

July / August 2017



Pacific Tiger Club

Newsletter

Rootes of the Pacific Northwest

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY ED ERIKSON

As we enter the “Dog Days” of August, I am relishing the beautiful weather we have been having this summer. Every day is ‘top down’ and for the foreseeable future too. I have made good use of my Alpine this summer. Just going for a spin in eastern King County or driving on Marine View Drive between Des Moines and Tacoma is invigorating. I am sure all of you have your favorite drives also.



Ed Erikson and navigator Marguerite Pickett

The ABFM at St. Edward State Park was a success. PTC members entered a nice representa-

tive group of Tigers and Alpines and a Hillman. Congratulations to Dennis Junk for a People's

Choice #1 award for Tigers, to Max Pahmeier for taking the first place award for Alpines and to Craig Burlingame for his Hillman trophy.

On a side note, the fellow who rescued my Alpine from a field in Poulsbo way back in 1987 showed up and told me: “I used to own that car.” We had a nice talk about his trials and tribulations of his restoration process on it and after seeing the car again, he said that he regretted giving it up. His loss, my gain! He offered to hand over his Rootes collection of books and articles that he has kept all these years. I took him up on it!

I am looking forward to the West Seattle Car Show on August 26 at South Seattle Community College and the excursion to Whidbey Island to visit Simpson Design in late September.

I hope to see the group at these events as well as the AGM in Tacoma in October.

See you there!

Club Officers

President: Ed Erikson
21509 48th Court So.
Kent, WA 98032
v13311@yahoo.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: Susan Pray
5775 Mutiny Bay Rd.
Freeland, 98249.
206-276-9634
Susanjpray@gmail.com

Committee Chairpersons

Membership: Dan Kuenzi
1790 Longmire Lane
Selah, WA 98942
509-952-7120
shelbycuda@hotmail.com

Historians: Dave Dunn / Dan Kuenzi

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 funds).
Make checks payable to: Pacific Tiger Club.*

PTC Club Events

August 26 - West Seattle Car Show. 10am-3pm.

South Seattle Community College. PTC's Starke Shelby is one of the organizers of this neighborhood show which typically attracts 200+ cars. The college has a well-known culinary program. Starke reports the show's parking lot is literally a few steps from where the school will have samples of local wines and craft beers available. \$20 show entry fee. Sign up online by August 18 at: <http://westseattlecarshow.com/>

September 16 – Tour to Simpson Design on Whidby Island. 11am - ?

Simpson Design creates custom cars using the Mazda Miata as a base, replacing the stock body with a variety of hand-built custom shells.

Event organizer Susan Pray says: "We'll meet at the Cozy Corner tavern at the top of the hill on the right hand side in Clinton from the Mukilteo/Clinton ferry terminal at **11am**, We'll drive about 5 minutes to Simpson's property. Folks should plan on catching the **10:30** ferry from Mukilteo which means be at the ferry dock in Mukilteo around **9:30 or 9:45**. We'll have coffee and donuts at Cozy's parking lot as the tavern won't be open yet."

Following the Simpson tour, time allowing, we'll take a short road trip to Paul Timms Classics, a British-car repair shop, followed by lunch and/or walking tours in nearby Langley.

British Events

Portland All-British Field Meet

Labor Day Weekend Portland International Raceway. Lots of activities besides car show: rallye, funkhana, autoslalom, Land Rover Adventure Ride, slot car racing, arts & crafts. More info on Facebook page..

July / August 2017

With a little help from my friends

Enjoying a fun spring in my favorite Rootesmobile

Story and photos by Craig Burlingame

You probably remember the Beatles song, With a Little Help from my Friends. I've been singing that song on several occasions this spring as longtime PTC club member Budd Bennion has been coming to the rescue to help keep my fleet of Rootesmobiles in top driving shape.

My 1955 Hillman Minx convertible - the Mighty Minx - was in need of some attention earlier this year. The lower pulley nut had come loose and made a bad rattling sound when the car was driving about. Not sure how to fix this on my own, I asked Budd to help and he came over with tools and some spares - including a spare pully nut.



Budd Bennion starts with Craig's Alpine before fixing the 'Mighty Minx's' maladies.

