



Pacific Tiger Club Newsletter

ROOTES OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Driving Through Paradise by Jim Clark



SWAP MEET TIME

A month before the PTC swap meet, I started going through boxes in my garage in an attempt to free up some space. I had accumulated too many spare parts, and something had to go. I was going to be a seller this year. In the previous swap meets, I had been looking for certain parts for my Sunbeam, little things like mirrors, seat belts, and doors.

This year was going to be different, my goal was to make room in my garage. A cumbersome stack of Sunbeam car doors sat in



Jim Clark photo

one corner of the garage. Why was I saving those? I imagined the space savings I could accomplish and happily loaded my truck with a handful of car doors, piles of dented chrome,

several cloudy Plexiglas windscreens from old hardtops, and other odd items.

My second goal on that sunny Saturday was to fill a round hole in the center of my dash. The dial that had been there was long gone, so I was on the prowl for a Rootes Emblem or a clock from the 1960's era.

Saturday, June 18th Tour To: Black Diamond Bakery

Meet at the XXX Drive-In in Issaquah at 10:15am. At 10:30 we'll take a leisurely tour of that most rare of King County highways: *virtually traffic-free.* Our tour will end at the Black Diamond Bakery for a monthly meeting over coffee and pastries.

I knew finding a Smith clock that worked was a long shot, but something from the period just might turn up at the swap meet. Last year, Jeff Denton discovered that a round spray-can

cont. on page 2

Club Officers

- President:** Dave Dunn
5906 Mont Blanc Place NW
Issaquah WA 98027
ddunn@andoverco.com
- VP/Newsletter** Dick Sanders
4239 S. 261st S
Kent, WA 98043
253-332-0253
RootesRooter@aol.com
- Secretary:** Jim Clark
17711 10th Ave NW
Shoreline, WA 98177
- Treasurer:** Bob Bennion
37904 Fawn Rd NE.
Hansville, WA 98340
360-638-1992
904star@centurytel.net

Committee Chairpersons

- Membership:** Dan Kuenzi
1790 Longmire Lane
Selah, WA 98942
509-952-7120
shelbycuda@hotmail.com
- Historians:** Dave Dunn / Dan Kuenzi
- Activities:** Volunteer needed!

Renewing your membership?

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

Pacific Tiger Club
c/o Dan Kuenzi
1790 Longmire Lane
Selah, WA 98942

509-952-7120
shelbycuda@hotmail.com
Annual Membership Dues: \$32.00 US/35.00
for foreign members. Make checks payable to:
PacificTiger Club.

cont. from front page

lid fit the hole snugly and with a nice color, I used black; the dash looked passable. Except that I and all other club members knew it was still a hole.

At Christmas, Jeff found a battery-operated clock from a small grandfather's clock that he had in his home. It fit perfectly, but it had a tiny flaw; it didn't work. It was always correct two times a day, so we set it for 5:00 o'clock... quitting time. The cream-colored face didn't clash with the car interior, but it didn't make a fashion statement either. The color didn't bother me as much as the roman numerals etched on the clock face. It would never fly in an English car.

It was the second time around the 'used and tired' parts tables that I was pleasantly surprised to find a Smith clock. I had missed the black face and faded orange hands of the thing during my first walk around the various tables. After a test fit in one of Max Pahmeier's spare dashes, and a quick test with a battery, I purchased it. It didn't work, but it had that rugged English roadster look I was looking for; and Mrs. Denton would be happy to get her cream colored clock back.



Not for sale! Chuck Rapuzzi drove his recently-bought Pantera to the Swap Meet. - Budd Bennion photo

As time ran out on the swap meet, I finally sold my doors. Then I found some 13 inch wheels, on one last walk around the tables. With good rubber on the tires, they'd be great rollers for another project. It was so easy to say "I'll take them." As a result, my truck was just as full when I got home as it was when I left. So was it a successful swap meet? I'm still scratching my head, as there is a stack of tires in the corner where my car doors sat. **PTC**

Fill 'er Up!

by Dick Sanders



Two years ago, my trusty old Ford Ranger was broken into at a south-end park & ride lot. The would-be thief punched the door lock, then the ignition trying to steal it but was either inept or

interrupted, ending up with just a pocketfull of nickles and dimes from the center console.

I took heed and tried to beef up security before I had to park there again. An old knockoff of The Club I found in my garage seemed the answer but for some reason I couldn't make it fit with the steering wheel.

