

THE PUGET SOUND ROCKET

Newsletter of the Puget Sound Olds Club

An Official Chapter of the Oldsmobile Club of America
DECEMBER 2020



Our hope is that you and your family can be as relaxed during this Holiday Season as the puppies pictured above.

Staying safe and avoiding the COVID-19 Virus infecting us seems to be the most important decision we face this Holiday Season. Canceling events has become so routine that we have come to expect it. Hopefully, in 2021, the promised vaccine will allow us to return to the life that we had been accustomed to in prior years.



Between the Bumpers
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MEETING MINUTES
None in November

CLASSIFIEDS
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**Puget Sound Olds Club
2021
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425-485-3093

Secretary
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OCA BOARD MEMBERS
PNW Zone Directors

Ed Konsmo
ekonsmo@msn.com

Second position open

PSOC Website:
www.pugetsoundoldsclub.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Chapter Members,

In the past month, we did not receive any requests to serve on the chapter Board of Directors from chapter members. As a result, the current officers will continue to serve in 2021.

In December we would usually be hosting our annual Christmas Dinner. Since the governor has closed all the restaurants to indoor dining, it appears that not trying to schedule a Christmas Dinner was the correct decision.

As we move closer to 2021, we are putting our shows for the year on the calendar. The Annual Zone Show is being scheduled for July 10 and the 8th Annual BOP Show at the XXX Root Beer Drive-In will again be on the last Sunday in August, the 29th. Our hope is that by February, we will be able to see if car shows and swap meets will be allowed to be held. The first big show on the schedule is the Early Bird Swap the second week of February.

In the "Between the Bumpers" article of this newsletter there is an interesting history of the Fisher Body Company. We who collect Oldsmobiles will find the "Body by Fisher" history very interesting.

On a personal note, I am finally retiring! December 31 is my last day as the Fleet Manager at Korum Ford. My suggestion of another Olds to restore was not met with any enthusiasm.

Pam and I wish all our chapter members and friends a Very Merry Christmas.

Stay safe and hopefully we will see you in 2021!

*Ed Konsmo
Editor*

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE NEWSLETTER:

Information to be considered for submittal into the newsletter needs to be received by the 25th of the month. Please send your information as an e-mail or attach it to your e-mail in word document form. If you

have problems or questions, call Ed or Pam at 253-845-2288. Please e-mail your submittal to: ekonsmo@msn.com.



Body By Fisher: More Than A Carriage On A Doorsill



There were seven brothers who comprised the Fisher Body leadership: Fredrick, Charles, Lawrence, William, Alfred, Edward, and Howard.

The Fisher family started out hand-crafting horse-drawn carriages in their shop in Sandusky, Ohio. They soon moved to Norwalk in 1890 and continued building carriages to those who could afford them. In 1902, two brothers, Fred and Charles Fisher moved to Detroit, Michigan, and began building carriages for the C. R. Wilson Company, a carriage builder which had just begun to manufacture automobile bodies for the emerging auto industry around the Detroit area.

(The Fisher Family Story continued on Page 4)

One of their co-workers, Henry Ford, was already delving into building his own version of the horseless carriage. Henry first formed the Detroit Automobile Company with help from investors, but quality vs. profit issues drove a wedge between them and once Henry left the company, it was eventually re-named the Cadillac Motor Car Company. During his time at the C.R. Wilson Company, Fred Fisher oversaw the building of the body for the Cadillac Osceola, the first fully-enclosed car built by Cadillac in 1905, for Henry M. Leland, General Manager of Cadillac Motor Car Company.

With their connections in the carriage and fledgling auto industry, on July 22, 1908, Fred and Charles founded the Fisher Body Company and by 1910, Fisher Body was building all of the enclosed bodies for Cadillac. Fred and Charles brought their five younger brothers to Detroit and the Fisher family was in business!

The move to horseless carriages entailed more than simply installing an engine. Beyond the distrust that many had for these noisy, cantankerous machines, the bodies also needed to be built stronger than a typical carriage to withstand the vibration and added stresses due to the engine.

The Fisher brothers soon figured out how to build a quality body and soon, Body By Fisher would come to mean quality. It wasn't long before the growth of the company took an exponential turn. In just five short years, the Fisher Body Company had the capacity to turn out 100,000 bodies a year, and just one year later, it became the largest body manufacturer of automobile bodies in the world.

The company changed its name to Fisher Body Corporation in 1916 and production grew to 370,000 bodies a year to customers such as Abbot, Buick, Cadillac, Chalmers, Chandler, Chevrolet, Church-Field, Elmore, EMF, Ford, Herreshoff, Hudson, Krit, **Oldsmobile**, Packard, Regal, and Studebaker. The broad acceptance of Fisher bodies by numerous manufacturers helped build the Fisher Body Corporation into the giant body-building powerhouse of the automotive world. But it was the joint venture soon to come and the company's transition from wood to steel construction that afforded the Fisher name such longevity.

