



THE BELLTOWN BULLETIN

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

June, 2021

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, June 5, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. at the Beckwiths in Haddam

Please bring a chair (and a mask if you have not been vaccinated for COVID-19).
Stay home if you show any signs of illness or have underlying health conditions.
Bring an appetizer, lunch dish or dessert item to share. Soft drinks provided by the Club.

THE JUNE BUSINESS MEETING WILL BEGIN AFTER OUR POT-LUCK PICNIC

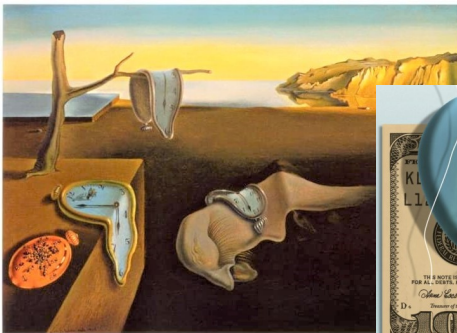
Note: Instead of a post-meeting auction, Polly promises some old car friendly fun!

- On the Agenda:
- Suggestions for possible summer activities
 - Preparations for our Vintage Motorcar Meet in August
 - Upcoming meetings: dates and locations

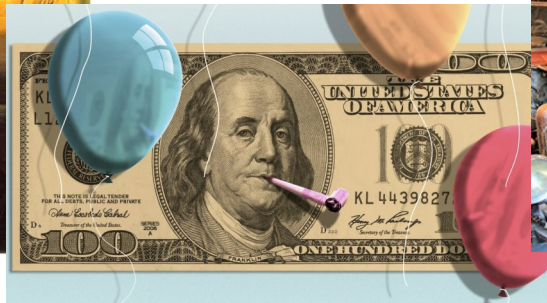
FUEL FOR THOUGHT

A Fathers Day Public Service Message:

Some say you can never have **too much** old stuff. In reality, you will never have enough time, enough money or enough storage capacity to thoroughly enjoy **too much** of anything.



[Credits, L to R: Salvador Dali, Sarah Grillo, Karen Roe]



CLUB NOTES

Our May business meeting was held on Saturday, May 8 in Portland. Once again we thank *Karl Helming* for hosting the meeting.

Secretary *Peter Christianson* was unable to attend. As such, there was no report on the status of a new contract with the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds for our August Vintage Motorcar Meet. *Alan Carlson* noted that the fair association had announced that the Haddam Neck Fair was “on” after a year’s absence and it appeared that the fairgrounds would be open for events in time for our meet, which normally precedes the fair. Alan also said that the Lion’s Club was interested to have their raffle car at the event.

Scott Macgregor announced his downsizing tag sale, which took place in Old Saybrook on May 15.

Polly Beckwith reminded members about the upcoming pot-luck picnic and meeting on Saturday, July 5. She asked for a couple of volunteers to help set up the tents the day before. The Club will be providing paper plates, eating utensils and soft drinks. Members who attend are asked to bring an appetizer, salad, entrée dish,

CLUB NOTES, continued from p. 1

or dessert. There will be no grilling on site, i.e. no burgers or hot dogs this time. Plan to arrive between 11:30 and noon. Bring an antique car if you can. Polly promises some fun after the meeting.

Ed Zenisky was our guest speaker. His talk was inspired by a poster he has of the Ford Tri-Motor aircraft. He said that the airplane was designed for commercial use. Its wicker passenger seats were removable so it could be used to transport cargo. The Tri-Motor was the first commercial plane to be of all-metal construction, hence its nickname "The Tin Goose." They had three engines for safety: 9-cylinder Curtiss-Wright or Pratt & Whitney piston engines producing about 300 hp each. 199 were built from 1926 through 1933, according to Ed. The Tri-Motor was the first airplane to make a trans-continental flight and reach the South Pole. In 1932 FDR flew on one to Chicago to give his acceptance speech. The Tri-Motor's days were numbered when larger planes from Boeing and Douglass were introduced. As of ten years ago, 18 Tri-Motors were known to exist. Among the museums to have one in their collection are The Smithsonian, The Henry Ford, and the aviation museums in San Diego and Pensacola. *Tim Cone* mentioned that he had flown in a Tri-Motor once and found it to be very smooth. *Jon Grant* added that he flew in one at an Oshkosh air show and noted that, as a tail-dragger, the pilot must zig-zag while taxiing because the middle engine blocks their view directly ahead.

