

# THE TAPPET CLATTER

THE PUGET SOUND REGION VINTAGE CHEVROLET CLUB OF AMERICA NEWSLETTER

July 2008

Volume 41 Number 7

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## Al Howe's 1931 Independence Coupe by Al Howe

I first saw this Chevy buried under a lot of stuff in a shed some 30 years ago while visiting my wife's parents home in Montana shortly after we were married. I always wondered if it would ever run again but I didn't press it. They were busy people and I didn't want to rock the boat. The story goes that they drove a '31 Chevrolet from Illinois to California shortly after they were married but were run off the road and totaled it on the way back home to Illinois. They bought this one some years later just for a keepsake. So



there it sat for many years, the dust getting deeper and deeper. They never sold anything so this was just part of a large collection of cars, tractors and other stuff. The good news is that Montana is the perfect place to store anything and being inside a shed made it even better. The dry Montana weather was evident during restoration because there was very little rust, lots of mud and grease but it was a very solid car. My in-laws decided to start it one day in the early 90's so they took it out of the shed, put air in the tires along with gas and oil and pulled it around a field for awhile and it finally did start.

Continued page 4



# 1967 - Puget Sound Region VCCA - 2008



The **Puget Sound Region** of the **Vintage Chevrolet Club of America (PS-VCCA)** is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, fun and enjoyment of vintage Chevrolet cars and trucks. Members are not required to own a Chevrolet. Regional membership is open to all Chevrolet enthusiasts who are members of the **Vintage Chevrolet Club of America (VCCA)**. All Chevrolets from 1912 through 1982 may be registered with the region. General meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month at **Tillicum Middle School, 16020 SE 16th St., Bellevue . WA. 7:30PM to 9:30PM**. No meetings are held in July or December. You can learn more about the club by visiting the website where you can see color photos of previous tours, parts for sale, wanted, etc. and there is a link to view our Monthly Newsletter "Tappet Clatter." You can find the PS-VCCA website on the **World Wide Web @ <http://pugetsoundvintagechevrolet.org/>**

## 2008 Puget Sound Region Officers and Board

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<u>Staff</u> - - - - -	Bob Stamnes (and other members who supply copy)	

### Editors Note

This month the feature "Members with cars in their 20's" begins. Six pictures are included on page 5 of this issue. Can you name all six? There are a couple left that will appear next month. You have time to get yours in also. Either send me a hard copy of the picture or scan and email one. The ads are unchanged this month. No new ones were received. They will be erased next month if additional ones do not materialize.

*Jim Farris*

# Director's Corner

*"From The Drivers Seat"*



**Greetings everyone,**

Is summer finally upon us? I would have said yes indeed, until we had lightning and thunder with huge drops of rain on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Enough about the weather, let's talk about club stuff.

Several members attended the GM Picnic on Father's Day June 15<sup>th</sup>. The club won second place for club participation and received a plaque featuring Gene and Jeanine Gooding's '52 Bel Air Hardtop. A photo of the plaque is on page 6.

I would like to express a big thank you one more time to the Darbys and Comstocks for supplying the goodies at the annual Strawberry Social on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. We had a good turn out and all seemed to enjoy the dessert and the camaraderie.

Several attended the Greenwood Car Show on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup>. We had the club banner hanging from a tree along Greenwood. Rod Schein was conversing with the spectators and mustered up three potential new members. George and Ana Haley's '49 Plymouth Convertible had a fine spot between two Chevy's, of course, our '54 210 and Rod and Evie's '40. The car received much attention during the show. The license plate displayed "BAD 49". Strange how words in the English language often have opposite meanings because the car is extremely NICE! Thanks Dave White for helping us with the parking assignment so we could be together. Dave had his '37 already parked as I motored up Greenwood Ave. at 6:40 am. Matt Dickinson brought his '36 Coupe, Jim Lewis drove his '30, and Dick Jones came in his '50 Convertible with Alex (grandson). Also there were Evie Schein, Gisela Jones, Roberta Martoza (w/Indy). Matt Dickinson's mom and daughter came later. Photos are on page 11 of this newsletter and the club website. From the club homepage click on the '54 license plate labeled, "**Tours and Event Photos**" and click on [Greenwood Car Show](#).

