

# Messenger



Volume 17, Issue 2

EDUCATION IS OUR PURPOSE

[www.nwcarandcycle.com](http://www.nwcarandcycle.com)

April – June, 2019

## Save the Date

8TH ANNUAL

## ALL-COMERS RENDEZVOUS

JUNE 15, 2019  
8 am - 4 pm

Northwest Vintage Car and  
Motorcycle Museum  
Chandler Field



All clubs invited (spread the word!)  
Free admission (for you and your car!)  
Grand Opening of Nelson Exhibit Hall

## COMING SOON!

(VERY SOON)  
(LIKE, IN A COUPLE WEEKS)

Plan to join us April 20  
at 12:30 for the Member  
Appreciation Potluck  
and General Social  
Extravaganza!  
Details on Page 5.

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## Note to self:

Grab a friend and sign up for docent duty this summer!  
Remember how much fun it was last time?  
Details and contact info on page 8.

## Letter from the President

By Tom Ruttan

**N**ormally this time of the year is a relatively quiet time. Winter quarter with its colder & wetter weather is not the most inviting time to get out and attend events either at Powerland or elsewhere around the area. While it doesn't have the same activity level as summer, your museum certainly hasn't been completely quiet or without action. Now that the new showroom and meeting room have been completed, we are seeing quite a bit of interest in it for meetings and events. Most recently we hosted an 80th birthday party for family and friends of a fellow car enthusiast. There was food, music and plenty of automobile related memorabilia along with our museum's cars & motorcycles that were thoroughly enjoyed by the approximately 70 attendees. We also had a motorcycle club event where the classic motorcycle movie "The Wild Ones" was shown and a special visit by a class of pre-school children.

Of course this time of year is the prime season for the High School Speedster program. **Don Blain** and the team has had good student attendance so far this school year and there has been good progress made

on the Model T school bus, the Model A Roadster, Chevy pie wagon and the Model T Roadster pick-up.

There are always behind the scenes activity going

on at your museum and one of the most interesting work underway is to set up and get working the theater pipe organ from Tillamook that was donated last year by **Tony Kraxberger**. Member **Stephen Miller** has been leading this effort and putting in a lot of work into this project along with Tony and member **Tom Popelka**, who is also a Branch 15 member. The objective for this first phase, according to Stephen is to "make some noise and wiggle some of the parts" by summertime. If all goes well, this could be a

great device to attract attention to the museum as well as make some wonderful music.

Planning is in full swing for the summer vehicle display. Since we have the new showroom up front plus the main display hall, there is lots of opportunity to have many vehicles this summer. If you have a vintage car or motorcycle that you would like to display this summer (from June 1 through September 29) give me or **Mike Bostwick** a call.



## Newest Board Member – CJ Nelson

By Tom Ruttan

**I** am pleased to announce the latest member to join the museum board of Directors: **CJ Nelson**. CJ is the son of our founder **Doug Nelson** and has been involved with the Museum for many years as a member and volunteer. He brings a lot of business

experience to the board, particularly in regards to promotion and events planning, plus he has grown up with old cars and very involved with **Doug** in the Nelson collection. He's a real car guy! Welcome, CJ!

## Museum Contacts

### President

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djblain@msn.com

### Maintenance Chairman:

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### Display Committee Chairman:

Tom Ruttan, 503-638-1746  
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Don Blain, 503-585-8078  
djblain@msn.com

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Mark Moore  
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Laura Nelson  
nelsonducks@gmail.com

## Volunteers of the Quarter: Stephen and Connie Miller

By Tom Ruttan

**S**tephen and Connie Miller have put their heart, soul and considerable amount of time into the resurrection and assembly of the Museum's donated theater pipe organ. Since fall, when the summer displays ended and we could move things around to get access to the pallets containing the pipe organ parts, they have been working continuously to put the pieces together. They have recruited **Tony Kraxberger** (who donated the pipe organ) and **Tom Popelka** to help them and form a very effective team. Both have researched this pipe organ and organs in general to learn about them and have become our resident experts. They also reached out to people in the local pipe organ societies for advice and potentially future help. This has also helped spread the word and gain a lot of attention for our museum.

Thank you Stephen and Connie!



Connie and Stephen Miller (right) pose with Tom Popelka and pieces of the pipe organ on a work day. (Photo by Mark Moore)



## You Are Invited: Member Appreciation Potluck Luncheon

Mark your calendars for **Saturday April 20!** We'll gather at the Museum at 12:30 pm for a social hour with a potluck lunch at 1:30 and a short program at 2:00. We will furnish beverages, tables and chairs, plates and utensils. We encourage you to bring your family, drive a vintage vehicle or wear period clothing, though it is certainly not a requirement. Hope to see everyone there! Potluck assignments as follows:

Last name A-G: Main dish

Last name H-M: Dessert

Last name N-Z: Salad



## 2018 Quilt Raffle Winner Delighted

By Rosemary Bostwick



**T**he quilt was won by Delane Hatfield of Kent Washington. Mike and I met Delane in Longview to present her with the quilt. She was very happy that she won it. She and her husband belong to a Motorcycle Group so it was a plus to have won it.

