

The Radiator

February 2026

Official Publication of the Corvallis Historic Auto Club





Gary Peterson
Club President

President's Message

The temperature in Corvallis hit 63 degrees on February 2. Such weather reminds us that soon we will take our cars out of storage and get them ready for spring if we haven't already: Air in tires – check; oil level – check; fresh gasoline – check; charge battery – check: will it start - ?

February is also a reminder that it is time for us to begin to develop the Club budget for 2026-27. As you know, we moved to the July 1-to-June 30 fiscal year a couple of years ago because it provided us with more accurate financial information, as it follows our annual Swap Meet and Car Show.

We will provide detailed financial information regarding the Club's budget at our membership meetings in coming months. However, I will highlight here our four main sources of revenue for the club's operations and activities; memberships, our April-through-October Cars and Coffee, our annual Swap Meet and our annual Car Show.

With the increase in membership dues this past year, our revenue from memberships has stabilized. Cars and Coffee, at which we charge for the coffee and doughnuts to cover

our costs, usually makes a small amount each month.

Revenue from the annual Swap Meet has been slowly shrinking. Our net profits have declined by 50 percent since 2018. The club no longer has a contract with Benton County for use of the fairgrounds for the Swap Meet after this year. With the uncertainties surrounding our Swap Meet, and ongoing price increases at the fairgrounds, the board routinely examines the pros and cons of committing the club to large expenses. I will write more about these discussions in the coming months.

It is important to note, however, that **the 2026 Swap Meet is set for April 26 at the Benton County Fairgrounds.** We anticipate having a CHAC Members Display as we did last year, so it is, indeed, time to get your vehicles ready!

For the past several years, our Car Show was held with the Swap Meet. This coordination allowed the Car Show to minimize expenses, as they were covered by the Swap Meet. In 2025, we moved the Car Show to June, and it was held at Adair Park. This decision was based on the rising costs at the fairgrounds for the additional space and because the board really liked Adair Park as a venue for the

show. Without any sponsorship support or help from the Swap Meet to offset costs, the 2025 Car Show did not show a profit. However, **the 2026 Car Show is set for June 14 at Adair Park**, and there has been strong interest in sponsorships. We anticipate the 2026 Car Show to be quite successful, especially with continued robust club member participation.

We will have some decisions to make as we move forward with the budget process, particularly relating to the future of the Swap Meet and Car Show. The CHAC Board will continue to provide you with the best information we have available, and hope that many of you will attend our club meetings as we make decisions regarding the budget.

Gary

Corvallis Historic Auto Club 2026 Budget Calendar

February

- Board Meeting- February 12, Budget Calendar Approved
- Membership Meeting – February 23, Budget Calendar Presented

March

- Board Meeting – March 12, Revenue and Expenditure Estimates
- Membership Meeting – March 23, Revenue and Expenditure Estimates