Coming up next in August will be the 2008 NW Meet in Ocean Shores and our General Membership Meeting at XXX Root Beer Drive-in in Issaquah for dinner and or dessert (root beer float). Perhaps the weather will be more like summer at these events.

**"You will never find time for anything. If you want time you must make it. "**

*~ Charles Buxton*

*Jim Martoza*

## **July and August Gatherings**

Hi Chevy drivers —Just a reminder there will be no meeting in July . The Johnson Pot Luck and Tour will take it's place. Then in August we'll meet at the Triple X Drive-in at Issaquah to share stories about the Northwest Meet . Polish your car and drive it there for an old fashion hamburger or fish & chips. I am looking forward to seeing you all at all these events.

*Al Howe*

## **August Garage Nite**

There will be no Garage Nite during the month of August due to the Northwest Meet at Ocean Shores. This popular event will continue in September. Dick Olson, our coordinator for these gatherings, is always looking for volunteers to share their garages, projects and to help members.

## CLUB STORE

Our next meeting will be in September at Tillicum where **Ana Marie and George Haley**, proprietors of The Club Store, will have the display of items for sale. If you need anything from the Store contact them via phone or email. *Numbers and address can be found on page 2.*

## AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

### ANNIVERSARIES!

Gail and Jim Darby	8/3
Judy and Wally Martin	8/4
Lee and Carol Folsom	8/18
Janice and Dennis Dynes	8/26
Roberta and Jim Martoza	8/31

### BIRTHDAYS!

Janice Dynes	8/4
Roger Orness	8/10
Sallie Comstock	8/29
Tom Lauderback	8/30

(Al Howe's '31 cont. from page 1) I think it was just tired of being pulled around the field and thought it easier to run on it's own than to continue this torture. They then had the body painted and upholstery redone. I drove it for them occasionally during the period when my in-laws couldn't drive it anymore .



Al's '31 under restoration

This got me even more interested in the car. I told them they owed me nothing but would be pleased if they willed me or sold me that '31. They did neither. After they passed and we were dealing with the estate I overheard nieces and nephews talking and it was said, "that car should go to the only one in the family that can drive it and keep it running". That would be me!. After I brought it home and drove the vehicle awhile I removed the body and restored everything else. Or I should say, I'm restoring everything else because there seems to be no end to what needs to be

done. The first mistake made was restoring the car before I joined the club. I have learned so much from club members that would have made the job easier and better. I thought I would have the engine done by an expert so it would be done "right". Boy was that a mistake! I had to rebuild it again myself to get it correct. At that time I didn't know all the expert help that is available in the club. As I was working on the '31, I acquired a '27 Coupe and a '55 Bel Air sedan so I always have something to drive while one or the other is in sickbay.

Happy Motoring—Al Howe

**The Tappet Clatter needs more feature car stories. How about sending in one for your vehicle?**



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## GM Picnic and the Mt. Rainier Tour

Father's Day, June 15, 2008 brought ten Puget Sound VCCA families together for the annual GM Picnic held at Frontier Park in Graham, Washington. Our large turnout brought us a group award (second place) for "Most Participation" by a club or region. Those present included Don & Lynn Boltz (1932 sport coupe), Jerry & Mary Brownell, Don & Sallie Comstock (1951 2-dr sedan), Gene & Jeanine Gooding (1952 sedan), George & Ana Haley (1938 business coupe & Plymouth convertible), Al Howe and friend, Kathy (1955 4-dr sedan), Roger Orness (1950 2-dr sedan), Rod & Evie Schein (1940 business coupe), Ernie & Gennette Tear (1935 business coupe), and Dave Haddock (1955 4-dr sedan). Don &



Boltz Best in Class

Lynn Boltz also received an individual "Best of Class" Award for their 1932 Sport Coupe.

After the Award Ceremony, four of the ten families continued their journey up and around Mount Rainier in Schein's '40 coupe, Howe's blue and white '55 sedan, and Haddock's red and white



Gene Gooding with Club participation Plaque

'55 sedan. We entered the park through the Nisqually Entrance with the first stop at Longmire for photo shots at the Museum/Gas Station exhibit. We continued on to Ricksecker view point and stopped for more car photos with snow-capped Mt. Rainier looming ever present in the majestic background. We then continued up to the Henry Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise where mountains of snow almost covered the building. We entered the building through a tunnel cut through 10's of feet of snow.