We enjoyed a lunch with them at Panera Bread and gave her the quilt. We took pictures with them and they said they would be down again next summer. They bought the raffle ticket at the Hops and Vines event that we had in September.

## Museum PR Opp: Presenting to Community Groups

By Mike Bostwick

**I**n the past 3 months I have made presentations to two Kiwanis Clubs. One in NE Portland and one in Tigard. I have developed a PowerPoint presentation to show the Club in Tigard and it went very well. I am in the process of improving it with things I missed. It lasts about 25 minutes. I

am planning to create this one and one about 12 minutes. I hope to have it on a thumb drive soon, for anyone to present.

If you know anyone that would like a presentation please let one of the Board members know.

## February Field Trip Visitors

By Tom Ruttan



Our museum was privileged recently to have some very special visitors. On February 21, two classes of preschool kids visited us, along with their teachers and chaperone parents, associated with the Chemawa School in Salem. They were excited to see all the old cars and motorcycles, see the Model T cut-away engine work, sit in one of the Speedsters and get up close to the 1919 Model T school bus. One little girl wanted to drive the school bus but we told her she will have to wait until she gets older and sign up for the Speedster class. Their parents were just as excited to see the Museum since most of them had never been here before. The kids had a lot of fun but to be honest, their museum hosts and tour guides had just as much fun!

### Smiley Speedster Donated to Museum

Here is a photo of the 1931 Ford Model A Speedster recently donated to the Museum by the family of **Pete Smiley**. Pete was a longtime Museum member and built this wonderful car that really goes!

Thank you to the Smiley family for this generous donation in memory of our friend Pete.





## Double Donation to Benefit Speedster Program

By Doug Nelson

**R**ichard Fife proposed that he would donate \$3,000 to the speedster program for students to purchase a 1950 to 1970 car to work on. At the same time **Jim Hupy** contacted **Doug Nelson** about donating his 1955 Olds. Doug suggested that the Museum accept the Olds and that Rich spend his money to restore the 1955 Oldsmobile with the kids doing the work. On March 20, Doug and son **CJ** picked up the Olds and delivered it to the Museum for all to see. It is not perfect. It needs a few parts but it is red and white and a two door hardtop. If you have any 1955 Oldsmobile parts we would be happy to accept them for this worthy project.



**Dave Mulhern, Tom Winterrowd** and 2 students work on our 1926 Ford T Roadster pickup. The truck has a rebuilt motor and is ready for paint. This unusual model will soon be ready for sale.



**Bob Pipkin** and student put new pistons in a Model A Ford engine. The motor, along with a 1929 Ford Coupe chassis, rust-free body, and extra parts were donated to the Museum by **Ed and Vicki Appleman** of Molalla, Oregon. It will make an excellent project for our students to learn engine rebuilding and auto restoration. A big Thank you to the Appleman and Deckelmann families for making this possible.



Speedster student **Benjamin** hones his welding skills at the shop this winter.

# CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Soon our busy summer display season will be upon us and we need your help! Please sign up to help in one of these events. The Museum's success depends on you, the good people that get things done!

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL:

Summer docent (weekends from June to September)  
Steam-Up Weekend docent (July 27 & 28, August 3 & 4, 2019)  
Rendezvous Car Show docent (June 15, 2019)  
Display Committee (prepares showroom in May for summer display)  
Building and Grounds Maintenance  
Summer show circuit docents (all summer)

**DOUBLE  
THE  
DOCENTS**

With the added space at the Museum we will need more docent coverage than in years past. It will be very important to consider signing up in pairs. There will be two opportunities to sign up on the large docent sign-up chart in the month of April: the **board meeting on April 18** and the **member appreciation potluck on April 20**.

**DOUBLE  
THE FUN!**



To sign up or have all your questions answered, contact:  
**Andy Ottolia at [gosurfhi@gmail.com](mailto:gosurfhi@gmail.com)**  
**Eric Olson at [erilynolson@gmail.com](mailto:erilynolson@gmail.com)**





