

# THE TAPPET CLATTER



## THE PUGET SOUND REGION VINTAGE CHEVROLET CLUB OF AMERICA

July 2020

Volume 53, Number 7

### Old School '37 Chev

By Duane & Edith Rice

Puget Sound VCCA members may remember us from years back for our black 1952 Chev hardtop. When we sold the '52 we bought a 1967 Corvette convertible project car. I restored it to original condition and we drive it on nice days. I had a custom car in the '60's which I sold to buy my first house when I got married. Ever since then I've wanted to do a street rod. In the meantime I've restored cars of our own and helped friends complete their cars.

We bought a '38 Chev Coupe, worked on it for a few years, then we decided to sell it. While returning from vacation we found a '37 Chev two-door sedan that was partially done, and it followed us home. We brought it home on a trailer with a truck load of assorted parts. The car was a driver but needed a lot of work. It needed body work, paint, glass, interior, exhaust and other assorted parts and accessories. We decided we wanted to keep the car basically stock-looking on the outside without major body modifications. We wanted a classic look to the car.

It has the stock frame with TCI Mustang II power steering front end with disc brakes. It has a 327 engine, rebuilt and balanced, a 700-R4 transmission, and IROC Camaro positraction rear end with disc brakes. We had a new exhaust system installed. The bodywork included doing rust repair and lots of dents. I also did a lot of work on door, trunk and hood fit, including paying a lot of attention to the door gaps and the gap around the trunk. I added material to make the gaps uniform all around and cut a wedge out of the bottom of the passenger door to make it fit properly. I added a flush-mounted fuel door.



I had all new smoked glass cut for the entire car. I built a battery box and installed it under the right front fender. I made the engine compartment splash shields using a metal brake that I designed and built at home. To help get heat out of the engine compartment we wanted louvers. We finally found a vent cover at a home improvement store. I cut that in two and welded half to each of the splash shields. This really helps keep the engine cool.

Once the bodywork was done we began preparation for the paint. This included lots of priming and block sanding to create a smooth finish. We fashioned a paint booth out of aluminum tubing and thin plastic sheeting which allowed the lights to shine through. I painted the car PPG Sapphire Blue custom mix with extra metallic and pearl. We had the same color tinted slightly darker for the fenders and beltline. Then we block sanded and buffed the entire car.

(continued on p. 4)



## 1967 - Puget Sound Region VCCA - 2020



*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 1993 may be registered with the Region.*

*General meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month, except the 3rd Monday in May. No meetings are held in January and December. Meetings are currently lunch meetings held at 11:30 am at the XXX Drive-In, 98 NE Gilman Blvd, Issaquah, WA. 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, "The Tappet Clatter."*

You can find the PS-VCCA website here on the *World Wide Web*

**Press this button**

### 2020 Puget Sound Region Officers and Board

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<u>Garage Nite</u>	Vacant	

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### Publication Information

The deadline for receiving articles for the Tappet Clatter is normally by the **5th** of the month. The Editor reserves the right to edit material in any way as appropriate for wording, clarity, grammar, punctuation and available space. We can accept most electronic formats and hardcopy.

Email copy to [tappetclatter@outlook.com](mailto:tappetclatter@outlook.com)

**THE BLACKENED FOREST**



# Director's Message

## "Jim's Junk Yard"



By the time you read this we would have been on our way, packing the car for the trip to Ellensburg for the NW Meet. In some ways, it feels like Christmas was canceled. The car won't start, or more accurately, the car was stolen, leaving us to walk home. It is at best discouraging. I am sorry for the loss of effort and planning that went into our turn to offer a NW Meet, but it is time to move on. I know there are great things planned for future NW Meets. We will have other opportunities in the not too distant future with time to gather ideas for us to implement in the future. I look at the "CANCELED" labels stamped across the planning calendars and know we are not alone in our disappointment. We are interested in restoring cars and participating in car events. We have to think of new ways to connect. There is a glimmer of moonlight on the road ahead. We have lots of plans, we just need the okay to shift into gear.

Our communication links are email, this newsletter, Clatter Chatter, and phone conversations, and I encourage you to call or email anyone in the Club. If you have a need just ask; we have a great wealth of knowledge and members willing to share and assist each other. I was pleased to see some of the items from our classified page have been picked up which is another way we assist each other.

Here's an example of a member asking for help which generated responses, thanks to all.

