

Messenger



Volume 11, Issue 1

"EDUCATION IS OUR PURPOSE"

January—March, 2013

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TOM RUTTAN ELECTED AS NEW BOARD PRESIDENT



New Board President Tom Ruttan.

At the November Board of Directors meeting, Vice President Tom Ruttan was elected President of the Board. Mike Bostwick has stepped down from the President's position to assume the role of Secretary/Treasurer. Doug Nelson has agreed to serve as Board Chairman for another year. This leaves two Board positions vacant because of the passing of John Chandler and Larry Leek. We need members to step up and serve on the Board, including the position of Vice President. Please

call Board Chairman Doug Nelson about your interest in one of these two positions. The pay isn't great but the rewards are many. We need you as we are heading into our 11th year and hope to be building our next building phase soon.

Those folks currently serving on the Board of Directors are: Doug Nelson, Chairman; Tom Ruttan, President; Mike Bostwick, Secretary-Treasurer; Burt Edwards, Historian; Tom Kneeland, Ray Hansen, Ed Weber, Jerry Grulkey, Neil Beutler, Martin Boehme, Don Blain, Sherri Cartwright and Marvin Nisley.

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Letter From the President

By Tom Ruttan

The new year of 2013 brings with it some significant changes to your Museum Board of Directors. With the recent passing of our friends and board members John Chandler and Larry Leek, we have some very big shoes to fill on the board. The position of Treasurer is a particularly critical position for the continued successful operation of the Museum.

Additionally, many of you may be aware that the Secretary position has been unfilled for some time. After much discussion and huddling amongst the remaining board members, Mike Bostwick has volunteered to step down as President and take on the double duty of Treasurer and Secretary. Mike has provided exceptional leadership and guidance of the Museum and board for many years and his willingness to assume this dual role for these critical positions is just the latest example of his dedication to the Museum. Thank you, Mike, for your years of great service as Board President and we will look forward to your continued quality contributions in your new roles. Mike will need help and support to do these new assignments so please step up and help if he calls upon you. As a result of these actions, I have agreed to take on the position of President of the Board. I am honored to serve the Museum in this capacity and will do my best to fulfill the requirements of this job and live up to the standards Mike has set over the years.

Doug Nelson will continue as the Museum's visionary, strategic leader and fundraising champion in addition to his role as Chairman of the Board (for now) and newsletter editor. We still have several board openings to fill in addition to the Vice President position that is now vacant since I have become President. We need to have you, as a member of the Museum, come forward and volunteer for one of these positions. It is fun, rewarding and an opportunity to make a difference.

I am looking forward to a great year for the Museum in 2013. One of the highest priorities is the fundraising efforts for the next phase of the display building headed up by Doug. He is working very hard to put together the grant proposal to the Murdock Foundation for the matching grant. As part of that, we need to continue to raise the matching funds to insure that, assuming the Murdock Foundation awards us the grant, we will be able to match those grant funds and successfully complete the next phase of the building.

Other activities for this year include this summer's car and motorcycle display where we will continue to need your help to volunteer as a docent, the high school car show, the swap meet and show, Steam-up activities and educational presentations. On this last note, we are working on several motorcycle and car presentations this spring and fall that everyone should enjoy. One of the first presentations will be to bring back our friend and motorcycle visionary Kenny Deer to talk about where the new Norton Company is headed. Stay tuned for additional details and more information on upcoming activities.

On a personal note, I will be attending the Las Vegas motorcycle auction in early January. This year I will be bringing a couple of my restored bikes to the Mid-America Auction. This is the largest vintage motorcycle auction in the country (maybe in the world!) with over 600 bikes auctioned in 2 ½ days! It is great fun and a good way to connect with many of the key players in the vintage motorcycle hobby and business. Bonham's also holds a one day auction just before the Mid-America event starts so there is plenty of opportunity to see lots of vintage motorcycles and spend some money. I'll report back on this event in the next newsletter.

