



THE PIT STOP



MOSES LAKE CLASSIC CAR CLUB

April 2009



FROM THE PRESIDENT

April Shower Bring May...Car Shows!

Just a little over a month now and our annual car show will be upon us. It's hard to believe that our time together has zoomed by so quickly. I hope you are all looking forward to a great time during this years "car season." Have you gotten out your prized car(s) yet? Are they washed, polished, dusted, and ready to take the prize (or at least try to)? If not, gear up, and let's hit the road! Oh, and I'm taking volunteers to do all of the above to my little gems.

This months column is featuring the Opel. The company was founded on 21 January 1863 by Adam Opel, and at first made household goods and became a major producer of sewing machines. The founder died in 1895, with his company the leader in European sewing machines sales and producing over 2,000 bicycles yearly. The first cars were produced in 1898 having bought the rights to the Lutzmann and sold then as Opel-Lutzmann. However, two years later, following the dissolution of the partnership, Opel's son signed a licensing agreement with the French Automobiles Darracq S.A. to manufacture vehicles under the brand name "Opel-Darracq". The vehicles were Opel bodies mounted on a Darracq chassis, powered by a 2-cylinder engine. In 1906 they started to make cars to their own design which they had first shown in 1902 at the Hamburg Motor Show and from 1907 stopped making the Opel-Darracqs. In 1911 the factory was virtually destroyed by fire and a new one was built with more up to date machinery and the manufacture of sewing machines dropped. Production now consisted of bicycles, cars and motorcycles. By 1913 they were the largest car maker in Germany. In March 1929 General Motors bought 80% of the company; increasing this to 100% in 1931. The Opel family gained \$33.3 million dollars from the transaction.

Opel worldwide: Many cars sold by General Motors worldwide are Opel designs, including such models as the Corsa, Astra, Vectra and Omega. Opel models are also sold under other GM brand names, such as Vauxhall in the UK, Holden in Australia and New Zealand, Saturn or Pontiac in North America, and Chevrolet in Latin America. Its Zafira people carrier was sold in Japan badged as a Subaru Traviq, while the Omega was sold in the US as the Cadillac Catera for model years 1997 to 2001. Other models sold in the US, but slightly modified, include the Saturn L-Series, Chevrolet Malibu and Cobalt. The majority of future Saturn models are expected to be either identical, like the Saturn Astra and Sky, or closely based, like the Aura and 2008 Saturn Vue, to European Opels. The Pontiac LeMans (1989-1994), which was the first car produced by Daewoo in South Korea for export to North America, was based on the Opel Kadett E (now Astra). Opels appeared under their own name in the USA from 1958 to 1975, when they were sold through Buick dealers as captive imports. The best-selling Opel models in the US were the 1964-1972 Opel Kadett, the 1971-1975 Opel Manta, and the now-classic 1968-1973 Opel GT. The name "Opel" was also applied from 1976 to 1980 on vehicles manufactured by Isuzu (similar to the "Isuzu I-mark"), but mechanically those were entirely different cars). Opel was long General Motors' strongest marque in Japan, with sales peaking at 38,000 in 1996. However, the brand has diminished in the decade since, and will reportedly be withdrawn by the end of 2006 with just 1,800 sales there in 2005.

(To be continued, next month.)

Dave

Moses Lake Classic Car Club

March 12, 2009

Meeting Minutes

Meeting at Memories-R-Forever called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Dave.

The minutes from our last meeting were approved as printed in our last Newsletter. Barb gave the Treasurers Report. Four checks were written for a total of \$132.15 and \$27.50 from the last months 50/50 drawing was deposited. A motion was approved to pay the new bills on hand.

Committee Reports – Car Show Chairwoman Karen reported that the car show preparations are on schedule (she thinks). Advertisements are coming out soon and the city council has approved our use of the Civic Park. Dash plaques have been ordered and T-shirts are being worked on. Breakfast is planned to last until 10:45. LaDell has all but five of our trophies sponsored. He invited club members to let him know of anyone that wanted to be a sponsor and some interest was shown by club members. He also asked what we wanted to do about the \$10 special awards. Club members wanted to continue the special awards and several members wanted to be sponsors. Karen plans to take the lead on the Raffle again this year and will have a couple of tables of raffle prizes. She would like the pick of the donated door prizes. Bob M. reported that he and Bill will be going out for door prize donations soon. Karen asked about playing Bingo. There was a lot of discussion and a motion not to play was defeated. Because Bingo is mentioned on our registration form, we probably need to decide what we can offer for Bingo prizes and not lose much money. Karen suggested club members try to give out registration forms to anyone they see or know of that has a possible show car.

Old/New Business – Webmaster Paul is still getting lots of calls about car posted show information. He has printed 150 MLCCC business cards for those that want them. Paul also can make more show flyers as needed. Michelle advised she has tried to email the newsletter to some members, but the best way to see it first is on our website. Bernie asked if there was a way for club members to share what is going on amongst us, more current than waiting to hear after the fact. Michelle said she might be able to set up an email group if anyone wants to give her their email address for that.

