



Sassy Brass

Summer 2013 Volume 4 Issue 2

Upcoming Activities Schedule for 2013-14

September 2-6: National HCCA Dakota Falls Traveling Tour

September 8-13: Glidden Tour

Chattanooga, TN

October 8-12: AACA Hershey Fall Meet

October 12-14: Hershey Hangover Tour

November:

(date to be announced): Fall Meeting at John and Joyce Rendemonti's

June 15-21, 2014: "Little Old and Slow" Reliability Tour



Going for a ride!

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Susquehanna Valley Region HCCA Contact Page



Join the Susquehanna Valley Region
Horseless Carriage Club of America:

Contact: Russell Martin

Email: russemartin@verizon.net

or Bob Ladd

Email: jboobladd@ptd.net Home phone: 717-273-7090

Officers for 2013

President	Jeff Lesher
Vice President	Ernie Spittler
Treasurer	Don Barlup
Secretary	Nancy Ladd
Web Master & Newsletter	Tracy Lesher
Membership Chairperson	Russell Martin

Your Susquehanna Valley Region HCCA Editor can be reached
via email at: edsvrhcca@gmail.com



Check us out on Facebook at
Susquehanna Valley Region HCCA!

Upload pictures of your brass car adventures
and projects to our page.

President's Message

Nobody can say we aren't a busy group! As I write this, we've just returned from Jared Cohen's Tour to Auburn Heights. My hat's off to Jared and Amy for a terrific route. It may take the record for hottest run away from Paul and Cheryl Vaughn, but it was a lot of fun. The previous weekend we had a very productive Reliability Tour meeting at a Silver Mine! I didn't even know there was one in Lancaster County. It will be an ice cream social stop on next year's tour. The committee has basically completed the daily routes, the budgets and a decision was made to invite Gil Fitzhugh (the Elder's) concept of a triple "S" tour (single cylinder, steel or solid wheels, sticks (tiller steering)) to be held during the same week based at the Willow Valley Hotel. This promises to be very interesting and one of the first of it's kind. We look forward to the addition of these rather unique vehicles.

I can't say enough about the 2013 Brass in Berks week. Many of our members participated in the daily tours, organizing the events and riding herd over a group of eighty plus touring vehicles. I know I enjoyed every day. There were roads and sights that I had never experienced. I look forward to the move to Morgantown next year – but what will they call it??

Looking to the future, members John and Joyce Rendemonti have graciously offered to host our November meeting at their home and collection in West Chester. We will finalize the date and time and get this out to the membership later this summer. We'll likely have a catered Italian meal, business meeting and then explore their very unique collection. Another exciting event will take place next April. We've been in discussion with Colin Williamson, Dean of Automotive Curriculum at Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport. They will be celebrating their 100th anniversary on April 25th and would like to feature a display of pre-1920 automobiles to contrast with a display by Ford Motor Company of 2014 vehicles and concept vehicles. It turns out the first program at the school 100 years ago was auto repair. Colin plans to focus on this by comparing and contrasting driver knowledge and mechanic knowledge 100 years ago against what is needed today. Ernie Spittler and I are looking into the feasibility of using this event as a possible base for a Saturday Dust Off Tour. The following day may include the Lycoming Museum and the Little League Headquarters and Museum. More to come on this as the school finalizes the plans.

Happy cranking,

Jeff

BBC Two-Thousand Ten and Three (A left coast car owner's perspective!)

By: Kim Simoni



Simoni's 1910 Packard Model 18

Wayne and I (Kim) Simoni have been attending Brass in Bucks/Berks since its inception 12 years ago. Up until this year of BBC touring, we had gratefully taken advantage of Clay & Rene Green's hospitality (and the "Green Car Rental Agency") and borrowed one of their cars in which to tour. Our hope is that someday Clay and Rene will come to "the left coast" and tour in one of our cars!

This year, the planets aligned and Wayne and I were fortunate enough to purchase a 1910 Packard Model 18 Gentleman's Roadster located in Pennsylvania. This was our first chance to drive our OWN brass car at BBC!

Upon our arrival at the hotel in Reading Sunday evening, we were greeted by a large crowd of cheering BBC friends gathered around our car. Wayne and friends got the car started. We took it for a quick spin around the parking lot. It ran wonderfully after a big belch of smoke and a few other adjustments. Tomorrow would be its first touring day in over five years! Our fingers were crossed. All of a sudden, I could appreciate all the preparations the "Green Car Rental Agency" went through in previous years.

