



# North Jersey Street Rod Association

June 2013  
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## NEWSLETTER

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President Grimal thanked all of the members who participated in the annual "Rod Run". He also lamented in the fact that there is serious criticism with little effort toward the positive. "It's an amazing fact that a boys night out, can have grand attendance while our mainstay moneymaker and top charitable act go totally ignored by a significant amount of the membership". Bob also brought a CD to the meeting said to contain pictures from the "RodRun". Kieth Marley had taken the pictures and forwarded them to Bob. Unfortunately, the Fire House's equipment would not recognize the disc.

### MONTHLY MEETING: *Bob O'Malley*

#### Roll Call:

15 members present, 16 absent, 1 excused.

The monthly meeting was held on June 25, 2013 at The Wharton Fire House. The main topic was of course the "RodRun". As late as Saturday afternoon's setup, there were naysayers. There were people who were sure that this was the worst show ever and it was sure to be a disaster. The weather, however; turned to be beautiful, we had more cars participate than 2012's show and Ray Canty along with Hank Dahl reported that the walk-in gate almost ran out of parking spaces for the spectators. The "Tricky Tray" was a huge success, thanks to Sue O'Malley and Gerry Salvatore. Joe Staples, Linda Bosland, Jay Miller and Sharon Griffin were the spark that the Valve Cover Race engine needed. It was so warm that Ed Broadback ran out of water to sell. Surely Lou Calisabetta, Skip Cardinal Joe Guerin and Tony Rossi were affected by the water shortage as they were parking the Show Cars. Tom Harvey, Dave Castle and Roland Utter manned the Registration gate and were kept busy far into the afternoon. Scotty Dietz and Clarence Staples manned the door prizes. A special thanks goes to Pat Staples for all of the behind the scenes work she has done, especially for all of the advertising she procured. Bill and Linda Bosland handled the Tee Shirt sales along with Sue Burrows, while Danny Burrows and Vinnie Salvatore sold 50/50's. Rob Kinney took care of the Gas Card and Gas Grill raffle along with Janet Dietz and Janet Grimal. Considering the poor showing of the membership, there was plenty of participation from the club members and their wives.

Conversation for the rest of the meeting turned around ways to improve things. It was mandated that we change the images on our poster possibly going back to club member's cars rather than an artist's conception. Let's wait and see.

#### Treasurer's Report from Jay:

Reports of all bank accounts were read by Treasurer Jay Miller.

### **Good and Welfare:**

There was a discussion based on the fact that the club didn't know how sick Charlie Parinello was and how we can provide for better communications. Dan Burrows volunteered to help out with the situation.

### **Meeting Discussions:**

A letter was received from Bill Kula. It described the problems that a family in Flanders was having after a major fire at their residence. A discussion followed, the outcome was that the monies we raised so far this year were already earmarked for causes.

Another discussion revolved around people walking their dogs within the designated area for the Show Cars. It seems that Roxbury citizens pay for use of the fields at Horse Shoe Lake and there is little we can do about it. One remark stated that an unruly dog jumping in a show vehicle or worse yet relieving himself on it could lead to disaster.

### **50/50:**

Scotty Dietz won \$16.00

### **STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING:**

The Committee met at WFD on June 11, 2013. All business concerned the upcoming "RodRun" and its logistics. Goody Bag stuffing was set for Saturday June 8, 2013 at the club garage.

### **Saturday Breakfast:**

There was a breakfast at "The Town Square Diner" on Route 15, in Wharton on Saturday June 8, 2013. It preceded the Goody Bag filling. There was full and plenty concerning discussion.

### **Events 2013:**

June 30, 2013 a cruise from the Chatterbox to Sparta Knolls Nursing Home. Starts at 11:00 AM  
July 12, 2013 Car show at Brighton Gardens in Saddle River, A home for those with Alzhiemers.  
July 21, 2013 White Meadow Lake Day Parade.  
For more information contact Bob O'Malley