Our goal was to get the Mighty Minx ready to motor up to Canada for the All British Field Meet at VanDusen Gardens on May 20. I very much enjoy that show up north for a variety of reasons. That's the venue where I first acquired the Mighty Minx way back in 1994 as the previous owner had his hands full raising a family and found no time to devote to the Hillman project. That turned out to be my great fortune as I triumphantly drove the Mighty Minx back

from Vancouver to start a 23+ year love affair with the same car I learned to drive on in high school - only in convertible form. Way cool.



I love motoring up to Canada using Highway 9, it's so peaceful and tranquil in places and reminds me of a simpler time

Budd came over as promised and rolled up his sleeves and over the next three days we had all 3 of my Rootesmobiles running in tip top shape. Thanks to Budd the Mighty Minx was ready for the Ball up north. The only set-back we had was getting a hot



Previous owner and family of the Mighty Minx loved seeing the car on display. Father gives a driving lesson to daughter. The Minx is very roomy with ample room for 3 across the front, thanks to column shift

Pacific Tiger Club Newsletter

lamp too close to the battery case and melting a small quarter-size hole in the case.

Not wanting to buy a new battery, we decided to try a fix. We used marine epoxy - in putty form and I could shape it nicely to restore the battery body to as-new condition. After a little sanding, primer and paint, it looked good as new and no leaks or deterioration.

The previous owner, Simon and his family always make a point to visit the Vancouver ABFM in hopes the Mighty Minx will show up and look even nicer than the last time they saw it. I didn't let him down as the Mighty Minx motored happily onto the field. In fact, the Mighty Minx would be the ONLY Hillman on the field of 500+ cars. The weather was great for Canada's Victoria weekend so there was a good turnout - mainly of cars from British Columbia. I counted 7 Tigers, 2 Alpines, a Rapier and my Hillman in the Rootes Group section. I also noted that all of them except mine had BC plates.

I posed a photo with Simon, his wife and his youngest daughter Rebecca in the Minx. She wasn't born yet when the family sold me the Minx but they enjoyed sitting in the car while Simon gave 20-year-old Re

July / August 2017

becca a lesson in how to operate the 4-on-the-column shift pattern. I also had a chance to talk with a fellow who worked at the Toronto Rootes Dealership showroom in the early '50s and told me convertibles like mine were popular back then, but didn't know why so few survived. Hmm, maybe harsh Canadian winters ??

I parked with the only other non-Sunbeam Alpine/Tiger, a lovely restored 1962 Sun-

beam Rapier SIIIA owned by my friends Alan and Mary Lou Miles. We struck up a friendship some years ago and offer each other their homes to stay in during visits to the car show.

I now look forward as much to the time I get to spend with them and their Canadian friends the night before as the show itself. After the show we all decided to go out to dinner in nearby Steveson and enjoyed a lovely dinner on the pier. Little did we realize that just a few feet away a

rogue sea lion had just plucked a little girl from the pier for a quick bath. The episode was caught on video and became a viral sensation overnight. Thankfully the little girl was fine but it added to the eventful weekend knowing that happened as we sat just a few yards away.



A lineup of Sunbeams on the plush lawns of VanDusen Botanical Garden in Vancouver B.C.

Pacific Tiger Club Newsletter

The weekend turned out better than I expected and I motored home on Sunday in lovely weather, charting my course mainly on highway 9 to avoid freeway traffic as much as possible. The border crossing this time was uneventful, which is to say clear sailing. But I love recalling the story on a previous trip home crossing into the US and as I pulled up to the station. The border guard came out outstretched his arms in amazement and exclaimed, "I had a Hillman Minx - in college" and waived me through. Welcome back to the US of A, I thought, now that's some reception.



Above: Curious spectators wait to tour this rare Rootes Commer, sold in the U.S. as a Sunbeam Fun Wagon.

The next day I drove the Mighty Minx to the high school where I



July / August 2017

teach - Sammamish High. It also happens to be the very same school I attended as a lad here in Bellevue. Why come to think of it I'm even driving the very same car model I drove there as a student some 40+ years ago.

