

Greetings members and friends.

As I write this article for the March issue, we made it through our first serious winter blast with freezing temperatures, high winds and power outages, Now I'm seeing our first spring like weather conditions. Hooray!! I continue working in the shop getting the cars ready for cruising in better weather. I have replaced a leaking heater core in a 1976 Corvette and now I need to put the interior back together.



This week is continued preparation for our annual swap meet at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds on March 8<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see all of you there. The committee and it's members have been working very hard to bring this event together.

Consult your copy of the NW Car Events Calendar (Yellow Book) for upcoming events. If you need a copy, they are available at our monthly meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 7pm. They are free to our members.

Upcoming Lower Columbia Classics Car Club events include our annual Swap meet at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds on March 8<sup>th</sup> and our annual 50's cruise on May 31<sup>st</sup>. This year the 50's cruise will be at a new location. It

will be at the Clatsop County fair grounds and will be an indoor event.

Our club is always in the need of people willing to plan and organize activities (cruises) for our members to participate in. If you feel that you may have some ideas in this area and want to help, please

contact me and see if we can put something together.

This month's meeting will be at Steve and Judy Jordan's shop at 35332 Helligso Ln. Astoria OR on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

## MARCH 9TH 2025



Lower Columbia Classics Car Club February 20, 2024

Roll Call of Officers President Jim Purdy, Vice President Chuck Loesch, Secretary Valerie Purdy,

Treasurer Burt Young, Board member Doug Gillies

There were No visitors. Life Members 4 , Presidents 3

President Purdy read the minutes of the previous meeting. There were no omissions, corrections or errors.

Motion to accept minutes as read/corrected Polk Riley, Second Mike Matthews, Carried Yes

Treasurer's report, Burt Young: Check paid to Polk Riley for printing. Polk sends us a bill and he gives car club a discount. Check to Charlie Clayton for advertising. Reimbursed Dorothy for copy payer. Insurance is current for the whole year. We are in the black.

Motion was made to accept treasurer's report by Doug Gillies. Second by Ed McHenry Vote: Yes.

Reports of committees:

Sunshine Committee, Update on Judy given by Steve Jordan. She is doing super post bypass surgery! Sunshine committee sends cards, letters, flowers when they are not well. Bill Denny has an upcoming knee surgery next week. In a few weeks Patty Getchell will have surgery. Cliff Ellenwood fell and broke his hip.

Swap meet committee, Charlie Clayton. Swap meet will be in 2 weeks. Unload the shipping container on 3/5/2025. Swap meet will be 3/8/2025. Help needed for registration table 7:30-9:30 Saturday morning. Let Jo know if you can volunteer. Club information table needs to be covered. On Friday, 3/7/2025, we are meeting 7:30 a.m. for setup at fairgrounds, pricing items. On 3/8/2025 5:30 am building will be unlocked.

Find Charlie if you DO SHOW UP to volunteer, and Charlie will let you know what to do.

Advertising will be in the Coast Weekend of the Astorian.

KRKZ 94.3 swap meet will be advertised on the radio.

Dorothy Gillies made signs for our swap meet and they look great! Some people took signs to post in their neighborhood.

Safe Harbor Animal Hospital put sign advertising swap meet on their reader board.

Educational Outreach, Fred Mestrich,

Wadsworth Electric did go out to Warrenton High School. He found a circuit that could drive the fan. He spent a couple hours. There was no charge. They are trying to work with P&L Johnson to cut hole in bldg., frame, install fan. Wadsworth will wire it up.

Naselle High School has started remodel on their shop. Mike Matthews will follow up and see what they need.

Steve Jordan: When we get info from Warrenton project, make sure we put an article in Astorian praising them for their support and us.

50s Cruise Committee, Doug Gillies

If you have money for trophies or T-shirt sponsors, need to turn those in. Teevin Bros. decided not to support us this year. Classic Auto Body agreed to sponsor the back of shirt. Point S tires has decided not to sponsor. They will contribute \$40 for trophy. Minimart gave us money for trophy but will not have their logo on the shirt. Shirt revenue is down this year. Give any monies you have tonight to Doug for swap meet. We just need volunteers to fill the shifts.

