

Messenger

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EDUCATION IS OUR PURPOSE

www.nwcarandcycle.com

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AFTER THE SUMMER SUN SETS: SCENES FROM A BUSY FALL AT THE MUSEUM

photos by Mark Moore, resident photographer



OCTOBER: Speedster students Julian and Paddy work with mentor Bob Pipkin.

NOVEMBER: Doug Nelson poses with pipe organ crew Stephen Miller and Tom Popelka.



DECEMBER: Nearly 50 members and friends came for the annual Movie Night, this time featuring the classic, "The Great Race."

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Letter from the President

By Tom Ruttan

2019 has been another full and eventful year for your museum. We have had the good fortune of the first full year of the use of our new first floor front showroom in the Nelson Display Building. It has been wonderful to have this facility to hold events in this year. The meeting room to the left as you come in the front door has the space and versatility to accommodate our gatherings both large and small. We have had our membership potluck, movie night, a couple of birthday parties plus hosting Antique Powerland's annual membership meeting. We now hold our board meetings there plus the lunches for the students in the Speedster Program. This has allowed us to turn the Texaco station back into a service station that is being used to work on some of the museum owned cars to get and keep them in top running condition. This space will be (and has been this past year) a great source of income for the museum as we make it available for rent for outside events. We have also used the showroom side as part of our summer vehicles display.

The Speedster Program continues to be the crown jewel of our museum. Don Blain, Dean Lohrman and the rest of the volunteer mentors are doing a terrific job guiding and teaching the high school students in the program. Come by some Thursday and see what they are accomplishing. Looking forward to next year, I see another active year for your museum. Both Powerland and our museum are seeing a significant increase in the number of events scheduled, particularly during the summer season. I think that

people in the area are finally starting to discover what is out here and realizing what an incredible place this is and what we have to offer.

We have already booked two wedding on our museum grounds, one in the spring and one in late summer. I look forward to working with the APMA Board to promote our organizations and make Powerland Heritage Park the busiest place in the region.

In order to succeed however we need your support, both with your time and your pocketbook. Please consider making a donation (or another one for those of you who have been generous to us in the

past) to help keep the operation running and/or fund the next phase of our construction, the second floor of the display building. We also need you to volunteer your time in whatever capacity that interests you. Contact me and I'd be glad to help you find your spot.

Lastly I want to recognize the progress that Stephen Miller, Connie Miller and Tom Popelka have made on the pipe organ project. It is amazing what they have accomplished in such a short time on such a complicated project. We are all looking forward to hearing more great music from it next season.

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and had a chance to spend quality time with family and friends. It should be a great year coming up for your museum so come on out and join the fun!



All the best,
Tom Ruttan

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Looking ahead to 2020

In an effort to help you plan your year in advance, the calendar below includes events at other Powerland museums and in neighboring areas. Items in **BOLD CAPS** are events that are either hosted by or directly involve the Northwest Vintage Car & Motorcycle Museum.

****SPEEDSTER CLASS MEETS EVERY THURSDAY 9 am – 2 pm****

January 16	BOARD AND MEMBER MEETING, 2 pm
February 20	BOARD AND MEMBER MEETING, 2 pm
March 19	BOARD AND MEMBER MEETING, 2 pm
April	MEMBER POTLUCK AT THE MUSEUM (TIME TBA)
April	Corvallis Swap Meet (time TBA)
April 3-5	Portland Swap Meet
April 16	BOARD AND MEMBER MEETING, 2 pm
May 16	S.T.E.A.M.'d Up for Kids, 9 am – 5 pm
June 13-14	Vintage Datsun Swap Meet, 9 am – 5 pm
June 20	ALL-COMERS RENDEZVOUS, 8 am – 4 pm
June 26-27	Branch 15 Antiques & Collectibles Swap Meet, 7 am – 5 pm
July 3-5	Civil War Living History, 10 am – 5 pm
July 3-5	All American Trailer Rally, 10 am – 5 pm
July 25-26	STEAM-UP, 1st WEEKEND, 7 am – 6 pm
August 1-2	STEAM-UP, 2nd WEEKEND, 7 am – 6 pm
Aug. 15	Freaks of Nature Car Show, 9 am – 5 pm
Aug. 21-22	BROOKS TRUCK SHOW, 9 am – 5 pm
Sept. 12	ANTIQUE BICYCLE SWAP MEET, 7 am – 5 pm
Sept. 26	HOPS & VINES, 11 am – 5 pm
Oct. 17-18	Powerland Halloween, 11 am – 5 pm
Oct. 24-25	Powerland Halloween, 11 am – 5 pm
Dec. 6	MOVIE NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM, 1:30 pm – 6 pm

