



# Pacific Tiger Club

## Newsletter

ROOTES OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

### President's Corner



Spring is fast approaching; actually we have already had much spring weather. Hopefully you all are getting your car ready for the spring, summer and fall driving events we have planned. Maybe you have already been driving them, all the better.

Our March meeting will be at Tru-Line in Bellevue. Tru-Line is one of the few vendors left that understands our old cars and can align the front end. I am told Bryon, the owner, has a vast experience working on many old British and other foreign exotic makes. It should be informative and interesting to see how they perform their service.

In April, back by popular demand, will be our swap meet. Max Pahmeier has graciously agreed to provide his home again for the venue. Dig into those forgotten boxes and hiding places and see if you have some parts others would be interested in purchasing.

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Sharon Reuter. As many of you know, Sharon worked tirelessly behind the

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#### **MARCH 21 - PTC MEETING:**

START: 10:00 AM

#### ***TRU-LINE BELLEVUE***

1423 - 130th Ave NE, Bellevue Wash 98005.

425-462-0013

#### **Tru-Line specializes in:**

Suspension repairs, Wheel alignments,  
Frame repairs, Suspension modifications

#### **Sat. April 25 11am-1pm**

***It's Back!! PTC's***

#### **Sunbeam Swap Meet!**

**Bring your Rootes parts, manuals &  
memorabilia to buy, sell and trade.**

Sellers, please RSVP to:

(360) 668-1303 or pahmeier@comcast.net

***16108 SR 9 SE***

***Snohomish, WA***

From SR 9, go west at 164<sup>th</sup> St SE, take first right  
onto 83<sup>rd</sup> Ave SE, look for long driveway on right

## Pacific Tiger Club Newsletter

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scenes to get trophies, plaques, t-shirts etc., for our many events. Sharon and Wayne have been long time contributors to and participants in PTC (Wayne being one of the original founders of PTC). They both helped put on many of the autocross events we sponsored or attended. Sharon was a very accomplished autocross driver and was always willing to help others improve their skills. Sharon will be missed by us all and our thoughts go out to Wayne in this difficult time.

*Dunn for now*

### Club Officers

**President:** Dave Dunn  
5906 Mont Blanc Place NW  
Issaquah WA 98027  
[ddunn@andoverco.com](mailto:ddunn@andoverco.com)

**VP/Newsletter** Dick Sanders  
4239 S. 261<sup>st</sup> S  
Kent, WA 98043  
253-332-0253  
RootesRooter@aol.com

**Secretary:** Volunteer Needed!

**Treasurer** Bob Bennion  
**Pro Tem:** 37904 Fawn Rd NE.  
Hansville, WA 98340  
360-638-1992  
[904star@centurytel.net](mailto:904star@centurytel.net)

### Committee Chairpersons

**Membership:** Dan Kuenzi  
370 N. East Camano Dr.  
STE #5, PMB #36  
Camano Island, WA 98282  
509-952-4036  
[shelbycuda@hotmail.com](mailto:shelbycuda@hotmail.com)

**Historians:** Dave Dunn / Dan Kuenzi  
**Activities:** Volunteer needed!

January/February 2015

## *she being brand new* (1926)

*Automotive poetry by E. E. Cummings (1894-1962)*

she being Brand

-new;and you  
know consequently a  
little stiff i was  
careful of her and (having

thoroughly oiled the universal  
joint tested my gas felt of  
her radiator made sure her springs were O.

K.)i went right to it flooded-the-carburetor cranked  
her

up,slipped the  
clutch (and then somehow got into reverse she  
kicked what  
the hell) next  
minute i was back in neutral tried and

again slo-wly;bare,ly nudg. ing(my

lev-er Right-  
oh and her gears being in  
A 1 shape passed  
from low through  
second-in-to-high like  
greased(lightning) just as we turned the corner of  
Divinity avenue i touched the accelerator and give

her the juice,good

(it  
was the first ride and believe i we was  
happy to see how nice she acted right up to  
the last minute coming back down by the Public  
Gardens i slammed on  
the

internalexpanding  
&  
externalcontracting  
brakes Bothatonce and

brought allofher tremB  
-ling  
to a:dead.

stand-  
;Still)

## Auto-Biography

# Kylie's Series II Alpine

By Kylie Keyzer

On June 25, 1965, my father, Bill McKirdy, purchased a Wedgewood blue Sunbeam Alpine Series II with wire wheels and overdrive from Carlson Motors in San Leandro, California. He loved this car.

In the late 60's, my dad and his sister bought a little piece of land in Truckee, CA near Lake Tahoe and started building a cabin. Every weekend Dad would drive the Sunbeam up the mountains to the build site. Tahoe, Christmas 1968



In 1968, Dad met Desley on an airplane bound for Los Angeles. She was a young Australian flight attendant on holiday. He ditched his business trip

to take her to Disneyland. They married 3 months later! Desley first learned to drive in the Sunbeam in the Rose Bowl parking lot.

