

# Messenger



## MEMBERS GATHER FOR HOLIDAY CHEER



**M**embers of the Northwest Vintage Car and Motorcycle Museum gathered Thursday, December 19 for a Membership Appreciation Luncheon. Besides pizza and lots of yummy dishes, violinist Steve Price provided the entertainment, playing many holiday favorites. A great time was had by all!

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## Letter from the President

By Ron Smith, President

As you are reading this article, the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays will be in our rear-view mirror and 2025 will have begun. There are lots of things happening around the Museum this year.

The elevator has progressed along with the installation of electrical and flooring upstairs. If things go as planned, the elevator should be installed around February. Fingers crossed!!

The Speedster Program is in full swing and always needs mentors and students. They have several projects in the works, like a 1922 Chevy, a Model T pickup and a Model A. In addition to these projects, we are looking forward to also adding some other cool cars to our collection. More to come on that.

As you all know, the Museum runs on donations and volunteers, and we always need more. We have lots of work to do upstairs in the new learning center, library, meeting room and restrooms.



Powerland Heritage Park already has events scheduled almost every weekend and the Museum will be having three elite car shows this summer on Chandler Field. They are the Paralyzed Veterans of America Car Show in June, the S-K Car Show in August, and the Heritage Car Show in September. The Museum

will also be having its Night at the Museum Cruise-ins on Chandler Field in June, July and August. Watch for information on these events.

Over the next four months, you may receive a call from us asking if you can help by being a docent this summer. It's a great opportunity to talk to people about all the cars and motorcycles the Museum has, and just being able to promote the history that our museum has to share.

Thank you for all you have done and will do in the future.

## Bert Harrison's Family Makes Memorial Donation

By Ruth Jarmusz



At the board meeting on August 15, the Museum was presented with a check for \$1000 from the daughters of former member Bert Harrison. A memorial for Bert was held at the Museum in April. We are grateful for the generosity of Bert and his family.

Pictured are NWVCM President Ron Smith, Pat Mathison and Pam Moore



## Museum Contacts

### President

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## Welcome, New Members! And Thank You, Donors!

By Ruth Jarmusz



### NEW MEMBERS

- Dennis Wright, Lebanon
- David Miller & Denon Luscier, Portland
- Greg Westling, Portland
- Rose City Motorcycle Club, Beaverton
- Jim Brown, Salem
- Sunset Oregon Club, Salem
- Russell Dennis, West Linn
- Linda Leek, Salem
- Butch Ramsdell, Keizer
- Eric Muetze, Keizer
- Ken Hale, Independence

### DONATIONS - thank you!

- Matt Hackney (for Speedster Program and Museum Donation)
- George and Marlene Meyer
- Jim Cutting (winner of Leather Jacket)
- Pat Mathison & Pam Moore (in Memory of Bert Harrison)
- Heritage Car Show (for Speedster Scholarships)
- Willamette Valley Street Rods (for Speedster Program)

## Volunteer of the Quarter: Jerry Ekstrom

By Board of Directors

**M** meet Jerry Ekstrom, our member of the quarter. Jerry has an extensive background in electrical and communication systems. He has been a faithful member of the theater organ team and helps make the magnificent instrument speak well. His talents are as an in-house electrician for the Speedster shop, Christmas lights and the bath fan, which was a problem that he solved.

Every week we look forward to his sense of humor, seeing that we get a good laugh and his friendly smile. He is dedicated to the museum and comes every Thursday from Portland. His talents and graciousness are most appreciated by all.



## Speedster Report

By Gary Dennis

**A**s I write this, it is December and the first term at the speedster shop is almost over. We had a full contingent of students at the first of this year's fall term. As is usual some dropped out when they realized restoration was not their "thing." Don and Gary went recruiting and filled in with new students. One came to us from a contact made at the last swap meet.

