

# The Gas Line

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

President Bob Thompson  
(208) 520-4598  
[3rgt@mail.com](mailto:3rgt@mail.com)

Vice President Bill Beery  
(208) 221-3231  
[Bosssoftheworld2@icloud.com](mailto:Bosssoftheworld2@icloud.com)

Secretary/Treasurer Joy Eagle  
(208) 529-9450  
[joyfuleagle@aol.com](mailto:joyfuleagle@aol.com)

## Board of Directors

Paul Engberson  
Lewis Rounds  
Doug Schwartzenberger  
Yale Harker



## From the President's Corner:

Hello, I apologize for not reminding everyone that we were not having our regular September meeting at the library as we had decided to combine the meeting with the tour to Spencer.

We had an enjoyable cruise to Spencer on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Eight vehicles and fourteen members participated on the tour. The lunch and lively conversation made for a great outing.

Our next meeting will be at the Idaho Falls library on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM

On October 4<sup>th</sup> we will be doing our Autumn Market Lake Cleanup. We will meet the Outback parking lot, cruise to Market Lake, complete the cleanup and then plan to have lunch at AJ's on the way back into Idaho Falls. The time to meet at the Outback parking lot will be announced at the meeting.

Also, the Nice Spot car show will happen on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 395 Lindsay Blvd, Idaho Falls, ID from 10 AM to 2 PM.

The Rich Eagle Celebration of Life on October 12<sup>th</sup> will start at the Indian at Yellowstone and Lincoln around 10:00 AM, leave at 10:30 AM to tour Rich's favorite spots in town and then proceed to the Eagle's home. Bring a dish to share if you would like.

Thanks for being members of our club,

Bob Thompson

CHAPTER EVENTS

Sept 26 – College of Eastern Idaho, 2024 Annual Scholarship Celebration. Westbank Convention Center in Idaho Falls at 6:30 p.m.

Oct 3 - EIVMCCA Club meeting the Idaho Falls Public Library at 7:00p

Oct 4 – Autumn Market Lake Cleanup, Meet at Outback parking lot. – Time to be announced.

MEETING TREATS

- Oct Paul & Lona
- Nov Bob & Celine
- Dec Christmas Party

NATIONAL EVENTS

Sep 22-27 – Revival AAA Glidden Tour, Northern Maryland/Adams County, PA. Rob Burchill. hattiesgarage@comcast.net

Nov 3-8 – 2024 National Western Tour, Tucson, AZ. Steve Partman. smpartman@outlook.com

Nov 17-22 – Part III Old Spanish Trail Regional Tour, St. George, UT To Santa Fe, NM. Steve Fitzgerald studebakersteve@bresnan.net

EIVMCCA Meeting Minutes – 9-13-24

No minutes were recorded for the Spencer event on September 13, 2024. Please see Bob’s comments in the President’s Corner for this event.

Spencer Tour September 13, 2024



## Belvedere Beauties – 1954 Plymouth

By David LaChance, *Hemmings Classic Car Magazine*

It's a bouquet of sun-kissed colors that could only have come from the Fifties, with names that murmur of romance and adventure under golden California skies: Santa Rosa Coral. San Gabriel Green. San Diego Gold. San Pedro Blue.

If the world were only about dollars and cents, this Whitman's Sampler of Belvederes probably wouldn't exist, as its owner, Jim Benson, cheerfully admits. "These cars don't have any value," he notes. "If I was going to restore a Plymouth, it would be a '59, or a '57 model." Add up the book values of these four cars—the sport coupe, the convertible coupe, the four-door sedan and the suburban, or wagon—and, even using the high end of the scale, you won't come close to the cost of their uncompromising, AACA Senior-winning restorations.



There's a simple reason for Darrell's interest in the 1954 Belvedere line: a strong family connection. A 1954 Belvedere sedan was his parents' first new car (and the car that he learned to drive in), and Darrell drove two 1954 Belvedere convertibles while he was in college. Those ties, combined with his lifelong career with Chrysler, were more than enough to draw him in.

Darrell tells us that he didn't actually set out to build the world's finest 1954 Belvedere collection. What he wanted, at first, was a convertible, just like the ones he had driven in college. "Nobody really collected 1954 Plymouths, as you well know," he notes. "There's a scattering of them around, but there's not that many."

It was at this point that Darrell realized that destiny had tapped him on the shoulder. "The sedan. I said, 'If I've got the three colors, I need to find the sedan.'" The missing color was Santa Rosa Coral, which happened to be the color of his parents' car. Darrell started looking around, and found a lead through one of his employees, whose father was president of the local Plymouth club in Detroit. He knew of just the car, one that had been bought new by a Chrysler employee who lived close enough to walk to work, and put few miles on the car.

A footnote to the suburban story: The wagon appeared in a photograph that Chrysler Financial sent out to dealers, where it was spotted by the son of the original owner, thanks to Darrell's use of year-correct Kansas license plates. He contacted Darrell and sent him all of the paperwork about the car that his father had saved.

The sedan went through a succession of Plymouth club members, none of whom ever drove it in bad weather. "When I took it to the restorer, being a Michigan car, I thought we'd have some problems, but it was the best one of the bunch, believe it or not," Darrell says. "There was less wrong with the body of that car than with any of the others." The sedan, one of a palindromic 106,601 built that year, had accumulated just 40,000 miles since new.

"I'll tell you what," Jim says. "Those cars draw a crowd everywhere they go."

**Eastern Idaho  
VMCCA Chapter**  
P. O. Box 2347  
Idaho Falls, ID  
83403-2347

**Newsletter Editor**  
Bobby Lane  
(512) 848-1040  
[bdlane67@outlook.com](mailto:bdlane67@outlook.com)

Send me your car photos for  
the website.

<http://www.eivmcca.org>

16<sup>th</sup> Annual Ken Steiner Memorial Car Show: Sheridan, MT – September 14, 2024

