

The Gas Gauge

PUBLISHED BY YE OLDE CAR CLUB, INC. OF TRI-CITIES, WA
P.O. BOX 6873 KENNEWICK, WA 99336-0601

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JANUARY EVENT . . . Tuesday, Jan. 15

Jan and Dave Underwood are hosting the January Event at the Town Crier in Richland, Tuesday, January 15 at 7:00 p.m. The highlight of the evening is planned to be a video of the 1990 London to Brighton Run that they took during their visit to England. Plan on buying your own food and drink.

December Notes:

A big thanks to Audrey and Cork for again hosting the Christmas Party at their house, during the lighted Christmas Boat Parade. A good time was had by all even though Yale was there. (from Stafford)

Notes from the co-presidents, Jim Stafford and Cork Simmelink:

Hi there! We will try to make this year a fun year to explore some different approaches to our hobby.

We are already having a once a week breakfast of the "Old Geezers". So far we have attracted 9 people as a seed group. All sexes and ages are invited. Also other clubs & interested folks - spread the word. Leave time for occasional junk trades, garage tours and rides in old cars, bring your car weather permitting.

All Geezers and Geezerettes and all Non Geezers and Geezerettes are invited to have breakfast at Sleater's Restaurant on Kennewick Ave. every Wed. morning at 9:00 a.m. There is no agenda, no invocation, so come on down and pick on Yale. This invitation is also extended to other club members.

If there is anything you want to put in the monthly newsletter give me a call. Jim Stafford 627-3803

DUES ARE DUE!!

Please give or mail your 1991 dues to Ken Nesbitt, 907 Wright Ave., Richland, WA 99352.

Monthly Host List 1991

- January Underwood
- February Stafford
- March Stredwick
- April
- May
- June Jackson
- July Ashby
- August Yale
- September
- October
- November
- December

We need hosts for certain months meeting dates. Perhaps choose:

Exotic meals in exotic places, evening tours in the warm months, pot lucks: indoors or outside, garage tours, attic tours, wine tours, parks, town, overnights, slow car, modern car, New Year's Day, bus, Amtrac, airplane. Pick your month and type of meeting and ask us for help.

We would like to revive the calling tree for better communication and events.

We will update the current roster when dues are up to date. Feb. 1 is the target date. Don't wait for a personal phone call to send in your dues. More next month, Cork & Jim.

Welcome to:

Sarah Colleen Sundgren born on December 11, 1990. She joins her mom & dad, Kay & Chuck & sister Christina.

HERSHEY 1990

by Denny Kehl

"Up to my navel in mud!"

You Portland Swap Meet veterans must figure that you know all about rain, mud, tired feet and empty wallets. Well, "You ain't seen nothin until you tackle the Hershey Swap Meet once!".

The Hershey Pennsylvania Swap Meet elevates the meaning of "fun" to a new plateau. This 4-day event, reported to be the largest in the world, contained 4,000 pre-registered vendors and an unknown number of late registrations. The meet covers an area which I estimate to be roughly 4 times as large as the Portland meet. It stretches as far as the eye can see. I defy anyone to "see it all". One may be able to move at a fast pace and walk the entire swap meet in a couple days, but that doesn't allow stopping to look at much. Just think of the dozens of miles that would be put on the feet!

In spite of its size, the layout and organization is fantastic - the best of any swap meet that I have ever attended. Parking is about equivalent to Portland for availability and proximity, and the swap area is well arranged and marked. They provide a map and vendor directory.

Admission is free, but that is generally where the bargains end. It has been often said that "if you can't find it at Hershey, you can't find it anywhere". In three Hershey visits, I have found that to be true - if you can afford what you find! I have found parts and accessories that I haven't been able to locate elsewhere in years of searching. However, in most cases, I have had to empty my wallet to acquire what I wanted. Those guys sure aren't bashful about asking exorbitant prices, because they know that someone will come along and pay. Craig Kelsey likes to relate an eye witness account of the fellow who rummaged through a table full of headlight lenses and excitedly pulled out a unique one, exclaiming at great length about how rare it was and that it was the lens for which he had been searching for 20 years in order to complete the restoration of his rare brass-era car. "How much ya want for this" he asked. The vendor replied and the fellow snarled "That's highway robbery - I'm not paying that price!" "Fine with me" the vendor responded as he grabbed the lens and tossed it on the ground where it shattered. Then, with a hint of a smile, he added "Now, go search for another 20 years!"

Early on my first morning this trip, I decided that I should "take care of business" before things became exciting, so I made a bee-line for the first porti-toilet that I saw. Just as I reached for the door, a sourly voice yelled "Hey that there is private!" and a sleepy-eyed grouch with dragging suspenders slapped a padlock on it. I then realized that many vendors had rented their own private toilets for the meet. No problem. There were ample public porti-toilets scattered throughout, most with attendants who expected a tip. One attendant had a bucket that was 2/3 full of quarters and dollar bills by the end of the day!

The swap meet is always held during the second week of October and is entirely outdoors on pastures. Like the Portland meet, the weather at Hershey is always unpredictable, but it almost always rains. After days of vendor vehicle traffic, the mud-bowl is legendary. It was foolhardy to attempt to drive among

the booths, although many continued to ignore the pleas over the PA System. One fellow, claiming that he had to catch a plane, insisted he could beat the odds. Thirty minutes later, I noticed that he had been able to move his rental car only about 50 feet (on level ground), but had succeeded in spattering mud all over adjacent booths, merchandise, and annoyed bystanders. The concession that really makes "easy money" at Hershey is the Tractor-for-Hire. Those guys were kept busy each day.

