

Greetings members and friends.

The month of June was very busy. Highlights for our family were Taking my wife Valerie to the Wallowa Mountain Cruise in Joseph, Oregon. We decided to take the red corvette on this trip. It has a larger trunk than the older 76 corvette. Still we had to ask our friends, the Getchell's to haul our lawn chars for us. Thank you, Ross & Patty. We headed out Thursday morning and had lunch at a golf course in The Dalles. Then off to Boardman for the night. Another couple was to meet with us in Boardman but they encountered car trouble. Friday included a breakfast at Roosters in Pendleton, Oregon. Then over the mountain with ice cream at Tollgate and then on to Enterprise. Saturday was the show in Joseph. Attendance was less that in years past. The show was moved from August to June. There were about 50 cars shown. Sunday was hanging out with the Getchell's touring the area including Wallowa Lake and local restaurants. Monday, we drove home. Thank you to Valerie for enduring my car show craze.

The very next weekend, one of our favorite shows was the Heritage Days show in Clatskanie, OR. We took the 24 Ford Coupe on a trailer and then drove it into the show. Mick and I showed the car and family came to spectate. The registration table informed me there were 193 cars. I counted 17 cars



from Lower Columbia Classics. Great showing folks.

This month we celebrate the 4th of July. Please be safe and enjoy.

Don't miss out on the annual Ice Cream Social hosted by Mike and Dianne Mathews Sunday July 20. Cruse begins at Dismal Nitch rest stop at 1 pm. RSVP to 360-465-2320 (landline) and 360-353-8237 (cell) or hicksrus@wwest.net

This month's meeting will be July 17th at the shop of Fred and Ann Mestrich. 35525 Little Ln. Astoria, OR. The meeting begins at 7pm.

Ask a member if they need a ride. I hope to see you all there.

Thank you for your continued support;

Jim Purdy, President Lower Columbia Classics Car Club 2024-2025





Lower Columbia Classics Car Club - June 19, 2025.

Meeting was opened at 7:00 pm by Vice President, Chuck Loesch.

Introduction of visitors: None, New members: None, Life members: 3, Past presidents: 4

Chuck read the minutes of the previous meeting and were approved with no corrections.

Treasurer's Report, Burt Young. Burt passed around the reconciliation and profit & loss. Burt said the 50's Cruise was a great success but not all bills have been paid and money is still coming in for things like t-shirts. Burt said the admissions were at \$5 per car and counting the money from that, approximately 137.8 cars came through. Several payments made have not been cashed or cleared at the bank. He will have a full report at next month's meeting. Motion was made to accept the treasurer's report: Fred Mestrich. Seconded by Paul Sherman. Vote: Yes.

Membership Report: nothing to report

Sunshine Committee: Mike Matthews mentioned that he saw an obituary for Keith Olson of Cathlamet. Keith and his wife Paula joined the club last fall. He was 82.

Paul Sherman said his wife Gini is going through chemo again. This is her 4th time going through chemo over the years.

Website Report: nothing, Backfire Report: nothing

Swap Meet – nothing new

Educational Outreach Committee: Notes from Jim Purdy

A meeting was held June 14th. Visitors attending were staff and instructors from the Clatsop Community College M.E.R.T.S., Warrenton High School and ASH student Lyndel Edwards. Wish lists were reviewed. C.C.C. will provide a more detailed wish list. ACTIVE, a local non-profit organization, drag racing team was represented by a letter. The Committee will meet again to finalize contributions.

50's Cruise Committee: Doug Gillies

Doug reports how well the 50's Cruise went and the great help from members old and new. There was good feedback on the venue. The Fairgrounds have penciled the show of May 30, 2026. The Thank You Ad is suppose to be out next week. Members thanked Doug & Dorothy for the good job putting the show together. Steven Jordan motioned to approve the May 30th date for next year 2026, Fred Mestrich moved, Mike Matthews made a 2nd, all approved; yes.

Nikki Andrews said if you didn't get your dash plaque, she still has plenty of them.

Facebook Page Admin; nothing to report

Club Photographer: Mike Matthews. While yes he did take all the photos of the car show and winners, he accidentally deleted them all. He has been able to get pictures of the winning cars for next years t-shirts, etc. If anyone has photos from the show, please e-mail them to Mike at hicksrus@wwest.net

Interclub Picnic – nothing in planning now. Judy and Diane questioned if this was to alternate every year with the Test of Time. Tabled for now.

Christmas Party – tabled

Old Business: None

New Business: Mike Matthews said the Annual Ice Cream Social is July 20th, meeting at Dismal Nitch at 1:00 pm. Please R.S.V.P. by calling 360-353-8237 or e-mail hicksrus@wwest.net

Jim Scarborough's 1948 Ford will be coming up for sale. Call Mike Matthews for more information.

