

THE BELLTOWN BULLETIN

Belltown Antique Car Club - P.O. Box 211, East Hampton, CT 06424 Dec. 2020 - Jan. 2021

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, January 9, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. at Karl Helming's in Portland

Please bring 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: - 2021

- 2021 Club officers presiding
- Upcoming meetings/pot luck supper and location
- Preliminary planning for 2021 Antique Engine & Tractor Meet
- First quarter activities, suggestions

FUEL FOR THOUGHT



"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." - Charles Dickens, from A Tale of Two Cities (1859)

[So much for 2020; the 2021 forecast calls for decreasing grimness, with light at the end of the tunnel. - Ed.]

CLUB NOTES

Our 2020 Annual Meeting was held on November 7, at which time an election of officers was held for 2021. *Alan Carlson* will serve another term as president, *Mark Hoydilla* as vice president and *Cliff Baker* as treasurer. *Peter Christianson* was elected to return as our secretary, replacing *Bruce Johnston*, who declined to run again. *Ray Lichota* was newly-elected as a member-at-large on the board of directors. Ray will serve a 2-year term, replacing *Bob Sutton*. We thank Bruce and Bob for their service and wish the new slate of officers well in the coming year. It will undoubtedly be another challenging one!

The Club received a Thank You card from The Saybrook at Haddam for the double-drive-through parade of antique cars that BACC ran through their driveway at the beginning of our Shore Tour on October 18. They reported that the parade made resident Belltowner *Bob Hellstrom*'s day. Other residents and visitors were also delighted and photos were taken of the cars and Bob.

A motion was made and approved to donate \$100 to the Connecticut River Museum for hosting our Shore Tour lunch stop on the lawn behind the museum in Essex. Thanks go to museum director Jennifer Carlson.

The Annual Meeting was the first for our newest member, *Beverly Astles* of Ivoryton. Many of us met Beverly for the first time when she participated in our Shore Tour in October with her Ford Model A.

The Club would like to express its appreciation to member *Bob Fiala* for his donation of \$100 to the Club treasury.

Alan Carlson recapped Club-related milestones in 2020, beginning with the somber news of the passing of long-serving members John Peterson, Roy Hallberg, Jr., and Ronald Moroch. He went on to remark about the good attendance we enjoyed at meetings prior to the emergence of COVID-19 and the informative restoration shop tours at The Paddock and Dragone Classic Motorcars early in the year. We had to suspend meeting after our pot luck in February due to the pandemic-related health emergency, which also caused us to cancel both of

CLUB NOTES, continued from p. 1

our 2020 shows. The year was saved by being able to participate in three antique car driving tours in the late summer and fall (organized by *Don Liepelt*) and by resuming socially-distanced meetings in the fall (one hosted by the *Beckwiths* and others by *Karl Helming*), for which we were all very grateful. Once again, Karl offered to host our first meeting of 2021 on the assumption that the East Hampton Library's community meeting room would continue to be unavailable.

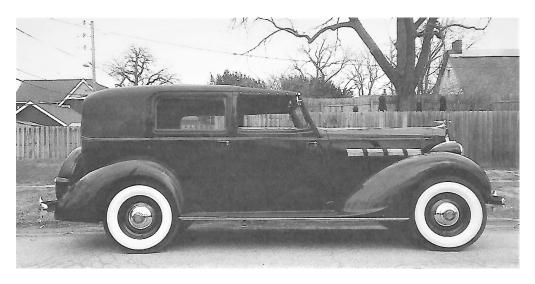
Before Alan introduced member *Phil Guertin* as guest speaker, *Jay Beveridge* offered to do a presentation at a future meeting on the history of BACC's involvement in the Hershey Fall Meet, which met with the approval of the members. Jay also expressed his appreciation for our newsletter during this challenging year, a sentiment shared by the other members present. *Scott Macgregor* noted also that *The Belltown Bulletin* recently got a positive review in the national antique car hobby publication *Old Cars Weekly*. ["Thank you, all!" - *Ed*.]