The quick overnight fix was to fit my Alpine's engine-cranking handle through the steering wheel. It was in no way actually connected to anything, but through the tinted side-glass it looked ugly and formidable. It may or may not have protected my truck until about a month ago when I got lazy and left the crank behind the seats.



Fitted correctly through the steering wheel, it gave pause to would-be thieves.

Sure enough, I returned from the office one Friday to find a whole lotta empty where my truck had been parked that morning.

Chevy Chase's rant against his cheap boss in the movie *Christmas Vacation* best summed up my thoughts about the perp:

"I want to look him straight in the eye and tell him what a cheap, lying, no good, rotten, four flushing, snake licking, dirt eating, inbred, overstuffed, ignorant, blood sucking, dog kissing, brainless, dickless, hopeless, heartless,

fat assed, bug-eyed, stiff legged, spotty lipped, worm headed, sack of monkey shit he is!!! Halleluah!! Holy shit!! Where's the Tylenol???"

Two days later, as often happens with auto thefts, I got a call from the local police informing me that my truck had been found. So it was that my first trip this year in Hollie's Alpine, pressed into service despite a non-charging alternator, was to visit a nearby towing lot. Unlike my next-door neighbor, who had his stolen truck returned in better condition than before it was ripped off, the dummy who stole my truck managed to run a stop sign that Sunday morning and collide with another car – luckily with no injuries to the innocent party. The bad guy ran off, of course.

The truck's body damage wasn't that bad but the left front suspension had been tweaked and the air bag deployed, the combination of which was enough to declare it a "total."

I inspected the Ranger for personal stuff they might have left behind. The interior was completely cleaned out, including the replenished nickles and dimes in the console. In the truck bed was a large black plastic garbage bag the police had used to collect debris at the accident scene, mostly grillwork and headlight pieces from the innocent party's car. As I closed the bag back up I noticed something laying underneath it. Picking the bag up I found the one item of any value to me: the Alpine crank handle. The thief was probably too young to know what it was, but too fascinated by it to throw it out.

Budd Bennion's winter project was pretty straight-forward: replace the clutch, pressure plate and throwout bearing on his Hillman Husky. The clutch had given extraordinary life: over 30 years on a regularly-driven car. After re-installing everything, the clutch wouldn't work. Oh, well. That happens sometimes. Out came the tranny again. Maybe a bad clutch disk? So Budd replaced that and put it back together. Still didn't work.



Budd Bennion, still smiling at this point on just the 2nd lap of his clutch replacement marathon.

Budd discovered that the new pressure plate was slightly too large, but not until the tranny had been pulled SIX times. I helped him re-install it twice, Susan Pray three times. If PTC ever gives out a Patience of Job Award, Budd will be the odds-on favorite. I think by about the forth round I would have lobbed the clutch like an Olympic discus into the next county.

My yellow Series V was off the road since the beginning of the year for an even simpler task, fixing an oil pan leak. It too turned into a mini-marathon as the Alpine refused to fire after the leak was fixed. Nothing was getting to the carbs. I pulled the fuel pump, poured some gas into it and determined it was still working, then turned it upside down. It was like a snow globe, but instead of white swirling snowflakes it was filled with black paint flakes.



Yes, the flakes *can* be the size of a postage stamp!

I had had a similar problem about 20 years ago, which resulted in several stops alongside

the road on a memorable trip between Portland and Seattle to unclog the fuel line and carbs. Months later I could see that the black flakes had subsided (the pump’s glass bowl does come in handy), and I thought the last of the paint had peeled from inside the gas tanks. That thinking also led me to skip pulling and re-coating the tanks when I had the rest of the car apart five years ago. D’oh!! Blowing out the line seemed to solve everything for now and it runs great, with just a few tiny flakes showing up, but I think a fuel tank fix is somewhere in the not-too-distant future.

We don’t get all that many want ads for the Newsletter (zero this month), which I find surprising, because they *can* work. Case in point: Driving the Alpine on a recent Saturday, I stopped at a garage sale just around the corner from our house. The wife, housesitting with her husband for her sister, greeted me with “Is that a Triumph?” I told her it was an Alpine. She replied, “Oh, I should have known. I used to have one, but I didn’t recognize it without the fins.” She went on to tell me how they’d found it in an aircraft hanger in eastern Washington a dozen years ago, then had it towed to their home in Federal Way.

She loved it but, alas, her husband was not a “car guy” and claimed it broke down every single time he drove it, so they sold it a couple of years later.

