

The Radiator

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CORVALLIS HISTORIC AUTO CLUB

President's Notes

The CHAC has entered into an agreement with the Benton County Fairgrounds to host our Corvallis Swap and Dust 'em Off Car Show there for

the next three years. The current pricing for the rental of the buildings and grounds has been capped with our deposit of one third down for April 2023, April 2024 and April 2025. Our deposits are refundable. This arrangement was the only contract offered.

I'm also pleased to announce that promising negotiations with the principals of the Linn-Benton Community College continue to take place. We move forward with these discussions as The CHAC may be prevented from using the Fairgrounds in the near future. The Board is concerned that Benton County could move at any time and start construction on The Arena, making our hosting our event at that facility next to impossible, or financially unsound. I doubt that the Benton County Commissioners (or whoever is really running that show) will actually start any construction prior to feasibility studies, etcetera being performed on the properties, hence our position to secure the next three years at the Fairgrounds.

I trust you will have this copy of The Radiator to read prior to our annual Steak Fry. It's a sharing thing, where you bring a dish to share and get to sample some great cooking and baking by members of the club. The CHAC Steak Fry will be held this weekend, Saturday September 24th in Philomath at the City Park (23rd Street) Noon till 2:00pm rain or shine. There is plenty of room to bring your classic.



Gary Peterson is coordinating the homecoming September 30th gig at Crescent Valley High with the contact there, Alex Gough. I will be unable to attend. Ten VIP's transportation is

requested, ten cars or doubling up if five club members can volunteer.

Despite the interest, we will not be doing a Cars and Coffee event in October. (Sorry.)

I am next, looking to membership for a person (or committee) to volunteer to undertake the job of arranging our Christmas Party. I would suggest mid-December, and a weekend date be secured soon, as places are apparently booking up.

I also want everyone to review our current by-laws and constitution and offer your ideas on updating these documents. Needed is a change to the stated insurance policy coverage so as to satisfy the Fairgrounds requirements. (The Board has received insurance quotes and will be moving forward with new coverage when our current policy is up for renewal in March.) IF you look closely at the by-laws you should see that they need some corrections, additions and deletions. Once the committee has made its recommendations, the membership will vote on those changes at one of our upcoming meetings. There will be plenty of notice regarding that. Please bring your suggestions to Committee members Marsha Raymond, Denis Paquette, John Myers, Gary Peterson, Mike Hoffman, Jani Burton or Janeen Rudd, By-Laws.

—Pete Rocco

Tom Sarpola – 1988 Plymouth Reliant

My interest in Chrysler Corporation cars started with a college friend. At the time he drove a 1950 Dodge and would work on it outside of Snell Hall on the OSU campus. He convinced me to buy a 1964 Chrysler New Yorker. I owned it eight years and it was nice enough to show at the Forest Grove Concours in 83 and 85. My summer job in the 80's was with a Chrysler dealer in Astoria and that is when I developed an appreciation for Chrysler's K car.



The Plymouth Reliant we currently have is a 1988 model, the second to last year made. It's hard to believe over a million of these cars were made from 1981 to 1989 (not counting the Dodge Aries) but try to find one now. When we purchased this car in 2014 we had been looking for a year. We located cars back east but didn't want to pay for shipping. Our Reliant appeared on ebay and the car was in Vancouver, WA. The car was well represented with one previous owner and at the time had 45,000 miles.



Once home our Reliant needed little other than some cleaning and new tires. We enjoy attending car shows

as it is old enough to be interesting yet modern enough to keep up with most of today's traffic.



It is very comfortable and pretty good on gas. Orphan car shows and Walter P. Chrysler (WPC) club events are especially enjoyable. Most recently we received a best in class award at the 2021 Mopar Summit in St Helens, OR. Yes, sometimes we get the "what is that doing here?" comment or "spectator parking is over there" but cars of the 80's are coming into their own with recognition in magazines and the hobby in general. In the realm of automotive history I'm proud to say our car saved a corporation.

— Tom Sarpola and Dee Fish.

Ron Harper, Owner of an "Oil Decarbonizer"

Ron Harper, long time Model A friend, was many things in life. He was always on the edge of the envelope when it came to fun and playing with our Model A's.

He showed up at one Northwest Regional Group meet about 25 years ago with a bunch of wires & tubes connected to a small domed can with a spark plug on top. All this was mounted on the passenger side of the engine in front of the carburetor. That side of the hood was always open when Ron was around so everyone at the meet could see this thing and of course ask about it.

This 'thing' attached to his engine was an "Oil Decarbonizer"! Ron was famous for wearing cowboy boots and the stuff really got deep when someone asked about the "thing". Straight faced, Ron would explain this item was #3 of 4 "Oil Decarbonizers"

invented and built in the early 1930's. The others were destroyed by a big oil company that bought the rights to the invention to keep it secret from the public.

He would continue to explain he had not changed oil since installing it about five years earlier. Ron would pull out the oil dipstick and show the oil being almost perfectly clean as proof of the functioning. Somehow, he never remembered he had actually changed the oil just before leaving home and that was not part of the story anyway.

