

The summer is flying by and almost over, but there are still a lot of events coming up. As I write this, The Rod Run to the End of the World is just starting. Lower Columbia Classics provided security for the Beach Barons Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Vice President Jim Purdy did a great job organizing 12 shifts of volunteers. If you were one of the crew, "Thank You" for your time. The money will support the club's Outreach program. Also, a big thank you to Ralph Jackson for securing parking places for club cars, and Nicki Andrews for getting the preregistration forms to participating LCCC club members.

There were quite a few events our members attended in August. The Fly-In at the airport was a good time as there were about 25 cars that stayed for the whole event. At one point there were almost 100 when the cruisers came and parked with us. It was a great opportunity to acquaint our club's events with members of the Coast Guard, airport employees, and Air Force leaders from Camp Rilea. In Ocean Park the Elks and the Moose lodge held events and Astoria High had their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Senior Project. The Senior Project Car Show is organized by a member of the class of 2024 and all proceeds go to a scholarship for a member of the class who will be attending an automotive vocational program after graduation from Astoria High. That same weekend 12 club cars departed for Joseph Oregon and the Mountain Days show. When we arrived, there were 10 cars, but that's another story. The nice thing about travelling with the club is that no one gets left behind. We always stop and figure out what to do and get everyone taken care of before continuing on. It's a very secure feeling of togetherness. That same weekend Test of Time's show in Shelton Washington was attended by several members.



The educational outreach committee, with the help of Marv Stunkard's fork lift, has delivered the Belt/Disc sander requested by Knappa High's welding program. The club is now making arrangements to deliver the tow dolly to Warrenton High's auto program.

In other club business, the 50's Cruise committee needs to be completely re-organized. Many members who have been heading various jobs have expressed that they are stepping back from their roles,

but will remain with the committee. We are looking for someone to chair/co-chair the event, a judging coordinator, pre-registration, raffle, and site logistic coordinator. Also needed are people to handle art-work/t-shirts and trophy sponsor/dash plaque acquisition. We have a lot of contact information on all these jobs and previous people are willing to help, but need a break from years of prior planning. This will be discussed at our regular club meeting which will be Thursday, September 21 at the Jordan's shop.

The club Christmas party planning has started and Judy Jordan has volunteered to chair the event. With the growth of our club, this is getting to be a bigger challenge. If you would like to help, let Judy know. Along with dinner/lunch it is also when we take donations for the Food Bank and the Wishing Tree program for children. We also have club elections prior to the meal. As more details come about, they will be distributed by the Backfire or email if necessary.

I hope you are all enjoying what is left of summer and will see you soon. Doug



August 17, 2023

The August 17, 2023 meeting of the Lower Columbia Classic Car Club was called to order by President Doug Gillies at 7:00 pm. The club officers were introduced - President Doug Gillies, Vice President Jim Purdy, Treasurer Burt Young, and Secretary Nicki Andrews.

New members - Burl Antony and Brian Frech

Visitors - none

Charles Clayton made a motion to accept the July minutes as printed in the BackFire. Motion seconded and passed.

Treasurer Burt Young gave the financial report. The Belt/Disc Sander has been purchased for \$1,800.

Committee reports

Membership - we have two new members Burl Antony and Brian Frech.

Website - no report

Sunshine - Judy Jordan gave a report.

BackFire - Ross Getchell asked if anyone had not gotten the July BackFire. Please contact Ross to correct this.

Swap Meet - Charlie Clayton reported that we have secured the first Saturday in March for our swap meet at the fair grounds.

Educational Outreach - The Belt/Disc Sander has been delivered to Knappa High School just in time for the start of school. Warrenton High School is looking for a tow dolly. The club will purchase the tow dolly offered by Ed McHenry for \$100.

50's Cruise - there will be a wrap up meeting August 22nd at 6:00 pm at Steve Jordan's.

Old Business

We have received the contract from the Beach Barons for security at the upcoming Rod Run to the End of the World in September. We will be doing security for three nights (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) September 7th, 8th, and 9th for \$875. Please contact Jim Purdy if you can help.

On August 19th will be the Astoria Fly-In at the Astoria airport 10:00 to 3:00. We have been asked to bring our hot rods. There will also be a barbecue at Wes's and a cruise to the Fly-In.

New Business

Saturday August 26th - Astoria High school car show, Shelton car show, and car show in Joseph, Oregon.

Steve Jordan reported on the drive to Joseph, Oregon. They will be leaving Thursday morning staying in Boardman, Oregon and going on to Joseph, Oregon on Friday. If you are interested in going see Steve.

No inter-club picnic this year.

Eagle car show September 2nd in Ocean Park.

Sea Cruise in Crescent City, California October 6th and 7th.