My students really get a kick out of seeing the Mighty Minx in the parking lot and kids today have a lot of respect and admiration for the old classics. They love to take selfies with the car. There's something about a Hillman Minx that speaks to all ages even if they've never seen one in the past.

Here's the official awards listing for the Vancouver ABFM in the Rootes Category:

CLASS 44—SUNBEAM TIGER

- 1) RICK AMBROSE, 1965 SUNBEAM TIGER,
- 2) ALAN & BERNADETTE REES, 1965 SUNBEAM TIGER
- 3) KATHRYN FITZGERALD, 1967 SUNBEAM TIGER MK 2

CLASS 45—ROOTES GROUP (HILLMAN, HUMBER, SINGER, SUNBEAM, SUNBEAM-TALBOT)

- 1) ALAN & MARY LOU MILES, 1962 SUNBEAM RAPIER SERIES IIIA
- 2) CRAIG BURLINGAME1 955 HILLMAN MINX
- 3) SCOTT MASON, 1967 SUNBEAM ALPINE

PTC



Veep! Beep!

by Dick Sanders

Prime Time! The middle of summer – and the most days of sunshine we've had in years. And car shows are *everywhere!* I went to three of the larger ones recently: Greenwood Car Show. Seattle's biggest, with over a mile of classics parking along Greenwood Ave N. and tens of thousands of spectators. Two Sunbeams were on display a few blocks apart: Chuck Rapuzzi with his baby blue Tiger, and a hopefully soon-to-be PTC member with a Series V Alpine. Lots of local clubs were represented: the local Mini club, Northwest Datsun Enthusiasts, electric cars enthusiasts.



Come and Keep your Comrade Warm

Notable was a sizeable club of Soviet-era Russian car owners. One owner had his Lada decorated with Russian regalia, while a boom box on the roof belted out old patriotic-sounding Russian dirges. I didn't hang around long enough to hear "Back in the U.S.S.R."

Next was the car corral at the SOVREN Historic Races at Pacific Raceway. A dozen clubs had displays for the thousands of spectators: Shelbys, MG's, Fiats, NW Datsun Enthusiasts, etc.

Most recent was the Renton Car Show. More of a domestic show, there were fewer

July / August 2017

clubs: just a Chevy club and NW Datsun Enthusiasts but still a lot of cars and admirers.

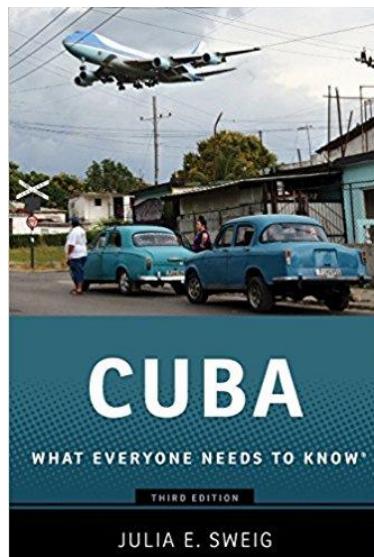
Notice a theme here? With just a few car shows, thousands of people came away knowing that Datsun didn't just start making cars with the 240Z. "Fairlady? What kind of car is that? Oh, these 1600's and 2000's *are* Fair-ladies, eh?" And another generation picks up on the knowledge and enthusiasm of their owners and just maybe a few think about buying one.

Sunbeams are no different. The more we get in the public eye, the longer our marque stays relevant and not just a curiosity, an interesting *shape* in the parking lot. The All-British meets are fine, but let's face it – at those venues we're mostly just preaching to the choir.

PTC has scheduled our August event at South Seattle Community College. At "200-plus cars," the **West Seattle Car Show** doesn't claim to be the biggest show in town, but it's a good start. I hope a lot of PTC'ers will take the opportunity to share our interestingly-shaped vehicles with a wider audience.

* * * * *

Fill'er Up!! Look online for a new Aussie TV show: *The Good Karma Hospital*, starring Amanda Redman as Dr. Ruby Walker. She drives a cream-colored Sunbeam Alpine.



