

Messenger



Volume 18, Issue 4

EDUCATION IS OUR PURPOSE
www.nwcarandcycle.com

October – December, 2020

THE ULTIMATE DRIVE-THROUGH: "ROLLIN' THRU POWERLAND!"

(See story, page 5)

The line-up of cars as seen from the 2nd floor of the Nelson Display Hall.



The line-up of cars and motorcycles in front of the Museum.



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The 1927 Indian/Ace 4 Motorcycle
and our beautiful 1930 Cadillac.



Garry Pearce's amazing 1955
Ford Crown Victoria was a favorite!

Letter from the President

By Tom Ruttan

As all of you are aware, I'm sure, this has been a strange and unusual summer. This 2020 summer of COVID has put many of our usual summer activities on hold and cancelled many planned activities. In our vintage car and bike hobby we have not been able to attend the usual shows, swap meets, club events and road events. For Powerland and your museum that has meant cancellation of the Rendezvous, 4th of July Civil War reenactment, Steam-up and many other events that had been planned this summer. This was to comply with the Oregon State mandates and guidelines for public gatherings during COVID.

However that didn't mean that the creative leadership at Powerland was going to just pack their bags and go home. In order to provide some summer events within state guidelines and to provide some revenue for all of us, four weekend "Rollin' Thru Powerland" events were held. Many of you attended these events and they were held on 4th of July weekend, the two weekends that the Steam-up would normally be held and the Truck Show weekend. Most of the museums had some sort of display in front of their museum and the public could drive by and see the displays while remaining in their vehicles. Our museum brought cars and motorcycles, along with some of our member's vehicles, out for people to see as they drove by. It turned out to be a pretty good series of events for us because we were able to get a number of the cars running and drive them out on the display field. It was good for all of the members who volunteered to help because we got to spend some quality time with each other during



those weekends.

Since it has been pretty quiet this summer (other than the Drive Thrus) it has given us the opportunity to do some repairs and maintenance on the grounds and the buildings. The grounds are looking pretty good these days and we are getting some needed maintenance and repairs done to the Nelson Display Hall. The pipe organ project has made great progress this summer as well.

Stephen & Connie Miller, Tom Popelka and the rest of the team have placed most of the components on the pallet racks in the NE corner of the building, have most of the permanent ductwork in place to provide the air to run the organ and have made great strides with computerizing the system.

I want to remind everyone about our winter vehicle storage program that started in September and will go through April 15th, 2021 for \$475/car. This is secure, dry, heated storage for your car if you need a place to store it for the winter or need to make space in your shop for that winter project you just bought or have been meaning to get to. It's the best deal in town and really helps support your museum to pay our operating expenses. Contact me and I can get you signed up.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who made a donation to our 2020 Summer Fundraising Appeal. You have been very generous and have made this a very successful drive. It will go a long way to help your museum weather this pandemic ordeal. I want to also thank Andy Ottolia for initiating and leading this effort. Andy you are our greatest cheerleader and an amazing fundraiser.

Museum Contacts

President

Tom Ruttan, 503-638-1746
tgruttan@gmail.com

Editor:

Doug Nelson, 503-399-0647

Secretary:

Neil Beutler
neilbeutler@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Tom Winterrowd, (503) 263-2696
tawinterrowd@gmail.com

Docent Chairman:

Eric Olson, 503-289-8889
erilynolson@gmail.com

Speedster Chairman:

Don Blain, 503-585-8078
djblain@msn.com

Maintenance Chairman:

Gary LeMaster, 503-393-6069
grlemaster@msn.com

Fundraising Chairman:

Andy Ottolia, 503-873-1185
or 503-851-0816
gosurfhi@gmail.com

Display Committee Chairman:

Tom Ruttan, 503-638-1746
tgruttan@gmail.com

Education Comm. Chairman:

Don Blain, 503-585-8078
djblain@msn.com

Antique Powerland office:

503-393-2424
office@antiquepowerland.com

Webmaster & Facebook Guy:

Mark Moore
mark@pdxhistory.com

Newsletter Gal:

Laura Nelson
nelsonducks@gmail.com

Cutsforth's Canby Cruise-In a Great Success

By Andy Ottolia

This summers COVID 19 pandemic provided few opportunities for area automobile aficionados , except for one!