Judy Jordan asked who will be bringing the tow dolly home. Fred Mestrich volunteered.

We discussed the exhaust venting system for the welding area at the Warrenton High school. Fred Mestrich will get some bids.

A nominating committee will be needed at the next month's meeting.

The September meeting will be the 21st at 7:00pm at the Jordan garage.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Nicki Andrews

Secretary

The evening's drawing was won by Fred Mestrich.

## FROM THE BACK SEAT "THE GAL'S PAGE"



So, as I age....

I talk to myself, because I need expert advice.

Sometimes I roll my eyes out loud.

I don't need anger management, I need people to stop pissing me off.

The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."

When I was a child I thought nap time was a punishment. Now it's like a mini vacation.

Wouldn't it be great to put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes and come out wrinkle free and 3 sizes smaller.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, he'd have put them on my knees.

At my age getting lucky means walking into a room and remembering what I went there for.

Some people call it bitching, I call it motivational speaking.

D.I.E.T. = Did I Eat That!

I don't like to think before I talk. I like to be surprised like everyone else by what comes out of my mouth.

I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it.

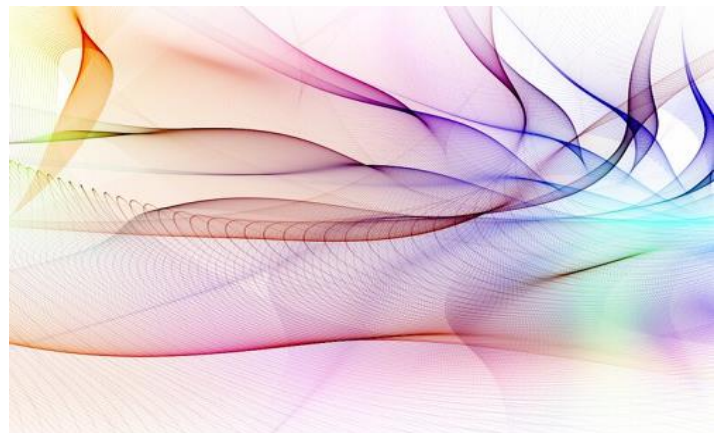
I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.

Don't take life too seriously; no one gets out alive.

Dear Santa:

I have been good all year... Okay, most of the time.... Once in a while ... Forget it, I'll buy my own present.

Hope these bring a smile. They sure tickled me! Dorothy G.





## Historical and/or Hysterical Pictures

Of LCCC Club Members, Friends, and Family  
Wallowa Mountain Cruise 8-25-2023.



PRESIDENT DOUG GILLIES / VICE PRESIDENT JIM PURDY /

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

/ WEBMASTER ROBI NELSON



I know that a few of our club members went to Joseph Or. For the Wallowa Mountain Cruise and I am sure you had a good time. BUT I have been there and done that and wanted to do something different and go some place I haven't been before.

So I decided I would go to the Test of Time car show in Shelton Wa. I had a nice two and a half hour drive in the Cameo. It's been the farthest that I have driven it since I restored it. A little bumpy as the roads were not the best, but none the less a good test for the truck. She ran just fine with no problems.

On highway 108 freeway for about seven miles, I was able to get it up the 65 and 70 mph and cruised just fine. So, in the future I feel I could drive it anywhere I wanted to take it.

I got to the car show right at 9 a.m. that was at the Old Iron Park, which is a few miles North of the actual town of Shelton. In another hour the field was full, 134 entries. A lot of nice cars and trucks I hadn't seen before, which was nice and one of the reasons I wanted to go somewhere different as well as people I had never seen or talked to before. The weather was warm but nice. The had quite a few

vendors for the size of the show. It gave you choices which I thought was good and very good prices.

Ed McHenry and I were the only ones there from our club. I was amazed at how many entries there were from the actual town of Shelton, a town of about 10,000 + or about the size of Astoria. I had a great time, met a lot of nice people and came away with two Trophies. One for best truck and the other for The long Distance Award. 118 miles. Downtown Shelton was also having a show on Sunday, that I was not going to attend but would be good if someone wanted to make it a full weekend.

Downtown was very nice as I went downtown to gas up before I headed home. Met some nice people there as well as they wanted to talk a bit and take some pictures of the truck. I would recommend this show for anyone wanting to go somewhere different.