*My immediate need is someone to do the panel replacement (welding) on the 1927 body panels. Any leads would be greatly appreciated.*

*Bob Stamnes*

*Hi Bob*

*I had rust on both doors of my '31 and repaired by cutting out and welding in new metal at a shop in Enumclaw. It looks great. He had the curve done by another place in Enumclaw. Do you need a complete panel? Al*

Stay tuned, until we are "on the road again".

*Jim*

### **GARAGE NITE CANCELED.**

Due to continued concerns about the increased virus statistics, we had to **CANCEL** the **Garage Nite** that was planned for Tuesday June 30th at Mark Shaw's home in Carnation. This was going to be a first time visit. We apologize to Mark after he put so much effort into getting ready for our gang. (Note: His wife, Alice, was also going to host wives who ventured out.)

While we had hoped that this would help us on a slow return to "normalcy", a week before the date, it still appeared to be too early. Until Washington State sees a marked reduction in infections, we all need to stay safe, and think about Meets and events that we have attempted in the past.

*Jim Seiber & Bill Barker*

### **Web Links Of Interest**

**Colombia River Region, VCCA:** <http://www.vccacolumbiariverregion.org/>

**Mt. Rainier Region, VCCA:** None

**North Cascade Region, VCCA:** <http://clubs.hemmings.com/northcascadevcca>

**Puget Sound Region, VCCA:** <https://psrvcca.weebly.com/>

**Willamette Valley Region, VCCA:** <http://www.wvrvcca.org/>



**SMOULDERS YET**

## Old School '37 Chev, cont. from p. 1

After paint was complete and entire interior insulated, we looked for an upholsterer. After talking to several people we chose Mark's Custom Upholstery. We chose fabrics we wanted to use and Mark designed a beautiful interior for us which also included the trunk. The front seats are Pontiac Bonneville electric seats and the rear seat is stock. We hand crafted rear seat arm rests by making a Styrofoam mold and fiberglassing over the mold.

During the time we were working on the car we prowled junk yards looking for whatever we could find that might work in our car. We ended up finding a night and day mirror with map lights which I attached to the original mirror mount and then blended the connection so it looks like it is original. We also found a nice dome light which matched the shape of the car, and a cup holder that also looks good with the dash. We also added outside mirrors that include turn signals.

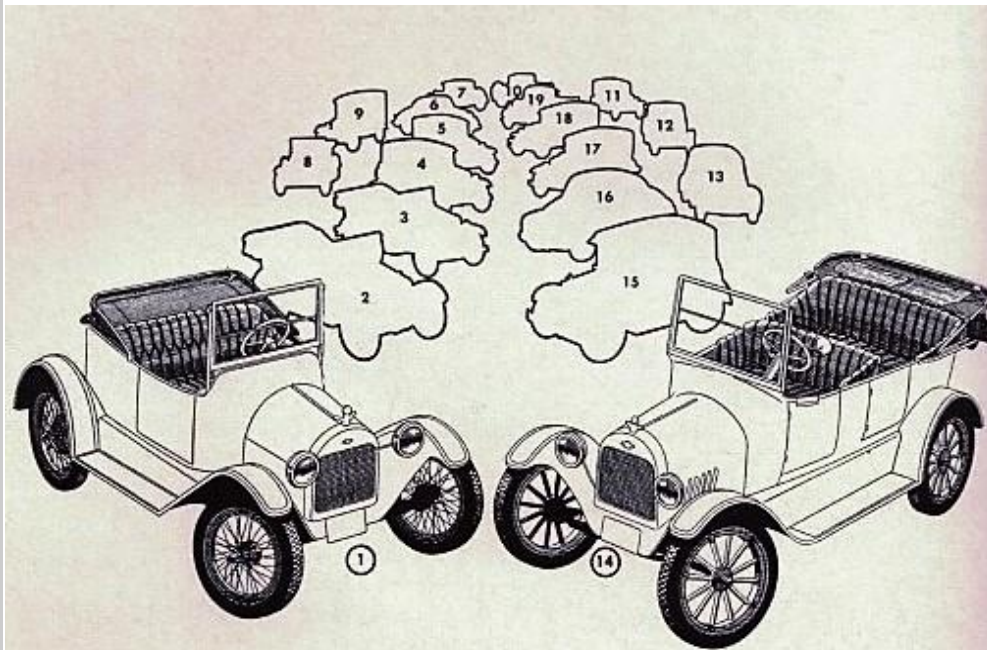
We have a large garage with a single post in ground hoist. This was invaluable for working on all aspects of the car. Adjusting the height for sanding, painting and buffing really helped. We also used it as a workbench working on smaller parts.

