THE PUGET SOUND REGION VINTAGE CHEVROLET CLUB OF AMERICA

March 2015

Volume 48 Number 3

Seattle Circle Tour #10

By Bob Helgeson Photos by Sheri Johnson, Rod Schein and Jim Seiber



The tour started about 12:40 PM from Starbucks on First Avenue in Seattle. People were anticipating a Starbucks drink but got a surprise when Starbucks was closedwe survived. It was a clear day and nothing like the rain we had last year when we did this same tour.

Participants included Don and Sally Comstock in their '51 Station Wagon, Dave and Betty Roberts in their '41 5 Passenger Coupe, Rod and Evie Schein in their '40 Business Coupe, Bob and Florence Helgeson in their '64 Corvette, Dick and Fran Olson in their '50 Convertible, Bob and MG Stamnes in their '26 Touring, and Dan and

Sheri Johnson, Dennis and Geri Johnson, and Jim and Sue Seiber in modern cars.

We toured past the tunnel boring, the new seawall construction project and along the waterfront to pier 70 where we hit our first snag-not one, but two trains held up traffic- not unusual for downtown Seattle. One train was a 125 car oil train which we are blessed with 18 times a day.

This was probably the highlight of the tour for Rod.

We then drove past the grain terminal and up the Counterbalance on Queen Ann to Kerry Park where we stopped for some great pictures of the downtown skyline and of Dave and Betty Roberts on their 63rd

Anniversary. Congratulations Betty and Dave!

Yes, the Counterbalance was a challenge

for Bob and MG's '26 Touring, but she made it (in second gear), as did everyone else. Bob will admit that he tightened up the brakes before this tour. We drove along the west side of Queen Ann taking in the views of mountains, boat basins, ships and lots of open water----- a beautiful day.

(continued on Page 4)



1967 - Puget Sound Region VCCA - 2015



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 1990 may be registered with the Region.

General meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month, except the 3rd Monday in May, at **Tillicum Middle School, 16020 SE 16th St., Bellevue**, 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. No meetings are held in June, July, August, and 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, "The Tappet Clatter."

You can find the PS-VCCA website on the World Wide Web at http://pugetsoundvintagechevrolet.org/

2015 Puget Sound Region Officers and Board

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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

Director's Corner

"From The Drivers Seat"



By Director, Jim Darby

Time seems to be just flying by. Another month has come and gone, and I still haven't done some of my winter projects. I had great intentions of getting several car projects done during the winter season, but with school, and now with spring only a few weeks away, my list doesn't look any smaller. But car season is already well on its way. The first Puget Sound Region tour has already happened, car functions are in progress at the XXX, and the Covington Cruise-In events start the 1st Friday of May. There is always a variety of cars there; it's held in the Walmart parking lot, so on blacktop, (no mud) and they ask for a can of food as a donation to park. It's a lot of fun for a few cans of beans. And we have several traditional VCCA events coming up to begin planning for.

First, although not really a VCCA event, is the Portland Swap Meet. Many club members make that an annual event. I always look forward to going, even if I don't find that treasure I'm sure I can't live without.

Some of us are talking about going to the All-Cal Meet this year. It's being held in Jackson, CA, April 30 thru May 3. If you have any interest in attending, let me know. Reservation deadline is March 30.

This year the Columbia River Region is hosting the Northwest Meet. It is also their 50th Anniversary as a Region, and I've been told there will be a lot going on at the Meet. So everybody should think about going.

And a year from this August is the next National Meet, being held in Lake Tahoe. It also looks to be a good time, and our Region is responsible for the Plaque Tour. This has been mentioned at a few meetings, but I list it here for those who have missed a meeting.

See you on the road.

Meeting Notice!

This year, April is "Auction month". At the February meeting the membership voted to try a silent auction this year. Items should be in some way related to old cars, have a short description of what it is or used for and a starting bid.

Remember, this is a fundraiser with all proceeds being donated to the club.

Remember to bring your checkbook or cash!

GARAGE NIGHT

No garage nights scheduled for this Fall or Winter. Look for them to resume in Spring 2015.

(continued from Page 1)



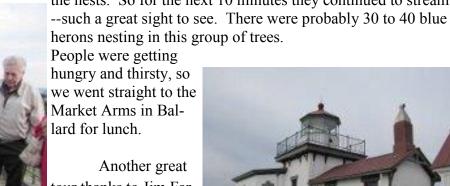
After leaving Queen Ann Hill down the west side, we headed to Magnolia, driving on the viaduct above Pier 91 to Magnolia Park, where MG and Bob had seen two bald eagles the day before----no such luck today. The nest they had been guarding was very visible however. Magnolia was misnamed by a Navy geographer who mistook the local Ma-

drona trees for Magnolias.

