

BELLTOWN BULLETIN

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

June, 2022

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at the East Hampton Public Library

- On the Agenda: Preparation for our Vintage Motorcar Meet: Fairgrounds contract, publicity, flyer, trophies & plaques, division of responsibility, breakdown of the 17 judged classes, recruiting Model Ts for the Featured Marque class, field layout
 - Summer tours and activities
 - Upcoming meetings, picnic/pot-luck?

FUEL FOR THOUGHT

"If you don't know where you're going, you might end up someplace else."

- Yogi Berra, Hall of Fame catcher for the New York Yankees

[Good touring advice! -Ed.]



CLUB NOTES

Our fifth business meeting of the year was held on May 7, and many thanks to Karl Helming for hosting it. Cliff Baker reported that, despite the State's late approval of our permit to use Fireman's Field and the effect that had on advance publicity, and, even with having to accept donations instead of charging admission, our Antique Engine and Tractor Meet netted a modest profit that was only slightly less than the previous iteration of the show (albeit one affected by a soggy field situation). Cliff believes that, given favorable conditions early approval and good weather - there is enough upside potential for this event that it should be continued. Anecdotally at least, participating vendors and exhibitors were happy to be there and pleased with their results.

Cliff reported that there were 22 old cars at our Spring-Dust Off, 14 of which belonged to BACC members. Most folks went over to Yankee Cider Co. afterwards. Members and guests enjoyed the fine day (see p. 5).

Alan Carlson announced and lamented yesterday's passing of longtime member Charley Hnilicka (see p. 3). Members remembered Charley fondly. Alan also noted the absence of *Jon Grant*, who had tested positive for COVID (his wife Elaine caught it first). Ray Lichota was drafted to run the post-meeting auction.

Alan thanked those who worked the Engine Show during set up and the event itself, singling out *Karl Helming* for taking the initiative to improve conditions at the parking lot exit by removing a couple of posts and placing steel plates over the dip, and then restoring everything after the show closed.

New business

Alan said that we would discuss preparations for our August show at the next meeting. He asked whether members would support inviting the Masons back as the food vendor and this was approved without objection.

CLUB NOTES, continued from p. 1

Dan David asked if there was any interest to have a list of members posted on our website, with name and town only, minus all contact information. There was some discussion but no decision taken. By policy we do not make the full roster public. It is only distributed to members and is not for commercial use.

Cliff Baker said that the Early Ford V-8 Club was planning a tour to Whiting Mills in Winsted on May 14. Flyers were available at the front desk, courtesy of *Scott Macgregor* (absent).

Don Liepelt announced that a CHAS-BACC old car driving tour would take place on May 15. It begins at Stop & Shop in East Hampton and follows a leisurely, 28-mile route (courtesy of Steve Rossi) to Devil's Hopyard State Park, where we can have a picnic lunch.

Jackie Reardon shared an old photograph [at right] of a 1916 Dodge touring car that was taken at our August show in 1969. She recently bought it on eBay from a seller in Glastonbury. Phil Guertin said he remembered the owner, Perry Briggs, from when they both worked at A.C. Hine Pontiac in East Hartford in 1962. He said that at that time there was a sign on the back of the Dodge that read, "Cape Cod or Bust."

Alan called on a guest at the back of the room, asking him to introduce himself. The man, Rob Szczepanski, told us that he hailed from Middletown and owned a 1937 Packard



PERRY BRIGAS 1916 DODGE EAST HAMPTON

115. He explained how he met Karl Helming a few years ago at our August show when he had the misfortune of seizing a rear wheel bearing on his Packard. Karl helped arrange for a flat bed to get the car home. Rob said the car is now fully repaired. He drove it to our recent Dust-Off at Gillette and Yankee Cider Co. where he said he met a friendly group of members who invited him to attend a meeting. Right on cue, Cliff Baker then gave him a membership application and signed him up on the spot.

Next meetings and locations

After some discussion in which Betty & Ray Lichota, Jackie Reardon and Polly Beckwith all volunteered to host a future meeting, we decided on the following:

- The June meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 1 at 7:30 pm at the East Hampton Library, where Alan has secured approval to begin using the conference room again.
- The July meeting will be held at the Lichota residence in Glastonbury on Saturday, June 2. This will be a regular meeting and include a tour of Ray's garage. (Alan was advised that the EH Library would not be able to accommodate us on the following Wednesday.)
- The August meeting will be held as usual on the Wednesday before our car show, at the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds at 6:30 pm. The date was said to be July 27 when in fact it is August 3, since the show date falls on August 7 this year, the latest it can be for the first Sunday in August.

