



# Upstate Update

The Upstate New York Chapter News

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December 2023

## Chapter Leaders

Director:

John De Fiore

Asst. Director:

Ed Allmond

Treasurer:

Ken Malette

Secretary: & Health and

Wellness Committee:

Rosemary Malette

Membership:

Chris Timber

Newsletter:

Lynda Baum-Jakubiak

Website:

**Tom Proulx**

Facebook:

Simone Zalewski



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

*John De Fiore* Director

All the leaves are down, and the sky's dark grey! Cue the tune made famous by the Mamas and Papas in the 60's.

Winter is upon us, and I am sure your Buicks are put away by now. Maybe some keep the cars handy and ready to go out on a nice day? That's what I do. Somewhere around February, when the conditions are favorable, I usually get one of them out for a pick-me-up short ride. But the fact is, I don't really mind the winter season in our area. Blasphemous as it may sound, I enjoy the winter months without the hobby cars. Mostly because the anticipation of the next driving season usually makes all my cars look better to me.

Whether or not you agree, having your cars put away is not a reason to stop enjoying the camaraderie of our Club. As of this writing we have just finished the Holiday Party at the Briar Creek Golf Club restaurant. If you were not there, you really missed a fabulous meal and a fun time. Many thanks to Tony D'Amelio for paving the way for this event with the chef and restaurant owner, Paul. And many thanks as well to Lynda Baum-Jakubiak and Rosemary Durso Malette for their work organizing and conducting the annual Gift Swap and Trivia game during the event.

We are now in our yearly membership renewal period. We continue to have our monthly dinner/ business meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. We plan to host a "Welcome Back" dinner meeting once again during March 2024. So that's something we can all look forward to.

Then, from there, it will be a short month till it's time to get the cars back out for the next driving season. Easy Peazy!

With that, I want to wish you all a Happy (and peaceful) Holiday this year, and an exciting and fun filled New Year for the next one!

-John

## Announcements:

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEWS:** Greetings friends:

This function is to help spread the news affecting our members. If you want us to know about these things, e-mail your announcement to Rosemary Malette!

No current announcements. Wish everyone a healthy and safe 2024!

## In this issue:

- Editor's Reflections
- Members Attend Senior Events
- Volunteering at the Auction
- Mills Mansion
- 2023 Holiday Party

Thank you to all who contributed articles and pictures for this issue.

## EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS



As 2023 draws to a close, and thoughts are with 2024, lots of reflections about all the fun I had this year. After sending out the September newsletter, I finished overpacking my bag for a trip with UNYBCA-co-member (and my room-mate for a week) Maria Willig, and other car friends, to the Bahamas. That was a great time, for fun, rest, relaxation, looking at yachts outside the hotel balcony, taking long walks., and palm trees. That is why I chose this picture for this issue. Not a bad selfie. Following that trip, I entered in shoulder surgery and glad to say I'm getting better with physical therapy. That is important. My wonderful sister flew up from Florida for several weeks to help me. While I could not drive, she drove my Regal wherever we wanted to go. She even planted some new mums in my front flower bed for me, as I could not do so. Following my sister's time here, a great friend from childhood spent the next week with me. Then I did have a visit from my college room-mate and we had fun visiting an apple orchard. Of course I could not reach or pick apples, but they were tasty none the less. I am so looking forward to plans for next year. I already have a cruise to Alaska booked with family and friends for next September.

So for my current Rivvy story, a few weeks back, I was heading out to meet some (car) friends for dinner. Before I pulled out of the driveway, I noticed that the garage door was open where my Rivvy sits. The simple reason is that I hit the door opener remote by mistake, but the funnier story is that it was the Rivvy telling me, "Hey, take me out!". Unfortunately, I had to close the door and say, "Patience, Rivvy, until the spring!". Well I'm sure many of you are now saying the same thing, as our cars are tucked away for their long winter naps. Some of you may have had a few extra rides out with the mild weather recently, but we all know what is in store. So yes, patience until the spring, but in the meantime, we have lots of planning to do for the 2024 car season. And the monthly club meetings are an opportunity for members to come together for socialization and business. Many come over to the diner early to have dinner together. I do know that I look forward to seeing everyone.