Nikki said we have 42 entries registered so far.

Fred Mestrich and Polk Riley are making trophies for the 50s Cruise. They will look very nice when they are done.

Interclub Picnic,

Jim bought a new club bbq and was reimbursed. The bbq that we had before that was fancier. It needs some parts. Jim did not scrap this old bbq. Jim asked if someone wanted to restore the old club bbq. Charlie Clayton suggested we put pic of bbq in the backfire and ask if someone can restore it.

Old business: 2026 Yellow Books are here for distribution

New business:

Astoria Swap Meet 3/8/2025, Portland Roadster Show 3/14 – 3/16/2025,

Portland swap meet 4/3 – 4/6/2025

Joseph new dates 6/20/2025 – 6/21/2025

Patty mentioned ladies page articles have been assigned. She still needs volunteers for treats.

Some of our chairs were donated by Darrell Neimi. Steve Jordan mentioned the club needs another rack to store chairs. Fred and Charlie volunteered to make chair rack.

Thanks to all ladies who volunteered to submit articles.

Next meeting will be 3/20/2025 at Steve and Judy's shop

Secretary

Valerie Purdy

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TREASURER BURT YOUNG / SECRETARY VALERIE PURDY / BACKFIRE EDITOR ROSS GETCHELL

/ WEBMASTER ROBI NELSON

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

At the sweet age of 16, My Dad surprised me with a 1968 Plymouth sports fury SS. It was a big maroon cruiser and drove like a dream! The reason for my own wheels was transportation to work where I was a waitress at the Lake Lodge & Diner. I was also allowed to drive to school (test run of trust) which was 9 glorious miles of freedom. Upon arrival I turned my beautiful maroon car over to my boyfriend for ½ of our lunchtime break and when I took over driving, trouble began. I was driving up the windy hill to the back parking lot and noticed other drivers were pulling over, but I didn't know why until I finally saw flashy lights behind me. Uh oh. I was glad I listened to my Dad when he handed me the keys; he said "now Babe, if you get pulled over be polite and have your license and reg. ready". He was a smart man, and it was nice of him to say, "If you get pulled over".

I got out my brand-new driver license and temporary registration & waited as a very large cop who sounded like Johny Cash asked me for my ID and why it took me so long to pull over. Hmm? He slowly drawled; "your first citation will be for speeding: 50 in a 20 zone and the second citation for eluding a police officer". Lucky for ME, I got out of the second charge when I showed him that my mirrors were adjusted for my tall boyfriend and not me. I am sure the cop hoped I would get some brains soon and I got another very useful lecture before he sent me on my way. I was not allowed to drive to school for quite a while and I had to earn the money to pay for the speeding ticket. I loved Big Red and drove it proudly until the summer of 1975 when I was broad sided by a truck and that was the end of her.

Staying with my grandparents the summer of '75, I talked my grandpa into letting me get a souped up 1965 Caspian Blue mustang. Now this car was way cooler than the sports fury. Showy, fun, fast and dangerous. That was the year I learned two things, how to race and how much it cost to keep a car like that going. Grandpa encouraged me to sell it to the highest bidder before he went broke! Mustang sold and onto the Ford Pinto which spent more time in the repair shop than on the road. Eventually the dealership bought it back under the "lemon law"! My next pride and joy was a 1977 MGB off the showroom floor of Import Motors. It was *Tahiti Blue* and the sweetest convertible ever! I drove that car across the USA to Myrtle Beach, NC with my college friend Kuuipo McFadden in 1982. And then I drove it back to Oregon. Broke down in Casper WY. which was not a good place to get parts. I had *Tahiti Blue* until 1986 when I reluctantly traded it in for a black Cadillac Allante.... And the list goes on & on. I've never lost my admiration or desire for beautiful vehicles so when I was invited to join the LCCC I figured what a great way to meet people and see if something fast and flashy might cross my path. I sure wish I had the '65 mustang now! I'll write again when I find my next cool ride.

