



Back Fire January 2023

“Happy New Year” to everyone! I hope this finds you all in good health and to our members having health issues, I wish you all the best in the coming year.

We started the year off with the annual New Year’s Day cruise that was held on the Oregon side of the river. The level of participation was good as we had 28 cars and 48 people take part. We went around Youngs Bay and took Lewis and Clark Rd. into Seaside, the back way. We had lunch at Dundee’s Bar and Grill on Broadway. The owner and his staff did a great job taking care of us and everyone was served in a very timely manner even though they were very busy. A card is being sent thanking them for their hospitality on a busy day. If you get a chance and are in Seaside, stop by, grab a bite and thank them again.

In club news, we have a number of things going on. Our elections were held and thank you all who participated by phone or email. The results are: Vice-President – Jim Purdy(2year term); Treasurer – Burt Young(1 year term); Secretary – As no one was nominated, Nicki Andrews was appointed(1 year term). The board now needs to meet and appoint our fifth board member per our by-laws. I would like to thank last year’s board for their service and their advice and help to me with club management. I also want to thank all our other members for their help and ideas and look forward to another year of progress. Anyone with ideas on anything please feel



free to let the board hear what you have in mind to help us move forward.



The donations from club members to the Wishing Tree and Clatsop Regional Food Bank came to \$2140. The organizations were very thankful for your generosity.

Membership renewals continue to come in and Dianne and Jo are working to assemble a new club roster. They are going to make it as complete as possible, but it really depends on how quickly and accurately we get them our information. So please renew as soon as you can.

The Swap Meet committee has mailed out the fliers for the March 11 swap meet. Charlie Clayton and Dorothy Gillies are taking vendor registrations. With the help of D’Arcy Ferguson getting the work force organized. If you are available to help, please let them now. Also, donations to the club sale booth are greatly appreciated.

The NW Car Events Calendar for 2023 is available to club members at no cost. They are in Steve Jordan’s shop if you would like to pick one up at a meeting. Also more LCCC metal car plaques have been ordered and should arrive soon. If you would like one, please let Steve know.

See you soon, stay healthy, Doug

PRESIDENT DOUG GILLIES / VICE PRESIDENT JIM PURDY /

TREASURER BURT YOUNG / SECRETARY NICKI ANDREWS / BACKFIRE EDITOR ROSS GETCHELL

/ WEBMASTER ROBI NELSON



November 17, 2022

President Doug Gillies called the November 17, 2022 meeting of the Lower Columbia Classic Car club to order at 7:01 pm. The club officers were introduced - President Doug Gillies, Vice President Jim Purdy, Treasurer Burt Young, and Secretary Nicki Andrews. There were no visitors or new members present. Dorothy Gillies made a motion to accept the minutes of the October meeting as printed in the BackFire. Motion seconded and passed. Treasurer Burt Young gave the monthly financial report.

Committee reports:

Membership - Diane Matthews reported that Jo Louch will be the new membership chairperson. She will be taking over for Diane the first of the year. Membership renewals for 2023 will be available at the Christmas party December 4th.

Sunshine - Linda Uphoff reported sending out cards to several members.

BackFire - no report due to Ross and Patty being unable to attend the meeting. There will be no BackFire for December.

Swap Meet - Charlie Clayton gave a report. We discussed places to put ads.

Website - Dorothy Gillies will try and get ahold of Robi Nelson.

50's Cruise - there will be a meeting at Steve Jordan's Tuesday November 22nd. We have the flyers for the 2023 show.

Educational Outreach - Bill Cook gave a report.

Old Business:

Christmas party - our Christmas party will be December 4th at the Longshoreman's hall in Astoria. Please RSVP if you are planning to attend. The club is asking members to donate money to either the Wishing Tree or the Clatsop County Food Bank in lieu of bringing can goods or toys. After discussion Jim Purdy made a motion that the club donate \$250.00 to each organization. Motion seconded and passed.

Nominating committee - all positions have been filled except Secretary. Jim Purdy has agreed to accept the Vice President position and Burt Young has agreed to accept the Treasurer position. The position for Secretary is open for nominations.

40 Yellow books have been ordered.

25 car plaques have been ordered and will be available to the members at cost.

New Business:

The Albany swap meet is coming up.

The next meeting of the Lower Columbia Car club will be at the Christmas party December 4th from 1-3 at the Longshoreman's hall in Astoria.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Nicki Andrews
Secretary

Ernie Henton won the drawing.