April

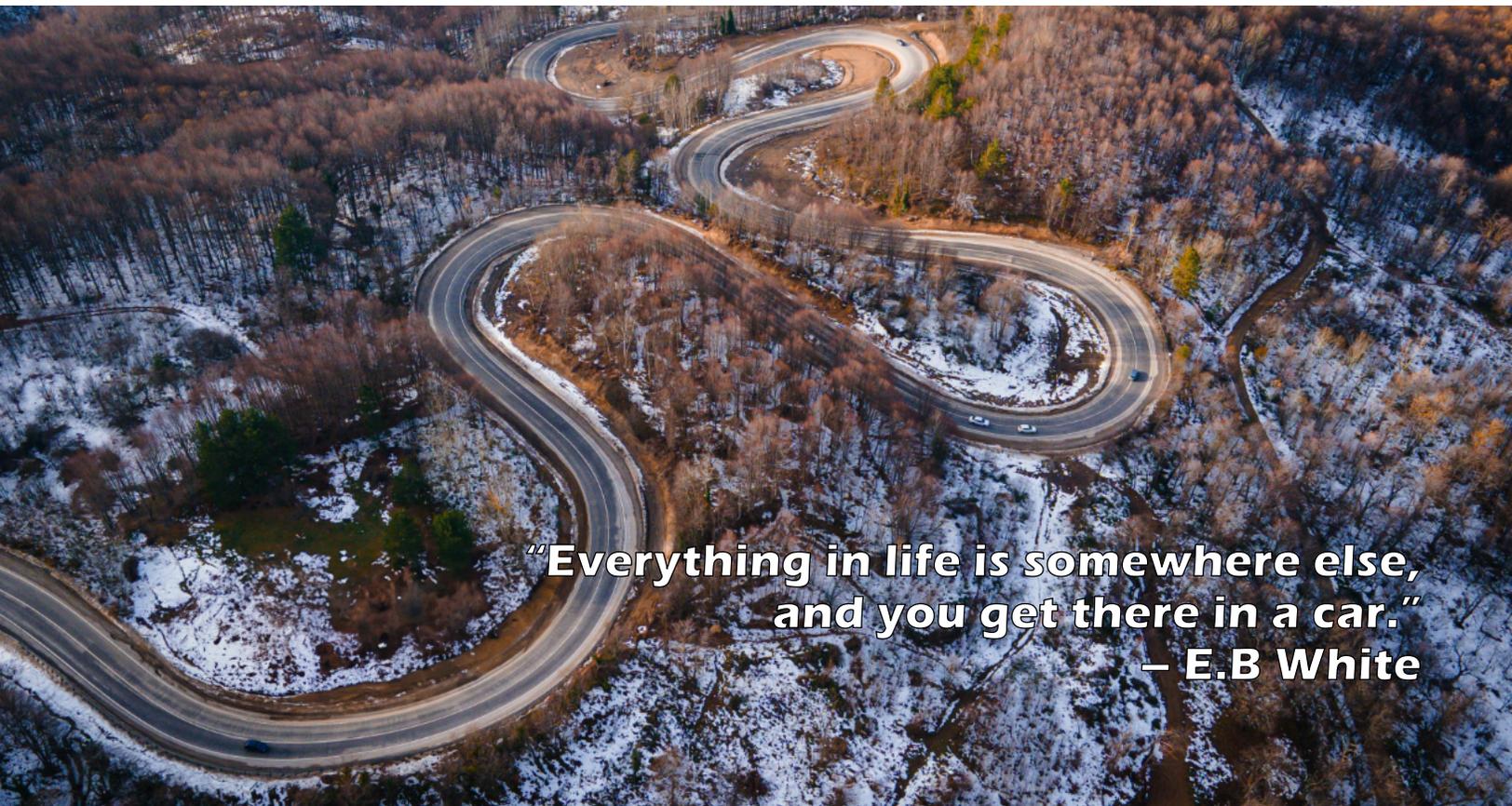
- Board Meeting -April 9, Initial Draft of 2026 Budget Developed
- Membership Meeting – April 27, Initial Draft of Budget Presented

May

- Board Meeting – May 14, Second Draft of 2026 Budget with updated Swap Meet financials
- Membership Meeting – May 25, Second Draft of 2026 Budget Presented

June

- Board Meeting – June 11, Revisions to Second Draft of the 2026 Budget
- Membership Meeting - June 22, Adoption of 2026 Budget with updated Car Show financials



**“Everything in life is somewhere else,
and you get there in a car.”
– E.B White**

This Month In Automotive History

By Andy Noble

1866 - Mary Anderson is born

in Greene County, Alabama, on February 19th. Anderson was granted US Patent 743,801 in 1903 for the first operational windshield wiper. Her invention was ahead of its time, as cars then were rich men's toys. The patent expired in 1920, and she neither profited from it nor received recognition for her invention. Cadillac made wipers standard on all of its cars in 1922.



1942 - President Franklin Roosevelt

approves the Alaska Highway project on February 11th. First proposed in the 1920s, the US and Canada were spurred to action after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Construction, which employed 10,000 men, was completed on October 28th. While the highway was originally about 1700 miles long, subsequent realignments have reduced it to 1,387.



1971 - The San Fernando Earthquake

strikes Southern California on February 9th. The 6.5 earthquake affected all of Los Angeles County, causing the partial collapse of several major freeway interchanges. 58 deaths were directly attributed to the quake, which lasted 12 seconds and caused an estimated \$553M in damage.