NEWS ABOUT TOWN

Speedster Class Update

By Don Blain



We are ending 2019 on a good note having had a good turn-out of students for the program. We did, however, lose long-time mentor, Bob Pipkin, due to health reasons. Bob has helped to further our teaching program and will be missed. We hope he will be able to visit us once in a while. Another mentor, Pat Patterson, will be on leave for a while due to surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery. Work on our 1929 Model A Roadster continues at the paint shop with students, Julian and Dylan assisting and learning the body and paint process. This part of the project should be completed in about two weeks. We will then be working on assembling the vehicle and getting the upholstery/top completed. Work continues on the 1926 Pickup. We have had fenders donated for this vehicle and we will be working on getting it running. We are working on re-fitting the doors on the Chevrolet Pie Wagon and work is also in progress on the 1941 Packard. As you can see, we have a lot of projects in the works and hope to see some of them come to completion during the remainder of the school year. We welcome anyone who would like to visit our shop on Thursdays and see what we are all about.

Bob Pipkin: A Special Volunteer

By Andy Ottolia

The Museum wishes to acknowledge Bob Pipkin for his dedication and service to the Speedster Program as a mentor over the last 5 years. Many students have learned the art of engine and transmission rebuilding through Bob's vast knowledge and patience. Using Ford Model T and Model A engines and simple 1920s and 30s technology, Bob provided practical hands-on experience for our students in an era where this art is being lost to time. Bob is a perfectionist with procedures and tolerances and his engines always run like Swiss watches. Additionally, he is focused and gets things done. Great habits to learn by young mechanics.



As a teenager in the early 1950s, Bob worked with his father at their automotive repair shop in Sweet Home, Oregon. Can you imagine all the great 30s and 40s cars they worked on? Later in life Bob worked in a restoration shop with his partner and together completely restored over 40 classic cars.

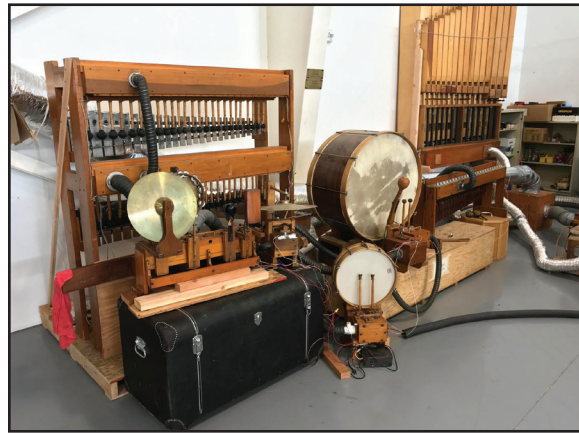
Bob will be taking time off due to his progressing glaucoma. His difficulty seeing prevents him from driving to the Museum. Many thanks Bob, for your years of making a big difference at the Museum by sharing your vast knowledge of classic cars with students and fellow members.

Pipe Organ Renovation Coming Along Nicely

By Doug Nelson

Let the music ring in on our museum! The 1926 theater pipe organ is coming together and will be ready for our summer show in 2020. The crew working on the pipe organ this winter is Connie and Stephen Miller, Tom Popelka, and Tony Kraxberger. They had some wonderful help from Jerry Erwin in the form of a \$10,000 grant.

