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## Apples to be ready early this year

Capital Region apple enthusiasts are likely to be able to take a trip to their favorite pick-your-own orchard several weeks earlier this year.

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## Carl Strock

THE VIEW FROM HERE

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Aug. 14 - Behind the Broadcast: Controversy follows Gray  
Aug. 14 - Off the

# Return of 'The Beast'

Historic ALCO racing car to be at auto museum, Schenectady City Hall

By Bill Buell (Contact)  
Gazette Reporter

Thursday, August 19, 2010



Brandon Salls, art director at the Saratoga Automobile Museum, looks at a glass-plate negative of the ALCO-8 Black Beast with Ed Fernau, a member of the Mohawk-Hudson chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. (Photo by Bill Buell/Gazette Reporter)

There are more than 30,000 negatives making up ALCO Historic Photos, but not all of them are images of steam locomotives.

In fact, the American Locomotive Company also made a few automobiles during its day, and a handful of photographs documenting that enterprise, as well as the real thing — the Black Beast — will be on display Friday from 5-9 p.m. at Schenectady's City Hall and Saturday from 1-3 p.m. at the Saratoga Automobile Museum.

Winner of the Vanderbilt Cup on Long Island in 1909 and 1910, the Black Beast was one of four special racing cars built by ALCO's plant in Providence, R.I., which manufactured 1,100 automobiles from 1908-1913. Only 12 of those cars exist, and the Black Beast, also referred to as the ALCO-8, is the only racer still around.

Howard Kroplick of East Hills, Long Island, owns the car, which was driven to victory in the Vanderbilt Cup by Harry Grant. Grant also drove the car to a 33rd-place finish in the 1911 Indianapolis 500, but after one more race the Black Beast was retired. The car has been owned by several people since it was built, and was purchased by Kroplick in 2009 from an owner in Belgium.

## The ALCO-8 Black Beast

**WHERE and WHEN:** 5-9 p.m. Friday at Schenectady City Hall, Jay Street; and 1-3 p.m. Saturday, on the lawn of the Saratoga Automobile Museum, 110 Avenue of the Pines, Saratoga Springs.

**HOW MUCH:** Free

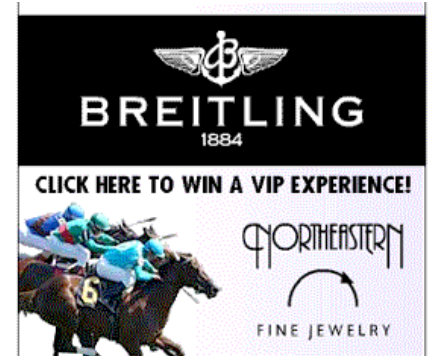
**MORE INFO:** 587-1935 ([Saratoga Automobile Museum](#)) or [email info@artnightschenectady.com](mailto:info@artnightschenectady.com)

resident who is chairman of ALCO Historic Photos. "We have more than 30,000 negatives in our collection, and probably only between 200 to 250 are automobile negatives. Making automobiles back in those days cost a lot of money, and ALCO was only in the business for a few years."

The ALCO Historic Photos collection is currently housed at Schenectady's City Hall,

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- ☐ I'm in favor of the plan
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- ☐ I have no opinion

[See the results](#)

Music in the clubs:

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Thursday, August 19, 2010

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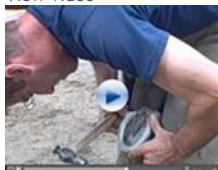
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### Photo Galleries



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posted Aug. 18, 2010



Fun at the Altamont Fair  
posted Aug. 18, 2010

but that wasn't always the case. That is, however, where the collection had its first of many homes soon after the company went out of business in 1969.

"Before they went out of business, ALCO donated some older glass-plate negatives to the city, and soon after that ALCO Historic Photos was born," said Fullam, a Clifton Park resident. "At some point the collection was moved to the library at Union College and when they needed the space, it was moved again to the downtown YMCA. From there it went to a building at the General Electric, then to Proctors, which had an exhibit in the arcade, and then back to City Hall."

On most Monday nights during the year, Fernau, Fullam and others meet at City Hall to work on the collection.

### Preserving negatives

"The whole purpose of our organization is to preserve them for future generations, so we are continuing our preservation work," said Fernau. "What that entails right now is taking these negatives out of their old manila envelopes and placing them in archival acid-free envelopes. To raise money for our activities, we do sell images at train shows and through a mail-order business."

It was Schenectady City/County historian Don Rittner who contacted Klopnick late last year and invited him to bring his special relic to the Capital Region.

"I had researched and written about the Black Beast, so when somebody e-mailed me in December saying they had found the Black Beast I was surprised," said Rittner.

"I found out some information about Howard, and I contacted him and invited him to Schenectady. Then I called the people at the Saratoga Automobile Museum and told them about it and they were very interested."

"When Don called us up and said he thought our place was the right place to show this off we agreed," said Alan Edstrom, director of programs and events at the Saratoga Automobile Museum.

"Then, Pete Fullam is a member of the Adirondack Triumph Association, who also happens to be involved with the ALCO group, and he knew they had some photos of the Black Beast."

When Fullam brought some negatives to show Edstrom and Brandon Salls, art director at the museum, they made an interesting discovery.

"We have a historic photo that Howard e-mailed us, and in the ALCO group we found another shot that was literally taken a second or two after Howard's photograph," said Edstrom.

"You can tell it's the same people in the photograph. Howard didn't believe me when I told him because he's a big collector and he said he's seen everything of the Black Beast. It blew him away when I told him it's almost the same exact photo, but not quite."

### Talk by owner

Friday night's event at City Hall will include a lecture at 7 p.m. by Klopnick, and is part of the History Roundtable that Rittner conducts the third Friday night of each month.

Saturday's showing in Saratoga is part of the British Motorfest put on each year by the Adirondack Triumph Association and hosted by the museum.

Also on display at the museum is the collection of classic "Woodies" owned by Charlie and Marie Montano of Gloversville.

Various models make up the exhibit. including an unrestored 1942 Oldsmobile. a

Thursday, August 19, 2010

Theresa Broadwell Duo	The Stockade Inn 7 p.m. Free
Running the River	Moon & River Cafe 8 p.m. Free
Soul Session	Gaffney's Restaurant 8 p.m. Free
Saving Atlantis	The Irish Times 9 p.m. Free
Shannon McNally and Hot Sauce, with Restys	Valentine's 8 p.m.
Mike LePoint	Bailey's Cafe 9 p.m. Free
Franklin Micare	Seven Horse Pub 7 p.m.
Streak	Valentine's 8 p.m.
Matt McCabe and Rick Bolton	The Olde Bryan Inn 6 p.m. Free
Open Mike	Caffe Lena 7 p.m. \$3

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**THE GAZETTE**

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Hometown Heroes  
posted Aug. 16, 2010

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