All the best,
Tom Ruttan

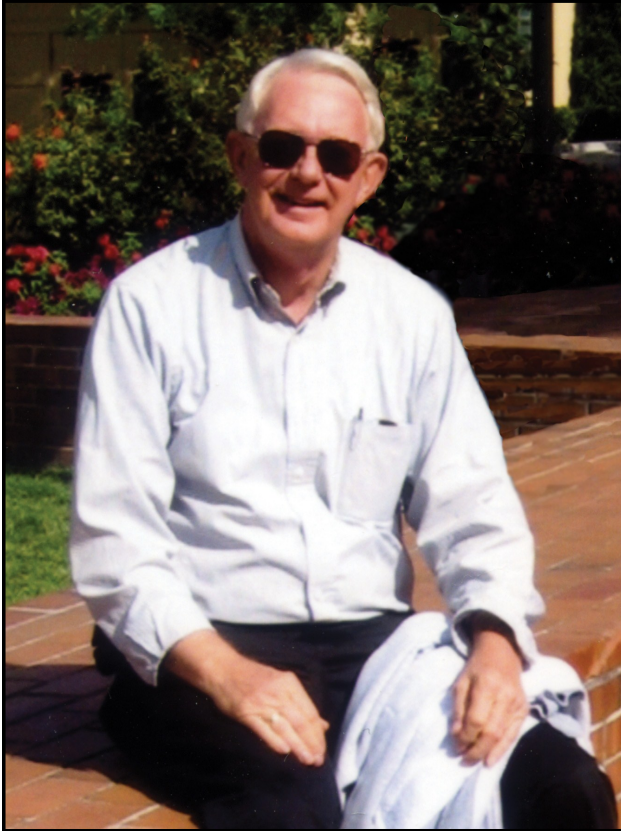
Winter Car Storage: A Win-Win For Everybody!

Some wise members of the Museum continue to help themselves and the Museum by storing their cars over the winter months at \$50 per month. This program has netted our museum \$2950 this season

while allowing a presence of interesting vehicles on display during the "off" months. Dry, secure storage at better-than-commercial rates. Truly a WIN-WIN deal for all! Call Doug Nelson for more information.

Volunteer of the Quarter: Ray Hansen

By Doug Nelson



Volunteer of the Quarter Ray Hansen

Longtime Museum member Ray Hansen is our Volunteer of the Quarter. As the original chairman of the Museum's Education Committee, he has guided it thoughtfully and efficiently with a sense of humor and purpose. He worked with the first High School Car Shows and has organized educational tours, including one proposed for the Le May Museum in Tacoma, WA, this spring.

Ray also serves on the Display Committee. He goes about the business of the Museum in an orderly way, but has a big impact behind the scenes. His specialty could be "Docent Duty" where he can always be counted on to do more than his share – a natural teacher! Maybe that's because he was a teacher at Keizer Elementary School for thirty years. His wife, Wanda, was a teacher at Cummings Elementary. They are both grandparents.

As a longtime Keizer resident, Ray has served on the Keizer Planning Commission, Keizer Heritage Foundation and helped out one of his oldest passions, while working with the Keizer Little League. He usually goes south, after the birds, for spring training.

There are more activities we could name, but the Museum should feel very fortunate that someone who doesn't actually own an ancient/collectible car or motorcycle would want to hang out with us. Many, many thanks, Ray!

Museum Donations Available For Fundraising Sale

By Doug Nelson

Two cars have been donated by David Collee of Salem that are available for purchase. They are a 1966 Chrysler 300 coupe, red and white with a 440 engine priced at \$1050, and a 1967 Mercury Cougar priced at \$950. Both are "stock" project cars, not running but in fair condition. Money raised by the sale of these cars will benefit the general fund. Contact Doug Nelson 503-399-0647 for information.

Museum member Charles Philpot has generously donated a 1939 Cadillac engine, a pair of Cadillac model 60 Special rear fenders and other miscellaneous Cadillac and GM parts to be sold for the benefit of the Museum. Thank you, Charlie. Contact Doug Nelson for more information on the sale of these parts.

Donations of cars and or related memorabilia to fund operations or the building fund are always welcome. Remember, these donations are eligible for tax deductions as we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization.



You can own this 1966 Chrysler 300!

1949 Hudson Donated, Along with a Great Story!

By Doug Nelson

A 1949 Hudson “step down” sedan has been donated to our Museum, along with its remarkable story. As you will see, sometimes these stories are more interesting than the car itself.

On September 24, 1951, Air Force officer Felix Asla boarded a train in Eugene, Oregon. He was ultimately bound for South Korea to fight in an air war that would take his life. He said his goodbyes to his wife Besse, daughter Merrilee, and son Terry. He left his almost new 1949 Hudson in their care.

Major Asla became the 28-year-old commander of the 336th Fighter Interceptor Squadron in Korea. He went on to shoot down four enemy MIG fighters before losing a dogfight battle to a Russian-piloted MIG. He was in his F-86 Sabre Jet nicknamed “The Chopper.” The fighting was intense in MIG Alley that day and Major Asla and his plane were listed as missing in action. His family had a very difficult time dealing with the unknown, not knowing if he was alive or dead until many years later in 1992.