Heritage Days Car Show is June 28th in Clatskanie.

Astoria Ford Car Show is July 19th.

Next month's meeting will be held at Fred and Ann Mestrich's shop July 17th, 2025 located at 35525 Little Lane, at 7:00 pm.

Treats provided by Nikki Andrews.
Attendance drawing winner Bill Denny.
Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm
Minutes by Jo Loesch+

FROM THE BACK SEAT "THE GAL'S PAGE"



So you think this is a Mustang?? You would be wrong.

This is a T5. What is a T5 you ask, T5 is German for Mustang – That is a complicated story so let's start at the beginning.

I first met Grandma Cindy in 2009 while working at Columbia Vet Hospital in Astoria, Oregon. She and her husband, Gregg Hilton, had no relatives and my daughter, Stasia, and I were alone as well. We became good friends and we adopted each other as family. They became our adopted Grandma Cindy and Papa Gregg. Both are gone now and very much missed. They lived just over the bridge in Cathlamet, Washington. The first time Stasia and I went to their home I was taken a bit back as their yard had a few decrepit old vehicles as well as boats in it. Suffice it to say I almost didn't see the little Mustang in the carport. We didn't really start spending much time over at their house until after Papa Gregg died of Multiple Myeloma in 2010. It was then that I took on helping Cindy with the house. We began by selling off the boats and were able to move the 1973 Thing off the side of the road into her 3rd bay. The sad little blue car had been covered and buried by stuff for at least 8 years based on the date of its license plate tags. I was instantly in love even though it was in terrible shape.

I also, fell in love with the Thing – but the Thing meant more to Cindy because of the ties to her late husband. I did try to get the Thing running, but the Air Cooled VW engine was a horse of a different color.

We were able to get 2 late model Astro Van's, a 1973 Ford F150 (aka Plumb Truck), a late model Thunderbird with a bashed in back end all running, but the little blue car and Thing were more than stubborn. Cindy was able to drive most of the cars until it became just too much to keep them insured and running. We slowly sold off most of the vehicles and were left with Plumb Truck, the Mustang, and the Thing. I opted at this time to sell Cindy my little Prius as she really needed a reliable car. Plumb truck went to a new home when it just became too much to keep it running safe.

After we cleared out the upper yard we then turned to getting the house de-cluttered. Both Cindy and Gregg were avid collectors of a variety of "Collectable" objects. Anything from Hot Wheels to Blue flow China. She had 2 stories and over 30 years of accumulated stuff. It was very difficult for her to move around the house at that time. Stasia and I spent many weekends over there helping to get things cleaned up. I finally had the courage to ask if I could try to get the little Blue Mustang to run and Cindy thought that would be a great idea and would have made Papa Gregg proud to see it run again. That was also the time I learned that it really wasn't a Mustang, but a T5. Cindy dug out a manila file of magazine articles and so began my love affair with the little T5.

I really didn't know that much about cars at that time – not that I know a lot now, but I knew enough on how to change the oil, the alternator and water pump from my high school cars. My first lesson was if it doesn't run it's either not getting spark or fuel. Easy right?? NOT!!! Enter the carburetor. My Nemesis!!

I began by doing what I knew. Do a full tune up including oil, spark plugs, plugs wires etc... It was more than glorious the day she finally started but then sadly had no power to move. I slowly began to learn a little about carburation. The original carburetor had been a bed for a lovely family of rodents whose urine destroyed it. I mean really, it was a single barrel and only had 3 screws to adjust, how hard could it be? I think I finally bought 5 carburetors before I had one that mostly worked...most of the time...until the weather changed...then changed back...still my Nemesis!

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My next step was trying to get the front left brake unlocked so it could move. This was another one of my frustrating learning experiences. I also started cleaning up the interior and even tried a dark blue theme – which I quickly painted over. She just had so much rust.

It was a glorious day when we were finally able to start her and drove her up to the little city park to turn around (dying about 3 times) and mostly coast back down the hill to Cindy's house. She got her first real bath and we got to see her in the sunshine for the first time in almost 10 years.

With her mostly running I got the courage up to ask Cindy if I could buy it. By this time, in the house, we had gotten most everything cleaned up and realized how awful her bathrooms were. We were able to lay new Luxury Vinyl after removing the 70's carpet and decided to tackle the bathrooms. Unfortunately, money was an issue and I then had a brilliant idea and my chance. I offered to buy the little T5 and in exchange we would use the money to remodel her bathrooms. The deal was struck!!

Much to my neighbors dismay we showed up one day with that sad little car on a U-Haul trailer and barely made it into my garage amid much black smoke and backfires. That was early 2018.

