July/August 2014

Pacific Tiger Club Newsletter

ROOTES OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

President's Corner

The All British Field Meet was held on Saturday, July 26 at St. Edward Park, its new location. The day was gorgeous and by my estimate the number of cars in attendance was significantly more than in previous years. All classes had numerous examples to view. There were 12 Tigers, five Alpines and seven other Rootes vehicles, mostly Hillmans. St Edward Park proved to be a more enjoyable venue for both participants and spectators. All cars were positioned on grass with a lot of elbow room around each car and open spaces between classes. Even though the number of swap meet vendors seems to be dwindling (easier to sell parts from your kitchen table on eBay) there were still 10-15 cars for sale of varying type and condition.

One particularly interesting car in the show was a 1933 MG J2 that had a flat head Ford V8 installed and had much custom work done to accommodate the build. The owner, Brian Laine, has a web site where he has described in great detail the restoration and modifications he performed on the car. He has other interesting projects that he has done as well. Go to www.lainefamily.com and enjoy the reading and pictures.

Our August meeting had us touring through the rolling hills around Snohomish. Kevin Jewell, who couldn't make the tour, had previously done the route with his Corvette club and gave me detailed driving instructions. We left the Redmond Target store at approximately 10:45 with a line of 11 cars and arrived at El Paraiso Mexican restaurant at 12:15 for lunch. The weather was perfect for a top down drive and we all managed to stay together throughout the 50-mile journey. We all enjoyed a hearty Mexican lunch and then some members proceeded back into town to explore the antique shops.

cont. next page

We are still trying to get our September meeting finalized and we will email out info as we get things confirmed.

Budd Bennion has set up our Annual General Meeting for Saturday, October 11th at Robb's 125th Street Grill on Aurora Ave in North Seattle at 1:00PM. There will be a buffet - paid for by the club! More info to follow.

Dunn for now

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Activities: Volunteer needed!

Letters

Hello PTC members,

I own a Mk 1 Tiger with a relatively stock 302 (about 225 hp). The 302 has burnt valves so I am researching options on rebuild or replacement.

I am looking into sourcing a 260 block for a rebuild and HP upgrade with the intent of sticking relatively close to LAT standards but getting a period correct engine in the car.

Would you know of anyone in PTC who has attempted this whom could tell me how the outcome went?

I live in Redmond but am out of town this weekend otherwise I would visit the cars tomorrow.

Thanks for your help.

Ted Herb B9471116

tjherb@cablespeed.com

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome to Recent New Members

Craig Shaw Seattle, WA
Owns two Tigers:1964 MkI Blue, owned for 22 yrs & 1966 Mk1a, Maroon, owned for 3 yrs)

Elliott & Judy Fletcher (rejoined) Snohomish, WA
Own a 1957 Rapier, Red & Cream in color; 1965 MkI Tiger, Green, owned 34 yrs.

Rocky Rhoads Vancouver, WA,
1967 Alpine Series 5, owned since 1985.

Michael Meagher Seattle, WA
1966 MkIa Tiger, Black, owned 3 yrs.

Mike Swigert Olympia, WA
1967 Series V Alpine - owned since 1970

- ***Dan Kuenzi***

Fill 'er Up!

by Dick Sanders

The 2014 Western Washington All-British Field Meet marked a number of firsts, the most important being that a PTC event was finally not rained upon. Starting with the January slot-car race meeting (rain, plus gale-force winds), then February's Hydro Museum tour (rain and snow showers), PTC just hasn't caught a break this year – til July 26th, that is. Fantastic weather and hundreds of British cars spread across the golden brown lawns of St Edward State Park – what a sight! Joining the usual turnout of Tigers and Alpines were a half-dozen Hillmans, plus a Humber, courtesy of the 3rd Hillman Gathering, organized once again by our own **Craig Burlingame.** Craig's fully restored ragtop mid-50s "Mark" Minx was parked next to another, slightly older ragtop Minx, recently bought and just at the start of its restoration process, the perfect before-and-after contrast. A great show for all.