Upon leaving the visitor center our plan was to take the one-way loop through Paradise Valley and along Mazama Ridge before returning to the main road. However, the loop road was still closed because maintenance crews had been unable to remove all the snow and clear this section of the road. So, after a U-turn, we continued our journey past the Steven's Canyon entrance and out of the park, by way of Cayuse Pass and the Mather Memorial Parkway.

At Enumclaw, we separated as Al Howe and guests headed back to Al's home near Enumclaw and the Schein's and Haddock's continued home ...much further north in Seattle.

The weather was spectacular and a wonderful day was had by all participants with the Schein's and Haddock's putting nearly 200 enjoyable miles on their vintage chariots.

*Dave Haddock*

### Strawberry Shortcake Social

**Strawberries and Cake**



Roger Orness applying Whipping Cream

**Jim Martoza leads an informal meeting**



## 2008 Club Meetings & Auto Events Calendar

### Monthly Tours and Activities

Dates	Activity
Saturday, July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Johnson's Picnic/Tour/Pot Luck
August 14 <sup>th</sup> — 16 <sup>th</sup>	NW VCCA Meet, Ocean Shores, WA.
Monday, August 25 <sup>th</sup>	XXX Drive-In, Issaquah
Saturday, September 6 <sup>th</sup>	Strampher Pot Luck
September 13 <sup>th</sup>	Snoqualmie Valley Tour
October 11 <sup>th</sup> or 18 <sup>th</sup>	Boeing Everett Tour ( <i>tentative</i> )
November early	Maple Valley Tour
Sunday, December 7	Christmas Party

### Festivities on the Fourth

By Diane Haddock

Lee and Carol Folsom welcomed many club members for a spectacular pot luck on the afternoon of July 4th. Lee provided a newly mowed meadow to display all the classic Chevys and Carol greeted everyone and urged them through the great buffet of delicious dishes. Club members who enjoyed the event were: Rod and Evie Schein, Dave and Betty Roberts, Sharon and Tom Lauderback, Fran and Dick Olson, Jerry and Mary Brownell, Jim Lewis, Bob and MG Stamnes, Bill and Cathy Johnson, and Dave and Diane Haddock. Lee and Carol's daughter Sharon also attended with her daughter and her daughter's fiancée.

Although the weather started out on the cloudy side, the sun soon broke through and the afternoon was lovely. There was a detailed discussion of the Stamnes' '26 and the restoration in progress as well as a sneak preview of Jim Lewis' '30 that is scheduled for the upcoming garage nite. Everyone took time to check out all of the other classics on display and to admire the antique American Flags decorating some of the cars!! Impromptu entertainment was provided by Jim Lewis on the guitar with Carol and Lee on the ukulele. Their songs were reminiscent of days gone by and perfect for the patriotic holiday get-together.

The Folsom's were gracious hosts and worked hard to provide a wonderful setting as well as food, beverages, condiments and utensils for the gathering. Thanks Carol and Lee for your wonderful hospitality and your hard work!!

*Editors Note: The Folsom's have been graciously hosting the Fourth of July Picnic for countless years. You might have noticed on page 4 they are listed as celebrating their wedding anniversary August 18. **Their 57th. —Congratulations Lee and Carol—***

### New Member

The month of June brought another new Puget Sound Region member to our group. Welcome Dane Wilson who lives in Auburn. He has a 1949 Sedan. This addition bring our 2008 membership to 72. :

## Puget Sound News Bits

**Jim Darby-** “As many of you may know, our data center is located in Denver and I make several trips a year down there for various projects. So far this year I've spent over 6 weeks in Denver. Suppose I should look and see if they have a VCCA region there also. At any rate as I was getting ready to leave and head home last week one of our Denver techs stopped by the cube I use when there and noticed my laptop screen-saver which is a picture of my 39 coupe. He asked what year and mentioned that his dad has had an old Chevy for years. Asked me if I belonged to any clubs back home and when I said the VCCA, Wayne said 'oh, well then maybe you know my Dad, Walt Blair, he has a 42 Chevy'. Wayne also said 'he's the quiet one in the family'.. It's a small world”.

