



# Gas Gauge Ye Olde Car Club March 2018 Newsletter

## The President's Message

### The Meaning of March

March is known as the month that “comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb”. It is also known for the ides of March, the ancient full moon and the date on which Julius Caesar was assassinated. March came to have the idiom of the lion and lamb associated with it because of its tumultuous weather. It straddles winter and spring and tends to display characteristics of both.

Another thing for which March is known is the ides of March. In the ancient calendar, the ides of March, the 5<sup>th</sup>, marked the final stage of the first full moon of the New Year, and a major festival was held by the Romans. Julius Caesar added 10 days to the Roman calendar when he took reign and moved the New Year to Jan. 1. Ironically, he was assassinated on the ides of March by members of his own senate who feared that his status as dictator for life was a threat to Rome.

A Little history from [Reference.com/world](http://Reference.com/world) view

Enjoy, Until Next Month

Sharon Wells  
2018 President  
Ye Olde Car Club of the tri-cities

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**The Remarkable Body:** An adult is made up of 7,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 (7 octillion) atoms. For perspective, there's a 'measly' 300,000,000,000 (300 billion) stars in our galaxy.

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### Where in the world. :

Largest country in the world: Russia (17,098,242 km)

Smallest country in the world: Vatican (0 km) with Monaco a close 2<sup>nd</sup>. (2 km)

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## Bits and Pieces

\*\*\* NASA's robot Curiosity landed on Mars. Early pictures show no signs of ESPN, beer or porn. This makes it very clear that men are not from Mars.

\*\*\* In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

\*\*\* How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

\*\*\* When the only tool you own is a hammer, every problem begins to look like a nail.

\*\*\* Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.

\*\*\* The more you weigh, the harder you are to kidnap. Stay safe... eat cake.

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A doctor was addressing a large audience in Tampa. "The material we put into our stomachs is enough to have killed most of us sitting here years ago. Red meat is awful. Soft drinks corrode your stomach lining. Chinese food is loaded with MSG. High fat diets can be disastrous, and none of us realizes the long-term harm caused by the germs in our drinking water. However, there is one thing that's the most dangerous of all and we all have eaten it, or will eat it. Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?" After several seconds of quiet, a 75-year-old man in the front row raised his hand and said, "Wedding Cake!"

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## The first city to install curb cuts in their sidewalks was? Kalamazoo, MI

Curb cuts are the sloped areas where pedestrian walkways meet streets and the curb is sloped (or "cut") to meet the surface grade of the street in such a way that you can walk easily without catching your toe on the curb or stepping down off the curb onto the street. Historically, curbs didn't have cut outs and every "pedestrian crossing" on curbed streets required people to step down or up to navigate it. In the 1940s, Kalamazoo, Michigan became the first city in the world to use curb cuts as part of a pilot program designed to make the downtown area of the city more easily navigable for the participants in an employment initiative focused on getting disabled veterans back to work.

From How to Geek

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## Fun Food Facts

Ripe cranberries will bounce like a rubber ball.

Honey is made from nectar and bee vomit.

The official state vegetable of Oklahoma is the watermelon

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## EVENTS

### Ladies Luncheons:

**March 8** – Ladies Luncheon had 8 in attendance. Thank you Mary.

**April 12** – Ladies Luncheon. Host and destination TBD

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## Tours

Two tours have been set up so far. The first one scheduled is to **THE PENDLETON UNDERGROUND**, Pendleton, OR on Monday, April 23. The cost is \$15. The tour is a guided 1½-hour tour and lunch will follow across the street at AJ'S LITTLE CAFÉ. Parking is a block from the entrance to the Underground. We will travel by the back route which is beautiful this time of year. Reservations are a must! If you plan to attend, please send your \$15 to: YOCC, c/o Frances McGillis, 4806 Meadow View Drive, Pasco, WA 99301 or bring it to breakfast. Payment must be in by April 6 as the facility needs to know how many will be there so they can have enough tour guides. We will meet at Burger King on W. Court, just east of Hwy 39 and leave promptly \ at 8:30.

The second tour is scheduled to **RED'S HOT ROD GARAGE** in Outlook on Saturday, May 19. A 2 hour tour of the fabrication and speed shop followed by lunch in Sunnyside at SNIPES MOUNTAIN BREWING, about 5 miles. We will meet at Sterling's Restaurant on Queensgate and depart at 8:30 AM. Don Buckles would like to have a head count of those who are attending by May 10. Please contact Don at 509-627-0535 or email dbuckles0535@charter.net.

