



NEXT MEETING

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

- Timely Topics:
- Spring tours and activities
 - Readiness for our Antique Engine & Tractor Meet on April 30
 - Roster update; May meeting location reminder

APRIL FUEL!

Spark plug installation tips

1. Use the correct plug for the application.
2. Avoid using press-fit spark plugs.

Uncredited photo (no one will admit to it)



Photo credit: Bob Howard, CT MG Club

CLUB NOTES

Our third business meeting of 2023 was held on March 5 at Karl Helming's home garage in Portland, a day behind schedule due to expected inclement weather. "Thank you" *Beverly Astles* and *Betty Lichota* for the after-meeting goodies!

Old Business

Cliff Baker reported that we have secured new club insurance through John M. Glover agency, underwritten by Mt. Vernon Fire Insurance Co. of Wayne, Penn., at a price comparable to our previous Chubb policy.

Antique Engine & Tractor Meet readiness -

- *Mark Hoydilla* read the list of show classes from last year. No additions or changes.
- *Ralph Phil* confirmed that the East Hampton Lions Club will be the food vendor.
- *Jon Grant* said that the port-a-johns have been ordered from Cahill's, and noted that the donations box used last year is again available to us.
- *Peter Christianson* will alert the East Hampton EMTs about the event and where it will be held.
- *Scott Macgregor* said that the dash plaques have been ordered for both of our 2023 meets.
- *Mark Hoydilla* stressed that we need volunteers to run the event. Saturday, April 29 will be set-up day.

CLUB NOTES (continued from p. 1)

Polly Beckwith explained that our April Meet did not always include tractors. She said that originally, and for the first eight years, the event was just a flea market. Antique engines became an added draw after that; then some tractors started coming so we officially expanded the scope of the event to include them.

Membership renewal status -

As of the start of the meeting, 10 members (10%) had not yet paid their dues for 2023. We currently have 89 members in good standing. *Cliff Baker* said that he would make one more attempt to follow up.

New Business

Alan Carlson reported that the Masons Lodge of East Hampton has agreed to once again be food provider at the August Meet at the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds.

Scott Macgregor noted that there was no news from the CT Council of Car Clubs on pending legislation that might affect the old car hobby in the legislative session so far. Due to the untimely passing of 4C's chairman John Bajumpaa they are looking for a volunteer to run the organization's Facebook page and maintain the car show calendar on their web site. No one in the 4C's has the experience to take on either task, so they may have to give up those functions unless outside help arrives.

Old Car Connection of the Month -

Need keys made for your old car? L.E. Whitford Co. Locksmiths, 58 Conn. Blvd. in East Hartford may be able to help you. Call 860-528-7237 or visit <https://www.whitfordcompany.com/>. Their motto is "Providing Quality Service Since 1948."

Upcoming Club Activities -

Ray Lichota indicated that there is an opportunity to visit the Pratt & Whitney Museum in East Hartford on Tuesday, July 11, when they have their next meeting. Contact Ray if you would like to attend.

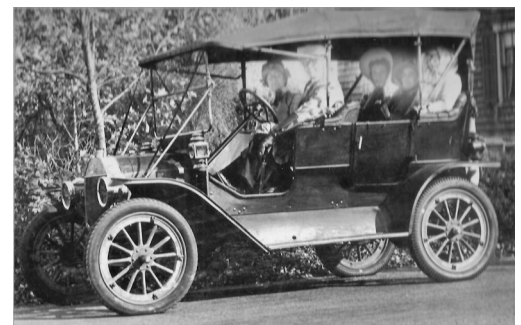
Cliff Baker will work on organizing a Spring Dust-Off to be held shortly after our April Meet. Like last year, we could congregate in the parking lot at Gillette Castle, have a box lunch, and caravan over to the Yankee Cider Co. afterwards. If we do it the first weekend in May, participants can stop at the Zagray Spring Show on the way home for a look around (free designated parking for antique cars is usually offered).

Jay Beveridge noted that the Essex Historical Society wants to resume holding an old car show on the lawn behind the historic Pratt House in Essex, possibly a week after our August Meet. Jay will relay our interest.

On August 12, the Jaguar Club will again host a club gathering, with others invited, at Devil's Hopyard State Park in Hadlyme. The idea is to be able to offer rides to the public and promote the old car hobby.

Guest Speaker

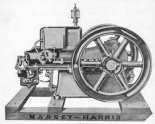
Don Liepelt said he enjoys hearing stories about how people got started in the hobby. His involvement began as a boy in the 1940's when his dad told him the history of his 1911 Model T Touring (R). Don remembers attending an old car parade in Middletown (during that city's Tri-Centennial, perhaps?). After that he was hooked. He started collecting parts and parts cars to fix up an early Model T they had acquired. Eventually he got the Model T going so he could drive it around the yard. In 1957, Don came across a Model T panel truck that had formerly been used by the Old Saybrook Fire Dept. as a parade vehicle. He later sold that for a \$5 profit and started restoring a 1915 Ford chassis. And so it went, buying and (sometimes) selling early cars. One was a 1917 Overland roadster, which he still has. Don also still has what he calls an "absolute passion" for old cars.



MEMBER MILESTONES

<u>Happy Birthday to:</u>	Mark Aldieri	April 2nd	Gordon Hallberg	April 14th
	James Borbas	April 4th (92)	Maureen Hallberg	April 17th
	Marilyn Christianson	April 4th	John Hoban	April 18th (79)
	Corky Lieder	April 9th (80)	Caroline Glabau	April 19th (78)
	Richard Everett	April 10th (92)	James Borbas, Jr.	April 21st
	Alan Carlson	April 13th	Linda Elgart	April 24th (79)
	Jonathan Foote	April 14th (76)		

UPCOMING EVENTS (Club participation events in bold)



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



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.

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

Saturday, April 1 - Automobilia Auction Spring 2023 at Winter Associates, 21 Cooke St., Plainville, Conn. Begins at 11 a.m. Info at: www.automobiliaauctions.com. For consignment info, email Jerry Lettieri at glettieri@cox.net.

Sunday, April 2 - 35th Annual Ty-Rod's Spring Swap Meet at Stafford Motor Speedway, Stafford Springs, Conn., 7 a.m.

Friday - Sunday, April 7-16 - New York Internat'l Auto Show, Jacob Javits Center, N.Y.C.; info: www.autoshowny.com.

Wednesday, April 19 - First 2023 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 19-23 - Spring Carlisle Flea Market & Car Corral, incl. 2-day auction, Carlisle Fairgrounds, Carlisle, Penn. Daily admission \$13 (Sunday, free). Info. at <https://carlisleevents.com/events/schedule>.

Saturday, April 22 - Cars & Coffee at Abingdon Spares, 900 Industrial Park Rd., Deep River, Conn. Focus is on British cars and sports cars; other interesting old cars are welcome. Updates: <https://www.facebook.com/abingdon.spares/>.

Sunday, April 30 - **BACC's 48th Annual Antique Engine & Tractor Meet**, Salmon River SP, Rte. 16, Colchester, Conn.

Wednesday, May 3 - **BACC monthly business meeting** at the East Hampton Public Library, beginning with a pot-luck supper at 6:30 p.m. Meeting to start at 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker from Klingberg auto restoration program.

Friday - Sunday, May 5-7 - 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, May 6 - **BACC Spring Dust-Off** to Gillette Castle and Staehly Farm's Yankee Cider Co. We meet up at Gillette in Hadlyme at 11 a.m. Bring your own lunch to have at noon; then it's over to Yankee Cider. Rain date: May 7.

Saturday - Sunday, May 6-7 - 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>.