Continued

Monday's tour was 117.8 miles. We had only driven the car for ½ mile. I felt anxious, but Wayne was awake and ready to go at 6:00AM. The day started a little cloudy as we rolled out at 8:15AM. Betty & Joe Swann put together Monday's tour and it ran like clockwork! Our route took us to a coffee stop at South Mountain – a gorgeous spot which was the site of several truly grand hotels in the 1800's and early 1900's. Rick Reinhold Sr. spoke briefly about the history of the area and these amazing properties. Only remnants of this bygone era remain.

Lunch was at Indian Echo Caverns and included a cavern tour if desired. We parked under trees on a big grassy field and shared our visit with about seven school buses full of grade school kids out for a field trip. Boy, do they have boundless energy! The day had warmed up quite nicely so we were ready for the stop at Udder Choice for something cold. (No, I did not make that name up.) By the time Wayne and I pulled back into the hotel parking lot at about 5:15PM, we were hot, tired and jubilant. Even after not being driven for roughly five years, the Packard ran like a top! I think the car was trying to tell us, "Thank you for getting me out in the sunshine to stretch my legs!"

Tuesday was brilliant and hot by 7:30AM! It was an 101.4 mile day planned by Jeff and Tracy Lesher. We headed out for a day in Lancaster and

Lebanon counties. Our first stop for coffee was at the Montessori Country Day School, where many of the children gleefully enjoyed rides in some of the antique cars. The grins on their faces were a sight to behold!



From the school, we headed to Root's Market in Manheim. En route, Wayne noticed the windshield was tipping sideways a bit crazily?! Our first "problem" turned out to be nothing more than a lost nut which held the right windshield stanchion to the body. We carefully pushed it back onto the bolt and upon arriving at Root's Market. Club member Norm Woolley happened to find just the right nut in his inventory for his '11 Stevens Duryea. Norm, we owe you one! There is nothing back at home that compares to Root's Market. With over 200 country market stands and +175 antique/flea market vendors, you find anything you would want. I could have spent all day just wandering.

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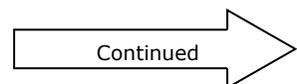
Departing Root's we headed to Mt. Hope Estate & Winery. Not only do they produce about 20 different wines and berry wines, but they are also the home of the biggest Renaissance Faire on the east coast. In fact, the tasting room looked like a medieval castle! Now, being from Sonoma County the premier wine region, I can say that I was dubious about east coast wines. However, the Chardonnay, Pinot Gris were good and their Gewurztraminer was excellent!

The only Packard problem cropped up en route to the ice cream stop. It proved to be somewhat more problematic. Wayne noticed an 'unusual noise' after only driving a car for 1 ½ days – and we pulled over. Wayne pulled up the floor boards and saw that a washer and a nut that held a spring and stabilizer bar to the frame was missing. The spring was sitting in the belly pan! The Napa Auto Parts across the street didn't carry the correct nut and washer. Bobby Weaver, a very nice young man zoomed up on his motorcycle and asked how he could help. Weaver, a local forklift mechanic was on his way home from work. He had a garage full of nuts, bolts, washers, and a BIG love for old cars and anything mechanical. He returned with boxes of possibilities. No luck with a nut, but he had the right washer. This 1910 Packard is running around now with one of Weaver's washers! Next, Dick and Connie Knies pulled up in their Model T. Dick brought out a 25 lb. bag of bolts, but no avail. The

search continued at a local hardware store two blocks away and they had the 9/16 fine thread nut we needed, so we were back on the road! After the day's ice cream stop at Kountry Korner Drive-in, we made it back to the hotel with no further mishaps and a great sense of satisfaction!

A big thanks to Bob & Nancy Ladd for **Wednesday's** 114 mile tour! Tour participants were split into two groups. Our group's (Group 2) first stop was at mile 48 to view the car and train collection of John Griggs. He has a lovely place about two miles from Hershey and his shop/garage and cars were all immaculate. His preference for cars range from the 30's through the 40's and he has some beauties. Plus, his wife's green thumb showed in her amazing garden!

From there, we headed to Gretna Glen Camp for a delicious BBQ buffet lunch in the pavilion by a huge lake. Everyone parked on the expansive green lawn. Next, we headed to our first afternoon stop at Cornwall Manor & Iron Furnace. Built back in 1742, it is the only surviving intact charcoal cold blast furnace in the Western Hemisphere. Our docent made the environment "come alive" by relating what it felt like to work there, 12 hour days, 7 days a week with temperatures that soared to 155 degrees Fahrenheit for a mere 5 cents per day. I can't begin to imagine the lives of the furnace workers.