**Jim Farris-** ran over a dead deer in the roadway on the return trip from the Black Hills. He says there was no way to miss hitting it. The truck cleared the animal but the trailer jack and axles made a mess of the carcass. Fur and deer residue covered the back of the unit requiring a complete scrubbing at home.

## Sir Richard - “The Garage Knight”

*By Jim Seiber*

For the past five years Dick Olson has been organizing “Garage Nite”, a simple visit to member’s garages of those known to harbor old cars. On the second Wednesday of each month about fifteen to twenty VCCA members and invited guests gather at a garage somewhere in the Puget Sound region. We have visited garages with beautifully restored classic cars (not all Chevrolet) and garages with cars that are a work in progress. These visits have provided “hands on” restoration work such as getting enough guys around the car body to lift it off (then later) onto the frame. We recently had a demonstration of how to adjust front brakes on a '37 Chevrolet with knee action shocks. The opportunity to see the organization of garage projects and to offer help and advice to the restoration in process is what I joined the VCCA to be a part of learning. Each visit provides an occasion to learn new and interesting things about the restoration process. On some visits it is simply to observe in awe of the work that some of our fellow car enthusiasts have accomplished.



The Garage Knight sharing idea with Gene Sovar

The format for these gatherings is really quite simple, clean the garage enough that about 20 guys could walk around the car or the area. Provide a small amount of drink or snack cookies. Provide a few seats. There is no need to have a finished car, in fact the more work that needs to be done on the car the more advice you will receive. As a bonus, having some

hands on, problem solving activity, like timing the engine, adjusting brakes is a good way to take advantage of willing, skilled hands.

Thanks to Dick Olson for making these Garage Nites a fun evening. A great idea well worth your time.





Once again some Puget Sound Region members participated in the National Four Cylinder Tour. 2008 was the seventeenth year of these popular week long events. This year the Tour was headquartered in Custer, South Dakota with four days of touring the beautiful Black Hills. Fifty cars from as far away as Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Nevada, Minnesota, Missouri, Texas, California, Oregon and Washington took part in the event. The weather participated with days of sunshine punctuated by evenings and nights with thunderstorms, hail and rain. The group wondered what was in store for them on the opening night Ice Cream Social. As the time approached for the event hail, thunder and rain came in

copious quantities. When that passed by the festivities went on as planned. The group visited Mt. Rushmore, rode the steam train from Hills City to Keystone, drove the Custer State Park Wildlife Loop, Iron Mountain Road, visited the Mammoth Site at Hot Springs, and Wind Cave. All this and plenty of good food! Next year the plan is to go to Colorado.



Jordan, Sheri and Dan Johnson beside their '26—Gerri and Dennis Johnson with their '20—and Jim Farris with his '22 Roadster



## Comstock's Green Bean

*From The Glove Box Coordinator Bob Stammes*

Ol' Green Bean has not been running well at all lately. He misses both at idle and at speed and the idle is very inconsistent, sometimes running smooth then loping along for a time before quitting altogether. It runs pretty good cold under full choke but when it warms up it gets worse. The carburetor could be messed up from sitting with gas in it for most of the year for the past two or three years. The distributor could be the culprit. It seems that it could also be a vacuum leak somewhere in the system. The vacuum advance moves as it should when revving up the engine until it begins missing. Then it drops back to the idle position and bounces around with the missing of the engine. The vacuum wipers work off the fuel pump so there are no other vacuum ports in the system. The point gap is dead-on, plugs are almost new and look good, plug wires are the original from 1951. What is causing the problem?

Choices seem to be a dirty carburetor; bad points, plugs or wires; or a vacuum leak at the base of the carburetor. I used my special method for cleaning the carburetor to no avail. There was no vacuum leak at the base of the carburetor so I removed it and did a complete rebuild on a very clean carburetor. The missing didn't clear up. When I readjusted the carburetor the idle got better but wasn't smooth and while driving the engine bucked and still missed a lot. Next was to put on new spark plug wires and clean the plugs. The condition stayed the same. In frustration I took the carburetor off again thinking there was something stuck where it shouldn't have been. After rebuilding it and another carburetor and two trials later the condition remained the same.

