

# Historic Hill Climber

## ALTERNATIVE FUEL...?!? INDEED!!



My original contact in his Stanley Steamer!

I received an inquiry from a gentlemen that was looking for some information on a car he owns... It is a Stanley Steamer! That's right...we're headed back in time this issue! As you all probably know, this hill climbing stuff started back in 1906 at Giant's Despair. Car and driver would travel from all over the world to tackle the Giant. What you may not know is that steam powered cars were among them! In fact, it was the 1907 event that really stoked the fire! New York Times headline reads; "Walter White's Steam Car Makes Best Time Up Giant's Despair At Wilkes-Barre". The article continues to say; "While all of the regular events

were limited to gasoline cars, two steam cars succeeded by special dispensation in trying for records, and as both of them did much better than their gasoline rivals, the good times made by the latter cars were relegated to second place so ara as the possible record breaking features of the day were concerned. The best time was made by Walter C. White in an exhibition with his thirty horse power White steamer. The second best time was made by a 20hp Stanley steamer car in the special event for runabouts restricted to cars from the Quaker City Motor Club of Philadelphia. The car was allowed to run by special permission of the club." White ran a 1:49 and D. Walter Haper in the Stanley ran a 1:56. Each time was better than the record set in 1906 and both times were better than the "official" winner of 1907 event, Jimmy Ryall's time of 1:59.



Unknown driver in a Stanley Steamer at Giant's Despair

The following year...1908...steamers were allowed to compete in the "Free For All" event...but were no match to the



"Great Chadwick" of Willie Haupt how lowered the record to 1:41. Now...back to the inquiry; This man was looking for photos of steamers in the hopes of being able to ID his car. I could only provide him with driver names and a few photos and of course we could not connect any dots as to the fact if his car was at Giant's Despair. But...a few years later in conversation with another contact, it was mentioned that his Father once owned the Stanley Steamer run by Fred Merriott at the 1908 event. It placed 3rd in the "Free For All" and is currently restored and is being shown at concourse events in the United States!

The Fred Merriott Stanley at Ameila Island

# Still Racing...

Some of our PHA Veterans...well...have not really stopped! Here are a few photos of their current rides. I didn't capture everyone in this issue so stay tuned for more. If you have a photo of your current ride...email it to me!



Richard Schnabel's Volvo!

Alex Miller's March



Robert Oswald Sr.'s Ghia!

John & Jane Stinsmen's Van Diemen



Dan Licklider's Mustang

Dave Baker's Lotus.



## Who Is It!?

In the last issue...we featured drivers with the last name starting with "D". We "D"idn't too good! In order we had Martin Dakow, Jim Dantzer, Dave Derecola, Tom Donald and Harry Duckworth (who was correctly ID'ed by Dennis Frick) This issue, we have those driver with last names that begin with "E". That's your hint...good luck!



1



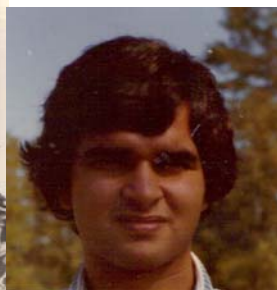
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## Upcoming Happenings and Scoop!

April 19th - History of the Hershey Hill Climb presentation. Once again the Derry Township Historical Society has asked me to do my presentation on the Hershey Hill Climb. The last time I did the presentation for them was in 2008 and a good number of PHA Veterans came out to make it an impromptu reunion. Let's do it again!! As to date...that outing was the second largest turnout for a presentation the Society has had!! I'm looking to beat the record this time. The presentation includes a Power Point slide show featuring many images from Hershey. It will be followed up with a 20 minute film with period music jamming! I will also have a selection of artifacts on display! Give me a heads up if you plan on coming and I'll update a list to keep people informed on who might be showing!

Spring is here...and yard work is calling which means my work with PHA stuff starts to get a bit limited. I have managed to expand my result records in Excel spread sheets...100% complete results from PHA seasons 1964—1977 & 2003—2011 are available from me. Just shoot me an email and I can send you whatever you want. I also have a spread sheet folder I call the record keeper. In this you can scroll through class winners, through the years and see where a class record was broken and by whom. Currently, the worksheet only covers; Duryea, Giant's, Weatherly & Pagoda. I'll build on it at a later date.

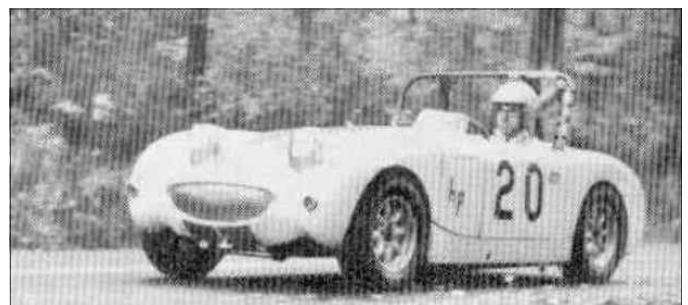
The 2012 PHA Museum & Archive open house is tentatively set for September 22nd. Mark it in your datebook...let me know if you're thinking of coming out...the more folks that come, the bigger we can make it!

2012 PHA Schedule is out and can be viewed at [www.pahillclimb.org](http://www.pahillclimb.org)  
As of now...I plan on running both Weatherly's and one Reading event.  
I'll probably visit Giant's and visit the Reading event I don't run...hope to see you at the Hills!

Hugh, John, & Marianne Maloney and John Pitman stop for a visit at PHA Museum & Archives...unofficial Formula Vee Day!!



# PHA's top H Production Drivers...By Class Wins



L-R/T-B: Larry Shaffer,  
 Radley Rice, Bill McDaniels,  
 Henry Mearig, Ben Loquasto,  
 Don McLaughlin, Craig  
 Bucher, Tom Edkin, Ted  
 Panaccion & Jay Seiver