

# THE TAPPET CLATTER

THE PUGET SOUND REGION VINTAGE CHEVROLET CLUB OF AMERICA

March 2019

Volume 52 Number 3

## My Favorite Old Car Hunting Memory

Article and photos by Dick Olson

In the fall of 1988 my friend John Fry and I made a trip to John's hometown of Cutbank, Montana. On a previous trip home John found two private collections of old cars and trucks but didn't have the time to do much exploring. John and I packed our tools, etc. into my newly acquired 1977 Chevrolet pickup with only 26,000 original miles on it and off we went.

Heading for the first collection we turned off the highway and must have driven five miles on dirt roads through wheat fields and down into a coulee full of cars, trucks, and old farm equipment. The vehicles were parked every which way, some complete but most of them were pretty cannibalized. Not very many Chevys were in this group, but some interesting old rigs anyway. For example, we found a 1947 Ford 2 ton truck complete with 7,000 original miles on it, and a complete sixties Buick Skylark convertible with a hardtop parts car to go with it, and a 1952 Chevy 4 door deluxe, complete, very straight and with the key still in the ignition.

After scouting through everything there I purchased a pair of '57 Chevy pickup doors (rust free, of course) for the next time I restore my '57 half ton. While on my knees in the sagebrush unbolting my "new" doors, I noticed a 1 ½ inch round rusty badge lying face down in the dirt and debris on the pickup floor. I picked it up, turned it over and wiped my thumb across the dirt caked on the front. The first two words I saw were "Dick Olson".

Now I am not a superstitious person, but at that moment while on my knees in the middle of nowhere, all I could hear was a breeze rushing around on the prairie as I gazed at this pin with my name on it. The pin turned out to be a construction badge for "Dick Olson Constructors, Inc., Great Falls, MT" with a badge number 40 in the middle. John suggested that it must be my lucky day or we were in BIG TROUBLE?? I stuck the pin in my pocket, loaded my new doors into my pickup and, banking on the luck part, off we went to find some more treasures.

Our next stop was another wheat ranch with a collection of over 100 cars and trucks, every breed, size, and age lined up in rows. We were the only people there; heaven could wait...this was paradise!! We were like two kids in a candy store! We were not allowed to take any parts, but all of the vehicles there were for sale as the ranch was also for sale.

(Article continued on p. 4)

**Chevys Come and They Go**



## 1967 - Puget Sound Region VCCA - 2019



*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, June, July, August, and December. Meetings are currently lunch meetings held at 11:30 am at the XXX Drive In, 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 on the **World Wide Web** at <http://psrvcca.weebly.com/>.*

### 2019 Puget Sound Region Officers and Board

<u>Director</u>	Al Howe	chevyal@comcast.net
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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)

# **Director's Message**

**Al Howe**



## **Director's Letter March 2019**

Even with the threat of snow we had a great turnout at the February meeting. After lunch and visiting we had an active meeting. Bill Barker lead us through an interesting discussion about some tools that he had and thought other members might be interested in; and others also brought some of their special tools to share. All in all, there was a lively discussion about tools. I saw some that I did not know existed but would come in handy.

The snow never arrived, anyway not in my part of the world. It turned out to be a wonderful day for a meeting and lunch. We have had some really nice days so I just had to take my 1955 out for a short drive. It felt so good to drive it, and the heater worked; as a matter of fact, everything worked. What a good feeling that is. Have you had your prize Chevrolet out yet this year? I know some have.

I see some of our Puget Sound Region members are mentioned in the March G&D as well as some North Cascade Region members. Good job for being involved. Is anyone writing an article for the Tappet Clatter or the G&D this month? We have done such a good job in the past about sending articles in, I hope we keep up the good work. It is always fun to read about something you have not done yet or a place you have not seen. Maybe it will give someone an idea about a tour. Going someplace with other vintage cars owners is always more fun than going alone.

*Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. (Mark Twain)*

Al Howe

## **MARCH MEETING TOPIC**

Thanks for all of the good feedback from last month's topic "New and Favorite Tools". This month we will focus on TIPS AND TECHNIQUES. These include mechanical tricks of the trade, electrical tips, and some simple "How To's".