Onwards to Union Canal Tunnel Park. This is the oldest existing transportation tunnel in the US once connected the Schuylkill River with the Susquehanna River, and provided a water passage from Philadelphia to Harrisburg. It is about 730' long and was dug using a hand star drill. This meant they'd only progress at a rate of about five lineal yards/week!

After what we saw this afternoon, the ice cream at Way-Har Farms seemed decadent. Wednesday night was Cruise Night at Viva Bistro & Tapas Lounge. There was a great turn out. I think Cruise Night was one of the very best BBC activities!

Thursday morning dawned gray and wet with promises of being even wetter. Many folks, us included, decided to drive today's tour modern. About 20 hearty souls braved the elements and drove their brass cars. Ed & Ann Hillbush's tour route included a lovely coffee stop at High Point Camp. A sprawling lodge on the edge of a lake with a wrap-around covered deck protected us

from the first (but not last) down-pour of the day. From there we headed to the Ephrata Cloister, a Protestant German community from 1732 – 1746 where 80 celibate men and women led lives of strict discipline in anticipation of a better world. Thursday's tour was only 66 miles; short enough to ensure everyone was back at the hotel to prep for the final banquet. We enjoyed visiting with everyone; satisfied with the week's events and fun; wished we could continue doing this for days to come. We were beyond excited to finally bring the Packard back home to California.

What will we drive for BBC next year? Who knows what might be available through the Green Rental Car Agency? We do know that we'll be back in 2014. What we drive is TBD, but suffice to say, BBC is the BEST TOUR ever!



*Green Car Rental agents
Clay and Rene Green*

Good Morning Reader

Takes brass to drive cars from bygone era

BY RON DEVLIN

READING EAGLE

Students were whisked back in time aboard 100-year-old “chariots” when the annual Brass in Berks Tour visited the Montessori Country Day School in Gouglersville.

At various times Tuesday morning, owners of about 80 cars built before 1916 stopped at the school as they motored through Berks County.

“The kids had a ball, and the adults enjoyed it even more,” said teacher Tracy Leshner. “It was a hit.”

The Brass in Berks Tour is headquartered this week at the Inn at Reading, Wyomissing.

Owners of “brass” cars — they sport brass fixtures instead of chrome — come from all over the nation to participate in the annual event.

At 5 p.m. today, the vintage cars will be on public display in the ViVa Bistro & Tapas Lounge parking lot off Park Road, Wyomissing.

Leshner, who owns several vintage cars, arranged for the old Packards, Model T Fords and Stanley Steamers to stop at the school.

Her husband, Jeff Leshner, who helped plan the tour, chauffeured a few lucky students in a 1915 Overland.

“I’m amazed at the sophistication of the questions our students asked,” said Leshner. “They wanted to know how to start the cars and what this pedal and that pedal did.”

Cindy Rusnak, school director, said giving students access to the historical cars fits perfectly with the school’s emphasis on hands-on learning.

“You can teach from a book or have kids look things up on the Internet,” she said. “But they learn so much more by seeing things in person.”



READING EAGLE: TIM LEEDY

Brass in Berks Tour

What: Gathering of owners of about 80 cars from the “brass” era, vehicles built before 1916.

Where: The Inn at Reading, Wyomissing, through Thursday.

Tour: Participating cars tour Berks and surrounding counties.

Exhibit: The vintage automobiles, some more than 100 years old, will be on display at 5 p.m. today in the ViVa Bistro & Tapas Lounge parking lot off North Park Road, Wyomissing. The public event is free.

Types of cars: Overland, Packard, Model T Ford, Buick.

Many of the car owners, who wore goggles and dusters common in the early 1900s, took the time to explain how the cars worked, Rusnak said.

Two steam powered cars, she said, were of particular interest to students.

Gil Fitzhugh of Morristown, N.J., gives youths from Montessori Country Day School in Gouglersville a ride in his vintage car from the pre-1916, or “brass,” era. Enthusiasts from that era are gathering this week in Berks.

“They got to see how steam was made and honk the steam horn,” Rusnak said. “It was pretty special.”

Clay Green, co-chairman of Brass in Berks Tour, said one of the highlights this year was the purchase of a 1910 Packard by a California couple.

Green, who drives a 1912 Buick, arranged the purchase from a Philadelphia-area car collector. He presented the car to Wayne and Kim Simoni on Sunday.

“They were so excited; it was like they were having a baby,” Green said. “They were handing out cigars.”