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The football huddle, where players circle up close together, was created by Paul Hubbard, a deaf quarterback at Gallaudet, a college for the deaf, way back in the 1890s so that he and his teammates could converse without anyone reading their signed conversations from afar.

From How to Geek

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## **St. Patrick's Day**

\*\*\*St. Patrick's Day occurs annually on March 17 in observance of the death of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. What began as a religious feast day in the 17th century has evolved into a variety of festivals across the globe celebrating Irish culture with parades, special foods, music, dancing, and a whole lot of green.

\*\*\*St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is one of Christianity's most widely known figures. But for all of his prevalence in culture, namely the holiday held on the day of his death that bears his name, his life remains somewhat of a mystery. Many of the stories traditionally associated with St. Patrick, including the famous account of his banishing all the snakes from Ireland, are false, the products of hundreds of years of exaggerated storytelling. It is known that St. Patrick was born in Britain to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D. Although his father was a Christian deacon, it has been suggested that he probably took on the role because of tax incentives and there is no evidence that Patrick came from a particularly religious family. At the age of 16, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity. (There is some dispute over where this captivity took place. Although many believe he was taken to live in Mount Slemish in County Antrim, it is more likely that he was held in County Mayo near Killala.) During this time, he worked as a shepherd, outdoors and away from people. Lonely and afraid, he turned to his religion for solace, becoming a devout Christian.

\*\*\*Up until the mid-19th century, most Irish immigrants in America were members of the Protestant middle class. When the Great Potato Famine hit Ireland in 1845, close to 1 million poor and uneducated Irish Catholics began pouring into America to escape starvation. Despised for their alien religious beliefs and unfamiliar accents by the American Protestant majority, the immigrants had trouble finding even menial jobs. When Irish Americans in the country's cities took to the streets on St. Patrick's Day to celebrate their heritage, newspapers portrayed them in cartoons as drunk, violent monkeys.

\*\*\*The American Irish soon began to realize, however, that their large and growing numbers endowed them with a political power that had yet to be exploited. They started to organize, and their voting block, known as the "green machine," became an important swing vote for political hopefuls. Suddenly, annual St. Patrick's Day parades became a show of strength for Irish Americans, as well as a must-attend event for a slew of political candidates. In 1948, President Harry S. Truman attended New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade, a proud moment for the many Irish Americans whose ancestors had to fight stereotypes and racial prejudice to find acceptance in the New World.

- Corned beef and cabbage is a traditional St. Patrick's Day dish. In 2009, roughly 26.1 billion pounds of beef and 2.3 billion pounds of cabbage were produced in the United States.
- Irish soda bread gets its name and distinctive character from the use of baking soda rather than yeast as a leavening agent.
- Other traditional Irish dishes are: Irish stew, Shepherd's pie, Seafood, Potatoes, and the drinks of choice are Guinness and Whiskey.
- The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in the United States on March 17, 1762, when Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City.
- More than 100 St. Patrick's Day parades are held across the United States. New York City and Boston are home to the largest celebrations.
- There are 34.7 million U.S. residents with Irish ancestry. This number is more than seven times the population of Ireland itself.
- Irish is the nation's second most frequently reported ancestry, ranking behind German.
- Across the country, 11 percent of residents lay claim to Irish ancestry. That number more than doubles to 23 percent in the state of Massachusetts.

www.history.com

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### **An Irishman's first drink with his son.**

While reading an article last night about fathers and sons, memories came flooding back to the time I took me son out for his first pint. Off we went to our local pub, only two blocks from the cottage. I got him a Guinness. He didn't like it, so I drank it. Then I got him a Kilkeny's, He didn't like that either, so I drank it. Finally I thought he might like some Harp Lager. He didn't. I drank it. I thought maybe he'd like whiskey better than beer so we tried a Jameson's. Nope! I had to drink that, too. In desperation, I had him try that rare Redbreast, Ireland's finest whiskey. He wouldn't even smell it. What could I do but drink it! By the time I realized he just didn't like to drink, I was so drunk I could hardly push his stroller back home!!!

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There is a belief that brake pads and clutch linings sold in the U.S. no longer contain asbestos, but this is incorrect. In 1989 a law was passed that banned asbestos in most products, but this ruling was overturned in 1991 and has not been revisited. You can walk into your nearest auto parts store today and buy a shiny set of new brake pads that contain asbestos. Even worse, there's no law that required manufacturers to identify products that contain asbestos, so you should assume that ALL brake pads etc contain asbestos when you're working on a vehicle.

