



## THE PUGET SOUND REGION VINTAGE CHEVROLET CLUB OF AMERICA NEWSLETTER

January 2009

Volume 42 Number 1

### Contents

2008 Club Officers	2
Director's Corner	3
Club Store	4
Events Calendar	7

### Points of Interest

Garage Nite	3
Meeting Notice	4
Membership	4
Board Meeting	
News Bits	8
First Cars	1
Glove Box	10
Safety Corner	5
Classified	11

### My First Car

By Darryl Davis

My first car was actually my mother's first car. She did not drive and I had turned 16 in 1957. I offered to assist in a search for a car, but was judged a simpleton in such activity. My mother listened to her friends, with the result she bought a car during a radio auction done by the local Lincoln-Mercury dealer.

It was a yellow and black 1949 Mercury sedan, from a Mercury dealer. How bad could it be?

It looked way cool as it was squatted down in the back. Why a careful and responsible former owner put lowering blocks on it was never answered. It had a clutch over-ride spring, and the radio worked.

I did notice that the engine tended to race a bit going up hills. I wondered about that. I did not pay attention to the gas mileage. Oil was a concern though. I was getting 15 miles to the quart of bulk oil from Sears. And always leading a blue plume of smoke down the street was embarrassing.

As the default mechanic, I approached this problem with a used 12-inch Crescent wrench, a big screwdriver, and a head stuffed with "cluelessness".

Removal of one cylinder head revealed heavy, tarry, carbon buildup. There was a very interesting absence of perhaps a 12-degree arc from the perimeter of one piston.

Aha! This must be the reason why at idle, when the air is still, the oil

(Continued on page 9)

### January 2009 Meeting

At the January Meeting we have the opportunity to explore our Region's website as well as the National VCCA site on the World Wide Web. See page 4 for more information. Meet at Tillicum Middle School, 16020 SE 16th St., Bellevue, WA, Monday, January 26, 2009, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM.

Jim Martoza is signed up to bring the break-time goodies.



## 1967 - Puget Sound Region VCCA - 2009



*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** at <http://pugetsoundvintagechevrolet.org/>*

### 2009 Puget Sound Region Officers and Board

<u>DIRECTOR</u>	Jim Martoza	chevyjim@cablespeed.com
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<u>SAFETY CORNER</u>	Bill Damm	billdamm@msn.com

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	Dave Haddock	chevydave@gmail.com
<u>Staff</u>	Bob Stamnes	rstamnes@yahoo.com

(and other members who supply copy)

### Editors Note

We would especially like to continue First-Car, remember when, and restoration stories. These features will continue to run as long as stories and pictures are made available. Send in stories and pictures of Chevrolets and your families. History, trivia, little known facts, and many other articles are also welcome. We can accept electronic formats and hardcopy. Photographs can be scanned and returned. We will take reasonable care of copy provided, however we cannot take responsibility for lost or damaged material.

Either current or vintage old-car stories and snapshots are welcome. Deadline is about the 5th.

Glenn Landguth, [gklandguth@msn.com](mailto:gklandguth@msn.com)

# *Director's Corner*

*"From The Drivers Seat"*



By Jim Martoza

First off, I want to wish a Happy New Year to all.

This is my first Director message of 2009; and it's sorrowfully my last as well. Roberta has been offered a great promotion opportunity, which will take her job to the state of New York. She mentioned a few years ago that she would like to work in NY and voila we are on our way. Well as the saying goes, be careful for what you wish for, lest it come true.

The timing is not finalized as I write this message, but she will be working in New York mid-January and I will follow in February. It's funny how life can throw us rapid changes at times. I am sad to have to end my direct connection with the club; however, I am excited for Roberta and the opportunity that this change gives us.

Thanks again to Don and Sallie Comstock for offering us to come into their home and providing all of the fine food for our Christmas Party. Thanks to everyone who brought food for our potluck. Also, I would say thank you all members who have made 2008 an affluent and exhilarating year for our region.

The first board of the year should have occurred already, weather permitting. Al Howe will step in to fill the role as Director for the remainder of 2009 and Dave Haddock will take over the Assistant Director duties.

Our Awards and Officer Installation Banquet will be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month and the General Meeting will take us back to Tillicum Middle School on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

I look forward to seeing you at the banquet and at the general meeting. Thanks again to all that helped the club this year and let's have a pleasurable and enjoyable 2009.

I wish the best to all members in the club and particularly those who will keep it running smoothly. Perhaps we will see you in the Big Apple.

At least being on the east coast we will be closer to Flint, Michigan for the National 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meet in 2011.

