



Gas Gauge Ye Olde Car Club March 2020 Newsletter

The President's Message

2020 YOCC Future Events

Two local car shows stopped happening in 2020: the Show & Shine For Hunger and the Benton City High School Spring Opener. At least 20 car hobby magazines stopped publication in 2019.

We are the big local club not tied to a particular marque. What do these developments mean for the hobby and for our club? It's something to think about and discuss.

The following information was taken from a Tri-City Herald article by James Drew, March 10, 2020

Washington state governor announces restrictions on nursing home visits during coronavirus outbreak

Using his emergency powers to combat the coronavirus outbreak, Gov. Jay Inslee announced Tuesday that people will not be allowed to visit the resident of a nursing home or assisted living facility unless that visitor is an adult, the resident has not already had a visitor that day and the visit takes place in the resident's room.

The amendment to the governor's Feb. 29 state of emergency places the following requirements on nursing homes and assisted living facilities:

- People can't visit unless they have been screened for signs of symptoms of COVID-19, including fever of 100.4 or higher, cough or difficulty breathing; contact with a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 in the last 14 days or are under investigation for COVID-19
- Before entering a facility, a visitor must show identification, sign into a visitor's log that includes the date, time in and time out, and provide their name and contact information, including phone number and email address. Facilities are barred from destroying each day's visitor log for 30 days.
- People can't work or volunteer at a facility unless they have been screened at the start of every shift and do not show any symptoms associated with COVID-19, including fever of 100.4 or higher, cough or difficulty breathing.
- Residents need to be isolated in their rooms away from other people at a facility that has one or more residents, staff, contractors or volunteers who are subject to a state or local recommendation or order of isolation or quarantine for COVID-19.

Bits and Pieces

**An Irishman is never drunk as long as he can hold onto one blade of grass to keep from falling off the Earth.

**Never iron a four-leaf clover, because you don't ant to press your luck.

**There are many good reasons for drinking, one has just entered my head. If a man doesn't drink when he's living, how in hell can he drink when he's dead!

**You can't drink all day if you don't start in the morning.

**The Irish don't know what they want and are prepared to fight to the death to get it.

**Irish diplomacy is the ability to tell a man to go to hell so that he looks forward to making the trip.

Happy St. Patrick's Day

The Remarkable Body

Some women see more colors than everyone else. Most people have three types of color receptors to see color vision, while some women have four or even five of these receptors and can see a wider range of colors.

Where in the world.

The woolly Mammoth was around when the Egyptian Pyramids were being built.

Actual Label Instructions

On most brands of Christmas lights:
For indoor or outdoor use only.

Fun Food Facts

If you toss onions in the freezer for 15 minutes before you cut them, you won't tear up.

EVENTS

Ladies Luncheons:

April 9 Ladies Lunch will be held at . _____ is the hostess. Please call her .



Citroën's WW II Sabotage

You're likely unaware that this year is the 100th anniversary of Citroën. While doing some research I happened to stumble upon a fascinating bit of wartime Citroën lore. It involves screwing with Nazis in a genuinely clever and subtle way that nevertheless had big repercussions. I'll explain.

So, when France was occupied by the Germans in 1940, major French factories like Citroën were forced to produce equipment for the Nazis. Citroën president Pierre-Jules Boulanger knew he couldn't just refuse to produce anything, but he also knew there's no way in hell he's going to just roll over and build trucks for a bunch of filthy Nazis. Pierre had a *plan*.

John Reynold's book *Citroën 2CV* describes Boulanger's sabotage efforts. Of course, he instructed workers to set a nice, leisurely pace when building trucks (likely Citroën T45 trucks) for the Wehrmacht, but that's fairly obvious. What was brilliant was Boulanger's idea to move the little notch on the trucks' oil dipsticks that indicated the proper level of oil down just a bit lower.

