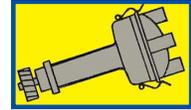


# THE DISTRIBUTOR



NEWS FOR MEMBERS OF THE  
**BAY COUNTRY REGION**  
ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA



VOLUME 22, ISSUES 1 & 2

APRIL/MAY 2021

## THE BETTERTON LUNCH BUNCH

By Carol Grant  
Photos by Carol and Lee Caplan



The Bay Country Region's first Lunch Bunch ride of 2021 was a success! May 13<sup>th</sup> was the perfect day! Gathered in the Hyde Park parking lot at 10:45 AM, smiles and laughter were immediately apparent by all. We were geared up and ready to ride for the first time since our activities were halted due to the pandemic.

At 11:00 AM, we hopped in our cars and rode, and rode, and rode! While the trip took over an hour, we found ourselves on comfortable back roads riding at a pace that seemed to please all BCR participating members. Neil and Carol led the group of 10 vehicles, with the VW bus later labeled as an easily viewed first vehicle! Neil kept an eye in the rearview mirror for the end of the pack, and everyone stayed together and arrived safely.

The most difficult part of the trip for some was locating the dirt driveway that took us up to the Mary Roe Walkup Picnic Pavilion, hidden from the road by its location. We passed the pavilion with members who brought their lunches going to the pavilion, while others continued to Marzella's by the Bay to pick up their preordered lunches.

Our membership of 22 filled half the pavilion, enjoying lunch, sharing conversation, and laughing with old friends. After lunch, many people enjoyed a walk on the beach or just time gazing down on the beach and water from the walkway. The weather was gorgeous, and the sky was blue! Many concluded the event by stopping at The Freeze in Chestertown for a perfectly appropriate ice cream treat! *(More photos on Page 5)*

## THE CAR RADIO, AN INTERESTING STORY

Radios are so much a part of the driving experience, it seems like cars have always had them. But they didn't. Here's the story.

### SUNDOWN

One evening in 1929 two young men named William Lear and Elmer Wavering drove their girlfriends to a lookout point high above the Mississippi River town of Quincy, Illinois, to watch the sunset. It was a romantic night to be sure, but one of the women observed that it would be even nicer if they could listen to music in the car.

Lear and Wavering liked the idea. Both men had tinkered with radios – Lear had served as a radio operator in the U. S. Navy during World War I – and it wasn't long before they were taking apart a home radio and trying to get it to work in a car. But it wasn't as easy as it sounds: automobiles have ignition switches, generators, spark plugs, and other electrical equipment that generate noisy static interference, making it nearly impossible to listen to the radio when the engine was running.

### SIGNING ON

One by one, Lear and Wavering identified and eliminated each source of electrical interference. When they finally got their radio to work, they took it to a radio convention in Chicago. There they met Paul Galvin, owner of Galvin Manufacturing Corporation. He made a product called a "battery eliminator" a device that allowed battery-powered radios to run on household AC current. But as more homes were wired for electricity, more radio manufacturers made AC-powered radios. Galvin needed a new product to manufacture. When he met Lear and Wavering at the radio convention, he found it. He believed that mass-produced, affordable car radios had the potential to become a huge business.

Lear and Wavering set up shop in Galvin's factory, and when they perfected their first radio, they installed it in his Studebaker. Then Galvin went to a local banker to apply for a loan. Thinking it might sweeten the deal, he had his men install a radio in the banker's Packard. Good idea, but it didn't work – half an hour after the installation, the banker's Packard caught on fire. (They didn't get the loan.)

Galvin didn't give up. He drove his Studebaker nearly 800 miles to Atlantic City to show off the radio at the 1930 Radio Manufacturers Association convention. Too broke to afford a booth, he parked the car outside the convention hall and cranked up the radio so that passing conventioners could hear it. That idea worked – he got enough orders to put the radio into production.

### WHAT'S IN A NAME

That first production model was called the 5T71. Galvin decided he needed to come up with something a little catchier. In those days many companies in the phonograph and radio businesses used the suffix "ola" for their names – Radiola, Columbiola, and Victrola were three of the biggest. Galvin decided to do the same thing, and since his radio was intended for use in a motor vehicle, he decided to call it the Motorola. But even with the name change, the radio still had problems:

When Motorola went on sale in 1930, it cost about \$110 uninstalled, at a time when you could buy a brand-new car for \$650, and the country was sliding into the Great Depression. (By that measure, a radio for a new car would cost about \$3,000 today.)