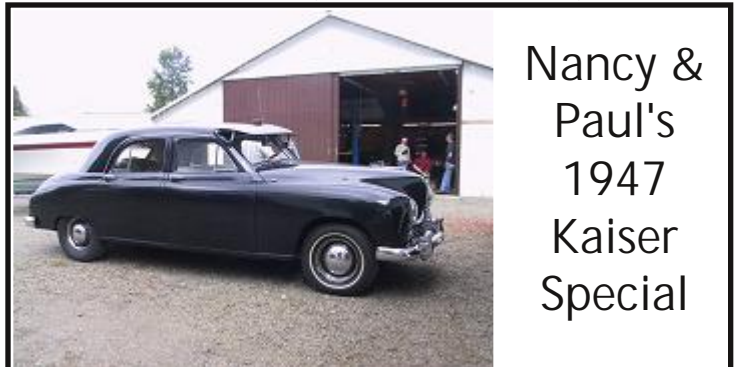
Dave reported there will not be a VICA car show this year. He also said we have received a request from Hearthstone Inn to bring some of our cars there for one of their fun days in May. Harley reminded us we also have a show and shine at Sunbridge in May, so we need to make sure to keep that date open.

Michelle received a nice letter from Wyona Robinson. The club considers her one of our founding members and we will continue her membership and newsletter. New member Aaron Gimmeson (2000 Mustang) brought his buddy Todd to the meeting. Judy Ferguson and her son Dan ('68 GTX) came to the meeting and Kristen brought her husband Dennis Roberts! ('72 Chevelle).

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Larry gave us a recitation of the poem 'Late Again'. Three door prizes were drawn and awarded as follows; Delbert won the coffee & mug with wrench and screwdrivers. Todd won a set of 60's CDs and Gordie won a set of 50's CDs. Feature car of the month will be Webmaster Paul's car. The 50/50 drawing was won by Dan Ferguson.

Submitted by Bob Kent, Secretary



March Car of the Month

We found this car on E-Bay and went to see it in Cle Elem. It was assembled the same month and year that Nancy was born so she had to have it. We drove it to shows for over a year until a bearing spun in the engine. We rebuilt the engine and started to fix little things on the car. The next thing we knew we had completely disassembled the car and were starting a frame-off restoration. So far the frame has been powder-coated and re-assembled. The body is still being prepped after sandblasting. The underside and interior have had rust preventative applied. The various small dents are taking time. Someday we will have it on the road again.

Nancy & Paul

NEWEST IDEA IN TIRES



Check out these tires!

They are made in South Carolina, USA. Radical new tire design by Michelin. The next generation of tires. They had a pair at the Philadelphia car show. These tires are airless and are scheduled to be out on the market very soon. The bad news for law enforcement is that spike strips will not work on these. Just think of the impact on existing technology: A. no more air valves. B. no more air compressors at gas stations. C. no more repair kits. D. no more flats.

This is an actual picture taken in the South Carolina plant of Michelin.



NEXT MEETING: APRIL 9, 2009

TIME: 6:00 P.M DINNER

7:00 P.M MEETING

LOCATION: MEMORIES ARE FOREVER

MENU: BAR-B-QUE MEATBALLS, POTATO

CASSEROLE, ROLLS, VEGGIE, SALAD

DESSERT: STRAWBERRY SURPRISE

History of Ambulances and Fire Trucks

Did you know that the first concept of an ambulance was started long before automobiles were invented? It's true! During the first Crusade, a holy war in the 11th century, there were a lot of wounded soldiers.

Luckily for them, the Knights of St. John had received lessons in first-aid treatment from Greek and Arab doctors. They used their knowledge on the battlefields and helped to treat soldiers on both sides of the war. They would carry these wounded soldiers to nearby tents to further treat them. The Knights of St. John acted as modern day paramedics and ambulance drivers!

Did you know that the first known organized fire brigade dates back to 24 BC? The Roman Emperor, Augustus, instituted a corps of watchmen to keep the city in check for fires. If a fire did break out, the best way to fight it was with buckets of water being passed from hand to hand until it reached the fire. They also used axes to make openings for the heat to escape and to prevent the spread of the fire. Another tool used was long hooks attached to ropes. These were used to take down buildings that might be in the path of a fire in order to stop the fire from spreading. It wasn't until the early 19th century that water pumped through hoses was used to fight fires!



1954 Packard Station Wagon
Ambulance

NOTICES

The Hearthstone Inn Car Show will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2009, from 2p.m. to 4 p.m. Root beer floats will be served.

The Sundbridge Car Show will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pizza will be served for lunch.

Please check with Barbara Shay to make sure your telephone and address information is current.

Club membership dues are now due.

Technical Difficulties?

When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked.

"Hey," I announced to the technician, "It's open!" To which he replied, "I know - I already got that side."

Moses Lake Classic Car Club

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