

Rakers Car Club of Port Townsend
Established 1957

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NEWSLETTER

P O Box 166
Port Townsend, WA 98368

President: Bill Eldridge
Secretary: Helen Wagar

Vice President: Ron Rogers
Treasurer: Karl Jacobsen

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President's Message

Are we having FUN? If you have attended any of the Meetings or The Cruise In at Ferino's or The Car Show at Memorial Field or The Clouse/Franklin 5th annual BBQ, then you had to answer. Yes! "We are having FUN." 'Car Person', it could have been on the drive home from St. John's Hospital (Jefferson Healthcare Hospital) to Chimacum.

It just seems that I have always had a love of Cars. I started saving money for a Car when I became a teenager and my Dad let me purchase my first Car, a 1930 Model A Coupe, when I turned 15. I negotiated such a good deal with the original owner that I had most of my savings left.

Shortly after turning 16, I sold the Model A and bought a Candy Apple Red 1939 Ford Coupe with a Full House 48 Mercury engine. I made a profit on the sale of the Model A and I had money left after my 1939 Ford purchase. Life of a 16 year old couldn't have been better.

My friend Dave Kilmer asked if I wanted to go to a Car Club meeting in Port Townsend at the Rec Center and I said sure. That night at the meeting I became a "RAKER" and was elected to the office of Secretary/Treasurer. I learned at the Meeting that some of the guys were going to Shelton Airport for The Drags on the weekend. The next couple of days were spent putting in new plugs and points, adjusting the 3 carbs and waxing the deep lacquer paint job on my "39". I wanted it to be fast and I wanted to look good.

The Guys stopped by my house on the way and we cruised down the Canal to Shelton. I paid my entry fee, got a number and I was pumped. I anxiously awaited my turn, when it came, I had to race a '49 or '50 Mercury, I smoked that Boy and I was ready for my second race. I went up against a '32 Ford with an Olds Rocket V8. I knew it was going to be tough to beat this Guy. His Car was a lot lighter. I am not sure what he did wrong, I crossed the finish line a long way ahead of him.

I am so stoked by now, I'm having trouble touching the ground with my feet.

Race number three put me up against '57 Chevy with dual fours. He beat me off the line and I closed the gap when he shifted. I pushed down on the clutch quickly and shifted and I nosed ahead of him. I shifted to third gear and when I let out the clutch I heard a sound come up from the floorboards and in a flash my tranny died. The drive home was probably the most exciting part of the trip since I was on the end of a rope, steering along the Canal, at the mercy of one of my RAKER buddies towing me.

The next day I was off to the Junk Yard to get a transmission. All I could find was a later model that had a side shift and not the floor shift that '39's had. I had to remove all of the gears from the new casing and change them to my '39 casing. The thing I find most interesting is that, I had never done anything like that before and when I was done everything actually worked.

One of my Buddies let it slip to my Dad what had happened at the Drags and I took some heat for that. A couple of weeks later I heard a noise coming from the engine, which I soon learned was a rod knocking. I still had money left, the tranny only cost \$15.00 to fix, I got out the Sear Roebuck Catalog and ordered a engine rebuild kit. I took the engine apart, had it checked a Middleton Motors, had the crank turned and I put it back together. While I was working on it, I discovered that Sears had sent me a double set of everything. I took all of the left over parts back to Sears and they give me credit for all of the parts I returned, so I ordered 3 rebuilt chrome Stromberg 97 carburetors and a bunch of engine dress up stuff.

When I got the engine broke in, which may have been the hardest thing that I had done in my first 16 years. I got to see if it was faster and to my amazement it flew. I know that for a fact since I had put the return spring on wrong and when I floored it for the first time, the engine stuck wide open. I quickly realized that I had better do something before the engine blew or I crashed, I reached down and shut off the key and coasted to a stop. I got out, caught my breath and moved the spring to it proper location.

One day I got inspired to see how it would do in the 1/4 we had marked off on the road. I lined it up and off I went, somewhere between first and second gear something went wrong and I needed another transmission. Back to the Junk Yard in search of parts. As I slid between the Cars looking for a suitable replacement I discovered a Lincoln Zephyr with its V12 engine and 3 speed floor shift transmission.

When I asked Johnny how much he wanted for it, he said "Oh those are expensive". An hour and a half later covered with grease, I had removed the tranny and paid him \$20.00. I spent the next couple of days taking everything apart and putting it all back together.

I now had a fresh rebuilt engine and a bullet proof transmission. Life was good again. My Car was Cool, I belonged to a Cool Car Club, what else could a young boy need?

A girlfriend, yeah that's what I needed, I thought to myself, a girlfriend. I asked my Sister if she knew of any Hot prospects, she didn't, but suggested that we go to the Wheel Inn Drive In, since just about everyone went there on the weekends. As luck would have it I saw this gorgeous girl from Port Townsend who was there with her 3 younger sisters. I invited her to come check out my Cool Car, as I sent my sister off to visit her friends.