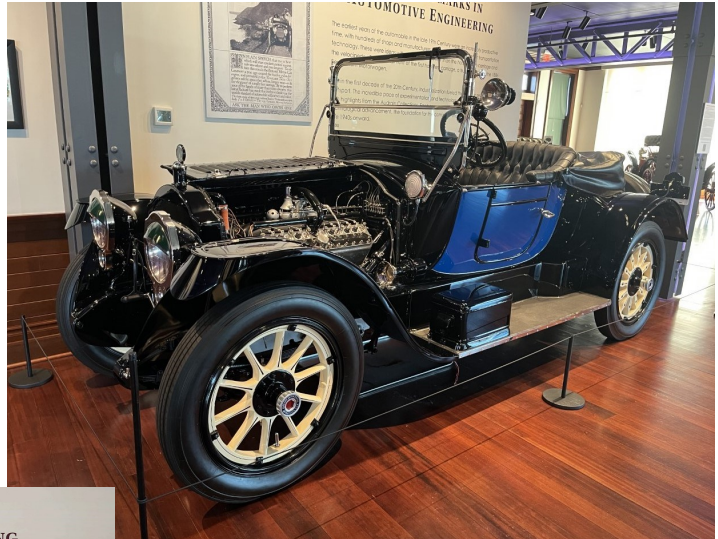
Saturday, May 13 - Judged Studebaker show at the Studebaker Drivers Club Northeast Meet, hosted by the Nutmeg Chapter of SDC, Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, 100 Capital Blvd., Rocky Hill, Conn.

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>.

HAPPY MOTORING

Cliff Baker and Scott Macgregor wanted to see the Audrain Automobile Museum’s exhibit entitled “Early Landmarks in Automotive Engineering” before it ended on March 12. They couldn’t wait for a club tour to Newport to be organized. So, off they went to the Ocean State on the 9th of March to check out the sixteen antique cars and four motorcycles on display in the museum’s historic showroom on Bellevue Avenue.

Cliff said his three favorite cars were the 1930 Duesenberg Model J Murphy Town Cabriolet, the 1931 Cadillac V-16 Convertible Coupe, and the 1916 Packard I-25 Twin Six Runabout. His runner-up was the 1930 Cord L29 Phaeton. [Photos of each by Cliff, clockwise below]. Scott was enamored with the 1886 Benz Patent Motorwagen replica, the imposing 1910 American Underslung, and the beautifully styled 1939 Alfa Romeo C6 2500 Sport Touring Coupe.



A new exhibit, “Wonders in Wood, on Land & by Sea” (cars and boats) runs through June 11. See <https://www.audrainautomuseum.org/>. -Ed.

Share the news from your 2023 antique car and touring adventures with your fellow Belltowners ... in **The Belltown Bulletin!** “Watch this space.”

NO FUELIN'?

Unmuffled Exhaust from the Editor

Although this is the April Fuel issue, it's no joke that I have contemplated going electric with my next car. For me, the appeal is not "reducing my carbon footprint" as much as it is my quest for a car that is quieter than what I have by an order of magnitude. Also, electrics don't need as much maintenance as ICE cars do. (I guess I'm getting old.)

What are my options? Of course, I could trade-in my daily driver on a new-fangled Tesla competitor.* It seems to me, BEV's still cost too much to buy even with incentives, and secondly, there are some lengthy road trips on my To Do list that would not be practical given the current state of the re-charging infrastructure here in North America.

How about an antique electric from their pre-war heyday? For starters, the Detroit Electric and others were mostly designed to appeal to well-to-do ladies who used them on short, inner city drives. They are not very usable in today's traffic conditions, and as such, not my idea of a hobby car to use on tours and attend cruise nights. Much the same can be said for the crude little electric jobs that popped up after the "oil crisis" of the 1970's.

A retro-'lectric (my term) or "e-rod" could be fun. The downsides are having to spend a lot of time and money building one, and, moreover, selecting the right car to electrify, one that doesn't need a full restoration in addition to the EV conversion. The donor should be appealing enough in terms of design and size, cheap enough that there is money in the budget for the conversion, and not something for which I would be vilified for having electrified. Better yet, you say, start with one of the more readily available, engine-less, kit cars on the market such as a Caterham 7 or a Factory Five hot rod ... Ka-ching! I can hear the cash register ringing and ringing, while the clock keeps on ticking.

It's good to have options, but the best one for me looks to be putting more miles on the Subaru and, when the time comes, replacing it with a well-proven hybrid – not the plug-in kind. Meanwhile, I will keep enjoying my gas-burning special-interest cars. Who knows, maybe one of these days I'll hear about an estate sale offering up the unfinished shell of a Fiberfab Jamaican (for free!), begging to be given new life with an electric motor and a battery pack...

*) While I respect Mr. Musk's laudable industrial achievements at Tesla and SpaceX, I don't wish to further enrich a norm-busting, ego-maniac.

HOBBY HEADLINES & HISTORY

Ford Bronco II Launched 40 Years Ago - The compact Ranger pickup-based Bronco II made its debut in March, 1983 as a 1984 model, powered by a 115 hp 2.8L V-6. A bit larger than the original 1966-77 Bronco, but noticeably smaller than the full-size Bronco offered by Ford in the '80's, it was intended to compete with Chevrolet's S-10 Blazer. Although RWD Bronco IIs demonstrated a high tendency to roll over, Ford managed to avoid doing a recall.



Don Williams, a Force in the Collector Car World, Passes - Mr. Williams, who started the Blackhawk Collection, Inc. in 1981 as a purveyor of fine classic cars, was the co-founder of the Blackhawk Museum in Danville, Calif., east of Oakland. He also had a long association with Barrett-Jackson collector car auctions. He died on March 9, at age 78.

BELLTOWN CLASSIFIEDS

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

For Sale – 1931 Model A Ford Deluxe Roadster - Asking \$22,500

Nice quality driver, very solid & correct. Black with apple green wheels & stripe, accessories incl. twin side mounts w/metal covers, whitewalls, quail, stone guard, etc. Has title.

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

Wanted – Schrader cylinder-type tire pressure gauge, engraved with "for Model A Ford" + "Ford Motor Co."

Looking for the LONG version, not the short "shotgun shell" size

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

CONNECTICUT AUTOMOBILIA

Submitted by Steven Rossi

For the least harrowing farm implement shopping experience, you had to visit the knowledgeable folks at The Cutaway Harrow Co. in Higganum, Conn. - Ed.

The DEALER, The FARMER,

CLARK'S REVERSIBLE Bush Plow and Harrow

 Cuts a track 5 ft. wide, 1 ft. deep. Connects the subsoil water. It is an excellent machine for covering in sugar cane. Strength guaranteed. Can plow a newly-cut forest, stump, bush or bog land, leaves land true, clean for any crop.

Clark's Double Action CUTAWAY HARROW

 Moves 1,500 tons of earth in a day.

CLARK'S 8-FOOT GRADING HARROW

 Will smooth an acre as true as a millpond in twenty minutes.

Clark's Rev. Sulky Disk Plow.

 Made single or double. One or two furrows, five to ten in, deep, 14 inches wide. For two or four horses. Light draft. No side draft. No similar plow made.

CLARK'S ROOT CUTTER.

 TWO SIZES. Cuts 1 or 2 bushels per minute, for fowl or beast. Gouge cutters, never choke or clog.

The Cutaway Harrow Co.
 Higganum, Conn., U. S. A.
 Send for Circulars

An Entirely New Line of

None Genuine But the **CLARK'S CUTAWAY.**

CUTAWAYS!

SEND FOR SPECIAL CIRCULARS OF THE NEW SERIES CUTAWAY HARROWS, AND ESPECIALLY THE NEW SERIES CUTAWAY PLOWS.

AGENTS WANTED IN EVERY COUNTY.

THE NEW MODEL DUTTON MOWER KNIFE GRINDER.
 Great improvement. Mowing Machine Knives ground to the same bevel as when new. Agents wanted in every county. Send for special reduced price for the season of 1898.

THE CUTAWAY HARROW CO., ...Sole Manufacturers... **Higganum, Conn.**
 HARBER BROS. COMPANY, General Agents, Bloomington, Illinois.