At the June meeting we can decide about September and October, and when and where to have a picnic.

Guest speaker

Joe Lombardo told a story about owning a 1967 Mustang in high school. His buddy Andy liked to ride in the back seat and prank Joe by kicking the gear lever into neutral when Joe would come to an abrupt stop. He said he was reminded of this when, much later, he bought another Mustang and one day, when his dog was riding in the back, he stopped abruptly and the same thing happened. The memory prompted him to get in touch with his boyhood friend and recount the old times in the first Mustang. Joe enjoys the fact that having an old car can take you back to your younger days and renew old connections. His current car, a 1965 Buick Skylark takes him back to when he was a kid and his father had a similar Buick. Joe was proud to report that he drove his Skylark to Hershey last fall and came home with a Preservation Award.

MEMBER MILESTONES

Happy Birthday to: David Cardone June 1st Linda LaRose June 19th (70)

Alex LieuwmaJune 1st (87)Betty LichotaJune 21stJennifer BeckwithJune 2ndPolly BeckwithJune 22ndPhil HamiltonJune 5thJune GuertinJune 25th

Jackie Reardon June 10th

Happy Anniversary to: Gordon & Maureen Hallberg June 7th Ray & Eileen Mastronunzio June 21st

Doug & Tamzen Mackeown
Richard & Jane Shipman
Bruce & Frances Dutch
Bill & Jane West

June 10th (50)
Bill & Carol Petras
June 21st (64)
Edward & Marie Zenisky
June 27th (58)
Jared Lamenzo & Ilona Parkanski June 27th
Gary & Donna Mae Bogan
June 29th

Chris & Devon Hallberg June 20th

<u>New Members</u>: Please welcome *Richard Doggart* of Michigan to BACC. Richard expects to move to Niantic, Conn. in September. He owns a pair of pre-war Chryslers, a couple of GM convertibles from the early 70's,

and two Triumph sports cars. Hope to meet you soon, Richard!

Please also welcome *Robert Szczepanski* of Middletown, Conn., who many of us met at the Dust-Off and/or our May meeting. Rob owns a 1937 Packard 115c convertible coupe and confesses to having

an interest in scale models.

In Memoriam: Long-time member Charles R. Hnilicka passed away on May 6 at age 93. Late last year Charley sold

his old cars and moved to Maine to live with his daughter Lainie. From the time he was 19, Charley knew his life's work would involve cars. He was employed in the retail automotive trade in the local area at Meyer Garage and, subsequently, at Williams Chevrolet. Later on he became a motor vehicle inspector for the DMV, capping off his career as the chief MV inspector at the Middletown branch. Charley was known for his friendly demeanor and for his fairness - and that includes while he was on the job at DMV, according to those who remember him in that role. Charley will be greatly missed.

Our sincere condolences go out to his son and daughters and the extended Hnilicka family.

Get Well Soon: Jon Grant and Scott Macgregor both missed our May meeting and word is, they tested positive for COVID. By the time you read this they should be out of isolation and back in action. The pandemic

may ebb and flow, but it is still with us.

BELLTOWN CLASSIFIEDS

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

<u>For Sale</u> – 6' wooden stepladder, old but in excellent condition - never left out in the weather. \$20.

Bull Bag, new. \$20. [The "reusable dumpster" for homeowners. See <u>www.the bullbag.com</u> for how system works.] Contact Scott Macgregor, 860-391-2889 after 7:00 p.m. or email jscotmac@sbcglobal.net [BACC member]

For Rent – Detached garage bay at my home in Essex, \$100/month. Prefer for long term storage rather than frequent

"in and out," so to speak.

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

<u>Wanted</u> – Coats Iron Tireman Vintage Tire Changing Machine parts, tools and/or a complete machine. Will consider

any condition.

Call Brent Thompson, 860-638-7447 - leave a message and I will call you back. [BACC member]

<u>Wanted</u> – *Original Model A Ford folding jack handle.*

Contact Bill Nitschke, 914-323-8958 (cell) or e-mail williamjnitschke@gmail.com [BACC member]

<u>Wanted</u> – *Antique gas pump.* A nice original would be fine.

Contact John Beveridge, 860-767-3072 (home) or e-mail beveridge 18@att.net [BACC member]

HOBBY HEADLINES & HISTORY

Bronco's Back, Scout's Next - Volkswagen announced it will re-introduce the Scout brand for a line of electric SUVs and small pickups. You might remember the original International Scout that was introduced in the fall of 1960. When International Harvester was reorganized, ownership of the then-defunct brand passed to the successor company, Navistar International in 1985. In 2020, the Traton heavy truck division of VW purchased Navistar, thus becoming the legal owner of "Scout." According to the *Wall Street Journal*, VW will invest 1 Bn US Dollars in the Scout program. Production is said to start in 2026.



95 Years Ago, on June 10, 1927 - The Graham brothers took over Paige-Detroit Motor Car Co. to great fanfare. By 1932 they experienced a protracted sales decline. The last few Graham cars were built toward the end of 1940.

85 Years Ago, on June 5, 1937 - Henry Ford came out in favor of a 32-hour work week. Although he had successfully introduced the 40-hour week in 1926, Henry's new idea didn't take hold.

75 Years Ago, on June 19, 1947 - Preston Tucker unveiled his Tucker Torpedo car in Chicago. It failed to launch.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Club participation events in bold)

Wednesday, June 1 - BACC monthly meeting at the East Hampton Public Library, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

<u>Friday, June 3</u> - Knights of Columbus Car Show & Cruise Night, St. Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave., Portland, Conn., opens at 3 p.m., show cars \$15. Rain date June 10.

<u>Saturday-Sunday, June 4-5</u> - Greenwich Concours, Roger Baldwin Park, Greenwich, Conn., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday show includes Radwood and d'Lemons exhibits, Sunday is the Concours d'Elegance. Info: https://www.greenwichconcours.com/event.

<u>Sunday, June 5</u> - 34th Annual "British by the Sea," sp. by CT MG Club, Harkness Memorial Park, Waterford, Conn., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info at <u>www.ctmgclub.com</u>.

<u>Sunday</u>, <u>June 12</u> - "Iron Range Swap Meet" at Dragone Classic Motorcars, 5 Connair Rd., Orange, Conn., 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendors will have parts & automobilia for sale on site; the showroom will be open for browsers. Directions at https://www.dragoneclassic.com/.

Wednesday, June 15- 25th Anniversary Main St. Cruise, Middletown, Conn. 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Rain date: June 22. Pre-1997 vehicles. Info: https://cruisenightonmain.com/.

<u>Saturday</u>, <u>June 18</u> - Klingberg Motorcar Series, Klingberg Family Centers, 370 Linwood St., New Britain, Conn., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., adm. \$10 (seniors \$8). Includes 30th anniversary pre-war Concours and display of Conn.-made antique vehicles. Info: https://klingbergmotorcarseries.org/.

<u>Saturday</u>, <u>June 18</u> - The first leg of the 2022 Great Race stops at the New England Air Museum, Windsor Locks, Conn. See the cars beginning about 4:30 p.m. Info at <u>www.greatrace.com</u>.

<u>Sunday</u>, <u>June 26</u> - Housatonic Valley Region AACA Classic Car Show in cooperation with Conn. Antique Machinery Assn., 31 Kent Cornwall Rd. off Rte. 7, Kent, Conn.; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info: <u>www.ctamachinery.com</u>.

<u>Saturday</u>, <u>July 2</u> - **BACC** monthly meeting at the home of Ray & Betty Lichota, 576 Oakwood Dr., Glastonbury, Conn., beginning at 1:30 p.m. Directions will be available at the next meeting and in the July newsletter.

Repeating Cruise Nights / Cars & Coffee Events

Every Monday - 98.7 WNLC Cruise Night at Ocean Beach Park, 98 Neptune Ave., New London, 5 p.m. to dusk
Every Tuesday - "Misfits" Cruise Night, 95 Bridge Rd., Haddam (Tylerville), 5 p.m. to dusk; host: Joe George
First Tuesday - Car Cruise at Nature's Art/Dinosaur Pl., Rte. 85, Chesterfield, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; -1978 (next one June 7)
Third Wednesday - Good Times Cruise Night, Colchester Green, 5 p.m. to sunset; -1987 (rain date following Wed.)
First Saturday - Free Car Show at American Legion Post 113, 80 Essex Rd., Old Saybrook, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Every Other Sunday - Cars & Coffee at Guilford Commons ("Rockpile"), 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (next one: June 5)
Select Sundays - Cruzin' Hebron at the Village Shoppes, Rte. 66, Hebron, 5 p.m. on (next one: June 26, Pkgs. for Troops)

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 @ https://www.shorelineantiqueautoconnection.com/calendar.htm.

