



The

Clutch Chatter

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The President's Page *by Pete Pandolfi*

We had a great time at the May meeting. Not only was it well attended, but we were honored to have Phil Graves as our guest speaker. Phil gave a very interesting presentation on Tootsie Toys and displayed several fine and rare examples of these toys from the 1950's. Yes, I will admit that I did have some of those toys and played with them as a child. Unfortunately, none of mine survived. I feel certain there are others of you reading this that also remember playing with these toys. Phil is a member of a very select club of just 25 members who collect miniatures. At the conclusion of his presentation, Phil gave to the Region a miniature special edition tractor trailer commemorating his club's 40th anniversary as a thank you for the kindness the Region has shown him over the years. The gift is very much appreciated. We then proceeded to surprise Phil by bringing out a birthday cake to celebrate Phil's 80th birthday which was earlier this month. Phil was very moved by this gesture and the cake was gone in no time. Thanks to Franklin and Pat Paquette for making all this happen. Phil will be back at the next May meeting with a presentation on cast iron toys. At least those I do not remember playing with.

We are entering an active time with multiple car functions. On June 4 at the Loudoun County Fair Grounds in Leesburg, Virginia is the Old Tyme Country Fair. This charity event for the homeless is looking for vehicles 1950 and older. There is also the Fredericksburg Car show, the Car Show for the Troops in Manassas, and Jon Battle's Orphan Car Tour in Maryland on that day. You say you want more? We also have our function at Rippon Lodge on June 11. We have six cars going. Thanks to Bill Sessler, Pat and Leonard Paquette, Gary Belt, Franklin Gage and Pam Pandolfi for making this fund raiser a success. On June 19 there is the Sully Show which I am sure many of you will be attending. Pam and I are trying something different this year. We are going to the Warrenton Father's Day Car show. We'll let you know how it goes. There is the 75th anniversary of Shenandoah State Park in Luray, Virginia on June 25. They are looking for cars 1936 and older. Bill Sessler has been checking into this but has not received any replies. If you have any interest, contact Bill.

REMEMBER, our June meeting is on its regularly scheduled date but will be a picnic meeting at Bill Sessler's house starting at 3 pm. Please plan on attending and bringing a dish or desert to share. Bill will also have his shop open to tour and see some of the latest projects he is working on. Thanks, Bill. Hopefully this year the rain will stay away.

Thanks to all for your support and participation. There is a lot going on and I hope to see you at some of our functions and meetings.

Pete

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Calendar of Events

Jun 11	Bull Run Region Car Display at Rippon Landing Lodge, Woodbridge, VA – 9:30-10:00 am arrival in antique car for free admission. Event is from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.
Jun 12	<u>Bull Run Picnic meeting at Bill & Kathryn Sessler's home, 8411 Briarmont Lane in Manassas at 3:00 pm. Directions: Call Bill at (703)3615491 or email sesslerize@comcast.net. Please bring a chair, utensils and a dish to share.</u>
Jun 19	Father's Day Show at Sully. Information on the Sully Show is available from Bill Benedict 703/430-2441.
Jun 19	Father's Day Show at Warrenton. Information on the Warrenton Show is available from Pete Pandolfi.

Meeting Minutes for May 22, 2011 by Franklin Gage, Secretary

The meeting at the Manassas VFW Hall was called to order by President Pete Pandolfi at 4:09 PM and started with the Pledge of Allegiance. Having just had her knee replaced, Treasurer Nicki Hudson was absent so there was no Treasurer's Report. Membership Chair Pat Paquette reported one renewal.

The Sunshine Committee, Joe & Molly Drago, reported that Jim Batchelder had been treated for kidney stones, Nicki's new knee was working and that Phil Graves had obviously recuperated well from his surgery as he was present.

The Old Dominion Meet in Lynchburg had about 165 cars; Bull Run member Ralph Lankford was there with his '39 Chevy and helped judge.

Several upcoming car activities in the area were announced; notably Father's Day shows at Sully & Warrenton. Information on the Sully Show is available from Bill Benedict 703/430-2441; Warrenton from Pete Pandolfi. The City of Manassas is looking for a 1911-era (preferably open) car, to participate in a re-enactment of President Taft's arrival at an event on July 21; if you have a car or know someone who can help contact Terry Russell 703/257-8232 or trussell@ci.manassas.va.us.

THE NEXT BULL RUN PICNIC/MEETING WILL BE AT BILL & KATHRYN SESSLER'S HOME (BRIARMONT LANE, MANASSAS) ON JUNE 12, 2011 AT 3 PM. FOR DIRECTIONS, CONTACT BILL (703/361-5491 or sesslerize@comcast.net). PLEASE BRING A CHAIR, UTENSILS & DISH TO SHARE.

Rohr Show Chair Bill Sessler needs volunteers for numerous 'jobs' on Show Day (September 17, 2011) including parking, 50/50 ticket sales, setup, cleanup, etc. Please help publicize the show between now and then; to volunteer or obtain flyers, contact Bill (see above). We also need judges; please contact Chief Judge Franklin Gage if you can help (703/869-8434 or f.gage@hotmail.com). Bake Sale Coordinator Molly Drago would like to know what you can bring (703/361-2492 or joe.drago@comcast.net). Dash plaques are done, trophies are ordered and the food/ice cream vendors have been arranged. We hope to be able to use the Manassas Museum sound system again.

President Pete has raffle tickets from AACA to benefit the AACA Museum; 1st place winner will get a 2000 Plymouth Prowler OR \$20,000 cash, 2nd place a 2010 Harley and 3rd place \$3,000 cash. Contact Pete for details; drawing is October 8, 2011.

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 PM to enjoy our annual toys presentation by member Phil Graves, who this year concentrated on post-World War II cars. Many of the examples he brought were metal cars (though not of cast iron like many of the pre-war toys), and Phil noted the post-war cars were more recognizable as models of actual makes, as opposed to many of the earlier cast iron examples which were more generic. Many had hitches to tow campers and boat trailers.

As always, Phil reminded everyone to "Save the boxes" as a toy with the vintage box it came in can be worth a lot more than one without. Many toys of this era were 'Made in Japan,' and frequently the box art which had been copied from U.S. magazine ads were far more realistic than the actual toy models inside. He also noted that many small parts (such as human car occupants) disappeared (up Mother's vacuum cleaner as often as not), so they can be valuable. He also brought a train set he'd bought new for his son (the box survives) he found in the attic with the Sears price tag of \$1.90 still attached.

Though he recently celebrated his 80th Birthday, his enthusiasm demonstrates Phil never entirely grew up.

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