General Motors co-founder, William C. Durant, put together a 10-year deal with Fisher Body Corporation where GM purchased 60-percent of the company in 1919. Durant had recently returned to GM after being pushed out of control of the corporation in 1910. While away, he formed Chevrolet with famed racer Louis Chevrolet, which then became part of GM upon his return. After the deal, the Fisher family purchased Fleetwood Metal Body in 1925, and by 1926, was the in-house, coach-building entity within GM. As such, the Fleetwood name would live on within GM under the Cadillac banner.

Building for such a high-end customer and the fact enclosed autos were the focus, the Fisher brothers brought innovative ideas such as self-starting cars, roll-up windows, and wipers, which served to set both Cadillac, and the Fisher-built autos apart from the rest. Their different color options on their bodies stood out among a field of competitors who reportedly, "offered any color, so long as it was black."

Fisher Body and GM had never worked so closely before, both figuratively and literally. It was at this time when Fisher Body plants began to co-exist with many GM plants nearby to maximize supply routes to the GM assembly lines and simplify communication between engineers and those assembling the cars. Both GM and Fisher Body benefitted from the close ties of the company and one of the longest-reaching benefits was when Lawrence Fisher introduced GM to an aspiring coach-builder named Harley Earl, who began work on designing the 1927 Cadillac and LaSalle.

Fisher Body article continued on page 5

Fisher joined in the war effort like many auto manufacturers, building both tanks and aircraft needed for the war effort. By the end of the Second World-War, the Fisher brothers had all retired from the board at GM and Harley Earl was now head of GM's Art & Colour Section, which later would become GM's Design Center in Warren, Michigan. The automotive body-building business had long-since moved to complete metal structures and in 1959, Fisher Body created GM's first unibody car, the 1960 Chevrolet Corvair. Other innovations brought to GM by Fisher were the ignition interlock (invented in 1974), the first airbag (also in 1974), and GM's first all-metric automobile – the Chevrolet Chevette.

Throughout all of the various changes and evolutions, the Fisher logo continued to adorn GM cars right up until the division of GM was dissolved in 1984. The "Body By Fisher" emblem continued on upon various GM cars until the mid-90s when the brand's long history with GM faded into the night.

Throughout the years, so many enthusiasts have been influenced by the Fisher brothers' work without even a second thought as to the significance of the little logo stamped onto the door sill. Looking back, you can see how the fledgling company helped to formulate the American automotive industry into what it is today. It also helps to understand how interwoven each of the people who created those industrial powerhouses was in such a small industry during those early years. Even for such a tightly-bound niche of far-thinkers who dreamed beyond staring at the backside of a horse, those personalities were just as colorful as anything offered by Fisher Body, and as you can see, they all worked together, and some were even related!

This article by Andy Bolig was featured in the August 6, 2020 "Rod Authority" Newsletter.



Since there have not been any car shows to attend in the last month, here are some tips to get your car ready for the 2021 season of car shows.



The easiest way to keep your engine running smooth is proactive maintenance and keeping its fuel fresh. To make sure your fuel stays fresh, it's best to use a fuel stabilizer every time you fill up your gas tank. Among the best fuel stabilizers on the market is STA-BIL® 360° Protection, known as America's #1 Ethanol Treatment!

Other benefits of STA-BIL 360° Protection include increased power, protection against damaging rust and corrosion caused by ethanol, maximized fuel economy, and a smoother idle. You can use STA-BIL 360° Protection for most types of gas engines, from your car or RV to your ATV or outdoor power equipment! So, one bottle goes a long way, no matter what kind of equipment you have.

MEMBER NOTES & CHAPTER INFO

This page features notes of interest for and about our members. If you have something interesting to report, please send an e-mail to your editor at ekonsmo@msn.com, or call 253-576-1128.

In a recent conversation with Peter DuPre, the publisher of the “Yellow Book”, he indicated that it looks like most of the car shows that were cancelled in 2020 will be re-scheduled in 2021. Peter said that most of the car shows that were scheduled to take place in Idaho this year where his company is located were able to be held. Social distancing took place and there was not any illness as a result.

Please note that on page 13 of this newsletter, there is the 2021 Chapter Membership Application for the payment of next year’s chapter dues.



Merry Christmas from our Tabby cat, Abby



***Happy Birthday
to our Chapter Members
and Their Spouses
in December***

1	Vivian Ralls	Edmonds, WA
4	Dave Butler	Snohomish, WA
30	Larry Weyand	Yakima, WA

2020 CHAPTER MEETING HOSTS*

DECEMBER – Christmas Dinner - Cancelled

***Meeting host provides snacks for the meeting**

Swap Meets and Shows in December

Swap meets and shows are selected based on convenient locations

WASHINGTON -- In compliance with the actions announced by Washington Governor, Jay Inslee, plus state and local health officials' events with over 250 persons are hereby cancelled to help combat the spread of the Corona virus.