She was finally at my home and I could work on her at my leisure after work. I, unfortunately, had to hire someone to get the carburetor tuned as that mystical creation still eluded me.

That was a very educational spring and summer. My goal was to get her to our first Rod Run that fall. 2018 was a year full of trial and errors and just the beginning of our journey!

Rod Run 2018



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Ice Cream Social

Mike and Diane Matthews will host their 6th annual Ice Cream Cruise, Sunday, July, 20, which happens to be National Ice Cream Day. RSVP to 360-465-2320 (landline), 360-353-8237 (cell) or

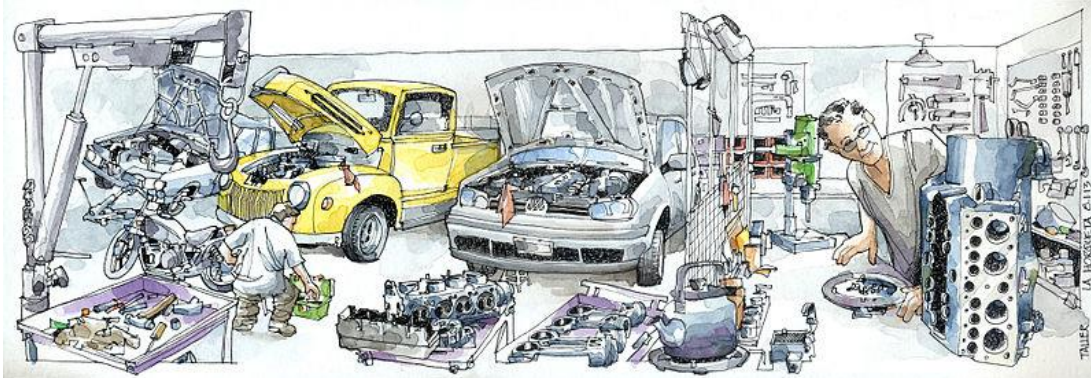
hicksrus@wwest.net so Mike knows how much ice cream to crank. We'll supply the ice cream, ice cream toppings, buttermilk brownies, bowls and utensils, etc. It'll be in our backyard. Please bring lawn chairs. No social is complete without a drive so, at 1:00 pm we'll meet everyone at the Dismal Nitch



rest stop. From there, we will journey through local backroads with a stop at the historic Grays River Covered Bridge. Maps will be provided once we figure out the route. We'll regroup at our house in Rosburg for DESSERT!!! So let us know if you'd like to be included, we'd love to have you!! And, please light candles to the weather gods for sunny and warm!!!



FOR SALE LOT & ANNOUNCEMENTS



SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



UP-COMING GAL'S PAGE ARTICLES January - Dorothy Gillies, Feb - P. Getchell, March - Jena Bakkum Purdy, April - Charlene Larsen, May - Dorothy Danielson, June - Judy Tontz, July - Melanie Haase, August - Lorraine Berard, Sept - Judy Atkinson, Oct - Valerie Purdy, Nov - Linda Uphoff

Get well to;

Family of Jean Haglund -Family of Lanny Freeman - Sympathy card. Judy Jordan, Fred Mestrich, Patty Getchell, Dorothy Gillies, Diane Matthews, Sue Stunkard Get Well Cards.

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 2025

Jan- Feb-Anne Mestrich. Mar- Apr- May-Diane Matthews. June- Anne Mestrich. July - Aug- Sept-Oliver Yackley. Oct- Nov-

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LOWER COLUMBIA CLASSICS CAR CLUB
P.O. BOX 1259
ASTORIA, OR 97103

New Membership Form

Lower Columbia Classics Memberships are "family memberships". Those living in your home over the age of sixteen, are included for a \$25 annual Membership fee. Your membership includes "The Backfire" monthly newsletter, activities such as organized cruises, the Holiday party, monthly socials, the multi-club picnics, admission to the annual March swap meet at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds, and the annual 50's Cruise Reunion car show.

Once membership is processed, you will receive a Welcome Packet. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Jo Loesch, Membership Chair

Email: LCCCmembershipchair@outlook.com

Lower Columbia Classics Car Club - New Membership

Make checks payable to: Lower Columbia Classics

Mail to: Membership LCCC, P.O. Box 1259, Astoria OR 97103

(Dues are \$25.00, Due Jan. 1 of each year)

Today's Date: _____ Amt Paid: _____ Check# _____

Name: _____ Spouse or S/O Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ Spouse - S/O Phone: _____

Email: _____

Spouse - S/O Email: _____

"CAR LIST"

Year	Make	Model

Wedding Anniversary Mth: _____ His Birth Mth: _____ Spouse-S/O Birth Mth: _____

Household Members /Children:

Name(s): _____



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