Spring Dust-Off Drive to Gillette Castle and Beyond on April 30

Thanks go to Cliff Baker for organizing this get-together and the subsequent visit to Staehly Farms' Yankee Cider Co.



[Photo credits: Dan David and Cliff Baker*]

Right - Ben Jermainne debuted his Model T's new picnic basket

Below - Richard Beckwith debuted his new Ford Model T roadster













Right - Thank you, Staehly Farms for welcoming BACC to Yankee Cider Co.!





OLDER, BUT STILL TRYING TO GET WISER

Unmuffled Exhaust from the Editor

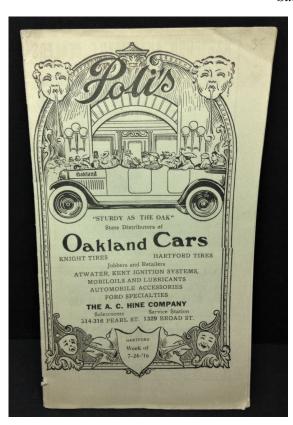
Another year, another birthday - it happened a week ago as I write this. Nothing unusual to report about that. I received a couple of books as gifts, one on the subject of quality by the author of *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, and another about the genesis, demise and re-creation of customizer Ed Roth's "Mysterion" (I suppose it was a coincidence that the Mysterion was the subject of the Who, What, Where or When question from last year's April Fuel issue of the newsletter). On a much grander note, a dear friend gave me the Chrysler Building (OK, a miniature of W.P.C.'s famous Manhattan tower, rendered in graphite), and I bought myself an airplane! Oh right, it's a 1:38 scale single-engine Curtiss Robin from 1929, in Texaco livery, that I had to have to go along with my diecast 1939 Dodge Texaco Gasoline tanker truck. That one doubles as a coin bank although, admittedly, I have never thought to save so much as a nickel in it.

Birthdays are a time for reflection of course, as well as to remind oneself of sage advice such as, "You are never too old to learn something new." Why, just this morning I learned three new things: The name of the De Lorean car has a space before the L, whereas John Z. DeLorean wrote his name as one word. At the turn of the century (1900), one of the most successful early manufacturers of automobiles in Europe was Argyll Motors, Ltd., a luxury brand located in Scotland. I had never heard of them before. Third, Jaguar's all-new dual overhead cam six that debuted in the 1948 XK-120 was inspired by the successful use of overhead camshafts in aircraft engines as far back as WWI, when it was discovered that push rods in overhead valve engines were subject to thermal expansion issues that led to terminal engine failure - a bad outcome if you are up in the air. While not new facts, these were nuggets waiting to be discovered by yours truly.

Our capacity to learn is not defined by how well we understand and utilize all the new-fangled tech that pervades modern life. The old adage, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks" rings hollow to anyone actively engaged in a hobby, or who takes an interest in the arts, or pursues a previously unrealized dream. For one thing, automotive history offers a wealth of opportunity for learning if we delve into it. At any age, tackling a problem with a Model A's transmission or needing to do something about the floor-pan rust on a neglected project car are good excuses to learn new skills. If that won't suffice to stimulate the brain cells or test one's hand-eye coordination, perhaps it's time to take flying lessons!

CONNECTICUT AUTOMOBILIA

Submitted by Steven Rossi





<u>Above</u>: If the leaves are already on the spring, can summer be far behind? [Ad from October, 1922]

<u>Left</u>: Apparently the A.C. Hine Co. was selling Oaklands long before *Phil Guertin* was born! [Ad from July, 1916]

WHO, WHAT, WHERE OR WHEN

Challenge your automotive history IQ

What was the first model year in which each of the following car lines featured one-piece curved windshields across their entire line-up?

Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Chrysler, Ford, Lincoln, Nash and Packard

The correct answer to Who, What, Where, or When in the May issue, "Henry Ford passed away on April 7, 1947. Despite extensive efforts on the part of the Ford Motor Co. Public Relations Dept. to locate a Lincoln hearse for the funeral, none could be found. Which vehicle did they end up pressing into service for Mr. Ford's last ride?":

C. A six-year old Packard "Combination Hearse"



Mr. Ford's body was transported from Fair Lane to the funeral home by their Cadillac hearse. When the P.R. brass learned of this they forbid that a GM brand hearse be used for the funeral, which was expected to garner national attention. Unfortunately, a Lincoln hearse could not be found in time and the next best solution was deemed to be an available, older Packard. Given its age, a second Packard was procured and kept on standby just in case the chosen one, um, died enroute to the cemetery.