More beautiful sites and great houses as we

ventured along west Magnolia to Discovery Park for a pit stop and trip down to West Point Lighthouse for more views of cliffs, Puget Sound and birds. Then onto the South side of the Government Locks (Commodore Park) for a stop. Here we were treated to the opening and closing of the railroad bridge over the water-

way. We also noticed nests in a group of trees and then as we began to leave, blue herons started flying into the nests. So for the next 10 minutes they continued to stream in-



herons nesting in this group of trees. People were getting hungry and thirsty, so we went straight to the Market Arms in Bal-

lard for lunch

Another great tour thanks to Jim Farris, who could not make it but did all the

planning. This was the first tour Bob had led and he appreciated the cooperation of everyone – GREAT FUN!



WE NEED YOUR HELP at the MARCH 23rd MEETING!

There will be a discussion on how to repair rusted out body panels. Bob Stamnes is at this phase of restoring his '27 Chev Coupe and needs your help. Bob and Don Comstock will bring some tools but, we need your help bringing your ideas, tools and machinery you use. They may even be tools you have made to do panel repairs.

Discussion will include:

- -methods of dealing with rusted out panels
- -pros and cons of each method
- -methods of cutting out rusted areas
- -methods of fitting new panel
- -methods of welding in new panels
- -use of body filler and finishing as time permits

Tour to Pendelton, Oregon -May 9-10

The Columbia River Region has invited us to join them on a 3-day tour this Spring. (*Please note that it was previously scheduled for October*.) All arrangements have been made for the rooms at the Wild Horse Casino. Call 1-800-654-9453 and insure that the person on the phone knows that you are from the VCCA. You will need a room for the 8th Friday and 9th Saturday of May. The room price will be ~\$97.95. You MUST make your reservation by Friday 17th April. Please make your reservation as soon as possible. The number of rooms sold will affect other arrangements that are being made.

Please note that the 10th is MOTHER'S DAY and there will be a special breakfast designated that morning. Pass the word to all as the larger the crowd the more fun we will have. If you have any questions, contact Ray Holland or anyone who made the last tour to Pendleton.

Raymond Holland, (address removed)

(phone number removed)

Bill Barker will have more information and flyers at the next club meeting.

Bill Damm's SAFETY CORNER

Looking forward to this summer But there might just be a drought The perfect kind of weather To take our Chevys out.

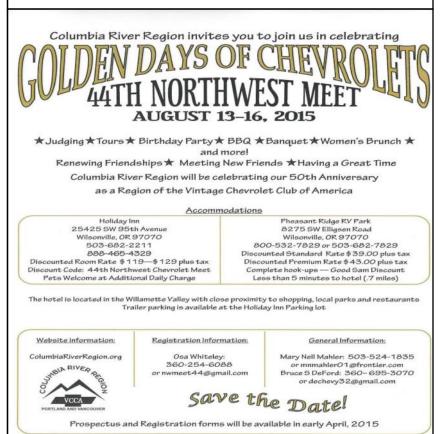
Just enough good fresh water For the bucket and some soap To wash our Chevys spotless And keep them clean, we hope.

When the weather's clear And there's lots of sun It's time to drive or Chevys To go and have some fun.

When going to a show Or on a tour trip too, Let's do it all real safely-It's not that hard to do.

PS-VCCA 2015 Meeting Treats

March– Dave & Betty Roberts April-Jerry & Mary Brownell May-Glenn & Judy Landguth October-Bob & MG Stamnes November-Bill & Sis Barker



Puget Sound Region VCCA General Meeting Minutes February 23, 2015

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at Tillicum Middle School at 7:30 PM by Director Jim Darby.

<u>Welcome</u>: 31 members and guests were in attendance. Jerry Yoder brought a friend, Norm Minarisch, and Ken and Mike Scott, from the Mt. Rainier Region, came to present our program.

Secretary: Minutes accepted as printed in Tappet Clatter.

<u>Treasurer</u>: Sallie reported all bills have been paid up to the current newsletter expenses and we have adequate funds to meet our current needs pending possible changes made by the Board when they meet this spring.

<u>Tappet Clatter</u>: Jerry Yoder received the special edition Tappet Clatter for his article on his first car. Glenn Landguth received a special edition for his pictorial coverage of the January Banquet. The <u>Needs and Leads</u> clipboard will no longer be circulated at the meetings. Instead please send ads directly to the Tappet Clatter as an email. If you don't have email contact either Al Howe or Don Comstock and they will help you with your ad and send it for you.