And while you sit back for the holiday season and new year, here's some fun reading for you to have with this newsletter. Hope you enjoy this issue of Upstate Update, and the articles submitted by our members. The next issue will be around March 2024, and I am definitely looking for stories of interest. We want to hear about your endeavors, any trips recently or planned, or other fun things you have been doing. And yes, car stories too!

### CORRECTION TO SEPTEMBER 2023 UPSTATE UPDATE

Please note that the article submitted by John De Fiore on the Morgantown Tri-Regional Meet omitted the mention of one winner. The pictures were correct though. Frank and Jean Stark, and Ed Allmond, brought home awards in their class. In addition, Ken Malette also took an award for his Reatta. The great picture is worth a re-posting here!

**The TRIVIA QUESTION that was in the September Issue was also a hint for Trivia questions at the holiday party. What year was there not a T-Shirt for Cruise-In To Summer (CITS)?** Answer: 2021. The return of CITS

after the 2020 Pandemic cancellation. For the first time in CITS-History, there was no T-Shirt, as planning takes time, and everything was "iffy" for events to be happening. Glad we had the CITS—but no special shirt.



## Members Attend Senior Center Events by Cruisemaster Ed

During the month of August, 2023, UNYBCA members attended two different “car show” events at Capital District senior living residences.

On Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, from 2-5 pm, a show was held at Peregrine Assisted Living in Guilderland. Out of 13 cars in the show, 8 were UNYBCA member’s cars. The event, organized by Cathy Martino and Ed Allmond (AKA me, Cruisemaster Ed), with help from Dominica Bleichert and Madeline Forman, who work at the facility. This fun time included food, music, awards, and the opportunity to meet some wonderful seniors who live at the residence. This included spending time with Virginia, Cathy’s mother, who is a resident at Peregrine.

The residents came out and enjoyed looking at the cars and talking to the owners. The event was capped off with the residents voting on their favorite cars, with three trophies handed out for the top vote getters. Congratulations to all winners! The awards went to: Kevin Devenpeck (1967 Jaguar XKE Roadster). Kevin even received a marriage proposal from a ‘young’ senior lady smitten with his sexy Jag; Bill Traver (1966 Buick Gran Sport convertible).; Ed Marcy (1971 Ford Bronco).



Just a few days later, on Tuesday, August 22, a car show was held from 1pm to 3pm at the Beverwyck Independent Senior Living Center in Slingerlands. I assisted Jim Kelly, Supervisor of Activities at the Beverwyck, and Ashley Evola, Manager of Activities, in organizing the show.

Eight club member cars out of a total of sixteen cars were in attendance to help Beverwyck celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This one included root beer floats and live music provided by a duo who played everyone's favorite oldies. As with the Peregrine show, the residents came out to check out the cars and reminisce with the owners about the cars they remember. And we enjoyed talking to them!

Residents and participants alike seemed to enjoy these shows, and they were a pleasure to organize. I look forward to more of the same next year.



## VOLUNTEERING AT THE AUCTION

By Cruisemaster Ed

The Saratoga Automobile Auction took place Friday and Saturday, September 22 & 23, 2023. I have attended this auction in past years as a spectator but decided this year to see it from the inside as a volunteer. Friday morning, I worked at the car check-in tent and Saturday I was a car pusher for the duration of the auction. The check-in tent is where cars going through the auction have their VIN and paperwork verified before being released onto the auction field. My Friday duties consisted of taping a sheet of paper on the right side of the car's windshield which showed the car's Lot Number for the auction and a description of the car and its features, basically the same info listed online. I then looped a zip tie around the car's steering column and through the key fob or ignition key, making sure there was ample slack in the zip tie for the driver to start the car. A driver then took the car to its designated spot in the lineup.

