

The Radiator

July 2025

Official Publication of the Corvallis Historic Auto Club





Gary Peterson
Club President

President's Message

What were you doing in the fall of 1965? Perhaps you remember listening to the first hit by the Rolling Stones "Satisfaction" on your transistor radio. Or, maybe it was Bob Dylan's "Like a Rolling Stone". Or even, "Hey Mr. Tambourine Man" by the Byrds. You might recall that Edward White became the first American to "walk" in space. 1965 saw the introduction of Shelby GT 350 featuring a 350-horsepower V-8 engine. The year also saw Craig Breedlove set a new land speed record of 600.601 miles per hour at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah.

On the local sports front, it was a tough year for the Oregon State Beavers in football. Having been to the Rose Bowl on January 1, the team struggled under new Coach Dee Andros to a 5-5 record, being outscored 162-125.

What were you driving (if you were old enough to drive) or riding in as a passenger in 1965? The most popular car for the year was the fourth generation Chevrolet Impala. The Ford Mustang, released mid-year in 1964, was also becoming very popular, as was the Pontiac GTO, Motor Trend's "Car of the Year". It featured a 389-horsepower V-8 engine. Meanwhile, Studebaker was rapidly falling behind other automobile manufacturers, selling only 20,000 units in 1965.

While I don't recall the vehicle in which I was riding, it was likely a Malibu or Impala as we were a Chevrolet family in those days. I do recall that we still had the 1952 Chevrolet 3100 pickup, ocean green in color, for the farm truck. It later became the vehicle with which I learned to drive.

Ireference all of the above because it was on November 22, 1965, that paperwork was filed with the Oregon Secretary of State establishing the Corvallis Historic Auto Club. The Club officers at the time were Jack Ramsey, President; Earl Chapman, Vice-president; Ronald Dixon, Secretary; and, Ronald Nance, Publicity Chairman.

We will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the filing of the Club charter with the Secretary of State at our annual Club picnic to be held on Sunday, July 27 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Philomath City Park. This year the picnic will serve a dual purpose as the Club picnic and as the annual steak fry.

Master griller Rich Brookes has again offered to grill steak and another item for us as we each bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. Everyone should also bring their own table service and a non-alcoholic beverage of their choice. DJ Freeman has generously offered to provide the Club with an "anniversary cake". We hope that you will plan to attend, bring a car if you like, and enjoy the steak fry and picnic.

while celebrating this significant milestone for the Club.

Along with our anniversary celebration, we want to recognize the continued success of our Cars and Coffee event. For July 5 we had 90 vehicles in the show area. We continue to receive positive comments thanking us for sponsoring it and for how well it is run. Many of our new members to the club have joined during or after attending Cars and Coffee. I want to thank the July Cars and Coffee team - Andy Noble, Janeen Rudd, Dave Snell, Roy Temes, Chris Hagler- for their dedication to the work, to have the coffee ready to go by 8:00, the set-up beginning no later than 6:30 am the morning of the show.

I also want to recognize the significant contribution of Paul Tostberg, the owner of Coffee Culture, to Cars and Coffee. Paul has generously provided us with coffee from his Holderness Coffee Roasters at a discounted rate for the past couple of years, along with high-capacity brewing equipment. Paul's

support of Cars and Coffee reflects our connection to the greater Corvallis community. In recognition of Paul's support, the CHAC Board has approved placing Paul's logo in a prominent location on the club website. We look forward to the next Cars and Coffee on August 2.

Finally, CHAC membership dues were due on July 1 and, currently, we have received renewal payments from 48 members. At the end of our last membership year, we had 101 members. We urge everyone to renew their membership at <https://pay.corvallishistoricautoclub.org/join>, paying at a club meeting or mailing a check to Corvallis Historic Auto Club, PO Box 254, Corvallis, OR 97339.

I will see you at the CHAC anniversary picnic in Philomath on July 27 and at the Club Membership meeting at 7:00 PM on Monday, July 28 at the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church.

Gary Peterson
President

**"I couldn't find the sports car of my dreams,
so I built it myself."
— Ferdinand Porsche**



This Month In Automotive History

By Andy Noble

1903 - Ford Makes its First Car

sale, to Ernest Pfennig, on July 23rd. The company, which struggled from the start, initially got its parts from the Dodge brothers, who agreed to infuse capital in exchange for 10% equity in the company. That was enough to keep Ford going until sales started trickling in. Pfennig, a Chicago dentist, was the first person to own the Model A, a two-seater runabout.



1963 - The Beach Boys Release

the song "Little Deuce Coupe" on July 22nd. The song is about the 1932 Ford Model 18. Brian Wilson wrote the music, and local DJ Roger Christian wrote the lyrics. The song reached number 15 on the Billboard Hot 100.



2019 - Lee Iacocca Dies on July

2nd at the age of 94. As a Ford executive, Iacocca developed several iconic cars, including the Ford Mustang, Pinto, and Mercury Cougar. He later led and revived Chrysler from 1978-92, where he introduced the successful Dodge Caravan. Iacocca died at his Bel Air home from complications of Parkinson's disease.



1918 - Johnnie Parsons is Born

in Los Angeles, California on July 4th. Parsons first competed in midget racing in 1940. He later raced for ten years (1949-58) in the Indianapolis 500, coming in second in 1949 and winning in 1950.



1991 - Pontiac Produces The

last 6000 on July 22nd. The car was produced for the 1982-91 model years, and was the highest-sales Pontiac for 1984 (over 122,000 units). Available engines varied over the years from 151ci to 263ci, along with both manual and automatic transmissions.





The Corvallis Cruise-in 2025

The Club's Inaugural Adair Park Car Show is a Big Success

Story by Pete Rocco and Andy Noble, photos by DJ Freeman and Andy Noble

Seventy five cars graced us with their attendance at Adair County Park for our first-annual Corvallis Cruise-in Car show this Father's Day weekend. Thanks to the detailed planning of our car show team, which was led by Dave Snell, and all of the other club members who turned out to help, we were more than ready.

A steady stream of cars began filing onto the show field at around 7:45, with our crack parking team led by Roy Temes





quickly guiding each car into position. The time that the team spent a few days earlier, planning how to arrange the cars and marking the spots, really paid off. Smoothly moving the cars over the curb and onto the field was made possible by our very own car ramp engineering team of Chris Hagler, Andy Noble and Dave Snell.

Chris and John Drzal collected money at the ramps, while Andy checked off those who had pre-registered. Outgoing president Janeen Rudd and Bobbie McNicol handled registration, which went off without a hitch.



The weather couldn't have been better, with highs in the 70s and not even a hint of rain. Super food from La China Authentic Mexican Food truck was served up, and Hott Poppin Concessions offered a pretty fabulous pulled pork



Great club member turnout made the car show possible. Thanks to all who could make it!

2025 Corvallis Cruise-in trophy winners:

- Ryan Timerson from Junction City took the **Rusty Relic** in a 1951 MG TD
- Eddie Patton from Lebanon took the **Best Street Rod** in a 1924 Ford T Huckster
- Kevin Drake from Keizer took home the **Best Truck** with his 1956 International S-120 4x4
- Roger Klein of Albany went home with the **Best Independent** with a 1970 AMC AMX
- Jeremy and Erin Scott from Adair Village took the **Best Mopar** with a 1970 Dodge Charger
- Dan Wehrman from Albany secured **Best General Motors** with his 1966 Impala
- Dennis Lalley of Corvallis grabbed the **Best Ford** with his 1970 Torino
- Bob Bilyeau from Tangent went home with the **Best Tri-Five** with his 1955 Chevy Half ton
- Brandie Boyd from Lebanon carried home the **Best Stock** in her 1925 Model A
- Jan van der Linde from Salem took home **Best Import** with his 1973 Citron 2V
- Joe and Sherri Davis from Albany took the **Best In Show** back with them in their 1941 Packard Club 120 Coupe'

sandwich. We were so happy to have them back. Great music and announcements were provided by DJ Glenn Anderson and his Mystery Machine.

We awarded eleven trophies, and had beautiful weather, great club support and significant club member vehicle turn-out. Attendee feedback was consistently positive. We have every reason to hope that

with such a well-run inaugural event, attendance will grow quickly in the coming years. We have plans to make tweaks and add new features, based largely on the feedback that we got.

Check out our website (corvallishistoricautoclub.com) for more photos, including those of all of our trophy winners! 🏆





Story by DJ Freeman, illustration by Andy Noble

Back in the early '70's I had a '56 Ford Ranch Wagon. (It was the one with the plastic seat covers with all the different cattle brands, know the one?). It was getting tired and the oilers for the rocker arms were plugged. I ran it with the valve covers off and just poured some oil on them every once in a while.

Every time I opened the hood at a gas station to oil the rockers, the attendant would say, "You can't run an engine like that." And I would look at them with an innocent stare and ask "Why not?" They would explain that all the oil will run out. And I would point out that it wasn't oiling the rockers, so how could it run out?

So, one day I saw a '56 Ford wagon on a car lot in Eugene for sale. Wife and I drove in and asked about the wagon. The price was very reasonable and I asked if I could test drive the wagon. He said sure and we all went out to the car on the lot.

I got in and it started right up, sounded great. So, I looked over my right shoulder and started backing out of the space it was parked in. I swung the front end to the left to get the rear end to the right where I was looking and I heard a "Thunk" and the car stopped moving. Well it turned out there was a brightly painted yellow light pole on the driver's side of the car that I had

not noticed and it was now denting in the left front fender of what had been a very straight, undented car.

