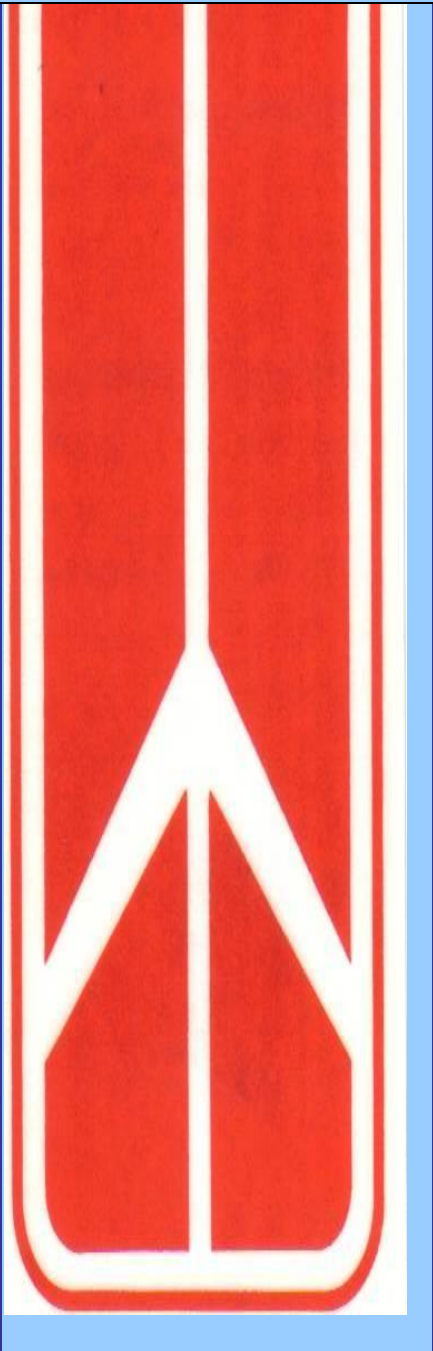


THE PUGET SOUND ROCKET

Newsletter of the Puget Sound Olds Club

An Official Chapter of the Oldsmobile Club of America

November 2015



Oldsmobile Toronado turns 50! In mid-Sixties America, front-wheel drive represented—at the same time—automotive past and future. Many others had tried it, but their efforts seemed relegated to the history books, with the last of the bunch 30 years gone. And yet the coming tide of imported cars included many a puller-type as well as pushers. It fell, then, to Oldsmobile to bridge the gap, something it did to much acclaim with the Toronado, introduced 50 years ago.

The idea of a front-wheel-drive GM car dates back more than a decade, to the La Salle II Motorama dream car of 1955, according to Michael Lamm's history of the Toronado from SIA #35. Staff at GM Engineering, not content with exploring just the L'Universelle approach to front-wheel-drive, conceived of the Unitized Power Package, a compact all-in-one (V-type engine, automatic transmission, and axle/differential) system that fit in the same space as just the engine in a typical rear-wheel-drive vehicle.

(This article written by Daniel Strohl for Hemmings News and is continued on page 3 in "Between the Bumpers")

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President's Message

PSOC Members,

In a few days, we will be in the month of November! It is time again to elect chapter officers. At the October meeting, the 2015 officers agreed to continue to stay on the 2016 ballot. Mary Lindholm was nominated to fill the chapter secretary position. At our November 1 chapter meeting, nominations from the floor will be accepted for any of the chapter positions. If you would like to contribute to the chapter as an officer, please feel free to put your name on the ballot at the meeting.

Thank you to Judy Iverson for her detective work in finding a restaurant for our 2015 Chapter Christmas Dinner. It will be held at the Plum Delicious Restaurant in Renton on December 12 from 2 to 5 pm. Details and map will be in the December newsletter. Be sure to put this date on your calendar.

The Country Village has sold the property and will no longer be a location for car shows. We are in the process of making a decision regarding the location for our 2016 Zone Show. The date of July 17 has been selected and the location will be announced at a later date.

It would be great to have a big turnout of chapter members at the November 1st meeting. We have missed many of you this year. How about surprising us? We will be meeting again at the Newport Way Library at 1pm.

See you at the meeting.

Shine your Olds and join us!

Ed Konsmo

President

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE NEWSLETTER:

Information to be considered for submittal in to 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



“BETWEEN THE BUMPERS” ... By Ed



The UPP never made it into the La Salle II (even the dream car's double overhead-camshaft V-6 engine never got past the mockup stage) but Oldsmobile—mainly through the advocacy of its assistant chief engineer, John Beltz—picked up UPP development in January 1958, likely as a response to rumors of Ford's work on front-wheel-drive systems for the Thunderbird. Beltz and his staff initially envisioned the UPP for its F-85 compact and by 1960 built a running and driving experimental car based on the F-85's wheelbase.