By moving the notch down, the trucks would not have enough oil, but German mechanics would have no idea, because, hey, the little notch on the dipstick says it's just fine. Then, after the truck has been used for a while and is out deployed somewhere crucial, whammo, the engine seizes up, and you've got a lot of angry, stranded, vulnerable Nazis, balling up their little fists and madly barking curses in German.

It's such a fantastic act of sabotage: it's extremely cheap to implement, it's subtle, there's no way to see something amiss is happening as the trucks are being built, and it delivers its blow away from the site of the sabotage and when it will cause the most inconvenience and trouble. That's some mighty good sabotaging, Pierre.

Happy 100th Anniversary Citroën. The Free World thanks you.

Thanks to David Gerkenmeyer for this contribution.



Citroën is a French automobile manufacturer founded in 1919 by the French industrialist André-Gustave Citroën, and part of the PSA Peugeot Citroën group since 1976. In 1934, the firm established its reputation for innovative technology with the Traction Avant. This car was the world's first mass-produced front wheel drive car, and also one of the first to feature a unibody construction, with no chassis supporting the mechanical components.

In 1954 they produced the world's first hydropneumatic self-levelling suspension system then, in 1955, the revolutionary DS, the first mass-produced car with modern disc brakes and, in 1967, they introduced in several of their models swiveling headlights that allowed for greater visibility on winding roads; these cars have received various national and international awards, including three European Car of the Year.

With a successful history in motorsport, Citroën is the only automobile manufacturer to have won three different official championships from the International Automobile Federation: the World Rally Raid Championship five times, the World Rally Championship eight times and the World Touring Car Championship.

From Wikipedia

Saint Patrick's Day, or the **Feast of Saint Patrick** (Irish: *Lá Fhéile Pádraig*, "the Day of the Festival of Patrick"), is a cultural and religious celebration held on 17 March, the traditional death date of Saint Patrick (c. AD 385–461), the foremost patron saint of Ireland.

Tradition holds that he died on 17 March and was buried at Downpatrick. Over the following centuries, many legends grew up around Patrick and he became Ireland's foremost saint. On St Patrick's Day, it is customary to wear shamrocks, green clothing or green accessories. St. Patrick's Day is said to have used the shamrock, a three-leaved plant, to explain the Holy Trinity to the pagan Irish. This story first appears in writing in 1726, though it may be older.

Patrick was a 5th-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Much of what is known about Saint Patrick comes from the *Declaration*, which was allegedly written by Patrick himself. It is believed that he was born in Roman Britain in the fourth century, into a wealthy Romano-British family. His father was a deacon and his grandfather was a priest in the Christian church. According to the *Declaration*, at the age of sixteen, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Gaelic Ireland. It says that he spent six years there working as a shepherd and that during this time he "found God". The *Declaration* says that God told Patrick to flee to the coast, where a ship would be waiting to take him home. After making his way home, Patrick went on to become a priest.

According to tradition, Patrick returned to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity. The *Declaration* says that he spent many years evangelising in the northern half of Ireland and converted "thousands". Patrick's efforts against the druids were eventually turned into an allegory in which he drove "snakes" out of Ireland, despite the fact that snakes were not known to inhabit the region.

Saint Patrick's Day was made an official Christian feast day in the early 17th century and is observed by the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion (especially the Church of Ireland), the Eastern Orthodox Church, and the Lutheran Church. The day commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, and celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. Celebrations generally involve public parades and festivals, céilís, and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks. Christians who belong to liturgical denominations also attend church services and historically the Lenten restrictions on eating and drinking alcohol were lifted for the day, which has encouraged and propagated the holiday's tradition of alcohol consumption.



The 1959 GM Firebird III was on display at the Seattle World's Fair, Century 21, in April of 1962. I was there.

As a thirteen year old kid, aching to get to driving age and wanting so desperately to get to the point where I could actually grab a steering wheel, shift thru the gears and operate the clutch and brake pedals, I was devastated by seeing what might await me in the future of automobiles.

