



# Sidelights

The Official Newsletter of the  
Santa Rosa Horseless Carriage Club of America  
**January/February 2025**



**Next Meetings:** March 13<sup>th</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm

Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at Round Table Pizza, 2065 Occidental Rd, Santa Rosa

## **Santa Rosa Horseless Carriage Club Installation Dinner and Monthly Meeting January 26, 2025**

*By Cinda Craven*



**Attendees:** Clockwise from left: Cinda Craven, Donna Jones, Linda Pearson, John Pearson, Guy Smith, Linda Eggleston, Kim Simoni, Wayne Simoni, Vicky Porter, Michelle Smith, Bill Scales, Stan Ramondo, Don Johnson, Pam Johnson.

This was the first time in many years that our installation dinner was not held in Occidental at the Union Hotel. The club has had many, many wonderful dinners there over the years, but as the Union Hotel is up for sale, it was decided that it was time to make memories in a new location. The chosen spot? In keeping with the delicious Italian food and good bar theme, Dinucci's Restaurant in Valley Ford.

And what better way to start our evening than to arrive an hour early at 3pm and spend some time having a couple of drinks and catching up in the bar. We took over the bar area and

rearranged about 4 tables to accommodate all 14 of us. It was a great turnout for our club. We did miss seeing Jim Flint and Dick and Ann Marie Winterhalder, and we hope they are well.

At a little after 4pm we were summoned into the dining area for dinner. After getting all the tables and chairs back in their appropriate places, we settled into one wing of the restaurant and were started off with bread, anti-pasti, salad, soup and beef-spinach ravioli. I think at this point we were all very full, but we bravely continued on with our entrees of chicken marsala, petrale sole, or ribeye steak. And who can resist ending on a sweet note with ice cream. Our one main waiter did a good job of attending to all 14 of us, a rather daunting undertaking!

There really wasn't much of a meeting that I can recall (maybe the wine kicking in here?). Guy Smith will be taking over the position of President from Stan Ramondo. Thank you, Stan, for leading our club last year. Don Johnson will be taking over the position of Vice President from Guy Smith. The other club positions remain unchanged.

Here's looking forward to another wonderful year with our small, but like family (that gets along!), club. There are so many lovely venues for us to drive to and eat at in our county. Let's get out there and make some more memories!



John Pearson, March 5  
Kim Simoni, March 17  
Stan Ramondo, March 24





# HCCA NATIONAL NEWS



Re: **Joyce Chase Award; Bakersfield, CA; Members Meeting; Welcome Jamie; Calendar; ....**  
Issue: **2025-03-01 #03**

