



FOSSILS SOUTH JERSEY

www.Fossilscarclub.com

FOSSIL TRUSTEES

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Brenda Huizer : Car Show Coordinator
Dee Heath : Co-Chair of Cruise Nights
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Fossils Newsletter
Month: February 2018
By Rich & Denise Dalfonzo

Editor's Note

“Fossils Unite”

The Fossil's 2017 Annual Awards Luncheon was a total success, but a bitter-sweet celebration. While the weather was not quite as accommodating as we would have liked, the club attendance, at Our House Restaurant, was the greatest that I have experienced. Our honoree this year, Bill Wheeler, would have wanted the Fossils to continue with this luncheon. And, it was an award that was justly deserved for the many years that our departed leader dedicated to the club's continuance. I know that this gathering was shadowed by Bill's passing, but it served well as a healing process for the Fossil members. Our gathering reflected a celebration of life for Bill Wheeler, “Fossil of the Year”.



Saturday, January 20, 2018

“Crying Tires”

It is strange how different times call for certain changes. For many years, the tax payers of the Englishtown/Manalapan area have protested the noise that enveloped the Raceway Park location. I am not sure if political pressure eventually won out, but the closing of drags, at Raceway Park, is a sad happening for this old racer. I not only raced there from 1965 to 1992, but I worked at that track from 1967 to 1970, as the tow-truck/recovery driver...(at the tree). My actual employer was Briggs Chevrolet, out of South Amboy. Briggs sponsored drivers such as Ray Allen, Jungle Jim Liberman and they were also connected to racing organizations like Truppi Lund.

When I learned of Raceway’s closing, a part of my past screamed, “NO”. After all, I even really met my wife, of almost 47 years, at Raceway Park. I could write volumes about the crazy days and nights I spent there. I remember explosions and crashes, being almost toasted by a jet car, and the sounds and smells the sport. I was there when PC Richards, in ’69 or ’70, hosted their funny car venue.....32 funny cars were lined up on the track all with their engines roaring. The noise level was intimidating....no wonder why residents complained. Still, in 1965, there were practically no developments to annoy. But, times change. We loved the smell of nitro in the morning...and the burning rubber. Such great memories, which always drew me back to Raceway Park, now with my grandchildren. The Napp family still will continue with the airport and motor-cross, along with several car venues, but it won’t be the same for me. I have/had a connection that I WILL FOREVER MISS. After all, racing is part of my inner core.

It took a long time for me to eventually understand how to win my bracket division, and it was always met with costly rebuilds and hard labor. However, Raceway Park was my local “testing ground” for the hobby I love.

CHANGE.....we used to use Clorox for the burn-outs. Now, they use water of which my eyes can donate to this biting, final lap,

“2018 Car Collector Forecast”

As many of you know, I follow, closely, those trends that collectors speculate on whether it is precious metals, Hess toy trucks or vintage cars. The future for collector car purchases is not strong. Although auction sales are, and have been of high volume, the price per unit has been declining. I study the various categories of vehicles from military to new performance cars. My predictions for the 2018 Marketplace are solely mine. I think it is safe to say that the younger generations not only do not have the money to invest, they don’t share the interest in collecting as previous generations have.

Antique cars have experienced a slight drop in sales. The audience is small that is attracted to these vehicles. A 1930 Ford in good condition can be obtained for \$10 to \$12 thousand dollars.

While crowds love to look at the shiny chrome and candy colors of street rods, this category of vehicle is getting hammered at the auctions. It is not uncommon to invest forty thousand and get only in the light 20's on your investment. The term NO RESERVE is pretty much a way of accepting a fraction of the money put out. To say, "no reserve" is to say a loss. Street rods use to be the high lite of car shows. Now, survivor cars, AKA, barn finds or original, seem to be bringing the most money. However, the definition of a "survivor" goes into a gray area. It seems a car repainted once may classify as a survivor. The term "patina" is a catch word for those untouched, "as out of the factory" cars. Strangely, a vehicle with light surface rust and pitting metal may bring more than a beauty. And, "numbers matching" cars are extremely important to collectors, even though spectators wouldn't know the difference. How many car guys could tell a 265 cubic inch small block GM engine from a 350?

What does seem to be firing up collectors is the foreign market. I have had many MG's and to see a 1958 MGA hammer for \$82,000 is just crazy. Even more, prices for Porsches, Jaguars, Ferrari and Healeys are showing respectable gains in value.