"Experience is not what happens to us;  
Rather it is what we do with what happens to us."

Anthony J. D'Angelo

## **January Garage Nite**

There will not be a Garage Nite in January.

## January & February Celebrations

### ANNIVERSARIES

Glenn and Judy Landguth	1/11
Gary and Joanne Barquist	1/18
Myron and Resa Gabelein	1/23
Dennis and Gerri Johnson	2/14
George and Phyllis Kowats	2/22

### BIRTHDAYS

Sis Barker	1/5
George Kowats	1/6
Gisela Jones	1/16
Wally Martin	2/1
Don Boltz	2/1
Bill Barker	2/1
Kathy Currie	2/4
Lee Folsom	2/14

### **2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

**2009** Membership Renewals are still being processed. There is an easy online form to do this. Each member will receive a link to their own form. Just open form, follow the directions, do some clicking in applicable selections and, if required, fill in some text. Then Click **Complete Form.** The information will be sent to Donna Onat and Jim Martoza. When done, separately send in your Thirty Dollar membership renewal payment check to: **Donna Onat** or pay her at a meeting.

### **Puget Sound Region VCCA January Meeting**

Tillicum Middle School  
16020 SE 16th St.  
Bellevue, WA

Monday, January 26, 2009  
7:30 PM—9:30 PM

#### **Program: Using The Chevy Websites**

Hello Vintage Chevy lovers. On Jan 24th we have the Annual Banquet at the Golden Steer in Kent, then our monthly meeting is at the school the following Monday, Jan 26th.

Jim Martoza and Bill Barker will update the members on using some Chevy web sites, including the Chevy Chatter II website, the National club website and our Regional website. They will include coverage of some huge changes just made.

I am also working on subjects to cover at future 2009 meetings and would really appreciate any ideas you have. Any suggestions would be welcome at the January meeting.

Be sure to join us at Tillicum Middle School in Bellevue at 7:30 PM on the 26th. Hope to see at the meeting!

See you soon, Al Howe

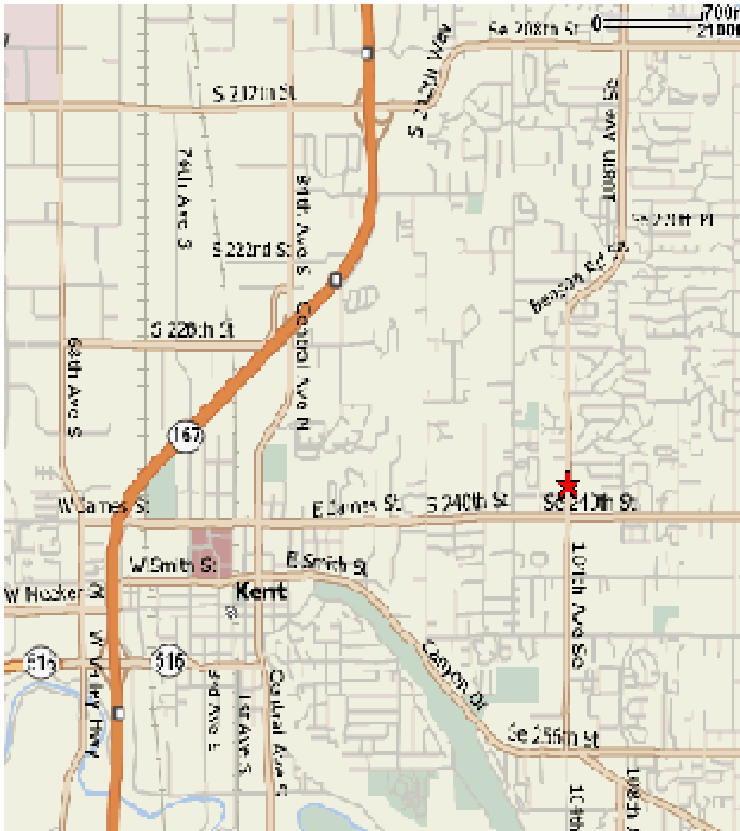
(Did we mention that Jim Martoza is bringing treats?)

## **CLUB STORE**

**Bill Damm**, proprietor of The Club Store, will have the display of items for sale at the next meeting.

## 2009 Banquet

Directions to 2009 Annual Awards and New Officers Installation Banquet, January 24, 2009, at the Golden Steer Steak'n Rib House, 23826 104th Ave SE, Kent, WA 98031. (See announcement in the December 2008 Tappet Clatter for more information. Reservation deadline was January 12, 2009)



**Golden Steer Steak'n Rib House**  
(253) 852 1144

### From the North

1. Take WA-167 South (Valley Freeway)
2. Exit at S. 212. Turn left onto 212 St. So.
3. Turn right onto 108th Ave SE. Changes to Benson Rd SE, changes again to 104th Ave SE.
4. Golden Steer will be on your left in the shopping center, before you get to SE 240th Street.

