



The Belltown Bulletin



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

February, 2023

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, February 4, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at Karl Helming's in Portland

- Timely Topics:
- First quarter tours and activities
 - Planning for our Antique Engine & Tractor Meet in April
 - Membership renewal update

FUEL FOR THOUGHT

Sir Henry Royce (of Rolls-Royce) believed,
"Small things make perfection, but perfection
is no small thing."



CLUB NOTES

Our first business meeting of 2023 was held on January 7 at *Karl Helming's* home garage in Portland; *Mark Hoydilla*, new BACC president, presiding.

Old business

Peter Christianson showed his proposal for a promotional flyer for our August Vintage Motorcar Meet. *Dan David* said he would check the show classes on the reverse side and inform Peter of any changes after the meeting [done]. The completed flyer will be provided to *Mark Aldieri* to include with on-line event publicity and third party event calendar placements.

Dan David reviewed the proposed changes to the show classes for the VMM (emailed to members ahead of the meeting). A motion was made and passed to approve them. There will be 16 judged classes plus one display-only class. It was agreed that we will promote the Featured Marque as being Studebaker, however, we also allow Studebaker-powered "companion cars" into this class should any be presented at registration (i.e. 1927-30 Erskine, 1932-33 Rockne, and 1957-58 "Packardbakers"). It was confirmed that Featured Marque entrants will be admitted free of charge as they were in 2022.

At *Polly Beckwith's* suggestion, the pot-luck meal normally held in conjunction with the February meeting will be postponed to our May meeting, which is the first business meeting of 2023 that will be held at the East Hampton Library. She will contact Mark Johnson of Klingberg to see if he can come to the May meeting and make a presentation on the Klingberg Auto Restoration Program. She further requested that members bring to the May meeting any usable hand tools they wish to donate to Klingberg for student use.

Continued on p. 2

CLUB NOTES, continued from p. 1New business

The February business meeting will be a regular meeting, beginning at 1:30 p.m. (no pot-luck meal).

Jon Grant reported that he has already received the state permit to use the Fireman's Grounds at Salmon River SP for our 48th Annual Antique Engine & Tractor Meet, to be held April 30th.

Ralph Phil said that the Club received an email inquiry from someone trying to track down a 1922 Franklin owned by a former member who sold about ten years ago. Anyone with info about the whereabouts of the car should contact Ralph.

Activities

Suggestions for tours were made and discussed as follows:

- ◆ *Ray Lichota* indicated that Corvette Center in Newington would be willing to host a visit in March or April. They are Corvette restoration specialists and are now expanding into doing other cars from the 1960's. Ray will follow-up.
- ◆ Ray also said that Gunnar Gudmundson, whose collection/shop in Stockbridge, Mass. we have previously visited, has retired and might be agreeable to hosting us later in the year. He has bought and sold some cars in the interim.
- ◆ *Scott Macgregor* suggested a trip by modern car to Newport, R.I. to visit the Audrain Museum. [We might also consider stopping by the Newport Car Museum in Portsmouth, R.I., which caters to car clubs and even has meeting space available - *Ed*.]
- ◆ *Don Liepelt* announced that he is planning a 3-day early car tour around northeastern Conn. beginning the third weekend in September, just prior to the Mystic "By Land and By Sea" antique car show.

Dates and arrangements will be discussed at future meetings.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Club participation events in bold)

Sunday, January 29 - "Essex Ed" Groundhog Day Parade in downtown Essex, Conn. Parade steps off at 2 p.m. For info visit <https://essexct.com/event/essex-ed-parade-2023/>. Antique cars will be featured in the parade. Parade is held "weather permitting."

Saturday, February 4 - **BACC monthly business meeting**, 1:30 p.m. at Karl Helming's home garage in Portland, Conn. NOTE: We will **NOT** have a pot-luck lunch at this meeting [see Club Notes].

Current - Sunday, February 19 - Steve Cryan's 29th Annual Holiday Train Show at the Connecticut River Museum, head of Main St., Essex, Conn. Scale trains run 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, Tuesday through Sunday. General admission applies. Info at <https://ctrivermuseum.org>.

Saturday, March 4 - **BACC monthly business meeting**, 1:30 p.m. at Karl Helming's home garage in Portland, Conn.