As I stood alongside the Firebird III and peered into the cockpit I saw that the steering wheel had been replaced by a center console joy stick and there was no sign of a gear shift lever either. My heart sank. The future sucks!!

Happily it hasn't happened yet, but those autonomous vehicles scare the hell out of me as far as what havoc may occur in front of, or beside, me as I motor on down the road in full control of my own vehicle.

As a hilarious side note, my mom shipped me off to Seattle on a Greyhound bus to meet up with my grandma who chaperoned me for the Seattle World's Fair visit. As a precaution, mom bought twenty of the one dollar tokens that the Fair produced for my spending money and sewed them into the waist band of my slacks. Whenever I wanted to spend some of that cache of fake cash I had to duck into a men's room and pull out the stitches that secured each individual coin.

Some of these are pretty cool. Some, on the other hand, are just downright ugly, and some of them just look like concept cars that may never have been built!

1957 Chevrolet Diablo, 1956 Buick Centurion II, 1954 Ford LaTosca, 1951 Buick Lesabre, 1959 GM Firebird III, 1955 Lincoln Futura, 1951 Buick XP-300, 1955 Ford Mystere, 1959 Cadillac Cyclone, 1954 Oldsmobile Rocket F88, 1958 Ford X-2000, 1953 Cadillac Ghia Coupe, 1955 Lincoln Indianapolis, 1952 Chevrolet D'Elegance, 1954 DeSoto Adventurer II, 1953 Ford X-100, 1956 Packard Predictor, 1956 Oldsmobile Golden Rocket, 1956 Pontiac Club DeMer

Dave Gerkenmeyer

Look them up on Google. Thanks Dave.

For Sale: TH350 Transmission with Torque Converter. Asking \$300 for both. Call Kyle Thornhill 509-301-8441.

FOR SALE:

** Barbara Baker is selling her 1927 Model T \$13,000. For more information, please contact Barbara at 509-783-0380 or son, Steve Baker, at 541-501-6618.

** Lee Noga has a 2004 Chrysler Sebring with 50,000 miles for sale. It is in excellent condition except the water pump started to leak a little. It would be a great car for someone with some auto mechanical experience. Contact Lee 509-967-2723

Auto facts from 1909

**Total industry output, 123,900 cars – including 17,771 Fords – and 3255 trucks.

**By year's end, more than 290 makes are built in America, in 24 states; 45 from Michigan, 44 from Indiana, and 39 from Ohio.

**Some steering wheels feature a corrugated underside to help prevent hand slippage when conditions are damp.

**A U.S. District Court holds that the Selden patent is valid, and that the Ford Motor Company has infringed upon it.

**Cadillac, Oakland, and other automakers enter the expanding General Motors fold.

**The new Hupmobile places the transmission and multiple-disc clutch integral with the engine.

**The Hudson Motor Car Company is formed, with the first cars produced in July as 1910s.

**Construction of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway is completed.

**Ford's Model T adopts the increasingly popular three-pedal arrangement, production lags far behind.

**Race driver Louis Chevrolet begins building his own six-cylinder car.

**The first rural section of concrete pavement, a one-mile stretch, opens on Woodward Avenue, near Detroit.

**Mrs. John Ramsey is the first woman to drive across America, in a Maxwell Touring car.

Auto facts from 1910

**Industry production tops 181,000 cars and 6000 trucks.

**Ford produces 32,000 vehicles, good for almost 18% of the market.

**Featured at the National Automobile show are "torpedo" bodies, basically open cars with sporty-looking lowered coachwork.

