



AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE PENNSYLVANIA HILLCLIMB
ASSOCIATION

UP HILL



AND THE MID-ATLANTIC TIME TRIAL SERIES

FALL 2008

www.pahillclimb.org

Vol. 9 Iss. 3

Pennsylvania Hillclimb Banquet November 22, 2008

Holiday Inn Harrisburg Hershey

PHA Meeting: 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Hors d'oeuvres: 5:30 to 6:30 PM

Cash Bar: 5:30 to 11:00 PM

Attention workers!

If you haven't already done so, please send John Pitman your name, address and phone number along with the names of the hillclimbs you worked this year. Email John at jjpfoto@earthlink.net or phone him at 717-226-0459 with the information as soon as possible. Deadline for submitting the information to John is October 23rd to be considered for a complimentary dinner at the PHA Banquet



After 15 years the Hill Record fell at the 2008 Duryea Hillclimb. George Bowland (pictured above) broke Floyd Schrammick's old record of 107.659 seconds with a run of 105.528 seconds.



Morgan Wilson at Spring Weatherly. You had to be there to appreciate the sign.

WEST COAST VINTAGE HILLCLIMB CAR – Tom Styczynski

This summer I did a quick, family related vacation to Sacramento, California. I had the chance to sneak off for some car related activities the included the Seven Enterprises in Auburn, the shop that built my Bugeye motor, and the Towe Automobile Museum in Old Sacramento.

When I am in Sacramento Vintage Ford Parts in Rancho Cordova, CA is always on my list. It is a huge store that caters to vintage Ford restorers as well as hot rod builders with everything from stock sheet metal to new Model T engine blocks to hot rods kits all available on line, from their catalogs or in the store.

The store is like a free car show with excellent displays of vintage Fords that include recent barn finds to the bucket-T driven by Kookie on the 77 Sunset Strip television series. How many of us remember that show?

The following car caught my eye because the description noted it as is hillclimb car.



This cockpit photo shows the attention to detail is exceptional.



The car copied the racers of past down front/rear axles hard mounted to the frame and a single rear brake. In this case it is a more modern disc brake.



So what is it? This is a beautifully finished Gilmore Racing replica was built by Dick Bertolucci for competition in the Sacramento Chapter of Ford A Speed Technology (FAST). This leads into two interesting stories and a controversy.

Dick Bertolucci has been building hot rods and custom cars in the Sacramento area since the early 50's. Dick's custom cars are respected on a par with Roy Brizo and George Barris with his early creations recently appearing in the classic hot rod class at the Pebble Beach Concours. The Bertolucci Body Shop is still one of the best in Sacramento.

FAST is a national organization that focuses on keeping early Ford Model T/A/B 4 cylinder motors alive. This includes help to restorers to increase reliability plus speed events where builders can show off old and new speed equipment. Think vintage RAJO overhead valve conversions and modern ignition systems.

The FAST speed events take two forms hillclimbs and flat hillclimbs. The hillclimb courses are 500 to 800 feet long with a grade of about 8%. Flat hillclimbs are timed runs on a flat, straight course. No turns, just concentrating on power and speed.

Okay – it is not Weatherly or Duryea but remember the cars range from relatively stock Model As to custom built race cars based on designs from the 20's and 30's. The following are some examples of a typical field.

Model T Speedster



Restored Model A



Model A hot rod powered by a modified Model B owned by John Brinsky, my sister-in-law's husband. He is better known as Hokey but he will never tell me how he got that name. Hokey is a FAST member/competitor in Sacramento and has had the car since he was a teenager. To put that into perspective Hokey recently retired from the California State Comptroller's office. He was also very helpful with the details of the Bertolucci car.



So what was the controversy? Dick Bertolucci is a Chevy guy. When he built the Gilmore Replica he seemed to have two thoughts in mind. First, he wanted Chevrolet power, in this case a 1928 Chevrolet over head valve engine. Second, he wanted to replicate the design of the dirt and board track cars of the 20' and 30's.

The Ford guys were willing to overlook the engine but had a problem with the car lacking four wheel brakes and a suspension both required by the rules. Dick drove the car in a few events before the rules were fully enforced. In 2005 he put it on display at Vintage Ford.

PHA is blessed with good event locations supported by local governments. The FAST Sacramento Chapter hillclimbs have been somewhat shutdown by a building boom in Auburn and Grass Valley which turned sites into neighborhoods and industrial parks. You would think that all of those California hills and mountains would be filled with potential sites. However, Hokey indicated that there is a good potential they will have a new hillclimb site in Spring 2009.

A Message from the President...

