



# THE BELLTOWN BULLETIN

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

February, 2021

## NEXT MEETING

**Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. at Karl Helming's in Portland**

Please bring a chair and a mask - social distancing practices will be observed  
Stay home if you show any signs of illness or have underlying health conditions

- On the Agenda:
- Remembering those we have recently lost
  - Status of our 2021 Antique Engine & Tractor Meet
  - Suggestions for possible spring activities
  - Upcoming meetings and location

## FUEL FOR THOUGHT

"I announced at our last meeting that I would retire as editor with the publication of the December 2014 / January 2015 *Belltown Bulletin*.

When I took over this job, exactly 25 years ago, I never dreamed that I would still be doing it so many years later. At that time, Ronald Reagan had only been out of office for two years. I had never even touched an electric typewriter, never mind a computer... I'm so very indebted to Peter Christianson, who came to my rescue on many occasions when my computer malfunctioned.

There have been relatively few instances when I was incapacitated and I'm grateful to Peter Christianson and Richard and Polly Beckwith for stepping in to cover for me...

I'm grateful to many people for supplying me with items of interest for publication in these pages, including...Steven Rossi...John and Elaine Grant, Dean Zenor, Polly Beckwith, Ellie Sutton, Phil LaRose, and my old classmate, Dick McLane whose friendship and sense of humor I have enjoyed since I was three years old. (That was way back when FDR was only half way through his presidency.)

This job has been an enjoyable ride for me. If there has been hobby-related news, activities, and stories in the newsletter, that was obviously its primary purpose. If some of the material put a smile on your face, that was my objective as well."

- *Bob Hellstrom*, from the "Editor's Reminiscences" published in Bob's final issue, six years ago

Rest in peace, Bob. Your unwavering devotion to BACC and decades of service to the Club merit our sincerest gratitude. You will be greatly missed by one and all! - *Ed*.

## CLUB NOTES

Our first monthly business meeting of 2021 was held on Saturday, January 9 in Portland. Once again we thank *Karl Helming* for hosting the meeting.

*Jon Grant* explained that, due to the unpredictable situation with regard to COVID-19, the State of Conn. at this time is not willing to commit to letting us use the Salmon River State Forest grounds for our 2021 Antique

**CLUB NOTES, continued from p. 1**

Engine and Tractor Meet at the end of April. It is too early, under the circumstances. Jon will keep tabs on the situation but he is not very optimistic right now. Nevertheless, the consensus was that we will tentatively plan to hold the event on the last Sunday in April at that location. Long lead show publicity should go forward until further notice. Scott Macgregor suggested that we forgo having dash plaques made this year considering the upfront cost and the distinct possibility of not being able to recover it. A motion to that effect was made and approved by the members. Further consideration of the event will carryover to the next meeting.

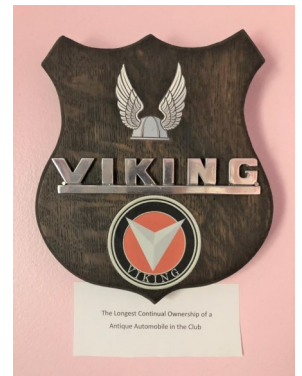
As regards the 2021 Vintage Motorcar Meet traditionally held on the first Sunday in August, the mainstream is to hold it at the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds provided that the Fair Grounds Association will allow it. With the longer lead time there is an opportunity to consider alternative venues for that event. Carter Hill Farm was mentioned as one possibility. *David Degregorio* volunteered to explore our options, focusing on the greater East Hampton area.

The East Hampton Library is open, however, the community room there remains closed. Once again, *Karl Helming* volunteered the use of his heated garage to hold the February meeting. The members accepted his offer and it was decided to hold it on Saturday, February 6 at 1:30 p.m., with the following Saturday designated as the alternate date in the event that winter weather conditions make travel inadvisable on the 6th. Due to concerns arising from the current health emergency, this will be a normal business meeting and it **will not** include a pot luck meal, departing from our normal practice for our February get togethers. Instead, Polly and Richard Beckwith offered to host a combination outdoor pot luck picnic and meeting in June, conditions permitting.