[This information was taken from a story entitled "Henry Ford's Last Ride" by Henry Dominguez, published in the Spring, 2022 issue of the official newsletter of the Henry Ford Heritage Association]

NEXT ISSUE

The next *Belltown Bulletin* will be the July, 2022 issue. The copy and classified ad deadline is Thursday, June 16. Monday the 20th is the publication date, with e-delivery taking place no later than June 24.

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* - David Degregorio (yr. 1 of 2) & Ray Lichota (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 (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...

Peter Christianson's 1928 Chevrolet Cabriolet that he purchased from Charley Hnilicka came equipped with a rarely-seen "weather protection top" for the rumble seat. Here's what it looks like erected [owner photos]:

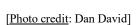






Peter reports that the car is now registered and he has taken it for a "confidence drive" as he put it, adding, "The steering is pretty loose and the brakes need more exercise."

New member *Rob Szczepanski* drove his dark blue 1937 Packard 115c convertible coupe to our Spring Dust-Off at Gillette Castle. Here it is, in good company, parked next to *Cliff Baker's* dark green 1929 Viking sedan and in front of *Ray Lichota's* cream 1941 Chevrolet Special convertible coupe.





E-Delivery Bonus*

Show flyers available for events coming in June are posted on pages 9, 10 and 11.

Automotive historian and writer Walt Gosden and fellow AACA member John Salemmo were recently recognized at the 23rd annual North East Video Festival of the Alliance for Community Media for a show they produced about the AACA Fall National Meet at Hershey. AACA provided some video of the event from the 1960's that was incorporated in their production. Fans of "Hershey" will want to check it out here:

https://www.tinyurl.com/antiqueroadtest

*) 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.



Classic Cars Muscle Cars Street Rods Trucks & more!



Proceeds to Benefit local Charities

Knights of Columbus

Freestone Council #7

Cruise Night

We Support: Local Youth Sports Ptld Food Bank Project Graduation

Car Show!

\$1000 Scholarships Given annually

in memory of Grand Knight Craig Weske

FRIDAY, JUNE 3ND, 2022

RAIN DATE JUNE, 10TH

Parking Lot
Opens at 3:00 pm
\$15.00 entry fee
Awards for: Best of Show,
Oldest, Classic, & Truck

Benefit Raffle Items
Signed Joey Logano
Collectables
Keurig Coffee Maker
Sony Headphones
8" Kindle Fire 32 GB
Wine
Much, much more!

Knights Kitchen Menu:

Hot & Juicy Burgers,
Huge Hot Dogs,
Sausage & Pepper Grinders,
& Beverages



ST. MARY CHURCH, 45 FREESTONE AVENUE

PORTLAND, CT





Housatonic Valley Region Chapter

45th Annual Classic Car Show Sunday - June 26, 2022

Gates open @9AM, Judging Starts @11:30AM
Awards Start @ 2:30 PM (No Rain Date)

- \$15 Per Registered Car
- Spectators \$5
- Children under 12 Free
- Vendors (Automotive Related Only)

Dash Plaques for the 1st 200 Cars! Classes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Trophies

- 1931 & OLDER CORVETTES (1953 1982)
 1932 1948 PONY CARS (CAMAROS,
 1949 1959 MUSTANGS, "CUDAS,
 1960 1965 FIREBIRDS,
 1966 1969 CHALLENGERS)
- 1970 1979 RESTO-MOD'S - 1980 - 1994 - HOT RODS/ STREET RODS - 1997 - PRESENT - FOREIGNIMPORT
- TRUCKS STOCK, SPECIAL INTEREST TRUCKS, MODIFIED

SPECIAL AWARDS:

- PRESIDENT'S CHOICE AWARD
- HVR MEMORIAL AWARD
- CAMA AWARD
- BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND KIDS JUDGING/INFORMATION CLASS & RIDESIII

*** New Location***

In Partnership with
CAMA (Connecticut Antique
Machinery Association)



31 Kent Cornwall Rd. Kent, CT 06757

Contact us at HVRAACA@GMAIL.COM

Check us both out on Facebook: @HVRAACA and @CAMAMuseum

www.ctamachinery.com