- **Joyce Chase Award** – The HCCA Board has established the Joyce Chase Award to “celebrate a woman who brings the same spirit and energy that Joyce brought to every tour.” Please see the details in the upcoming March-April 2025 Gazette. Candidate nominations are requested **prior to March 30, 2025**. Now is your chance to recognize an outstanding contributor to the hobby. Contact the office for details at: [office@hcca.org](mailto:office@hcca.org)
- **Bakersfield Swap Meet** – The Brass Era – PreWar Swap Meet - Minter Air Field, Shafter, CA (A few miles north of Bakersfield on Hwy 99). May 2 – 3, 2025. Swap Meet, Friday and Saturday. Vendor Space \$50.00. Group Hotel, see HCCA website. Steven Chase and others have worked hard to make this happen, so plan to attend. 323-497-0601. (Steven) [NewNorthSouth@gmail.com](mailto:NewNorthSouth@gmail.com)
- **HCCA 2025 General Members Meeting** – The most important event of the Orange, VA Convention and Tour, is the Annual General Member’s Meeting. This year, the meeting will be held on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Round Hill Inn, 771 Round Hill Dr., Orange, VA 22960. The meeting will be held from 8:00 - 10:00 PM. This is your chance to meet with the HCCA Board of Directors in person, and ask questions, or make suggestions.
- **Welcome New HCCA Board Member** – We want to extend a warm welcome to the latest new Board Member, Jamie Holmes, who agreed to fill an open seat on the board. Jamie is very active in the HCCA in Ontario, Canada. Please give a warm Welcome to Jamie!
- **What’s on the Calendar** – The Latest from the HCCA Gazette and Website:
  - California Rendezvous 4, Thousand Oaks, CA. May 6 – 9, 2025. Sponsor: Multi-Region Hosted Tour. Contacts: Tom Zimmer, 951-317-4419, Don Azevedo, 925-301-5315, (Tom) [trzim05@yahoo.com](mailto:trzim05@yahoo.com)
  - Midwest Spring Tour, Tiffin, OH. May 28 – 31, 2025. Sponsor: Midwest Brass and Gas. Host: Devin Shaw, 810-577-6926. Christy Wiser, 567-207-4370.
  - New England Brass and Gas Tour, Rockland, ME. June 22 – 27, 2025. Sponsor: Autoneers Region. Contact: Karen Tomko, 203-247-7906 Email: [nebrassandgas@proton.me](mailto:nebrassandgas@proton.me)
  - Tales and Trails Tour, Prince Edward County, ON. July 6 – 10, 2025. Sponsor: Southern Ontario Region. Hosts: Ken & Linda Coombs, 905-570-5129 (Ken).
  - Celebration of Brass V, Hickory Corners, MI. July 14 – 19, 2025. Sponsor: Museum of the Horseless Carriage. Contact: Kyle Blake, 443-564-7268. HCCA Tour, Show, & Pre-WWII Swap Meet, and HCCA Board Meeting.
  - Snappers Summer Tour Horseheads – Elmira-Corning, NY. July 27 - August 1, 2025. Contact: Bruce Hoffman, 570-423-1119, [thehill@epix.net](mailto:thehill@epix.net)
  - 39<sup>th</sup> New London to New Brighton, New London, MN. Aug 6 – 9, 2025. Contact: Bruce Van Sloun, 612-963-7586. Website: [www.antiquecarrun.org](http://www.antiquecarrun.org)



*Doug Tomb* / [Douglas.tomb@verizon.net](mailto:Douglas.tomb@verizon.net)

## The First Film to Feature a Horseless Carriage?

By ChatGPT

*Runaway Match* (1903), also known as *Marriage by Motor*, is a British silent short film directed by Alf Collins. It is considered one of the earliest films to feature an automobile as a central part of the plot. The film belongs to the chase genre, which was popular in early cinema.

The story follows a young couple who elope against the wishes of the woman's wealthy father. They escape in an early motor car, pursued by the father and his servants in a horse-drawn carriage. The film humorously contrasts the speed of the automobile with the slower, traditional mode of transport. Eventually, the couple reaches their destination and gets married before the father can intervene.

Since the film is from the early 1900s, it was likely a very short production, as films of that era typically lasted only a few minutes. Unfortunately, it is believed to be a lost film, meaning no known copies exist today. However, it remains an important milestone in film history, particularly in the depiction of automobiles on screen.

## Dr. Horatio Nelson Jackson and the First Cross-Country Drive in America

by ChatGPT

At the dawn of the 20th century, automobiles were still a novelty, and the idea of driving one across the United States seemed nearly impossible. Roads were rough, maps were unreliable, and gas stations were nonexistent. However, in 1903, Dr. Horatio Nelson Jackson, a physician from Vermont, undertook a daring journey that would cement his place in automotive history as the first person to complete a cross-country drive.

### The Bet That Started It All

Dr. Jackson was in San Francisco when he engaged in a discussion about automobiles. A skeptic doubted the feasibility of a car making it across the country, prompting Jackson to wager \$50 (equivalent to about \$1,700 today) that it could be done. Despite having little driving experience and no vehicle of his own, he was determined to prove the naysayers wrong.



### Assembling the Team and the Car

Jackson purchased a 1903 Winton touring car, which he named the "Vermont" in honor of his home state. He enlisted the help of Sewall K. Crocker, a mechanic and fellow automobile enthusiast, to accompany him on the trip. Together, they gathered supplies, including extra parts, food, and camping gear, as they prepared for the arduous journey.

## The Journey Across America

On May 23, 1903, Jackson and Crocker set off from San Francisco with no established route to follow. Their adventure was fraught with challenges—poor road conditions, mechanical failures, and a general lack of infrastructure to support automobiles. They often had to rely on blacksmiths to make repairs, local general stores to source fuel, and even horse-drawn wagons to tow them out of muddy ruts.