The pipe organ will be in the northeast corner of the Museum and will be built on a one-story high rise. Mike Bostwick and Tom Ruttan are in charge of building this room. The pipe organ was first constructed in a theater in Tillamook, Oregon in 1927 and was almost immediately obsolete when "talkies" came out in 1928. The pipe organ was purchased by a gentleman who installed it in his house. It was later purchased by Tony Kraxberger, who donated it to our museum. In addition



to the wind chimes (the electric motor that powers the organ) the organ has five ranks of pipes (tibia, trumpet, vox humana, flute, violin) and a variety of other instruments, including a bass drum, tambourine, castanets, and even a xylophone!

Tom Popelka is rewiring the existing organ and keys by taking the old wiring out of existing organ and replacing it with current technology, along with documentation for future maintenance. Tom has developed a set of books that will be useful for the organ's next caretakers, whoever they may be. The pipe organ project is truly a group effort. It will have a modern computer built in the system so that tunes may be played without anyone playing it. Money is needed to complete the project. If you are so inclined, your contribution would be welcome!



Calling all Lady Museum Members

By Joanne Blain

Even though we have put the Ladies area to bed for the winter months, it will not be long before we will need to make decisions about what we will display for the coming summer season. We will be having a meeting to discuss ideas sometime in April and hope that we can include some new ladies in helping with this project. We are looking for interesting collections of items that can be displayed in our glass display cases and, since quilts are always a big item of interest, we will welcome anyone who would like to display their quilts for all to enjoy. We have left intact our bedroom, parlor, and kitchen display for everyone's enjoyment for another year. We would like to build our other displays around this base. We also have several mannequins that can be outfitted in vintage clothing (adults and children) and would welcome anyone who has clothing they wish to display. If you want to display something, or are interested in helping in our area, please feel free to call me at 503-585-8078 or 503-871-0118, or email: djblain@msn.com.

A Car Guy Loses All

By Katie and Marty Boehme

Paul Lyons is a “Car Guy” from Paradise, CA. He’s in his 70’s and served in Viet Nam, receiving two Purple Hearts. He is well-known by all local classic car collectors. On November 18, 2018, he went to work as owner of Express Lube and Oil. Many of his customers are senior citizens who have found that Paradise is a haven for retirees.

On that day the weather was hot. The surrounding area was tinder-dry. An easterly wind was blowing from the forests of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. A forest fire had started early that morning. It was heading west towards Paradise. As it quickly grew in size, evacuation orders went out. Schools, hospitals, and retirement centers were frantically getting people out of harm’s way. By mid-morning, Paradise was facing hurricane force winds. Embers and burning branches were flying through the air. Trees were set ablaze and consumed in seconds. Buildings were burning so fast that some handicapped seniors could not escape. The main road through town was clogged with those trying to escape. Drivers were running up on sidewalks, bike paths and private property. Traffic came to a standstill. Cars were ablaze trapping their drivers inside. The cars that did escape had their plastic light lenses and rear-view mirrors melt due to the heat.

Meanwhile as all this was happening, Paul was trying to save his business. He was trapped with no thought of driving to his home. He scaled the building’s roof with a water hose. The eave troughs were filled with years-worth of leaves and pine needles. He was able to hose them down when sparks flying through the air landed on the debris. Paul was in the middle of a firestorm many times bigger than any he saw in Nam. He witnessed a nearby business burn to the ground in just minutes. He saw a pine tree’s needles vanish in seconds to leave a charred standing sentinel. Some buildings escaped while one next door was consumed by fire. Finally, hours later the fire had swept through Paradise. Only absolute total devastation remained.