She said they “advertised it in the local Pacific Tiger Club Newsletter.” Soon after, a vintage racer from Chicago called and added more fins to his Alpine collection. **PTC**



Odds & Ends: A partial shot of a 2014 Wells Fargo Bank lobby poster. At the end of the promotion, branches were required to recycle the posters – no exceptions!

Secretary's Report

16 April 2016

The third annual PTC Swap Meet at Max and Kathryn Pahmeier's home.

Meeting called to order by Dick Sanders.

Treasury report: Bob Bennion reported the club had \$11,805 in checking and a CD.

Vice President Dick Sanders reported that the newsletter is always in need of articles on members' winter projects and/or anecdotes about their cars.

Old Business:

- Budd Bennion reported on the Western Washington All British Field Meet. Budd B. is the club's representative to the event. This year the emphasis will be on British cars in the showroom in 1966, and not a particular marque.

He reports that the organizers are in need of money. Jaguar, a major contributor to the ABFM, cut back their sponsorship. Brit Sport is still a major sponsor, along with Griot's Garage. To make money they are again selling advertising space in their event brochure. Budd had flyers that shop owners could place in their shop windows, along with smaller handouts that can be passed out to people, in the hopes of attracting more spectators to the event. The new website is www.abfm.com, and Doug Jackson will be the contact for more info.

This year the ABFM purchased a new online payment program. A reminder post card will be sent to past participants; it will tell them how to register online at ABFM.com. You will also be able to print the form and snail-mail it.

For the Friday night function at the St Edward State park you will purchase a dinner ticket with your registration, have your meal, pick up your registration packet and hang around for the raffle prizes. The Friday night event usually has a great turnout and if the

weather is nice many people drive their classic cars, a preview of the next day's show. This is particularly good for out of town people who are staying in a hotel thus giving them something to do Friday night.

New Business:

- If you are in need of a name tag, see Bill Clemans – they are \$12.

- Dan Kuenzi opened discussion and Max Pahmeier made a motion that the PTC buy a full page ad in this year's ABFM program for \$350, on condition that there is some history about the club and the PTC website is mentioned.

- The June 18th meeting is the Black Diamond Driving Tour. Kevin and Judy Jewell plan a drive from the Triple X drive-in in Issaquah to the Black Diamond Bakery. Dick S. reported that PTC drove a similar tour a number of years ago and it is a curvy and fun drive.

- Jim Clark reported on an upcoming Shoreline car show at the Richmond Beach Rehab facility on May 7th. There is no entry fee and participants get a free box lunch.

- Nick Emmanouilides thought that the March club meeting at Racecraft was excellent. The tour guide gave him the name of a good car hauler, which was very reasonable. Nick's vehicles were shipped from Phoenix on Monday and arrived in Olympia on Thursday. The company was BATS Motor Sports.

- Bob Bennion reported on the Buck Lake Car Show at Hansville, WA to be held July 17, 2016. They serve a breakfast at 10:00 and no trophies are passed out.

Meeting was adjourned

Minutes submitted by Jim Clark

Rootes on the Eastside

by Craig Burlingame

I don't know about you but I always feel like a celebrity whenever I drive one of my Rootesmobiles around town. This weekend I drove all 3 of my Rootes babies and each one brought back so many memories for the people we encountered.

This morning, since the weather was overcast, I decided to motor to church in my Series III Minx sedan. Should blend into the background in busy Bellevue, right?? No. When I returned to my car in the Trader Joe's parking lot, a small group of newly converted Hillman fans had gathered. Before pulling out of the parking lot I had no less than 8 conversations with people who enjoyed taking a trip down memory lane.

The one that cracked me up was this nice looking young gal - who I later learned was Lana from Moscow, Russia and she just stood there and admired the humble car from Coventry. I should also say she motored up in a late model Audi8 and wouldn't be the one you think would go all gaga over a Hillman Minx. And in fact she didn't know the brand or model but it so reminded her of the car her father has back in Russia she just went nuts over the car and took photos on her iPhone from every conceivable angle and under the bonnet.