### **Walt Arfons – 1916 – 2013** *Bryce*

Walt Arfons, who with his half-brother Art, introduced jet-powered dragsters to the sport, passed away on June 4<sup>th</sup>. The pair began building some of the fastest racecars of their time, cobbling together old car and truck parts with aircraft engines in garages at their family's feed mill and hardware store in Akron. Their jet-powered cars were setting world speed records at Bonneville in the early '60s. A rivalry between the brothers developed soon. Walt's Goodyear-sponsored "Wingfoot express" clocked 413.2 at Bonneville on October 2, 1964, followed 3 days later by Art's Firestone-sponsored car reaching 434.3. Only about a week after that, Craig Breedlove's "Spirit of America" eclipsed that, and Art and Craig proceeded to continue breaking each other's records. Walt went on to build the first rocket-propelled car, but concluded that it was probably too heavy due to extensive safty equipment he has installed. One of his grandsons recalled visiting Walt's shop in the early days – "he took stuff out of junkyards and made racecars". "He liked to say 'There's nothing like sitting in a car and feeling the afterburners'".

## **STILLWATER GARAGE RUN:**     *Dan Burrows*

On May 18th Lou Callisabetta put on another great run at his Old Stillwater Garage. Members who attended were Dan Burrows, Linda and Kate Bosland, Bill and Linda Bosland, Dave Hourigan, Rob Kinney, Charlie Parinello, Hank Dahl, Steve Mathews, and Ray Canty. As we arrived we were directed to an area where there was plenty of parking and we were able to park together. Because Linda Bosland's 31 Ford had a battery problem, Lou was able to park her car in front of his new garage and hook up a heavy duty battery charger for a few hours. This enabled a trouble free ride home when the event was over.

The event started with free registration and free tickets for some nice door prizes. The annual Breakfast Grill was set up behind the garage by Lou's friends and had bacon, eggs, cheese, taylor ham, and giant hard rolls on hand so breakfast sandwiches could be made to order. There was plenty of fresh fruit and all kinds of juices available in individual bottles. And, of course, there were urns of fresh coffee all morning. If you left hungry it was your own fault.

Lou has a newly renovated building in the rear of his original body shop. There he stores some of his completed restorations and some still under construction. All were beautiful. Lou had a DJ who played great music all through the event and was pulling door prize tickets every fifteen minutes throughout the day.

There was a nice mix of street rods and muscle cars attending. Dennis Dahlinger, the official NSRA safety inspector, attended and inspected cars by request. The North Jersey Street Rod Association was asked to look over all the cars and pick one worthy of a plaque so Dave Hourigan, Steve Matthews, and I chose a beautiful 1958 Pontiac which appeared to be brand new.

The weather cooperated for most of the day but started to drizzle around noon time. I think there could have been a better turnout of NJSRA members but all in all it was a great day and another successful yearly event.

Thanks again, Lou, for a great day.

*and Thanks to Dan for this detailed report. ed.*

## **NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE TICKETING**     *Frank Carey*

Here's the latest NJ State Police Initiative (Radio Station 101.5 confirmed this info). Starting July 28, New Jersey will launch a 30-day speeding ticket frenzy. The state estimates that 9 million dollars will be generated in speeding tickets. One million dollars will go to pay state troopers over-time. There will be 50 state troopers on duty at all times patrolling the 9 main intersections and highways as follows:

- I-295 North and South,
- I-95 Jersey Turnpike North and South,
- I-80 East and West,
- I-287 North and South,
- I-78 East and West, I-195 East and West.
- I-280 East and West,
- Route 130 - North and South,
- Garden State Parkway - North and South

5 MPH above the limit can justify a ticket . They have issued 30 brand new unmarked Crown Victoria cruisers and are bringing in all of their part-timers on full time. If you work in NJ, NY, DE or CT, you will probably be on one of these highways. So, please be on guard and drive safely! Starting August 15, the price of a violation to show your driver's license, registration or insurance card at the time you are stopped, increased from \$44.00 to \$173.00. (Keep these documents in your car). And the fine for not having all three documents is \$519.00! The fine for hand-held cell phone use while driving will be going up to \$180.00.

## **ISLAND DRAGWAY TO REOPEN**     *Frank Carey*

Island Dragway in Great Meadows has announced their intent to reopen for the 2013 season. They are hoping they can open as early as July. On Facebook they say: "The rumors of financial hardship are true and we are not out of the woods yet, though with proper management and some luck from the weather we hope to stick around for a long time".