1983 - Elizabeth Dole Becomes

the first woman to serve as US Secretary of Transportation on February 7th. Because the US Coast Guard was under DOT at the time, she was also the first woman to serve as the head of a branch of the US military. During her tenure, the NHTSA mandated center stop lamps on all new cars.

2004 - Toyota Unveils the

second-generation Tacoma pickup truck on February 4th. This bigger and more powerful version debuted at the Chicago Auto Show as a 2005 model. 2.7L and 4.0L engines were available, along with four different transmissions.





The AMC Merger

The Long Road That Led to American Motors

Story by Dave Snell



Thomas Jeffery



Jeffery on his 1897 Rambler Prototype

Let's recap the stories of Nash and Hudson. Thomas Jeffery took over the Sterling Bicycle factory in 1900 with the intent of building automobiles. In 1902 he introduced the Jeffery Rambler. By 1915, the Jeffery company was looking for a buyer following the death of Thomas Jeffery in 1910. That buyer was Charles Nash, the President of General Motors.



1922 Nash Touring Car



Charles Nash

Nash had become disgruntled with the politics at GM despite leading the company to profitability, so he took his million dollar salary and purchased the Jeffery Company with the intent of building his own idea of an automobile. Following years of building successful Nash autos, Charles Nash began looking for a successor in the early 1930s. That

person was George Mason, the President of Kelvinator, an appliance manufacturer.

George Mason had a good reputation from his days at Studebaker before his days leading Kelvinator. Mason agreed to come over to Nash, providing that Nash and



<https://bringatrailer.com/listing/1925-studebaker-phaeton-california/>

1925 Studebaker Phaeton



George Mason



<https://www.evolve-classics.com/auction/1947-nash-600-super-saloon/>

1947 Nash 600 Super



https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10117413834083840&set=p.10117413834083840&type=3&from_lookaside=1

1947 Hudson Commodore

Kelvinator merged. The merger was completed in 1937 and the appliances helped bolster the auto side of the business following the Depression.

Following the WWII years, it became obvious to Mason that the price wars between GM and Ford and the constant yearly model revisions were making it impossible for the small auto companies to compete. A proposed merger between Studebaker, Packard, Hudson and Nash would make the third largest auto manufacturer in the US, but the proposal fizzled. Eventually, a merger between Hudson

and Nash was made in 1954, with George Romney CEO of the merged companies now known as American Motors.

Nash and Hudson cars were large and lumbering. They did not have interchangeable parts nor could they share the same platform. So Romney directed the company to specialize in making smaller, more fuel efficient cars. This was a niche market the “big three” were ignoring in the late ‘50s, and it gave AMC the lift it needed. 🏆

NEXT: AMC OF THE ‘60s

Presenting Rambler For 1958



RAMBLER ECONOMY 6

RAMBLER REBEL V-8

AND NOW . . . ALL-NEW
Ambassador V-8



1958 AMC Rambler Ad

Ads run for two months with photos, then four months with text only or until canceled, whichever comes first.

For Sale By Owner

John Dietz is selling Earle Greig's 1948 Buick for \$33,500.

- 1948 Buick Super Convertible body
- Engine/chassis from 1975 Chrysler New Yorker
- Full restoration
- Air conditioning

Call or text John for Earle and Vangie Greig, 310-871-4613. Email: jfdietzmusic@gmail.com.

Wanted

I am looking for a driver's vent window (glass and the mounting hardware) for a 1950-51 Ford 2dr or 4dr sedan. 1949 has a small difference but may also work.

Call Roger Marier, 541-926-6195.



The 1977 Renault Le Car

By *Andy Noble*

Régie Nationale des Usines Renault introduced its Le Car in the US as the R5 in 1976, having launched the hatchback as the R5 in France in 1972. It was sold in the US and Canada for the 1976-1996 model years.

Renault first marketed the car in the US through its 250 US dealerships. After it flopped, the car was rebranded in 1977 through a new advertising agency as Le Car. Renault began selling and servicing the cars through an alliance with American Motors dealers in 1979.

The “super-economy” Le Car initially got 35mpg on the freeway and 28mpg in the city, with a 60hp 1289cc inline-four engine. By 1980, however, the smogged version was rated at only 51hp. Despite its low power, it was adopted for use by police departments in La Conner, Washington and Ogunquit, Maine in the late ‘70s and early ‘80s.