*Cliff Baker* was presented with a special plaque [see photo] by *Jon Grant* to recognize Cliff's ownership of his rare Viking sedan and the fact that it (most likely) represents the longest continuous ownership of any one antique automobile in the Club. Cliff bought it while he was still in high school in the late 1960's.

Guest speaker *Jay Beveridge* closed the meeting with a slide presentation of locally owned classic cars that were shown at various antique automobile shows held in the late 1960's and early 1970's, including Hershey and Belltown. Jay noted dryly that in those days "pre-war cars" were exclusively displayed inside the Hershey stadium and that designation denoted vehicles built before World War I, not II.

Some photos were from well respected shows in South Windsor, Foxboro, Putnam, Bennington and Newport that no longer exist. His talk sparked many members to reminisce about Hershey back in the day. He also showed some images of his own cars from those days, including a 1931 Ford Model A 2-door phaeton that he restored himself after noted Model A restorer Bob Carini refused to work on it, and a Model T pie wagon that came into Jay's possession later on.



### **A reminder about membership renewal -**

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 reminder to members whose dues are outstanding at the time of publication will accompany the February newsletter (THIS ONE), which will otherwise be the last one you receive until renewal. As of the last week of January, 14 members had not yet paid their 2021 dues. Please see the 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 Club treasurer or secretary at the next meeting.

## MEMBER MILESTONES

<u>Happy Birthday to:</u>	Bruce Dutch	February 2nd	David Towle	February 8th
	Nancy Liepelt	February 5th	Barbara Michael	February 11th
	Carol Petras	February 6th (84)	Audrey Brookes	February 23rd

<u>Happy Anniversary to:</u>	Jon & Elaine Grant	February 14th
	Dick & Mary Everett	February 23rd (64)

### In Memoriam:

**Richard Reale** of Meriden, 76, passed peacefully on January 7th after a long battle with cancer. Rick bought and sold several antique cars over the years, but the original-condition 1941 Packard Clipper sedan he owned the longest was the one he treasured most. A few years ago Rick gave a presentation at one of our meetings about his often humorous experiences with old cars that he had compiled into a book entitled *Tires, They're Optional*. Our sincerest condolences to his wife Sue and the entire Reale family.

**Robert Hellstrom**, 85, formerly of East Hampton, passed away on January 17th after a short illness while a resident of The Saybrook at Haddam senior living facility. Bob was a passionate and knowledgeable collector of mainly GM cars, from the 40's on up, with a particular fondness for Buick and Oldsmobile. From new he owned one of the last Pontiac convertibles built in 1975. He also collected old car literature as well as antique musical instruments. Bob was one of the longest-serving members of BACC, dating back to its formative years in the 1960's, and was the newsletter editor for 25 years before "retiring" six years ago. As devoted and congenial a member as we have ever had, Bob will be dearly missed.

We belatedly learned of the passing of **Drusilla Harder**, 85, of Portland on December 3rd. Dru was predeceased by her husband, Larry Harder, a long-time BACC member. Subsequently, Dru offered to sponsor a special Vintage Motorcar Meet trophy in Larry's name, beginning with the 2019 event. We much appreciated her generous, unsolicited donations to the Club, which we periodically received right up to her untimely death while recuperating from surgery. Away from the realm of antique cars, the Harders were patrons of the arts and environmental causes, and founders of Protectors of Animals, a rescue and adoption organization.

## BELLTOWN CLASSIFIEDS

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

Free to a Good Home – I have a *cargo cover* for a 2013-19 Ford Escape. Call me if interested.  
Cliff Baker, 860-873-9587. [BACC member]

Wanted – *Model A Ford car jacks A-17080-A (1929) and A-17080-B1 (1930)*. I can send you photos. I will buy them or trade other Model A parts if you prefer. This is to complete my collection of all 8 Model A jack types.  
Bill Nitschke, (cell) 914-323-8958 or email williamnitschke@gmail.com. [BACC member]

## UPCOMING EVENTS (Club participation events in bold)

Saturday, February 6 - **BACC monthly meeting** at Karl Helming's heated garage at 1:30 p.m., 220 Jobs Pond Rd. in Portland. Second business meeting of the year. Note: There will **NOT** be a pot luck meal at this meeting. Snow date: In case of inclement winter weather the meeting will be postponed one week to Saturday, February 13.