We have a couple of other exciting developments to report. Our long-term supporters, the Willamette Valley Street Rods, provided us with the wherewithal to purchase industrial shelving to install at the front of each work stall. This will allow us to better organize the parts and components that belong to the vehicle in that stall. This will free up space in each stall for better workflow. Thank you WVSR!

The owner of US Crane & Hoist, Tony Darcy volunteered to be a mentor! You may remember his company built and installed our swing-arm crane & chain hoist. Tony is a fabricator and street rodder who brings a truckload of skills to our mentor group. Welcome aboard Tony!

I want to thank our mentors who invest their time in our students. We see them bloom when they see that they are worth investment. Thanks Jack Adams, Don Blain, Arlen Buck, and Jeremy Scholz.



WVSR President Russ Strohmeyer (left) presents a check to the Speedster Program at their December club meeting. Receiving the check on behalf of the NWVCM is Gary Dennis and Ron Smith. Ron is a member of WVSR as well, but is representing the Museum with Gary in this photo.

## Lifestyles Area Already Planning for 2025

By Pat Roby

The Lifestyles displays have been dismantled and the terrific artifacts associated with our "Road Trip" theme from last year have been given back to their owners. The theme for next year has yet to be decided, but as a group, our volunteers will once more help define our museum with creativity and flair as we work with the wonderful donations and collections that are loaned to us. The displays of cars are always enhanced by the materials people bring to us.

I will be scheduling a committee meeting in spring, and we would welcome anyone interested in lending a hand. The time involved is always an individual commitment. At that time, we will be deciding how



*This year's quilt raffle winners are Mike and Victoria Clark of Sedona Arizona. Pictured are Maggie Ottolia and Victoria Clark during the quilt's delivery to Arizona.*

best to showcase the collections and donations we receive.

Our quilt wall is also an integral part of the Museum and this past season, we were able to highlight quilts in with the displays of cars as well. If you have any quilts that you would be willing to loan us for the summer season, please contact me. We hope to have a quilt to raffle this coming year as well. The raffle is

always held at the end of our Steam-Up weekends.

As always, if you have anything you would like to donate or offer as a loan for the upcoming season, please contact me. The museum is open on Thursdays as well for drop-offs.

Pat Roby, 503-692-0774 or 503-705-6015. Email is [truckgirl51@yahoo.com](mailto:truckgirl51@yahoo.com)

## Member Clubs Enjoying the Museum's Facilities

By Tom Ruttan

Club member Rose City Motorcycle Club held their annual Oregon Grand Tour awards banquet at our museum on October 26, 2024. They had about 50 members in attendance and had a great time. They were quite impressed with our facilities, and many were first time visitors to our museum.





## Blackie's Story

By Doug Nelson speaking for Blackie, as originally published in Torque Tube Magazine, circa 2004

**B**lackie is the name; speed is the game. This is my story.

I am a 1938 Buick Century Sport Coupe – black in color with beige mohair upholstery. I was known as “a bankers’ hot rod” in my pre-war days.

My first owner, August R. Hawthorne II, AKA “Augie” by his friends and revenuers alike, was, simply put, a rather shady character. He purchased me new in Spokane, Washington in November of '37 for the sole purpose of bringing Canadian spirits across the border. A plus was my ability to elude the law in their

fast, for the short run, Fords.

No car, save a Duesy, could keep up with my 320 cubes and 390 rear end. Being a Sport Coupe I have dual spares on my fenders and a large trunk – all the better to tow cases of hooch disguised as farm machinery. Usually trips were uneventful but I could be called upon to

run up to 100 mph as the Buick factory advertised. Century means 100, of course.

This activity went on through the war years, as Augie was always able to get petrol in Canada during our “machinery” runs. I lived a pampered life – making our living at night. The advantage of my black paint color was obvious. Augie knew the roads so well, I usually ran with the lights off. By the late forties, Augie made enough to retire to Florida and sold me.