Le Car was offered as a three-door hatchback through 1980, after which it was changed to a five-door. 6,800 were sold in 1976, increasing to 37,000 in 1982.

The second generation was introduced as the R5 in 1984, dropping the Le Car name. It was built on Renault’s larger R9 platform and was sold through 1996.



Introducing Le Car

In Europe, where driving is a passion, where people demand economy, performance and a car that's fun to drive, over one million people have bought Le Car. Now, a proven success, Le Car comes to America.



Les Features

Le Car is a sports car with a back seat. With front wheel drive, rack and pinion steering and Michelin steel-belted radials standard, it offers fantastic handling, cornering and traction.

Le Performance

Le Car will not bore you. During 1976, it took first in its class in 12 out of 16 races, beating Hondas, Datsuns, Pintos, Vegas, Toyotas, and Fiats. Le Car combines great performance with 41 MPG highway, 25 MPG city.* Remember: These mileage figures are estimates. The actual mileage you get will vary depending on the type of driving you do, your driving habits, your car's condition and optional equipment. *California excluded

Le Fantastic Ride

Unlike other little cars, Le Car rides so smoothly, even on rough roads, it'll amaze you.

Le City Car

Le Car maneuvers in and out of, around and through traffic. And it fits in a smaller parking space than the Honda, Chevette or Rabbit.

Le Price

Le Car prices start at only \$3345.1 Call 800-631-1616 for nearest dealer. In NJ, call collect 201-461-6000.

H.P.O.E. East Coast: Price excludes transportation, dealer preparation and taxes. Stripe, Mag wheels, Sun roof, Luggage rack and Rear wiper/washer optional at extra cost. Prices slightly higher in the West. Renault U.S.A., Inc. ©1977

Le Car by Renault

CHAC Officers

President:

Gary Peterson

Past President:

Janeen Rudd

Treasurer:

Dave Snell

Secretary:

TBD

Board Member-at-Large:

Andy Noble

Sunshine Committee:

Barbi Powell

Custodian-For-Life:

Howard Jones

Webmaster:

Murphy Gleske

Newsletter Editor:

Andy Noble

Visit us at:

corvallishistoricautoclub.org

Contact us at:

corvallishistoricautoclub@gmail.com

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.**

Copyright © 2026
Corvallis Historic Auto Club

Event Calendar

Below is a partial list of upcoming events. See an updated list on our website calendar: corvallishistoricautoclub.org, and check out the list at Salem Auto Club Council: <https://salemautoclubcouncil.org/>

Monday, February 23

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

Saturday - Sunday, February 28 and March 1, 2026

Salem Roadster Show, 9AM-6PM Saturday, 9AM-5PM Sunday
Admission \$15, 15 and under free
Oregon State Fairgrounds, Jackman Long Building & Columbia Hall
2330 17th St. NE, Salem
Questions: Call (503)871-7573 or (541)928-3149

Monday, March 23

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

Friday - Saturday, April 3-4

Capital City Motor Madness Car Show
6PM-9PM Fri, 9AM-7PM Sat, Admission \$10, 12 and under free
Oregon State Fairgrounds, Jackman Long Building
2330 17th St. NE, Salem
Questions: Call Steve Moore at (541) 990-8087

Friday - Sunday, April 10-12, 2026

Portland Swap Meet, 7:00AM Friday-Saturday, 8AM Sunday
Portland Expo Center
2060 N Marine Dr., Portland
Questions: info@portlandswapmeet.com or (503) 678-2100

Sunday, April 26

Corvallis Swap Meet, 7AM
Benton County Fairgrounds
110 53rd St, Corvallis
Questions: corvallishistoricautoclub@gmail.com

On The Cover: 1937 Talbot-Lago 150

Antonio Lago bought the Talbot Paris auto factory in the mid-'30s and began producing cars under the Talbot and Talbot-Lago nameplates. The Type 150-C was a teardrop model that was designed by Joseph Figoni. The car included an aluminum body, foldout windshield and a sunroof, and came equipped with a 4-liter, inline-six hemi engine.

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.