Saturday, March 6 - **BACC monthly meeting** at Karl Helming's heated garage at 1:30 p.m., 220 Jobs Pond Rd. in Portland. Third business meeting of the year. Date and location may change depending on reopening of the East Hampton Library community room (update at February meeting).

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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>.



## HOBBY HEADLINES & HISTORY

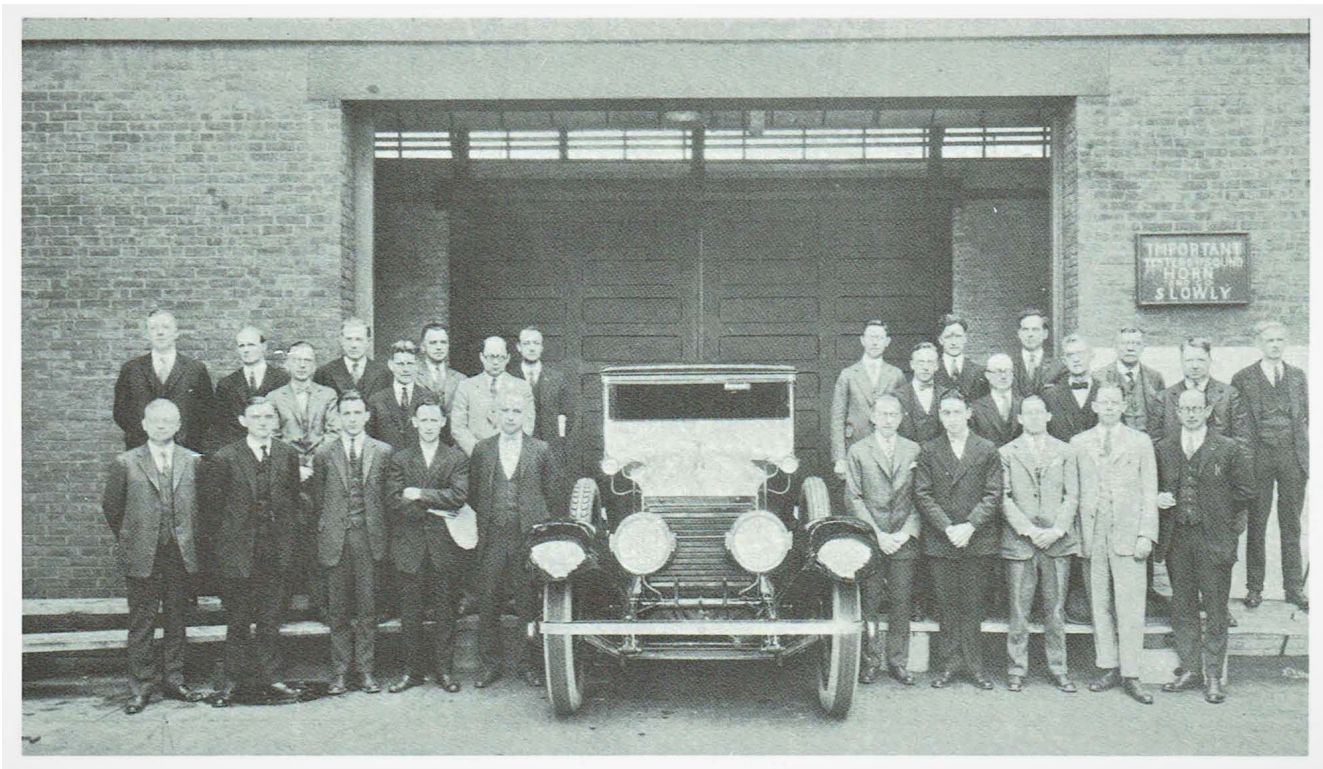
**Sears May Have Abandoned The Closest Mall, But Some Old Favorites Are Now Sold Nearby** - Is your tool chest in need of replenishment? Are you a fan of Craftsman tools? In case you didn't know, the Craftsman brand is now available at Ace Hardware stores as well as Lowe's Home Improvement Centers. Be advised, however, that tools originally sold at Sears stores carry different part numbers and the new retail partners may not honor Sears-sold tools under their lifetime warranty. Best to call Craftsman directly at 888-331-4569 if you have a warranty issue. More recently, Sears also sold the rights to the iconic Die Hard auto battery brand. Late last year Advance Auto Parts began heavily promoting their new Die Hard line.