I entered a new life, Drag Races! My new owner, Steve, lightened my load by removing my spares and fitted me with a 1942 dual-carb setup. Now we could pull low 16's and easily blow everybody off the road. Steve treated me great, regular oil changes, tune-ups, and the best tires. It did bother me about the pink slip challenges on weekends, but we never let each other down. During the '60s the muscle cars came on the scene and Steve announced my second retirement.

I spent a decade hibernating without baths or oil changes in a barn outside of Loon Lake, Washington,

always longing for the good old days with Augie and Steve. Then one day in 1973, I was sold in a package deal that brought me to Salem, Oregon. My tires were bald, my paint was faded, and my 320 cubes felt like 50. I got the works: paint, upholstery, and a Bob Pipkin rebuilt engine. Soon, like Cousin



Willy sings, I was “on the road again.”

I guess I'm sort of a senior citizen now, but still could do 100 if called upon. We have this silly 55 mph rule and \$3.00 gas [editor's note: this was written 20 years ago] so my owner only takes me to tours, shows, and grocery runs. Not bad, considering most of my brothers wound up in wrecking yards and were recycled into Toyotas!

## The Legacy of the Heritage Auto Show

The Heritage Auto show celebrated its 25th anniversary in September, a noted achievement in today's climate. It was brought to life with the long-range goal of showcasing as many of the rare and unique vehicles no longer in production as possible. Having worked with car shows for some time, it was also my desire to create something unique, an experience, and not just 'another car show'.

Sadly, many of these vehicles, though advanced in design, were either scrapped or simply lost to history. Durant, Stevens Duryea, Detroit Electric, Franklin, Studebaker, Packard, Holsman, Brush, and in recent times Pontiac to name just a few. If you were to ask many young people today about a Holsman they would reply, oh, you meant Honda? It has been my firm desire to keep our heritage alive and present it in a family friendly environment. Thus, our show attendees, young and old, pique their curiosity about our rich automotive history and those who made it, as they walk the displays.

Many fond memories are also brought to life. Although the show has always been open to all makes and models and will continue to be, without this incredible heritage, we would not have the hot rods, street rods, resto mods, rat rods and restoration projects of today. Last year we did a "Tribute to 100 Years of Electric Cars". It was fascinating to watch people's expressions as they walked back and forth between the 1896 Riker and the new 2023 Tesla. One



*Here is our Heritage Show Founder, Paul Pfnister. Paul has done a fantastic job of marketing, organizing and running these shows over many years. Thanks to his efforts, thousands of dollars have been earmarked to worthy charities in Oregon.*

person commented, "I thought electric cars were all new technology" Hmm.

Previously, we did a salute to Shelby America and the profound impact Shelby carried on the automotive industry. And this is only a sample of some of the displays of years past.

Proceeds from the show help fund the scholarship program for the next generation. Again, this year, the scholarship went into our own Speedster program for one of our students going on to the Chemeketa Automotive classes. There are several things in the planning stage for 2025 and 2026. My desire is that the Heritage legacy, with the help of the Heritage team, will continue for many years to come bringing museums, people, organizations, and these incredible pieces of our automotive heritage together, and to light. Mark your calendars now for September 27, 2025, as we celebrate more of our unique automotive history at the 26th annual Heritage Auto Show. You never know what you will see.



*From this year's Heritage Car Show: Chris Becker, Bob Farwell, Ron Smith and Jerry Grulkey check out this 1908 relic that ran like a top..*

# DONATION AND MEMBERSHIP FORM



Mail this form, along with your payment, to:

**Northwest Vintage Car & Motorcycle Museum**  
PO Box 15  
Salem, OR 97308-0015

Questions? Call Ron Smith at 503-931-7879 or [nwvcmpres@gmail.com](mailto:nwvcmpres@gmail.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation (current or past) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/significant other \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

(Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **DONATION** in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership levels:

\_\_\_\_\_ **SPECIAL 3 years for \$100**

\_\_\_\_\_ Standard membership, \$40 a year

\_\_\_\_\_ Club membership \$200 for first year, \$100 each year after

\_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime membership, \$10,000 (*one-time fee, includes family*)

Tell us about your vehicle(s) and interests:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- I would prefer to receive all correspondence via email
- Contact me regarding volunteer opportunities

*The Museum also accepts cars and motorcycles to display and to sell.  
These donations are used to help build the endowment fund that will help support the Museum in the future.*

*The Northwest Vintage Car & Motorcycle Museum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. Thank you!*



## We Think We "Auto" Have Some Jokes in this Issue

Collected by Ruth Jarmusz



**A** Florida senior citizen drove his brand-new Corvette convertible out of the dealership. Taking off down the road, he pushed it to 80 mph, enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left. "Amazing," he thought as he flew down I-95, pushing the pedal even more.

Looking in his rear-view mirror, he saw a State Trooper, blue lights flashing and siren blaring. He floored it to 100 mph, then 110, then 120. Suddenly he thought, "What am I doing? I'm too old for this!" and pulled over to await the trooper's arrival.

Pulling in behind him, the trooper got out of his vehicle and walked up to the Corvette. He looked at his watch, then said, "Sir, my shift ends in 30 minutes. Today is Friday. If you can give me a new reason for speeding – a reason I've never before heard – I'll let you go."

The old gentleman paused then said: "Three years ago, my wife ran off with a Florida State Trooper. I thought you were bringing her back."  
"Have a good day, sir," replied the trooper.

(From Jokeoftheweek.com)

**What kind of cars do cooks drive?**

Answer: Chef-rollets

**What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?**

Answer: A Holly Davidson

**Did you hear about the guy that lost his left arm and leg in a car crash?**

Answer: He's all right now.

**I saw a lady texting and driving today.**

Answer: I was furious. I rolled down my window and threw my beer at her.

(From jokesquotesfactory.com)



## Dazzling Classics Shine – South of the Border

By Andy Ottolia

October was a thrilling month for classic car lovers, and one of the highlights had to be Auto Clásica 2024, held in the beautiful setting of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

But before I start on this story a little background.



*A Lancia roadster of 1932 with beautiful lines. These are very rare and seldom seen.*

About 15 years ago, I had sticky brakes on an old Jaguar, so I went to the Internet to get advice on an enthusiast's website. One fellow that responded was Alberto. We had similar cars and similar interests, so we kept our friendship over the Internet all these years. I caught up with him in October while visiting family and he invited me to this wonderful show.

The event took place October 10 – 13 and showcased an incredible collection of vehicles that celebrated the rich tapestry of automotive history. Imagine strolling beneath the lush trees of the San Isidro Hippodrome (365 acres) surrounded by the distinct rumble of engines from another era and the

glimmer of polished chrome at every turn. It was a feast for the senses!

This show just blew me away. I never expected so many high-quality classics way at the bottom of South America 7,000 miles from Salem, Oregon.

Auto Clásica 2024 featured more than 1,100 classic cars and motorcycles, with models ranging from pre-war gems to icons of the '70s and '80s. Argentina's passion for classic vehicles was on full display, with an impressive lineup that included everything from European elegance to American muscle.

A century ago, Argentina was a prosperous country, and like the US so many cars from Europe and the US were imported there. And like in Cuba these gems

*1954 Maserati 8CL. Juan Manuel Fangio won the 1954 Formula 1 Championship, in this car!*



*These two are Bugattis of the early 30's. Today they are among the world's most coveted Classics.*

were preserved and not junked. Then 50 years ago as the economy faltered, and the middle class dwindled car imports ceased, and old cars were preserved.

For the last 30 years bargain hunting collectors from abroad have repatriated many of these gems. A good example is the Museum's displayed 1933 Alfa Romeo 8c Monza and owned by our founder, Doug Nelson, which was found in Argentina in the 1970's.



