

The Roadmaster

Buick Club of America—Portland Area Chapter

September 2021

**REMINDER: The next BCA Portland Area Chapter meeting is on
September 21 at 6:30 P.M. at the
Pied Piper Pizza
12300 NE Fourth Plain Blvd. #E., Vancouver, WA**

Random thoughts and musings from your Regional Director

Two big regional events have come and gone, with one remaining on September 18th in Spokane:

The May 29th Regional Picnic took place at Fort Borst Park in Centralia. There was a **surprisingly** good turnout of 20 Buicks (plus a few “daily drivers”) despite Governor Jay Inslee’s on-again-off-again Covid - 19 restrictions. The governor’s restrictions against indoor meetings were lifted a few weeks prior to picnic. BCA members celebrated by attending the picnic. For many members, it was the first BCA event they had attended in the past year. The Puget Sound Chapter had the most attendees at the picnic. The North Cascade Chapter had the second most members in attendance. The Charpentiers, the Gerstkempers, Nancy Heaton, Eric and Karen Bernard, and Ben Levy attended from the Portland Area Chapter.



Buicks at the Regional Picnic in Centralia.

The Puget Sound Chapter's All Buick Open was held on August 15th in conjunction with Puyallup's rescheduled Meeker Days Celebration. Sixty-five Buicks attended. This was significantly less than the hundred Buicks that have attended past All Buick Opens. The lighter turnout was probably because the Meeker Days traditional June date was cancelled due to Covid concerns, then rescheduled on short notice to August 15th when Covid-19 restrictions were lifted. As is often the case, a red convertible won the People's Choice Award. In this case, it was a modified 1941 convertible coupe owned by a young couple new to the BCA. Duke Charpentier and Tim O'Dore attended the All Buick Open in Tim's white 1964 Riviera. Jack Gerstkemper attended in his black 1965 Riviera. The two Riviera's made a fine sight, barreling up I-5 together in the morning, and cruising home together on rural roads in the evening.



Winner of People's Choice Award at the All Buick Open in Puyallup.

Spokane's Inland Northwest Chapter is holding their annual Becker Buick Show on Saturday, September 18th at the Becker Buick Dealership, 636 E. Sprague Street in downtown Spokane. This annual event is the Inland Northwest Chapter's biggest event of the year. Several Buicks drive over from the Westside. This year's Westside contingent will include Jack and Barbara Gerstkemper, Chuck and Karla Russell, Puget Sound Director Lee Davis, North Cascade Director David Kerr, and others. Chuck Russell is a past Director of the North Cascades Chapter Director, and a past Director of the BCA's Pacific Northwest Region. Chuck and Karla were part of the North Cascades team that planned the 2007 BCA National Meet in Bellevue, WA. We have planned an informal discussion with 2023 National Meet Director Greg Lewis regarding the 2023 BCA National Meet. The Inland Northwest Chapter is making good progress on their National Meet. The Westside chapters will offer help where needed. "We're from the Westside and we're here to help."



Buicks under the trees in Puyallup.

Jack Gerstkemper, Regional Director

Northwest Vintage Car & Motorcycle Museum in Brooks, Oregon

By Ken Dietrich

My recent trip to the Northwest Vintage Car & Motorcycle Museum (NWVC&MM) allowed me look at the progress made in spite of Covid 19 keeping us home for a year. The museum is open weekends through September. There are many things to see. Docents are available to talk about the museum and displays.

The concept for the NWVC&MM began about 15 years ago when several Salem area car buffs leased land at Antique Powerland (now called Powerland Heritage Park) in Brooks Oregon, 10 miles north of Salem. The museum's first project was the construction of a 1950's Texaco Service Station.

The museum's second project was construction of a 2-acre show field, which is now shaded by many mature trees and includes a gazebo for use with any field event.

The third phase was construction of a shop building which is being used to teach an auto-shop to high school students from Keizer and Salem High Schools.



