

F.A.H.P. News, August 20, 2012

“Secondary” Steam Car Tours: In the 1960s, the Eastern Steam Car Tours were sporadic; some were sponsored by the relatively new Steam Automobile Club of America, but some were not. Of the early tours, Woodstock, Vermont, was host to the most, with Lakeville, Connecticut, being second. SACA-sponsored tours I remember were at Wilmington, Delaware, in 1961, Cape Cod in 1966, and a three-day progressive tour to southern Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland in 1969. There were also hub tours at Woodstock in 1962 and 1968, using the original Woodstock Inn, a charming old frame hotel built close to the sidewalk facing the Green. The earlier Interlaken Inn at Lakeville hosted the Eastern Steam Car Tour in 1955 and 1958, with the very first SACA Tour being held at Lake Forest, Illinois, also in 1958.

By the end of the 1960s, attendance and interest was rapidly increasing, and instead of an average of 10 to 15 cars, there could be as many as 40 cars expected. Also changing was the method of getting to the tours, with cars being trailered far outnumbering those driven over the road. Several steam car owners enjoyed these tours so much that two in one year were frequently offered, especially if the “big tour” was held in early summer.

In 1972, the main tour was at Woodstock in June, this time using the Shire Motel, and a second and smaller tour was hosted by George Schieffelin at his home in Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, in September. I drove the Model 87 to the latter and swallowed a yellow jacket on top of a Coke can during a picnic lunch along the Delaware River near Lambertville. In 1975, the main tour was at Carl Amsley’s at St. Thomas, Pennsylvania, in July, to which I drove our Model 76 with Johnny Springer as my companion, and a secondary tour was held at Chatham on Cape Cod in September. Weldin Stumpf and I drove our 1924 Doble E-11 to the Cape and back, and some would say we had some trouble. A steering tie-rod end broke on the right front, preventing control of that wheel, the left rear wheel came off and rolled down the road ahead of us, we broke a valve rod in the engine, and an electric solenoid controlling the water level in the boiler shorted out, but we learned a lot and drove the car round-trip. In 1976, the main June tour was again held at Woodstock, with a secondary tour with about 11 cars held at Lakeville in September. Having taken the Model 71 to Woodstock, I drove our newly restored Model 87 to Lakeville with Marvin Klair as my passenger. In 1981, the main tour was held at Sturbridge, Massachusetts, in June, with an 11-car progressive tour from Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, to Kingfield, Maine, and return in late July. The Kingfield tour was made in our 607 carrying Bob Reilly and me, and our Model 78 was used by Mike and Kathryn May. In 1984, with the main tour being hosted by Carl Amsley in June, there was a second progressive “Kingfield Tour,” this time from Concord, New Hampshire, in late July or August. Stumpf and I took our Model 71 in my new closed trailer. Finally, with the large Eastern Tour at Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1993, a second “Steam Cars and Steamed Crabs” Tour was held on Maryland’s Eastern Shore with headquarters at Easton in September, when Ruth and I enjoyed the operation of our Model 725.

Despite the increasing popularity of the big tours, the idea of a second one slowly fell by the wayside, perhaps because it was not worth doing for a small number of cars and perhaps

because Steam Car Tours were fast developing in all parts of the country and in England. The all-time record for the number of steam cars at a single event was in 1999, when the Stanley Museum sponsored the annual tour at Mount Washington in early August, and over 80 cars were entered, six of which were from the U.K. This tour commemorated the 100th anniversary of the first successful ascent of New Hampshire's famous mountain in an automobile by F. O. and Flora Stanley on August 31, 1899.

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic: A great time was had by all who attended this year's Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on Sunday, orchestrated once again by the incomparable Rose Ann Hoover, with assistance from Jerry Novak. The food, as always was both plentiful and delicious -- and certainly NO ONE left hungry. Rose Ann also hosted a lively competition that had the nearly 50 attendees searching their memories for the answers to a far-ranging automobile trivia. We thank ALL of our amazing volunteers not only for the time but for the energy, commitment and genuine enthusiasm they devote to Auburn Heights.

Become a Sponsor of the Auburn Heights Invitational: Support the Marshall Steam Museum and receive valuable recognition for your business at the same time by serving as a sponsor of the upcoming Auburn Heights Invitational. Sponsorships start at only \$125! Please review and share our **Sponsorship Opportunities flier** and contact the FAHP office (302-239-2385) for more information or to join our Sponsor ranks!

Tickets Now on Sale for the Auburn Heights Invitational Historic Auto Display Presented by Frederick J. Dawson, ChFC, CLU of Bassett, Dawson & Foy, Inc. Sept. 29, 12:30 to 4:30

Advance tickets are now available for the inaugural Auburn Heights Invitational. We have a truly magnificent line-up of cars for display as well as great food, activities and opportunities in store. See the **Special Event page** on our website for full details! You may purchase tickets in person at the Country Butcher Market in Kennett Square (with all proceeds from those sales benefiting the Joseph Boxler Education Fund), by phone (by contacting the FAHP office at 302-239-2385), by mail using our mail-in order form, or online using Paypal on our website Special Event Tickets page.

Tickets for Troops: To show our appreciation to active-duty military personnel and veterans, we will again provide complimentary "tickets for troops" through the local Veterans Administrations in Wilmington and Coatesville. We will match every ticket purchased. Anyone wishing to donate tickets for this purpose, may do so by contacting the F.A.H.P. office at 302-239-2385 or by emailing admin@auburnheights.org. Or you may **purchase tickets online** -- just click on the Tix for Troops option to give deserving military men and women free entry to the event.