**26th Annual Amelia Island Concours Delayed to May** - Last year's Amelia Island Concours was one of the few major antique car events to be held in 2020, owing to its traditional timing of early March falling just prior to the initial declaration of the COVID-19 health emergency. With an optimistic view that the ongoing situation will soon begin to improve, the organizers of this year's Concours have announced that the show is a go, although it has been postponed to May 20-23. Go to <https://www.ameliacconcours.org> for information. One special feature of this year's event will be a "Weird and Wonderful" show car class. Among the invited entrants for this class will be a one-of-one creation designed by Gordon Buehrig that has a Connecticut connection. See page 5 for the back story.

**25th Anniversary Greenwich Concours Moving to Late October** - Hagerty Insurance, owners of the Greenwich Concours d'Elegance event since late 2019, announced that the 2021 event will not be held on its usual "first weekend after Memorial Day." Instead, it has been rescheduled to October 23-24 in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It will still be held at the traditional location, Roger Sherman Baldwin Park in Greenwich. The 25th running of the show will mark the 100th anniversary of Duesenberg and Moto Guzzi motorcycles as well as 70 years of Allard. The show was cancelled in 2020 due to the health-related lockdown.

**Rolls-Royce Marks 100th Anniversary of Starting Car Production in Springfield, Mass.** - The first Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost was completed at the company's only car factory in North America on January 17, 1921. In total, Rolls-Royce produced 2,946 Silver Ghost and Phantom vehicles in Springfield before the Great Depression intervened and they decided to cease operations there in 1931. American coachbuilders, including Brewster, Willoughby, Holbrook and Merrimac built bodies for these cars, thereby distinguishing them from their British brethren. [Photo below]



# CONNECTICUT AUTOMOBILIA

Submitted by Steven Rossi

The American Sportscar Company (“TASCO”) of Hartford, Conn. had a post-WWII vision to produce an aircraft-inspired sports car to compete in the emerging road racing scene dominated by imported machines. The Nutmeg State investors engaged Gordon Buehrig, the highly-regarded former Cord designer, to create a couple of scale models and a full-size running car. Buehrig’s Tasco prototype, completed in 1948, had a Derham-built body on a Mercury chassis, according to *The Complete Encyclopedia of Motorcars, 1885 to the Present*, edited by G.N. Georgano. The Tasco was described as an “unorthodox machine [that] featured a radiator-cowl bumper, mudguards that turned with the front wheels and a removable Perspex roof.”