Among the pre-Castro cars still running in Cuba are several Rootes cars, including this 1958 Hillman Minx which found on its way onto this new book jacket. (thanks to Craig Burlingame)

PTC

Everyone got a chance to pose with his/her Sunbeam or Hillman as Greg Oliver (and his siblings) hosted a Memorable June Meeting

Secretary's Report

(photos by Ellen Hawley unless noted)
June 10, 2017

Meeting held at Greg Oliver's home
Meeting called to order by Ed Erikson
Members attending: 20

Ed Erikson opened the meeting by remarking about the success of the Brooklands shop tour in Tacoma in May. A Hillman, a couple Alpines and 6 Tigers were cars in attendance.

Budd Bennion added that on the same weekend, the Vancouver ABFM took place. He reported that Craig Burlingame attended and they had great weather. Seven Tigers, two Alpines and two Hillmans were entered.

Secretary Report: At the May meeting Ed E. announced he would be club President for 6 months, but not after the AGM. Someone from the club would have to step forward, for next year. The April dash to Snohomish had great weather and made it a very nice drive; perhaps a fall last-dash can be scheduled.

Treasurers Report: Susan Pray reported that the club has \$12,154.00. The invoice for the ABFM ad was received and Susan sent off the \$350.00. No other activity.

OLD BUSINESS: Larry Atkisson asked if a payment had been made to the Rootes Group Archive, in London. The group was calling him, asking about our donation. They have their own building to house literature, documents, etc. concerning Rootes Group vehicles. Treasurer Susan Pray said that she will make the payment.

Paul Bosanko asked if the dues for the Canadian members had been changed to \$32.00. Dick S. reported that the ballot information has been published and club members on hand could now add their votes on whether to change the foreign members' dues. Ed E.

**Say
“Cheese!”**

made the motion that the club lower its dues for all foreign members from \$35 to \$32. Motion was seconded and passed by majority vote. Rate change is effective immediately.



Pacific Tiger Club Newsletter

NEW BUSINESS:

Greg Oliver introduced his sister Ellen and how she would take professional photos of our Rootes cars. Greg's other sister Stacy is a caterer and Real Estate agent, and took time off to prepare the buffet for the club. A meeting with Mimosa's! Big thank you's to Ellen and Stacy and Greg. Ellen will send files of all the cars to Greg who will put them on a website for us to view. Ellen reported that Costco is a great place to have the photos of your car enlarged, at a reasonable cost.



Our Newsletter doesn't do justice to this exceptional photo of Larry Atkisson in his Tiger. Previous page: Budd Bennion with his Hillman.

Dick S. reported that the LeMay Museum is looking for a Sunbeam Tiger to be donated and displayed for 90 days at their facility. The owner of the car will be given a Bronze level membership



(L to R) Budd Bennion, Larry Atkisson, Greg Oliver and Dave Dunn enjoying wine and Mimosas.

July / August 2017



(L to R) Anita Dunn, Vicki Clark and Kathryn Pahmeier kick a few tires – Not!

Ed E. talked about the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and how he was in favor of Griot's as it has parking, a big room, free coffee and a kitchen. He knew that Budd B. was considering other venues.

Larry A. made a motion to have this year's AGM at Griot's. Ed E. seconded and motion passed. Ed volunteered to get in touch with Griot's.



Elliott Fletcher with Jim Clark's Tiger.

Dick S. reported that the city of La Conner, WA is offering the use of city-owned parking lots for use of car clubs to hold shows. Budd B. said that he has attended a show in that lot-it was a good show-and it was a place where everyone would have something to do. It's a short walk into the main part of town where there is shopping and restaurants, etc.

Pacific Tiger Club Newsletter

Dick S. had another suggestion for a club event; the Red Lion in Port Angeles, WA. They are also offering their parking lot to car clubs, with room discounts!

Bob Bennion reported that the Red Lion in Olympia, WA has been contacting him. They would like our club to have another event at their facility.



When Greg Oliver isn't pampering his Tiger, his other baby is this RHD 1972 Toyota Corona Mk II. A rare "MX-22" variant, it has the "2M" inline six cylinder motor. Greg bought it in Tokyo and had it shipped stateside. It is mostly original with ultra-low miles. (Greg Oliver photo)

Linda Atkisson reported that there is now a hotel near Hansville, WA that is available for reservations if you want to attend the Buck Lake Car Show, held on Sunday, July 16th. A casino is also in the area!