Etc.'s - It was great to see *Phil* and *Debbie Hamilton* be able to attend this meeting, due in no small part to the efforts of *Don Liepelt*, who loaned Phil a wheelchair and transported them in his Econoline van. Thanks, Don! It was also a nice surprise to have *Steve Fallis* in attendance for the first time in a while. Lastly, we want to be sure to thank *Jay Beveridge* for arranging the car club meet-up at Gillette Castle on May 1st. It turned out to be a fine May Day and the member participation (26, plus 13 old cars from the Club) made it all the better.

MEMBER MILESTONES

Happy Birthday to:

David Cardone	June 1st (70)	Linda LaRose	June 19th
Alex Lieuwma	June 1st (86)	Betty Lichota	June 21st (70)
Jennifer Beckwith	June 2nd	Polly Beckwith	June 22nd
Phil Hamilton	June 5th (70)	June Guertin	June 25th

Happy Anniversary to:

Gordon & Maureen Hallberg	June 7th	Ray & Eileen Mastronunzio	June 21st
Doug & Tamzen Mackeown	June 10th	Bill & Carol Petras	June 21st
Richard & Jane Shipman	June 12th (45)	Edward & Marie Zenisky	June 27th (57)
Bruce & Frances Dutch	June 17th	Garrett & Jacqueline Grant	June 28th
Bill & Jane West	June 18th (61)	Gary & Donna Mae Bogan	June 29th

New Member: Please welcome *Tyler Eckstrom* of Middletown to BACC. He owns a 1949 Dodge Coronet as well as a 1978 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme coupe. Recently, Tyler brought his Cutlass to the weekly Misfits Car Cruise Night in, of all places, Tylerville!

BELLTOWN CLASSIFIEDS

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

For Sale – *1931 Ford Model A Tudor*, dark green body/black fenders, new Firestone tires. Asking \$11,500.

Call Jon Grant, 860-510-9550 (cell), or email him at standfast7@sbcglobal.net. [BACC member]

For Sale – *Trailex alum. 2-bicycle rack*, fits 2" receiver, new in box. \$95 obo.
Ultra-Tow alum. cargo carrier w/ramp, 500 lb. cap, new in box. \$195 obo.

Call Scott Macgregor, 860-391-2889 after 7 p.m., or email him at jscotmac@sbcglobal.net. [BACC member]



Spring Dust-off Drive to Gillette Castle on May 1st

Thanks go to Jay Beveridge for inspiring us to chug over to Gillette, and for inviting the Essex Automobile Club as well.



*



[Photo credits: Dan David, Cliff Baker and Dale David]



Our Drive to Gillette attracted a few non-member cars, including a Mosport Green C2 Corvette, a 1934 Studebaker sedan (center right) and a sharp 1968 Camaro coupe (left).



Another attention-getter was Chris Beckwith's off-white, Lagonda-bodied, home-built special*, there on its shake down run.

Misfits Car Cruise Night in Tylerville, May 18th

Belltowners once again made their presence felt at host Don Brookes' weekly event, the second of the 2021 season.



[Photo credit: Dan David]



The thingy has to go in there first or the clutch ain't gonna work, see?



Clockwise from the top: Bill Nitschke's 1930 Model A; the editor's newly-adopted Swedish orphan; David & Suzanne Degregorio's 1965 Ford F-100 and 1955 T-Bird; Cliff Baker (r.) explaining his latest Viking repair to Tim Cone while "Big Al" listens in; the Beckwiths' 1929 Model A; Alan Carlson's 1961 Corvette (replete with shiny 1958-60 headlamp trim); and new member Tyler Eckstrom's 1978 Olds Cutlass survivor being blessed by El Presidente himself.