### From the South

1. Take WA 167 (Valley Freeway)
2. Go right on WA-516, continue on Willis to Central
3. Left on Central Ave S. Changes to Central Ave N.
4. Right on E. James Street. Changes to S 240th and continues on SE 240th Street.
5. Left on 104th Ave East.
6. Golden Steer is on your right.

## Bill Damm's SAFETY CORNER

### Slipping & Sliding

Slipping while driving,  
In the snow,  
Is no fun,  
As you know.

But since its winter,  
And weather can change,  
Be prepared,  
And bring some chains.

A shovel in the trunk,  
And some sand for traction.  
A rope for towing,  
And you're ready for action.

If you do get stuck,  
Please stay alert,  
Watch the car behind you,  
So you don't get hurt.



At the 2008 banquet, before dinner. Time to share a story or two.  
(See another 2008 banquet picture on the back page.)





## Future Club Meetings & Auto Events Calendar

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Status</u>
January 24th, 2009	Club banquet _____	Firm
March 1st, 2009	Seattle Circle Tour (Part 4) _____	Tentative
April 4th, 2009	Joint Tour with North Cascade VCCA ? _____	Tentative
May 3rd, 2009	HCCA Breakfast & Tour _____	Firm
May 17th, 2009	Ballard Parade _____	Firm
May 15/16/17, 2009	Monroe Swap Meet _____	Firm
May 30th, 2009	Joint Tour with Mt. Rainier VCCA _____	Tentative
June 6th, 2009	Al Howe's Tour ? _____	Tentative
June 14th, 2009	GM Picnic/Mt. Rainier Tour, Graham, WA ? _____	Tentative
June 22nd, 2009	Strawberry Picnic _____	Firm
June 27th, 2009	Greenwood Classic Car Show _____	Firm
July 4th, 2009	Folsom's Picnic/Pot Luck _____	Firm
July 18th, 2009	Jubilee Farm-Carnation Vintage Tractor Show & Ken Madsen's Classic Car Display Cruise _____	Firm
August 1st, 2009	Open ? _____	Tentative
August 13th -16th, 2009	NW VCCA Meet, Vancouver, WA. _____	Firm
August 24th, 2009	XXX Drive-In, Issaquah _____	Firm
September 12th, 2009	John Strampher's Pot Luck Picnic _____	Firm
Sept/Oct ???, 2009	Ellensburg or Yakima Weekend Tour ? _____	Tentative
October 10th or October 17th, 2009	Maple Valley Tour or Boeing Everett ? _____	Tentative
November (early), 2009	November Tour ? _____	Tentative
December (early), 2009	Christmas Party _____	Date?



### Mystery Picture

Where was this picture taken, and what are the cars in the picture?

There are clues in the picture. Notice the telephone poles in the background. Also the railroad track sign and what appears to be an elevated trolley trestle and trolley. The partially blocked sign on the side of the building seems to read GENE..., BAG, BAG..., ..... The scene looks reminiscent of 1920's Seattle near 1st Avenue.

The picture was found in an envelope of loose pictures from my grandparents. No one living in our family knows the origin or the story behind the pictures.

Any ideas? Contact Glenn Landguth, [gklandguth@msn.com](mailto:gklandguth@msn.com)

## Puget Sound News Bits

**Bill Barker** lost power at his home during the recent winter weather. He was convinced the arrangement prepared for some lights would work, and it did. Then he decided to power up the generator to get the furnace going only to find the lighting arrangement had used up all the power in the generator battery. It was finally started using a battery pack that was temporarily lost.

**Al Howe** was expecting his son and his family for a Christmas visit. The weather and snow kept them on the ground at the Denver airport for four days. They never did get to the Northwest.

**Jim Farris** spent a good deal of the time before and during the snowstorms recovering from surgery. He's almost back to normal now and will again be able to lift more than ten pounds by the time of the Banquet.

**Gary Barquist's** '58 Impala is featured on the back cover of the January 2009 G&D. It looks great. There have been a number of Puget Sound Vehicles featured in our National Magazine the past couple of years.

**Jim and Roberta Martoza** -There have been a number of recent rumors about these two being eastbound. The rumors are now confirmed. We'll find out more about this at the Banquet.