Guest speaker *Phil Guertin* took the floor and began by stating that he has always been a car nut. He sounded a familiar refrain by saying that wherever he went with his parents as a kid, he could identify any car as he stood up on the rear seat and looked out. [Of course, those were the days before child restraints! - *Ed.*]

Later, a friend of Phil's father who restored a Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost suggested to Phil that he start in the hobby with a Packard. Phil ended up buying an aluminum-bodied, 1937 Packard 120 by Rollston, with a chauffer compartment and an all-weather cabriolet body, for \$400. He never did anything with it, so, after owning it for three years he sold it to a fellow in California. Eventually Phil became a Ford Model A guy and has been an avid Model A owner ever since.

Fast forward from last century to 2019 - Phil was surprised to see his old Packard, now fully restored, turn up in *Hemmings Motor News*, with an asking price of \$95,000. The seller described it as "1 of 2 built."

Woulda, coulda, shoulda?



News since the Annual Meeting -

Stan and *Terri Mirecki* reported that their son Zak recently underwent tests in Boston and has been declared free of leukemia. It will take time for Zak to recover from the effects of chemotherapy and get back to normal. Nevertheless, they are so relieved and happy at this news, and very appreciative of our thoughts and prayers.

Bob Fiala reports that he tried and failed to get the DMV to accept a 1930 license plate that he presented to the DMV office as a Year Of Manufacture plate for his car. It was rejected because the plate had been cleaned and repainted, and thus in their view it had been altered. Bob's advice is to present a plate that is in original condition to ensure it will be approved for use. Restore it afterwards, if you so desire.

MEMBER MILESTONES

Happy Birthday to:	Peter Christianson	Jan. 1st	Alan Miller	Jan. 19th
	Sean Grant	Jan. 11th	Kathy Miller	Jan. 19th
	Charlie Murphy	Jan. 11th	Stan Mirecki	Jan. 20th (65)
	Nancy Shaw	Jan. 14th	Garrett Grant	Jan. 26th
	Mike Somma	Jan. 16th	Jim Mulconry	Jan. 26th

New Members: Please welcome Bruce Dutch of East Haddam. Bruce is new to the hobby and has acquired a few

special cars already. Also, please welcome back Curtis and Barbara Michael, whose membership

lapsed a few years ago.

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, which will otherwise be the last one you receive until renewal. As of the last week of December, 25 members had not yet paid their 2021 dues. See the treasurer at the January 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.

BELLTOWN CLASSIFIEDS

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

<u>For Sale</u> – I have two antique Chevrolets I am considering selling that I have owned for many years, a *1922 National Club Cabriolet convertible* and a *1957 Nomad*. If interested please call to discuss - serious inquiries only. Charley Hnilicka, 860-873-8973. [BACC member]

<u>For Sale</u> – 1930 Model A Ford Deluxe Roadster, super solid, rust-free and correct. Many accessories including quail, stone guard, trunk rack, and trunk, etc. Drives great. \$22,500.

John Beveridge, 860-767-3072, or email beveridge 18@att.net. [BACC member]



UPCOMING EVENTS (Club participation events in bold)

November 24, 2020 - February 14, 2021 - 27th Annual Train Show upstairs at the Connecticut River Museum, 67 Main St., Essex, Conn., 860-767-8269, www.ctrivermuseum.org. Due to COVID-19, timed admission for ticketed guests, max. 12 persons at a time. Exhibit includes a 26 ft. train layout and original artwork by noted local railroad enthusiast Steve Cryan.

<u>Saturday, January 9</u> - **BACC monthly meeting** at Karl Helming's heated garage at 1:30 p.m., 220 Jobs Pond Rd. in Portland. First business meeting of the year, 2021 Club officers presiding.

Wednesday, February 3 - **BACC monthly meeting** and pot luck supper at the East Hampton Library; supper starts at 6:30 p.m., meeting begins about an hour later. Location and date tentative, subject to COVID-19 restrictions and library availability.