It took 3 years to complete the car and get it on the road. We spent the summer of 2008 going to car shows and other casual car events. We won several awards at these shows. We also drive it on nice days just for pleasure.

Duane & Edith Rice  
Renton, WA

## A Flash Back, an update from last month's article, with special thanks to Jim Farris

A couple of days after the June edition of the TC went out to the membership I was watching Netflix with Diane and the phone rang. It was Jim Farris thanking me for writing the article and giving me some information to answer some of the



questions I posed in the article. This may be "old news" to life-long VCCA Members but it was new to me. First, he did know someone in the photo. Standing beside car number 7 in the photo, a '28 sport coupe, is our own Puget Sound member Tom Meleo. Tom still has the car in his collection at his home in California. And Jim also knew something about two of the other cars in the photo. Car number 1 is not a 1914 Royal Mail but instead is a Model 490 and standing beside the car is Fred Upshaw, the owner and one of the founding members of the VCCA. VCCA folklore, confirmed by Jim, says that Fred decided to form our club when he was declined membership into a California Model T club. If you can't join them, beat them!! Fred's car, as well as car number 6 in the photo, a 1937 Deluxe Coupe, are also currently owned by Tom Meleo and in his collection.

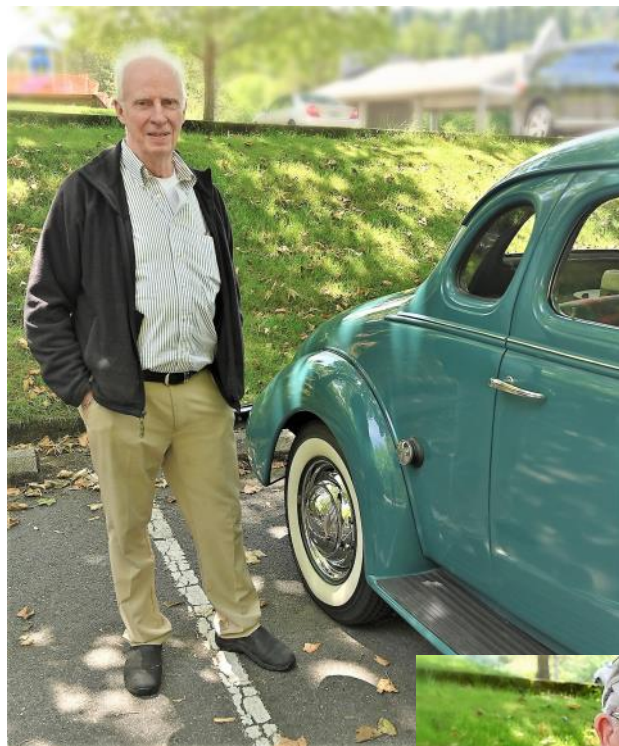
Dave Haddock

**BECAUSE**

## Our Very Own Time Machines

Back to 1947 with a '38 Chevy

I RECEIVED A CALL from Richard Marin, asking if I knew anyone with an original 1938 Chevrolet. Richard had memories of an emotional ride he had taken in a '38 two door sedan at age two. In 1947, Richard was traveling with his mom, dad and year-old brother back from Ohio, stopping in Rawlins, Wyoming. During the overnight stay, his mother had an epileptic seizure and died. This dramatic event left dad, Richard and little brother to make the 1,000 mile journey back to San Diego where dad was expected to report to his Navy Squadron. Richard remembers segments of the trip. Burned in his memory is the ride in the '38. He remembers standing on the passenger seat, leaning against the door, and looking out the window.



the whine of the transmission shifting from first gear to second, then smoothing into high. He has a vision of the original dashboard. He recalls the smell of the engine, and the upholstery. He wanted to re-live the car portion of the trip by experiencing a ride in an original 1938 Chevrolet. Do we have one in our club?

Jim Seiber



Enter a phone call to Dick Jones, who is the proud owner of a very original 1938 Chevrolet Master Business Coupe. Dick agreed to meet Richard for an opportunity to rekindle memories of a trip taken 50 years ago. Richard was very interested in all aspects of the '38 and was appreciative of the ride, all confirmation of the sound of the road. Richard leaves in July to retrace the trip around Rawlins, and he will take a more recent memory of a ride in a vintage Chevrolet with him.