Bring samples if it helps to explain your idea. Bring your story or suggestions and explain it in under 2 minutes. The best tip will, ONCE AGAIN, receive a cool gift/tool (or whatever I can find laying around my shop). :-)

Bill Barker, Asst. Director

## **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:** <http://psrvcca.weebly.com/>

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

**Dave Folsom Blog,** [www.chev235guy.blogspot.com/](http://www.chev235guy.blogspot.com/)

**Gas stations without ethanol,** <http://pure-gas.org/index.jsp?stateprov=WA>



## My Favorite Old Car Hunting Memory

Continued from p. 1

Halfway through the collection John and I spotted a disc wheel '28 Chevy Coupe. It looked like it had been sitting there for 30 or 40 years. The license plate laying in the grass under the radiator was from 1938. All the wood was rotten and what wasn't blown away had sheet metal hanging on it. The doors were hanging and the steering wheel wood was almost all gone. There is just something about old rusty sheet metal that gets you right here. The more we walked around the more we realized it was all there except the deck lid. The price was right and I decided it should come home with me.



The next step, find a U-Haul trailer. After checking the yellow pages I found a U-Haul dealer 35 miles away. I called and asked if they had a car hauling trailer. The answer was "No, we normally don't but one just came in from Wyoming this morning." It was 4 pm Friday and we had until 5 pm to pick it up. It was indeed my lucky day!

Sunday evening I drove into my driveway and was greeted by my wife and daughter. As I enthusiastically showed them my souvenirs I saw my daughter (out of the corner of my eye) roll her eyes and whisper "Why doesn't Dad buy mugs and T-shirts like other Dads?" The following spring I received an auction notice for this ranch and I understand it was cleaned out.



Fast forward to about 2009. The '28 Coupe has been sitting in my barn untouched for 21 years. I decided to sell it so I put an ad in an old engine/farm newsletter and sold it for cash and a mower for my 1952 Massey Harris tractor. The gentleman who bought it lives in Grass Valley, California and hauls tractors up and down the west coast. About a year later I get a call from a guy in British Columbia who had bought the '28 and was trying to get it into Canada without a title. We communicated for several months and he finally disassembled it and was allowed to take the pieces into Canada. It took several trips. The last I heard he was making all new wood and de-rusting sheet metal. The '28 keeps reappearing like a ghost. Nice to know it's a survivor.

**That Is What They Do You Know**

**Bill Damm's  
SAFETY DITTY**

Most our transportation  
Is done by car,  
To get us there,  
Near and far.

They take us shopping,  
That's what they're for.  
For parties and meetings  
And a whole lot more.

They're fun to drive.  
They let us roam.  
But there are some days  
They don't get us home.

We hope the problem  
Is something small.  
Be quickly fixed  
And that is all.

But there could be a time  
When we're in a wreck.  
And lucky our seat belt  
Has saved our neck.

Or then there are times  
When the collision is greater.  
We hope to avoid them,  
But they happen, sooner or later.

Air bags and "on star" both deploy.  
Roll cage and crumple zones save the day.  
Hopefully it's an accident  
Where we can walk away.

They try to build cars safe,  
Should we occur a collision.  
The other half of safety  
Is the drivers decision.

Sometimes we're the victim  
From something out of the blue.  
That no matter what,  
There's nothing we can do.

In cases like that,  
Where we can't get away,  
We hope for the best  
Because there's no time to pray.

If we must venture out,  
We must always take care.  
And watch out for dangers  
That are lurking out there.

States try to make roads safer,  
Learning from wrecks of the past.  
But they still can't plan for everything  
And people driving too fast.

Here's hoping we won't have an accident.  
If we do, we hope it will be small.  
But there still are things out there  
That could finish us all.

Like snipers, and drive-bys,  
Or road rage crazies.  
Look out! After our next road trip  
We could be pushing up daises.