OREGON -- In compliance with the actions announced by Oregon Governor Kate Brown, Multnomah County, and health officials regarding any event with over 250 persons. All have been cancelled.



Future Oldsmobile National Meets

**2021 August 3-8 Murfreesboro, TN
Hosted by the OCA at the Embassy Suites**



******* OCA News *******

The OCA Board of Directors has been meeting via Zoom over the past few months. One of the items on the agenda was an application for an OCA Chapter in New Jersey submitted to the OCA Board of Directors.

On November 24, the Garden State Rockets Chapter in New Jersey was unanimously approved.

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads are free, unlimited words, within reason. Ads will ONLY run for three consecutive months unless renewal is requested. Please submit your classified advertisement in electronic format by the 20th of the month to ekonsmo@msn.com.

FOR SALE:

1963 Cutlass Conv. – Okay condition, runs great. **PRICE REDUCED!** \$12,000 – Call Bruce Lyle 360-799-1717(2)

1964 Starfire – Parts car. Fully loaded and complete. Special wheels. \$1800. No offer refused. Must go! Jim Long 360-893-8293 (2)

1981 Cutlass LS Sedan – All options available on the car. Garaged its entire life. The car located in Ferndale, WA. Call Paul St. Julien at 360-223-0997 (2)

1985 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme Brougham 5.0L V8 4BBL Coupe 2D 49,444 ORIGINAL miles - runs great! Car has always been in the same family. Free Auto Check Vehicle History Report. Interested? Please email oldsmobilecutlass85@gmail.com Car located in Indianola, WA (2)

1990 Trofeo – 190k, Transmission issues – needs overhaul. \$500 obo, Call Ken Stacey; 425-259-3399(2)

1992 Cutlass Supreme Conv. – 62,850 miles. **New top! AC re-charged.** LOF just completed. **\$8.995.** Call Ed at 253-576-1128. (2)

Chapter member, Jim Long, has a number of cars for sale and is offering bargain prices; Two 1970 Toronados - \$4300 for both; Call 360-893-8293 for more info. Jim also has several Cadillacs and a Chrysler Imperial for sale. (2)

NEEDS and LEADS:

NEED – 1936 – 6 Cylinder engine parts – 213 CI; Frank Geyer 206-949-9087 (2)

LEAD – 1955 88 – Fender skirts – E-mail Russ at m13rj@hotmail.com if interested (2)

LEAD – Olds shirts for sale. Your choice - \$2.00 each. Call Ed Booth. 253-752-6158 (2)

LEAD – 1973 442 – This is a car that was used as a donor car for another restoration. Still has rust free body panels. Interior panels and dash are excellent. \$500. Call Gus at 206-571-3804. (1)

NEED - 1970-1972 442, W30, W31, SX conv. or hardtop – OCA and PSOC club member looking for true collector car. The more original and documented the better. Prefer numbers matching. Any condition – from restorable car to showroom condition. Also looking for NOS or used parts for these cars. John Bumb, St. Louis, Mo. (314) 713-3444 or email me at jbcb3735@gmail.com (1)

OCA and PSOC club member looking for NOS or used parts for 1970-1972 442, W30, W31, SX conv. or hardtop.
John Bumb, St. Louis, Mo. (314) 713-3444 or email me at jbcb3735@gmail.com (1)

Call my any time

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING ADS: We will run your ad for another month. If you have sold the car or item listed, please send an e-mail to ekonsmo@msn.com and let us know and we will remove the ad. The same applies if you find the item you are looking for, let us know.

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OLDSMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

PUGET SOUND CHAPTER

2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

NAME: _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE: _____

____ Check here if this is an address change

HOME PHONE: (____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

BIRTHDAY MONTH _____ DAY _____

SPOUSE MONTH _____ DAY _____

\$20.00 annual dues payable. Make checks payable to Puget Sound Chapter and mail to:

**Kathi Straw
PSOC Membership Chairperson
P.O. Box 82042
Kenmore, WA 98028**

Please assist us in updating our roster by listing your current Oldsmobile(s) below:

1) YEAR _____ MODEL _____ COLOR _____

2) YEAR _____ MODEL _____ COLOR _____

3) YEAR _____ MODEL _____ COLOR _____

4) YEAR _____ MODEL _____ COLOR _____

Please print this form and mail to Kathi

THE PARTING SHOT...



Wreaths Across America lays holiday wreaths on every single grave in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC.

On December 19, Wreaths Across America, a non-profit organization, lays out holiday wreaths on thousands of graves in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC, as well as 1,200 other locations across America.

The event, which is to honor the fallen soldiers that have been buried in military cemeteries, is still going ahead this year, with some adjustments.

