

BCA YANKEE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

February 2017



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Membership

Bonnie Anderson

Directors Message

Hello!

Hope your holidays went well and everything is going OK. We could not ask for a better January, hardly any snow and temps in the 40's during the day. Hopefully February stays as mild.

Well the car show season will be here before we know it so its never too early to start planning out events for the year. At our next meeting please bring your ideas for what you may like to do during the year. We are looking for possible destinations for a Spring and Fall run. We would also like to create a calendar of shows and cruise nights for the summer that members will attend as a group. I know sometimes scheduling is difficult but if we plan these ahead it may be easier to attend. If we choose events that are in other parts of the state this might make it easier to meet up with our club member from other towns.

For the Regional meet in September we can discuss if we can caravan to this event.

Its been a while since we had a Summer Picnic event. Is there any interest in planning one for this year?

If there are any other ideas for events that you can think of, please come to a meeting to share your thoughts.



Please remember to renew if you have not already done so.

Take Care,
Jim

2017 YANKEE CALENDAR

February 19th 11:00AM
Chapter Meeting
96 Scott St E. Hartford

May 28th
Long Island Buick Show
Wantagh Train Station

August 20th
Yankee Chapter Car show
Wallingford Buick GMC

September 29th to October 1st
Northeast Regional
Clifton Park, NY

NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

If you would like to receive the newsletter by this means, please contact buickyanke@sbcbglobal.net

MEMBERSHIP

2017 membership for the Yankee Chapter, Buick Club of America. Chapter dues are \$20.00 per year (January through December). Remember to keep your national Buick Club of America membership up to date, since it's required for the Yankee Chapter.

Please make Checks payable to:
Yankee Chapter, BCA
and mail to:

Bonnie Anderson
126 Village Street
Northford, CT 06472

Sign up form can be found at:

http://www.yankeechapterbca.org/pdf/forms/2015_Yankee_Chapter_Membership_Application.pdf

The next MEETING of Feb 19th 2017 at 11:00 AM

At the Comeau household at 96 Scott St. in East Hartford. Bagels, donuts and beverages will be provided.

Directions from northern points:

From 91 south take left exit in Hartford onto Rte 84 East. Stay in right lane to take Rte 2 East. Take exit 5c and turn left at the light. Immediately after going under the Highway take left onto Washington Ave. and stay to left at fork. Take next left onto Scott St and at stop sign turn Right. Road hooks to left and take next left, then right. 96 is last house on the right.

Directions from southern points:

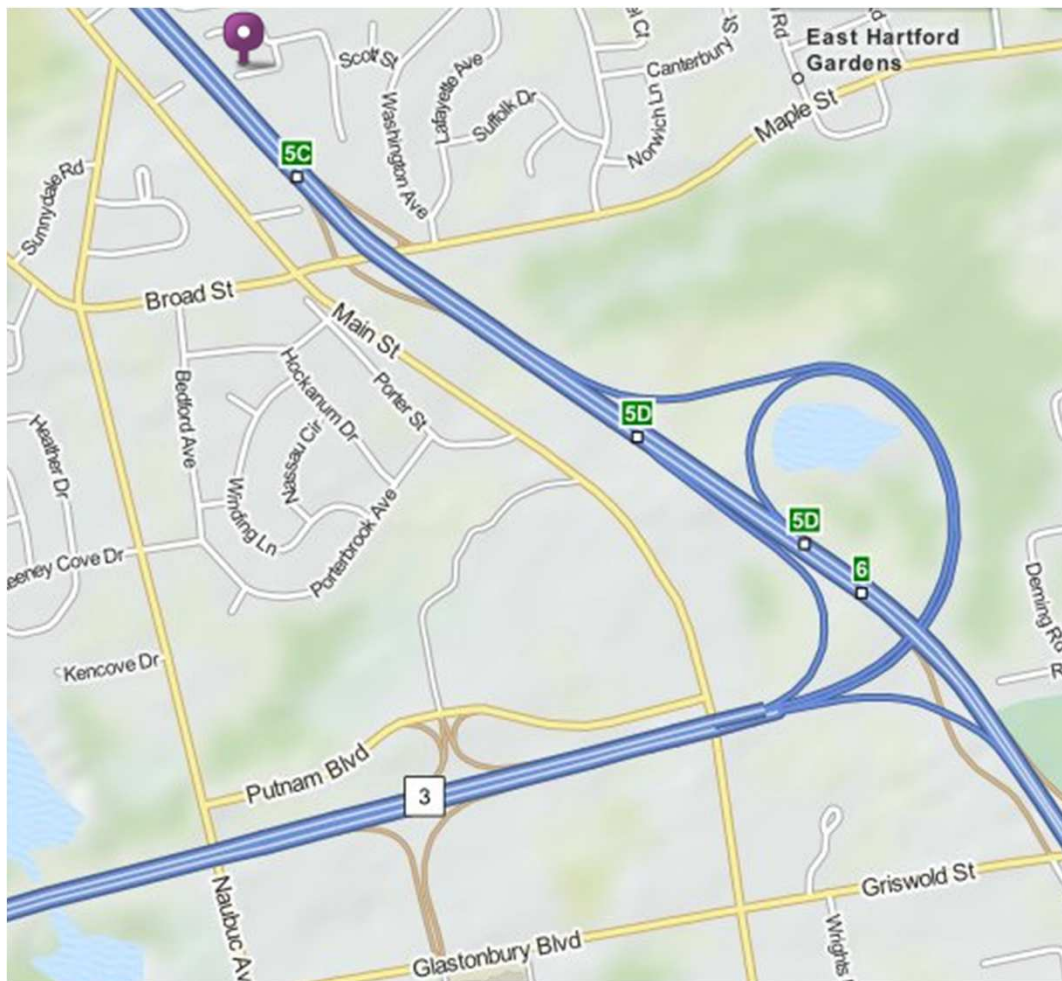
From 91 north take Exit 25-26 to Putnam Bridge. Take first exit and at light turn right onto Glastonbury Blvd. At next light turn left onto Main St. At fourth light turn right onto Maple St. Immediately after going under the Highway take left onto Washington Ave. and stay to left at fork. Take next left onto Scott St and at stop sign turn Right. Road hooks to left and take next left, then right. 96 is last house on the right