## THE SCRAPBOOK

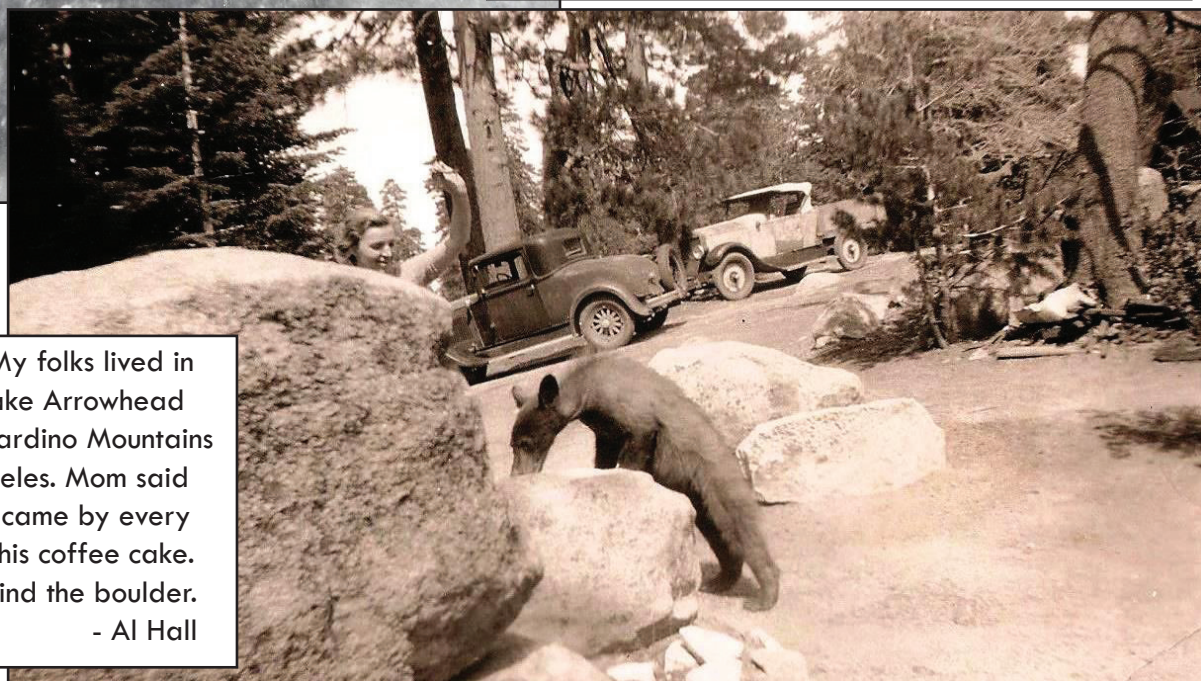
**M**useum member, newsletter copy editor and all around interesting guy **Al Hall** managed to find some old family photos featuring spectacular cars. We've featured a few in past newsletters, but now it's official: Welcome to the new Scrapbook Page! Do you have an old car or motorcycle photo you want to share? Email it, along with a description, to **Laura Nelson** at [nelsonducks@gmail.com](mailto:nelsonducks@gmail.com). (She can also scan the originals if you need...just contact her to work it out!)

1953 - My dad, brothers and I discovered this old car while hiking in Cattle Canyon in the San Gabriel Mountains east of Los Angeles. That's me sitting behind the steering wheel with brother Bud next to me waiting for younger brother to start cranking.

- Al Hall

About 1930 - My folks lived in a cabin near Lake Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mountains east of Los Angeles. Mom said this black bear came by every morning to get his coffee cake. That's mom behind the boulder.

- Al Hall





## A Dream Comes True

By Al Hall



In 2018, Pebble Beach Concours officials added a new judged class of Eisenhower Era Dream Convertibles. This was a showcase of postwar domestic low-production luxury cars. Museum member **Roy Asbahr** was not only thrilled to receive an invitation to display his 1953 Oldsmobile Fiesta but he was awarded 3rd place in the class. His Fiesta was one of only 458 ever made. Roy was thrilled even more when Jay Leno stopped by to admire it (photo, right).



## The Toy Box

By Chip Hellie

This issue we have a very early example of a Structo dump truck. Produced around 1924, these were the first of the prebuilt trucks sold. Prior to this, they were assembled as a kit. These were made from thin 24 gauge steel, so very delicate and survival rate not that good.

Structo's slogan was "Structo Toys make men of Boys." It could be said that's all changed about now. They now bring back the boy in old men.

This dump truck was offered in a set called the sand sifter with ramps, hoppers, conveyer belts etc. This example is in extraordinary all original condition including all unretouched paint. Definitely the way you want to find one!





## Car Buff Heaven: Cite de L'Automobile

Story and photos by Andy Ottolia

In 2017 my wife and I decided to take a tour of France. The tour, Holy sites and Cathedrals of France, crisscrossed France for 17 days taking in the history and the treasures of art and buildings created by man more than a thousand years ago – all achieved without electricity, computers or power tools. This is a magnificent display of human faith, creativity and ingenuity that will inspire us for eternity. On the last weekend of our vacation I broke loose from the tour in Lyon and headed by train to the city of Mulhouse on the German and Swiss border. My destination? Another masterpiece, but for the car buff this time: CITE DE L'AUTOMOBILE (City of the Automobile), considered by many to be one the world's premiere museums of automobiles, memorabilia and radiator mascots.

