

Portland Chapter's 2018 Picnic By Jack Gerstkemper

The Portland Area Chapter (The PAC) held a picnic in lieu of its annual All Buick Show on August 5, 2018. This story is a long version of Jack's newsletter article.

Sunday August 5th was a potluck picnic at Hazel Dell Park near downtown Vancouver WA. Thirty Buicks parked under the trees. Jack and Konnie Wager and Brenda Charpentier flipped burgers on the grill. Everyone brought a side dish. Games were played on the lawn.

A few BCA folks drove down from Seattle to join us. Several new-to-us Buicks joined us from Portland and Vancouver.



One of the crowd favorites and award winner was a green-and-white 1955 Special that has been in one family its whole life. The owner, Larry Benson, recently restored the family's car and entertained us with tales of how he, at age nine, accompanied his mother to the Buick dealership when she bought the car new. The car won the People's Choice Award, sponsored by Weston Buick/GMC



Another crowd favorite was a maroon 1946, belonging to Monte and Leslie Osier, with some unusual features. The maroon, paisley upholstery was a clue that this car's owner was not locked into convention. Another unusual feature on the immaculate 1946 was a kerosene-powered engine heater that was an available accessory to keep the oil viscous on cold winter nights in Minnesota. Imagine lighting a fire in your engine compartment and then going to sleep for the night! We don't see kerosene-fired engine warmers on the West Coast, but they were not unusual in the frigid Upper Midwest. This car also won an award sponsored by Weston.

Old friends like Mark and Gail Kappler came to the picnic for a burger and a friendly chat. It was a delightful day. The weather co-operated and a good time was had by all.