On August 29th at the Canby Fairgrounds, the Cutsforth Cruise In welcomed 400 Classic Cars In a drive thru format. Our Museum showcased 2 Brass Era vehicles at the entrance where the public drove in. Member Bob Farwell provided the two 110 year old relics.

And what a massive success it was with 800 to 1000 visitors cars driving thru a snaking circuit designed to showcase the 400 classics.

This provided a fantastic promotional opportunity for handing out Museum flyers. Hundreds were given out round the clock for 4 hours straight as the caravans drove through.

Thanks to the leadership of Frank Cutsforth these yearly Canby Cruise Ins are wonderful shows you should not miss. Frank is also a member and big supported of the Museum.

Member Bob Farwell and new member Alan Eyman enjoy a ride aboard the 1908 REO Gentlemans Roadster in preparation for the show.



Volunteer of the Quarter: Tom Ruttan

By Andy Ottolia

Running a museum like ours can be a daunting and tiresome task for most people. Our nominee this quarter has taken on this task for the last 8 years as our President and served 15 years as a board member, all as a volunteer with no pay.

This quarter we honor Tom Ruttan who has worked tirelessly for the Museum's progress, sustainability, and financial well-being over the last decade and a half.

Under his leadership many key projects such as new building construction, Speedster Program, display, fundraising, etc. have been completed.

Tom had a distinguished 40-year career as a microwave design engineer and worked for Tektronix and Intel.

His involvement with our museum stems from his passion for motorcycles. He loves 40s to 70s Triumphs and 70s

to 80s BMW twin cylinders. In his shop, he performs meticulous first-class restorations for himself and other clients.

His favorite bikes are a 1949 Triumph GP factory racer and a 1940 Triumph Speed Twin which he restored. Tom continually displays his bikes during our summer display and his contacts in the classic motorcycle community ensures we can display significant bikes during the summer.



In addition to spending time with his wife of 46 years, 3 children, and 4 grandchildren, Tom plays the upright bass and has enjoyed playing jazz and classical music semi-professionally for 60 years.

The Northwest Vintage Car and Motorcycle Museum is indebted to this humble, soft-spoken gentleman for nearly 2 decades of leadership, devotion, and exemplary service to this organization. Tom, today we salute you!

Speedster Program News

By Don Blain

There has been little activity going on for the Speedster Program. I have been working on the 1949 Chevrolet. Bought and installed new tires, rebuilt the steering post assembly, added a new mirror and adjusted the engine. The car runs good and we should be able to put it up for sale soon.

Dean Lohrman was instrumental in obtaining a \$1,000 grant from Enterprise for the purchase of new lighting in the Speedster shop. The lights are

being purchased and installed by museum member Tom Popelka. Thank you Enterprise for your generosity and Tom for your help!

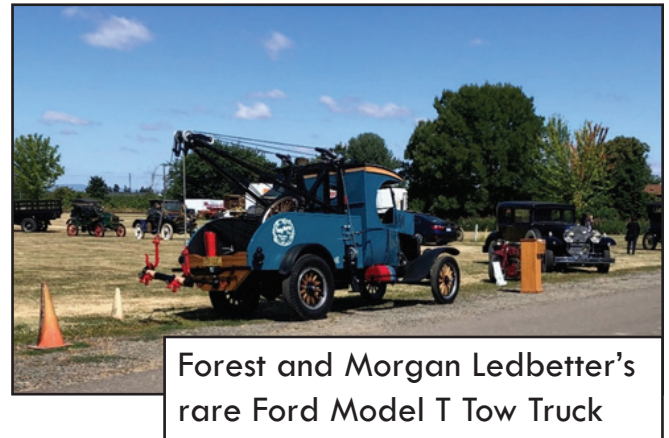
If and when we are able to start up our Speedster Program again we will contact any interested people. We are looking forward to be up and going again. For more information you may contact Don Blain at 503-871-8696 or 503-585-8078 or email talulatouring@msn.com.

Rollin' Thru Powerland

By Tom Ruttan

The four "Rollin' Thru Powerland" events have given all of us at the Museum a boost of energy and purpose in what otherwise would have been a very quiet and frankly dull summer. We had many volunteers who helped get vehicles ready, move them into display position, spent time greeting guests and putting everything away at the end of each weekend. I personally enjoyed spending time talking and getting to know these volunteers even better than I previously had the pleasure to over the eight days of the shows.