**NOS CHEV parts now ONLINE**

One of our favorite NOS parts vendors in Grants Pass has decided to upgrade to the 21st century. (joke) Alan Forbush has recently opened a new website with photos of some of his many parts for sale. You can also purchase them online. On some of our previous Junkyard Tours, NW Meets and other tours he has graciously opened up his massive storage building for VCCA members to freely tour. Most of his parts are New Old Stock (NOS) and are in pristine condition. And some are extremely hard to find, rare pieces. Check out his web site at: <https://www.forbushvintageautoparts.com/>

--Bill Barker

**April Celebrations**

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Evie & Rod Schein                      7

**BIRTHDAYS**

Marti Miller                                      15  
Florence Helgeson                              16

## Tools, Tools, and More Tools

Thanks to Assistant Director Bill Barker, the topic of the February General Meeting was tools. Bill brought many of his favorites and also encouraged members to bring one of their favorite tools for a kind of show and tell. He even offered a valuable prize to whomever brought the most unusual tool!! Jerry Brownell brought a



Genius Boost lithium-ion power supply and jump starter. A very handy tool to have in the trunk when you need to recharge your cell phone or jump a dead car battery to start your car. Rod Schein brought a very handy articulating power screwdriver (Flip Out/Speed Hex) to get at those short or odd angle screws that need to be removed. Dave Haddock brought a vintage battery life testing device that works with either 6 or 12 volt car batteries. Using a heating coil the device puts a load on the battery while simultaneously testing the battery output. Dave's tool was selected by the group as "most unusual" and he won an LED light/tape measure combo tool!!



Bill Barker brought an assortment of hand tools, electrical testing tools, and engine testing tools. He described his adventures with his '66

Corvette 327 engine problem that he was finally able to diagnose with a cylinder leakage tester.



### CYLINDER LEAKAGE TESTING

- Leaking cylinder rings – listen at dip stick
- Cylinder wall cracks – listen at radiator fill cap
- Head gasket leaking – adjacent plug port
- Exhaust valve leaks – Tailpipe
- Intake valve leakage – Carburetor intake

- Difference of 15-30% indicates a problem
- Low sound pitch = large leak.
- Small leak = higher pitch

A clever electrical tester was a combination multi-meter and dwell tester. He brought a number of hand tools including a hammer with a swivel head to enable hammering in tight spaces at an angle; a couple of breaker bars including one with a 3/8 and 1/2 inch end to attach a ratchet; a



needle-nosed plier with a curved tip; a combination crescent wrench and vise grip tool; and a flexible screwdriver for adjusting breaker points through the sliding window on the distributor.

(cont. on p. 9)

**Even When They're Full Of Rust**

## 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.

Call the Glove Box Coordinator, Bob Starnes, [rstarnes@yahoo.com](mailto:rstarnes@yahoo.com) with your information.

### Antifreeze Can Kill

Most of us have known that antifreeze can kill animals. Well, now the conclusion is that using the wrong antifreeze in your vintage car can kill your engine as well.

There are two types of antifreeze, the original Inorganic Additive Technology also known as Ethylene Glycol (IAT), and the more recent Organic Additive Technology (OAT, N-OAT, H-OAT). The use of more modern OAT antifreeze in your vintage auto, can cause serious issues, including damaging old soldered brass radiators and eating up the gaskets, gaskets cements, and silicone seals in pre-1990 engines, causing major leaks.

Going by the color of an antifreeze is a mistake. You can't select the appropriate antifreeze by going by its color.

Many ads also state "safe for older cars" but this generally refers to 10 year old cars and not older cars like many of ours. Ads often state "universal car and truck formula" or "compatible for use in all Automobiles and light trucks". Don't trust the lingo. Check it out yourselves to make certain it is an IAT product and not an OAT product.

Brands to AVOID (OAT antifreeze) are;

- All "Extended Life" antifreeze
- All Preston antifreeze products
- Xerex's G-05 product in the gold container

ACCEPTABLE IAT Brands are;

- Some Peak products using IAT\*
- Peak's HD product "Sierra"
- Zerex Original Green in the white container (green label)

Note that there may be other products that will serve you just fine, but these listed products come recommended by "The Silver Ghost Association" and other clubs.