FROM THE BACK SEAT "THE GAL'S PAGE"

The View from the Catbird Seat

By
Diane Matthews

The scene from the stoker seat on a tandem bicycle might not be panoramic but we stokers view more than our captain's cute little behinds. Often, his true nature is bared, and sometimes sisters, it is not a pretty sight. You see there's a lot more to tandeming than the mathematical process of adding one biker and one biker. In fact, if you'd like to know a special person much better, invite him to captain a tandem while you stoke. His nature will be revealed in the turn of a crank. And, if there is hope but the edges are rough, some of my observations and resulting rules may smooth the way.

Husband Mike built a tandem in 1979. While he planned triangulations, fork angles and brake systems, I planned fun-filled rides. I blissfully envisioned Mike steering and pedaling while I planted my feet on the handlebars beneath his firm buns and worked on my tan. Of course, it wasn't quite like that. But the worst discovery was that now he had total say over things I was used to controlling—things like pace and gears and terrain, and potty stops! I felt like a captive as I gripped the naked handlebars of my new perch. All too clearly the one who sat captain on that bike governed my pleasure or pain. Luckily, Captain Mike favors the former, not all stokers are so blessed.

Going right to the "seat" of the problem, I see that the captain must have empathy with his stoker. While the geography of a tandem seems to offer couples, married or otherwise, a chance to explore new realms of closeness, that will not occur if the person up

front fails to be considerate. But all too easily those who like to exercise are seduced into purchasing this "togetherness machine" looking forward to a lifetime of playing slap and tickle on their own little love bike. They lay out a sizeable hunk of cash, then too late they find they failed to consider the social, along with the technical skills, needed to carry off the simple act of placing one person in charge of a two-person bicycle. Since tandem etiquette is not a priority course in schools, I've put together some rules. If your captain flunks the empathy test, feel free to use them to evaluate and educate as the need arises!

More than one Captain Bligh has bemoaned the partner who will not ride anymore. And I am sure, in spite of the lofty view from his fore deck, he will never see the reason. Comments like, "You are pedaling back there, aren't you?" or "Quit gasping, this hill is only three miles long!" will put any stoker in a less than powerful frame of mind. If this belittling bilge is any indication of what it is like on the poopdeck of that particular bike, no wonder she abandoned ship! Rule #1—Make nice: tandems are too expensive to dry-dock in the basement.

Dear old Mother Nature has seen to it that few couples are equally matched in ability and strength. Nevertheless, for those willing to sacrifice a bit of freedom, a tandem can go a long way toward evening out this discrepancy. The weaker partner can book down the road at heretofore unheard of speeds while the stronger partner enjoys a leisurely cruise. Moreover, when my captain needs a workout, I happily let him pedal me up every hill, no problem. Nevertheless, a

captain sometimes is caught up in the thrill of the hunt. Then, ego abubble, he may push bigger gears at an ever-escalating pace in hot pursuit of some couple half his *team's* age and twice as trained. Afterward, he wonders why his stoker opts for Saturdays at the mall. Rule #2—Until she is in shape, speed kills.

If your fearless leader labels bicycle-built-for-two riders in words like “the captain” and “other one”, you might as well park the thing and take-up hang-gliding. Though they occupy the rear seat, stokers must be viewed as persons of value. Don't ask me why but tandems are often set up so the woman stokes. It's a “design-thing” or so I'm told. Frankly the old term “woman-driver” or new term “control-freak” comes to mind as the “design-thing” but that's another story. Anyway, being relegated to the behind of a bike doesn't automatically lower one's I.Q. or rescind her vote. And a wise captain can use this to his advantage. Like, when traveling in heavy traffic, four eyes are definitely better than two. Mike may run the brakes but if I shout, “Stop!” it happens, no discussion. With both hands free, I can sip a drink, dig out a snack or hug the captain. In addition, I'm free to attend to map reading while he steers, handy in city riding. And his itchy back never goes unscratched for want of a free hand. Rule #3—Equal partners = fun, for two!

Steering is a major question. Wonderful as he is, when it comes to this skill, my captain has a little problem. Upon nearing a bump, he *might* maneuver the entire bike around or serendipity may take over and “Oh dear!” my stoker wheel hits it, “Opps!” Yeah, sure. In times like these, I seriously consider storing my chewing

gum down his bike shorts! Only the fact that this is his one obnoxious habit saves him when he forgets Rule #4—Irate stokers can create a “sticky situation” for their captains, so . . . watch it!

And then there's this situation. On a tough, long hill climb, you find yourself swallowing your lunch for the third time. Some pilots kick it up a gear or two “. . . to get there quicker, Honey”. Filthy sadists! The good captain knows that, even though the two of you just started the ride ten minutes ago, you're wasted. So, he lies. He says he's hot and needs to stop and shed his jacket, giving you and your digestive tract a rest. This gets an extra effort from me every time. Rule #5—A stoker will bust her back seat for a lying, jacket-shedding restler! (Not to be confused with a hot footin' jackass).