I would like to recognize all the volunteers that I can remember (I apologize to anyone I missed but you know who you are!). Thanks go out to Andy Ottolia, Rick Simmons, Stephen & Connie Miller, Tom Popelka, Don & Joanne Blain, Mike & Rosemary Bostwick, Don Blatchford, Jack Adams, Tom Winterrowd, Forest & Morgan Ledbetter, Garry Pearce, Marvin Nisely, Neil Beutler, Gary LeMaster and a very special thanks to Bob Farwell who brought 6 to as many as 9 of his collector cars to these weekend events. His cars really filled out the field and made our display very special with his early and rare cars.



Forest and Morgan Ledbetter's rare Ford Model T Tow Truck

Ladies Looking Forward to 2021

By Joanne Blain

As with other projects at the Museum, the Ladies are looking forward to 2021 in hopes that we can get back to a normal showing.

We are still looking for quilts, collections and clothing that can be displayed. The Museum will be featuring the 1950's, 60's and 70's and we need items that reflect that time period.

The Ladies Committee will be meeting at the Museum in the Spring to discuss how we will set up our displays and we welcome anyone who is interested and willing to help us to attend (time and date TBD).

It is always very interesting to see how the public enjoys our displays and we always get

good comments. We encourage anyone who is willing to help us provide an interesting display of items.

It has come to my attention that due to the fact that we sometimes have people and/or groups visiting our museum during the winter/early spring times that we should consider maintaining some of our ladies exhibit through that period so that visitors have an opportunity to see what we can offer. I welcome any ideas you might have about doing this.

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.

Fall Donation Appeal - Did You Get Your Letter?

By Andy Ottolia

Dear Friends and Members of the Northwest Vintage Car and Motorcycle Museum,

We hope you and your loved ones are safe and on a path to normalcy in the coming months.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, Oregon government has imposed restrictions on public venues. We are sad to report that Powerland Heritage Park, our home, will be closed to all public activities until September 2020.

Our Rendezvous car show, Steam-up weekends, Truck Show, and all summer events have been cancelled at this complex. As you know, this is our busy season, and this will present serious financial challenges to your Museum.

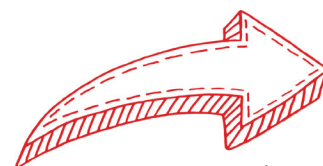
For the last 20 years with your support NWVCM has grown into a fine center of displays, shows and learning. Over 350 at-risk High School students have benefited from the Speedster Automotive program.

At this time of need we ask for your support in the form of a donation to cover our operational costs which includes utilities, insurance and maintenance. The Museum has no debt and no paid employees so we are as lean as possible. But with no income for this summer we need your help.

Please be generous. If not a member or your membership has expired, join or renew today with the special 3 years for \$100.

We will let you know when activities resume at your museum and Powerland Heritage Park.

We are so grateful for your support.



USE THIS HANDY
FORM FOR ALL YOUR
DONATION AND
MEMBERSHIP NEEDS!

FUNDRAISING UPDATE:

Since May 30th, when our appeal was launched, you have stepped up and raised \$22,000 for your Museum!

A big thanks to those generous members who came through during this time of need. Your support ensures that during these trying times of no income, your museum has the funds for operational expenses. We have no paid employees and run a lean ship.

If you have not donated yet, there is still time. Kindly use the form on the opposite page for donations, membership and membership renewal.

For the last 20 years, with your support, the Museum has grown into a fine center of displays, shows, and learning. Over 350 at-risk high school students have benefited from the speedster program. All this would not be possible if not for the generosity of people like you.

Many many thanks,

Andy Ottolia, Fundraising

For Pay Pal use link at the Museum website at www.nwcarandcycle.com.

STORE YOUR CAR or CYCLE at the MUSEUM

Now is your chance to buy that Classic Car or Motorcycle of your dreams that you have always wanted. But you say you don't because you have no garage space or your spouse doesn't want it? Well, now you are in luck! Buy it and store it at the Museum!

Over the years this activity has provided Museum members heated storage during the winter for their vehicles. The museum has benefited as these storage fees cover about a third of our operational costs. This year due to the cancellation of the displays, storage will be available beginning September 15 and go through April 15, 2021.

Fees will remain the same as in 2020 for the season. \$475 for cars and \$150 for motorcycles. Take advantage of this year's longer storage season for the same price! Contact Tom Ruttan for more information or to make your reservation!