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.

HERSHEY MELTED, BUT GETTYSBURG GLOWED

By Steven Rossi

When it comes to our old car community, there's no greater institution than the annual AACA (Antique Automobile Club of America) Eastern Fall Meet, hosted by the Hershey Region, in Pennsylvania.

For the first time in 65 years, the October 7-10, 2020 extravaganza was called off, due to COVID concerns. In the words of the Region, "It is with great regret that the AACA Hershey Region Executive Board informs you that the 2020 Hershey Fall Meet has been cancelled. This decision was not arrived at lightly. Our Club prides itself on producing a world-class event that thousands of people anticipate every year, so we felt the heaviest of burdens when faced with this decision."

But then there was an inkling of hope. Word arrived that the culminating, Saturday, October 10 antique car show itself was still do-able. The expansive field behind the new AACA Headquarters and Library remained accessible, and the turnout could be reduced to make it more manageable for safety's sake. Hooray...Chocolate Town here we come! Alas, legalities and mandates being what they are, with deeper analysis the idea of a Saturday-only show in Hershey proved untenable and, regrettably, it had to be canceled. But all hope was not lost...

Coincidentally, AACA restructured and successfully relocated its previous July Grand National from Allentown to a sprawling Wyndham/Marriott hotel complex in Gettysburg, Penn. to escape the pandemic. Per AACA, "[It] was a huge hit and done safely with the complete cooperation of our members. As such, we are proud to announce we will host a Special Fall Nationals on November 6-7 at the same Wyndham Hotel complex in Gettysburg. Everything is onsite, trailer parking, host hotel along with a Marriott Courtyard next door and judging school."

So, the Hershey Fall event finally morphed into a "Special National" some 40 minutes south, and for the first time in my 40+ years of participating, I had to actually look at a map (now, GPS) to get there! But at least we made it...and certainly glad we did, to keep the tradition alive. AACA, along with its Gettysburg and Hershey Regions deserve congratulations for not giving up.

And what a Meet it was. There were over 600 cars, trucks, scooters, motorcycles and vintage military vehicles on the ground. That's about half the norm, yet the Classic category was particularly well represented.

You never know what to expect from Mother Nature for the AACA Fall Meet, but the weather in Gettysburg was simply spectacular for early November, sunny and bright with temperatures in the mid-to-high 70's!

No, there was no Flea Market, nor Car Corral. Funnel Cake and French Fry stands were displaced by Uncle Moe's Soul Food truck and a chicken tender vendor, along with the supporting on-site hotel services. While the car show itself certainly was great, we look forward to the traditional multi-day Eastern Fall Meet retuning in 2021, when we're back at the "sweetest place on earth," Hershey.

See you there...

But wait, there's more:

Belltowner *Ray Mastronunzio* of New London took his brother Joe to the Special National at Gettysburg. Ray reports that they "drove down from Connecticut in his '65 Dark Green Lincoln Continental on a beautiful autumn weekend to participate in the last remnant of the Hershey Region's 2020 season. We headed out at 5 a.m. Friday morning, and arrived upon the sprawling site of the event in mid-afternoon. What excitement to cruise in along the avenue past acres of car trailers and campers, and be warmly greeted by several AACA volunteers stationed along the way! AACA president Jim Elliot personally welcomed every new arrival, and set the tone for a most memorable event.

"For many of us, this would be the first, last and only Big Car Happening for the 2020 season. And did we make the most of it! The spirit of excitement and comradery was like a mini-Hershey, inspiring Joe, (who is not yet a "car guy") to exclaim, 'WOW, this is great! We've got to invite the rest of our brothers to experience this next year!' All the ingredients were there: wide-open, manicured areas for the 650 cars displayed, flanked by



[Photo by Joe Mastronunzio]

HERSHEY MELTED, BUT GETTYSBURG GLOWED, continued from p. 4

two top-notch hotels hosting the 1,200-plus enthusiasts attending, and lots of locals attracted by the sudden influx of classic cars driving around their town. The many Region volunteers worked so well to give us all a trouble-free, picture perfect experience!