*A row of rare late 1920's Rolls Royces were there courtesy of the Rolls Club.*



*Two of only 33 Mercedes Benz SSKs produced from 1928-32. These were capable racers and now command multi-million-dollar values. They were in the rain!*

The prestigious "Best of Show" award was claimed by the stunning Maserati 8 CL from the Pérez Company collection, a true testament to the excellence in preservation and restoration. It was driven by "El Maestro" Juan Fangio the Godfather of Formula 1 racing.

The American classic lineup also impressive, with a 1917 Cadillac Roadster being awarded the "Best American Classic" title. Many car clubs participated including over 50 Ford Mustangs curtesy of the local club.

The spirit of community was truly alive at Auto Clásica. Families, collectors, and enthusiasts from all walks of life came together to celebrate their shared love for automotive history. Enthusiasts here are very passionate. They drive their cars even in the rain with many of these cars treated as family heirlooms over

generations.

There were restoration workshops, a marketplace for hard-to-find parts, and plenty of opportunities to chat with fellow enthusiasts about the stories behind their prized vehicles. I even met fellows from England and Australia hunting for high end classics to buy.

The atmosphere was welcoming and full of nostalgia—just the way we like it! Alberto and I had a grand day. Later that evening I met his girlfriend Graciela and was treated to a wonderful Argentinian dinner.

If you ever find yourself in Buenos Aires in October, I highly recommend experiencing Auto Clásica for yourself. It's a reminder of why we all love these timeless machines—for their stories, their beauty, and their ability to connect people across the globe.

Until next time, keep those engines humming!

*Even the Studebaker Club showed up with some fine examples.*



*Mustangs everywhere! At least 50 showed up. The Mustang Club of Buenos Aires is very active with over 200 members.*



"EDUCATION IS OUR PURPOSE"

P.O. Box 15 • Salem, OR • 97308-0015

The NW Vintage Car & Motorcycle Museum  
is at Powerland Heritage Park,  
off Brooklake Road, west of 1-5.

1-5 Exit 263, Brooks

10 minutes north of Salem  
30 minutes south of Portland

[www.nwcarandcycle.org](http://www.nwcarandcycle.org)

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**ALL EVENTS ARE IN THE NELSON  
BUILDING UNLESS OTHERWISE  
NOTED**

**WEEKLY WORK DAYS**  
**Thursdays, 9 am – 2 pm.**  
**Everyone is welcome to  
come help!**

**MEMBER/BOARD MEETINGS are  
the 3rd Thursday of each month,  
2 pm at the Nelson Exhibit Hall.**  
**Everyone is welcome!**

## January 2025

- 1 Willamette Valley Model T Club Mtg, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
- 2 Willamette Valley Corvette Club Mtg, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
- 4 CAMC Movie Night, 5 pm – 9 pm
- 11 Oregon Trail Chap. Motorcycle Club Movie Night, 11 am - 3 pm
- 15 Early Ford V8 Club Mtg, 6 pm – 8 pm
- 16 NWVCMM Board Meeting, 2 pm – 4 pm
- 21 Oregon Tractor Pull Mtg, 6 pm – 8 pm

## February 2025

- 5 Willamette Valley Model T Club Mtg, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
- 6 Willamette Valley Corvette Club Mtg, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
- 18 Oregon Tractor Pull Mtg, 6 pm – 8 pm
- 19 Early Ford V8 Club Mtg, 6 pm – 8 pm
- 20 NWVCMM Board Meeting, 2 pm – 4 pm

## March 2025

- 5 Willamette Valley Model T Club Mtg, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
- 6 Willamette Valley Corvette Club Mtg, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
- 18 Oregon Tractor Pull Mtg, , 6 pm – 8 pm
- 19 Early Ford V8 Club Mtg, 6 pm – 8 pm
- 20 NWVCMM Board Meeting, 2 pm – 4 pm