HOBBY HEADLINES & HISTORY

Fifteen months ago, life as we knew it ground to a halt - and now, once again, it's Show Time! As hard as it is to believe, some semblance of normal is beginning to return to the old car hobby. Cruise nights are popping up and the show calendar is filling up, thanks to a much improved situation with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic that has allowed authorities to loosen restrictions on congregating indoors and out. Kudos to the health care workers who cared for the sick, advised and tested those with concerns, and carried out the massive vaccination effort that turned the tide.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Club participation events in bold)

Saturday, June 5 - **BACC monthly meeting and pot-luck picnic** at the home of Richard and Polly Beckwith, 48 Camp Bethel Rd. in Haddam. Plan to arrive by about noon. Meeting to follow picnic; no guest speaker or auction at this one. Plenty of old car parking! Rain date: Sunday, June 6.

Saturday, June 12 - Annual Automobilia Auction at the Nest Egg Auction Gallery, 758 Four Rod Rd., Berlin, Conn., 11 a.m. Info: <http://automobiliaauctions.com/index.html>.

Saturday, June 12 - 43rd Annual COMVEC Antique Military Vehicle Show, now at Lebanon Fairgrounds, 122 Mack Rd., Lebanon, Conn., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., general adm. \$5. Info: <http://www.comvec.org>.

Sunday, June 13 - 24th Annual Cruise on Main St., Middletown, Conn., kick-off from NAPA at 12:30 p.m.; cars judged at 11:00 a.m. before drive begins. No cut-off year. Suggested donation \$10 benefits Middletown Youth Programs. For details of participation, live viewing enroute and video access go to: <https://cruisenightonmain.com/>.

Thursday - Saturday, June 17-19 - AACA Eastern Spring Nationals, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Saturday is judged show. Info and schedule: https://www.aaca.org/images/meet_brochures/2021/2021_Eastern_Spring_NY.pdf.

Saturday, June 19 - 29th Annual Klingberg Vintage Motorcar Series 2021, spectator drive-thru pre-war concours & car show, 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Klingberg Family Centers, 370 Linwood St., New Britain, Conn. Grand Marshall: Wayne Carini. Info: www.klingbergautoshow.org.

Wednesday, July 7 - **BACC monthly meeting at the East Hampton Library at 7:30 p.m.** (location to be confirmed).

Saturday, July 17 - 42nd Annual Founder's Day & Classic Car Exhibit to support the Hamlin Library in Paris Hill, Maine. The Bahre collection of over 50 classic cars, including specialty Packards and others, is expected to be open to the public (plans are still being finalized), 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Donation \$10. For info visit http://www.hamlin.lib.me.us/founders_day.html.

Wednesday, July 28 - **BACC special monthly meeting at the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds off Rte. 151, at 6:30 p.m.;** car show and judging assignments will be made. Members are strongly encouraged to attend in order to ensure we are prepared and sufficiently staffed to put on a good show the following Sunday.

Saturday, July 31 - **Field set-up morning at Haddam Neck Fairgrounds for Sunday's Belltown Vintage Motorcar Meet.** Volunteers: arrive at fairgrounds by 9 a.m.; material retrieval team will start earlier in preparation for set-up.

Sunday, August 1 - **54th Annual Belltown Vintage Motorcar Meet**, Haddam Neck Fairgrounds, Haddam Neck, Conn., 8:00 a.m. - 3 p.m., cut-off year 1981. Info: www.belltownantiquecarclub.org.

Local area cruise nights happening in 2021:

Mondays - Fish Family Farm, weekly in Bolton, 20 Dimock Ln off Rte. 85 near I-384, 5 to 8 p.m. on, <https://www.facebook.com/fishfamilyfarmcreamery/>.

Tuesdays - Misfits Car Cruise, weekly in Tylerville on Rte. 82, 5 to 8 p.m., <https://www.facebook.com/MisfitCruiseNights/>.

- Yesteryear of Oakdale Car Club, first Tues. of month at Nature's Art/Dinosaur Place in Chesterfield on Rte. 85, 5 p.m. to dark, pre-1978 only. Thursday is rain date. <https://es-es.facebook.com/groups/102589163413912/>.