"For me, the novelty was entering a car to be judged for the first time, and coming home with a grille badge and plaque, granting her official status as a top-quality Historical Preservation of Original Features condition. But the best part was introducing my brother to the people and passion of our classic car pursuit. See y'all down the road!"

Ray Mastronunzío

DECODING EMAIL ADDRESSES

Unmuffled Exhaust from the Editor

People became preoccupied with all sorts of activities during home confinement periods while the COVID-19 pandemic ebbed and flowed for most of this year. For some, solving puzzles seemed to be a popular way to pass the time. One thing that has been puzzling me is the hidden meaning of certain email addresses used by Club members. A while back I did some investigating...

- I wondered, how did two Ford lovers end up with "avantiv" in their email address? It turns out that *John* and *Barbara Hoban* do like their Fords, but not exclusively. Truth be told, they have long been enamored with the Studebaker Avanti, having owned three of them. Shown at right is the Avanti that they still own, with John behind the wheel. (Just don't ask me what the "v" stands for after "avanti.")
- Other email addresses were easier to figure out, such as "retrac59" belonging to *Bill Petras*, owner of a 1959 Ford Galaxie Skyliner retractable, or the self-evident "1933fordmodel40" of *Alan Miller*.
- A favorite of mine is "**aircoolguy**" taken by Franklin fanatic, *Tony Adams*, who told me he once drove air-cooled VW Beetles during a time while other obligations precluded having an antique Franklin in his garage.
- *Jim Olson* confirmed my suspicions that "**N29WE**" in his email address matches the registration number on his airplane.
- "**pontiacbarn**" is what *Jim Mulconry* goes by because he is fortunate to have both a 1965 Pontiac GTO and a barn!
- An obvious one that I could not figure out was "**rfantiquecars**," which belongs to *Ron* and *Fran Miller*.
- "258joe" does not refer to an engine displacement from a favorite car, rather it refers to *Joe* and *Joan Frey*'s house number in their street address. (When I learned this from Joe I could barely hide my disappointment.) Based on that revelation I figure that *Stan* and *Terri Mirecki*'s email, "173hellroad," also refers to their street address, with the part after the number describing the long gravel driveway leading from the main road over the creek and up through the thicket to the clearing where their house and garage building are situated.
- Toughest of all to decipher was "**knotacres**" used by *Don* and *Nancy Liepelt*. Don reports that Nancy came up with it; each letter representing the nickname given to one of their cars or a place on the African continent where one of their kids lived or something special in their lives like Model <u>T</u>'s or <u>cats</u>, with a dash of inspiration from an estate where they used to live called Cedar Acres. Got it? My favorite letter of them all, the <u>o</u>, stands for <u>Ogden</u>, their 1912 Overland.

It's been a long year.





CONNECTICUT AUTOMOBILIA

Submitted by Steven Rossi



Pictured above is the then-new home of Pierce Brookside Druggist in Chester, Conn., at the corner of Main St. and North Main St. (Rte. 148), circa 1914. Today the building's open portico has been fully enclosed and serves as a gallery for sculptor Helen Johnson. Can you identify the car at the curb?

HOBBY HEADLINES & HISTORY

Kaiser Dragon Introduced 70 Years Ago - Kaiser Motor Corp. announced a new upmarket trim option for model year 1951 on its Howard "Dutch" Darrin-designed car line. The Golden Dragon (pictured) featured a yellow paint job and vinyl upholstery with a dragon skin appearance. A Silver Dragon was also available, painted Mariner Gray. The

Dragon was elevated to be a standalone model for 1952. Dragons came equipped with additional features such as power steering, radio, heater, electric clock, extra sound deadening, and a unique, bamboo-grain vinyl top covering. A 4-door sedan was the only body style offered.