## Metal Brake Shoe Band Problem

By Bob Stamnes

I recently took my '26 Chevrolet metal brake shoe bands to a shop for relining. The shop recommended a thick, very stiff, lining. Not thinking, I let them mount this lining. The bands were first sand blasted, then heated to 400 degrees to bond the lining to the metal shoe.

The re-lined bands came back egg-shaped. It is possible, but not likely, that the bands were already sprung when I took them in, but this is unknown, as I did not check them beforehand.

We could not determine why they changed shape but thought it was due to the stress put on them from the heavy lining material. The theory is that the heavy lining material prevented the bands from springing back to the original shape.

We stripped the new lining off, but the metal shoe did not recover.

It was suggested that the distortion might have occurred during the heating process.

Others have said they always ask for the softest lining material available to prevent band distortion.

**Does anyone know what caused the distorted metal bands? Any experience with this?**

Please send your experiences and suggestions to Bob Stamnes at [rstamnes@yahoo.com](mailto:rstamnes@yahoo.com).

## Pop Quiz

What is the thermodynamic cycle that most closely describes what happens inside the cylinders of a four cycle internal combustion engine with spark plugs:

1. The Carnot cycle
2. The Otto cycle
3. The Bi cycle
4. The Pop cycle

(Look for the answer in the February Tappet Clatter)



## My First Car

*(Continued from page 1)*

breather tube blew magnificent smoke rings, some of which would even make it further than the back bumper. It could even have something to do with the reason it ran on only 5 out of 8 cylinders.

Well, at least it was a majority of the cylinders.

But it had nothing to do with the red mold (fungus? Lichen?) growing on the back seat, which I was trying to kill without digesting the fabric.

A reasonable solution would be a rebuilt engine and clutch from Sears.

But my mother listened to her friends again and traded the Merc for another car with problems, but at least of the somewhat lesser sort. Because before long it was also getting about 15 to 20 miles to the quart of oil.

So I talked my dad into letting me overhaul the engine. I had never had an engine apart but I was sure I could do it. All we had was a garage with a dirt floor, but that was where it was going to be done.

I had taken the upper end apart and had the pan off, and was taking the rods and pistons out and laying them on a piece of cardboard in a pile, when my dad came by and looked at what I was doing. He asked if I was marking them. I told him, "They are all the same aren't they?"

He said he did not think so.

I did know which number one of them was. It was number six, because I was taking it out at that very time.

I took the head and pistons to the garage in town and got a chewing-out for not marking them.

But I got the parts back and put the engine back together. The mechanic told me to add a can of STP to the oil and that might help once I got it to run.

When it ran, it sounded like a bucket of rocks jumping around. Finally I put the STP in and it started sounding better but it was still rough, so I put in another can of STP. Then it sounded a lot better.

I drove it for two years. It was getting about 1500 miles to a quart of oil, so I was happy with my 1950 Chevy.

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## What Are You Driving At? or "Down The Open Road Again?"

I think that I shall never say,  
A car is lovely as a tree,  
Unless of course a Chevrolet,  
With spreading branches I should see.  
BURMA-SHAVE

Chevys come and Chevys go,  
That is what they do you know,  
Even when they're full of rust,  
For new life they come to us.  
BURMA-SHAVE

How to fill the hours, pray,  
In the garage, there to stay,  
Bolts in buckets, fenders bare,  
For that old car we are there.  
BURMA-SHAVE

You can do it, this is how,  
Type till sweat is on your brow,  
Words that rhyme are sure to stay,  
If they tell of Chevrolet.  
BURMA-SHAVE



## **Trailer Maintenance**

*By Bob Stamnes*

Glove Box Coordinator

I have owned three trailers: a tent trailer, a boat trailer, and now a car trailer. I have had problems with each that would indicate the need for more maintenance.

On one trip we lost a transmission in our van on Highway 2 (we now reference this location as the Stamnes Triangle) and we were towed 50 miles as a van/trailer unit for repair. The tow driver was driving at excessive speeds for the whole 50 miles, with van and trailer on behind like a train.

On the way home one trailer tire lost its tread and blew out. I replaced it with a spare. When I got home, I realized the other tire had lost all its tread as well. Yes, the whipping of the Van/trailer unit contributed, as did the age of the tires. Was this preventable? Yes!

Another time, I had launched my boat from the trailer into the lake and was taking my empty trailer home, when I noticed a smoking tire. Four hours later, with the help of a great friend, we got the wheel off, but it was very difficult. An inspection revealed that corrosion had built up between the brake shoe and the lining, forcing the lining loose from the shoe and jamming it so the wheel could not turn.