Wednesdays - Goodtimes Motoring Club, third Wed. of month, on Colchester Green, for details and year cut-off please go to <https://www.goodtimesmotoringclub.com/blank-1>.

Thursdays - Carter Hill Farm, weekly in Marlborough at 86 E. Hampton Rd. (Rte. 66), from 5 p.m.

June events postponed or not happening in 2021:

Postponed to Sunday, August 29 - 33rd annual "British by the Sea" presented by CT MG Club, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Harkness Memorial Park, Waterford, Conn. Info at: <http://www.ctmgclub.com/BBtS.html>.

Postponed to Saturday - Sunday, October 23-24 - Greenwich Concours d'Elegance, Roger Sherman Baldwin Park, Greenwich, Conn. Bonham's Auction is Saturday, Concours d'Elegance is Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For details go to: www.greenwichconcours.com.

The Barrett-Jackson Northeast Auction at the Mohegan Sun Arena, Uncasville, Conn. was cancelled for 2020. No B-J auction has been scheduled for the northeast area for 2021. Info at: www.barrett-jackson.com.

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>.

THE CASE FOR GREATER TOLERANCE

Unmuffled Exhaust from the Editor

As our business meeting in March was about to adjourn, *Jon Grant* urged all members to be more tolerant of fellow Belltowners who have made modifications to their cars. This was prompted by Jon hearing about someone who had left the Club after a couple of years due to what he felt was a critical attitude towards some personalization he had done to his old car. While the issue generated some discussion at the meeting, with our 2021 Vintage Motorcar Meet soon upon us, the time is right to shed some more light on it.

The main point, as I see it, is that we should not confuse the limitations we set for our judged show with any restrictions, implied or assumed, on what our members choose to drive. The Belltown Vintage Motorcar Meet is intended to showcase stock, unmodified cars and trucks that are at least 40 years old, all of which are eligible to be judged against one another in their respective classes, the best three of which will be awarded class trophies. Even so, we do permit vehicles on the show field which have a certain amount of personalization, including period-correct accessories, or safety modifications such as adding seat belts or radial tires. It is up to the class judging team to evaluate whether such changes from stock specification deserve a deduction in points and to apply the same criteria to all cars in the class. Cars entering the show car registration lane that are more heavily modified (for example, tribute cars, customs, or street rods) are directed to the display-only parking area of the show field, together with any kit/reproduction cars, as long as they meet the cut-off year. These cars are not judged. They are an added attraction, not the main draw at our meet.

Why do we restrict entry to the show at all? One reason is our tradition of celebrating motoring from a by-gone era, hence the cut-off year and the “stock” requirement. Another is capacity - the physical size of the field is one limitation and time is another. The volunteer judging teams have to be able to finish and tabulate so we can present the trophies at the mid-afternoon close of the show. Allowing newer cars (modern muscle or otherwise) or offering an open invitation to hot rods would overwhelm the show in more ways than one.

So, does that mean we are similarly restrictive about the cars our members own? Not at all. BACC is a multi-make club, first and foremost, and there are no requirements for what kinds of cars we own or use for events, or whether they are stock or modified. In fact, collector car ownership is not even a requirement. Our by-laws read as follows:

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE:

SECTION 1; To foster a continuing interest in older automobiles, their history, construction, restoration, preservation and to promote such an interest among individuals, other similar groups and the general public.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP:

SECTION 1; Membership shall be open to any person of good character who endorse the Constitution and its By-Laws.

SECTION 2; Persons desiring to join this Club are required to read this Constitution and its By-Laws and must be in agreement with the purposes, conditions and methods herein set forth. An applicant(s) will become a member(s) of the Club by submitting a properly completed application form with the first year's dues. Ownership of an antique car is not required.

Whether you drive a pristine Packard from the 1930's or a European sports sedan from the 1980's, whether your car has its O.E. dog-dish hubcaps or a set of Torque-Thrust wheels from American Racing, or whether you sold your collector cars and downsized to a condominium, as long as you have a passion for the antique car hobby as stated in Article II, above, you belong in this Club.