DONATION AND MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail this form, along with your payment, to:

Northwest Vintage Car & Motorcycle Museum
PO Box 15
Salem, OR 97308-0015



Questions? Call Tom Ruttan at 503-621-8943

Name _____

Spouse _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone number(s) _____

_____ **DONATION** in the amount of \$ _____

Membership levels:

_____ **SPECIAL 3 years for \$100 (any age)**

_____ Senior membership \$35 (ages 65+)

_____ Family membership, \$50 (1 or 2 adults over 18 with any number of children under 18)

_____ Standard membership, \$40 (ages 18 – 64)

_____ Club membership \$200 the first year, \$100 each year after

_____ Lifetime membership, \$10,000 (one-time fee, includes family)

Tell us about your vehicles and interests:

☐ I would prefer to receive all correspondence via email

☐ Contact me regarding Volunteer Opportunities

*The Museum also accepts cars and motorcycles to display and to sell.
These donations are used to help build the endowment fund that will help support the Museum in the future.*

*The Northwest Vintage Car & Motorcycle Museum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. Thank you!*

Calling all Car and Motorcycle Clubs

By Andy Ottolia

This year our museum is reaching out to Willamette Valley Car and Motorcycle Clubs to become Museum Club members. The Northwest Car and Motorcycle Museum is on a mission to make our facilities a Community and Events Center for Car and Motorcycle related activities in the Willamette Valley

Our facilities of 30,000 square feet contains an exhibition hall, 1930s dealership and 1930s gas station and restoration shop. The campus is on 2 acres with a one acre show field and gazebo all surrounded by Powerland Heritage Park, a tourist destination.

Museum membership will include

- Use of conference room for your club's monthly meetings
- Use of grounds for one yearly car show (fees may apply)
- Future seminars and auto related events on weekends
- An area where clubs can display their information for marketing purposes
- The club membership fees will be \$200 first year and \$100 yearly thereafter

This is a wonderful opportunity for your club. For more information, please contact Tom Ruttan or Andy Ottolia.

Museum Welcomes Ford, Rover Clubs

By Andy Ottolia

We are happy to report two new local car clubs have joined the Museum community. The Mid Willamette Valley Early Ford V-8 Club are enthusiasts of 1932 to 1953 Ford, Lincoln and Mercury cars and trucks with Ford flathead V-8 motors. Every year they sponsor the very popular "All Ford Picnic" at Champoeg State Park, a tradition since 1972. The picnic is held the second Sunday in August.

The Pacific Coast Rover Club was founded in 1988 and covers Oregon, Washington, Northern California, Idaho and Western Canada. They have 257 members and are enthusiasts of Land Rover off-road vehicles built from 1948 to the present.

The Northwest Vintage Car and Motorcycle Museum welcomes these two clubs in hopes these partnerships will increase awareness, activity and use of our facilities into the future.



**CAR JOKES TO AMUSE
YOUR FRIENDS &
GRANDKIDS:**

What do you get when
dinosaurs crash their cars?
Tyrannosaurus wrecks.

What do you say to a frog who
needs a ride?
"Hop in!"

Why couldn't the frog find
where he parked his car?
He'd been toad.

History Showcase

By Andy Ottolia

Here's a scene from yesterday in the Northwest: A lady adding water to her car's radiator at a cute 1930s era gas station. Can you identify the make and model of her ride?



.....Poetry Corner

Maybe the Driveshaft Fell Out, But That's a Drive-in Legend for Another Time.

By Martin Doerfler

There's an iconic photo
you've probably seen
of five young guys in t-shirts and jeans

all peering under the hood
of a fifty Merc, it's understood
not a one knows why
the Merc won't go
but at the very least they know
what they're looking for
Spark and gas, not much more
to check up on