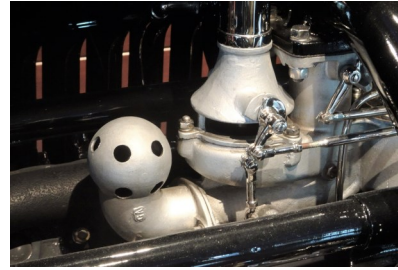
Disclaimers and Words to the Wise: The opinions expressed by the authors of the content of this newsletter are theirs and are in no way intended to represent a position taken by the Belltown Antique Car Club or its officers. The information presented herein is for the edification and entertainment of 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.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE OR WHEN

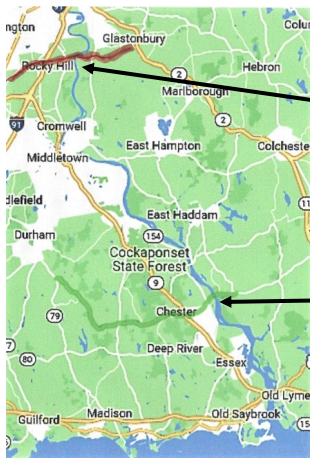
Challenge your automotive history IQ

What is the purpose of this “wiffle ball” device?

[Hint: It sits between the cylinder banks on an early Packard Twin Six engine]



The correct answer to Who, What, Where, or When in the last issue, “Two Connecticut state highways feature a section where the speed limit is 0 mph. What are the two route numbers and where are these anomalies located?”:



Route 160 in the unpaved “wet section” between Rocky Hill and Glastonbury



Route 148 in the unpaved “wet section” between Chester and Hadlyme

These are the only two roads in Connecticut that cross the Conn. River via ferry, where the speed limit is “zero” while cars are aboard ship.



NEXT ISSUE

The next **Belltown Bulletin** will be the May issue, which will include the 2023 Club Roster. The copy and classified ad deadline is Thursday, April 20. Mail-out will be on April 25 and e-delivery no later than April 27.

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, Cliff Baker, Bob Fiala, and Bob Howard.**

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**]

BY THE WAY...

“If it’s the Last Sunday in April, it’s time for the Belltown Antique Engine & Tractor Meet. *Follow me!*”



E-Delivery Bonus*

- ◆ Belltown colleague *Bob Fiala* submitted a visual cheat sheet for Ford F-Series pickups up through the 9th generation (see bonus pages 9-10). *When asked which one is his favorite, Bob replied, “The 48-50 Ford trucks with the flathead V-8. The way they sound when cranking over, and the sizzle from the carb.”* He also said he had fond memories of the (Ford) Good Humor trucks, *“white in color, that were always around at the shore.”*
- ◆ After writing the editorial in this issue we ran across this wonderful video of classic car authority Donald Osborne driving a 1912 Rauch and Lang electric car around Newport, R.I., produced for the Audrain Automobile Museum located there. Please enjoy his informed narration:

<https://www.audrainautomuseum.org/early-landmarks-in-automotive-engineering/blog-post-title-one-lmjpx-w5xc9-je4lb>

- ◆ Automotive writer and old car enthusiast Ken Gross has reprised his role as the curator of a rolling sculpture exhibit at a general interest art museum. This time around he has collected a wide array of streamlined cars that are being displayed at the Vero Beach Museum of Arts through April 30th. If you expect to be in Florida during the next few weeks be sure to visit the museum, if not, check out the cars in this gallery link:

<https://www.autoweek.com/car-life/classic-cars/g43250638/see-the-gorgeous-streamlined-cars-of-the-vero-beach-museum-of-arts-rolling-sculpture-exhibit/>

*) 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.



Quick Guide to Identifying 1948-60 Ford Pickups

First Generation



1948-50



1951



1952

Second Generation



1953



1954



1955



1956

Third Generation



1957



1958



1959



1960

Quick Guide to Identifying 1961-66 Ford Pickups

Fourth Generation



1961



1962



1963



1964



1965



1966

Quick Guide to Identifying 1967-72 Ford Pickups

Fifth Generation



1967



1968



1969



1970



1971



1972

Sixth Generation



1973 - 1975



1976



1977



1978



1979

Seventh Generation



1980-81



1982-1986

Eighth Generation



1987-91

Ninth Generation



1991-96

1994-96 third brake light