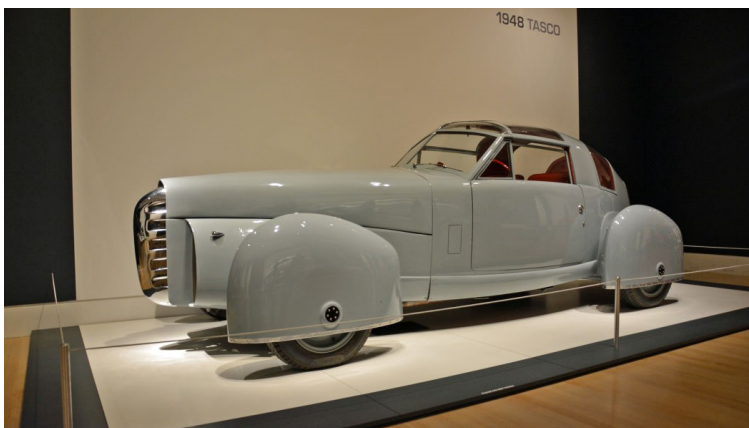
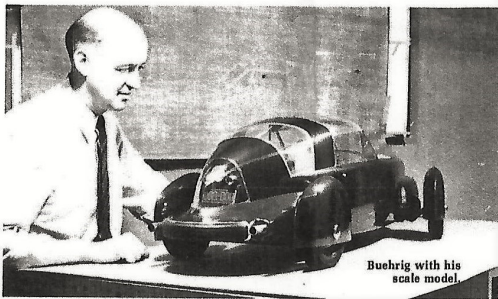
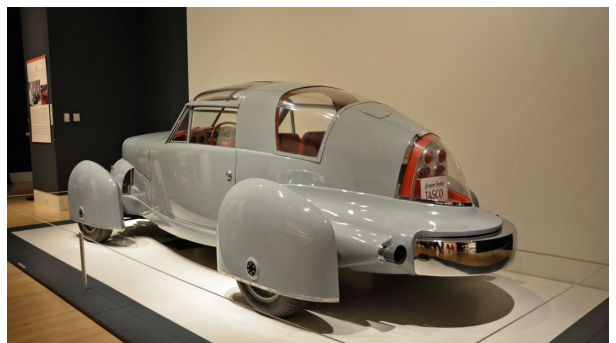
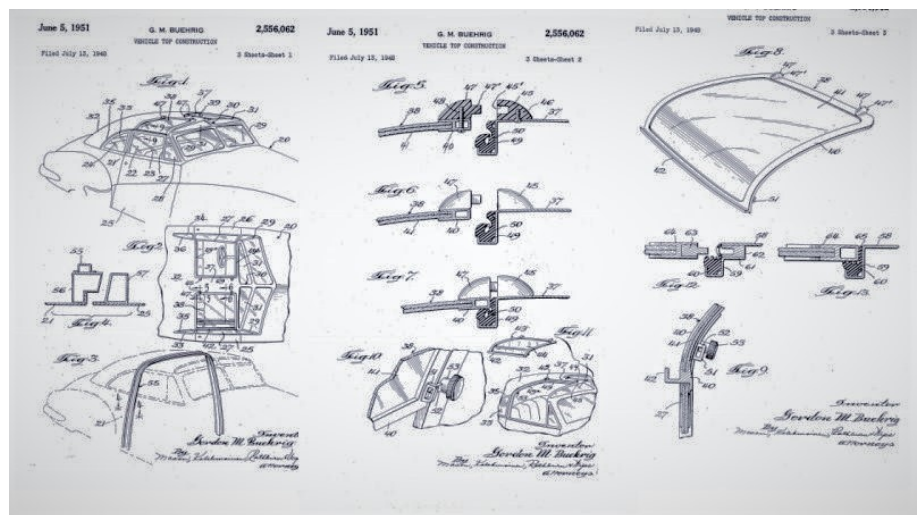


Photo Credit: Ronan Glon of *Autoblog*



Buehrig himself did not look back too favorably on the result, calling it his “personal Edsel.” His partners originally wanted an open cockpit car, but he insisted (prematurely, as it were) that closed cockpits were the future of sports cars as was already the case in small aircraft. Ten men, including Buehrig, invested \$5,000 each in the project. He admitted that, “Nobody’s investment was ever recovered.” After his retirement he lamented that the aluminum-bodied prototype still existed and continued to haunt him. Indeed, the Tasco is alive and well today in Auburn, Ind., under the care of the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum. They will exhibit it at the 26th Annual Amelia Island Concours.