No black box
of magic electrons

In a modern car
if it won't go
grab your cell
and call a tow

in a modern car
it's understood
you don't even bother
to open the hood

A Story of a Family and a Model T, in Two Parts

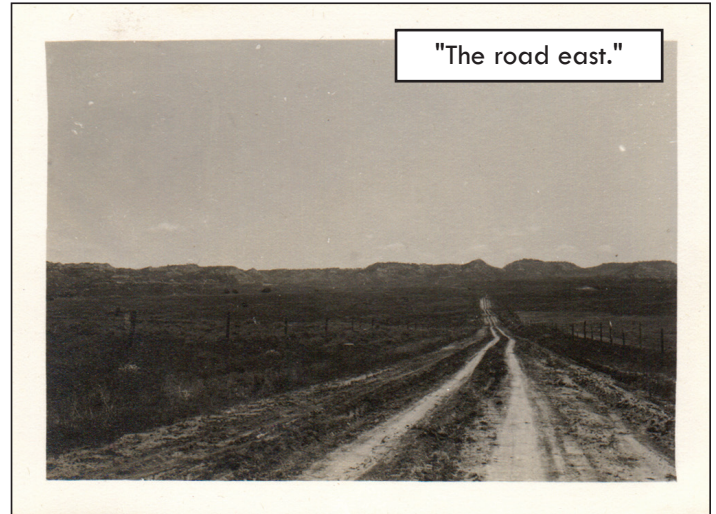
By Marty Boehme

PART 2: DRIVING ON MONTANA'S FOREVER OPEN PRAIRIES IN THE 1920'S

My dad grew up not knowing his father who had simply disappeared before he was born. Then at the age of 21, it was learned that Joseph Boehme was living in Chicago. Dad's mother wanted to go to Chicago to be reunited with her husband. Dad also wanted to go so that he could meet his father for the first time.

Things were complicated because dad was in his second year of college. His mother didn't want her son to quit school. It was arranged for dad to continue his mechanical engineering classes at Wisconsin State College in Madison. Dad would need a car, so it was decided they would drive their Model T Ford to Chicago. He was to do all the driving because his mom never learned to drive. It was summertime so they knew the drive would be in good weather.

Years ago, my dad and I had a wonderful time sitting next to one another as we flipped



the pages of his photo album he had made about the drive. It was something he wanted to share with me. It was a real adventure for him at 21 years old. I can't remember him telling me about any car problems. Maybe a flat tire once in a while.

This was a trip that lasted more than a month of constant driving every day.

They made it over the Rocky Mountains following gravel roads. When they came to Montana's open prairies, they were simply following wagon tracks. I asked dad how he knew the way. His reply was, "I just drove East."

It was the first time in their lives to see buffalo and antelope. They sometimes followed flocks of sheep on the road. At the end of a day's driving, they simply chose a place to camp using a tent



packed for the trip. Meals were cooked on an open fire.

They came to an occasional town where they stayed the night in a hotel. They also came to rivers. I remember dad telling me that a two-day wait happened while the tow-cable was replaced and the crude ferry was repaired. There was no giving up to end the final part of the trip by train. Dad wanted the car in Chicago so he could drive to college.

They finally made it! Dad's mom was reunited with her husband with a second wedding. Dad met his father for the first time.

The second marriage didn't last long.



Joseph disappeared again. Unfortunately, using their Model T for dad to commute to Madison didn't happen. It was stolen a week after arriving in Chicago.

Chip's Toy Box

By Chip Hellie

This issue I present one of my favorites. A French tin windup by Jouets de Paris, or JeP for short. JeP made wonderful, nicely detailed wind up litho toy cars in the 20's and 30's. Truly wonderful. This one sports a working steering wheel that will stay in the last position you set it. There is a windup motor held at rest by a handbrake lever inside car easily accessed by the front seat occupants. It's a large toy at just under one foot long.

JeP made toy copies of real cars, mostly French. Examples include Citroën, Delage, Peugeot, Renault, Voisin, and this rarely seen version of a Delaunay-Belleville.

This example is just loaded with rich patina! This toy was found after the war in Argentina. Not an inexpensive toy then or now.





"EDUCATION IS OUR PURPOSE"

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

2020

Oct. 15	Member/Board Meeting, 2 pm
Nov. 19	Member/Board Meeting, 2 pm
Dec. 6	Annual Movie Night, 2 pm social hour, 3 pm movie (emails will be sent closer to the date to confirm)
Dec. 17	Member/Board Meeting, 2 pm

2021

Jan. 21	Member/Board Meeting, 2 pm
Feb. 18	Member/Board Meeting, 2 pm
March 18	Member/Board Meeting, 2 pm
April 15	Member/Board Meeting, 2 pm
May 20	Member/Board Meeting, 2 pm
June 17	Member/Board Meeting, 2 pm

PLEASE NOTE: Our annual **Movie Night** is slated for **December 6**. Social hour begins at 2 PM, and the movie will start at 3 PM. This year's movie is *American Graffiti*. Be on the lookout for emails closer to the even to see if it is still happening based on gathering restrictions.

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