See this EPA article for more information: [www.epa.gov/asbestos/us-federal-bans-asbestos](http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/us-federal-bans-asbestos)

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### **See What Packages and Mail You Have Coming**

The United States Postal Service, UPS, and FedEx all offer online dashboards where you can see exactly what packages (and letters, in the case of the US Postal Service) are scheduled to arrive at your address. They'll even email and send you text message notifications so you can stay on top of things. [www.howtogeek.com/342441/how-to-see](http://www.howtogeek.com/342441/how-to-see)

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Groups of Americans were traveling by tour bus through Switzerland. As they stopped at a cheese farm, a young guide led them through the process of cheese making, explaining that goat's milk was used. She showed the group a lovely hillside where many goats were grazing. "These," she explained, "are older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce." She then asked, "What do you do in America with your old goats?" A spry old gentleman answered, "They send us on bus tours!"

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## 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air

Chevrolet's full-size model received all new styling and power. Bel Airs came with features found on cars in the lower models ranges plus interior carpet, chrome headliner bands on hardtops, chrome spears on front fenders, stainless steel window moldings, and full wheel covers. Models were further distinguished by the Bel Air name script in gold lettering later in the year.

The 1955 and 1956 Chevrolets gained a V8 engine option and the option of the 2-speed Powerglide automatic, or a standard three speed Synchro-Mesh manual transmission with optional overdrive. The new 265 cu in (4,340 cc) V8 featured a modern, overhead valve high compression, short stroke design that was so good that it remained in production in various displacements for many decades. The base V8 had a two-barrel carburetor and was rated at 162 hp (121 kW), and the "Power Pack" option featured a four-barrel carburetor and other upgrades yielding 180 bhp (130 kW). Later in the year, a "Super Power Pack" option added high-compression and a further 15 bhp (11 kW). "Idiot" lights replaced gauges for the generator and oil pressure.

This was not the first Chevrolet to be installed with a V8 engine. The first Chevrolet with a V8 engine was introduced in 1917 called the Series D which was built for two years, and was manufactured before Chevrolet joined General Motors. 1956, air conditioning could be installed on cars ordered with the standard three-speed manual transmission, overdrive or Powerglide, but from 1957 onward, an automatic transmission (or minus that, 4-speed manual transmission) was a pre-requisite option.

The 1956 Bel Air received a face-lift with a more conventional full-width grille, pleasing those customers who didn't favor the Ferrari-inspired '55 front end. Distinctive two-tone bodyside treatments and graceful front and rear wheel openings completed the "speedline" restyling. Single housings incorporated the taillight, stoplight, and backup light, and the left one held the gas filler - an idea popularized on Cadillacs. Among the seven Bel Air models was a new Sport Sedan, a pillarless four-door hardtop that looked handsome with all the windows rolled down and allowed easy entry into the back seat. Seatbelts, shoulder harnesses, and a padded dashboard were available, and full-size cars could even get the hot Corvette 225-horsepower engine.



From Wikipedia

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### Don't Mess with Seniors

Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with those expensive, double-pane, energy-efficient kind. Today, I got a call from Home Depot who installed them. The caller complained that the work had been completed a year ago and I still hadn't paid for them. Helloooo...just because I'm a Senior Citizen doesn't mean that I am automatically mentally challenged. So, I told him just what his fast-talking sales guy told me last year - that these windows would pay for themselves in a year. There was only silence at the other end of the line, so I finally hung up. He never called back. I bet he felt like an idiot.

Thanks to cousin Jacki.

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## THIEVES USE WIRE HANGER TO SWIPE CLASSIC AMCs



**VEHICLES COVERED:** 1968 AMC Javelin and 1970 AMC AMX

**WHAT WENT WRONG:** For most classic car owners, a locked garage in a safe neighborhood is all that's needed to keep their precious automobiles safe. But as crooks prove time and again, if there's a will there's a way. The owner of two American Motors muscle cars – a 1968 Javelin with 343 V-8 and a 1970 AMX Big Bad Green 390 – went out of town for a few days, leaving his cars in a locked garage. When he returned, they were gone. There were no broken locks or windows, so police surmised that the thieves gained access by sliding a wire hanger between the door and frame of the electric overhead garage door, hooking the emergency lever and releasing it with a tug. The keys for both cars were hanging in a wall cabinet.