Also note that Peak has a "product finder". DO NOT DEPEND on the "product finder" to provide a good product for your car. A quick check for a 1940 Chevrolet and a 1970 Chevrolet, each recommended OAT products that are not appropriate--- Be Very Careful.

I recently received a reminder on the use of appropriate antifreeze from my mechanic. He stated that antifreeze definitely has a life and strongly recommends using manufacturer's recommended brand and not one that states it "meets and exceeds manufacturer's recommendation, etc. He thought several parts in contact with the antifreeze in my old van had corroded out partially due my use of brands other than that strictly recommended in the owners manual.

Bob Starnes

**For NEW Life**

**Bristly Beard**

**Or Peachy Fuzz**

**Just Shave 'Em  
Back**

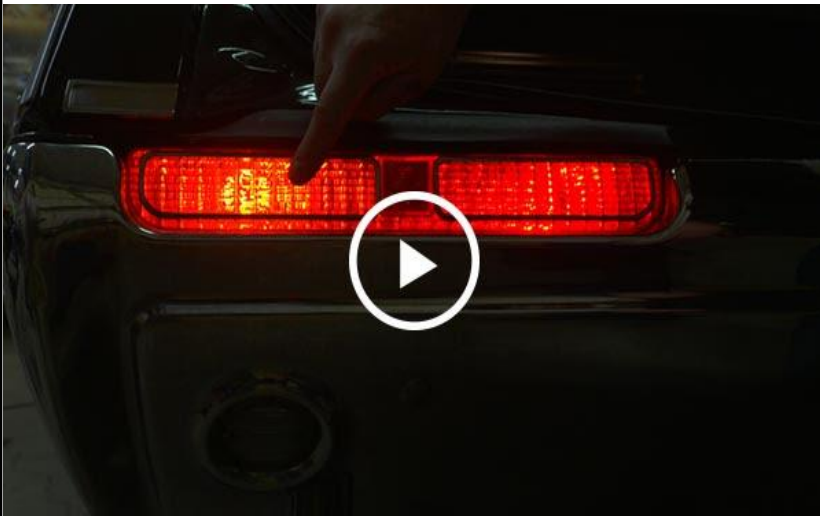
**To Where**

**They Was**

**Burma Shave**

The Burma Shave article is pending waiting for more Contest Entries! Email your favorite Burma Shave verse or remembrance to the TC editor ([tappetclatter@outlook.com](mailto:tappetclatter@outlook.com)).

## Installing LED Replacement Bulbs??



If you are, you need to decide whether to purchase white or red bulbs because they do offer both. The picture on the left may help you out. The left hand tail light is a white bulb and the right hand tail light is a red bulb. I prefer the red bulb but didn't know it when I bought mine.

A good place to buy them online is [www.superbrightleds.com](http://www.superbrightleds.com). I have found them to be a fair price and good quality (editor).

## Very Sad News



As mentioned in last month's Tappet Clatter, Jim Martoza had been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer in multiple organs. Jim had experienced a couple of minor strokes and while seeking their cause, the doctors found cancer. He was recently placed in hospice where he could be more comfortable. As this edition was being finalized we got the word from Roberta that Jim passed away peacefully at home on March 8th. He was only 58 years old. Our sympathies and prayers