On the First Sunday in August we come together to judge and appreciate the “as built” antique cars and trucks admitted to our Vintage Motorcar Meet. On every other day, we ought to see ourselves as members of a car fraternity that allows us to freely express our individual automotive enthusiasms without prejudice.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE OR WHEN

Challenge your automotive history IQ

In car design speak, a “pork chop” is:

- A. The continuation of the dashboard design into the upper front doors
- B. A radical reduction in the stock height of the roof, as when making a hot rod or custom car
- C. Any large piece of trim at the base of the C-pillar used to cover the roof weld joint
- D. A tall and prominent chrome front bumper overrider (one of a pair) often seen on 1940’s and early 50’s cars
- E. A type of rear quarter trim that widens from front to rear (e.g., 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air)

The correct answer to last month’s Who, What, Where, or When, “What was the name of the first commercially successful, steam-powered car?”

D. Stanley, of Watertown, Mass.

The Stanley brothers built and sold some 200 cars prior to 1900 before selling the rights to their car to Locomobile. Not done with steam cars by any means, in 1902 they formed a new company that produced larger and ever more powerful models continuously through 1924.



NEXT ISSUE

The next *Belltown Bulletin* will be the July, 2021 issue. The copy and classified ad deadline is Thursday, June 24. Monday the 28th is the publication date. E-delivery will take place June 30.

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 [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...

The May 6, 2021 issue of the *East Haddam News* carried this road accident report involving a 1967 Ford Mustang, a mail box and a large tree.

The mishap took place in the town of Haddam, however, the lesson we should take from it is a universal one:

Wherever you go in your old car, BE CAREFUL!

“Thanks” to Steven Rossi for this newspaper clipping.

Editorial Note: For the June issue of the newsletter, Steven Rossi’s regular feature, **CONNECTICUT AUTOMOBILIA**, appears only in the emailed edition. It will return to the print version in July.



Photo by Olivia Drake.

HVFC responds to car crash April 24

By Olivia Drake, HVFC
Public Information Officer

On April 24, Haddam Volunteer Fire Company was dispatched to a motor vehicle vs. tree accident on Killingworth Road. A driver struck a mailbox on the southbound lane and crashed

into a tree in the northbound lane. The operator was transported to Middlesex Hospital via Haddam Ambulance Service. A passenger who also was involved in the accident was evaluated on scene and refused additional medical treatment. Crews closed one lane of traffic during the incident.

E-Delivery Bonus*

The pandemic is easing off and people are itching to do some traveling again. *Bob Fiala* passed along a photo bomb of old cars and coordinated vacation travel trailers for some added inspiration. See the next two bonus pages.

Steven Rossi heard about a nearby nature preserve which features something called the Pierce-Arrow Trail. The Walden Preserve, 191 Hagen Rd. in Salem is the place, and the trail is named after the rusted hulk of a Pierce-Arrow that lies beside it. The third bonus page contains a map of the preserve. The trail in question is a mere 0.4 miles long, so serious hikers will also want to check out the other trails in this preserve.



If you find the rusted remains on your hike, take a selfie to prove it and we will run it in a future newsletter.

*) 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.



Coordinated Vacation Trailers - Submitted by Bob Fiala



1935 Pontiac with turquoise Canned Ham



1936 Pierce-Arrow with Travelodge



1947 Buick Sedanet custom with matching trailer



1949 Studebaker Pickup with matching purple trailer



Left: 1951 Hudson Commodore with matching burgundy trailer

Below: 1956 Ford Customline wagon with matching Shasta trailer



More Coordinated Vacation Trailers - Submitted by Bob Fiala



Left: 1952 Buick Riviera hardtop with matching two-tone green trailer

Below: 1956 Ford Ranch Wagon with matching green and white teardrop trailer



Left: 1959 Chevrolet Impala custom hardtop with matching Shasta travel trailer



1959 Chevrolet El Camino with matching Shasta trailer



1959 Cadillac Sedan DeVille with matching Shasta trailer



Left: 1962 Ford Cortina with matching custom travel trailer

CONNECTICUT AUTOMOBILIA

Submitted by Steven Rossi

A map of the Walden Preserve in Salem, Conn., showing the Pierce-Arrow Trail.