Contact Ron Devlin: 610-371-5030 or rdevlin@readingeagle.com.



Video available with this story at readingeagle.com

Special thanks to Harry Dietz and Ron Devlin of The Reading Eagle for permission to reprint.

“And, We Vote Too! A Recap of the Brandywine Tour” By Tracy Leshner



Our beloved '13 Buick had recently been brought back into the Ricketts-Leshner fold. My Dad bought it in 1992 and restored it over a two year period. Yours truly ended up completing the body work, as punishment for blowing off my curfew by 15 minutes. Even after, I called to say I was going to be late! My Dad owned it up until eight years ago. He sold to a friend out in Pittsburgh. We had an opportunity to purchase it after my father's death.

Ironically, it turned out that my narrow feet and lack of belly made me better suited for driving "my" car.

After multiple practice sessions around Reinholds, I started to feel comfortable with driving the car.

My first official outing was on the Cohen's Brandywine Tour. It was also the first time the Buick had been out on the road for any substantial mileage. After a briefing by Jared, we headed across the parking lot over to Higgins Restoration for a tour of Walter's shop. I noticed several club members drooling over Higgins's machine tools.

Continued



Steam car under restoration



At the Last Change Garage

Departing from Higgins Restoration in Kennett Square, I was a bit timid with actually being out on the road. We discovered a couple of kinks with the car. 1) The gearshift gate frequently got stuck between first and second gears. This required my head mechanic to use a screwdriver to pry the gear loose. 2) The brakes needed to be re-adjusted. They pulled to the left, not fun when you are trying to stay out of opposing traffic with a right-hand drive! The scenery on the route to the Last Change Garage was incredible. The horse farms and historic architecture delighted all. Once at the Last Change Garage in Unionville, we were welcomed by owner, Lou Mandich. Like Higgins, Mandich also had an impressive array of ongoing repairs.

The first and only true mishap of the day was on route from Mushrooms Café to the Marshall Steam Museum.

Driving a 100 year old car was challenging enough, but throw in a slightly distracted driver and voila, potential accident in the making. My dear husband did not yell at me! Ernie and Rhonda Spittler were witnesses to me going into a sharp turn too fast. I planted tire marks in someone's front yard. Thankfully, Jeff is a wonderful mechanic and had tightened the rear wheels. I slammed on the brakes; I held onto the steering wheel and corrected it while Jeff held onto me. Two little boys were snug in their seat belts. The seatbelts in the rear did their job. Grateful for no damage to us or the car, I backed out of the yard and we motored onto Auburn Heights and the Marshall Steam Museum. Dad would have been proud. A lesson was learned!

Continued 

After a missed turn and an over-heated radiator somewhere in Delaware, we arrived at Auburn Heights.



A view to remember

Built in 1897 by Israel and Lizzie Marshall, Auburn Heights was preserved to its original splendor. Israel built his empire in the paper and vulcanized rubber businesses. His son T. Clarence Marshall built his first steam car at age 19 and was a Stanley Motor Carriage dealer from 1910-1920. Upon returning from WWII, T. Clarence's son, Tom Marshall started to expand the collection started by his father and added the 1/8 scale steam railway to the property. Marshall's collection continued to grow and he opened "The Magic Age of Steam" exhibit to the public in 1970's. We enjoyed the steam railway and passenger bus many times.



Augie, Jeff, and Jack Leshar having some fun.

The "Steam Team" was formed in 1997 to promote the knowledge and history of these amazing vehicles. We discovered several of our friends are team members. Tom and Ruth Marshall donated the property to the state of Delaware in 2008.



Tom Marshall seated at the left.

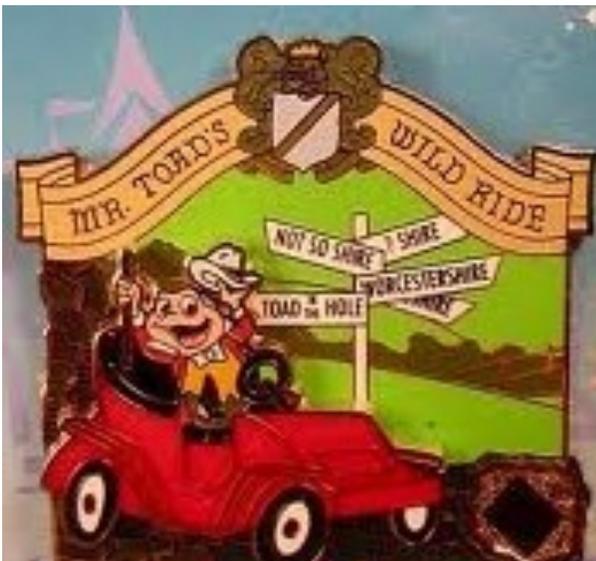
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Relieved that the drive back to Higgins Restoration shop was 6.5 miles from Auburn Heights, we were ready to head back after a very full day of missed turns, the radiator overheating somewhere in Delaware, and one set of tire marks in someone's yard. I was tired; my right shoulder was sore; but I had a big smile on my face.