The Chevy connection has responded to another citizen wanting to

**HE FLIPPED**

## Bill Damm's SAFETY DITTY

That darned old COVID 19.  
Ya, that's the one;  
It ruins our days  
And spoils our fun.

All the things we did,  
Whatever time would allow,  
Things thought wouldn't be missed;  
We really miss them now.

No more monthly meetings  
Or tours to take our car.  
Our tanks are full of gas  
But still we can't go far.

Can't go visit with our friends.  
Phone calls aren't the same.  
It's that darn old virus,  
The cause that is to blame.

All we can do for now  
Is stay inside and wait.  
For the Drs. to find a cure  
And hope it's not too late.

Staying safe the best we can.  
Wear our masks and wash our hands,  
And disinfect the places  
Where a virus likely lands.

Here's hoping that this epidemic  
Will settle down and come to pass.  
That life will return to normal  
So we can burn that tank of gas!

## Kent Sullivan Wins President's Choice Award

Ever since Duane Wentlandt finished the restoration of my 1964 Rampside in 2014, my sons Kyle, Sean, and I have enjoyed driving it when it's not raining. (Believe it or not, it doesn't rain all the time in Seattle!) Other than the normal few gremlins one has to chase down after a complete nut-and-bolt restoration, it has performed flawlessly and is a pleasure to drive.

So, it was quite a surprise when I tried to start the truck in early May, to back it out of the garage and snap a picture for the 2020 Corvanatics Virtual Car Show, that it would not start! Kyle and I did some quick diagnostics and determined the truck would run if fuel was introduced directly to the carbs but not otherwise. We didn't have time to do more that day. The truck sat with the hope of finding time to deal with the fuel pump and/or strainer, both of which are new, but that time did not materialize. And, as the end of the month appeared, Mother Nature wasn't cooperating – rain every day.

Finally, on the afternoon of the last day of May, it stopped raining for a bit. Sean and I carefully rolled the Rampside out of the garage, which involves negotiating a slight incline and a sharp turn, and I quickly snapped a picture, before we carefully rolled it back into its spot and closed the door. With better weather happening more consistently soon, I'm sure we'll get the fuel delivery problem sorted in plenty of time to enjoy some summertime cruising. I am flattered and honored for my truck to be the **President's Choice** for the car show. I'm certainly glad we decided to roll the truck outside for this photo!

Kent



## August Celebrations

### ANNIVERSARIES

Dan & Karen Young	15
MG & Bob Stamnes	16

### BIRTHDAYS

Roger Orness	10
Kathy Howe	12
Sallie Comstock	29
Tom Lauderback	30

## From the Glove Box



**From the Glove Box** is devoted to sharing technical information, technical problems and solutions to problems related to the restoration and preservation of vintage Chevrolets. Please share your knowledge, experiences and recommendations with your fellow members.

All of us are the Glove Box Coordinators this year. Share your information, experience, and tips with others by emailing the editor at [tappetclatter@outlook.com](mailto:tappetclatter@outlook.com).

## Elderly Mechanics and Some Helpful Tips from Hemmings.com

By Dave Haddock

So let's face it! None of us are getting any younger. Most of us fit in the category of "Elderly Mechanic". So I ran across a well-written, humorous, and even helpful article in Hemmings, written by Michael Lamm, entitled "Confessions of an Elderly Mechanic". If you didn't read it already, you can find it online at <https://www.hemmings.com/stories/2019/11/20/confessions-of-an-elderly-mechanic>. It is well worth the read!!

As Michael puts it "In a previous column, I happened to mention that now, at age 83, I'm still fortunate enough to be able to work on cars. That's been my longtime hobby—tinkering and fixing—and yes, I do still indulge. Yet as you might suspect, tinkering is not the same at 83 as it was at 18. Certain realities have crept in, some of which remind me of my mortality. And with the realization that I'm definitely 83, mortality does come up as a topic of discussion." Here are some useful tips from this 83-year young tinkerer.