Burt Young



LCCC had five cars at the Ocean Park Eagles 3<sup>rd</sup> annual car show yesterday. In attendance-Marv & Sue, Randy & Kay, Diane & Mike, Ralph and new member Dave Gaser (aqua t-bird). Marv and Randy were trophy winners. The Slo Poks club from Vancouver and Beach Barons helped out with the show. It's a small show but getting bigger-maybe 40 or 50 cars. I forgot to take any photos. Duh! From Mike Matthews



*This is an article written by Jim Richardson and printed in the April 2023 Hemmings Classic Car issue. It was submitted by Jeff Penuel and retyped to fit into the Back Fire.*

## BEING HERE

My wife and I were recently waiting to board a plane to our vacation destination. As I looked around the departure lounge, I noticed a group of high schoolers in cheerleader uniforms sitting together on the floor, but none of them were talking to one another. Instead, they were staring at their cell phones. Some seemed to be playing video games judging from their twitching hand movements, and others were watching videos or gossiping with friends remotely. They were physically present, but none of them were there.

It seems that being immersed in reality these days is something to be dreaded. For some, it's boring or scary. They think it is better to watch a movie about a gruesome murder, or eavesdrop on a fictional couple squabbling endlessly to sort out a neurotic relationship, than to be confined to an unscripted, unchoreographed world, even though it is only one that actually exists.

We are almost all guilty of it these days—even when we are driving to work or visit

friends and relatives in our hermetically sealed cocoons. The auto manufacturers have added a plethora of cheap electronic distractions to new cars, which has reduced driving to looking out the windshield now and then to make sure we are on the right road and not too close to the car in front of us. We can blast along an eight-lane freeway at 80 miles per hour with very little idea of what the external reality might be.

Elon Musk and his team of electro-wizards at Tesla are even trying to come up with self-driving cars, though they seem to have a few bugs to iron out yet. At this point you might ask, "What will that get us?" Well...just this: You won't have to tear yourself away from your favorite electronic addiction to go shopping or visit your mother-in-law. You can just send your Tesla. Until then, you will still have to kiss grandma hello before turning on her TV to watch Jeopardy.

Gone are days when my dad, in his ancient 1947 Chevrolet Fleetline, would take us for a nice sunny Sunday drive, going nowhere in particular but having a memorable adventure nonetheless. The old Chevy had no air conditioning, so we rolled down the window and we could smell the ocean and the pepper and eucalyptus trees—maybe even reach out and pull off a few leaves, too.

Continued

Yes, there was an AM radio that took several minutes to warm up. It was used mostly to listen to the news now and then. We didn't have GPS either, but we picked up very user-friendly free maps at gas stations. They required no electrical power, and once unfolded, were instantly readable.

Driving slowly and taking in the scenery was pleasant, and it was easy to pull off a two-lane highway to get an ice cream or hot dog. In Southern California, there was even a roadside alligator farm where you could behold those fearsome creatures, and if you were crazy enough, buy them as pets.

My father's old Fleetline was part of the family. Of course, it needed regular attention, such as oil changes every 1,000 miles and tune-ups every 10,000 miles, but those chores were easy enough, and doing them gave you a feeling of self-reliance and security. And because the car was a family member, when you got rid of it, it was a sad day, even if you replaced it with a newer one. Though in that case, you made a special day out of it by taking pictures next to it and taking everybody for a ride around the block to celebrate.

What does all of this have to do with the old-car hobby, you ask? Just this: Many of us cherish restoring and col-

lecting old cars because they help center us in reality, and make us look at the world as it really is and remember how it really was. Someday it may all be gone; in the meantime, we want to savor it.

So, if you will excuse me, it's Sunday and I am going to take my wife, Bette, for a cruise along the ocean, and maybe we will stop at an ice cream shop or taco stand, grab a snack, and listen to the surf roll in. I often miss reality and want to get away from carefully crafted illusions on my iPhone, computer, or TV that intend to sell me superfluous products or ideas.

A wise individual once said: "Life is a gift. Don't leave it unopened." So why not grab your spouse and go for a cruise next Sunday? And if you see a black 1940 La Salle Series 52 coupe heading your way at a sedate speed, be sure to wave. We might just connect in a way we never imagined.

***"We can blast along an eight-lane freeway at 80 miles per hour with very little idea of what the external reality might be."***

## Get'er Dry

What do you use to dry your car after a two bucket wash? I've tried a plethora of procedures and tools over the years. In the early days I used a chamois and/or terry cloth towels. It worked but was time consuming, laborious and had a tendency to put scratches and swirl marks into the paint. Luckily my cars at that time never had paint jobs that were good enough to worry about the odd scratch. I even tried a synthetic chamois at one point. That was a total waste of money. California Duster sold a silicone squeegee that was designed for car drying. It looked like the latest greatest thing so I bought one. It sort of worked but I was never happy with the results. I think it's still kicking around in my car wash paraphernalia. Several years ago I got the bright idea of blowing the water off with compressed air. I have a big compressor that runs at high pressure. Yes it blew the water but mostly it moved it around the car and never got rid of it. Using a leaf blower was my next foray into creative car drying. The results were much like the compressed air, a lot of water droplet chasing.