WHO, WHAT, WHERE OR WHEN

Challenge your automotive history IQ

Which of the following traits did a new-for-1998 Chevrolet Corvette convertible have in common with the 1928 Ford Model A roadster?

- A. Carry-over cylinder bore spacing from previous models
- B. Wood floors
- C. A manually-operated fold-down top
- D. A full size spare tire
- E. No glove compartment in the dash
- F. The driver's seat backrest cannot be tipped forward





NEXT ISSUE

The next *Belltown Bulletin* will be the February, 2021 issue. The copy and classified ad deadline is Thursday, January 21. Monday the 25th is the publication date. E-delivery will take place Jan. 27.

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) Editor Emeritus - Bob Hellstrom

*) 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...

Seasons Greetings from the editorial offices of *The Belltown Bulletin*!



E-Delivery Bonus*

Winter has crept up on us and it is almost past time to get ready for her! Nevertheless, months of cold weather remain before spring, so better get busy making sure your old car fleet will be protected. Attached on pages 9-11 is a list of winter storage recommendations from member *David Cardone*, of Cardone & Daughter Automotive in Old Saybrook.

Stan Mirecki shared a link to a video about one man's collection of 220 Fords, billed as the largest private Ford collection in the world:

https://dl-mail.ymail.com/ws/download/mailboxes/@.id==VjN-3Xc8etARl5RqyA3zbwmz2v6GkAy-FixUBnTUS4pYfiWPoEw2EsF0OoBwsJZSMO8F6F676llwJijNHGM9Rx73ng/messages/@.id==APGuSulFEXNtX9PrewuwMGdm3Mk/content/parts/@.id==2/raw?appid=YMailNorrin&ymreqid=1775a1f2-2dbe-da12-1c4c-e30027019f00&token=zitEzqOML3j84e6ealFTT5U7-km5qEQF52lp7AcCuBba_mozi1C1J_4OtVZ-t6JvU2pek7fXThr1KR-XBMBovMVwPmRFapMF6vY4Fdza2zQGYHG5zZROOYeWZBW-NzAx

*) 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.





A DOZEN TIPS FOR WINTER STORAGE

- By David Cardone

1. Change Oil & Filter before storing your car

Even oil that has been under limited use holds combustion chamber by-products and moisture that has entered through the crank case breather. This mixture creates corrosive activity inside your dormant engine. In some case, this corrosion can eat away at bearing material. Also to consider: many vintage cars with carb/choke systems often are subject to extended enrichment during warm up. The excess fuel that isn't fully burned or expelled "slips" down the cylinder walls, thinning the protective oil film on the cylinder walls, increasing ring wear and that excess fuel can also eventually dilute the engine oil.

2. Battery

Battery life is greatly diminished if it's not recharged regularly. As the battery "sits" and discharges the sulfuric acid in the electrolyte bonds with the lead plates inside the battery's cells. This bonding, called sulfation, increases the battery's internal resistance and if left long enough on the plates, becomes brittle – permanently weakening the battery's ability to "create" electricity from its electro-chemical activity. Charging the battery with a professional charger on low, or a trickle charger, gently drives the sulfate off the lead plates, back into the electrolyte, reducing the battery's resistance, allowing the electro-chemical process to return to normal while not overtaxing the alternator's ability to recharge the battery. Charging a battery with an alternator can overheat and damage the alternator. Disconnect battery at the ground postwhen left for long periods.

3. Antifreeze Protection

First, confirm that the protection level is sufficient (-25 F to -35 F usually indicates a mixture of 50/50 antifreeze/water). Next, how does the antifreeze look? Clear or cloudy? Is anything floating in it? Antifreeze **does** lose its ability to protect against internal corrosion as the anticorrosive protection components are leached out. This puts older engines at risk as internal corrosive activity accelerates – eating metal and gaskets, pitting surfaces, causing leaks and overheating. Since matter can't be destroyed or created, that corroded material that "breaks" away becomes deposited in radiators, heater cores, thermostat housings, and coolant passages within the engine. Antifreeze should be changed every few years to replenish the lost anticorrosive protective properties.