I had Friday afternoon free so my wife, Bonnie, and our friend, Thom, came up and we previewed the cars, picking out the ones we would bid on if we were inclined to do so. The auction on Friday started at 5 but we didn't stay around for that. My Saturday duties consisted of pushing the cars off the auction block when instructed to do so. The drivers would drive the car up on the block, shut the car off, put the car in neutral with the ignition lock off (if so equipped), and wait for us pushers to push it off the block and down the exit ramp, at which point the driver would start the car and park it in either the sold or unsold area. There were at any given time 5 to 8 available pushers waiting unseen behind a curtain next to the on ramp and, when the auctioneer said, "Roll the car", we would be signaled by the staging manager to walk up to the car and push it. Most cars only needed 3 pushers, one left, one right, and one middle, and we had to be careful not to push on taillights, spoilers, or any other delicate areas. The rear bumper was the most common push area but if a car had a sharp crease on the trunk or something of that nature, it was okay to push there. There was always someone watching us to make sure we didn't place our hands in the wrong area. We would then hustle back behind another curtain to take our places in line, ready to push again.

It was an interesting experience. Checking cars in was very routine and Friday is not a busy day as most cars had already been checked in earlier in the week. Pushing was fun but very physical. Being the 70-year-old kid that I am I pushed as many cars as I could from 11am to 4:30 pm and was pretty beat by the end of the day. I took a nice hot shower and a couple Advil when I got home and felt fine the next day. If I decide to push again, I will pace myself better than I did this year. I would like to be a driver next year if I volunteer again, but pushing puts you in the middle of the action. You see the cars lining up, hear them run when they drive up onto the block, see how the stager manages them, can watch the bidding audience through the curtain, hear everything the auctioneer says, and get your hands on a whole bunch of cars. It was worth the two Advil.

### BUICKS THAT WENT THROUGH THE AUCTION (Highest bid means not sold)

1965 Special Conv	SOLD \$26,400
1977 Riviera	SOLD \$15,400
1987 Grand National	HIGHEST BID \$57,500
1968 GS400 Conv	SOLD \$30,800
1970 Electra 225 2dr HT	HIGHEST BID \$17,500
1988 LeSabre Wagon	HIGHEST BID \$8,000

For Complete Auction Results Visit [Previous Results](#) | Saratoga Motorcar Auction ([saratogaautoauction.org](http://saratogaautoauction.org))

## MILLS MANSION SHOW OCTOBER 2023

By Cathy Martino

Several members of the UNYBCA, along with other car friends, in a caravan of six vehicles, took a nice cruise down to Mills Mansion on Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>, which has become somewhat of a tradition to end the car show / cruise-in season. It almost looked like it might not happen as the weather man predicted an all-day rain event in the week leading up to the show. However, the gods smiled on us, and the weather was (almost) perfect. We had blue skies with puffy white clouds and an occasional dark cloud to keep us on our toes. Luckily, the rain held off until we were safely on our way home.

The leaf colors were a bit muted, and the Hudson looked very chilly, but by all appearances, there were a lot of happy faces roaming around looking at the ever beautiful and grand autos in attendance. There seemed to be some rides there that were new to the show, as our group was saying that they hadn't been seen before. Attendance was down a bit, but enough people braved the forecast, and I **think all of** us enjoyed the day. We had some nice conversations with the Red Hook contingent (members of our club), who work to put the show together each year. And we actually made a few new acquaintances while there as well. Some club members went on their own, but were seen walking around the field. When the air started to chill a bit in the late afternoon, we left for Red Hook for a meal at Charlie O's. Always a good choice, and a tradition. Great burgers! If the Mills Mansion cruise is not something that you've participated in yet, you might want to keep it in mind for next October."