<u>Membership</u>: Donna showed the front page of the Auto section from a recent issue of Seattle Times. Our member, Jose Enciso, was featured with a photo and article highlighting the many car events he sponsors at the XXX every year. It mentioned that Jose was inducted into the Issaquah Hall of Fame and honored as Business Person of the Year in 2011.

<u>National News</u>: Rates for the hotel in Lake Tahoe will be \$104 per night plus tax. Bids for license plates for the plaque tour are \$1500. In the past Regions have donated money to help fund the Meet. There will be a Vintage Clothing opportunity at the Meet.

Glove Box: Bob Stamnes asked everyone for ideas if we don't want to read about 1953 Chevy stuff.

<u>Monroe Swap Meet</u>: Our own Dave White, Chairman of the Meet, reviewed the needs including set-up of spaces Friday morning, vendor helpers and office help. This is the 42nd year and there are nine helper clubs. See Jim Darby if you can help out May 15, 16 or 17.

<u>Tours</u>: Sunday, March 1st is the date for the Seattle Tour leaving from Starbucks Headquarters at 12:30 PM. Jim Farris will again be leading this tour. This year will be a repeat of the rain-soaked tour from last year. April 25th is the Gears and Garden Tour of North Seattle and Dunn Gardens. Meet at Golden Gardens Park north parking lot at 9:00 AM to head up the hill at 9:45 AM.

<u>Future Programs:</u> Jim Darby led a discussion concerning the future of the auction meeting. It appears we will be having it at the April meeting with silent bid sheets instead of live bidding.

<u>Refreshments</u>: Thanks to John and Marilyn Campbell for the brownies and grapes. Yum, yum.

<u>Program</u>: Ken Scott shared information and interpretation of the various classes for certifying and judging your cars at Meets. He emphasized what works best in each of the classes.

Meeting adjourned around 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Don Comstock

Tappet Clatter 6 March 2015

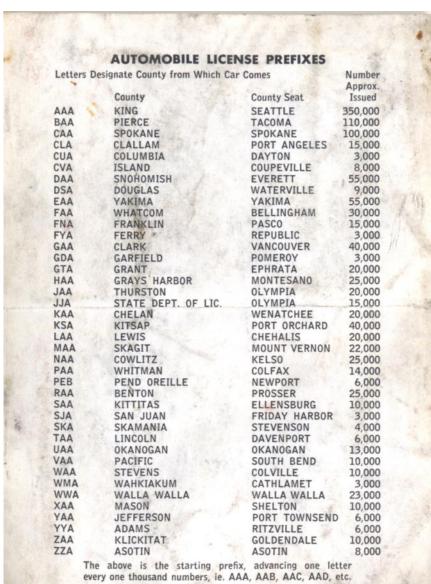
From the desk of Jim Seiber

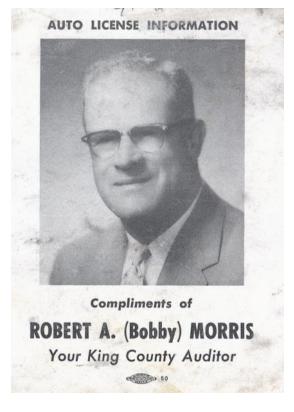
Not too long ago Washington license plates used a letter to designate the county where the car was registered.

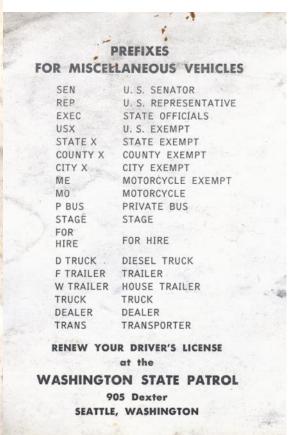
These pages are from a card that was originally a campaign handout for Robert Morris, King County Auditor. It must have worked; he was Auditor from 1941 to 1969. He also has a park in Seattle named after him.

It also lists the number of plates issued in each county, not sure what year. As you search for the year of manufacture of vintage plates, it is helpful to note the county where the plates were originally registered.

I apologize for the vintage "Bettina" (dirt) on the card; it has been around for over 60 years.







April Celebrations

ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Evie & Rod Schein 4-07

Marti Miller 4-15

Florence Helgeson 4-16

Jerry Cloutier 4-05

Am I as 'Crazy' as my Dad?