It was about midnight that Paul was confident that his business was saved. Adjacent to his business, he had stored his travel trailer. So, he went to bed, still not knowing if loved ones had escaped. Or if his home,



Paul Lyons at his shop in Paradise.
(Photo credit: Amanda Hovik/Paradise Post.)

with his car collection stored in sheds and barns on the property, was still intact.

Early the next morning, Paul started to drive the 10 miles to his family home. On the main highway though town he had to dodge around stalled cars, most just burned-out hulks. Other cars had escaped the flames but had been abandoned.

When Paul reached his home, all that was left were the foundations of his house and outbuildings. His entire collection of 15 classic cars, including seven woodys, a Mustang convertible and a handful of project cars, were gone. Only eight were insured.

Paul learned that his wife escaped to a nearby town when finally he was able to text a daughter. He and his wife are still homeless, living with relatives. His business finally got going again after being shut down for months. Paul will be rebuilding. Paradise is only a shadow of its past. It will be many years before it thrives again.

As a tribute to those car guys that suffered so terribly in Paradise, our museum has been gifted a large photo that shows a burned-out mechanic’s tool chest next to a floor jack. It’s titled “A Car Guy Loses All.” It’s located in the Museum’s gift shop.

The fire’s final stats: 85 people died; 30,000 evacuated; 14,000 homes burned; 19,000 total buildings lost; and 240 square miles destroyed.

It Was Raining, There Was a Train and Probably a Dog

By Martin Doerfler, resident poet

Lets call this cowboy Phil Premium
for Phil there was no medium
and thus he bought the truck that brought
his never ending tedium

The fanciest one on offer
An F-350 monstrous
long bed, lifted, and specially gifted
it was totally autonomous

That is to say, when hauling hay
or in town elbow bending
it drove itself from bale to bale
or bar to bar, depending

Phil would sit behind the wheel
but he he didn't need to hold it
he'd just yell and sure as hell
the truck did what he told it

Could have been that yelling
that sealed our cowboy's fate
the truck robotic had become psychotic
and it had learned to hate

So one night in the tavern lot
Phil ran out of luck
yelled "Take me home you black and chrome
monster pickup truck"

Those big back tire spun the dirt
but Phil was not on board
he stood and cussed in the dust
as the truck went down the road

So now you've heard the story
of Phil and his great misery
a cowboy dumped by his pickup truck
the first in recorded history

MUSEUM CARS FOR SALE

By Andy Ottolia

Don't miss this chance to drive in style!
The Museum has two wonderful classic cars for sale. If you
have ever wanted to drive in style and at the same time help the
Museum, this is your chance! Proceeds help our capital improvements
projects.

First up is this 1941 Packard 110 Coupe in royal red. It is a very
handsome car restored to high standards. It is from an era when
Packard was the standard of world in smoothness, quality, and comfort.
It looks like a new car with its polished chrome and stainless accessories,
and sports an overdrive transmission and mahogany wood grained
interior. It is available for \$25,900 which is a bargain, considering its
restoration would cost three times this amount today.

Our other offering is a 1962 Studebaker Lark sedan in tan color. This
is a wonderful car for the entry level collector, your son or grandchild
who is just starting out in the hobby. She comes with her original paint
and motor and has new seat covers. But this baby gets up and goes,
thanks to its optional 259 cubic inch V-8 with the 3-speed stick and
overdrive transmission. Asking price is \$5,000.

Come by the Museum to check out these classic car opportunities, or
call Andy at 503-851-0816





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P.O. Box 15 • Salem, Oregon 97308-0015

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

January 16	Board and Member meeting, 2 pm
February 20	Board and Member meeting, 2 pm
March 19	Board and Member meeting, 2 pm
April ____	Member potluck at the Museum (date and time TBA)
April 16	Board and Member meeting, 2 pm
June 20	All-Comers Rendezvous, 8 am – 4 pm

A full calendar for 2020, including other Powerland functions and events, can be found on page 3.

**** SPEEDSTER CLASS MEETS EVERY THURSDAY 9 am – 2 pm ****

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