4. Brake Fluid & Parking Brake

Brake fluid is hydroscopic, which means it absorbs and retains moisture. Atmospheric moisture is introduced through the vent cap on the master cylinder. If the brake fluid (and clutch fluid, if your clutch is hydraulically activated) isn't changed <u>every few years</u>, the increased moisture that is absorbed into the brake fluid causes internal corrosion in the hydraulic brake and clutch components. This leads to fluid leaks past seals or binding of the brake caliper pistons. If enough moisture is absorbed, it can effectively reduce the boiling point of brake fluid, diminishing brake performance and safety.

Do not use the parking brakeduring winter storage-linings may "seize" to the drums.

5. Lubrication

Grease or lube everything you can, not only the suspension grease fittings, but a shot of some lube or penetrant on door, hood, trunk hinges, trunk latches, throttle linkages. Spray some rubber silicone lube on door, trunk, and hood seals. And while you're at it, silicone spray the window channel seals too, something that will help reduce wear and tear, not only on your window regulator but also on your arms.

6. Tires

Set tire pressure and, if you're not putting your car up on jack stands, at least move (or roll) the car every few weeks to <u>prevent "flat spots"</u> from occurring. As tires age, flexibility diminishes, tires are at a greater risk to be permanently ruined if left in onespot. Cracking tires are UN-SAFE. The date code on your tires sidewall identifies the year and week the tire was made.

7. Start Your Engine

Let it <u>warm up fully</u> (off choke as soon as possible). <u>Vary the RPMs</u> – don't just let it idle. Oil pressure is at its lowest while idling and moving parts can be exposure to metal to metal contact if your engine's oil pressure is on the weak side. <u>Drive it if you can</u> – at least around the block – It keeps suspension bushings, shocks, clutch, fan belts and brake parts from taking "a set" – causing parts or pattern distortions or wear, rust build up on contact/friction surfaces. Think of it like exercising – "use it or lose it".

NOTE: If you're not going to start the engine – at least rotate it manually so the piston rings aren't sitting in the same position of contact with the cylinder walls and the valve springs don't take a "set" and lose tension.

8. **Fuel**

Depending on what you do with the car during the winter and where you store it, options vary.

A) Fill the tank <u>full</u> to reduce air/moisture space, and add a storage stabilizer – amount consistent with manufacturer instructions – In this case, run the engine to get stabilizer into the carbs (the additive should <u>NOT</u> contain any alcohol).

OR: B) Drain all the fuel – In this case, run the engine until the carbs are dry.

9. Cosmetic Care & Protection

- A) Wash it, including underneath and inside wheel wells, anywhere dirt gets trapped.
- B) Wax it, including the chrome.
- C) Soft, breathable car cover for inside storage.
- D) Leather seats: treat with Lexol or similar product.
- E) Unfortunately, there is no such thing as "good" outside storage. Inside is always your best option for storage.

10. Rodents

- A) Use some kind of rodent repellent product: interior, trunk and engine compartment.
- B) Cover the air filter with a plastic bag.
- C) Put a plug in the exhaust.
- D) Wool interior: moth balls in interior.

11. **Clutch**

To prevent the clutch from "seizing" to the flywheel or pressure plate – devise an arrangement of boards to hold the clutch pedal down.

12. Service & Repair

Does your vehicle need repairs from this season's use? Make a list while it's fresh in your mind. Get a comprehensive Vintage Vehicle Safety & Maintenance Inspection. Either do it yourself or get one done at a garage (like ours) that is familiar with these vehicles, and will provide you with a written report. Know what your car needs. Make informed choices about what to fix on your car. Consider winter a great time to do those repairs. That way, your car will be ready in the spring. Have fun and get all of the drive time you can rather than waiting for springtime, backordered parts and backlogged garages.

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR VINTAGE CAR?

PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CALL ME OR DROP BY TO SPEAK WITH ANY OF US

David Cardone at (860) 664-0727