By David Gowan (05215), Director Area #3 VCCA

Not only was my Dad a conservative preacher, he was a motivated fundraiser for his favorite passions. His first passion was his love for Chevrolet cars. Though the first vehicle I remember was a Model A Ford delivery wagon, in which I slid around on the floor in the back, every car he had when I was growing up was a Chevy. He drove new 1949 and 1950 green four doors. When his employment changed he decided to buy older Chevrolets, finally settling on a 1941 Fleetline. How he loved that car. He'd brag about its longevity (due to a top oiler), about its speed (kept up with a crop duster plane), and about its looks (it was a beautifully designed pre-war automobile). I often heard him say, "That's when they knew how to build a car."



Well, Dad was minister of a little community church in the Dakotas. As a proud driver of this car he had its nice round rump professionally painted with these words:

160,000 Miles On This Chevrolet 300,000 OR BUST **Choose CHEVROLET Today**

Someone notified Chevrolet about his car and travels. An editor from the Chevrolet's FRIEND magazine wanted to take pictures and get the story. Dad told the editor it was his lucky day and that he was coming



through Michigan with the car on his way to Washington, D.C. Perhaps they could connect then. That was part of Dad's second passion...his concern and care over the sad condition of American Indians on our reservations. Dad bought a farm trailer, built a reinforced pen on it and loaded two buffalo calves and headed for the east coast. He called it 'Operation Buffalo' and was 'hunting' for support for the cause. He thought he could raise \$3 million dollars to alleviate their immediate needs and decided that he could do it by raising 60,000,000 buffalo nickels or the equivalent in dollars. Sixty million was the estimated number of buffalo killed on the plains of America in the 1800s. He even talked a Sioux artist into going with him to draw attention to their plight. Dad pulled those two

buffalo in their trailer all the way to D.C. during the Spring of 1954.

He drew huge crowds and held indoor and outdoor meetings along the way. Would I do something like that to promote my passions? Probably not, but I do admire him and his passions.



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 Stamnes, via email at rstamnes@yahoo.com with your information.

Tips for Identifying Your 1953 Chevrolet Passenger Car Engine

I recently purchased a 1953 Chevrolet 210 Deluxe and noticed Captain Bars about ³/₄" long on the right hand side above the starter. What did this mean and how do I identify which engine I have?



There are four basic ways to identify which engine you have, (assuming it is the original engine in your '53).

Casting Date (shown above as C 5 3)(C = March, $5 = 5^{th}$ day, 3 = 1953 in this case

Casting marks (Captain Bars, the two side by side casting lines shown above)

Oil distributor

Serial number stamped next to distributor

The prefix LAQ stands for 1953 235 with Powerglide transmission in this case



In my case I found that these Captain Bars were cast into the full pressure 235, so now I knew my engine was a full pressure engine.

In 1953 both manual and Powerglide transmission cars came with 235's. The manual transmission cars had a splash oiling rod bearing engine and the Powerglide cars used full pressure oiling to the rods. This was the first year for full pressure oiling.

Captain Bars: It is believed that on the assembly line they needed a quick way to distinguish the manual transmission engine from the Powerglide engine, so they cast in the Captain bars as a quick reference. (*see below for more on Captain Bars)

Oil distributor: Look for a kidney-bean-shaped tin cover held on with three screws sticking out on the left, lower center side of the engine. This is called the oil distributor. If this cover is present, it is **not** a full pressure oiling system engine.



There were three engine possibilities in 1953. The cars with automatic transmissions came with the full pressure 235 engines, which also have insert rod bearings. Manual transmission cars came with the splash 235 engines, which have poured Babbitt rod bearings, and the Sedan Delivery, which came with a 216, as it was considered a light truck; all light trucks used 216's.

*As a side note: These same casting marks were also used on the newly designed 1954 261 engines used in big trucks. In 1954 Chevrolet needed a way to quickly identify the new 261 from the 235, which were now all full pressure oiling, as the 235 and 261 looked the same externally. It is believed that the Captain Bars were added to the 261 then to make identifying easy on the assembly line. These marks continued to be used through 1963 on the 261.

"Bob greatly appreciates Dave Folsom writing this month's article and "As The Brake Drum Turns" last month. Dave has added great value to these articles"

Web Links Of Interest

Capital City Region, VCCA: None

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://pugetsoundvintagechevrolet.org/

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

Dave Folsom Blog, www.chev235guy.blogspot.com/

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



Gears & Gardens Tour Saturday, April 25th Seattle Scenic Roads & Dunn Gardens

The Dunn Gardens: "It's 100 years old, and visitors are still gobsmacked by it!" Valerie Easton /The Seattle Times

The Dunn Gardens, a historic treasure in North Seattle, designed by the famed Olmsted Brothers firm in 1915, is residential in scale and open to the public.