**Buick offers its first closed body, Model 41 Limousine; only 40 are built this year.

**James J. Storrow is named president of General Motors

**Ford begins production at its new Highland Park plant, the largest such facility under one roof.

Auto facts from 1911

**Nearly every automaker at the 11th National Automobile show exhibits a four-door model.

**A truck show, held in conjunction with the National Automobile show, features 286 exhibitions.

- **Chevrolet Motor Company is organized in November 1911; production quickly get underway with a handful of models.
- **Studebaker acquires full control of the Everitt-Metzger-Flanders Company.
- **Stutz goes on sale after an 11th-place finish at the Indianapolis 500; production versions virtually duplicate the racer.
- **Mercer's Model 35 Raceabout becomes one of the first true sports cars.
- **Hudson's "fluid-cushioned" clutch rotates in a blend of oil and kerosene.
- **Studebaker becomes a corporation, drops steam cars from its lineup.
- **Buick sets a speed record, traveling more than 20 miles in just over 13 inutes.
- **Ford's Model T gets a new body and a price cut to as low as \$680. Sales double and market share reaches 35%.
- **The Detroit area becomes home to the nation's first painted highway center lines.
- **Ray Harroun ins the first 500-mile Indianapolis Speedway Race in a six-cylinder Marmon Wasp.

Auto facts from 1912

- **Crankless starters are the rage at the 12th auto show. Units use a variety of power sources including electricity and acetylene.
- **Cadillac adopts an integrated starter/generator/ignition system developed by Charles F. Kettering.
- **A total of 3000 Chevrolets are built, including the popular six-cylinder touring car which costs \$2150.
- **Ford slashes Model T prices another \$80, prices for the "car for the masses" now start at just \$590.
- **Edward Gowen Budd creates the first all-steel body; the Dodge Brothers are among the first to use Budd bodies.
- **Charles W. Nash is named president of General Motors; Walter P. Chrysler goes to work as Buick's plant manager.
- **Packard introduces its first-ever six-cylinder series, featuring a massive 525-cid engine.
- **Chicago introduces an ordinance restricting automobile horn usage within city limits.

Taken from 100 Years, The American Auto

Rats will devour your car

By Karin Brulliard, Feb. 13, 2020

The engine died immediately after Tess Klingenstein turned the key in her Honda Fit on a mild January day. When she tried again, she said, "every single alert light" flashed. The car was fairly new, so she was surprised. The mechanic who looked under the hood a few days later was not. " 'You've had rats,' " Klingenstein, a speech-language pathologist in Washington, said he told her. The rodents had chewed wiring and defecated in air filters, causing \$300 in damage. "He said I had gotten off lucky."

Very lucky. Rats, better known for inhabiting sewers and dumpsters, also love to settle in the innards of vehicles in cooler months. The warmth and shelter attract them, but it's the wires and hoses that entertain them: Rats' teeth grow constantly, and they gnaw on things to keep their teeth trim. Inside an engine bay, they can blow fuses, start fires and even total cars.

No one tracks rat damage to cars, but there are signs it is a growing problem amid a nationwide rat population boom that experts say may be fueled by a warming climate. In the fall, rats caused a sedan fire in Manhattan. They've mutilated the cars of college students in Florida. In recent years, a half-dozen class-action lawsuits have been filed against auto manufacturers on claims that today's eco-friendlier wiring is irresistible to rodents. AAA warns that modern cars offer a "smorgasbord of treats" for rats. "You take your car 20 to 30 years ago, they didn't have that many wires," said Bruce Jenkins, a service fleet manager for AAA's Mid-Atlantic Region. "Now you have wiring for everything. There's so many different sensors and computers and modules."

In the absence of official statistics, the best barometer for the scope of this issue may be San Diego resident David Albin, who calls himself "Rat King Dave." Three years ago, he was a regular guy who worked in financial services and owned a house in a residential area. Then rats invaded the family cars — inflicting \$2,500 in damage to his Honda Civic, \$9,300 to his wife's Hyundai Sonata — and Albin became obsessed with rat deterrence. He has since outlined his strategy on a website (www.HowToPreventRatsFromEatingCarWires.com) and in an e-book ("Let's Get Them Rats!").