Saturday - Sunday, March 25-26 - Don Clady's 2023 Indoor Conn. Cabin Fever Car & Motorcycle Show, Naugatuck Entertainment Facility, 6 Rubber Ave., Naugatuck, Conn., sponsored in part by *Connecticut Cruise News*. Admission \$12. Info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/845969543478999/?ref=newsfeed>.

Sunday, March 26 - 27th Annual Winter Blahs Swap Meet presented by the Minuteman Model A Ford Club (MAFCA chapter), at the Elks Lodge, 34 Powdermill Rd, Rte. 62, Maynard, Mass., 7:30 - 11:30 a.m. Vendor tables \$20, general admission \$3. For registration info call Craig Martin at 508-561-3977.

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

MEMBER MILESTONES

<u>Happy Birthday to:</u>	Daniel Donahue	February 1st	Barbara Michael	February 11th (79)
	Bruce Dutch	February 2nd	Vevette Greenberg	February 13th
	Jennifer Everett	February 4th	Audrey Brookes	February 23rd
	Nancy Liepelt	February 5th (75)	Christopher Hallberg	February 23rd
	Carol Petras	February 6th (86)	Jessica Guard	February 25th

Happy Anniversary to: Jon & Elaine Grant February 14th Dick & Mary Everett February 23rd (66)
 Correction: Paul & Margaret Seely have been married 43 years as of January 26th (not 53).

Congratulations to: *Scott Macgregor*, who finally secured his much deserved retirement from Eriksson Industries.

New Member: Please welcome *Paul Hevrin* of North Haven to BACC. Paul is the proud owner of a 1955 Chevrolet.

In Memoriam: Long-time member *Ronald Hodge*, of Newington, passed away on December 30 at age 89. He was predeceased by his wife Jean. Ron worked for many years in the retail auto parts business. Besides his love of antique cars, Ron was an avid motorcyclist. Our condolences go out to the Hodge family.
 We also recently learned that *Kaye Cannon*, 95, of East Hampton passed away on August 15, 2022 at Aaron Manor in Chester. Kaye was named a Lifetime Member upon the death of her husband, *John "Jack" Cannon* in 2012. Our belated condolences to the Cannon family.

Membership renewal reminder - BACC's annual dues are to be paid by the first of the year. Renewals are considered late as of the end of January. A **LAST ISSUE** notice accompanies this newsletter for those members whose dues are still outstanding as of the date of publication. As of January 25th, 28 members (28%) had not yet paid their 2023 dues. See the treasurer at the February meeting or mail your renewal form and dues check to the Club mailbox in East Hampton at your earliest convenience.

BELLTOWN CLASSIFIEDS

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

For Sale – 1929 Essex Super Six Rumble Seat Coupe

Runs and drives great.
 Car is available in Old Saybrook.
 Asking \$15,000.
 Call Don Super, 860-304-4634 [BACC member],
 or Randy Hale, 860-662-0649



For Sale – Sharp 42" Flat Screen LED TV, overall size 38" W x 25" H incl. pedestal (NOT a "smart TV").

Excellent condition, with power cable and remote. Suitable for garage, man-cave, or?
 TV is available in Old Saybrook.
 Asking \$40.
 Email Dan David at dan12david@yahoo.com [BACC member]

HAPPY MOTORING

2023 is now...

Peter Christianson, as far as we can tell, was the first Belltowneer to drive an antique car this year. Here is his 1928 Chevrolet, warming up in the driveway and ready to go on New Year's Day. [Alas, your hypercautious editor waited to take his Citroen out for a spin until the next day, when the roads were completely dry.]



Photo credit: Peter Christianson

1923 was then...

The model year of this Pierce-Arrow may not be clear, however, its license plate indicates that it was registered for the road in Connecticut in 1923 ... 100 years ago. Note the steering wheel placement on the right side.



Uncredited period photo from Steven Rossi's Pierce-Arrow archives



D-9-1107

CALLING ALL TRACTOR GUYS!

Unmuffled Exhaust from the Editor

What if we hold an antique tractor event and no tractors show up? Let's face it, as far as farm vehicles were concerned, the field was mostly empty at the 2022 edition of our Antique Engine & Tractor Meet. We can chalk that up to restarting the event after five years of changing venues, mud bogs, a weather cancellation, and the pandemic. Another handy excuse might be that our pre-show publicity was compromised last year by not knowing until the last minute whether the state would even issue a permit for us to go back to our long-time home by the Rte. 16 entrance to Salmon River State Forest.

