3 million, including a 12' high 1953 Ford Jubilee neon sign that sold for \$460,000 - a world record for a neon sign (photo, right, courtesy of Barrett-Jackson).

Hagerty Reimagines the Amelia Island Concours for 2022 - Now under ownership of Hagerty, the long-running premier collector car event has been renamed The Amelia and will run March 3 to 6 at its traditional location on Amelia Island in Florida. While the Concours will remain the feature on Sunday, the schedule for Saturday will be broadened by the addition of Radwood (80's-90's cars) and a Concours d'Lemons, similar to what Hagerty did at their newly-acquired Greenwich Concours in 2021. Special classes on Sunday will honor the 100th anniversary of Lincoln, the 90th for the '32 Ford and Ferrari's 75th, and will commemorate the 60th and 70th runnings of the Daytona 24 Hour and Sebring 12 Hour races, respectively.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Club participation events in bold)

Saturday, March 5 - **BACC monthly meeting** at Karl Helming's heated home garage, 220 Jobs Pond Rd. in Portland, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Third business meeting of 2022

Friday-Sunday, March 11-13 - Mark's 3rd Annual Northeast Motorsports Expo presented by Mark's Auto Parts at the Big E Better Living Center, West Springfield, Mass. Indoor car, truck, racecar and motorcycle show. For info go to www.marksnemotorsportsexpo.com.

Saturday, March 19 - Essex Go Bragh Irish Parade, downtown Essex, sp. by Essex Park & Rec Dept. Kickoff at 10 a.m. Info on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/essexctgobragh>.

Saturday, April 2 - **BACC monthly meeting** at Karl Helming's heated home garage, 220 Jobs Pond Rd. in Portland, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Fourth business meeting of 2022 and last meeting before our Antique Engine & Tractor Meet.

Sunday, April 3 - Ty-Rods Spring Swap Meet at Stafford Motor Speedway, Stafford Springs, Conn., open to buyers at 7 a.m., adm. \$15. Saturday is vendor set-up beginning at 10 a.m. (no sales).

Friday-Sunday, April 15-24 - New York International Auto Show, Javitts Center, NYC, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. (7 p.m. last day). For advance tickets and info go to www.autoshowny.com.

Sunday, April 24 - **Belltown Antique Engine & Tractor Meet**, former Fireman's Grounds, Salmon River State Forest, Rte. 16 (entrance opposite the Old Covered Bridge), 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. [Location pending State of CT approval]

Saturday - Sunday, May 7 & 8 - Zagray Spring Show & Swap Meet, 544 Amston Rd., Colchester, Conn.; adm. \$5. Info at www.ZagrayFarmMuseum.org.

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

Back in the day, what was the common denominator amongst all of these names?

Bonus: Which post-war car brand used each name in that context?

Brookwood, Caballero, Colony Park, Conestoga, Greenbrier, Parklane, Safari, Suburban

The correct answer to last month's Who, What, Where, or When, "Rank the following nameplates in terms of total years produced, longest-lived first":

1. Buick Skylark, **40 years** (1953-54, 1961-98)
2. Studebaker Commander, **30 years** (1927-35, 1937-42, 1947-58, 1964-66)
3. Chevrolet Bel Air, **26 years** (1950-75)
4. Plymouth Belvedere, **17 years** (1954-70)
5. Ford Galaxie, **16 years** (1959-75)



1953 Buick Skylark Photo and History Card
Courtesy of the GM Heritage Collection

1953 Buick Skylark

The 1953 Buick Skylark convertible was the centerpiece of Buick's 50th Anniversary. The Skylark came with standard equipment beyond anything previously offered by Buick. Based on the premium-series Buick Roadmaster chassis, the Skylark had a look all of its own. The Kelsey-Hayes 40-spoke chrome wheels are acknowledged by collectors as among the most beautiful wheels to ever grace a production car. Powered by Buick's first modern V8 engine, this car's performance matched its racy appearance. Sales in 1953 totaled just 1,640 units, making the Skylark a rare and collectible car.

Engine: 322 CID V8, 188 horsepower

Base Price: \$4,596

NEXT ISSUE

The next *Belltown Bulletin* will be the April, 2022 issue. The copy and classified ad deadline is Friday, March 18. Tuesday the 22nd is the publication date. E-delivery will take place no later than March 25.

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

President - Alan Carlson

Vice President - Mark Hoydilla

Secretary - Peter Christianson

Treasurer - Cliff Baker

Elected Directors* - Ray Lichota (yr. 2 of 2) & 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 [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]

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By The Way...

THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS (S)NOW

Warm evenings are a ways off, but we can still dream of better days ahead...



Left: A lucky lady got to try out the driver's seat in Rick Scott's 1956 Fiesta Red Thunderbird at a Misfits Car Cruise Night last summer.

Above: A not-so-lucky, snow covered 1956 Buick Super hardtop seen in Old Saybrook in late January. Flat tires and an expired Colorado registration imply that this Buick has been parked there awhile.

E-Delivery Bonus*

Commercial aircraft history is not automotive history, however, this story is not only an interesting one in and of itself, it offers up lessons in the adoption of new technology that are universal. Sometimes it is the innovators that pave the way who ultimately fail to dominate the market because the failures they encounter first cause customers to lose faith. Nonetheless, without them the market would not have developed the way it did and success would not have come to new competitors who were in the right place and the right time:

<https://newatlas.com/aircraft/de-havilland-comet-boeing-707-airliners-jet-age-history/>

Back to the subject of cars, The Henry Ford museum in Dearborn, Mich. has posted an on-line exhibit of 24 artifacts related to the 100-year history of the Lincoln brand entitled "Lincoln - Birth and Rebirth." View it here:

<https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/expert-sets/101371/>

*) 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.