Oldsmobile's development of the UPP began with a transverse V-6, but their own work—and corporate pressures—led them to eventually change the drivetrain layout to a longitudinal V-8 with a modified version of the Turbo Hydra-Matic 400 three-speed automatic turned 180 degrees and mounted alongside the engine, feeding power to a differential and torsion bar-sprung axles. While Oldsmobile's engineers initially tried transferring power from the engine to the transmission via gears, the key to the success of the UPP, as they found out, was a single chain made of 2,294 pieces developed by Morse Chain and dubbed the Hy-Vo. Like the engineering effort, the initial styling sketches for the Toronado began with a more compact focus. Working under Oldsmobile chief designer Stan Wilen, David North produced a rendering in January of 1962 of a car since come to be known as the “Flame Red Car.” A sporty coupe intended to be something like a four-seater Corvette, it was intended by North to be about the size of the Camaro.

Yet even before North drafted his sketch, Oldsmobile brass began to push for a full-size front-wheel-drive car, in part due to corporate wrangling. To reduce production costs, Oldsmobile would have to share a platform and the front-wheel-drive system with other divisions. The E-body platform, already under development as Buick's rear-wheel-drive Riviera, had been made available to Oldsmobile, and Cadillac would even join in with its forthcoming front-wheel-drive Eldorado. Prototypes wearing Oldsmobile Ninety-Eight bodies reportedly put about 1.5 million miles of road testing on the innovative drivetrain during the early 1960s. Lamm noted that both Harley Earl and Bill Mitchell lobbied to take the Eldorado in separate directions. Earl longed to make a station wagon out of it, while Mitchell had hoped to shorten the wheelbase and turn the Toronado into a two-seater. Neither got their way, and thus Wilen's group was forced to stretch the Flame Red Car design. As they did so, they not only kept much of North's design—the rounded and slightly flared fenders, the long hood, the sloping roofline that blended seamlessly into the quarter panels—they also intentionally added design cues that paid tribute to the Cord L-29 810/812, the last American front-wheel-drive production car: the hidden headlamps, the grille that subtly turns rearward at the ends, the phone-dial wheels. Oldsmobile tweaked its four-barrel 425-cu.in. V-8 from 375 horsepower—as used in the Ninety-Eight—to 385 horsepower for the new car. The “Toronado” name came from a 1963 Chevrolet show car. Just about everything else, however, from the 119-inch wheelbase to the drum brakes, was designed from the start for the Toronado.

Understandably, Oldsmobile brass felt proud of its front-wheel-drive revival car. They introduced it not with the rest of the 1966 Oldsmobile lineup in September 1965, but on its own a month later. They campaigned heavily for recognition of the car's achievements, a campaign that resulted in Motor Trend's Car of the Year award for 1966 as well as Car & Driver's best all-around car award and Car Life's Engineering Excellence award. Sales for that first year totaled a respectable 40,963. Perhaps more significant, however, was the Toronado's legacy. Despite a few down years in the latter half of the Sixties, the Toronado remained in continuous production through 1992, by which time front-wheel drive had become the predominant drivetrain layout in American cars. The Toronado might not have directly influenced that transition—the longitudinal-engine front-wheel-drive layout in a full-size vehicle (as seen in the first three of the Toronado's four generations) remained an anomaly as smaller and mid-size cars adopted transverse-engine front-wheel-drive layouts—but it paved the way by reintroducing American car buyers to the idea of front-wheel drive and to its benefits. No less important to the Toronado's legacy are all the various one-offs and series-built cars that took advantage of the Toronado platform's unique packaging. Perhaps most famous are the Toronado-based Jetway 707 airport limousines, but that list should also include Glenn Pray's multi-passenger Krui-se-Aire and the Copper Development Association's Exemplar II. George Barris even took a whack at the Toronado with his 67X.

LET'S GET PERSONAL



November Birthdays

<i>Date</i>		<i>Lives In</i>
3	Barbara McAdams	Edgewood, WA
3	Charles Wascher	Arlington, WA
7	Jim Rogers	Marysville, WA
10	Nina Rogers	Marysville, WA
14	Linda Thompson	Bow, WA
24	Karel Giuntoli	Bellevue, WA
28	Kathi Straw	Bothell, WA
??	Future member	Anywhere, WA

UPCOMING CLUB MEETING HOSTS * 2015 MEETINGS

***November – Nina & Jim Rogers
December....Christmas Party***

****Host provides refreshments***

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 and leave a message, 253-845-2288.