Since moving to the country I have a new strategy that has been my go-to for several years. Although not perfect, it does a decent job of getting rid of the water. Immediately after washing the car, I drive slowly down our dusty gravel driveway, slowly past the local dairy to avoid spraying cow manure over the side of the car and then on to the valley roads. There I hit the throttle and run the car up to speed. Four or five miles at 70 MPH usually does the trick. As you might guess there are the risks of a bug splattered car and/or a speeding ticket. Since none of these methods are perfect, I'm always on the lookout for something better. I found a possibility in last fall's Groit's Garage catalog. It's a 29" x 36" ultra dense edgeless microfiber drying cloth. Here's Griot's catalog description - "To protect your paint we've created a microfiber drying towel with such a high degree of absorbency that they dry with just one pass. We recommend drying matador style for best results. Drape the towel over the wet surface and simply pull it toward yourself. That one pass is all that's needed to dry the surface of your roof, hood and trunk". It wasn't cheap but I thought it might make a good Christmas stocking stuffer for Diane and her LeMans. Yes,

we have big Christmas stockings. My thinking was that even if it didn't work as advertised it would be a good for rub-down drying. After Christmas it languished in the car wash supplies until we were cleaning LeMoms for the 50's Cruise Reunion. We did a communal car wash and Diane had the honors of trying out the new high tech towel. I was prepared to be unimpressed. She laid it on the hood as instructed and pulled it from rear to front. I'm sure we were quite a picture standing there with our mouths wide open. With one swipe, using just the weight of the towel, all the water was gone! There were no water droplets, no water trails and it was done in about 5 seconds. Diane quickly finished the rest of the car. It even did a decent job on the vertical surfaces and was great for wiping down those nooks and crannies where water collects. I tried to wring the water out of the towel and could get none, it's that dense and ab-



sorbant. It does take a day to dry but that's a small price to pay for a quick paint-safe drying job. My best purchases list just got one item longer.

Introduced by Mike and Diane Matthew's





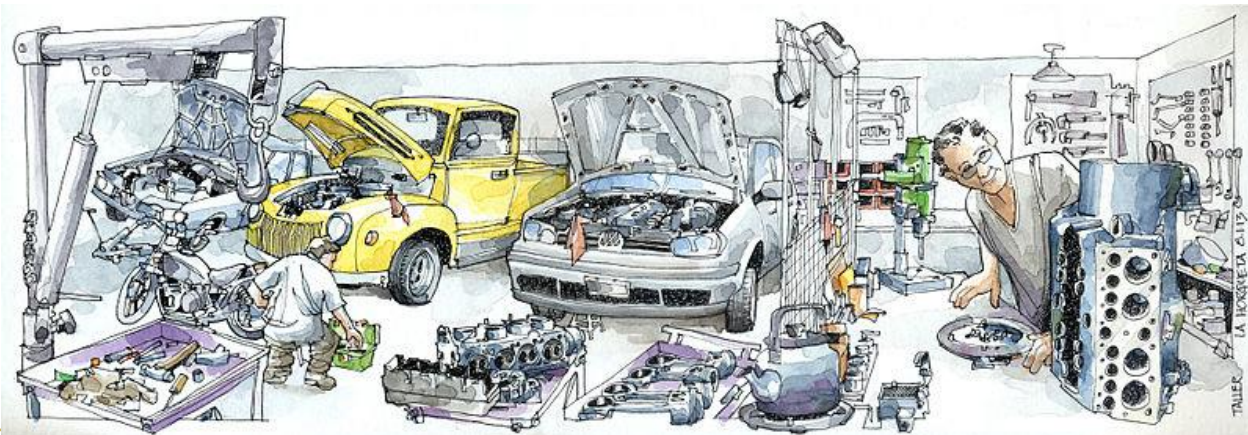
## FOR SALE LOT & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT !! WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO SOMETHING FOR OUR CLUB?**

**WE HAVE NEED FOR ARTICLE'S MEN'S FIRST CAR/ OR SPECIAL INTEREST (ALL MONTH'S) WOMEN'S GAL'S PAGE (JUNE, JULY, OCT)**

**ADDITIONALLY, WE NEED SOMEONE TO BRING GOODIE'S FOR NOV. CLUB MEETING**

This space is open to members who would like to advertise something for sale. Car, Truck, Automotive supplies or equipment, services including our women's supplies and or services.



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

**Get well to;**

Fay Landwehr (sympathy) Dick Pederson (sympathy) Barb Niemi (get well) Rick Jackson (get well)

*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**

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