Special thanks to Jared and Amy Cohen for hosting July's tour and Joe Swann's sense of humor for providing the idea for the article title.



The Steam Team visited Montessori Country Day School during BBC.



If you have any brass car adventures that you would like to share with fellow club members, send your contributions to me. I am looking for material for a late summer/early fall newsletter. The deadline is August 31. Send articles and pictures to Tracy at:

edsvrhcca@gmail.com



AACA Reliability Tour
Presented by:
Hershey Region
And
Susquehanna Valley Region
HCCA



"LITTLE OLD AND SLOW" JUNE 15TH- 21ST 2014

Come join us for a week of touring through Southern Lancaster, York and Lebanon Counties.

Travel over dirt roads, ford trout streams, turn back the time as we visit the birth place of Robert Fulton.

Explore a railroad bed and visit the freight and passenger depots.

Ride on an old trolley, visit a real country market, sample some chocolate, taste some wine from a winery.

Visit a unique car museum while enjoying our opening banquet.

Host Hotel

Double Tree Resort Inn
2400 Willow Street Pike
Lancaster, PA 17602
Phone: 717-464-7520

**Request Room Rates Code:
Reliability**

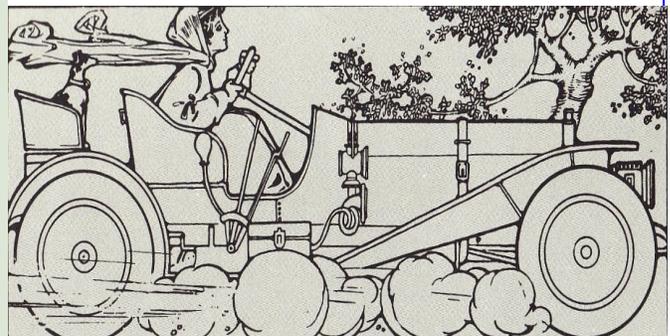
For more information
contact:

Cheryl & Paul Vaughn
12 Clearview Road
Willow Street, PA 17584
717-917-4611—Cheryl

Registration begins January 1, 2014

Contact:

Carol Barlup
228 Oak Road
New Bloomfield, PA



Just for fun...

The Willys-Overland Company
Automobiles

JOHN N. WILLYS, PRESIDENT

Toledo, Ohio

Jan. 23, 1913.

Mr. J. P. Stoltzfus,
Elverson, Chester Co., Pa.

Dear Sir:

We are just in receipt of the balance of parts of model 69 motor replaced by us with another motor a short time ago, and notice that some of the parts have come to us in very bad condition, particularly the carburetor which appears as though some one had been working on same with a hammer or some other tool which has badly damaged it.

We are somewhat surprised at this, but will arrange to have this carburetor repaired charging your account with the cost of repairs as we know of no reason why carburetor should be abused as this one was.

Yours very truly,

THE WILLYS-OVERLAND COMPANY,

AWSI*NL

W. B. Stinson
Mgr., Order & Repair Department

Classifieds

For Sale:

1914 Buick Model 25 Touring: new Jerry Chase rear end, electric start, vinyl upholstery, terrific touring vehicle, extra parts including good engine and transmission. Car located in Florida. \$31,000 OBO Contact Jeff 717-336-3203.

Any member wishing to submit classified ad(s) should do so by August 31 to be included in the next newsletter. Ads should be 25-30 words in length and can include photos. Ads maybe submitted by via email to edsvrhcca@gmail.com or mailed to Tracy Leshner—475 West Route 897, Reinholds, PA 17569.



Resources



This link has an index of pure gas stations for Pennsylvania and all 50 states.

<http://pure-gas.org/index.jsp?stateprov=PA>

Brad-Penn Oil can be purchased at Cumberland Truck Equipment Co.

Locations in Ephrata, Carlisle, Chambersburg & Nottingham

<http://cumberlandtruck.com/cumberlandtruck/site/>