**DAMAGE/LOSS:** Hagerty paid the owner \$59,000: \$17,000 for the Javelin and \$42,000 for the AMX.

**LESSON:** Several lessons here. First of all, always keep your cars and keys in separate locations – maybe even consider hiding the keys in a place known only to you (and perhaps another person you trust). Second, use a plastic zip tie to secure the emergency lever and make it virtually impossible for thieves to release it from outside. Thread the zip tie through the hole in the carriage assembly and around the bottom where the pull-rope attaches (see diagram above). In an actual emergency, you'll be able to use your weight to break the zip tie when you pull down, but thieves won't have the same leverage with a wire hanger stretched over the top of the door. Finally, never reveal on social media that you're going out of town. And it's always a good idea to ask a trusted friend or relative to check on your property while you're away.

### From

[www.hagerty.com/articles-videos/articles/2014/07/09/thieves-use-wire-hanger](http://www.hagerty.com/articles-videos/articles/2014/07/09/thieves-use-wire-hanger)  
[www.hagerty.com/articles-videos/articles/2017/12/29/protect-your-vintage-car](http://www.hagerty.com/articles-videos/articles/2017/12/29/protect-your-vintage-car)

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\*\*\*The development of modern power steering dates back to 1926, when Francis W. Davis, an engineer with Pierce-Arrow's truck division, demonstrated the first practical system on one of the heavy Buffalo-built big rigs. Chrysler went on to introduce it commercially for the first time in 1951. Called "Hydraguide," the system was based on Davis' expired patents.

All from Antique Automobile, November/December 2016

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## Best & Worst

### Lowest Car Theft Rate

1. Gilbert, Arizona
2. Irvine, California
3. Scottsdale, Arizona
4. New York, New York
5. Virginia Beach, Virginia

**Highest Car Theft Rate**

1. Albuquerque, New Mexico
2. St. Louis, Missouri
3. Milwaukee, Wisconsin
4. San Bernardino, California
5. Oakland, California

**Lowest Annual Hours Spent in Congestion per Auto Commuter**

1. Greensboro, North Carolina
2. Wichita, Kansas
3. Corpus Christi, Texas
4. Lincoln, Nebraska
5. Fort Wayne, Indiana

**Highest Annual Hours Spent in Congestion per Auto Commuter**

1. Miami, Florida
2. Atlanta, Georgia
3. San Francisco, California
4. New York, New York
5. Washington, D.C.

**Lowest Auto Maintenance Cost**

1. Portland, Oregon
2. Laredo, Texas
3. Greensboro, North Carolina
4. San Antonio, Texas
5. Buffalo, New York

**Highest Auto Maintenance Cost**

1. Seattle, Washington
2. Boston, Massachusetts
3. New Orleans, Louisiana
4. Honolulu, Hawaii
5. New York, New York

**Most Auto Repair Shops per Capita**

1. Las Vegas, Nevada
2. Orlando, Florida
3. New York, New York
4. Miami, Florida
5. Houston, Texas

**Fewest Auto Repair Shops per Capita**

1. New Orleans, Louisiana
2. Gilbert, Arizona
3. Laredo, Texas
4. Irvine, California
5. Boston, Massachusetts

From Wallethub.com

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**Saskatchewan's Fire Insurance**

A man and his wife moved back home to Saskatchewan from Vancouver. The wife had a wooden leg and to insure it in BC was \$2000 a year! When they arrived in Saskatchewan, they went to an insurance agency to see how much it would cost to insure her wooden leg. The agent looked it up on the computer and said to the couple, "That'll be \$39." The husband was shocked and asked why it was so cheap here in Saskatchewan to insure because it cost him \$2000 in BC. The agent turned his computer screen to the couple and said, "Well, here it is on the screen. It says, "Any wooden structure, with a sprinkler system over it, is \$39." I always did find Saskatchewan's logic far superior to others.

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## Street Sweeping

Among the many modern experiences we all take for granted, there's a good chance that you haven't thought too hard about clean streets. Aside from some litter here or there and the occasional construction mess, streets in the twenty-first century are pretty clean.

Historically, however, that wasn't the case. In dry climates, the roads were perpetually dusty. In damper climates, not only were the roads frequently dusty, but when it rained, the dust would become a slurry of mud that would require teams of men and wagons to remove.

In fact, the very idea of having someone clean the streets besides the men hauling away the mud after the storms wasn't even a consideration. All of that changed though when an impoverished woman swept the stoop of Ben Franklin's home in London. The woman explained to him that she swept in front of the doors of the wealthy with the hope of getting small tokens in return. Franklin offered her money to sweep not just in front of his home—a home still standing and seen here on Craven Street in London—but to sweep up the dust from the whole street.