Ford Model A Ground-Up Work

The museum provides mentors who help students build a Model A Ford from the ground up. Over 400 kids have participated in this program over the years. The picture at left shows two Model A's designed and built by the students. All materials for the cars are donated from barn finds, junk yards, and local merchants.

The Enterprise Car Rental Company provides students with transportation from the schools. Sack lunches for the students are provided by the schools. The year-end bonus is that the students get to drive the cars they've designed and built. The cars are then sold to provide funds for the next year's Model A project.



Warehouse Building

The fifth phase of the museum was construction of a 10,000 square-foot warehouse building to house the main display area. The displays are changed each year and sometimes feature period years. The display also includes motorcycles and this year a firetruck. (Powerland's Firetruck Museum is still under construction). Many volunteers keep the museum clean. A big job is cleaning up oil leaks from older cars. One interesting project is member restoration of an old pipe organ for the exhibit hall. Volunteers also keep museum-owned cars in good operating condition. There is still room for more cars this year. It will take time to heal the effects of Covid-19.

The sixth and final phase is construction of a two-story, 12,000 square foot Doug Nelson Exhibit Hall that will include display areas, a store, library, and meeting rooms. The first floor (6,000 square feet) has been completed and currently provides a display area, a small store, a large meeting room, and a library. The second floor remains unfinished at this time because of the requirements and costs to meet accessibility codes. The best news is: the museum is debt free. The museum was built in a sequence of six separate phases as funds became available. Membership dues and donations pay for the upkeep of the property. Currently the membership dues are only \$100 for 3 years. Members are allowed to store their cars during the off-season at reasonable rates for clean, indoor storage.



The Doug Nelson Exhibit Hall

The Northwest Vintage Car and Motorcycle Museum is one of 15 museums at Powerland Heritage Park. The facility's signature event is the annual "Steam Up" held each year during the last weekend of July and first weekend of August. This annual event is like a country fair and draws about 30,000 folks. Something happens all day with all 15 museums open to the public. It's a great way to spend a weekend. Tickets to the 2022 Steam Up can be obtained on-line at <https://www.antiquepowerland.com/>.

By: Ken Dietrich

“All Comers Cruise-in,” September 25, 2021
An end-of-the-season celebration at the
Northwest Vintage Car and Motorcycle Museum in Brooks, Oregon
Meet at 10:00 A.M. at the French Prairie Rest Stop
(a.k.a. “the Champoeg Rest Stop” or the “Baldock Rest Stop”)
Exit 278 Southbound on Interstate 5
<<<FREE ADMISSION>>>

Ken Dietrich’s article gives a brief history of the Northwest Vintage Car and Motorcycle Museum (NWVC&MM). The museum is holding an end-of-the-season “All Comers Cruise-in” from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, September 25th. This is an opportunity to join many other cars on the show field, see the progress made at the museum, and honor Doug Nelson for the many things he has done for the collector car community.

The many volunteers at the NWVC&MM would be among the first to acknowledge that Doug Nelson, BCA member #24798, is the primary individual responsible for the creation and development of the museum. Doug donated an enormous amount of time and money to the creation of the museum. The museum’s new 12,000 sq. ft. Exhibit Hall is named “The Doug Nelson Hall” in his honor. Doug is also one of the founding members of the BCA’s Portland Area Chapter: his name appears on the original incorporation document our chapter filed with the State of Oregon in 1981.

The objective of meeting at 10:00 A.M. is to allow us to arrive and park together on what will probably be a crowded show field. However, the museum is easy to find if you want to participate, but can’t meet us at 10:00 A.M. Just drive south on I-5 to Exit 263, the Brooks, Oregon, exit. Turn right onto Brooklake Road and drive one quarter mile west to the Powerland Heritage Park. Turn right into the entrance and drive straight north thru the entry gate to the NWVC&MM. Turn right in front of the Museum’s vintage Texaco gas station and drive east to the show field.

Contact Jack Gerstkemper for additional information: (360) 256-8209 or bgerst7@aol.com