

Historic Hill Climber

Charlie Kurtz and PA Hill Climbing...



I was contacted by a Mr. Kruppa about information pertaining to Charlie Kurtz III and his involvement with PA hill climbing. Mr. Kruppa, was doing an article on Charlie for the Porsche Club of America's newsletters. A quick search of the database provided much information.

Charlie Kurtz of Clearfield, PA shows up on PHA radar 1963-1964. Entering various types of cars including; Porsche RS 61 in Mod 2 or F Mod, an EM Bobsy spyder, a Formcar formula vee, and an AP Jaguar XKE. He found the most success with the Porsche. At the 1963 Giant's Despair event, Charlie entered and won the

F Mod class and overall FTD with a time of 56.3543. He had beaten out the current 3 time FTD champion at Giant's, John Meyer, who ran a 57.1188. Charlie had also entered his Formcar and won the Formula Vee class with a time of 74.4714.

In 1964 Charlie won the E Mod class at Spring Hershey and Giant's Despair. The Bobsy was featured in Volume 1, Issue 1 of Historic Hill Climber.

Charlie did much SCCA racing in his career...he was tragically killed in an accident in 1964.

Kurtz with Giant's Despair FTD award.



Inside this issue:

<i>Charlie Kurtz</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>RIP Ray Heisey</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Hershey Hill Climb Presentation</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Photo ID</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>What's New</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>2010 PHA Schedule</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Mystery Hills</i>	<i>4</i>

RIP - RAY HEISEY



RAY HEISEY
Hershey, Pa.
Spitfire - GP

This is not my favorite part of this "job"...but we've lost yet another one of the greats. Ray Heisey of Hershey passed away. Not the kind of news I like to spread...but we lost yet another great hill climber last month. Ray Heisey of Hershey passed away. Ray ranks right up there with some of the greatest drivers in PHA history. His hill climb career spanned from 1961 to 1972. He captured multiple class victories in Compact, F Production, G Production and D Production. He was overall G production champion in 1967 (Triumph Spitfire) and overall D production (Datsun SPL 311) in 1972.

Other than hill climbing...Ray excelled at dirt and asphalt circle track racing. Ray was the first person I sat down to interview when I started researching PHA. We continued to hang out and watch hill climb videos and he accompanied/help me when I traveled to Fleetwood to do a presentation on the Fleetwood Hill Climb. He was a top notch guy!

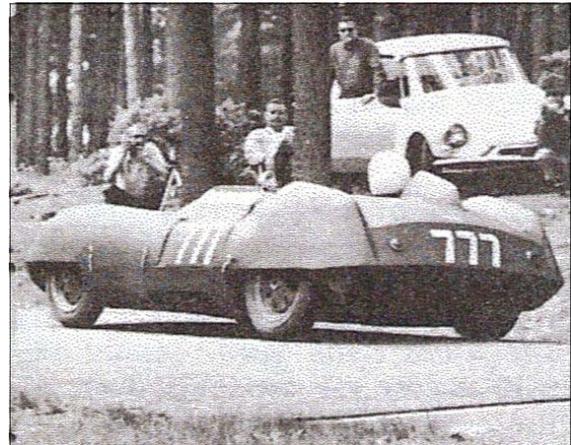


HISTORY OF THE HERSHEY HILL CLIMB PRESENTAION

This past October, prior to the big fall AACA meet in Hershey, I did a presentation on the history of the Hershey Hill Climb to the South Hanover Historical Society. South Hanover Township is directly across the Swatara Creek from the Hershey Hill Climb site. It was well advertised in the local papers and attendance was great! It was great to see some familiar PHA faces in the audience. John Haag & Bob Laepple came down from the Fleetwood area (they attended my presentation there), George Wagner of Hershey (grew up and raised h*ll in South Hanover Township) also attended and I got to meet two more PHA Veterans...Tom Keck & Bob Ramsey! They arrived bearing gifts....a nice box full of results and programs for the archives! Thanks guys!

Remember, if you have a need for a speaker for a meeting...and I might fit the bill let's talk. Currently I have 3 prepared presentations covering the Hershey Hill Climb, Fleetwood Hill Climb & Corvettes and PA Hill Climbing. I'm open to create a new presentation on a particular hill or car type if need be...I just need some advanced time to prepare.

Photo ID: Well...we struck out last month. No one could help ID the three photos. I hope we have some better luck this issue!! Here are four shots, one from each decade: 50's, 60's, 70's & 80's.



WHAT'S NEW AT THE ARCHIVES

Great progress is being made at the Archive/Museum at my home in Annville. As you may or may not know...I've dedicated a portion of my basement to the PHA Archives. George Wagner donated a display case and a magazine rack from an old store front he had owned. I purchased another display case and a great five drawer lateral filing cabinet (came from a law office downtown Fleetwood of all places...love Craig's List!). A computer terminal is in position but currently having some issues on the computer's operation. We had our first official visitors, Larry Long, his daughter Phaedra and her friend Sam stopped by the day after the PHA banquet in Grantville. Larry contributed some awards he had won...thanks Larry! Visits to the archives can be set up by appointment...just shoot me an email or call. I spend a lot of time working on the property...so, most weekends I'm around. I will also set a side some days in the Spring/Summer/Fall for some open days!



2010 PHA Tentative Schedule

May 29-30 Spring Jefferson, WV

June 12-13 Spring Weatherly, PA

June 26-27 Pagoda, PA

July 10 –11 Giant's Despair, PA

July 24-25 Rose Valley, PA

August 7-8 Polish Mountain, MD

August 21-22 Duryea, PA

September 4-5 Fall Jefferson, WV

Ok....need a little clarification. I have results and information on the following; Little Pocono, Big Pocono and just plain old Pocono Hill Climbs.....What's the scoop. In 1960—1962 there was a Spring and Fall "Pocono" event. In 1963...it was "Big Pocono" In 1964...we were back to a Spring and Fall event. Were these all the same "hill"...where was it located? Off 209??

I'm also looking for the location of the Cherry Valley/Fox Gap Hill Climb & the Towne Hill...these were run in the late 50's and were part of the PHA circuit!



Mystery hill climbs....

So...as I go through file after file...I keep finding more interesting tid-bits such as proposed Hill Climbs that were on the schedule...but were never run. Why!? Where were they exactly....can anyone shed some light on the following?

The Philadelphia region SCCA was planning to run a "Fairmount Park Hill climb"

The Schuylkill Valley Corvette club was planning to run a "Locust Gap Hill climb"

The Duryea Sports Car Club was planning to run an "Oley Hill climb"

The Town & Country Sports Car Club was planning to run a "Stockertown Hill Climb"

I also found a sanction request from the Appalachian Sports Car Club for a Hill Climb, which was un-named, just South of Hummelstown. In talking with PHA Hall of Famer Larry Shaffer...he stated it was off the Middletown road, between Hummelstown & Middletown. Using overhead maps...I believe the road to be used was Stoverdale road.

See if you can guess which extinct hill climb these photos are from:

