

The Radiator

September 2024

Official Publication of the Corvallis Historic Auto Club



Inside:
Dave Snell Learns About
Vintage Oregon Cop Cars



President's Message

Here we are, starting to wind down the season. The weather is starting to cool and the roads are getting wetter and dirtier. But hey, we all love washing and detailing our cars, right?! We'll have to start looking forward to the 2025 Car Season.

Speaking of which, your Board is seriously considering separating the car show and the swap meet and changing the date of the show (not the swap). We will be discussing this further at our meeting on September 23. Rich Brookes was kind enough to attend our Board meeting and give us tremendous insight into his thoughts about the separation, and ideas for the future. The Fairgrounds is simply pricing itself out of our budget, considering the weather issues we've had in the past few years. Dave Snell also joined the meeting and reported on his findings for other locations for the show. He has come up with some great ideas which fit in with keeping the show in Corvallis and making it easy to get to, along with becoming "self-contained" wherever we land. Again, more on this at the membership meeting.

For those of you who missed the Stoneybrook Alzheimer's Benefit show, you missed a real

treat! No hotdogs and hamburgers for this group! We had steak, grilled chicken, corn muffins, pasta salad and corn salad. Those folks really know how to put on a BBQ! And the weather wasn't horrible: drizzly but not wet. We also heard the Antiques in the Streets in Albany was a real hit as was Tangent. Millersburg is struggling to restart their event after a Covid hiatus. Hopefully we can support them more next year.

I also heard that the Steak Fry/picnic was a big success! Big thanks to Rich Brookes for his hard work and efforts to make this a fun annual event for the club. 28 club members attended and enjoyed good food and great camaraderie. Rich makes an excellent host! Thanks, Rich!

Martin Harding has come up with the name of a gentleman who is willing to do presentations on a variety of (mostly) car subjects. We hope to sign him up for those months when we don't have a program planned. That doesn't let our members off the hook, though! We always like to hear from any club member who has a car-related story to tell. Thanks, Martin!

And a big thank you to D.J. Freeman, who has agreed to print out the five

copies of our beautiful Radiator newsletter on his laser printer for our non-computer members.

Our September Cars & Coffee was another big success. We had 103 cars parked and several drive-throughs who came to admire the scenery. We sold all seven dozen donuts and probably could have sold another dozen or two! It was a lovely day and Chris Hagler's drone footage was amazing. Watch for it on the website and Chris will be showing a few minutes of it at the September 23 meeting.

Thanks for doing that, Chris! Bill Ayres and his 1937 Hudson Terraplane won the trophy.

In case you missed it, add this to your calendar: CHAC Christmas party will be held at Johnny Carino's restaurant in Albany on Saturday, December 14 2024. Thank you, Peter Rocco, for arranging that shindig!

That's all I have for this issue. See you on the 23rd!

Janeen



This Month in Automotive History

By Andy Noble

1899 - Henry Bliss is Run Over By

a car in New York City on September 13, becoming the first recorded motor vehicle fatality in the Western Hemisphere. Bliss had just exited a trolley when he was struck by an electric taxi. The taxi driver, who hit Bliss while driving around a large truck, was charged with manslaughter. The driver was acquitted after it was determined that he had not acted with malice, nor had he been negligent.



1944 - Kenny Bernstein is Born

on September 6. Bernstein, who is an American drag racer, and who was a team owner in both NASCAR and IndyCar, was nicknamed the "King of Speed" after being the first driver to break 300mph in the standing-start quarter mile. He was inducted into the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America in 2009, and retired from racing in 2011.



1968 - General Motors is Granted

a US design patent for the C3 Chevrolet Corvette on September 3. The Stingray, which was produced through the 1982 model year, was the first version to feature a T-top roof. The 1978 model year was the first Corvette to be selected as the Pace Car for the Indy 500.



1980 - Mothers Against Drunk

Driving is founded on September 5. The organization was founded by Candace Lightner after her 13-year-old daughter was killed by a drunk driver. The group's pressure led to the 1984 federal Minimum Drinking Age Act, which resulted in all 50 states and the District of Columbia eventually raising the minimum drinking age to 21.



2011 - The Final Ford Crown

Victoria is produced on September 15. The stand-alone version of the nameplate was produced for the 1992-2012 model years. The car was discontinued primarily because of changing tastes and the fact that the car lacked electronic stability control, which was mandated starting in 2012. The entire 2012 production was exported to the Middle East.





Lunch Al Fresco

Club Members Were Invited to the Masonic Brothers' Annual Picnic at Avery Park

Story by Pete Rocco. Photos by Pete Rocco and D.J. Freeman

On Saturday, August 10th Janeen Rudd drove her F-Type Jaguar down to the Safeway parking lot, where she gathered up DJ Freeman in his Plymouth, Leroy Johnson and Paula Hunger in their 1957 Thunderbird, and yours truly in my 1959 Sprite. The plan was to meet up first, and then enter Avery Park to attend the Masonic Brothers Annual Picnic Lunch as a group.

You may remember that DJ had a run-in with a deer last month. He had the grill straightened out for the event. After putting in some time removing the radiator and accessories to enable the fitment of his Porta-Power in that process, all I could tell was it looked incredible.

I was so pleased to be able to fit myself into the little Sprite, as my back often comes up with issues





preventing me from taking “Monte” out on the town. In this case we were at the Lions Shelter. The picnic table is one to behold. Fashioned from a single slab, it bears a brass plaque describing its magnificence in that it is 93 uninterrupted feet long.

Gifts of Hot Wheels and really soft Microfiber towels were passed around, to our surprise. It was so kind of John Spicher, Junior Warden, Mary’s River #221 Masonic Lodge to have thank-you gifts on top of offering the club a picnic meal. John is a member of both Mary’s River #221 and Corvallis #14.

You know me. I chowed down on a cheeseburger, some nice fixins, potato salad, etc. I went back for some carne asada that had some kick to it. DJ’s daughter, son-in-law and grandson came by and surfed the tables full of food. Not sure what everyone else ate that afternoon but I found out that Paula is a vegetarian. She too, found plenty to enjoy. We made some new friends and conversed about lots of things besides cars. We cruised out around two o’clock, after a fine day in Corvallis at Avery Park. 🏠





Whereabouts Unknown

Dave Snell Digs Up Just the Facts on Vintage Oregon Police Cars

Story and Photos by Dave Snell

The first car I owned in high school was a 1950 Chevrolet Styleline business coup I bought for \$125. I knew nothing about the history of that car. The area behind the front seat was a flat floor platform with no back seat. There was a small hole in the floorboard next to the brake pedal and a couple small holes in the dash. For cruising, I kept a couple of cheap, folding aluminum lawn chairs in the back open space so my buddies had a place to sit while harassing me about what a slug that old six cylinder, “three on the tree” was compared to their muscle cars. “It sure is slow but at least it’s ugly”, they would tease.

As the years flew by I often thought that old Chevy would have made a cool hot rod. But other cars were on my wish list and I never saw an old 1950 coup worth turning into a modern resto mod. Then I saw a



completely restored-to-stock 1950 business coup at the recent car show in Brownsville. It was dressed up like an old state police car.



Enter Tim McLain, owner of this restored Chevy coup. Tim is a retired Oregon State Police Superintendent. He was the head of Oregon State Police serving under governors John Kitzhaber and Ted Kulongoski. When Tim first became a state policeman, he heard stories about these old coups from the “old timers” who were retiring about the time Tim joined the force in the 1970s. When Tim himself retired, he started looking for an old ex-state police coup to restore and tell the story of police work in the 1950s. Another retired state police officer living in LaGrande owned the perfect candidate. Eventually Tim talked him into selling it for his restoration project.

Today, this old cruiser is beautifully restored in it’s “as used” state. I asked Tim what was that foot button on the floorboard next to the brake. He said that was the

siren. As the officer was driving he had to pump that button with his foot to operate the siren. The flashing red light? That was attached to a swivel bracket mounted on the dash. No red lights were mounted on the outside of the car in those early years.

Yep, you guessed it. That hole in the floor of my old Chevy? That’s where the siren was. The holes in my dash? That’s where the flashing red light was mounted. Turns out my old Chevy was certainly an old state police cruiser. I said to Tim, “but my car was blue not black.” Then he pointed to seventy year old archive photo on his display board of a blue 1950 Chevy police cruiser. Could that photo be my old car? There’s no way to know for sure. But it’s been fun to have that bond with Tim and to hear his stories of what it was like to be an Oregon State Police Officer in the 1950s. 🏠



September Cars and Coffee

Our Highest 2024 Attendance So Far...

Photos by D.J. Freeman, Chris Hagler and Pete Rocco

Our second-to-last 2024 Cars and Coffee was very well attended, with the official count reaching 103 cars! Club President Janeen Rudd is seen above presenting the event's award to Bill Ayres, a new club member and owner of this 1937 Hudson Terraplane.