She went on to tell me how much that car meant to her. She's an artist and just last week she was moved to paint a detailed painting of her Dad's 1957 car (called the Moscovite) in full color from memory or photos. She showed me the photo she took of her painting and it did look very similar - even down to the 2-tone blue color scheme. Amazing. Then she told me she was seriously thinking of importing that very car into this country from Russia and asked what might be involved with bringing a foreign car into this country. She had already



Craig Burlingame in "Mighty Minx." - photo from Facebook

April / May 2016

researched the cost of shipping at \$5-6,000 and seemed to be seriously contemplating the project and seeing my car probably inspired her all the more. Cool. Maybe someday I'll drop in on an All-Russian Field Meet and see the car of her childhood memories and smile knowing the back story :-)

With that conversation still going another couple came up to talk about the car. They were both from Germany but they remembered the stylish car from England and enjoyed seeing one in so nice a shape in the neighborhood. And then I remembered the neighborhood is shared with Microsoft. And sure enough both groups were here because of Microsoft.

The next group pulled in and unloaded 4 people in awe of the 2-tone Minx. They were celebrating Mother's Day and the whole family was immediately taken back in time to the fun times they had in an early '50s Hillman Minx convertible. This group was from good ole US of A and in fact, they came from Burlingame, California and that's where their Dad had

bought the car, brand new, from a Hillman dealership there. Boy, what I'd give for a period license plate frame embellished with "Burlingame Hillman."

The day before, on a sunny Saturday, I motored about in the "Mighty Minx" and it created the same mini

sensation wherever it went - with top down, of course. I started off at the "Exotics in Redmond" car show on Saturday morning. It's a great event if you haven't seen it before. It happens every Saturday morning in the back parking lot of Redmond Towne Center from 9am-11am and attracts the full range of "exotics" from Hillmans, VWs and Panards to Ferraris, Porches, M3s. Whatever drives in is featured that day - as long as the weather is decent. <http://www.exoticsat.com/>
[Craig Burlingame, of Bellevue, WA, is a long-time member of PTC who has organised several driving tours for the club. In addition to his two Minx's, Craig also owns a light-blue Series V Alpine.]

PTC TOUR OF THE LEMAY FAMILY COLLECTION AT MARYMOUNT. SATURDAY, MAY 14

We had a wonderful time. We had seven classic Rootes cars drive to the site: one Hillman, 4 Alpines and 2 Tigers.

A total of 16 people from Pacific Tiger Club took the tour. Some who had never been there were amazed at the number and variety of cars in the collection.



A group shot of the early arrivals *Nick Emmanouilides photo*

Mark Your Calendar

PTC - Club Events



Nick Emmanouilides photo

We got a 3-hour, conducted tour of the site and its many cars.

A few of us stayed another couple of hours



Dennis Junk and son Chris roll onto the grounds in Dennis' Balmoral Grey Mk I. *Nick Emmanouilides photo*

to view the Lucky Car Auction that was also going on that weekend on the grounds. There were some expensive cars, including a 1967 Shelby GT 350 that did not even get close to the reserve price, and an excellent deal for someone on a PT Cruiser (about a 2003) that sold for \$1250. It was in very good condition.

Fun was had by all.

-Budd Bennion

June 18 Tour to the Black Diamond Bakery Meet at the XXX Drive-In in Issaquah at 10:15, leave at 10:30. If you haven't dusted off your Sunbeam yet this year, now's the time! Issaquah to Black Diamond is just the right tour to stretch the legs of your slumbering beast.

July 23 Western Washington All-British Field Meet. St. Edward State Park is again the site of this huge British car gathering.

Organizers have spiced it up this year with different live music and new ethnic food trucks. Tacos vs. bangers 'n mash?? Plus a Friday night meet 'n greet at the Park. See ABFM.com

Other Sunbeam Events

June 17-19 Tigers United XXXVII Santa Maria, CA catmbr.org for more details.

British Iron

Sept 2-4 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

July 3-5 Pacific Northwest Historics
- Pacific Raceways

Sept 3-4 Columbia River Classic - PIR

Sept 24-25 Fall Finale - Pacific Raceways

Check SOVREN.org for more info.

Autocrossing

June 12 By Puget Sound Corvette Club at

August 14 Shelton Airport. PTC members

Sept 11 members are welcome. Their club has run two autocrosses for our Sunbeam Northwest events.

Details at PugetSoundCorvetteClub.com



Media home pages are prone to carrying links to such riveting topics as “10 Richest Former NFL Players” or “14 Stars Who Will Never Be Allowed to Host Saturday Night Live again.” Here’s one topic sure to grab your attention: “Top 12 Cars of Playmates of the Year.” 1965 Playmate Jo Collins and her pink Tiger made the list. This Tiger was at SUNI II in 1994, incognito in red paint, reportedly owned at the time by a British Columbian.



5906 Mont Blanc Place NW
Issaquah, WA 98027