

explore

LI

exploreLI.com

Plus HELLO, OCTOBER
EVENTS CALENDAR
B13



ready, set, show!

YESTERDAY'S RACE CARS MAKE A PIT STOP
IN BRIDGEHAMPTON B2

exploreLI.com
/xteam

WEEKEND
Make plans now!



all.com weekend!



Vintage cars will be on display all day, but be there by 11 a.m. to catch the parade.

Poker road rally ups the ante

BY JIM MERRITT
Special to Newsday

The vintage autos taking over Bridgehampton's streets this weekend will be calling attention to the racier side of this quiet East End community.

"There's a strong [street] racing history in Bridgehampton," says John Eilertsen, executive director of the Bridgehampton Historical Society, which sponsors its annual road rally tomorrow.

Eilertsen says Bridgehampton street racing began in 1915 on Main Street and Ocean Road, and was revived in 1949. However, in 1953, a vehicle hit Sagg Bridge and the driver died.

During the rally, an exhibition of

vintage cars, posters and other artifacts recalls the heyday of the old Bridgehampton Raceway, where racing continued after it was outlawed on public byways in New York State.

PHOTO BY ANDREW S. HARTWELL



PHOTO BY RANDEE DADDONA

No, he's not Bond . . . James Bond. Jim Shelly drives a 1953 Aston Martin DB2 owned by Jon Auerbach, a car 007 could love. ON THE COVER That's the DB2, too.

Bridgehampton Days 2011

WHEN | WHERE 10 a.m.-6 p.m. tomorrow (vintage race car exhibition) with parade at 11 a.m. before cars depart for noon-3:30 p.m. vintage car road rally, Bridgehampton Historical Society/Corwith House, 2368 Montauk Hwy., Bridgehampton
INFO 631-537-1088, bridgehamptonrally.org
ADMISSION Free for spectators (\$75 road rally car entry; registration deadline is today)

About the rally

Since 1993, the historical society has commemorated the street-racing era with an annual road rally. This year's Bridgehampton Historical Society's Vintage Automobile Poker Rally is open to anyone who registers and pays the fee, with a limit of about 35 vehicles. Participating vehicles must have been built before 1960.

After an 11 a.m. parade of vintage autos on the 1949 street racing circuit, cars will start leaving around noon. At four stops along a 70-mile route on the East End, the teams will choose a playing card at random from a deck. (There also will be stops at historic sites for history trivia questions.) Upon returning to the historical society grounds, teams will pick a final playing card, and the best poker hand wins.

"It's not a highly competitive event," Eilertsen says. "We're starting to get parents with one of their children as the navigator."

Race cars on display

Stay behind and meet members of the Bridgehampton Racing Heritage Group. After street racing ended in 1953, a 2.85-mile racing circuit opened in 1957. For 35 years, the Bridgehampton Raceway, with its scenic view of Peconic Bay, attracted some of road racing's greatest and best-known drivers, including movie star Paul Newman. It closed in the early 1980s and is now the site of a golf course.

Guy Frost, an amateur racer and group member from Roslyn, says an attempt is being made to attract vehicles that raced on the circuit. One of the vehicles expected to be there is an Aston Martin, a luxury British sports car like the one featured in James Bond films.

Posters and 8-mm movies taken at the raceway will be displayed inside a historical society building. One of the movies was shot with an in-car camera. Watching the film, Frost says, "you actually feel like you're driving the course."

Frost also plans to show a 24-by-36-inch reproduction of a vintage painting by renowned German artist Walter Gotschke that depicts "cars coming down the hill at Bridgehampton, in about 1967."

Find other fun events
across L.I.



exploreLI.com
/weekend