One silver lining for Buehrig that grew out of the project was that he was granted a U.S. patent for a lift-off roof panel in 1951. Since it remained valid in 1968 when the T-top equipped C3 Corvette was launched, Buehrig filed a claim against GM. Hopefully the settlement he received from GM made up for his lack of financial return on the Tasco fiasco!





**MITIGATING THE LOSSES**

*Unmuffled Exhaust from the Editor*

For the past four years the words, "What have you got to lose?" have rung in my ears. As it turned out, the answer is, "A lot." This month the country passed the tragic milestone of 400,000 deaths due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while a singularly dark time in our nation's Capitol clouded a highly-anticipated transfer of power. Closer to home we felt the passing of three more of our Club members, at least one virus-related. On the eve of the inauguration the president-elect honored those lost to the virus and reminded us that, "To heal, we must remember." There is much healing to do now, both as a nation and as a Club. Even so, we face uncertainty and continued risks for several more months to come before a sense of normalcy returns. Having lost precious time and revenue and, above all, good people, how can we begin to compensate for that and prepare for a brighter tomorrow? If the New Normal is not business-as-usual, what must we change?

**WHO, WHAT, WHERE OR WHEN**

*Challenge your automotive history IQ*

**Based on the following automobile repair shop invoice dated July 1, 1928, determine which one of the Big 3 automakers made Mrs. Holbrook's car. Why do you think so?**

[Thanks to Richard Beckwith for submitting this month's question - Ed.]

PHONE COLONY 1559

**HENRY W. LINSLEY**  
**AUTOMOBILE REPAIRING**  
 400 ELM STREET  
 New Haven, Conn. July 1 28 1928

*Sold to* Mrs. H. Holbrook  
 Madison, Conn.

June 16	Remove, repair and replace clutch	11 00
	Clutch Facing and Bearing	9 15
	Straighten fenders and body	4 00
	6 qts. oil @ 30¢	1 80
	Oil and grease car, clean all plugs, pack universals, inspect transmission and rear end, and clean carburetter strainers	2 25
	Wash and polish	2 50
27	Replace master cylinder plunger	2 50
	Plunger and brake liquid	1 10
	Tighten all shackles	50
	Fisk tire and tube	17 50
		52 30
	Loan to William	5 00
		57 30

## WHO, WHAT, WHERE OR WHEN, continued from p. 6

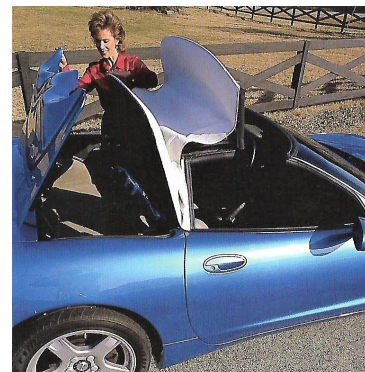
The correct answers to last month's Who, What, Where, or When, "Which of the following traits does a new-for 1998 Chevrolet Corvette convertible have in common with the 1928 Ford Model A roadster?" are:

- B. Wood floors > The Model A used removable wood floorboards and C5 Corvettes have a sandwich construction for the flat floor sections between the outer frame rails and center tunnel that consist of a balsa wood core between two layers of fiberglass for lightness and sound deadening.
- C. A manually-operated fold-down top > Like the Model A, all C5 convertibles have a manual top.

Right: C5 Corvette floor with peanut shaped cut-out to show the sandwich construction

Far Right: C5 Convertible with manually folding top

[Photo credit: General Motors]



As for the other features...

- A. The LS1 V-8 in the C5 has carry-over cylinder bore spacing from earlier engines, the Model A does not.
- D. The Model A has a full size spare tire, the C5 introduced run-flat tires and has no spare.
- E. The Model A lacks a glove compartment in the dash; the C5 Corvette has one.
- F. The driver's seat backrest cannot be tipped forward on a Model A roadster; it does fold forward on a C5.