A few days later as I rode around Town with my new girl friend, one of my buddies flagged me down and said everyone was going out to the 1/4. I got excited because this would be my chance to see how my Car would do with the new tranny. When we got there Cars were already running so we watched for a while. Sometimes they had a rematch because the side by side run was close. Before I could run my Car one of the lookouts announced that the Cops where coming and we all scattered in our Cars.

The next morning I awoke with the urge to run my car. I headed for the 1/4 by myself. I revved the engine a few times and popped the clutch. The Car went a few feet and stopped, the engine was still running but it wouldn't move. I thought it was the clutch but when I depressed it and shifted it appeared fine. I pushed it off the road and searched for clues. In a little while one of my buddies drove by and asked what I was doing. He stopped to help and we determined the problem must be in the rear end. He hooked on to my car and towed it home. Another trip to the Junk Yard was in order and my Buddy said he would take me. When we got there we started our search. We discovered there were many cars to pick from. We decided to get the one that would be the easiest for us to get out. I asked Johnny the all too familiar question "How Much"?

Rear ends were a bargain that day. I took one from a 1940 Ford Standard Coupe and he charged me \$10.00. When we got the rear end out we discovered that the 40 had a different wheel and bolt pattern. I then had to ask "How Much" for the wheels and tires. The \$5.00 that I spent for the wheels and tires worked out perfect since we now had a way to get the rear end to my house. The Old Fords have a closed drive shaft so we just tied the drive shaft to his bumper and towed it home. We pulled the old rear end out and replace it that afternoon.

The money that I had left in my savings was almost depleted so I decided to take a new approach. I would drive my Car as transportation, rather then some world record holder. I managed to get my final year of High School in with it still running. I went off to College in the fall.

I thank my parents for the financial help with College as most of my investment in the 1939 Ford Coupe was not recovered when I sold it.

This week I am going to attend 15-17 the 18th Pacific Northwest Nationals at the Puyallup Fairgrounds. The Oldsmobile Club of America is having its National Convention 13-17 at the Double Tree Seattle Airport so I am going to swing by that also.

Some other **Events** in the next few days and weeks.

July 23 Bremerton Elks Car Show

July 23-24 Oldtimers Northwest Rod Run will be in Port Angeles

July 30- August 7 Hot August Nights in Reno

THE CAR SHOW AT THE JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS JULY 16TH HAS BEEN CANCELED SINCE SO MANY EVENTS ARE GOING ON THIS WEEKEND.

What can I say, **The Rakers Car Show** was a major success. We had 123 entries and over 600 people came thru the Gates. Wayne King brought his Nitro burning 1963 Dragster and when he started it up the feeling can't be described. You just had to be there.

We had 2 people bring Cars from Vancouver, WA and a man came down from Canada.

June 24, 2006 is the date for next years Car Show. Don Riggle has offered to continue to Chair the Committee. Wayne King is bringing his Dragster and plans on firing it up for the Crowd. If you would like to see more on Wayne's Car go to www.nitrogeezers.com and click on Northwest Cackle's. I am looking forward to even larger attendance and we have come up with some ideas to make it even better.

I had originally invited Lloyd Brown for the DOT to speak to us about the Hood Canal Bridge. I had attended a presentation by him and found it very interesting. He spoke of how the Bridge was being reconfigured, how the anchor cables placement was moved further out from the Bridge, how the size of the cables were increased and why, how the design of the approach spans allowed for the Bridge to become four lanes someday. He spoke of how the Federal Government was putting up a major part of the money and their guideline for giving the money would not allow for it to become a four lane bridge since the money was for replacement only. I found his presentation so interesting that I thought it might be interesting for you to see and hear it. Becky Hixson, although better looking, did not give the presentation I had hoped for you to see and hear at the meeting.

Enjoy some of the Car happenings going on.

Bill

Rakers Minutes for July 5, 2005

Meeting called to order by President Bill at 7:00 pm. Bill introduced Becky Hixson, WSDOT spokesperson. She talked about Hood Canal closures in August and showed slides about the history of the bridge.

Minutes Read, correction made & Approved.
Treasurer's Report Read & Approved.

Committees:

Don Riggle – Our car show brought in good profit, thanks to everyone who helped! A fun day! Macadoo's was good, but no coffee. We can use snack stand for coffee, donuts, etc. John Franklin suggested we let the Boy Scouts do it next year. Jerry Clemens did an excellent job at the entrance. Don will "do it again" next year, 24, 2006. Thank you, Don, for all your great effort. Mark your calendars and offer your help. Don took pictures and will get them to Bill to put on the website.

Bill introduced Jerrilee Walerscheidt, "Ms. Western Washington" running for "Ms. American Woman" and her trainer, John Harpe. They are working on funding needs for Seniors needing additional help with Speech Rehab and Physical therapy at Kah Tai, Olympic Care in Sequim and Martha and Mary in Poulsbo. Suggesting a car/motorcycle rally, one starting at 7 Cedars Casino and one starting at Clearwater Casino. Possibly meet at H J Carroll Park for Picnic, Fun and Games with proceeds going to Senior needs. Maybe in September. Would like Rakers to participate.