Jena B





## “Old Blue”

This month’s featured ride belongs to Mark & Sandie Eide of Warrenton, OR. It’s a 1941 Chevrolet AK (1/2-ton short bed pickup). Mark found this truck in Phoenix, AZ in July of 2015 and brought it home where it began a 4 year rebuild. Mark was



drawn to the truck as his father’s first purchase after returning home from the Korean war was a 1941 Chevrolet pickup. This one originally sported a 216 cubic inch 6-cylinder engine and a 4-speed transmission. Mark custom built a new chassis by

boxing in the frame, adding independent front suspension, rack & pinion steering and tubular A-arms. The new power is a 2003 5.3L Chevrolet Vortec engine from a Silverado pickup. It is mated to a 4L60 custom high performance-built transmission with custom computer programming. The rear end is a Ford 9” Posi track unit with 350:1 gear ratio fitted to a 3-link suspension and coil over shocks and 4-wheel disc brakes. The interior is reupholstered 41 Chevy style seating with vintage air conditioning, cruise control and solid stereo. The headlights are quartz halogen type with the turn signals built in. There are stainless steel strips fitted to the running boards. Mark did all of the work and fabrication himself except the paint. The truck was completed in August of 2018 and won the Commander’s Choice trophy at the 2022 50’s Cruise hosted by the Lower Columbia Classics at Camp Rilea . Mark’s other automotive interest include a 69 Corvette, a 2014 Corvette, a 70 Challenger and a 67 Chevy II Nova.

Congratulations to Mark and Sandie for a great Lower Columbia Classic Car.



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## FOR SALE LOT & ANNOUCEMENTS

### 1977 PONTIAC FIREBIRD FORMULA

**ONE OWNER ONLY...40,660 CURRENT MILEAGE...AUTOMATIC TRANS. 301 V8  
11,000 FIRM CONTACT KELLY FOR INFO AND PICTURES 503-430-9215**

2 cars for sale - Car #1 -1937 Chevy Coupe, streetrod. Heights front end, Walker Radiator, new 350/350 hp motor, 700 R4 tranny-rebuilt, Nova rear-rebuilt-all new bearings, Rebuilt Painless wiring, including gauges. Only 4000 miles on the new engine. Asking: \$37,500

Car #2 - 1950 Ford Business Coupe (no back seat) **No Rust!** Has been in my shop for 20 years. Has a FlatHead 3 speed O Rig from Factory. I bought this car from the original owner. It will run and drive, 21,000 Original miles, new disc brakes. This is a very nice car. Has new tires and wheels, good glass, leather seat, floor shift, car is in primer asking: \$35,000.

Contact Jon Erickson - 503-556-4541

**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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**Ruth Dale**

October 16, 1928 - February 22, 2025

Ruth Elsie (Anderson) Dale, age 96, died February 22, 2025 in Beaverton, Oregon. She was born October 16, 1928, in Astoria, Oregon, to Elise and Erik Anderson, joining two older brothers, Eric and Lloyd.



Ruth attended Clatsop Plains School, a two-room schoolhouse on (now) Dellmoor Loop, through grade 8. She graduated from Seaside Union High School and then took business courses at Northwestern Business College in Portland and Pacific University in Forest Grove. In 1947-48, Ruth was employed as a bank clerk in Seaside, and then in 1948-49, as an Accounts Receivable Clerk in Richland, Washington. It was during her time in Richland that she met Jackson (Jack) M. Dale, her future husband. Ruth and Jack married on May 27, 1950, in Lewiston, Idaho. After their marriage, Ruth worked at U.S. Naval Station Tongue Point for about five years. She then took a pause to focus on family.

Ruth and Jack shared a long and happy married life, raising two daughters on property adjacent to the home in which Ruth grew up. Off and on throughout much of her life, she and Jack participated in the family-operated farm that raised cranberries and sold the berries to Ocean Spray Cooperative. In addition to being a busy wife and mother, she was a loving and dedicated daughter, assisting her parents who lived in her birth home until their deaths in 1970 and 1972.