I was going 20 MPH when I noticed the smoking tire. What would have happened if the trailer had been loaded and I had been going 60 MPH? I can only imagine.

Was this incident preventable? Yes!

### WHAT ELSE MIGHT HAPPEN WITH A CAR TRAILER?

What adverse experiences have you had that might have been prevented by proper maintenance or other precautions? Let me know and we will share the information in future issues of the Tappet Clatter.

### WHAT GOOD EXPERIENCES HAVE YOU HAD?

What good experiences have you had? What practices have you found to prevent having problems? What maintenance do you perform?

Do you ever repack your bearings? How often? What do you use?

Do you put grease on the hitch ball? How often? What kind?

How often do you check your tire condition (tread, cracks, pressure, etc.)? How do you determine when tires need replacing?

How often do you check your trailer's brake system? Is the lining coming loose from the shoe?

What else do you check and how often?

Do you have a special way of loading your trailer? How do you determine where the car you are hauling should be placed on the trailer? Does it matter?

**We plan to assemble all your comments and report them in the next Glove Box. Please share your experiences and recommendations with your fellow members.**

**Email [rstamnes@yahoo.com](mailto:rstamnes@yahoo.com) with your information.**

## TAPPET CLATTER *Classifieds*

### FOR SALE

**1928** Chev coupe complete parts car. \$2000 Dick Olson 425 222-5798

**1928** Ford 2 Dr Hot Rod \$18,500; **1955** Ford Crown Victoria \$12,000; **1955** Ford Victoria HT project \$4,500; **1953** Chev PU V8 \$4,500; **1949** Jeep 4x4 new motor \$4,500; **1962** Lambretta Scooter \$2,500; **1934** Ford Truck \$2,000; **1944** Dodge COE on Chev chassis \$2,000; **1958** GMC 1 ton Chassis and cab \$1,200; **1972** Chev PU 4x4 project \$1,000; **440 Holmes Wrecher** bed \$800; **1948-52** Dodge COE Cab \$500; **1967** Chev PU Project \$500. Submitted by Jerry Brownell for Jeep Entwistle, 509-584-5417

**1930's Cadillac** (probably) Potter Trunk with Rack, \$100. Bill Barker 425-643-0698

**Chain hoist**, \$40. Dick Olson 425 222-5798

**1934** Chev. 1 1/2 ton truck for sale very good cond. must see. \$17,000, contact Bill Johnson 425-255-6325

**1937** Generator, Pair rear lever shocks, Under Dash '37 Radio. David White, 206-999-8138, David-white@comcast.net

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

**1954** Chev automatic trans., 2 speed Powerglide. It is a good running trans. The car that it was in was modified to a manual trans. The owner is Chuck Adler. Contact him at 253-405-0520 & make offer.

**1967** Impala Sport Coupe 283/PG. Very nice straight car. Good driver. \$7,500 obo. Don Comstock, 253-863-0420

### WANTED

**1936** Low Cab Pickup Truck Parts. Need 1935/36 Chev/GM fenders for the front and running boards. Also need the front lower splash apron and lower grill piece. Could use lots more like a hood, radiator shell and grill, radiator, light mounts and pods, etc. Jack Arnold, Phone 1-250-741-4655, nbstrods@shaw.ca. I am located on Vancouver Island, Nanaimo, B.C. Canada.

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

**1937** Grill, Gene Sovar 206-362-2491  
*esovar@msn.com*

**Chevrolet Rim-** one 6-hole 15" with hub cap clips. Jon, 253-841-4137 or 253-380-5086

**1955** Belair two-door hardtop, David White, (206) 999-8138

**1957** Innocence, from growing up watching kids shows on television, just before Sputnik forced us to face the reality that there were other people in the world that could do amazing things too. Priceless G. Whizakers, VAndyke 0308. Whatatangledweb@wishful.com

### Say What?

If you have to ask the price, you can't read barcode.

If you have to ask the price, you're not in a used car lot.

Cemeteries are gaining popularity. People are dying to get in.

Easter baskets are gaining popularity too. Eggs are dyeing to get in.

A friend in need is a friend indeed. (Original interpretation follows.)

That is, if someone is a friend to you when you are in need, he is a true friend.

If you give a man a fish, he will eat for a day. But tomorrow he may be hungry again.

If you have to ask the price, you can't afford it (originally referring to Rolls-Royce cars)

If you can't get what you want when you want it, try wanting what you get when you get it.

If you give a man a fishing pole, he will go fishing. But he will still starve if there are no fish.

## January 2009 Issue



2008 PSVCCA Banquet