Jim Farris suggested it might be a faulty condenser. Someone else suggested I check the mechanical advance in the distributor. A third suggestion was to spray carb cleaner or WD40 around the intake manifold ports on the engine to check for a vacuum leak there. I replaced the condenser and noted the car started easier and didn't miss as badly but it still ran erratically and wouldn't idle smoothly for very long. After buying more carburetor cleaner I discovered the engine smoothed out and increased RPM when I sprayed around the intake ports on the manifold. I took off the manifold and didn't see anything significant but changed the gaskets just the same. To my surprise the engine ran smoothly and idled great.

*Don Comstock*

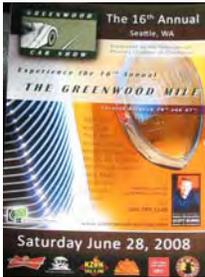
*Note: Cleaning the carburetor was covered in the June Tappet Clatter on page 11.*

### **Bill Damm's SAFETY CORNER**

## Overheating Safety Ditty

You're out there cruzen,  
Enjoying a nice summer,  
When your car overheats,  
Now that's a bummer.

You need to check its water,  
Because you are concerned,  
But please do it safely,  
So that you don't get burned.



**The Greenwood Mile**

David White, one of our members, invited the group to participate in the Greenwood auto show on June 28. Matt Dickenson, Dick Jones with grandson Alex, Rod and Evie Schein, George Haley and Roberta and Jim Martoza displayed their cars



## TAPPET CLATTER *Classifieds*

### FOR SALE

#### **Trailer, Equipment, vehicle Tilt bed,**

All steel, single axle elec. brakes 5000 # capacity. Will handle up to 103 WB \$2000 OBO. Set of four Cooper /Cobra P255/70 R15 Tires. Less than 4000 miles. Best Offer. Wally Martin (360) 491-4879 or ((425) 876- 3475

**1979 Chevrolet 1/2 ton PU** All new engine and new transmission \$3000, Contact Ron (425) 226 8140

**1968 327 Motor** High performance engine rebuilt and from a Camaro. Full Engine stored 15 years. \$600 Dollars Al Anseron (425) 488-2245 email eabe63@aol.com

**1957 Pushbutton Radio,** and speaker. Original and in perfect condition \$150. Don Boltz, (360.) 893-5305 *donnys32@aol.com*

**1978 Scottsdale PU** 3/4 Ton with canopy and tandun axle car hauler low mileage, as new mechanically. \$4500 obo Walt Blair (206).292-6745. *Waltcollectorcarappraisals@gmail.com*

**1976 Nova Concours** sedan, ex. condition, outstanding driver, 305 V/8 auto. \$3500 obo Walt Blair (206) 292-6745. Email above..

**Large Car Trunk** \$75. Bill Barker (425) 643-O698 *bill@barkerville.net*

**1952 Styline Sedan** Six Cylinder, 3 speed Transmission.. Needs total restoration.

\$1200 Dollars. Al Anderson (425) 488-2245  
Email *eabe63@aol.com*

**1927 Imperial Sedan.** Car has been in storage 40 years in Southern California and is all there. Contact John (310) 970 9151

**1938 Grill** Gene Sovar (206) 3262-2491  
*esovar@msn.com*

**1954 Chev** automatic transmission, 2 speed powerglide. It is a good running transmission. The car that it was in was modified to a manual transmission. The owner is Chuck Adler. Please contact him on cell phone 253-405-0520, make an offer.

### WANTED

**Brass Rivets** 3/32 brass semi tubular rivets. Bil; Damm (425) 748 5721 *billdamm@webtv.net*

**1962-67 327 Chevrolet Engine Core,** Dave Roberts, (425) 822.-6831

**1937 Grill,** Gene Sovar 206.362,2491,  
*esovar@msn.com*

**1926 Touring** Top bow supports and brackets. Bob Stamnes (206) 365-1482 *rstamnes@yahoo.com*

# July 2008 Issue



Puget Sound Region Cars at Strawberry Feed