Fourth Cruz-In at Ferino's Wednesday, June 29th, had a good turn out. No pasta yet due to another type of work needed.

Bill sent a thank you to Wayne King for his dragster demo at the Raker's Car Show.

Helen sent thank you notes to vendors and donors at the Raker's Car Show.

Events:

July 9th: Clouse/Franklin "**Fifth Annual Raker's BBQ & Poker Run**" [note from Helen saying it was well attended, lots of fun and no one could possibly go hungry with all the food]

July 30th: Shelton Bow Tie Show. Fred says \$15.00 ea, limited to 100 cars.

August 20th: Port Townsend Kiwanis Classic Car Show at Memorial Field. Vehicle check-in 7:30-10:00 am. Awards 4:00 pm. Entry Fee, \$12.00 by August 5th, \$16.00 after, plus \$5.00 each additional entry.

August 21st: Just Because Show & Shine at Kennedy Industrial Park, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm [from Hood Canal Bridge, take a left at the light, follow to a T (Bond Road), turn right, then left on Minder Road, turn right into Kennedy Industrial Park]

New Business:

Vic attended a car show June 26th, he was the only one with "work in progress" and won a trophy!

Archie Endo, prospective new member wants to join but is in Faroe Islands North Atlantic currently.

New Members:

Dan Pierce, 1950 Chev Truck
Jeff Stoch, 1949 Studebaker Pickup
David Harrah, 1960 Chev Impala & 1964 Ford Thunderbird

All Approved and Welcomed!!

Old/Unfinished Business: Check out our website: www.rakerscarclub.com Anyone with pictures can send them to Bill at me@olympus.net to put on the website.

Jerry Hampton has 3 "beanie" hats (with windmills on top) left. Will take orders.

Sharon has embroidered "Rakers" T-shirts \$17 and polishing cloths \$6 for sale and she'll take orders (385-3158 or 302-1383).

Jackets/Hats: Questions rose

Sandy wants a white Rakers hat? John T. says check with Good Sports at Port Hadlock Kivley Center.

Bob Pontius gave update on his '28 Chevy Roadster.

Raffle brought in \$130.00
Donors for August 2nd Meeting: Bonnie Rogers, Greg Jacobsen, Bob Pontius.

Meeting Adjourned 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Helen Wagar

Vehicles for Sale

Note: Paul Wagar sold his cute green 1951 GMC Truck to a Raker who is taking fine care of it. Still available:

1964 White w/Blue Trim Buick Wildcat convertible

1967 Chevy El Camino "Black Beauty"

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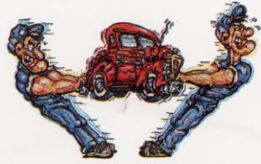
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Raker's Press

This picture appeared in The Leader

Roaring with the Rakers



The Rakers Cruz-In drew 123 entries to Jefferson County Memorial Field on June 25. The special attraction was the top fuel dragster (foreground) raced from 1963 to 1966 by Wayne King of Gardiner. In 1963, the dragster was rated No. 2 in the country. Now it costs King \$100 in special fuel just to run the dragster's 354 hemi engine for a few minutes, which he did once Saturday. Some of the top attractions at race tracks and car shows these days are dragsters from the 1960s. – Photo by Patrick J. Sullivan

Bill Eldridge submitted this photo



Jim Arrabito's photography from Raker's Show





August 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Raker's Meeting	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Raker's Summer Cruise-In @ Ferino's 5:30 pm	11 HC Bridge closed 8 pm	12 HC Bridge Closed Jeffco Fair	13 HC Bridge Closed Jeffco Fair
14 HC Bridge Closed Jeffco Fair	15 HC Bridge opens 4am	16	17 Raker's Summer Cruise-In @ Ferino's 5:30 pm	18	19	20 PT Kiwanis Class Car Show Memorial Field
21 Just Because Show & Shine 8am-3pm Kennedy Industrial Park	22 NOTE: HC Bridge closes 8pm August 21st	23 HC Bridge Closed	24 Raker's Summer Cruise-In @ Ferino's 5:30 pm HC Bridge Closed	25 HC Bridge Opens 4 am	26	27
28	29	30	31 Raker's Summer Cruise-In @ Ferino's 5:30 pm	Sept 1	2	3

Upcoming Events:

August 13th-14th. **4th Annual Port Angeles Heritage Weekend Car Show** (11:00 am to 4:00 pm)
 Registration 9-11 am, Registration \$5.00/day; Street Dance Saturday Night 5-8 pm
 Brought to you by Baxter Auto Parts, Peninsula Dream Machine, Contact Mobuilt RV 360-457-4101

November 5/6: Jefferson County Holiday Fair

Please Drive Safely