The above is an excerpt from Rats will devour your car which may be found here:

www.washingtonpost.com/science/2020/02/13/rats-will-devour-your-car/

Thanks to Dennis McGillis for this contribution

A man thought his wife was losing her hearing, so one day he decided to test it. He walked in the front door and stood 30 feet behind her. "Hello, Honey," he said, "can you hear me?" There was no response, so he moved to 20 feet behind her. "Hello, Honey," he repeated, "can you hear me?" Still no reply. He advanced to 10 feet and asked, "Now can you hear me?" "Yes, Dear," the wife answered. "For the *third* time, yes!"

WOMEN'S CORNER

Because I'm a Man

- Because I'm a man, when I lock my keys in the car I will fiddle with a wire clothes hanger and ignore your suggestions that we call a road service until long after hypothermia has set in.
- Because I'm a man, when the car isn't running very well, I will pop the hood and stare at the engine as if I know what I'm looking at. If another man shows up, one of us will say to the other, "I used to be able to fix these things, but now with all these computers and everything, I wouldn't know where to start." We will then drink beer.
- Because I'm a man, when I catch a cold I need someone to bring me soup and take care of me while I lie in bed and moan. You never get as sick as I do, so for you this isn't an issue.
- Because I'm a man, I can be relied upon to purchase basic groceries at the store, like milk or bread. I cannot be expected to find exotic items like "Cumin" or "Tofu". For all I know these are the same thing. And never, under any circumstances, expect me to pick up anything for which "feminine hygiene product" is a euphemism.
- Because I'm a man, when one of our appliances stops working I will insist on taking it apart, despite evidence that this will just cost me twice as much once the repair person gets here and has to put it back together.
- Because I'm a man, I must hold the television remote control in my hand while I watch TV. If the thing has been misplaced, I may miss a whole show looking for it (though one time I was able to survive by holding a calculator).
- Because I'm a man, I don't think we're all that lost, and no, I don't think we should stop and ask someone. Why would you listen to a complete stranger-I mean, how the heck could he know where we're going?
- Because I'm a man, there is no need to ask me what I'm thinking about. The answer is always either sex or football, though I have to make up something else when you ask, so don't.
- Because I'm a man, I do not want to visit your mother, or have your mother come visit us, or talk to her when she calls, or think about her any more than I have to. Whatever you got her for Mother's Day is okay, I don't need to see it. And don't forget to pick up something for my Mom too!!
- Because I'm a man, I am capable of announcing, "One more beer and I really have to go," and mean it every single time I say it, even when it gets to the point that the one bar closes and my buddies and I have to go hunt down another. I will find it increasingly hilarious to have my pals call you to tell you I'll be home soon, and no, I don't understand why you threw all my clothes into the front yard. Like, what's the connection?
- Because I'm a man, you don't have to ask me if I liked the movie. Chances are, if you're crying at the end of it, I didn't.
- Because I'm a man, yes, I have to turn up the radio when Bruce Springsteen or The Doors comes on, and then, yes, I have to tell you every single time about how Bruce had his picture on the cover of Time and Newsweek the same day, or how Jim Morrison is buried in Paris and everyone visits his grave. Please do not behave as if you do not find this fascinating.
- Because I'm a man, I think what you're wearing is fine. I thought what you were wearing five minutes ago was fine, too. Either pair of shoes is fine. With the belt or without it looks fine. Your hair is fine. You look fine. Can we just go now?
- Because I'm a man, and this is, after all, a new century, I will share equally in the housework. You just do the laundry, the cooking, the gardening, the cleaning, and the dishes. I'll do the rest.

Birthdays and Anniversaries in March



Birthdays

Dick Ellis	March 12	Jack Herrick	March 27
Karl Kiichle	March 5	Richard Kuch	March 12
Kathleen Madsen	March 7	Dennis McGillis	March 26
Mary Rickard	March 17	Jack Stone	March 6
Barbara Thomas	March 16	Jerry Wells	March 14



Anniversaries

Boyd & Bev Boothe	March 24	Jim & Sue Jewett	March 1
Paul & Barb Paulson	March 2	Kurt & DaJuan Recknagle	March 7
Denny & Janice Wellington	March 4		

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