## NEXT ISSUE

The next *Belltown Bulletin* will be the March, 2021 issue. The copy and classified ad deadline is Friday, February 19. Tuesday the 23rd is the publication date. E-delivery will take place 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

President - Alan Carlson  
 Vice President - Mark Hoydilla  
 Secretary - Peter Christianson  
 Treasurer - Cliff Baker

Elected Directors\* - Ray Lichota (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 (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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## We Remember...



Above Left: Bob Hellstrom enjoying BACC's Holiday Party in December, 2017

[Photo credits: Dan David]



Above Right: Bob admiring an E-Type Jaguar during a tour of Motorcars, Inc. in April, 2019 that had been organized by fellow Belltowner Joe Lombardo

## E-Delivery Bonus\*

**Covid-19 vaccinations are now available to the general public for those 75 years old or older. You must make an appointment to get vaccinated and can do so one of two ways. See the information sheet on the following page. Contact your local health authorities or physician for additional guidance and updates.**

Soon we will have to make time for the annual ritual of preparing our income tax forms. If you want something other than soothing music to accompany this necessary task, you might try listening to this extended audio track of the Corvette C8.R race car, with its purpose-built flat-plane crankshaft V-8, at full song during testing at Sebring International Raceway in Florida. Thanks to racing journalist Marshall Pruett for making this recording available via his blog and to *autoweek.com* for providing the link:

[https://www.autoweek.com/racing/more-racing/a35293557/corvette-c8rs-flat-plane-crank-v-8-sounds-unlike-anything-else-in-racing-today/?source=nl&utm\\_source=nl\\_aut&utm\\_medium=email&date=012221&utm\\_campaign=nl22733737&utm\\_term=AUT\\_Autoweek\\_Racing\\_Daily\\_Newsletter\\_Subscribers](https://www.autoweek.com/racing/more-racing/a35293557/corvette-c8rs-flat-plane-crank-v-8-sounds-unlike-anything-else-in-racing-today/?source=nl&utm_source=nl_aut&utm_medium=email&date=012221&utm_campaign=nl22733737&utm_term=AUT_Autoweek_Racing_Daily_Newsletter_Subscribers)

These two Ford films about the engine making process, one from 1954 (Cleveland plant) and one from 1994 (Windsor plant) were posted on *Hemmings Daily News* last weekend. They show how much has changed for the workers and how little has changed in terms of the basic elements of manufacturing [Credit: Ford PR Dept.]:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdIVK3R7JDI&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdIVK3R7JDI&feature=emb_title)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziVhj2oifl0&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziVhj2oifl0&feature=emb_title)

\*) 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.





# Vaccine Update

## **COVID 19 Vaccine UPDATE # 1 - January 17, 2021**

The following Vaccine Update is being provided to you from the  
Old Saybrook COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic.

### **NEW Information - I'm 75 or Older - How Do I Get Vaccinated?**

- There are several ways to schedule an appointment to get vaccinated.
- Here are the ways.... **Through VAMS or Through a Health Care Provider**

#### **VAMS**

- VAMS stands for **Vaccine Administration Management System**.
- This is the government's preferred method for you to schedule an appointment.
- To use this method, you **MUST** create a VAMS Account to get vaccinated.
- Click this link to create a VAMS Account, then follow the instructions provided.  
<https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/OnlineVaccine>
- **A unique email account for each person registering is required to use the VAMS System.**
- VAMS appointments are only being provided to those 75 and older.
- When searching for an appointment on VAMS try searching Old Saybrook – We might have open appointments! (Again these appointments are for anyone 75 or older at this time)

### **We just added 450 VAMS appointments on Saturday, January 23, 2021 for our Old Saybrook Vaccination Clinic!!**

**You MUST be registered in VAMS to schedule an appointment at our Vaccination Clinic!**

#### **SOME VAMS TIPS!**

- **Registering through VAMS is a multi-step process.**
- There will be up to a 12 hour delay between account verification emails.
- We have found some of our elderly friends finding the process frustrating and difficult.
- Offer to help that special 75+ person in your life out! Do this for them!
- If you are registering for a loved one or friend – **create a unique email address for them.** You will need your email address when it is time for you to register for a vaccine in the future!