During the Korean War, Russian fighter pilots were engaged in a “secret” war in the air and it was rumored that some American pilots may have been captured and taken to Russian prison camps. Because



Major Asla's 1949 Hudson, donated by Dr. David Freed of Salem

neither his body nor his plane were ever found the family held on to the hope that he may have been captured and held in prison. His son Terry held on to this hope for over forty years. Meanwhile, the 1949 Hudson waited patiently in its garage. Finally, the thawing of the Cold War caused the release of information

that, in fact, Major Felix Asla had been killed in action. The Russian fighter pilot who shot him down was located in retirement and had photographic proof of the missing plane. His remains have never been recovered.

Dr. David Freed of Salem, Oregon acquired the Hudson sedan from the family of Major Asla and did minor restoration to bring it out of its long hibernation. It now has a total of 24,500 miles on the odometer and does need further work, which will be done by Museum volunteers in the coming months. It will be on display in the summer of 2013. Thank you for your generous donation, Dr. Freed!

The *Wichita Eagle* newspaper of Wichita, Kansas did an extensive story about Major Asla, his son Terry, and Terry's quest for the truth about his father. This newspaper and extra Hudson parts were also donated.

Speedster Student Update

By Ed Weber

One of last year's Speedster students, Nick Hill, has received a scholarship grant from Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon. He is enrolled in an auto mechanics program and is carrying 14 instructional hours along with 6 study hours. Looks like another success story beginning to unfold!

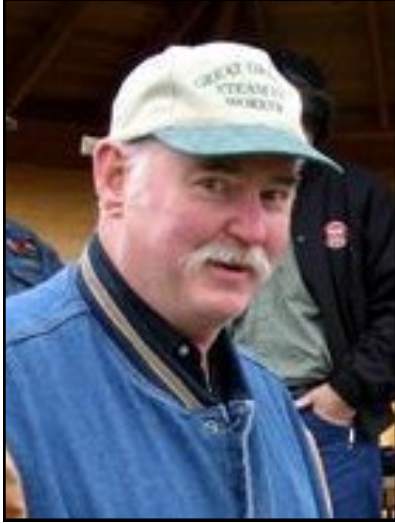
Update for the Ladies

By Rosemary Bostwick

January 16th marks our first meeting of the year. We will be starting to put our quilt together to raffle off this year, and having a meeting to discuss what we will put in our area this next summer for all of the exhibits that will happen over the summer. We will need help and input with all of these jobs. Come and join in the fun and help give the Museum a bit of a “feminine mystique.”

In Memoriam: Larry Albert Leek

March 10, 1943 - October 14, 2012



A celebration of life was held at the Museum exhibit hall on October 20, 2012 for founding member Larry Leek. Larry was first and foremost an "Old Car Guy." He bought his first car for \$5.00 when he was 12 years old and continued to collect antique cars, trucks, motorcycles and tractors his entire life. Larry was one of the original ten founding members of the Museum and a 30-year volunteer at Antique Powerland. Larry collected and restored a wide variety of cars such as Studebakers, Packards, Auburns, AMCs and Kaizers. He was a walking encyclopedia of all things automotive. Larry is survived by his wife Linda, sons Randy and Zane, his brother Roger, and four step-grandchildren.

Also Noted in Passing

Compiled by Doug Nelson

Carlotta Susanne Arnold on November 29, 2012. Carlotta was very active in the car hobby with her husband Dale. She was always to be counted on to help on the Museum's annual High School Car Show. In fact, Carlotta was the first in the area to promote a high school car show at Sprague High School where she was a school counselor. Carlotta's true passion was her love of Mopar cars. She drove her GXT to school for 27 years and participated in numerous car shows over the years. She is survived by husband, Dale Arnold Sr., son Dale Jr., Sister Linda Mulraney, and brother Joe Matula.

Gary Lawrence Wallstrom died on December 4, 2012 in Bend, Oregon following a tragic accident. Gary was a member of the Museum and donated a complete Chevrolet truck engine currently on display at the Texaco station. Gary is survived by his wife Patricia, two daughters, and five grandchildren.

Jeff King, Museum member, died November 15, 2012 at his home in Portland, Oregon. Jeff helped construct the fire service room and other projects at the main exhibit hall as a much appreciated volunteer worker.

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Obituary Policy. It is the policy of our newsletter to publish the passing of our members and friends in the Messenger using public notice and personal communication. Please contact Doug Nelson if you have such information.