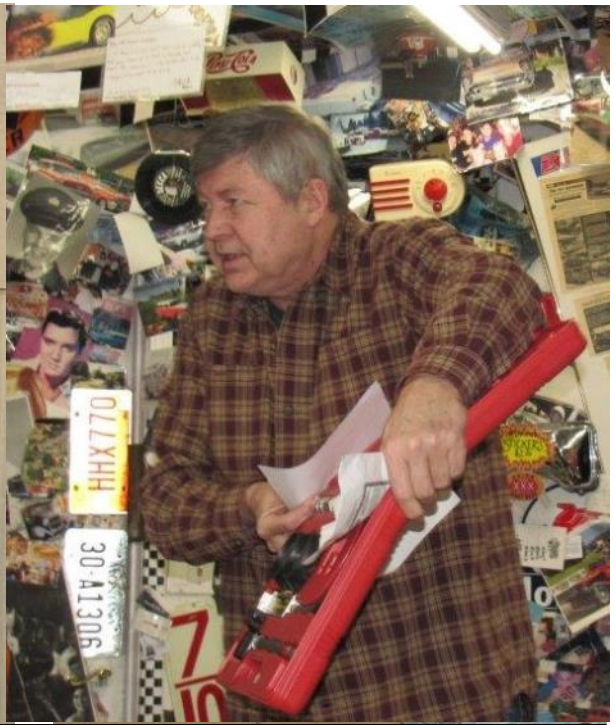
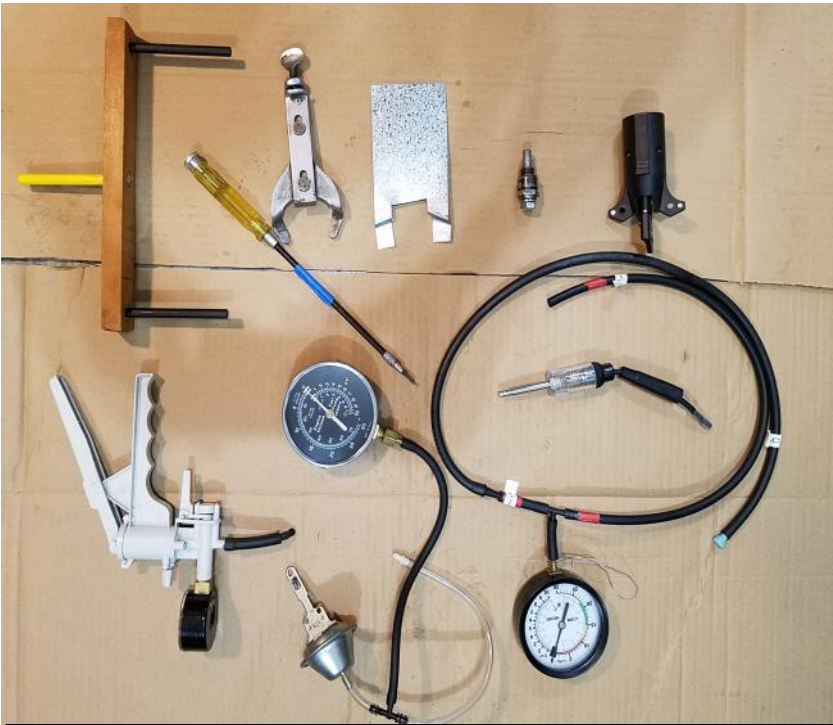


go out to Roberta and Adam. If you would like to send Roberta a card, the address is below.

Roberta Martoza, 10510 Oakwilde Ave., Stockton CA. 95212- 9240

**They Come To Us.**





**Tools, Tools..(cont. from p. 6)**

Bill also explained how he times his 327 by hooking up all of the instruments and placing them on his windshield or attaching them to his wipers. He showed us his vacuum gauge connections for this and for testing his vacuum advance. More tools were displayed than I can remember!!! If you have any questions about what you see in the photos, you should call or email Bill. Thanks Bill for such an interesting and informative meeting!!

By Dave Haddock



**Burma Shave**

## Puget Sound Region VCCA Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2019

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Al Howe, Director , at 11:47 am with 26 members, no guests present at XXX Drive-In.

**NW Meet Report:** Don Comstock is working on booking the hotels and coming up with the theme for the event. Several ideas for themes and meet tag lines were put forward by members for Don to consider. He will also get working on printing for the handouts at this year's Meet.

**Treasurer:** Sallie reported about 46 people attended the banquet. Costs were met by attendees. Treasury is healthy.

**Membership:** No changes were reported by Donna Onat. Donna mailed out 2019 Rosters to members who were not at the banquet.