Mike Siegel / The Seattle Times

Wisteria graces the classroom/lecture hall wing of Ed Dunn's former residence, home for the past 17 years to curators Glenn Withey and Charles Price.

We will meet at Golden Gardens south parking lot by the boat ramp and leave for Dunn Gardens at 9:45am via scenic roads. We need <u>two</u> more people to register on line before April 25th. The rest of our group can pay at the tour with <u>cash or check</u>. Here is the link to the calendar for the Dunn Gardens Tour:

http://dunngardens.org/tour-calendar/2015-04

To register, just click on the April 25th date for PSVCCA 10:30am Tour and it will take you to the registration screen. The cost is \$5 for seniors and \$10 for others.

Directions to Golden Gardens North Parking Lot

Proceed north or south on I-5 to the Northgate area and take the North 85th Street Exit 172. Continue West on 85th to 32nd Ave NW. (This distance is about 45 blocks) Turn right at this intersection and take the winding road down to the bottom of the hill. The Golden Gardens entrance is on the right after going under the railroad bridge. The north parking lot is just past the entrance on the left. You will see a boat ramp and boat trailers as well as our cars.

Remember to bring your long range radios so we can experiment managing the tour without written directions.

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 when your listing no longer needs to be published.

FOR SALE

1926 Engine Head, \$100 Dick Olson 425-222-5798

1983 Chevette, 4 door .Does not run. \$500 or offer. Contact Steve at 206-953-7461



1936 4dr sedan parts:

Rear Doors-good restorable condition \$75 ea.

Front fenders-left side \$35, right side \$20

Front fender braces-good condition \$25 ea.

Left side headlight bucket with mounting bracket-good condition \$50

Radiator support-good condition \$20

Frame-good condition \$100

Contact Phil Christensen 509-636-2163

philip082@centurytel.net

2/15

7.50 X 15 Bias wide whitewall tires, 95% tread remaining, 4 for \$100. 5.50 X 17 one tire on 17 inch wire wheel with small cap, holds air \$25. Two 23 inch wood spoke rear wheels with brake drums and rims, \$40. Roger Orness 253-312-6561 or r.orness@comcast.net

2/1

One pair used axle shafts with bearings for the 1957/1958 Chevrolet passenger cars. \$50.00 Gary Barquist Ggary017@centurytel.net 509-636-2133

2/15

1949-50 <u>Chevrolet</u> Many small new parts including tune-up parts, motor mounts, wiper motor & transmission, door rubber, rear fender guards, too many to list here. Roger Orness 253-312-6561 or r.orness@comcast.net

11/14

WANTED

1929-30 ROADSTER left rear quarter panel and trunk lid. Also 1930 LR fender, headlight bar and rear bumperette. Dick Olson 425-222-5798 3/15

1931 Ignition Switch, Dick, 425-736-8798, dick10051@comcast.net

1964 Chevelle SS - any condition. Dave White 206-999-8138 davidcwhite@comcast.net

Set of 4 wheels, 6-lug Chevy pickup, 15", or set of garage dollies. Ken Hovda 509-863-3450. khovda@yahoo.com

FREE STUFF

1942 3/4 Ton Chev. flat bed - 4 speed trans. - rear end- mid 1950. 235 engine. Paul 425-891-8344

Tappet Clatter 11 March 2015

	2015 Activities		
March	23	PS-VCCA Club Meeting at Tillicum Middle School-Body Panel Repair	
April	25 27	Gears and Gardens Tour- Rod Schein lead PS-VCCA Club Meeting at Tillicum Middle School-Club Auction-See Page 3	
May	15-17 17 18	Monroe Swap Meet Ballard Parade PS-VCCA Club Meeting at Tillicum Middle School	
June	TBD 22-26	Gail Darby Memorial Strawberry Social at Perrigo Park 4-Cylinder Tour- Jim Farris lead	
July	4 18 or 25	BBQ/Picnic at Haddocks, Dave Haddock lead Skykomish Trains Tour, Rod Schein lead (date depending on weather),	
August	13-16 24	NW Meet at Wilsonville, OR - Columbia River Region host PS-VCCA Club Meeting at Issaquah XXX	
September	28	PS-VCCA Club Meeting at Tillicum Middle School	
October	3-4 26	Possible overnight tour to Lake Chelan, Mahogany & Merlot Vintage Hydros &Cars PS-VCCA Club Meeting at Tillicum Middle School	
November	23	PS-VCCA Club Meeting at Tillicum Middle School-Election of Officers	
December	TBD TBD	Christmas Party Narnia Train Event—Rod Schein to lead	