

"Dodging" the Storms to Attend Car Events



By Gwen and Parker Ackley

With our other antique car down for the season, it motivated us to finally get our 1915 Dodge Brothers Touring Car back into service. As the car had not been on the road for the past five years, a series of test drives and short trips were in order to regain confidence in the 111 year old car again. After a couple of short test drives with good results, we decided to venture out a bit further for a cruise night.



A former neighbor who had grown up on our street, along with his fiancé happen to see us drive past on our way to the cruise night. He wrote us a letter asking if we would consider having the Dodge at their wedding for photos. It's not something that we usually do because of the many issues involved, but as the church was very close by, we decided to help them out (and further increase confidence in the car).



Parker worked on solving the remaining mechanical issues while Gwen vacuumed, washed, polished and detailed the car to get it ready. Despite rain in the forecast, the day of the wedding turned out to be beautiful. The Dodge was used for photos outside of the church as well as at the reception pavilion, which made the newlyweds very happy.

The following weekend on September 13, 2026 another forecast storm created unexpected flash floods in many coastal Connecticut towns. This storm impacted scheduled car shows and cruises for the weekend, several of which were already postponed from the prior weekend.



The next local event we attended with our Dodge was a Thursday cruise night run by the CT Seaport Car Club. But unlike the week before, this time there were scattered localized rain showers that made for a small turnout. However, the car people who did venture out and attended had a great comradery together. Car Club President Sal Sinardi handed everyone a raffle ticket for a chance to win one of four prizes, with us winning a portable tire inflator small enough to carry under the seat of the Dodge.



On Saturday, September 19, 2026, our Dodge was on display at the Fairfield Police Cadets Car Show at Fairfield Ludlowe High School. This car event is held to help raise awareness and funding for the Cadets, who like the Police K9s, are not funded by the town or police department. They relied solely on community donations and fundraising.



Everything was done to help attract show cars to the event. The Cadets went to many local businesses and restaurants to fund the trophies and obtain many very impressive raffle prize donations. There was no registration fee charged to car owners for this event! Instead, they relied on car owners to purchase 50/50 and raffle tickets to help cover expenses. If you pre-registered, you automatically received one free ticket when you checked in. Freshly made hot food which included hot egg sandwiches, burgers, dogs, snacks and beverages was available to purchase.



The Police K9s gave demonstrations by K9 Bolt, a German Shepard, and explained the role of K9 Penny, a bloodhound, who had recently found a missing person. The dogs and their handlers put on a spectacular display and are always crowd pleasers.



We saw young children really enjoying the Touch-a-Truck display, painting models at the Tesla table, and checking out the fire truck, construction and emergency vehicles. (Gwen even sat in the Tesla Truck to get a photo of its space age interior, which is an extreme contrast to the 1915 Dodge Brothers Touring Car that she arrived in.)



Despite all these incentives, there was only about forty show cars due to other events postponed by rain to the same day, which impacted the turnout. The cars that did attend were all high caliber that were admired by a good public turnout. Ten car owners were very happy with the tall trophies that were awarded.

For color online photos by Henry Kutash of the Fairfield Cadets Car Show, go to www.ctseaportcarclub.com/car-show-photos. For tax deductible donations to the Fairfield Police Cadets, go to www.fairfieldcadets.com/donate.html