Once I was gingerly tip toeing through the deep greasy gumbo mud toward a hapless chap who was carrying a cup of coffee in one hand and a box of NOS Lincoln Zephyr valves in the other. He slipped and landed on his back. The coffee splashed straight up into the air, his wrist watch flew off and plopped at my feet, and the valves scattered in all directions and disappeared into the mud. I fished his watch out of the mud and handed it to him as he picked himself up. He thanked me, brushed some of the mud off his clothes, glanced at the valves, uttered some familiar 4-letter words and trudged away. At that point, several bystanders dove into the mud to retrieve the valves!

The highlights of the Hershey event are the Car Corral (cars for sale) and the Saturday morning AACA judging, both of which are held on pavement. This year there were several hundred cars in the Corral ranging from brass to sixties (25 years or older). Included were a curved-dash Olds, two Stevens Duryeas, numerous Ts and As, early Dodges, Chevys, etc. The ratio of older models to the 50s/60s cars was about the same as at Portland or anywhere else in the Northwest. However, as mentioned earlier, those guys aren't bashful about asking prices. For instance, one hopeful was asking a #1 price for an unrestored (#3-4) 1929 Chrysler coupe. And he already had several close offers. I did see a lot of sold signs by the third day. More than one Hershey veteran has told me that the meet is a good place to sell a car, but a tough place to buy one if budget is a consideration.

The Saturday morning judging contained approximately 1,800 cars and trucks from 1899 - 1965, separated into 75 classes, all competing for coveted AACA awards. The vehicles came from all over the world, representing the "cream" of the collecting fraternity. It was absolute sensory overload. There were hundreds of early cars including: Fords beginning at 1903, Stevens Duryea, Stearns Knight, Reo, Olds, Packard, Pierce, Little, Mercedes, Mercer, Cadillac, Stanley, Buick, Graham, Dodge, Chevy, plus classics. The balance were 40s-50s-60s of every description. There must have been 150 55/56/57 Fords, Chevys, and Thunderbirds. There were also numerous Corvettes. My favorite early car was a 1909 Packard roadster with a mother-in-law seat. It was the cutest outfit that I have seen in years. However, one of the prerequisites for an award is that the vehicle must be driven to the stall, and it must start and idle for the judges. Well, this stubborn Packard wouldn't start for the judges. It belched smoke (flooded), fired a few times, but wouldn't catch. Sounds like my luck.

I saw one hopeful contestant desperately trying to wipe a sudden sprinkle from his 1931 Chrysler CD-8 roadster with a ragged motel towel as the judges made their way down the line in his direction. I overheard his friend tell several onlookers - "Joe just spent \$ 40,000 to have this car restored for this show, but he couldn't afford a chamois cloth!"

The date for the 1991 Hershey meet is October 10-12, 1991. If you want to attend, start your plans now. Vendor registration is in progress, and motel accommodations fill fast. If you need assistance in planning the trip, just ask me. I was born and raised in Pennsylvania and am very familiar with the area. There are plenty of other attractions in the vicinity for the family besides Hershey. You could easily spend two weeks.

Try it - you will like it!

1991

NORTHWEST CAR CLUB CALENDAR

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- Feb. 16-17 PUYALLUP, WA: 25th ANNUAL TACOMA EARLY BIRD SWAP MEET; Western Washington Fairgrounds; Admission \$2.00, Free Parking; by Tacoma Model T Ford Club; Friday p.m. Set-up; Early Bird Meet, 12415 - 51st Ct. E., Sumner, WA 98390; 206-863-6211
- Feb. 16 TACOMA, WA: TACOMA AACCA ST. VALENTINE DAY MASSACRE PARTY; Temple Theater; Admission Fee; by Tacoma Region AACCA; Darrel Hagen, 8526 River Rd. E., Puyallup, WA 98371; 206-845-7020
- Mar. 9-10 ROSEBURG, OR: 14th ANNUAL ROSEBURG BENEFIT CAR SHOW; Douglas County Fairgrounds; Admission \$2.50; by Umpqua Flatheads Car Club; John & Frances Zink, P.O. Box 1407, Winston, OR 97496; 503-679-5548
- Mar. 23-24 PUYALLUP, WA: 11th ANNUAL ALMOST SPRING SWAP MEET & CAR SHOW; Western Washington Fairgrounds; Ad. charge; by Gallopin Gentle Model A Club; Free Parking; Friday pm setup; Gentle, 5606 - 141st St. E., Puyallup, WA 98373; 206-535-5319
- Apr. 7 PUYALLUP, WA: 27th ANNUAL GALLOPIN GENTLE POKER RUN & BREAKFAST TOUR; Puyallup Elks Club; Admission Charge includes Breakfast & door prize ticket; Pre-registration deadline March 22; by Gallopin Gentle Model A Ford Club; Gentle, P.O. Box 14, Tacoma, WA 98401; 206-848-6325 or 752-8425
- Apr. 12-14 PORTLAND, OR: 27th ANNUAL (always in April) PORTLAND SWAP MEET Multnomah Expo Center & Portland International Raceway; One admission good all three days; Free Parking & Shuttle Busses; by six Portland Car Clubs; Portland Swap Meet, P.O. Box 23722, Portland, OR 97223; 503-244-2296
- Apr. 20 MT. VERNON, WA: 12th ANNUAL NORTH COAST STREET ROD ASSOC. SWAP MEET; Skagit County Fairgrounds; NCSRA, P.O. Box 864, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273; 206-424-5323
- Apr. 28 CORVALLIS, OR: 25th ANNUAL CORVALLIS SWAP MEET Benton County Fairgrounds; Admission Free, Parking Charge; by Corvallis Historic Auto Club; Walt Prichard, 5250 NW Highland Dr., Corvallis, OR 97330; 503-752-6231



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