An Oregon Adventure: Classic Cars Visit Sisters

Story by Doug Nelson, Photos by Earl Schroeder



Clockwise, from top left: 1937 Packard; two 1941 Cadillacs; 1931 Peerless

During September 2012 The Classic Car Club, Oregon Chapter, hosted a national tour called the CARavan. The tour started in the Portland area, traveled to central Oregon, southern Oregon, then to the Pacific Coast and back to Portland. Bill Jabs, one of our Museum members, was a tour leader. A planned side trip to the Sisters area almost did not happen because of the Pole Creek fire that caused major concerns about smoke and safety issues. Doug Nelson had previously agreed to meet CARavan participants in Sisters and lead a side trip to the Metolius River area. Earl Schroeder, a Museum friend now living in Sisters snapped these pictures in Sisters. A small contingent of four cars drivers elected to do this side trip while the majority of CARvaners stayed in the Bend area for the day.

Plaque Honoring Founders Placed in Museum

By Ed Weber



Eleven years ago, ten forward-thinking folks met at the MacLeay Inn to discuss the possibility of establishing a vintage car museum. At this meeting it was learned that property was available at Antique Powerland for a very reasonable cost. Excitement began to mount.

Their original thoughts were to create a museum that would be member-owned, and instead of restricting display vehicles to those only owned by the museum, members would provide their vehicles on a rotating display basis. This would assure a fresh display each year.

These same ten folks met several times more and they were very instrumental in selecting the Museum's present name, "Northwest Vintage Car & Motorcycle Museum," organizing as a non-profit educational corporation, developing bylaws and starting a membership drive.

To recognize and honor these ten founders, the Museum has designed a "Founders Plaque." It is mounted on the west wall of the Museum's Exhibit Hall.

The Toy Box: Post-War Schuco Convertible

By Chip Hellie

Here's a true "barn find" condition convertible from the German toy maker Schuco. Its design is typical of the cars built in post-war America. This was done in hopes for strong sales in its new target sales area, the US.

Marked on the bottom of the toy is "Made in U.S. Zone Germany," indicating this toy was produced right after the war. Later versions were marked "Made in Western Zone" or even later simply "W. Germany." All indicate reparations from the war.



This amazing toy is typical of real cars made in Germany, very complex and sometimes over-engineered!

This wind-up tin toy sports steerable front wheels, a shift lever which engages drive wheels and here comes the real amazing part...a working wind-up radio! Just flip the dash-mounted switch. (Well, it's actually more of a music box but pretty cool nonetheless.) All this in just 6 inches of length and with nice detail. What a nice piece!

The Automotive Mascot

By Chip Hellie



This amazing mascot of a Swallow features flapping wings! The maker claims it's the only natural-flying metal bird in the world. It was created circa 1930 and sold by the Faith Manufacturing Company of Chicago. The Faith Factory produced a large range of radiator caps, hood ornaments, door handles and fender guides for the automotive trade. This lovely mascot was 2 3/4" high, 6 1/4" long and boasted an 11 1/4" wingspan.



Thanks to James R. Colwill for providing use of this information and images from his masterpiece *"The Automotive Mascot, a design in motion"* Vol. II



"EDUCATION IS OUR PURPOSE"

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www.nwcarandcycle.org

The NW Vintage Car & Motorcycle
Museum is at Antique Powerland, off
Brooklake Road, west of 1-5.

1-5 Exit 263, Brooks

10 minutes north of Salem
30 minutes south of Portland

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR 2013

JANUARY

Speedster Program: Ongoing thru May

FEBRUARY

Education Comm. Meeting: Friday, February 8, Chalet, noon

MARCH

Volunteer Recognition Program: Friday, March 22

APRIL

Education Comm. Meeting: Friday, April 5, Chalet, noon

Tour: LeMay America's Car Museum in Tacoma (Date TBD)

Educational Presentation: TBD, Doug Towsley

MAY

Education Comm. Meeting: Friday, May 3, Chalet, noon

Museum Open Weekends

Boy Scout Camporee: May 16 - 19

JUNE

Museum Open Weekends

JULY

Education Comm. Meeting: Monday, July 8, Chalet, noon

Museum Open Weekends

Swap Meet/H.S. Car Show: Sunday, July 7

Powerland Steam Up: July 27 & 28

AUGUST

Museum Open Weekends

Powerland Steam Up: August 3 & 4

SEPTEMBER

Museum Open Weekends

Education Comm. Meeting: Weds., Sept. 18, Chalet, noon

OCTOBER

Educational Presentation: TBD, Doug Towsley

NOVEMBER

Education Comm. Meeting: Friday, November 1, Chalet, noon

DECEMBER

Presentation: "Movie Night," Friday, December 6

Member/Board meetings are always 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM at the Texaco Service Station. The Display Committee meets on 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 PM at Texaco Service Station. All are welcome. Let's support our hard-working Board and committee members by becoming involved in the Museum.