November Chapter Meeting

This meeting is important! We will need to elect officers for 2016.

We will also need to discuss the location for the 2016 Zone Show. Will we combine the show with other shows? Should we join the South Sound 442 Club at their show in July? The 442 Club is considering opening their show to Olds 88 and 98 models. Should we move our annual show to the BOP show on the last Sunday of August? The attendance at both the July Zone Show and the BOP Show has dropped dramatically. Unfortunately, the rain on the 30th of August this year kept many of our faithful Olds members at home. We definitely need to come up with a plan that will assure a greater attendance. What are your thoughts? Did the weather keep you away or was the date not one that was convenient for you? Please let us know.

Member Health Update

We were pleased to see Ed "Pinky" Booth at the October chapter meeting. It is good to see that Ed is recovering from his knee replacement.

Esther Thompson is in hospice care. She has been struggling with health issues for a number of years. Please keep Esther and Ken in your thoughts and prayers.

If any other of our chapter members are dealing with health issues, please let us know.

Swap Meets & Shows to attend in November

The swap meets and shows are selected based on convenient locations.

- NOV 7** **Bremerton, WA; Bremerton Old Car Swap Meet**
Kitsap County Fairgrounds, 15020 NW Central Valley Road, Poulsbo, WA 98370;
Adm. Fee - \$5; Olympic Village Auto Club; 360-779-3771;
bremertonoldcarswapmeet@gmail.com
- NOV 15** **Bellingham, WA; 26th Annual Project Santa Claus Cruise for Kids**
Meet at Costco Shopping Center, 4277 Meridian Street, Bellingham, WA 98226;
10am – 1pm; Fourth Corner Elites Car Club; 360-380-2733;
babsthekraut@yahoo.com; www.fourthcornerelitescarclub.com
- NOV 21** **Albany, OR; Albany Indoor Swap Meet**
Linn County Exposition Center, 3700 Knox Butte Rd. SE, Albany, OR 97332;
8am – 3pm; Adm. Fee - \$5; Enduring A's MAFCA; 541-928-1218;
albanyswapmeet@comcast.net **(This is the LAST swap meet of 2015)**



CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

OLDSMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA PUGET SOUND CHAPTER

October 4, 2015

MINUTES

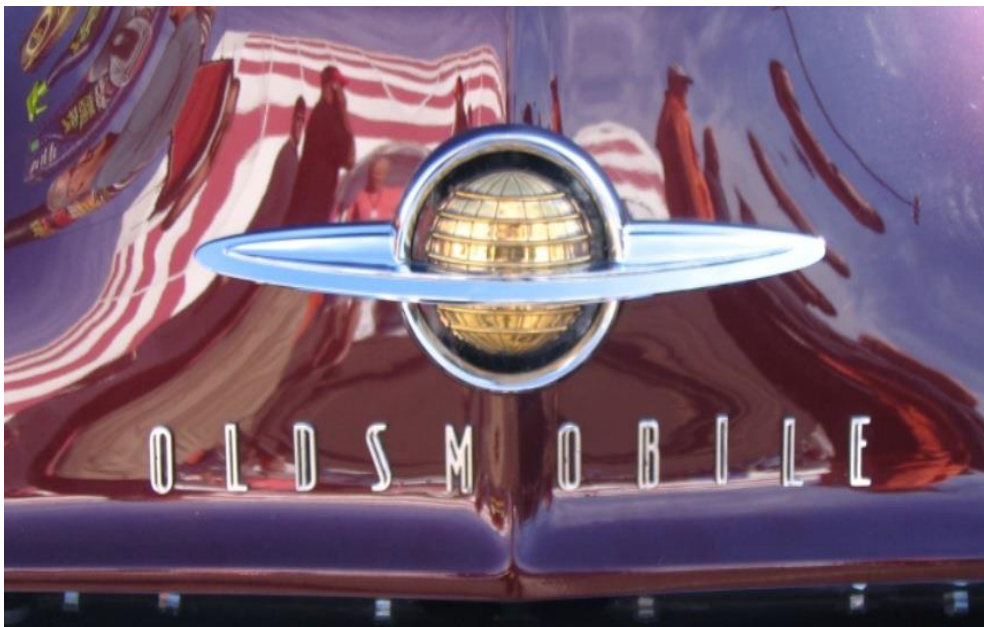
- President Ed Konsmo convened the meeting at 1:10 pm. 11 chapter members were present.
- Treasurer Kathi Straw reported that the chapter finances are in order.
- The 2015 Zone Show finished in the black after all expenses were paid.
- The 2016 Zone Show was discussed. The property at the Country Village has been sold and car shows will no longer be allowed on the property. The possibility of the combining our Zone Show with the South Sound 442 Club was discussed. A call to their president will be made to inquire about that possibility.
- Judy Iverson presented her findings for the 2015 Chapter Christmas Dinner. She found that the Plum Delicious Restaurant in Renton has a great menu and is very willing to host our Christmas dinner. We will be able to order from the menu without having to guarantee a specific number of attendees. The menu has entrees priced from \$12 to \$20. The members present voted to hold the Chapter Christmas Dinner at the Plum Delicious Restaurant. The date is Saturday, Dec. 12 from 2 to 5 pm. The December newsletter will have directions to the restaurant.
- As we have in the past, toys will be collected for children who may not have a fortunate Christmas. Nina and Jim Rogers will take the toys to a deserving agency.
- The 2016 BOP Show will be held on August 28, 2016. The weather this year kept many members at home. Hopefully, next year the sun will shine as it did all this past summer.
- The chapter officers who have been in office in 2015 agreed to keep their names on the ballot for the 2016 election that takes place at the November meeting. Mary Lindholm agreed to fill the position of chapter secretary. Nominations from the floor will be opened at the November meeting at the Newport Way Library, 1 pm.
- The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Ed Konsmo
Acting Secretary