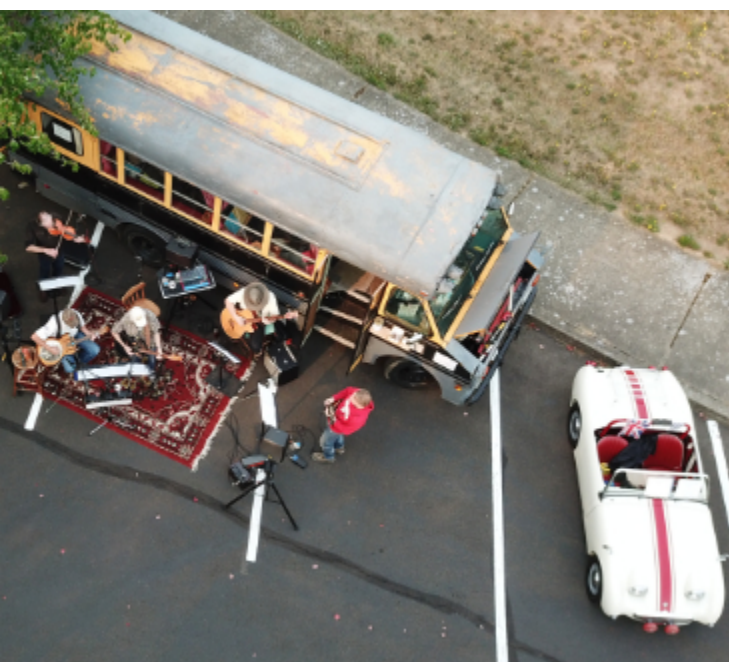
In addition to our crack team of on-the-ground photographers, we got a bird's-eye view of the





action from our club Secretary, Chris Hagler, through the use of his DJI Mavic Pro drone. Nice shots, Chris!

We have one more Cars and Coffee this year, on October 5. Let's see whether we can break last October's all-time record of 135! 🏆



Classifieds - For Sale By Owner

Sue Probus has this 1968 Ford LTD for sale: \$20,000

- 390 V8, C6 transmission, both completely rebuilt. Fewer than 3,000 miles on rebuild. 143K on odometer.
- Rebuilt suspension and new exhaust.
- Power steering and AM radio.
- Family-owned since new, purchased in Albany from Nissen Ford, which also repainted the car in 1975.
- Garaged since new, collision-free.
- Phone or text: (541) 248-7392



Roy Temes has the following cars for sale:

1985 Pontiac Fiero GT - \$12,000

19,000 miles, manual trans., Silver/Grey
Excellent condition

<https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/item/930342938466135>



1977 Oldsmobile Toronado - \$10,000

88,000 miles, auto trans., White/Blue
Very good condition

<https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/item/375713268581235>



2000 Jaguar XK8 Convertible - \$8,500

58,240 miles, auto trans., Silver/Black
Very good condition

<https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/item/388065090492074>