**Bill Barker** reported on National and more: The new club Webmaster is in the process of trying to get the Chat site moved to another website host as soon as possible. There will be a National Board Meeting April 11-14 in Ontario, CA. All are invited to attend on Friday. and Saturday. Lynn and Don Boltz have both been ill. Wally Martin is at this meeting after long absence. Hello to Wally! Allan Forbush has a new website with his extensive collection of NOS parts. Forbushvin-tageautoparts.com Bill also reported, sadly, that Jim Martoza is very weak and is now in hospice.

**Activities:** Send your ideas to Bill Damm.

**Website:** Rod Schein is acting as assistant webmaster and is providing information to Ralf Luche for the website. Send along photos, information to Rod for the website.

**Director:** Al Howe mentioned that the Banquet was a success. The new venue provided great food; there was an activity to bring members together. Membership consensus was it was a good place for next year. But, if anyone wants to shop for other locations, let Al know.

**Club Store:** Don Hatley asked members to let him know what they want from the store. He suggested that we could advertise the club with hats that included the logo. He is researching getting the logo digitized for ordering embroidered patches of different sizes. He wants member input. Let Don know what you want to buy!

**Presentation:** Bill Barker provided a great presentation on tools. The article starts on page 6.

**Tappet Clatter:** The newsletter can always use photos and articles from members. Send to Dave Haddock at [chevydave@gmail.com](mailto:chevydave@gmail.com) or [tappetclatter@outlook.com](mailto:tappetclatter@outlook.com).



## 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

**1936** complete good running engine. \$350 Dick Olson

**1951 Chevy Styleline Deluxe** with PowerGlide Transmission. Recently restored with new: gas tank, fuel line, fuel pump, vacuum pump, water pump, manifold gasket, flange gasket, valve cover gasket, oil line hoses, master cylinder, all wheel cylinders, brake springs, carb kit, battery, plugs, wires, distributor cap, rotor, condenser, coil. Extensive clean-up & minor repairs. On the road, registered with WA State Collector plate. Asking \$8,000. Contact Doxie Davis [doxiedavis@gmail.com](mailto:doxiedavis@gmail.com). Send me an email for pictures.

**1926 Chevrolet Coupe**. Engine rebuilt, transmission rebuilt, rear end gears checked and look good, new battery, new rear axle seals and bearings, new woven brake lining, good tires. Great radiator shell and radiator appears to be new. Car is very complete and he has had it running. Body wood rebuilt but needs some fine tuning. Nearly \$7000 into it, Asking \$3,250. Contact Dotti at 425-776-2404.

**1966 Buick**. Great condition w/435 engine. New interior and paint. Asking \$13,995, down from about \$17,000. Very nice car and very low mileage. Contact Dotti.

**1962 Chevrolet Impala** sport sedan. \$6,500. Contact Jim Seiber [seiberphoto@comcast.net](mailto:seiberphoto@comcast.net).

**1930 Chev sport roadster**. New restoration. \$25K 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.

### WANTED

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

### FREE

**Mid-thirties Chevy truck chassis**: frame, rear end, leaf springs, wheels, tires. Call Dale Sharp.



## 2019 Activities

March	25	PS-VCCA General Meeting, XXX Drive In, Issaquah
April	22	PS-VCCA General Meeting, XXX Drive In, Issaquah
May	17	Ballard Parade (Registration info coming soon)
May	18-19	Monroe Swap Meet, Fairgrounds, Monroe, WA
May	20	PS-VCCA General Meeting, XXX Drive In, Issaquah
June	21-23	Peach City Beach Cruise, Penticton, BC ( <a href="https://www.peachcitybeachcruise.com">https://www.peachcitybeachcruise.com</a> )
July	4	4th of July Celebration/Strawberry Social, Lake Forest Park
August	7-10	48th Annual NW Meet, Albany, OR
August	26	PS-VCCA General Meeting, XXX Drive In, Issaquah

Note: XXX Drive In Meetings begin at 11:45 AM, social time starts at 11 AM. Food/drink purchase optional.