

January 2026

The Radiator

Official Publication of the Corvallis Historic Auto Club





Gary Peterson
Club President

President's Message

Happy New Year! Most years, based on my long experience living in western Oregon, we would be in the midst of a spell of ice and snow, or at least freezing weather now. But with the weather being sunny and afternoon temperatures in the mid-50's, it seems appropriate that we should turn our thoughts to spring and our CHAC Swap Meet, Car Show and Cars and Coffee. It is motivation to begin to seriously plan and organize those key events.

I have written before with a question about, other than your historic or classic vehicles, what do you drive and why. Today's question is a bit different: To what do you listen while driving or riding in your vehicle?

Asking a different question of artificial intelligence, "When did cars first have radios in them?" yields a wealth of information. For example, as early as 1904, a radio installed in a car was demonstrated at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. In the late 1920's, portable, battery powered radios began to appear that could be used in vehicles, but they were bulky and heavy.

The breakthrough for radios as an accessory to vehicles came in 1930 with the release of the Motorola 5T71. The Motorola 5T71 was durable enough to handle the rough roads of the era and small enough to fit inside vehicles. It was also priced at levels which could be affordable, even during the tight economic conditions of the Depression era.

For example, an advertisement from 1932 shows a "Motorola Deluxe" for \$69.50, less installation and accessories. The ad does not mention that the accessories would necessarily be a battery and speakers! Ford began offering the Motorola 5T71 as a pre-installed factory option in 1933.

Of course, radios in vehicles as well as infotainment systems have developed and changed dramatically in the last 100 years. Clearly folks like to have access to the sound and programming which radios provide us as we drive our vehicles.

Before answering the question about what you listen to while driving or riding in your vehicle, let's consider a different question: If I were to ask what is the first thing

that comes to your mind if I suggest the words, “car” and “song”, what would you say?

I asked the members of the CHAC Board of Directors that question recently and heard five different responses:

- “Little Deuce Coupe” by the Beach Boys
- “409” by the Beach Boys
- “The Little Old Lady from Pasadena” by Jan and Dean
- The line from Don McLean’s “American Pie” – “Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry”
- “Little Red Corvette” by Prince

Of course there are many others:

- “Drive My Car” by the Beatles
- “Fast Car” by Tracy Chapman
- “Pink Cadillac” by Bruce Springsteen
- And, a personal favorite of mine, Johnny Cash’s “One Piece at a Time”.

We now listen to many things on our car radios, from music to sporting events to news to weather and traffic reports to talk radio to audio books to podcasts to our GPS giving us directions while we drive. Audio programming for our listening pleasure while we are driving our vehicles has come a long way.

What are you listening to?

Gary

**“Money may not buy happiness,
but I’d rather cry in a Jaguar
than on a bus.”**

– Françoise Sagan



This Month In Automotive History

By Andy Noble

1879 - Ray Harroun is Born in

Spartansburg, PA, on January 12th. Harroun was part of a four-man team who set the original land speed record of driving from Chicago to New York in 76 hours in 1903. He is best known for winning the inaugural Indianapolis 500 in 1911. Harroun won a total of eight races at the Indianapolis Speedway, the second-most of any driver in history.



1944 - William Vanderbilt II Dies

on January 8th, at the age of 65. In 1904, the immensely wealthy heir set a new land speed record at Daytona Beach of 92.3 mph and launched the Vanderbilt Cup, the first major American auto racing trophy. Vanderbilt was inducted into the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America in 2025.



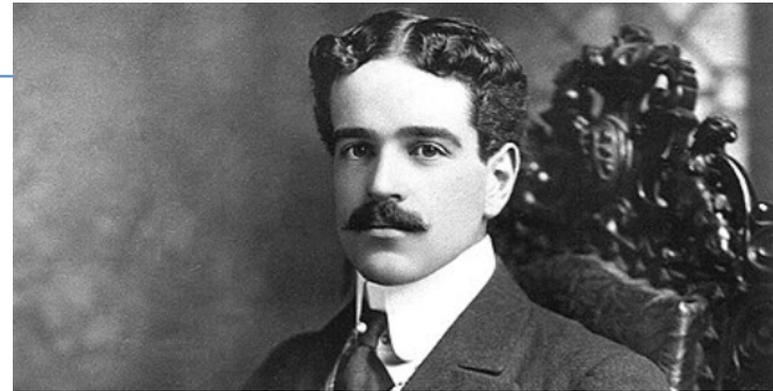
2016 - The Buick Envision

debuts in North America on January 11th. The compact crossover SUV was first introduced in 2014 in China under the name Ang Ke Wei. All Envisions are manufactured in China by the SAIC-GM joint venture.



1926 - The First Pontiac is

introduced by GM on January 3rd. The Pontiac 6 was known as the Series 6-27 in its first year. The first generation, which was sold through the 1932 model year, came equipped with either a 186.7ci or 200ci straight-six engine. Over 76,000 6-27s were sold in its first year.



1983 - President Ronald Reagan

signs the Surface Transportation Assistance Act on January 6th. In addition to other sections, the Act added five cents to the per-gallon gas tax, four cents of which were dedicated to restoring interstate highways and bridges, and one cent went toward public transit.





Oldies But Goodies

Thinking Back to Warm September Car Shows

Story and photos by Dave Snell

The Rollin Oldies Car Club of Lebanon, Oregon hosts one of the central Willamette Valley's best annual shows with their "'50s In The Fall" event, one of the last of the car show season.