In the late 70's, my mom and dad shared in the blame of blowing the engine. He forgot to tighten the oil drain plug after an oil change; she kept driving down the Pasadena highway long after the little red light came on. By this time, two children and life got in the way, so the Sunbeam was retired to life under a tarp in the backyard. I can remember sneaking under the tarp where my sister and I would pretend to drive ourselves on countless adventures.

By the mid-80s, Bill could no longer bear to see his beloved car sitting and started repairs on the engine, dismantling every part in a sea of plastic sandwich bags and hand written notes. Would it ever go back together, we wondered.

By the 90s, of course, the engine was back together, if frustratingly imperfect. Bill then did a beautiful full body restoration.

In 2011, my dad became very ill with cancer. With heavy hearts, Jeff and I said we would love to take care of the Sunbeam when the time came. Jeff is an auto enthusiast and has been working on his own vintage car for years. We would keep her on the road for Dad. Jeff and I were living in Austin TX when Dad passed away in August.



Out for a drive with my sister

With endless top down weather, we drove the car as much as we could. More than she had been driven in the past 30 years. And with each drive, a new problem would surface. First the starter, then the generator. My first solo project was the broken driver's side door handle. With much apprehension, I opened up the door, removed the handle, and cleaned out all the gunk. And when it all went back together, the car actually started to feel like my own.

My husband Jeff is a true engineer. It really bothered him that the car wasn't running better and has always wanted to learn how to rebuild an engine. So over 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend in 2014, we pulled the engine and started a major overhaul.

We are so grateful for the club's help and support during our rebuild. We are about 75% done. Maybe we can provide an update when we're back on the road.

PTC

# Fill 'er Up!

by Dick Sanders



Many of my New Year resolutions have already gone by the wayside, several in a post-Super Bowl wake of “comfort” beer and pizza. The one that’s stuck so far is my

resolve to drive the Alpine more often. With unseasonably warm temperatures in the 50’s over the past month, all that’s been required is a break between infrequent rain squalls.

Yes, there are good reasons not to drive a Sunbeam, or any collectible car, during the winter months. Cars that have always resided in the Pacific NW have generally been favored by collectors in the past due to our moderate temperatures and relative lack of salt on the roads. That may change. A few years ago, a pair of closely-spaced storms dumped layers of packed, frozen snow and ice on Seattle’s streets, leaving many arterials impassable. Inconvenienced motorists, many of whom have little business driving on dry streets, let alone icy, belly-ached enough that local and some regional politicians OK’d the widespread use of brine to combat ice. Perhaps modern undercoating can withstand the salty attack, but classic car owners driving in winter need to make regular trips to a car wash equipped with undercarriage sprayers.

With that caveat in mind, don’t be afraid to bundle up, take the top down, and enjoy a brisk tour through your local back roads.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Automobile** magazine ran a nice article on the Tiger in their January 2015 issue. Better even than the article was some of the feedback in the March issue, as relayed to us by **Kevin Jewell**:

*“The Sunbeam Tiger is a crazed, wheel-spinning, teenage hooligan of a car, despite the graying sophistication of its average owner. Your article made the Tiger seem like it belongs*

*in a somewhat sporty study hall, when in fact it lives to spend eternity in detention.*

*Pen Pendleton  
Los Angeles, CA ”*

Have truer words ever been written about the Sunbeam Tiger??

\* \* \* \* \*

In April, PTC will once again buck all the modern trends towards impersonal, eBay-type transactions and hold a live, in-person Tiger, Alpine, Rootes parts swap meet. **Max & Kathryn Pahmeier** will repeat as hosts at their house just a few miles south of Snohomish.

Last year’s swap meet was a success, with a healthy turnout of vendors and buyers. Personally, although I had to load up a bunch of stuff back into my truck afterwards, I sold enough items to make it well worth the trip from the south end of King County to the north end, and back. See the club calendar for details.

\* \* \* \* \*

I received several positive responses to **Ed Erikson**’s article in the last issue, “Do You Know Where your Sunbeam was Sold?”, which included a photographic record of the final demise of a former local Rootes dealership. Thanks again, Ed! Right on his heels, **Kylie Keyser** sent in an “auto-biography” of the history of her blue Series II for this issue.

Hey, Tiger owners! Don’t be left out! I know that most, if not all of you have a great story of buying, owning, driving, or sometimes even *crashing* your Tiger. Let the rest of us in on it! Make it as short or long as you like. That’s what editors are for!

\* \* \* \* \*

Condolences from all to **Wayne Reuter**, whose wife **Sharon** passed away in her sleep last month. I’m sure that everyone who attended PTC’s last Christmas Party remembers how much Sharon was enjoying her recent retirement. She will be missed by all. **PTC**

January/February 2015

## *2014 Holiday Party at Kevin & Judy Jewell's*

*Below right: Kevin leads us in the gift exchange;  
center-left: Starke Shelby shows off his classic Sunbeam bicycle*



*All photos by Bob Bennion*

# Mark Your Calendar

## PTC - Club Events

**March 21 – Tech session and meeting at Tru-Line Bellevue**, Saturday at 10AM. Tru-Line specializes in suspension repairs, wheel alignments, frame repairs, suspension modifications, etc. 1423 - 130th Ave NE, Bellevue, Wash 98005. 425-462-0013

**April 25 – It's SWAP MEET time again!!** Dig out those extra Sunbeam parts that have taken up space in your garage since the Carter Administration! Max & Kathryn Pahmeier will host the meet in their huge garage just north of Snohomish. See front page for more details.