When nature calls and restrooms are scarce, a certain type of captain might lecture about taking care of things at the last stop, meanwhile bringing his point home by navigating through every available pothole. A more desirable type suddenly develops the need for a soda. At the next possible stop (usually a handy tavern), his grateful partner races for the outhouse while he orders up something wet. In this way, we've met some amazing folks in some amazing “watering holes”. “Captain Lecture”? Oh, he missed the fun, pity. Rule #6—Experience the world: make potty stops; she'll love you for it.

The question of flatulence sometimes clouds an otherwise sunny tandem scene. The urgency of dealing with this problem depends on the equipment of your particular captain. If you're blessed with a “muffled” or “low-emission” model you rank among the chosen. The

rest must contend with some pretty melodious, malodorous exhaust systems. If you do not possess the salvation of hay fever or severe sinus there are still a few things that may be done. A diet containing beans and legumes only “inflates” the problem, so cut them out for a few days before a long ride. Next, add a generous dose of sugar and fats to slow up the works for a bit. And, if all else fails, be grateful for small favors, like the fact that you are riding in the great outdoors and not in a closed room! Rule #7—Captains may not eat chili before a ride.

Stokers have rules of etiquette too. Hours spent peripherally viewing the world can lead to boredom. Lacking any knobs or levers to twiddle I used to improvise, finding diversion with whatever or *whomever* I found on the bicycle. I considered it one of the perks of my position. It must have distracted my captain though because now, on my very own handlebars, I find my very own Mickey Mouse bell. He says it keeps us out of trouble. Frankly, I miss the fun. Stoker Rule #1—No friggin’ in the riggin’ while the ship is underway.

Certainly, there are also a few stokers who could qualify for a lesson of two in manners. But, like the one who’s the back half of the horse costume, a stoker doesn’t get much praise, so she shouldn’t get much criticism either! Maybe that is adequate compensation for the view from the catbird seat.

Calling All Women Club Members!!

The “Backseat” page of “The Backfire” needs volunteer writers! Have you always wanted to give writing a try, maybe discover your inner Agatha Christie? Well, the June, July or October “Backseat” page might be the place for you. Call Diane Matthews at, 360-465-2320, and she’ll put you on the writers list and give you the particulars. Hurry and give a call, there’re only 3 months available and they won’t last long. Express yourself! Write for the “Backseat”!!

NEW YEAR'S DAY 2023



PRESIDENT DOUG GILLIES / VICE PRESIDENT JIM PURDY /

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FOR SALE LOT & ANNOUCEMENTS



For Sale

1937 Chevrolet Pickup, 327 cid Engine, Tuck & Roll interior. \$20,000. Tracy, 360-703-1139

For Sale 1964 Ford Falcon Ranchero 200-6cylinder, Duel Exhaust, Manual Stick Transmission, New Paint, New Interior, New Tires with Crager SS Wheels \$12000 Randy 1-360-665-5722

I fabricated this one person hood installation tool. I've used it three times now and it worked better than I had hoped. It's available for FREE LOAN to any club members. Holding the hood in midair while starting hinge bolts is always a risky task. This fixture eliminates that problem. You will need an engine hoist and will have to drill a 3/8" hole in the hoist beam Mike Matthews

UP-COMING GAL'S PAGE ARTICLES Jan Diane Matthews, Feb Nicki Andrews, Mar Patty Getchell, Apr Jo Christie, May Patricia Riley, June ?, July ?
Aug Dorothy Gillies, Sept Judy Jordan, Oct ? Nov ?

Get well to; Barb & Darryl Niemi, Patty & Ross Getchell, Ralph Jackson, Mark Welsh, Mark Gittins, Robi & Brad Nelson (Thinking of you) Polk Riley (Thank you) Family of Darlene Langlo (sympathy). Dorothy Gillies, Jo Livingston, Linda & Ken Uphoff, Roger & Kathy Hynen, Pold & Patricia Riley, Brad & Robi Nelson. Well Wishes, Sending good wishes to all of you who I don't know about. Please let me know so I can send you a card if you need one. I think we can all use a little pick me up sometimes. Thanks Linda Uphoff (my phone number is listed in your roster)

BRINGING GOODIES 2023

(coming soon)

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BACKFIRE

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CLAYTON	CHARLIE	ELLENWOOD	CLIFF
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KALLSTROM	LOUISE	MARTIN	LARRY
NIEMI	BARBARA	MARTIN	SHIRLEY
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SCHMIDT	ANGELA	MURDERS	KAY
YOUNG	CINDY	PARSONS	WES
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