More than two hundred fifty street rods, customs and muscle cars cruised in to River Park in Lebanon on a beautiful day September 20th.



In addition to five food carts, the Rollin Oldies sell raffle tickets for a 50/50 drawing and also raffle tickets for all kinds of neat stuff displayed on tables under the shelter.

Club members displayed twenty five of their cars in a separated non-judged area.

The best of show was awarded to Lyn and Rod Proaps from Dallas, Oregon for their 1947 Buick convertible custom. This beautiful car built by Sanders Street Rods features a 455 cubic inch engine with Terminator EFI, an Art Morrison chassis, four wheel disc brakes and a beautiful red pearl finish with tan leather interior. 🏆



For Sale By Owner

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

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.



The 1968 Oldsmobile 442

By *Andy Noble*

Oldsmobile introduced the 442 in 1964 as an optional package for the F-85 and Cutlass. It became a standalone model in 1968, which is considered to be the beginning of its second generation.

The 4-4-2 name originally referred to the car's combination of a four-barrel carburetor, four-speed manual transmission and dual exhausts. The package was upgraded in 1965 from a 330ci to 400ci engine. 4-4-2 then referred to a 400ci engine, four-barrel carburetor and dual exhausts.

1968 saw Olds partner with Hurst Performance. 515 high-performance Hurst/Olds models, with 455ci engines, were produced. The 455ci engine became standard in 1970.

Due to rising insurance rates and stricter federal emission standards, the 442 returned to being an appearance and handling option package for the 1972 model year of the various versions of the Cutlass. From then-on, it became more and more just an appearance package.

Except for the 1981-84 model years, the 442 option continued to be offered on the Cutlass through 1991. It last appeared as an option on the Olds Achieva in 1992 and 1993.



Olds 442: Here's what's behind the reputation.

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| <p>ENGINE</p> <p>Type..... Rocket V-8 Bore x stroke, inches..... 3.87 x 4.25 Displacement, cubic inches..... 400 Compression ratio..... 10.5-to-1 Bhp..... 350* at 4800 rpm Torque, lb.-ft..... 440 at 3200 rpm Carburetion..... 4-bbl. Exhausts..... Dual Built-in Combustion Control System provides constant carb air temperature. Availabilities: Force-Air Induction System. 360 bhp at 5400 rpm. Teams with close-ratio 4-on-the-floor transmission or Turbo Hydra-Matic. Cruising package: Includes 400-CID V-8 with 2-bbl. carb, 290 bhp, 9-to-1 compression, Turbo Hydra-Matic, 2.56-to-1 axle. *325-hp Rocket 400 V-8 with 4-bbl. carb and 10.5-to-1 compression ratio teams with Turbo Hydra-Matic.</p> | <p>DRIVE TRAIN</p> <p>Transmission..... Fully synchronized, heavy-duty 3-on-the-floor with Hurst Shifter Availabilities: 4-on-the-floor (close- or wide-ratio with Hurst Shifter) or Turbo Hydra-Matic floor shift. Prop shaft..... Heavy-duty Axle ratios..... 2.56-to-1 up to 4.66-to-1 Availabilities: Heavy-duty axles (H.D. shafts, bearings, differential gears), 3 ratios.</p> <p>CHASSIS</p> <p>Suspension..... Heavy-duty. Includes heavy-duty springs and shocks, front and rear stabilizers. Steering ratio..... 24-to-1 Wheels..... Heavy-duty 14-inch with extra-wide rims Tires..... F70 x 14", Nylon-Cord Wide-Oval Red-Lines</p> | <p>OTHER AVAILABILITIES</p> <p>Power front disc brakes. UHV Transistorized Ignition. Anti-Spin Differential. Rally Stripes. Rally Pac (clock, tach, engine gauges). Sports console. Custom Sport Steering Wheel. Simulated-wire and Super Stock Wheels. Special wheel discs. Others.</p> <p>GENERAL</p> <p>Wheelbase..... 112" Overall length..... 201.6" Overall width..... 76.2" Overall height..... 52.8" Curb wt. (lb.) Holiday Coupe..... 3670 Tread..... front 59.0", rear 59.0"</p> <p>SAFETY</p> <p>All the new GM safety features are standard, including energy-absorbing column, seat belts for all passenger positions.</p> |
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CHAC Officers

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Gary Peterson

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Janeen Rudd

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Dave Snell

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TBD

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Andy Noble

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Andy Noble

Visit 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, and check out the list at Salem Auto Club Council: <https://salemautoclubcouncil.org/>

Monday, January 26

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

Saturday, February 7

Mild to Wild Motorsports Swap Meet 8AM-2PM
General admission \$8, children 8 and under free
Vendor space 10x10 \$45, car space \$55
Salem Fairgrounds, Columbia Hall
2330 17th St. NE, Salem, OR
Questions? Call Steve Moore - (541) 990-8087 or (503) 394-3070

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

Friday - Sunday, April 10-12, 2026

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

On The Cover: 2019 Audi R8 Tell Us Your Stories:

Audi introduced the R8 for the 2006 model year. The second generation was released for 2015 in Europe, 2017 in the US, sharing its platform with the Lamborghini Huracán. Beginning in 2018, the mid-engine, rear-wheel-drive car was available with a 532hp V10 engine, or the 612hp V10 Plus. Production ended in 2024, with worldwide sales of 45,289 (11,938 sold in the US).

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.