Muscle cars, without any modifications and factory bone stock, are showing moderate gains, especially in the Asian marketplace. If it is a "survivor" muscle car, the sky may be the limit. What also is holding strong are "woodies".....not as much in percentage points, but still an investment.

Generally speaking, American cars are not doing as well as they did three years ago. However, that is where our interest lies. The contradiction is the sales of new, high performance American vehicles. Combined with all the latest creature features, there is a race to see what manufacturer can out do their competition. The new Corvette for 2019, ZR1 will reveal a 755 horse power at 210 MPH. This rocket called, "King of the Hill" clearly reveals the competitive marketplace. But at a guesstimated \$120,000, the audience for purchase will be few. It has become a rich man's hobby.

So, if you are looking for a place to invest your money, car collecting may not be acceptable. But we "car people" do it for the love, the memories, the artistic creations and simply for what makes us smile. Besides, keeping our old cars pretty and running, keeps us off the streets. I still find one of the greatest benefits is in meeting people with the same interests and establishing new friendships.

p.s. There is a guy advertising his '67 Fastback Mustang in Hemmings. He claims he has invested over \$800,000 and is willing to accept \$260,000 for his "Eleanor". If you are interested, I can get you his number. You may have to call Mars.....

THINGS TO DO.....

Plan ahead: Sept. 14, 15 and 16 of 2018 is Hemmings Motor News, Concours D'Elegance at Lake George, N.Y. (about 4 hours away) early room reservations are necessary. This is a great location. I have attended a Cadillac/ LaSalle show there and it was Great!

The Atlantic City Auction: Feb. 9-11. The GPK collector cars auction.

N.J. Edison convention and expo center (indoor) motorcycle, car and truck show and swap meet. Feb. 3 and 4 of 2018



30th Annual Car Show Updates

May 20, 2018 -----Rain Date: May 27, 2018

Next Car Show Committee Meeting: *Our next combo trustee/car show committee meeting is Feb 9 at Bonnie's house.*

Member's News

HUMOR:

My sex life is like a Ferrari.....I don't have a Ferrari.

My mother-in-law's coming...I had to clear out half my closet so she could have a place to hang upside down and sleep.

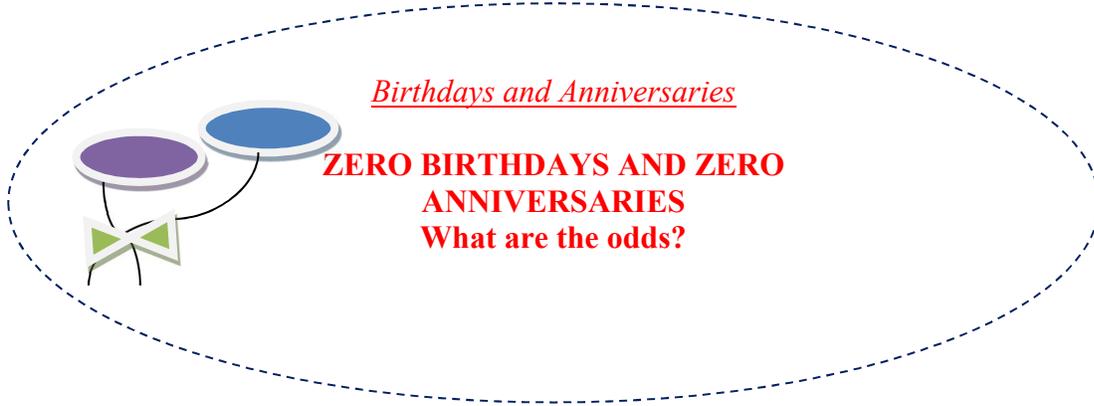
NASA's robot Curiosity landed on Mars. Early pictures show no signs of ESPN, beer, or porn. This makes it very clear that men are not from Mars.

New Members:

Member Cars "Works in Progress":

Saturday, January 20, 2018

Member's Cars/Parts for Sale: 2 Goodyear Assurance tires is good condition. (235 60/r 18)



Birthdays and Anniversaries

**ZERO BIRTHDAYS AND ZERO
ANNIVERSARIES
What are the odds?**

Social Committee

Upcoming Events:
Guys' Road Trips:

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! FOSSIL Cruise Night Dates

Jackson Outlets

April 27
May 25
June 29
July 27
August 24
September 28
October 26



FOOD PANTRY DATES



February- Wed. and Thurs. TBA

Saturday, January 20, 2018

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