I was freaked out. I pulled the car back into the space it had been parked in and the nice light blue car now had an up and down bright yellow stripe and dent on the left front fender. The salesman walked back to his office, shaking his head. My wife was left standing there looking at me. When the salesman didn't return, I told my wife he is probably calling the police. We stood there waiting for the worst to happen but nothing happened.

I walked slowly to the sales office. The salesman was at his desk doing something and I said, "Now what?" He said, "What do you mean?" I said, "I wrecked your car." He said, "Ah, you didn't hurt it." I said, "I wrecked it." He repeated that it wasn't hurt. So, I boldly ask, "How much do you want for it now that it's wrecked?" He dropped the price \$50 and I bought it on the spot. Wife and I drove both Fords home.

At home, I swapped the left front fender of our white Ford with the left front fender of the light blue Ford. Everything was good.

Maybe I should title this, "How to dicker the price of a used car on a car lot." 🏠

The 1920 Chalmers 35-C

By *Andy Noble*

Chalmers Motor Company was founded in Detroit, Michigan by Hugh Chalmers in 1908. Before founding his car company, Hugh Chalmers began working at National Cash Register at 14 years old, eventually becoming NCR's vice-president.

Early Chalmers models were known for their toughness and durability, as well as for winning various competitions, including the 1910 Glidden Tour.

Chalmers became the number eight US car company in 1911, with 6,250 cars sold. That increased to nearly 10,000 units in 1915, but increased competition hurt sales and left the company with excess production capacity.

Maxwell Motor Company leased Chalmers plants in 1917 and began making cars and trucks for the US Government during WWI. The two companies operated with the same management, but didn't fully merge until 1922.

Walter Chrysler joined Maxwell in 1920, and faced having to untangle the multitude of threads that made up the Chalmers/Maxwell relationship. He ultimately absorbed them into Chrysler in 1923. Chrysler produced Maxwells until 1925.

CHALMERS WITH HOT SPOT AND RAM'S HORN



WITH its blue body, black mud guards and wire wheels this Chalmers is one of the smartest models in sport cars ever turned out. Equipped with the Hot Spot and Ram's-horn it is, in operation, an automobile of the highest efficiency.

CHALMERS MOTOR CAR CO., DETROIT, MICHIGAN
CHALMERS MOTOR CO. OF CANADA, LTD., WINDSOR, ONT.



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Gary Peterson

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Janeen Rudd

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Newsletter Editor:
Andy Noble

Visit us at:
corvallishistoricautoclub.org

Contact us at:
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The Corvallis Historic Auto Club, a nonprofit organization, was incorporated on November 22, 1965 in Corvallis, Oregon for the encouragement of interest in historical cars, their preservation & restoration, the extension of knowledge concerning them, & related activities. **Now, all cars are welcomed.**

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Corvallis Historic Auto Club

Event Calendar

Below is a partial list of upcoming events. See an updated list on our website calendar: corvallishistoricautoclub.org.

Saturday, July 26

Brent Strohmeier Memorial Car Show, 9:00AM - 3:00PM
\$20 registration, day of show
Sunrise Park
542 NE Berry, Sublimity
<https://www.stroscarevents.com/>

Saturday, July 26

Chiefs Car Show, 10:00AM - 3:00PM
\$25 pre-registration, \$30 day of show
Chiefs Farm Brewery
32817 Coleman Rd., Harrisburg
<https://chiefsbrewhouse.com/event/chiefs-car-show-july-26-2025-2/>

Sunday, July 27

C.H.A.C. Club Picnic and Steak Fry, 11:00AM - 2:00PM
Philomath City Park
299 S 23rd St, Philomath

Monday, July 28

C.H.A.C. Membership Meeting, 7:00-8:30PM
Shepherd of The Valley Lutheran Church
2650 NW Highland Dr, Corvallis

Saturday, August 2

C.H.A.C. Cars and Coffee, 8-10AM
First Saturday of each month, May through October
Shepherd of The Valley Lutheran Church
2650 NW Highland Dr, Corvallis

Saturday, August 9

Rock of Ages Car Show, 9:00AM-2:00PM
Car registration 9:00AM, \$25
Rock of Ages
15600 Southwest Rock of Ages Road, McMinnville
<https://www.rockofages.org/events/event-one-kpr9l>

On The Cover: 1957 Transtar

Studebaker Corporation introduced its Transtar line of trucks in 1956 to better compete with the "Big Three." The 1957 model year was the first to receive the new, updated fiberglass grille. Engine options ranged from the 185ci Champion I6 to the 289ci V8. Production ended when Studebaker closed its US factory in 1963.

Tell Us Your Stories:

We're always looking for content. Tell your fellow members about your first or favorite car, the one that got away, a hard-to-find part that you sourced, made or refurbished, a memorable road trip, your personal tips for storing your car for the winter, or something else.