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The Wheels Blog



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HOUSE PARTY The “Gates and Estates” event brought about 40 classic cars to Tuxedo Park, N.Y. Clockwise from left, cars at the home of Michael Bruno, a 1959 Rolls-Royce Silver Wraith and a 1955 Bentley R Type Hooper saloon.

Cruising Tuxedo Park In Vintage Luxury Cars

About 40 vintage Rolls-Royce and Bentley automobiles descended on one of America’s most exclusive communities, Tuxedo Park, N.Y., for “Gates and Estates,” an event held last Sunday. Sponsored by the Atlantic Region of the Rolls-Royce Owners’ Club, the gathering took guests on a four-mile drive and featured walking tours of three luxurious homes along the way.

Before the start of the tour, the host of the event, Peter Regna, a car collector and entrepreneur, gave a brief history of Tuxedo Park.

“Founded in 1886, the Park was in fact the first planned community in the United States,” he said. “The criteria for purchasing a home back then was you had to spend a minimum of \$5,000 on your house, which was an enormous sum in 1886.”

Perhaps the most tantalizing car at the event was a 1959 Bentley S1 Long-Wheelbase Limousine with coachwork by Hooper, owned by John Cory of Fort Lee, N.J.

“These are the only cars ever made that overlapped the hand-made era and the modern-car era,” Mr. Cory said.

As I rode with Scott and Deborah Ammarell in their 1927 Phantom I Rolls-Royce, Ms. Ammarell shouted above the roar of the engine: “Before we were married, Scott said that one day we were going to own a Rolls-Royce,” she

said, looking at her husband. “I never in my wildest dreams thought it would actually come true.”

One stop took us to the home of Michael Bruno, a Web entrepreneur.

“I love old houses, and I love old cars,” Mr. Bruno said, adding that he was the owner of a newly restored 1963 Mercedes 220SE Cabriolet. “Peter Regna showed me a picture of the event from five years ago with all of the Rolls-Royces parked in front of a house, and I said, ‘I’ll do it, if only for the opportunity to see all of those amazing cars in front of my house!’” **NATHAN LALIBERTE**