Future Oldsmobile National Meets and OCA News

2016 July 19-23; Kingsport, TN; Meadow View Resort and Convention Center – Hosted by the Olds Club of America.

2017 - July 18-23; Albuquerque, NM;



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

Zone Director Jamie Cox sent to us the link to the new OCA Merchandise site.

Copy and paste the link below into your browser

<https://gm-photo-gifts-com.myshopify.com/collections/oldsmobile-club-of-america-collection>

CLASSIFIED – For Sale/Leads & Needs

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:

- **1957 Olds Super 88 2 Dr Ht**; solid no rust car ready to restore. \$7500 Steve Sutton 604-535-7477. (2)
- **1960 Dynamic 88 Bubble Top**; New Motor and Transmission - \$28,000 OBO
Call Jim or Nina; 360-651-6246 (1)
- **1963 Cutlass Convertible**; Red with white interior; 215 V8, Automatic, PS,PB, Very good condition;
Owned by Mary Lindholm; \$15,000 Contact Ed Straw 425-485-3093; ekstraw@comcast.net (3)
- **1963 conv** Robert Banks 425-454-2289 (3)
- **1964 442**. Excellent condition! \$52,900; Call Ned Peterson 425-316-3200 (1)
- **1969 350 Block**, Looking to sell or trade for an Oldsmobile diesel 350 block: 1969 Olds 350 long-block. Oil pan and original cast iron 4-barrel intake manifold included. Partially disassembled. Will consider any offer. It's just collecting dust in my garage and I'd like to see it go to a good home.
Contact: samandw@gmail.com or 425-210-7040 (1)
- **1973 Olds Hardtop Parts Car** – Call Hugh Russell – 206-524-2785 (2)
- **1982 Toronado** – Need engine, body good. \$300 - Call Mick Preston, Cell 425-622-8294 (1)
- **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 AutoCheck Vehicle History Report Interested? Please email oldsmobilecutlass85@gmail.com Car located in Indianola, WA (2)
- **Intake Manifold** for 4 barrel 394 motor. Call Jim Long 360-893-8293 (2)
- **1959 Fiesta Wagon** 4 doors and a hood for sale. Contact at Kathleen Gamble at snohomishironinc@hotmail.com (1)

NEEDS:

- **Need: Radiator shroud for '57, '58 or '59.** Call Erik (425) 433-6480 (1)
- **Need: Fender skirts for 1973 98 and ash trays (1)** Hugh Russell 206-524-2785
- **Bumper Jack**; For 1950 Olds; Call Ken at 206-930-1741 (3)

- **Need: Power Antenna and the name of a Wonder Bar radio repair person.** Call Ed Booth; 253-752-6158 (1)
- **Gravel guard for 1949 88 Coupe;** Call Brian McAdams – Cell, 206-618-8647 (3)
- **425 Engine for Delta 88** – Call John Woolworth ; 206-524-6142 or woolworthart@yahoo.com (1)

LEADS:

Bumper jacks; Call Hugh Russell; 206-524-2785 (2)

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING ADS: A number at the end of each listing indicates how many issues of the newsletter that the ad has already run. The ad will run for three months. If you have a **THREE** after your ad, you need to contact us if you wish to renew the ad for following issue.



Parting shot...