For the full story, see their Facebook post: <https://www.facebook.com/IslandDragway>

## **BATTERIES**     *Frank Carey*

The current issue of *Street Rodder* (August 2013) has a very good article on batteries that you should all read. There's a good explanation of the differences between a regular battery and one of the sealed kind that looks like a 6-pack. Also interesting was an explanation of what goes wrong when a battery is overcharged. An overcharging battery will give off explosive hydrogen. In a regular battery this gas escapes through the vented cell caps. But this problem caused by overcharging is easily remedied by adding water to each cell. But a sealed battery does not have vents. If it is overcharged it will expel the gas through a safety relief valve. Once this happens there is no practical way to add water and premature battery failure will result. So, whatever you do, don't overcharge your sealed battery.

The article also explains a "safety feature" in our battery chargers. Today's chargers won't charge if it senses low resistance which could be caused by a short or a bad cell. But the measured resistance of a sealed battery is different and if the charge drops below 10.5 volts the resistance will have dropped to the point where your battery charger will think something is wrong and won't charge it. There doesn't seem to be a good solution to this problem. Some years ago I discovered that my really, really dead conventional battery couldn't be charged with my super duper whiz bang NAPA charger. I suspected there was some kind of safety "feature" preventing charging and this *Street Rodder* story makes me think I was probably right. I don't remember what I did at the time but I eventually discovered a solution to this problem. I bought a 1950s era battery charger at a swap meet for \$2.00. It does not have the "safety feature" and will charge any really dead battery. But you probably don't want to use one of these very old chargers on your sealed battery and risk overcharging it. If you decide to try it anyway you had better watch it very closely.

## **VINTAGE STREET RODDERS OF AMERICA (VSRA)**     *Frank Carey*

I've written about these guys before. They are a pre-1948 street rod group that was created in response to NSRA raising the cut-off date for cars and they are very good at what they do.

They're holding their Fourth Annual Thunder Road Rod Run on September 27 - 28 at the Appalachian Fairgrounds in Grey, Tennessee. This is in the Johnson City area of eastern Tennessee. They are having a Friday evening cookout at the East Tennessee Distillery in nearby Piney Flats, Tennessee, and that sounds interesting to say the least. This must be bourbon country.

I mention this VSRA event because there was a time when a contingent of North Jersey SRA guys would travel together to such places as the NSRA Nationals in the mid-west, to NSRA events in Burlington and York, and to other out-of state events such as Syracuse and Rhinebeck. And several of us once went to the Run to the Sun in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. So if any of you are still interested in travelling to a good out-of- state event, I predict you'll have a good time if you go to this one. I go to the annual VSRA event in Florida every year and this is a great group of people.

Their flyer notes:

*VSRA is a driving organization which means we recognize  
only the cars that are driven for our picks*

so this tells you something about them.

For additional information call Jim Bledsoe at 423-571-6430. Or check the VSRA website at: [www.VSRA-USA.com](http://www.VSRA-USA.com). If you're a traveler/adventurer, this event is for you.

**INTERNET GOODIES** *Frank Carey*

- Street Outlaws - new TV show <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aj-0swc6CQg&NR=1&feature=endscreen>
- Safety Alert - defective aftermarket steering columns  
<http://www.nz-hotrod.com/vbulletin/showthread.php?8914-LVVTA-Aftermarket-Steering-Column-Safety-Alert>
- Hacking car computers - [http://autos.aol.com/article/the-scary-truth-of-how-terrorists-could-crash-your-car/?icid=maing-grid%7Chtmlws-main-bb%7Cdl17%7Csec1\\_Ink3%26pLid%3D331540](http://autos.aol.com/article/the-scary-truth-of-how-terrorists-could-crash-your-car/?icid=maing-grid%7Chtmlws-main-bb%7Cdl17%7Csec1_Ink3%26pLid%3D331540)

**WHERE DOES ALL OF THE OLD TIN GO?** *Frank Carey*

I'm not sure I know where all the old cars go but here's one way that they are getting there.  
My guess? Somewhere across the Pacific . That ought to be a no-brainer.



**FLAT RATE SHOP CHARGES** *Frank Carey*

AUTO REPAIR PRICE LIST	
Ping-Ping-Ping	35.00
Plunk-Ping-Plunk	50.00
Klunk-Ping-Klunk	125.00
Thud-Klunk-Thud	200.00
Clank-Thud-Klank	325.00

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