In 1930 it took two men several days to put in a car radio – the dashboard had to be taken apart so that the receiver and a single speaker could be installed, and the ceiling had to be cut open to install the antenna. These early radios ran on their own batteries, not on the car battery, so holes had to be cut into the floorboard to accommodate them. The installation manual had eight complete diagrams and 28 pages of instructions.

### HIT THE ROAD

Selling complicated car radios that cost 20 percent of the price of a brand-new car wouldn't have been easy in the best of times, let alone during the Great Depression – Galvin lost money in 1930 and struggled for a couple of years after that. But things picked up in 1933 when Ford began offering Motorolas pre-installed at the factory. In 1934 they got another boost when Galvin struck a deal with B. F. Goodrich tire company to sell and install them in its chain of tire stores. By then the price of the radio, installation included, had dropped to \$55. The Motorola car radio was off and running. (The name of the company would be officially changed from Galvin Manufacturing to "Motorola" in 1947.)

In the meantime, Galvin continued to develop new uses for car radios. In 1936, the same year that it introduced push-button tuning, it also introduced the Motorola Police Cruiser, a standard car radio that was factory preset to a single frequency to pick up police broadcasts. In 1940 he developed the first handheld two-way radio – the Handie-Talkie – for the U. S. Army.

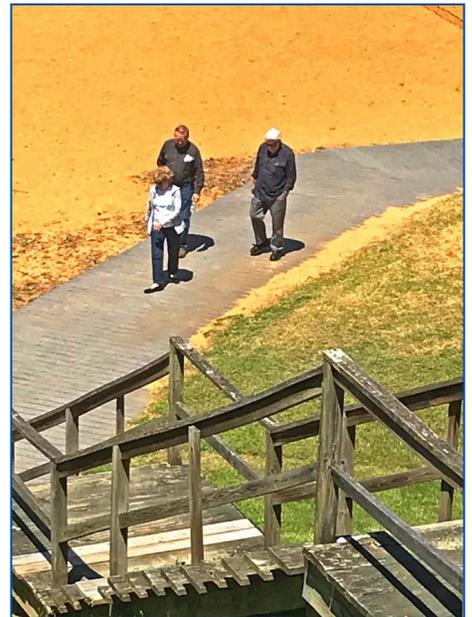
A lot of the communications technologies that we take for granted today were born in Motorola labs in the years that followed World War II. In 1947 they came out with the first television to sell under \$200. In 1956 the company introduced the world's first pager; in 1969 it supplied the radio and television equipment that was used to televise Neil Armstrong's first steps on the Moon. In 1973 it invented the world's first handheld cellular phone. Today [2005] Motorola is one of the second-largest cell phone manufacturer in the world. And it all started with the car radio.

### WHATEVER HAPPENED TO....

The two men who installed the first radio in Paul Galvin's car, Elmer Wavering and William Lear, ended up taking very different paths in life. **Wavering stayed with Motorola.** In the 1950's he helped change the automobile experience again when he **developed the first automotive alternator**, replacing inefficient and unreliable generators. The invention led to such luxuries as power windows, power seats, and, eventually, air-conditioning.

**Lear also continued inventing.** He holds more than 150 patents. Remember **eight-track tape players**? Lear invented that. But what he's really famous for are his contributions to the field of aviation. He invented **radio direction finders for planes**, aided in the in-

# MORE OF THE BETTERTON LUNCH BUNCH



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To Bay Country Region Club Members:

Ken wanted to get a newsletter out quickly so he could devote a subsequent issue to the AACA Eastern Divisional Tour. I agree that the tour deserves its own issue, and with Ken and Sally participating in the event there should be good coverage.

WE HAD AN IN-PERSON EVENT! Carol and Neil Grant planned a picnic at Betterton Beach. It was a pleasant drive and they arranged for us to order takeout food from a nearby deli. (See separate article). Thanks, Carol and Neil, -job well done.

At the picnic the board voted in Danny Morris to fill the vacant spot. Thanks, Danny, and congratulations.

Lou Doll and Carol Grant have put together a drive around event to two elder communities. On June 24 we will meet at the Hyde Park parking lot at 10:00 am. Around 10:20 we will tour Hyde Park then drive over to Bayleigh Chase, arriving about 11:00. Lou has arranged parking and possibly refreshments. Hopefully residents will come out to look over the cars. From there we will go to Easton Diner for lunch. I hope we get a good turnout.

The June General Membership Meeting will be virtual. It is set for June 16 at 6:30 PM. Craig will be sending the invite. IT IS CRITICAL WE GET A QUORUM. The Board has a recommendation for the Summer Picnic set for September 18, but it requires general membership action. There will be no general membership meeting between June and the picnic.

The AACA has sent me 20 raffle tickets for \$10 each. The prize is a 1973 Jeep Commando or \$5000. Let me know if you would like a ticket. The drawing is October 2 at the Hershey Field Meet. You do not have to be present to win.

The Board has set the general membership meetings for the rest of the year. The October 20 and November 17 meetings will be in person at the Easton Diner. There will be no September meeting (picnic) or December meeting (Christmas Dinner). Remember the meetings will start at 7:00 not 7:30.

I look forward to the fellowship of meeting in person.

Sincerely,  
*Ed Nabb*

**ITEMS FOR THE DISTRIBUTOR** should be submitted by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Submissions from members are greatly appreciated. Tell us about, or show us, your cars (and trucks) and what you are doing with them. If you're planning an event, here's the place to describe it.

Electronic submissions are preferred. Having avoided learning how to type all these years, the Editor doesn't want to have to learn now. On the other hand, photos and illustrations can be scanned, with no typing necessary, so send anything that you would like the membership to see.

Use the **BAY COUNTRY REGION HOTLINE** to:

- find out about activity changes, club emergencies, etc.
- pass along urgent information to all club members

Contact **Lee Caplan** at 919-636-0955 or [lcaplan@icloud.com](mailto:lcaplan@icloud.com)

### THE BAY COUNTRY REGION, AACA

The purpose of the club shall be the preservation, use, and enjoyment of self-propelled antique, classic, and special interest vehicles and related parts, materials, and services. The Board of Directors of the Region shall meet on the first Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise specified. Membership meetings are scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month, except July and August. Meeting announcements will be carried each month in the newsletter. Articles for the newsletter are welcomed and members are encouraged to submit news about personal interest items to the editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### KENT ISLAND CRUISERS

**27 Ford Model T Roadster Pickup**, turn key, 302, C4, 12 bolt, almost all Ford, \$16,500.

**40 Packard Coupe**, Amazingly solid project, crate 350, 700R4, Tilt column, Disc brakes, tons of parts \$15k

**41 Ford Super Deluxe Coupe**, Flathead V8 with goodies, running/driving, Fine car that needs driven, \$25k.

**51 Ford Custom Tudor**, Flathead V8 with goodies, been in storage 3 years, Fine car that needs driven, \$25k.

**56 Thunderbird**, solid project, both tops, cont. kit shaved, manual trans, stuck motor from sitting \$10k

**88 Suburban 4x4** parts truck, \$1100.

**Model A Engine display stand**, \$100.

**53-73 Ford Fiberglass Rear Fenders +3"** \$750./pair

Pics at [bchevy7@yahoo.com](mailto:bchevy7@yahoo.com); Bob 443 496 2887

### CHESAPEAKE REGION

**40 Ford Standard Tudor-Sedan 'body off' restoration**-completed in 2000. Original Ford light pastel green. NOS 1948, 239 V8 with 59 AB cast iron heads. Offenhauser aluminum intake manifold, two Ford 94 2-barrel carburetors. LeBaron Bonney interior kit, tan cloth seat upholstery, door and side panels, headliner and windlace, rear carpeting and front vinyl floor covering. Fitted trunk mat and cardboard side panels, spare tire and tool kit, \$28,500. Taneytown Maryland, call 'Vincent' at 410.756.4886.



**FOR SALE: Car books, magazines, calendars, posters, fabric, car covers, car models, and much more automobilia.** Call John Krupinsky 410-922-3808

**Transmission for a big block Mopar, probably from the sixties--I've owned it since 1986.** Previous owner said it was in good working order and out of a Chrysler. Has an internal parking pawl (park range). Detailed photos available upon request, make offer. Contact Bob Lenio at: [radiolenio@gmail.com](mailto:radiolenio@gmail.com)

**1957 LINCOLN CAPRI HARDTOP FOR SALE--**appeared in the 2017 movie, *'The Post.'* Speedometer stopped working at around 70k miles. Have receipts from the previous owner for work done to the car. Engine rebuilt, car runs good, drives and stops nicely. Brakes replaced last year. New brake hoses, front wheel cylinders, brake shoes from the parts car which were in good condition. Lights work, gas and oil pressure gauges work. Vacuum wipers converted to electric. Many manuals included. Comes with a 1956 Lincoln parts car. Same front and rear glass, same engine, transmission and other parts. Asking \$11,500. Billy Gibson: 301-789-7236; [billsmetal@yahoo.com](mailto:billsmetal@yahoo.com)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JUNE

- 1 **BCR Board Meeting**
- 2-5 **AACA Eastern Divisional Tour (up to 1995); Cambridge, MD; Charles Emery: 410-742-8342**
- 15 **St. Michaels Classic Motor Museum Open House; 5:30-7:30 pm. A chance to explore their facility and vehicles.**
- 16 **BCR Monthly Business Meeting**
- 17-19 **AACA Eastern Spring Nationals—Saratoga Springs, NY**
- 24 **Visit to Hyde Park and Bayleigh Chase—Meet at Hyde Park at 10:00 am**
- 26 **Eastern Shore Region AACA /First State Antique Tractor Club CAR, TRUCK, & TRACTOR SHOW—Laurel Auction Block, Laurel, DE 10am - 3pm, Reg. 9am. Flea Market/ Craft Fair, DSP K-9 Demo, Tractor Parade, Food Vendors. Rain Date: 6/27**

### JULY

- 3 **St. Michaels Classic Motor Museum Parade; assemble at Perry Cabin Park, 9:00-10:00 am. \$40.00, to benefit the museum's campus operating fund.**

### 6 BCR Board Meeting

### AUGUST

- 1 **Chesapeake Classic Car Club Car & Truck Show, Talbot County Community Center. Reg. \$15, day of, from 8:00 am**
- 3 **BCR Board Meeting. 1:00-2:00 pm; at the home of Cathy Prouse**

### SEPTEMBER

- 18 **BCR Picnic**
- 25 **Eastern Shore Region AACA/Hebron Lions Club Car Show— Hebron Lions Community Ball Park, 214 W. Church Street, Hebron, MD. 21830 Peoples Choice Class and Judged Classes Judged classes are: Class I-Thru 1949, Class II-1950-1959, Class III-1960-1969, Class IV-1970-1996, Class V-Commercial Thru 1996 Dash Plaques and trophies. Info:Buck Burton 410-251-1121 or burtons31981@comcast.net**

### ONE MORE CLASSIFIED

**Cadillac Parts and Literature 1950 - 2000**, Literature for other cars also. **Call Cell# 484-326-7982**

## BAY COUNTRY REGION

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	Diann Prah	410-820-2210	
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	Danny Morris	410-673-7032	dabeach98@gmail.com
Calendar	Ken Briers	202-841-6851	ken.briers@gmail.com
Tech. Advisor:	<b>Open</b>		
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	Lee Caplan	919-636-0955	lcaplan@me.com
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**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/BayCountryRegionAACA/>

## THE CAR RADIO, FROM PAGE 2

vention of **the autopilot**, designed the first fully automatic aircraft landing system, and in 1963 introduced his most famous invention of all, **the Lear Jet**, the world's first mass-produced, affordable business jet. (Not bad for a guy who dropped out of school after the eighth grade.)

While there is much more to the history of car radios than that told in the story above. It is still interesting to see how two men, aided by a suggestion of one of their girlfriends, could turn that idea into a company that became Motorola, a GIANT in the electronics industry.

*A Learavian radio, by none other then William Lear:*



<https://www.antiqueradiomuseum.org/thecarradio.htm>

## FOUND ON THE STREET IN DC

As I left the dentist recently, and was walking to the subway, I took these photos on I Street, NW, just two blocks from the White House. It appears to be a 1973 Ford LTD Coupe.

Lookin' pretty good after 48 years! The scariest thing to me, at my age, is that the car is 48 years old!

**Ken**



**BAY COUNTRY DISTRIBUTOR  
APRIL/MAY 2021**

**KEN BRIERS  
736 5TH ST NE APT B  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002-3587**



*Coming up:  
June 24th  
Visit to Hyde Park  
and  
Bayleigh Chase*

FIRST CLASS MAIL

**INSIDE: THE LUNCH IN BETTERTON**

**BIRTHDAYS**

6/9	MIKE MURRAY	7/3	BUCK BURTON	7/18	CHARLES EMERY
6/13	BUD STORY	7/8	ED NABB	7/22	HELEN PLUTSCHAK
6/17	MARY JANE FRITZ	7/15	BARBARA GARDELLA	7/30	TRUDY HAMILTON
6/21	BARBARA EMERY	7/16	HENRY SCHMIDT	7/30	DANNY MORRIS
6/23	ELEANOR SMITH	7/17	HARRIET REICHARD	8/2	GEORGE HATCHER
6/25	WAYNE MORGAN	7/18	JEANNE AVEY	8/03	MAX AVEY

**ALSO FOUND ON THE STREET**

Last weekend we found these gems up in Chesapeake City. One is a 1965 Rambler American. The other is a Sunbeam Talbot Alpine, circa 1953-55.

*Ken*