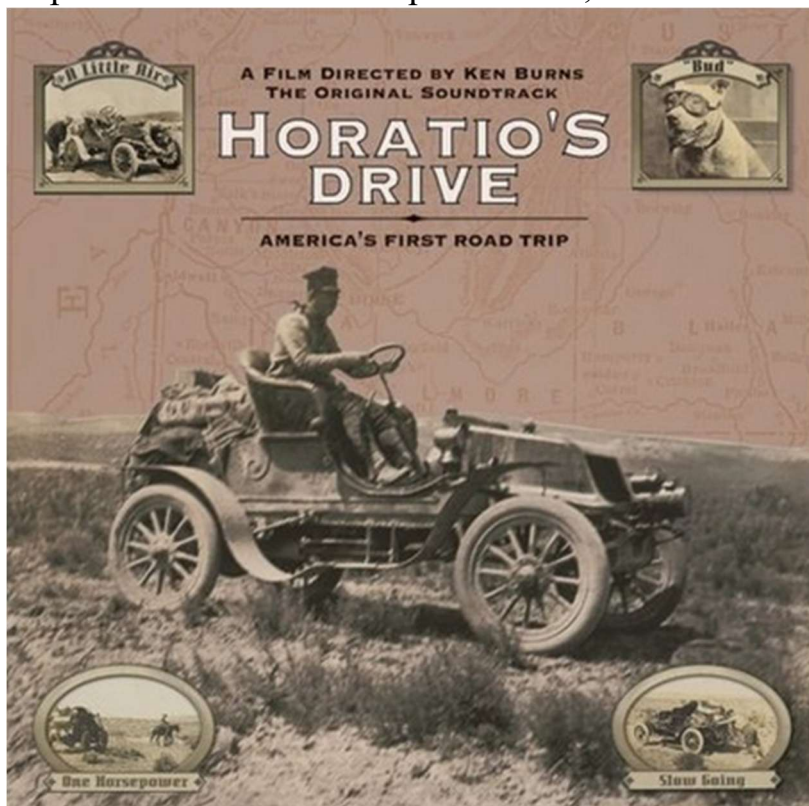
Along the way, they adopted a stray bulldog named Bud, who became their loyal traveling companion, often wearing goggles to protect his eyes from dust. The trio faced breakdowns, tire blowouts, and a near-constant struggle to find fuel and water. Despite the setbacks, they pressed on, guided only by perseverance and an adventurous spirit.

## Reaching New York City

After 63 grueling days on the road, Jackson and his team finally reached New York City on July 26, 1903. Their journey, which had covered approximately 4,500 miles, was a testament to human ingenuity and determination. Though the wager had been the catalyst for the trip, Jackson never collected on his bet—his reward was the achievement itself.

## Legacy of the Journey

Jackson's historic drive proved that automobiles had a future beyond city streets. His journey inspired interest in road improvements, led to better automobile technology, and contributed to



the eventual development of the U.S. highway system. Today, his achievement is recognized as a pivotal moment in transportation history, and the "Vermont" is preserved at the Smithsonian Institution as a testament to his pioneering spirit.

Dr. Horatio Nelson Jackson's daring adventure was more than just a gamble—it was a bold statement that the automobile was here to stay, paving the way for the cross-country road trips we take for granted today.

A good documentary film about Dr. Jackson and his journey is the Ken Burns PBS documentary **Horatio's Drive: America's First Road Trip (2003)**.

# BAKERSFIELD SWAP MEET

# 2025



come to  
**CALIFORNIA**

This year's Swap Meet dedicated to the memory of Bill Bennett

## MAY 2 & 3 - 2025

### Brass Era / Pre-war Swap Meet



## MINTER AIRFIELD

201 Aviation Street - Shafter, CA  
(A few miles North of Bakersfield on Hwy 99)

- Vendor set-up; Friday morning
- Swap Meet; Friday & Saturday
- Vendor Space \$50 / Buyers \$10



### SWAP MEET *Special!*

\$97/night Thursday, Friday & Saturday or any variation.  
**(661) 387-1678** Group Code: HCCSC  
19480 Quinn Road, Bakersfield, CA 93308