*Kevlar sleeves and heavy gloves are no fun, but they're a reasonable precaution against cuts and scrapes when your skin is thin and especially if you're on blood thinners.*



*Another admission of no longer being 18 is having to keep a first-aid kit at the ready in the garage.*



*Nor are my eyes what they used to be. I'm much more dependent on drop cords and those wonderful little LED flashlights—the type that can shine down into hidden crevices.*

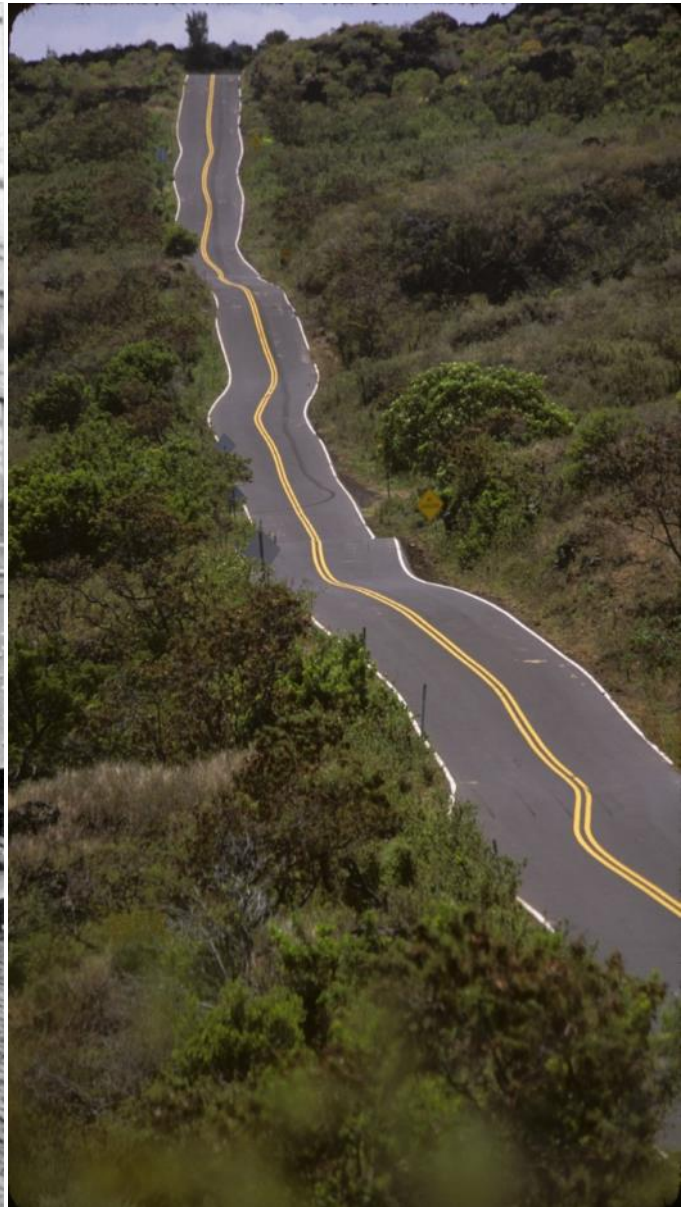
*And those 12-hour days don't happen anymore. I can still put in that sort of time, but I really don't have to so I don't. It's not so much a lack of stamina, but I like to take a little recreational nap after lunch. And my muscles remind me that, after some periods of physical labor, they'll ache the next day.*



*I notice, too, that I'm not as physically strong as I used to be. At 18—when I really was 18—I could toss 100-pound bags of horse oats onto car fenders, no problem. Today, a 35-pound carton of books makes me grunt.*

Michael ends his article with "the abrupt realization that I'm no longer 18...that working on cars at 83 demands certain concessions and a generous dose of humility...has shown me that the automobile and the human anatomy share an aging process. Both deteriorate with time." Thanks Michael. We will try to remember this!!

**A CIGARETTE!**



### **A Little Too Familiar??**

I recently ran across this photo (above) that I had found in an old King County archives website and had saved. I can't remember why I saved it but probably because it was taken close to where we used to live, in the Ravenna Neighborhood of Seattle. It shows the old Green Lake trolley and brick-paved Seattle streets during the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic. I think face masks were probably required then by the Health Department. I guess the 66% compliance in this old photo is about what we see to-day???

Editor

### **Been There, Done That!!**

Does this road look familiar??

**Burma Shave**



## Membership Votes To Support XXX Drive-In and 2021 NW Meet

Thanks to everyone who voted regarding the XXX Restaurant donation. This is a hard time for any restaurant, trying to stay open, and having to limit the number of customers, and it has frequently meant that employees don't get paid. Rents must be paid as well as other financial obligations. It is difficult to stay in business after 4 or 5 months of erratic business.