It is hard to believe the 2008 Time Trial Season is over! Overall, especially considering the forecasts, the weather was great.

Our events survived despite the economy, high gas prices and other factors. Although the numbers were down, all events were able to be conducted without too much of a financial burden. Each sanctioning region will undoubtedly review their income/expenses so all of our events can continue for 2009. New drivers were on the scene and this trend needs to continue to replace those who are no longer involved.

For the first time in many years we had adequate corner volunteers at all of our Time Trial Events, however, we must be diligent in continuing our efforts to acquire more. Further, we must continue to recognize and reward the dedicated core volunteers we currently have. Many PHA members stepped to the plate to assist in conducting our events. These efforts are greatly appreciated. All PHA members have ideas and suggestions to improve our events. This input is very important.

Come to the PHA meeting on **November 22, 2008** at the **Holiday Inn in Grantville, PA**. This "Critique Meeting" will start at **3 P.M.** and will focus on the 2008 season.

This meeting will be followed by the **PHA Banquet** at the same location. I am sure the PHA Banquet will be a memorable event. At the Banquet, PHA will present the 2008 class winners, induct new members into the "PHA Hall of Fame", and honor the many volunteer workers who make our events possible.

Tom Knorr, PHA President



The \$95 Special

The Weatherly Hillclimb Association in collaboration with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Region of SCCA introduced a one day special entry rate of \$95 for the Fall Weatherly Hillclimb. This was intended to accommodate those who could only participate for one day due to work or other commitments. There were four who took advantage of this opportunity. Not only did these drivers have the opportunity to participate at this reduced rate, but the income received assisted in paying the bills. What do you think of this special entry rate?

From the Timing Tent

Well another year is in the record books. By my count we had a total of **573** entries across the 9 events.

A total of **69** class records and **2** hill records fell along the way.

A lot of old faces and some new faces made the year successful even though the entries were down. Some of the new faces even brought along a corner worker or two to help out at the events.

The normal bench racing and movie watching went on in the pit areas Friday and Saturday nights making for an all around good time for all.

As you can see the **UpHill** has articles from the same people, with the exception of **Tom Styczynski**. This newsletter is for the entire membership of the PHA and to be viable needs the input of the PHA membership. It seems that there are a lot of members that have strong opinions on a lot of subjects, if the posts on the PHA forum is any indication.

It's time to put those opinions down on paper and submit them for inclusion in the newsletter. The next issue should be sometime in the late winter or early spring to get ready for the 2009 season.

Any article will be used, as long as there are no personal attacks. Articles on driving techniques, car prep, experiences at PHA events or other motorsports experiences are all acceptable.

I don't know about you, but I will be at the **PHA** banquet on **November 22**. It's one of the few PHA events where I can talk to people while the event is going on instead of after the day's activities.

That's all for now, I hope to see most of you at the PHA Banquet and at the events next year.

Until the next green light,
Nelson Kase

Sponsor-A-Volunteer for the Banquet

**Without the volunteers sitting on the corners in the rain
and the heat at every event there would not be an event.**

**There are people that are at all 9 events working.
Some are visible to all but most you never see until you
have need of their assistance at a corner on the hill.**

**This year the banquet committee has come up with the
Sponsor-A-Volunteer for the Banquet campaign.**

Anyone can pay for a volunteer to attend the banquet.

**To sponsor a volunteer send your \$35 check made payable
to PHA to:**

**John Pitman
PO Box 941
Carlisle, PA 17013**

jjpfoto@earthlink.net

Holiday Inn Harrisburg Hershey
For hotel reservations call: 717-469-1554 by October 23rd
Pennsylvania Hillclimb Banquet
November 22

PHA Meeting: 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Hors d'oeuvres: 5:30 to 6:30 PM
Cash Bar: 5:30 to 11:00 PM
Beer and Soda provided by Pennsylvania Hillclimb Assoc.

Dinner: 6:30 to 8:00 PM
Menu choices:

London Broil with Wild Mushroom Sauce
Baked Stuffed Chicken Breast
Orange Roughy

Includes
Salad
Appetizer
Potato and Vegetable
Dessert
Rolls, Butter and Beverage

Cost: \$35 per person

Program: 8:00 to 11:00 PM

-----Please Detach Here and return-----
Banquet Entree Selection and quantity:

_____ London Broil
_____ Stuffed Chicken Breast
_____ Orange Roughy

Your Name Here: _____

Your Guest's name: _____

Total Amount enclosed: \$_____

Make check or money order Payable to PHA and mail reservation to

John Pitman, P O Box 941, Carlisle, Pa. 17013