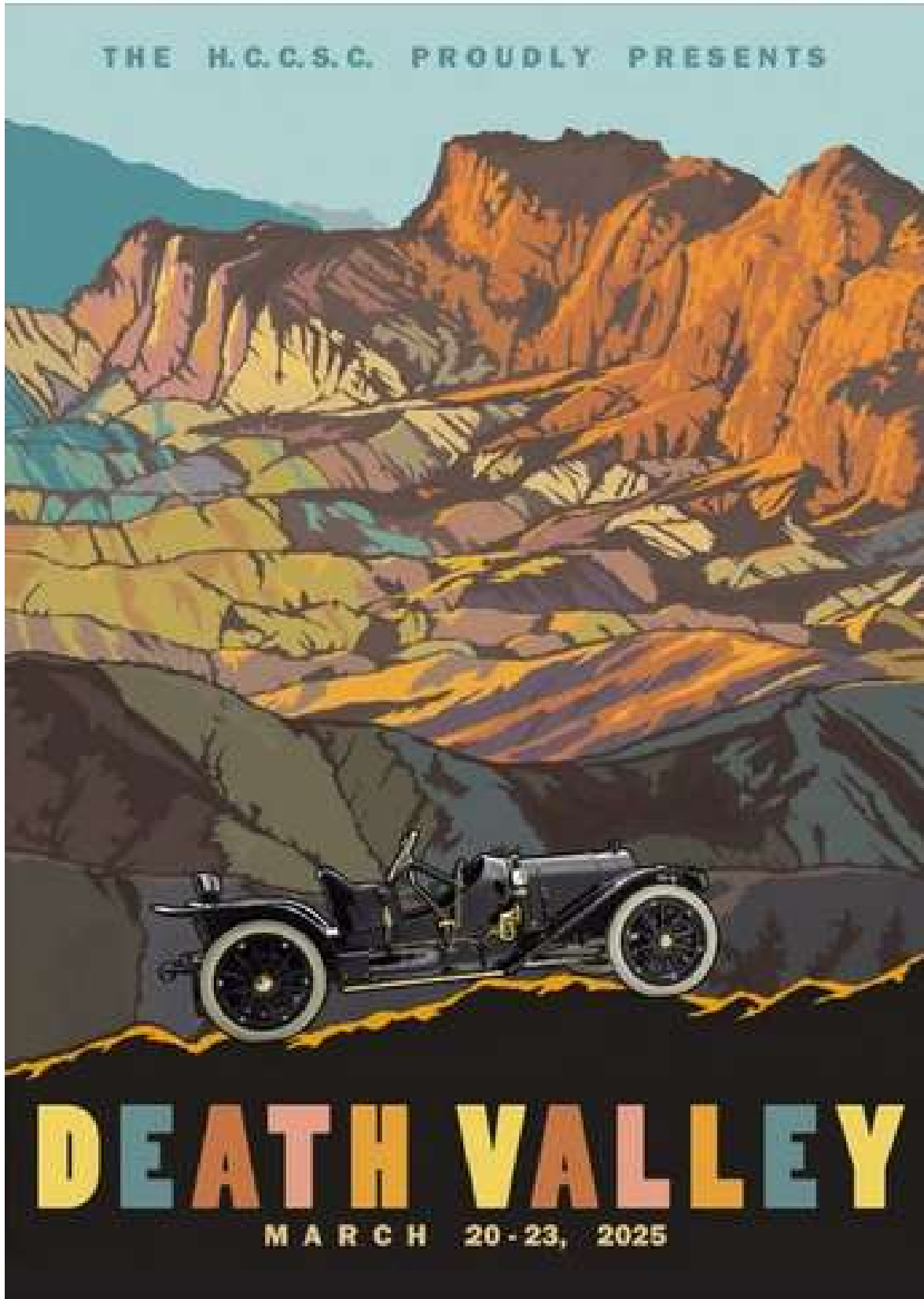
For Vendor Registration & General Information: Steven (323) 497-0601

## DEATH VALLEY 2025 – California

This will be a three-night hub tour based out of the historic Oasis at Death Valley Resort.

MARCH 20, 2025 - MARCH 23, 2025

<https://hcca.org/event/death-valley-2025-california/>



# 2025 HCCA National Convention & Tour – Orange VA

April 27 - May 3



Tour Dates: April 27 – May 3, 2025

The 2025 HCCA National Convention & Tour will be based in Orange, Virginia, in the beautiful Central Piedmont region.