It's a better situation this year. We've got a year's experience operating under the state park rules, and, we already have the state permit for the field. **But what assurances do we have that tractor owners will come back?** What can be done to avoid the embarrassment of a poor turn-out?

Antique tractors are not my thing, so, I don't pretend to have the answers. Luckily, there are some "tractor guys" in the Club. We would surely benefit from hearing their ideas and leveraging their connections.

With just 90 days to go until show time, we might want to hedge our bets, too. What if we organized a special display of Club member-owned tractors? Is it asking too much for Belltowners to commit to bringing, say, a half a dozen or so examples of varied-make tractors to show off, "front and center?"

HOBBY HEADLINES & HISTORY

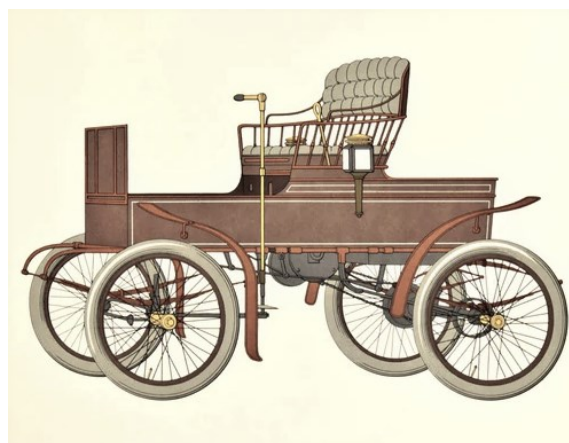
Studebaker Drivers Club Experts Weigh-in On Zinc Engine Oil Additives - The SDC's magazine, *Turning Wheels*, published advice from several experienced members advising against using so-called ZZDP additives or zinc-rich diesel engine motor oil in flat-tappet collector car engines. The article cited laboratory tests performed on various synthetic and conventional gasoline engine oils to which ZDDPlus or Edelbrock Zinc Additive had been added. In all cases, the added zinc reduced the oil's wear-prevention capability (ability to withstand pressure), the opposite effect of that promised. As regards the use of diesel lubricating oil in gasoline engines, this is also deemed to be a bad idea, despite its zinc content. Instead, they recommend using a gasoline engine oil in your collector car that is formulated for high-performance and other flat-tappet engines, such as Valvoline VR1 Racing Oil. Other oils such as Brad Penn, Mobil 1 Racing, Joe Gibbs, etc. advertised for flat-tappet engines may also be good options. These oils are blended with zinc, phosphorous and other ingredients to protect against wear. Aside from the matter of how to obtain the protection of zinc, these experts stressed the importance of changing the oil before putting old cars into winter storage.

Ford Model A Reaches Production Milestones in 1929 - On February 4, 1929, Ford Motor Co. manufactured the one-millionth Model A engine. Six months later, the two-millionth Model A, a Cabriolet, was assembled at The Rouge. It took Ford seven years to build the first million Model T's and a year and a half to build the second million.

Studebaker Celebrated Its 100th Birthday on February 18, 1952 - The company's origins went back to the blacksmith shop owned by John Studebaker in Ashland, Ohio. The family resettled in South Bend, Indiana in 1851 where, in February, 1852, two sons, Henry and Clement, opened H & C Studebaker, a blacksmithing and woodworking shop that began to build farm wagons to order. The business later expanded to include carriage and buggy-making.

The year 1902 marked the debut of the first Studebaker automobiles, which were battery-electric powered.

1902 Studebaker Electric Runabout, from an illustration by Clarence P. Hornung, dated 1965



CONNECTICUT AUTOMOBILIA

Submitted by Steven Rossi

Although the beach is too cold for a swim and the ferry is closed until April, we can still dream!



WHO, WHAT, WHERE OR WHEN*Challenge your automotive history IQ***Match the name of the car with the last name of the man responsible for it:**

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| A. Ostentienne Opera Sedan | 1. Wilkinson |
| B. Henry J | 2. Leyland |
| C. REO the Fifth Touring | 3. Mohs |
| D. Lincoln Model L | 4. Fisher |
| E. Franklin | 5. Kaiser |
| F. LaSalle Series 303 | 6. Olds |

*The correct answer to Who, What, Where, or When in the last issue, “**Match the Connecticut city to the automotive activity that took place there. Bonus - Identify the man who was the driving force behind each one.**”:*

- ◆ Hartford is where **Benjamin Briscoe** used his United States Motor Co. to acquire Columbia Motor Car Co. in 1910 in order to gain control of the Selden patent.
- ◆ New Haven is where Saab Motors, Inc. established its headquarters, imported cars, and warehoused spare parts in the 1960’s, at the direction of **Ralph T. Millet**.
- ◆ Bridgeport is where **R. Buckminster Fuller** created the Dymaxion Car in 1933.
- ◆ Stamford is where **Robert Cumberford** developed his Martinique sports car in the early 1980’s.

NEXT ISSUE

The next *Belltown Bulletin* will be the March, 2023 issue. The copy and classified ad deadline is Friday, February 17. Tuesday the 21st is the publication date, with mail-out on February 22 and e-delivery no later than February 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 - Mark Hoydilla

Vice President - Ray Lichota

Secretary - Peter Christianson

Treasurer - Cliff Baker

Elected Directors* - Jon Grant (yr. 1 of 2) & Dan David (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. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part is subject to prior approval by the editor.

BY THE WAY...

“Buyers beware!”

Did the January collector car auctions (or too many winter evenings spent thumbing through *Hemmings Motor News*) have you thinking about buying a new old car? Are you confused by the claims made by less-than-truthful sellers? Let this chart bring a dose of reality (and humor) to the process.

Our thanks to *Jackie Reardon* and *Jay Beveridge* for passing this along.

OFFICIAL CONVERSION CHART	
HOW TO INTERPRET	
* ANTIQUE CAR ADS *	
IF IT SAYS:	IT REALLY MEANS:
Rare model.....	Nobody liked them when new either
Older restoration.....	Can't tell it's been restored
Needs engine work.....	It's been frozen for 30 years
Uses no oil.....	Just throws it out
No rust.....	Body and fenders missing
Rough.....	It's too bad to lie about
One owner.....	Never been able to sell
No time to complete.....	Can't find parts anywhere
Needs interior.....	Seats are gone
Rebuilt engine.....	Has new spark plugs
May run.....	But it never has
Low mileage.....	Third time around
Many new parts.....	Keeps breaking down
29 coats hand-rubbed paint....	Needed that much to cover rust
Clean.....	It sat out in the rain yesterday
Best offer.....	About what I expect to get
Always driven slowly.....	Won't go any faster
Prize winner.....	Hard luck trophy 3 times in a row
Stored 25 years.....	Under a tree
Real show stopper.....	Orange with purple fenders
Easy restoration.....	Parts will come off in your hand
Ready to show.....	Just washed it
Top good.....	Only leaks when it rains
Good investment.....	Can't depreciate any more

E-Delivery Bonus*

If you are not familiar with the two automotive museums in Rhode Island (see Club Notes, p. 2), you can learn more by checking out their respective web sites:

- The Newport Car Museum in Portsmouth - <https://newportcarmuseum.org/>
- The Audrain Automobile Museum in Newport - <https://www.audrainautomuseum.org/>

See next page for the top line results from the Mecum Kissimmee auction held January 4-15, 2023 - the biggest collector car auction ever held, surpassing last year's record numbers set at this auction.

*) 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.



THE WORLD'S LARGEST COLLECTOR CAR AUCTION®

KISSIMMEE

Mecum Kissimmee, The World's Largest Collector Car Auction®, became the first ever to exceed \$200 million in consecutive years with \$234 million in total sales achieved at Mecum Kissimmee 2023, concluding a 12-day run on Sunday, Jan. 15 at Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee, Florida.

\$234
MILLION IN SALES

THE MOST EVER AT MECUM KISSIMMEE AND ECLIPSING
THE \$217 MILLION ACHIEVED AT MECUM KISSIMMEE 2022

THE FIRST-EVER AUCTION TO ACHIEVE MORE THAN
\$200 MILLION IN SALES IN CONSECUTIVE YEARS

RECORD
4,000

VEHICLES CONSIGNED TO MECUM KISSIMMEE 2023

RECORD
3,180

VEHICLES SOLD AT MECUM KISSIMMEE 2023

RECORD ATTENDANCE OF BOTH
REGISTERED BIDDERS AND SPECTATORS

13

VEHICLES SOLD FOR
MORE THAN \$1,000,000