Ruth enjoyed gardening, picking wild and cultivated berries, and digging razor clams on the beach. While her own children were young, Ruth volunteered her time as scout leader, Sunday school teacher, and election board worker. Ruth returned to paid work for a few seasons in the fish canneries in Astoria during the 1960s. Later, she and Jack volunteered together with American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and the Astoria Senior Center, among other organizations.

Ruth loved being a grandmother and great-grandmother. When her grandchildren were young, she and Jack often welcomed them to visit and make grandparent/grandkid memories 'at the beach'. She liked to stay active, but housework was not a favorite activity. In evidence of her dry wit, she unapologetically displayed a sign that said, "Housework never killed anyone, but why take a chance?"

Watching hummingbirds, cloud formations, ocean waves, and sunsets brought pleasure to Ruth's life after the fun of gardening and clam digging wore off and those activities, too, began to feel like work. Ruth has enjoyed the friendships of many special people, some who she has known since high school and just beyond. She also valued her affiliation over many years with Lutheran congregations in Seaside, Chinook, Washington, and Astoria.

Ruth was preceded in death by her brothers Eric and Lloyd Anderson and her husband Jack Dale. Ruth is survived by daughters and sons-in-law Kathryn and George Best of Beaverton and Diane and Andy DeMott of Spokane, Washington; four grandchildren Elisa Buckley, Sarah Kinnie, Jennifer Forland, and Jeff DeMott; one nephew Loren Wolsiffer; four great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandson.

A gathering and celebration of life will be scheduled for later in the year.

If you wish to contribute in Ruth's memory, the family suggests a donation to Housecall Providers (5100 S Macadam Ave, Ste 200 Portland, OR 97239), an organization that provided enormous support to Ruth and her family over the past 18 months, or a Hospice organization of your choice.

**Vera Haglund**

December 20, 1938 - January 16, 2025

Vera Jean Haglund, known to all as Jean, beloved mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, passed away peacefully in her home in Taylorville, Oregon, on January 16, 2025, at the age of 86. She was surrounded by the love of her family and the warmth of cherished memories.



Jean was born to Mary Ellen and Lester Harry Jacob on December 20, 1938, in Livingston, Montana. She grew up alongside her siblings and graduated from Clatskanie High School. Jean's strong work ethic and dedication led her to a long and rewarding career with the Columbia County School Administrative District. She began as a typist, then became a supply clerk, and ultimately opened and operated the district's print shop. For nearly 30 years, she ensured that schools had the materials they needed, printing everything from budgets to classroom materials with precision and care. Jean retired in 1992 to devote herself to what she loved most: spending time with her grandchildren.

Jean married the love of her life, Doc Haglund, on August 21, 1981. Together, they built a life full of love, family, and cherished moments. All who knew her will remember Jean's kindness, selflessness, and warm smile. She had a talent for making everyone feel special and was always willing to lend a helping hand. Her love for shopping was only surpassed by her love for her grandchildren, with whom she shared countless joyful days.

Jean is survived by her sister, Esther Herrin; her sons, Tim Sullivan and Danny Sullivan; her grandchildren, Dustan Sullivan (Whitney Sullivan), Trevor Sullivan, and Lynne Sullivan; and her stepchildren, Debbie Lake, Tammy Haglund, and Cheryl Clark. She also leaves behind many friends and extended family members who will miss her deeply.

Jean was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Doc Haglund; her parents, Mary Ellen and Lester Harry Jacob; her brother, Jim Jacob; and her stepson, Rick Haglund.

Her family finds comfort in knowing that Jean's legacy of love, generosity, and strength will live on in the hearts of those she touched.

*Here are two people who have been anchors in our LCCCC. For some of us who have been with our club for years, know or at least heard of these people. Jack & Ruth Dale were long time members who loved being involved and partake in many activities.*

*Doc & Jean Haglund were one of the founders of our club. Who would of thought they were instrumental in starting a successful club. Our love and gratitude for making our club what it is today.*



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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MARK GITTINS  
MIKI JOHNSON  
FRANK KOSSAK  
FRED MESTRICH  
KATIE SCARBOROUGH



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