



GLASSTOWN GAZETTE – SPRING 2026 EDITION

CLUB MEETING NOTICE

2nd Annual Breakfast Meeting
 Sunday June 7th, 8:30am
 Muster immediately following meeting

Woodstown Diner
 16 East Avenue, Route 4, Woodstown, NJ 08098

- Members Eat for Free. Membership can be paid at the Door.
- You don't have to be a member to attend the breakfast.
- There is ample rig parking available in the diner lot.



MEMBER PROFILE – WES HOWE

People often ask me, "Have you heard from Wes?" I have, and I'm happy to report that he is doing well and living in Mechanicsburg, PA, near his sister Clarise and her family.

Last year, Wes returned to the vendor world at the Harrisburg Muster, selling items from his extensive firematic memorabilia collection. He also donated his restored 1948 Mack, formerly the Sea Isle City Service truck, to the NJ Fire Museum.

As fate would have it, his award-winning 1941 E-Model Mack Pumper — formerly from Woodbury, NJ, and fully restored by Wes and Nancy — also recently made its way to the NJ Fire Museum. The truck was donated by Wes's nephew, to whom Wes had previously gifted it. The '41 Mack was the winner of the Wheaton Best of Show Award in 1994.

Wes and his wife, Nancy, were founding members of Glasstown and served the organization in various capacities through the years. Both Wes and Nancy were also recipients of the SPAAMFAA William Robinson Award.

Give Wes a call! His phone number is 856-364-4680.





ASK THE EXPERT

Modern Truck Batteries in Antique Fire Trucks

By Joe Bertino

Glasstown Officer & Owner Vineland Auto Electric

The best practice for battery longevity in antique trucks is to remember like any other part they need maintenance. Batteries must be exercised on a regular basis. To do this it is as simple as starting the truck every three to four weeks and letting it run for ten to fifteen minutes. Another solution is to install a battery maintainer to keep the battery exercised. DO NOT install a trickle charger. Trickle chargers will boil the water out of the batteries because they do not shut off 100%. A battery maintainer has a control circuit that will shut off the charge to the battery and with a monitor circuit turn it back on as necessary without damaging the battery. If you need more information, feel free to give me a call at 856-362-3313.

Have a great muster season, Joe

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

- June 6th – NJ Fire Museum, Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service, Allentown, NJ
- June 7th – Glasstown, Woodstown Spring Breakfast & Muster, Woodstown, NJ
- June 21st – 31st Annual Tri County Muster, Thompon Park, Jamesburg NJ
- July 11th – PA Pump Primers, 50th Annual Muster, Riverfront Park, Harrisburg, PA
- August 2nd – Cradle of Liberty, Cooper River Muster, Pennsauken, NJ
- August 16th – 45th Annual Glasstown Wheaton Arts Muster, Millville, NJ

RAMBLINGS FROM THE TAIL BOARD

Greetings!

I hope your schedule allows you to be with us for breakfast and the muster on June 7th. It will be a rain or shine event.

2025 Glasstown Muster Recap

First, I'd like to recap last year and the club's two events. Our first-ever breakfast meeting, held in conjunction with the Woodstown Muster, took place at the Woodstown Diner and was well attended, with 28 people participating. A formal welcome was extended by Woodstown Mayor Joe Hiles, who also serves as a volunteer firefighter with Woodstown Reliance. It was a great way to start Muster Day!

The Woodstown Muster featured 22 trucks in attendance, with many taking advantage of the lake for drafting demonstrations. A big thank-you goes out to everyone who helped make the event a success, especially Keith Kemery for coordinating the event; Diana and Dan Ford for their always well-run registration operation; and Joe and Shelley Bertino for handling safety coordination.

The Wheaton Muster had a strong bounce-back year and continues to hold its place as one of the premier Muster events in the country. Truck attendance reached 63, and the flea market remained steady throughout the day. The Club table, handled by Joann Petrosky, Helen Burns, and Janice Mackenzie (with Janice assisting in relief), had a successful day selling Club inventory.

Judging was capably executed by Glen Roemich and the Delaware Valley Judges Association. Chris Boos worked his magic processing the judging results, while Diana and Dan provided flawless management of registration. Joe and Shelley handled safety coordination, and Ron Petrosky once again excelled in laying out the flea market and expertly directing truck parking.

Spectator attendance topped 1,800, and most importantly, the ad book was successful enough to underwrite both the event and the Club's operations for the entire year. A donation was made to Wheaton Arts as a thank-you for hosting us and for creating the spectacular Nancy Howe Glass Trumpet Best of Show award.

Cradle of Liberty 10th Anniversary

Congratulations to Cradle of Liberty on celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Repaupo Museum. If you missed the event, you missed an old-fashioned volunteer fire company-style day, complete with a parade, food, and wonderful conversations with friends. There is plenty of footage and photos of the parade and event available on various YouTube and Facebook posts.

If you have not visited the museum recently, make a point to do so. The hard work and dedication of the members in preserving the rich legacy of our area's volunteer fire department history is a gift to all of us—and to generations to come.



MORE NEWS

JOEL BAIN

Congratulations also to Joel R. Bain, a Glasstown member and former Glasstown Chief Engineer, on the completion of his new building housing his magnificent collection. This is an impressive accomplishment and a testament to his dedication and hard work!

PA PUMP PRIMERS HARRISBURG MUSTER

Sadly, it is very possible that this will be the last year for the Harrisburg Muster at its longtime location along the river. Reportedly, reconstruction of the area will include landscaping that will not accommodate truck parking or flea market setups. Word is that another location is being considered.

Needless to say, this would be a great loss to the hobby and to fire truck enthusiasts everywhere.

GLASSTOWN MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't renewed your membership, please consider doing so. As a member, you are entitled to a free vendor spot and truck registration at Wheaton Arts, along with a free breakfast at the annual breakfast meeting. Not bad for a \$10 membership!

GLASSTOWN OFFICERS FOR 2027-28 TERM

If you are interested in serving as an officer, or would like additional information about the role and duties, please email me at wardlafrance@hotmail.com



Have ideas for the next newsletter? Please email them to me at wardlafrance@hotmail.com.
Until next time, John Burzichelli