CLUB MEETINGS:

August 26th is the West Seattle car show, more info to come.

September 16th is the Simpson Design tour. This shop is 10 minutes from the Clinton ferry terminal on Whidbey Island. Budd B. said that shop owner, Jerry Simpson, uses a Miata chassis and then builds a fiberglass body on it. There is a possible tour of a second shop that's a few minutes from Simpson Design. Susan P. suggested we all meet at Cozy's Roadhouse parking lot at 11am, a few blocks from the ferry terminal, and on the right side of the road.

Meeting adjourned

Minutes submitted by Jim Clark

July / August 2017

Need catering or a photographer?

Ellen Hawley (our photographer)

425-330-1976

Hawley.house@comcast.net

Stacy Renfro (our caterer)

425-293-5366

stacyrenfro@gmail.com

Come out and see the Exotics at Redmond

The show is called "Exotics at Redmond Town Center" and it happens every Saturday morning 9-11am, weather permitting. It's a free show and always has a good turnout of a wide variety of cars.

When I motor up in the Hillman Minx or Sunbeam they always give me one of the choice spots, edging out some Ferraris, Porches and Lamborghinis. On a whim I went a couple weeks ago and matched up with a display from the LeMay collection. People really enjoy seeing a nice looking Hillman in the same display as other exotics and I recommend the show to anyone as spectator or display car - it's all FREE so no excuses. And they'll probably place your Rootesmobile in a prime spot!

- *Craig Burlingame*



WESTERN WASHINGTON ABFM GALLERY

July 22 was a gorgeous day for displaying over 500 British vehicles on the lawn at St. Edward State Park in Kenmore, WA. Rootes Group entries included seven Tigers, eight Alpines, plus Craig Burlingame's Hillman Minx.



Top Left: Donn Anderson, of "Donn's Rapier Ranch" made a welcome appearance. Top right: Dennis Junk in his Tiger. He took home a 1st place trophy in class. Center: Marc Stenchever's Harrington LeMans. Bottom left: Dick Sanders exiting the Meet. Bottom right: Mystery Alpine! With so few local Alpines in stock turquoise (code 127), it was assumed this one, parked with the spectators, belonged to long-time PTC member Bill Sandell. But n-o-o-o-o!! Brian Doan pointed out that Bill's Series V doesn't have wire wheels.



WANNA SELL! WANNA BUY!

For Sale: Classic 1962 Sunbeam Alpine Series 2. This car is unique in that it was originally purchased in Paris, France, has had just two owners, and comes with much of the original paper work. The car is almost totally unmodified and still has the original paintwork. Only the upholstery has been replaced. It has very little rust damage and no bodywork damage.



The car has been used only locally during summers for the past 18 years and was stored for about ten years previous to that. It still runs although it does need some carburettor work and probably needs its first engine rebuild. Also included is a large collection of spare parts which I prefer to go with the car.

More photographs of the car and spares are available at: <https://goo.gl/photos/7Aae7H2P1dvGGM89>

Car is located near Bellingham, WA
Asking \$10,500 for the package. Contact Malcolm at 360-758-7194 or at 1mvh2reh@gmail.com

For Sale: I have a 1962 alpine that I purchased in 1969 that I am ready to sell. I drove it until 1975 when I parked it with the intention of creating a Tiger clone. As things go we had children and money was tight and the interest was lost. The Alpine has been in the garage since. I push it out and wash and clean it but still have not found the interest to get it going again.

It is a complete and in very good shape, has a hard top as well but has not been started since 1975. My car has been garaged since we purchased it in 1969. There is no rust on it that I know of. \$8495. North Thurston County.

Milt Densley
360-491-2846





A recent flyby of Jupiter revealed a large new spot that may look familiar to club members.

(Ellen Hawley photo)



Greg Oliver sent us this recent ad from a German magazine, which we've cropped for space. What were they using a Sunbeam to sell this time? Female bladder weakness medication.



4239 So. 261st St.
Kent, WA 98032