Directions from eastern points:

From Rte 2 west take exit 5D onto Rte 3 and take first exit staying right onto Putnam Blvd. at light turn left onto Main St. At third light turn right onto Maple St. Immediately after going under the Highway take left onto Washington Ave. and stay to left at fork. Take next left onto Scott St and at stop sign turn Right. Road hooks to left and take next left, then right. 96 is last house on the right

Directions from western points:

From 84 east, after crossing the Connecticut river move into the right lane to take Rt 2 east. Take exit 5c and turn left at the light. Immediately after going under the Highway take left onto Washington Ave. and stay to left at fork. Take next left onto Scott St and at stop sign turn Right. Road hooks to left and take next left, then right. 96 is last house on the right.



The Greatest Auto Race on Earth

A few weeks ago I sat down to watch one of my favorite movies, *The Great Race*. This stars Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis, Natalie Wood, Peter Falk and Keenan Wynn. The story is about a challenge to race from New York to Paris in 1908. There is a lot of adventure but more comedy in slapstick, puns and even a grand pie fight. While watching, my wife asked if the premise of the story is based on a true event. I said "I believe so but never knew the details". So, onto the internet to look up the earliest auto races.

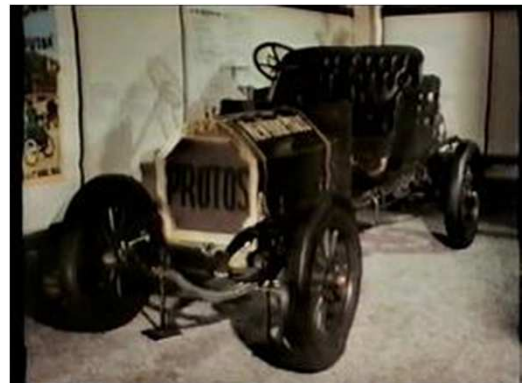
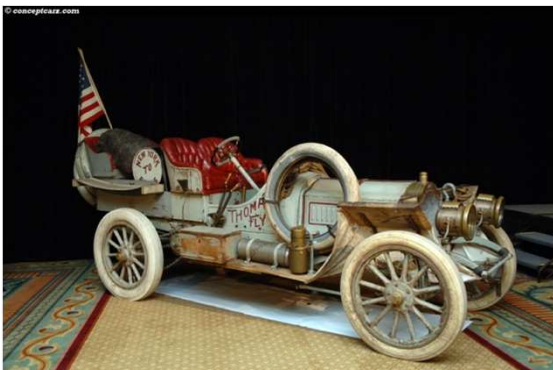
The first race ever was more of an endurance drive from Paris to Bordeaux and back on June 13th in 1895. The event took 49 hours to cover the 739 miles and the average speed was 15 MPH. The event was won by Emile Levassor driving a Panhard-Levassor. Levassor was later disqualified and first was then awarded to a Peugeot.

There were many smaller races organized with entries from all nations but the next big event was the Peking to Paris race of 1907. The race was from a challenge in a Paris newspaper *Le Matin*, to prove that the automobile could go anywhere. 40 teams signed up but only five actually shipped their cars to Peking for the start of the race. The organizers of the race cancelled the event due to poor turnout but the 5 teams decided to race anyway. They covered the 9300 mile run from June 10th thru August 10th with an Italia driven by Ettore Guizzardi and Prince Scipione Borghese making it first. Each car had a Journalist and the race was covered in great detail with many stories forwarded by telegraph to newspapers that saw an increase in sales from this event.

Le Matin again wanted to stage a grand event and the *New York Times* agree to cosponsor the event. The course was chosen as the home cities of each paper. By this time manufacturers and nations took great pride in being participants of these events due to the publicity generated. There were many entrants but in the end only 5 teams made the start.

The plan for the race was to start in February of 1908 with the thought of driving over the Bering Strait while it was frozen. As the teams started to cross the US there were immediate hardships with great amounts of snow and ice. This was followed by great amounts of mud in the Midwest. The teams were to head to Seattle and ship by boat their cars to Alaska for the crossing. The plan was changed to San Francisco instead which caused confusion as parts and gas were now at the wrong locations. From San Francisco the cars were shipped to Japan where they drove across that country and were shipped again to Vladivostok. Now it was cross country driving the rest of the way through areas with no roads or bridges to cross water ways. The teams had many breakdowns and were only able to continue with their persistence and ingenuity. Three teams were able to complete the 22,000 mile trip in 6 months.

The info I found on this race came from the website : www.thegreatestautorace.com They have produced a recreation film which shows in great detail the event as it unfolded. We purchased a copy and found it to be very well done. I would say on par with a Ken Burns Film, such as *Horatio's Drive*. This was both informative and entertaining with lots of original photos included. I marveled at the determination of these men to complete the task they set out for. The film makes you feel for the teams. I will not complain next time I have to change a flat. If you are interested in early automobiles this film is a must for your collection and I recommended you pick up a copy of "The Greatest Auto Race on Earth"



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