The 1981 DeLorean

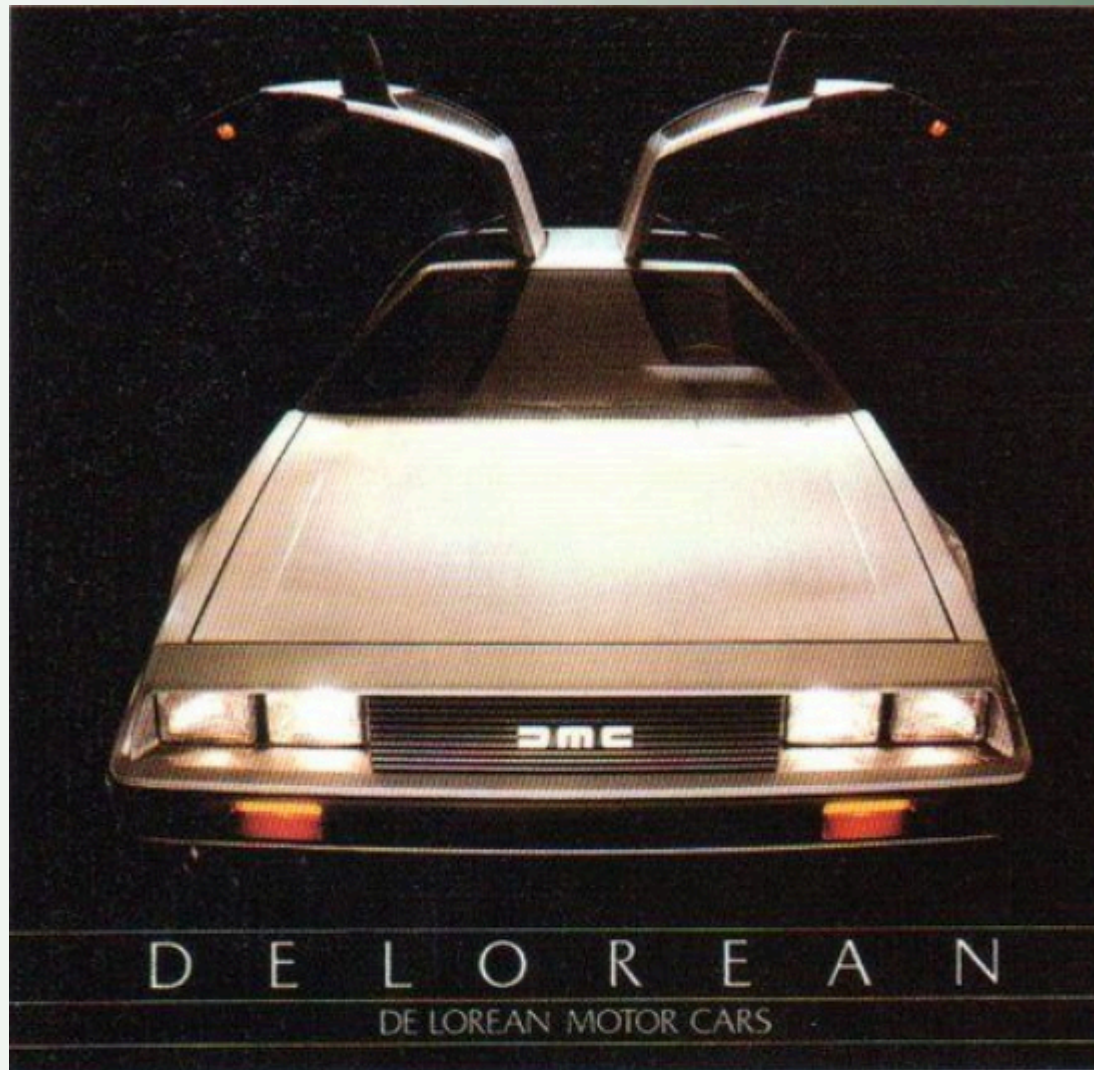
By Andy Noble

The DeLorean Motor Company was founded by former GM executive John DeLorean in Detroit, Michigan in 1975.

Though there were multiple concept car proposals, the only DeLorean that was actually produced was a 2-door, gull-wing two-seater with stainless steel body panels. The brushed steel panels were found to be too difficult to paint, so every one that was built looked identical.

The rear-engine, rear wheel drive car came equipped with a 174ci V6, and either a 5-speed manual or 3-speed automatic transmission. Though sold in the market as a sports car, it was generally considered to be underpowered at 130hp, especially for the base price of \$25,000 (\$86,000 in 2024 dollars).

While the initial enthusiasm for the car was high, with many paying over sticker price, interest quickly waned, partly due to build quality issues. 7500 cars were ultimately produced, with only 3000 being sold. The company was placed into receivership in 1982, and was declared bankrupt later that year.



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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.

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Event Calendar

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

Wednesday, September 18

Hamburgers and Hotrods,
5-7PM
Free, every Wednesday
Corvallis Elks
1400 NW 9th Street, Corvallis

Thursday, September 19

WVSH Car Meet, 7PM
Willamette Valley Smokehouse
2426 Delaney Rd SE, Salem
wvsr.club

Friday, September 20

Covered Bridge Cafe Cars
and Coffee, 8:00AM
Free, every Friday
510 N. 3rd Avenue, Stayton

Saturday, September 21

Kings Circle Cars and
Coffee, 8AM-10AM
Kings Circle Church
2110 NW Circle Blvd,
Corvallis
Admission free,
kingscircle.church

Sunday, September 22

Albany Cars and Coffee,
10:00AM
Free, every Sunday
1393 Clay Street, SE

Monday, September 23

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

Saturday, October 5

CHAC Cars and Coffee, 8AM
Shepherd of The Valley
Lutheran Church
2650 NW Highland Dr,
Corvallis
Admission free

Saturday, October 19

Kings Circle Cars and
Coffee, 8AM-10AM
Kings Circle Church
2110 NW Circle Blvd,
Corvallis
Admission free,
kingscircle.church

On The Cover: 1951 Chevy 3100

The Chevrolet 3100 was the ½-ton version of the company's Advance-Design truck series, which was sold from 1947-55. That series was then replaced by the Task Force series. The Advance-Design lineup included the Suburban and panel trucks. Available engines were the 216ci, 235ci and the 261ci inline sixes.

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.