People just had to know more about this incredible accessory and Ron explained how it functioned so ingeniously. Engine oil was cycled through the small domed container and the spark plug would fire on every fourth revolution of the engine, burning the carbon out of the oil. People were amazed. Amazed at the story, the delivery and the inventive mind that created all that crap. The story was honed and improved over time, but any con man would have been proud of the delivery from the beginning.

Reactions were mixed but most people took it as fun and part of the good fellowship of the meet. Some were convinced "Big Oil" would do such things and still others were agitated that anyone would modify a Model A Ford in any way.

The highest compliment came a year later at the next Northwest Regional Group's Meet when another guy had had built a similar one of these contraptions! It was called an "Acme Electrosark" this time and it even had a nice decal on the side to prove it. Most of the details of the Electrosark were different from the Decarbonizer, but the story line was still evolving and continued to improve.

This adventure all started when Ron was cleaning stuff out of his desk at the end of the school year and found many of the random components. This same man was a teacher to middle school kids who loved him dearly for his creativity and dedication. He made their days more fun, and they actually were learning during History class.

He is missed.

— Martin Harding

The Future

This will be the future of finding your way.



A Little Help Please

Photo Shoot

We are looking for 6-8 cars in the 1930's to early 40's vintage to pose alongside our 1924 steam locomotive. The big shoot will be Friday morning, October 7, where we want to recreate a scene along Olive St. here in Lebanon that has a pre-WWII feel. We are planning to be on Olive St for about two hours between 8:00am and 10:00am. Additionally, we'd like to have one or two vehicles that can be available throughout the day on October 6 and 7 that can pose with the locomotive at various railroad crossing between Lebanon and Lyons.

Would you give me a call when it is convenient? My phone number is 541-451-0570.

Aaron Zorko
Albany and Eastern Railroad
aaron@albanyeastern.com

Club Member's Cars - 50s in the Fall Car Show, Lebanon OR

And the Winners are:

John Drzal, Best 50s Pickup



Tom Sarpola, Best 80s Car



Also there:



What's Happening

September

- 24: CHAC club picnic – Noon – 2 PM. Philomath City Park, 23rd Street.
- 24: 24: 9th annual Heritage Auto Show @ NW Vintage Car & Motorcycle Museum Brooks, OR
- 24 - 25 7th Annual Roseburg Swap Meet and Car show - 8:00 AM Douglas County Fairgrounds-Roseburg, I-5 Exit 123, 2110 SW Frear Street.
- 25-26: Salem Roadster Show @ Oregon State Fairgrounds Visit [website](#) for more info.

October

Corvallis Historic Auto Club Cars and Coffee will return in the spring.



Not much going on after September. The Portland and Medford Cars & Coffee are a weekly happening.

- 1 Portland Cars and Coffee, 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Langers Fun Center – Sherwood 21650 SW Langer Farm Parkway Sherwood, OR 97140
- 1 Medford Cars and Coffee, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM. Southern Oregon Orthopedics – Medford 2780 E. Barnett Road Medford, OR 97504
- 1 Newport Cars and Coffee, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. O'Reilly Auto Parts – Newport 1801 North Coast Highway, Newport, OR
- 7-9: 1st Annual Clark Co. Roadster Show @ the Clark Co. Fairgrounds Event Center Contact Info: 360-567-9814

ID this Car?

From time to time the Benton County Museum contact Martin requesting help identifying car in old photos. This photo is one they sent to Martin asking to identify the cars. The only clue is they believe the photo was taken in about 1910.



The "Experts" in the club have identified the car on the left as a 1907-1908 Thomas Flier. The one on the right still needs to be identified. Can you ID it?

Sell, Buy, Free Stuff

2010 Silverado LS 2WD Extended Cab, 126,000 miles, very nice condition, many extras and upgrades, \$15,000. Roy Temes 216 798-2720

Reduced Price! ! !

\$9,999.00 - 1967 Ford Thunderbird 4-door(suicide)landau 428v8 automatic transmission. 17.25 feet long, red and black exterior with red interior. 102,403 miles, new tires and battery. As is but in good condition, little rust and chrome damage. Serious lookers only, buyer responsible for vehicle pickup, delivery or shipping. Clear title on clear payment. Sebastian 541-602-6360.

Editor's Notes

Car Quiz, The first 3 people to email me (dj38plymouth@aol.com) with the name of this vehicle or the car company will win a gift certificate.



Starting as a tractor company, this iconic car maker switched to cars in 1963.

Please Check Out These Safety Videos

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFuW_sfaPk0

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LlyEIaRw010>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QilY00dCof8>

—D. J. & Cynthia

CHAC Officers

President: Pete Rocco

Past president: Jim Knoke

Treasurer: Tim Jordan

Secretary: Denis Paquette

Board Member-at-Large: Marsha Raymond

Sunshine Committee: DJ Freeman

Custodian-For-Life: Howard Jones

Newsletter Editors: DJ & Cynthia Freeman

Webmaster: Sebastian Heiduschke

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The Corvallis Historic Auto Club, a nonprofit organization, was organized over 57 YEARS AGO for the encouragement of interest in historical cars, their preservation and restoration, the extension of knowledge concerning them, and related activities