She returned only a few hours later after cleaning up the entire street. He was astounded at the speed with which she was able to tidy the street and set about contracting London's night watchmen to sweep the streets, furnishing them with equipment and carts. Not only did the watchmen work on the project (effectively becoming the first street sweeping work force), but they also carried extra supplies with them and would hire the poor to help them (which made Franklin's street cleaning efforts an early example of public works projects deployed to assist the poor through work).

From howtogeek.com

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# WOMEN'S CORNER

## I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU BEST

*Dear First Born:*

*I've always loved you best because you were our first miracle. You were the genesis of a marriage and the fulfillment of young love.*

*You sustained us through the hamburger years, the first apartment (furnished in early poverty), our first mode of transportation (1962 feet), and the 7-inch TV we paid on for 36 months.*

*You were new, had unused grandparents, and enough clothes for a set of triplets. You were the original model for a mom and a dad who were trying to work the bugs out. You got the strained lamb, the open safety pins and three-hour naps. You were the beginning.*

*Dear Middle Child:*

*I've always loved you best because you drew a tough spot in the family and it made you stronger for it. You cried less, had more patience, wore faded hand-me-downs, and never in your life did anything first. But it only made you more special.*

*You were the one we relaxed with and realized a dog could kiss you and you wouldn't get sick. You could cross a street by yourself long before you were old enough to get married, and you helped us understand the world wouldn't collapse if you went to bed with dirty feet.*

*You were the child of our busy, ambitious years. Without you we never could have survived the job changes and the tedium and routine that is marriage.*

*To The Baby:*

*I've always loved you best because while endings are generally sad, you are such a joy. You readily accepted the milk-stained bibs, the lower bunk, the cracked baseball bat, the*

*baby book that had nothing written in it except a recipe for graham cracker pie-crust that someone had jammed between the pages.*

*You are the one we held onto so tightly. You are the link with our past, a reason for tomorrow. You darken our hair, quicken our steps, square our shoulders, restore our vision, and give us a sense of humor that security, maturity and durability can't provide.*

*When your hairline takes on the shape of Lake Erie and your own children tower over you, you will still be our baby.*

\*\*\* If your cup is only half full, you probably need a different bra.

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## Birthdays and Anniversaries in March



### Birthdays

Bonnie Boehnke	March 23	Dick Ellis	March 12
Bob Gough	March 1	Lenora Jackson	March 25
Richard Kuch	March 12	Kathleen Madsen	March 7
Dennis McGillis	March 26	Mike Porter	March 19
Mary Rickard	March 17	Jack Stone	March 6
Jerry Wells	March 14		



### Anniversaries

Paul & Barb Paulsen	March 20
Denny & Janice Wellington	March 4

## 2018 YOCC Officers

Sharon Wells, President  
783-3113  
jerrysharonwells@gmail.com

John Hopkins, Vice President  
987-4504  
jhn\_Hopkins@hotmail.com

Bob Gough, Treasurer  
628-1493  
rbrtgough40@gmail.com

Randy Bunch, Secretary  
543-6554  
jrbunch@charter.net

Scott Noga, Webmaster  
545-5903  
rebus@bridgestonemotorcycle.com

Dolores McClary, Sunshine  
783-3622  
bobanddodo@gmail.com

Frances McGillis, Editor  
545-4077  
sixkidsplusthree@gmail.com

John Hopkins, Swap Meet  
987-4504  
jhn\_Hopkins@hotmail.com

Bill White, Swap Meet  
946-7633  
williambllwh@yahoo.com

Sharon Wells, Activities Director  
783-3113  
jerrysharonwells@gmail.com

### **Directors**

Rick Ball  
509-392-9914  
rick@bushcarwash.com

Tom Smith  
360-929-6311  
ingridsmith1212@gmail.com

Don Buckles  
509-627-0535  
dbuckles0535@charter.net

Jack Stone  
360-269-3829  
action3@hotmail.com

### **Tour Committee**

John Hopkins, Committee Chairman  
987-4504  
jhn\_Hopkins@hotmail.com

Don Buckles  
509-627-0535  
dbuckles0535@charter.net

Randy Bunch  
543-6554  
jrbunch@charter.net

Frances McGillis  
509-545-4077  
sixkidsplusthree@gmail.com