We, the Chevy Club, have held our meetings at XXX for the past three years, at no cost. Our meetings at the school district over the past couple of decades cost us about \$300 each year. A while back we evaluated a possible meeting at the Issaquah IHOP for \$100 per meeting, but the room was determined to be less than desirable due to noise.

In the past Jose has donated door prizes for our August meetings and has donated hams for our Christmas party for many years. We see XXX as a true friend of our club and when our friends are in trouble, we tend to want to help. In that spirit we evaluated the Go-Fund-Me action that the North Cascade Region created and then asked our members if they wanted to donate as a club. The overwhelming response was "Yes".

By the vote of members, an approval of a \$500 donation to the XXX Drive In was approved with 25 Yes votes, 2 No votes. Also approved 26 Yes, and 1 No vote, was a \$500 advance to the Willamette Region to support the preparation for the 2021 NW Meet. The photo below shows Club Director, Jim Seiber, presenting the check to Jose at the XXX on July 5, 2020.

*Jim & Bill*



## Order Your VCCA-Logo Face Masks Today!!!

VCCA Face Masks - FREE SHIPPING USA ONLY!



### Item Options

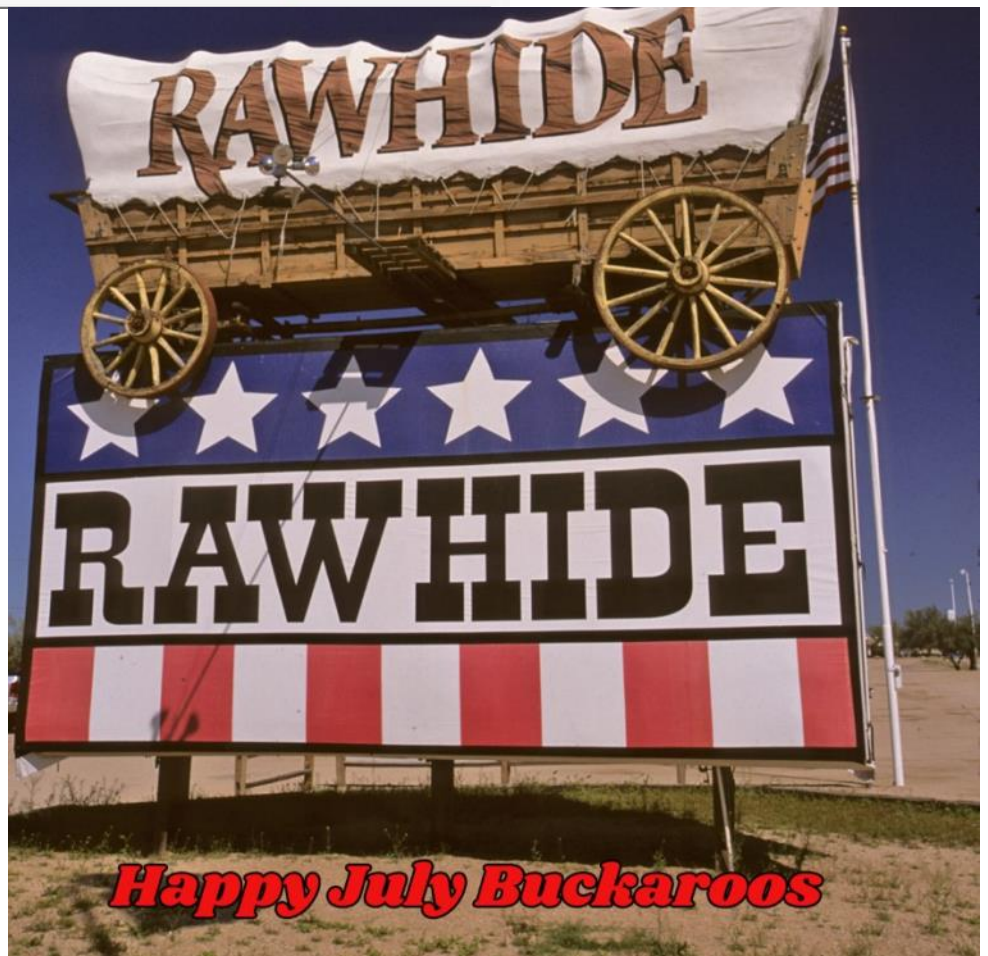
Price: \$20.00

Quantity:  \*

ADD ITEM

Go to [VCCA.ORG](https://vcca.org) to see what is for sale.