**May 23 – Tech Session and meeting at Brake & Clutch Supply.** 10am. See how they reline our increasingly scarce brake shoes, clutch plates and more. A shop tour will point out the differences of old vs new material technology. 2930 6<sup>th</sup> Ave So. Seattle 98134 206-622-5655

**June 13 – Tour the back roads of Lake Stevens.** Bill & Glenda Clemens will lead us on local scenic roads that you've probably never driven before. We'll end the tour at the Clemens' home. Details TBA

**July 25 - Western Washington ABFM** The new venue at Saint Edward State Park in Kenmore, Wash. was a big success in 2014. Organizers say access will be greatly improved this year. Also, they can always use more volunteers to help with setup. See ABFM.com for details.

**Aug 15 – Hansville Sunbeam Bash** Larry & Linda Atkisson are organizing our biggest outdoor event of the summer at the Driftwood Key Club Waterfront Park in Hansville, WA. Reserved parking for Sunbeams!

Sept 19 – Tour to Bloedel Reserve TBA

## Other Sunbeam Events

**June 18-21 Tigers United** South Shore of Lake Tahoe, CA [catmbr.org](http://catmbr.org) for more details.

### British Iron

**April 25 – Tulip Rally** 34th Annual Tulip Rallye scheduled for Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>. Starts at Cascade Mall, at Hwy 20 off I-5. 8-9am check-in. Organized by the NW MG Car Club

**May 16 - Vancouver ABFM.** Van Dusen Botanical Gardens. Vancouver, BC.  
<http://www.westerndriver.com>

**Sept 4-6 Portland ABFM**, Portland Int'l Raceway. 800+ entries, plus SOVREN vintage racing taking place just a stone's throw behind you on the PIR race track.

### Vintage Racing Action

May 1-3 Spring Sprints – Pacific Raceways  
June 5-6 Spokane Historic Races  
July 3-5 Pacific Northwest Historics  
– Pacific Raceways  
Sept 4-6 Columbia River Classic - PIR  
Sept 26-27 Fall Finale – Pacific Raceways  
Check SOVREN.org for more info.

### Our Members Suggest...

**April 9-11 PIR Auto Swap Meet.** The biggest swap meet in the NW, it takes up the entire Portland International Raceway track. Still a few British/Rootes parts likely to be found by the sharp-eyed enthusiast.

**May 24 Vintage All-British Car Show**, at XXX Root Beer Drive-In, Issaquah, WA. Sponsored by: MG Car Club NW Center  
More info: <http://www.mgccnwc.com>

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# WANNA SELL!

Sunbeam parts close-out. See Rockauto.com

**FOR SALE:** Alpine Aluminum Oil Pan \$150.  
Rebuildable Alpine Ser V aluminum head \$100.  
Other misc Alpine parts. See Dick Sanders at  
PTC Sunbeam Swap Meet in April. (see  
elsewhere for swap meet details). **PTC**



Sharon Reuter (left) with husband Wayne at Sunbeam NW VIII in 1986. Sharon passed away last month. A celebration of her life will be held Sunday, March 29th at **Salty's at Alki** from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. There will be appetizers, soft drinks, and water. There will also be a "No Host Bar" available. Dress: casual.

Address: 1936 Harbor Ave. SW  
Seattle, WA 98126

If you are able, Please RSVP by March 22 so that we will have an idea of how many to expect. RSVP to: [catkisson@aol.com](mailto:catkisson@aol.com) or 360-638-1998



In her element: Sharon held own against all comers on the autocross track; here at Sunbeam NW VII at the Woodburn, OR drag strip. (photos by Jim Leach)

# WANNA BUY!



Above: 2014's Swap Meet. Lots of people, lots of parts, lots of fun!

## Renewing your membership?

Members are asked to send all membership checks and correspondence to:

Dan Kuenzi  
370 N. East Camano Dr.  
STE #5, PMB #36  
Camano Island, WA 98282

509-952-2712  
[shelbycuda@hotmail.com](mailto:shelbycuda@hotmail.com)

**Annual Membership Dues:** \$32.00 US/35.00 for foreign members. Make checks payable to: PacificTiger Club.

DO WE HAVE BOTH YOUR CURRENT SNAIL-MAIL AND EMAIL ADDRESSES? HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH. SEND ANY CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, DAN KUENZI

January/February 2015



Starting out the New Year right. Dick (pictured) & Hollie Sanders on a top-down tour on a clear, chilly January 1 to visit a Seattle icon from the 1962 Century 21 World's Fair: the "Bubbleator." Originally a futuristic elevator in the Seattle Coliseum (now Key Arena), today it serves as a greenhouse in the Redondo/Des Moines area. *– photo by Hollie Sanders*



5906 Mont Blanc Place NW  
Issaquah, WA 98027