The collection holds 560 vehicles and represents 97 different makes from 1887 to 1970. The museum was the passion of the Schlumpf brothers, who began

collecting the world's most beautiful and fastest vehicles in the 1940's. The brothers were businessmen and owned wool and textile mills and became very successful during the first part of the 20th century. They had the funds and vision to buy the world's rarest automobiles during the 50's and 60's when they were still reasonably priced.

Wow, and what amazing cars do they have! Their collection boasts 130 classic Bugattis from the 20's and 30's. Perhaps the world's greatest automotive genius of this era, Ettore Bugatti, built the fastest, most luxurious and technologically advanced cars of their day. In the 1920's he won over 1000 races with what at the time was the world's fastest cars. His reputation was legendary. He built beautiful works of art that were crafted with streamlined bodies, the best materials and race-proven engines. His crown jewel

Museum entrance next to the 100-year-old woolen mill. Inside is a treasure trove housing 560 of the world's rarest classic cars.



This is the Crown Jewel of Bugatti. In 1930, the Royale cost \$40,000 new and only 6 were built. Four of them are in this museum!



was the Bugatti Royale. In 1930 during the depression, they cost \$30,000 to \$40,000 each at a time when a Duesenberg cost \$17,000! Only six of these were built for Royalty and no less than four of these behemoths reside at this museum. At a time when a basic classic Bugatti commands \$2 million dollars and a Royale is valued at \$50 million you can appreciate the rarity and significance of the cars in this museum (they have 130 of them!) Today it is considered a French National Treasure.

You will not find American cars in this collection. The best European collections of Mercedes Benz, Rolls Royce, Alfa Romeos, Hispano Suizas, Delahayes and Ferraris among many other makes are represented. There are endless rows of vehicles displayed from the 1880s and on as you walk along the streets, filled with period memorabilia and with many video displays of each makes significance. All are housed inside a huge 100 year old Woolen Mill building with period lighting.

After 3 and a half hours and countless miles walked I was overwhelmed, so I went to the cafeteria and met four chaps from England and we talked all about British cars. As we talked and ate from the second floor, we observed the racetrack down below with classic cars making the circuit. For just \$50 you can personally drive your choice of 5 classic cars around the circuit for 6 laps. No hot-rodding though – maximum speed allowed is 40 mph! We had a lengthy discussion on which classic we would pick. Our choices were a 50s era Jaguar XK, Corvette, MG, Maserati and Jaguar XKE.

Back to The Schlumpf brothers. In the 1970s the worlds textile industry got destroyed by Asian competition and the brothers ran into hard times. There was not enough money to pay the Mills employees and the French government began investigating. The brothers fled to the Swiss Border to avoid jail time.



French officials examining the property were shocked to find huge boarded-up buildings filled to the brim with these classic treasures. The brothers had no children, were very secretive with their collection and only a few trusty mechanics knew it existed.

Fortunately for us, it has a better ending than Bill Harrah's collection that was sold off to pay inheritance taxes. Here the French had vision! After years of debate on whether to auction the collection off to pay the mill's debts, French politicians decided to pay them off by tapping into the French Treasury. This, along with the millions it cost to update the historic Mill building and make it a first-class museum attraction for Europe, was covered by the French people and various government agencies.

Today 36 years later it has surely proven to be a wise decision. This amazing collection, which would be impossible to duplicate in any form or fashion in today's world, is a source of much pride for the French people and brings thousands of tourists to the city of Mulhouse and the Alsace region. It is certainly a masterpiece for us to savor and enjoy. Make sure you add it to your Bucket List!



"EDUCATION IS OUR PURPOSE"

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[www.nwcarandcycle.org](http://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

**Speedster Class and Member work days, 9 am to 2 pm**

Apr. 4, 11, 18, 25    May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

**Other dates of note:**

April 4-7	Portland Swap Meet
April 18	Member/Board Meeting, 2 pm at Nelson Building
April 20	Member Appreciation Potluck (details on Page 4)
April 28	Corvallis, Oregon Swap Meet
May 16	Member/Board Meeting, 2 pm at Nelson Building
May 18-26	Winter cars move out of Display Building
May 18-26	Summer show cars and motorcycles move in to Display building

**June 1**

**MUSEUM OPENS FOR SUMMER SEASON**

**SATURDAYS 9:00 - 4:00    OR    SUNDAYS 12:00 - 4:00**  
**Sign up now for Docent Duty**

June 15	Annual Rendezvous 8 am to 4 am on Chandler Field
June 20	Member/Board Meeting, 2 pm at Nelson Building

**MEMBER/BOARD MEETINGS are the 3rd Thursday of each month, 2 pm at the Nelson Exhibit Hall.**  
**Everyone is welcome!**