## SEASONAL POEM

By Lynda Baum-Jakubiak

Although the winter is a coming, and this is not the time for shows, we can think towards next year, and all the rid-ings we will go! There will be Rhinebeck in the spring, and the Lawn Show in June, and don't forget Cruise In To Summer, as these are the thoughts that get us through the winter gloom.

There will be Leadfoot Lucy, which starts up in May, and the shows will be out there, to fill up a nice warm spring or summer weekend day! But we still have to get through the winter, and all it will bring, like the monthly club meet-ings, so we will be seeing each other before spring. As we think towards the new year to come, make sure you have paid your 2024 dues. If you have not paid yet, make sure you do that, and don't snooze! And if you find yourself dur-ing the winter, trying to avoid chores you could be completing, go ahead and take some time, to catch up with your Buick Club Minutes and Newsletter reading.

Happy New Year to All!

## UNYBCA AND CADILLAC CLUB'S COMBINED HOLIDAY PARTY 2023

By Lynda Baum-Jakubiak

Everyone had a lot of fun at the holiday party, which was held on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Once again, it took place at the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Café at Briar Creek Golf Course in Duaneburg. This was the third time that the UNYBCA and the Capital District Cadillac-LaSalle Club joined forces, to bring both clubs together for socialization, fun, great food, and good times.

The UNYBCA Board members and others arrived early to set up for the party. This included the table for the gifts people were bringing for the gift exchange, and the area where the name tags were placed in alphabetical order. Those name tags are used year after year, but some were new for the party newbies! Tony D'Amelio and Maria Wilig prepared the usual little bags with candies that they placed at the tables for each party attendee. Some may not



On the left is Ken Malette, Treasurer, checking the “books”.

Although the weather outside was frightful (very dark and rainy), we were glad it was not snowy. Once inside there was a fire in the fireplace that was delightful, really setting a nice party atmosphere. When everyone arrived, they chose their seats. Although it may have appeared as assigned seating, it was not. It is interesting how the Cadillac Club members chose the round tables by the window, and the Buick Club members chose the long tables, just like the previous years. But there was mixed representation, as a few people are members of both clubs.

There was time for socializing before the food was ready, and the party was officially started with two short welcoming speeches by John DeFiore, Director of the UNYBCA, and Barry Cox, the President of the Cadillac Club. Then, in an organized fashion, everyone was asked to go up to the buffet, table by table, giving some time first, for those who needed a little more time or assistance. This system worked out well, and should be noted, so we remember that for next year!





The food was delicious, including chicken parm and prime rib, and cake for dessert. Everyone enjoyed the delectables, while conversing at their tables. Then came time for the holiday story by Lynda Baum-Jakubiak, which was interactive, for example, asking people about any fun trips they had this year, or who when to a Regional or National car show. Everyone was ask if they would like to do this together again next year, and the vote was unanimous to do so!







Then came the party trivia, another party tradition, which takes a lot of preparation by hosts Lynda Baum-Jakubiak and Rosemary Durso Malette. Every year, prior to the party, they get together to work on the secret questions and prepare the format. But it should be known, that some of the trivia comes from newsletters and meeting minutes from both clubs, and their respective Facebook pages and websites. Lynda thanked Ray Stanton from the Cadillac Club for supplying the Cadillac Club newsletters/minutes.

The gift exchange is not mandatory, but definitely fun if you participate. This year, prior to choosing their gift from the table, participants had to answer a trivia question. If they didn't know the answer, that was okay, they could "ask a friend" from the audience to help them. In the end, all questions were answered with a correct answer. We learned that either Ed Marcy or Ted Sweet have the most cars, and that Sarah Stewart was the youngest member there at the party. Also we learned that CITS for 2024 is on Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup>, and has a rain date (that we don't want to think about) for the first time.

**And for the ones who didn't make the party, make sure you tell them all about it! Again, and again, and again! Maybe they will be able to make it next year!**

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