To order your face mask now, go to <https://vcca.org/store/viewproduct.aspx?id=16613928>



## TAPPET CLATTER *Classifieds*

Ads will be posted for a minimum of three months (longer on a space-available basis). Please notify the Tappet Clatter Editor at [tappetclatter@outlook.com](mailto:tappetclatter@outlook.com) when your listing no longer needs to be published.

### FOR SALE

**1931 Convertible Cabriolet** \$7,000 plus 47 year accumulation of parts and accessories, needs wood kit. Four 1932-33 Chevrolet accessory wire wheels, sandblasted Kelsey Hayes bent spoke \$400, 1925 fenders \$25 to \$75 each. Contact Roger Orness [r.orness@comcast.net](mailto:r.orness@comcast.net).

**1940 Chevrolet Coupe** maroon; **1923 CAD Sedan**, power steering and overdrive; **1934 PAC Coupe** w/ rumble seat; **1936 Ford Business Coupe**; **1932 Chevrolet Five Passenger Coupe**; **1930 Model A Roadster**; **1930 Model A Vicky**. All cars restored, repainted, rechromed, and rebuilt engines. Paul Pearman

**1936 STANDARD** five-lug artillery wheels with 17 inch tires. Four for \$100. Dick Olson

**1930 Chev sport roadster**. New restoration. **PRICE REDUCED!!** \$18K Dick Olson

**1926 Chevrolet Touring**. Excellent condition, new battery, top and side curtains replaced recently. Also a trailer to move the Chevy (Tommy, aluminum, 14' bed dual axle). \$19,000 for the car, \$3,500 for the trailer. Frank Arms, [frank4consult@gmail.com](mailto:frank4consult@gmail.com). Send me an email for pictures.

**1947-55 Chevy Suburban-Pickup-Panel Parts**. Assorted parts, large and small. Good variety. Few GMC. Trim- interior/exterior/cab, radios, heaters, lights, stainless, seats, rubber just to name a few examples. Some partials. Email your request to [ednoble@whidbeyisland.com](mailto:ednoble@whidbeyisland.com). Parts are in storage. Ed Nobel.

### HELP WANTED

**Request** for referrals on body restoration work. My 1980 Chevy truck needs to be painted. They can contact my email, [markshaw10.4@live.com](mailto:markshaw10.4@live.com). Thanks. Mark Shaw

**Time to finish** the '27 Chev coupe that I have had apart for 59 years is closing in on me. My immediate need is someone to do the panel replacement (welding) on the body panels. Any leads would be greatly appreciated. [rstannes@yahoo.com](mailto:rstannes@yahoo.com). Thanks. Bob Stannes

### WANTED

**Car Wanted.** Pierre is looking for a 1952 to 54 Chevrolet two door post, in good condition, Jim Seiber

**Rear bumper guards** for a '49 Chevy car, a **front bumper guard cross bar**, **hood emblem and jet plane** for a '51 Chevy car, all in good driver quality. Don Comstock

**18-inch** wire wheels for a 1932 Chevy. Contact Ken Scott.

**One 4:75 X 19 inch** Whitewall tire in good condition. Dick Olson.

## 2020 Activities

July	15-18	Northwest Meet, Ellensburg, WA. Don Comstock	<b>CANCELED</b>
July	27	<b>PS-VCCA General Meeting, XXX Drive-In, Issaquah</b>	<b>CANCELED</b>
August	24	<b>PS-VCCA General Meeting, XXX Drive-In, Issaquah??</b>	
September	13-17	Pacific Early Six Cylinder Tour, Shady Cove (Medford), OR. Gerri Johnson	
September	28	<b>PS-VCCA General Meeting, XXX Drive-In, Issaquah??</b>	
October	26	<b>PS-VCCA General Meeting, XXX Drive-In, Issaquah??</b>	

Note: All club general meetings for the foreseeable future are subject to cancellation due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. Please check this publication or call a club officer if you have questions. XXX Drive-In Meetings normally begin at 11:30 AM; social time starts at 11 AM. Food/drink purchase optional. August meeting at 6 pm. Address: 98 Gilman Blvd, Issaquah, Washington.