



RING FREE REMEMBERS *THE BRIDGE*



The Bridgehampton Racing Heritage Group

THE BRIDGEHAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BRIDGEHAMPTON, NY

OCTOBER 3, 2009

Today's weather duplicated the conditions of the 1970 Marlboro TransAm at The Bridge, 39 years ago.



Jan Nelson brings the Ray Cuomo Racing Mustang, then painted orange and black, across the finish line, June 7, 1970.

The Bridgehampton Racing Heritage Group held their Annual Vintage and Racing Automobile Exposition and Tour today start and finished on the grounds of the Bridgehampton Historical Society in Bridgehampton, NY. This year the Group debuted an exhibition dedicated to the, late and great, world famous Bridgehampton Race Circuit.



l. to r. Jan Nelson, Peter Klebnikov, Guy Frost and Frank Dobias.

Our car was to be honored when we were asked by Peter Klebnikov and Guy Frost, event organizers for the Bridgehampton Racing Heritage group, to display our car in the Bridgehampton exhibition. Despite the fact we have restored the car to its appearance and specifications as it was first raced in the 1967 24 Hour Daytona Continental, where drivers Ray Cuomo and Paul Richards brought the car home 1st In Class and 11th Overall, it is the same car *and* driver that ran in the 1970 Marlboro TransAm at *The Bridge*.

Many thanks to Peter and Guy for their efforts in bringing the history of *The Bridge* to the next generation of race fans. Special thanks to the Bridgehampton Historical Society and John Eilertson, Director, for hosting this event.

A video from this event can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4b-KVLhfQ34>

International drivers and Bridgehampton veterans Joe Buzzetta and Herb Wetanson were also on hand to bring back memories and pay their respects to *The Bridge*.



l. to r. Joe Buzzetta and Herb Wetanson

Three historic Porsche race cars, driven by Joe Buzzetta, were brought by Joe to put on display, including the Porsche 906 he drove to victory in the 1966 Bridgehampton CanAm.



1966 Bridgehampton CanAm class winner.



There were many fantastic photos from *The Bridge* on display. A number of great photos, including some from the CanAm and TransAm, by legendary journalist Pete Lyons were available for purchase.



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Although the weather kept the attendance down, Jan and I enjoyed meeting and talking with all the die-hards that did attend. We really met some very nice people with many interesting stories about *The Bridge*, as well as those who were interested in the history of our car.



A victory lap at The Bridge in the more familiar colors of our car for most of the 1970s.



We were introduced to Earl Gandel, manager of the Bridgehampton Race Circuit during the 1970's. Mr. Gandel was partners with first Dick Gary and Bob Bochroch, then Bill Conlon in the Bridgehampton Racing Group. They did their best to help keep *The Bridge* alive. Mr. Gandel brought back memories of the circuit and of Carl Jensen, the grounds keeper, back in *our* day.

Throughout the day sentiments such as "what a shame", regarding the death of *The Bridge*, could be heard. Certainly, a shame it is on the New York, United States and International racing communities, this writer included, that more was not done in the effort to save *The Bridge*.



The weather greatly reduced the number of cars participating in the Tour, however we did have a start!



Although few in number, as usual there were some interesting cars such as the Peerless shown above.