This area offers spectacular views of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the west, and has quiet rural roads, and short rolling hills, with wonderful historic destinations for each day's tour.

Orange, Virginia is located 30 miles north of Charlottesville. It is a one and a half hour drive SW of Washington, D.C. and a one and a half hour drive NW of Richmond, VA.

You must register your car and all passengers, to participate on the 2025 Convention & Tour. Cars must have been manufactured in 1915 or earlier to participate.

Registration is on a first-in basis. **We have planned for only 50 cars. Please send in your check with your registration form to confirm your registration. Don't forget to also make your hotel reservation.**

We hope that you will join us on the 2025 HCCA National Convention & Tour.

Please send your tour registration form and registration fee to:

Douglas & Beverly Tomb  
2122 Grayson Place  
Falls Church, VA 22043  
703-967-5229  
[pathwaysofpresidents@gmail.com](mailto:pathwaysofpresidents@gmail.com)

# California RENDEZVOUS IV



2024 People's Choice Award  
1911 Columbia / Don Plumb

## Paso Robles, California

### May 6-9 2025

OXFORD  
· SUITES ·  
PASO ROBLES

**(805) 237-0305**

800 4<sup>th</sup> Street Paso Robles, CA 93446

*Book your room today!*

Tues - Thurs \$155/night  
Friday \$190/night + tax

Code: California Rendezvous Tour

Includes full breakfast daily and  
finger food & drink ticket nightly

Make plans to attend the fourth  
annual California Rendezvous!  
Book your room today for best rate.

**Tour Registration Now Open!**

Registration Form available at [hcca.org/events](http://hcca.org/events)

**Questions?**

**Don Azevedo**

(925) 301-5315

[Imnuts4fords@comcast.net](mailto:Imnuts4fords@comcast.net)





May 18-22, 2025. Hosted by Shawn and Erin Achtel and the Old Time Touring Club. 4.5 days of touring Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Contact Shawn Achtel at [OTTCMembership@yahoo.com](mailto:OTTCMembership@yahoo.com)



## Nickel Era Touring Registry

### Northern Utah Nickel Era Tour 2025

**June 23 – June 27, 2025**

*(5 Days of Touring Covering 350 – 400 miles)*

- **Tour limited to 50 cars, 1932 or older “original or restored tour ready” automobiles**

**(A Great Tour to Include Children and Grandchildren)**

***Tour Wasatch Mountains, Heber Valley/ Park City & Ogden Utah***

*Alpine Scenic By-ways – Great Scenery on Paved Mountain Roads*

- *Park City Historic Town and Ski Resorts*
- *See the 2002 and 2034 Winter Olympic Park*
- *Silver Mining History, World Class Art Galleries & Shopping & Eating*
- *Union Station and Browning/Kimball Museum in Ogden Utah*
- *Hill Air Force Base Air Museum in Clearfield Utah*
- *Scenic drive along the beautiful Uinta Mountains lakes and streams*
- *Private Collection of Fine Brass Era Cars and Memorabilia*



**Registration:** John Manifor  
(562) 665-0381 email: [manifor@aol.com](mailto:manifor@aol.com)

**Tour Leader:** Bryce Taylor  
(435) 773-3126 56 [Bryce.Taylor@gmail.com](mailto:Bryce.Taylor@gmail.com)

Northern Utah Nickel Era Tour 2025

Sponsored by HCCA Nickel Era Touring Registry

JUNE 23-27, 2025 Park City, Utah

Sixteenth Nickel Era Touring Registry yearly tour including 5 days of touring Wasach Mountains, Heber Valley/ Park City and Ogden area. tour covers 350-400 miles of scenic mountains and valley driving, high quality museums and attractions. Tour limited to fifty 1932 or older original or restored tour ready automobiles capable of touring with nickel era automobiles. Children welcome.

Registration: John Manifor(562) 665-0381 email: [Manifor@aol.com](mailto:Manifor@aol.com)

Tour Leader and information: Bryce Taylor (435) 773-3126 email: [56bryce.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:56bryce.taylor@gmail.com)