August's club tour from Redmond to Snoqualmie had a decent turnout, though not quite as many as I'd expected for such a nice day. Maybe most folks were out of town on vacation? Worth noting was the presence of two members: **Mike Meagher** and **Susan Prey**. Susan recently found a competent mechanic who gave her red Series V a good tune-up, allowing her the luxury of driving her Sunbeam to *two club meetings in a row* without worrying about it breaking down! Likewise with Mike, who said the tour was the longest trip he'd made in his Tiger since buying it three years ago. The longest trip of the day was by **Dennis & Debbie Junk,** with their son **Chris**, in Dennis' Sunbeam-Talbot 90, traveling from the Eatonville area. Vapor lock overtook the Talbot for a time in the Target store parking lot; they ended up taking the direct route to meet us in Snoqualmie.

Looking to get his Tiger back on the road soon is **Elliott Fletcher.** Elliott's three sons, Kirk, Ken and Mark, were all in town this week helping Dad replace the clutch in his Tiger, plus fix the brakes on Elliott's Series 1 Rapier. In the late '70s, all of Elliott's sons were Alpine or Tiger-owning PTC members. Elliott caught the bug in 1980, buying himself the Tiger he's had ever since. For a decade he was an autocrossing regular at the old Boeing Space Center parking lot in Kent. All three sons migrated from Sunbeams to a similarly quirky marque, AMC, giving up Tigers and Alpines for the mysteries of Marlins, Rebels, Rogues, etc [See later in this issue for a late-arriving letter and photos from Elliott – ed.]

This can't-miss Sept. issue of Sports & Exotics should still be at your favorite magazine stand.

It was a time of sadness for another family of former Sunbeamers a few weeks ago when Dave Bosanko, 54, passed away. Though not a club member for a couple of decades, Dave always kept the Tiger that he bought in the late

'70s. Much like the Fletcher family, two of Dave's siblings, Jeff and Carol, owned Alpines as members of PTC. Dave was an expert welder (among several trades), once repairing a huge crack that had formed in my old Tiger's front crossmember during an autocross. **Jim Leach**, who, like myself grew up on Seattle's Queen Anne Hill and lived about a mile from the Bosanko family, posted this guest book memory on the Seattle Times obit site:

I knew David from junior high (or maybe elementary school days' Little League) through his 20's, but I hadn't seen him in many years. He was smart as hell, funny as hell and much like me he was an imagineer who would tackle projects with reckless abandon. As an example, he updated his 'flat-head 6 cylinder' Korean War surplus Dodge Power Wagon (like you see in M.A.S.H.) with a Chrysler 440 Magnum V8. The noise level in the cab was probably 90-100 dB, but it could climb a telephone pole in 4th gear. Before that, he had a war surplus Jeep that was hit by a Metro bus at Queen Anne Ave. and Blaine St, knocking the Jeep over but David jumped out while it rolled.

About a week after they bought their Sunbeam Tiger, David and his sister Carolyn tried to attend the Sequim Irrigation Day Parade with the Pacific Tiger Club, but they missed it because the front bumper (literally!) fell off of the car en route. They eventually made it to Sequim and Dave came through as usual: he laughed it off and fixed it when he got home.

I am very sad to learn he passed and hugs to the family. Thanks for the memories old buddy.
***Jim Leach**, Seattle, WA*

Spotted! The old squinties aren't in such bad shape after all. While driving past McLendon's Hardware parking lot in Renton a few Sundays ago, I caught a profile glimpse of just the rear two feet of a very familiar fin:

Sure enough, it turned out to be this off-white Series III. The owners bought it in Oregon last year and are considering joining PTC

PTC

Tech Tip

by Budd Bennion

Want brighter tail lamps?
Here is a bright idea no early car should be without: good lighting.
Regular 1157 stop/tail lamps (with 32/3 candlepower) can be exchanged for #1077 "bright bulbs" (50/14) or #2357 (40/3). What other single change can provide as much safety improvement

BACK PAGE PHOTO

End of an era for Auburn's Big Daddy's Drive In
The city of Auburn recently bought the land under Big Daddy's and several neighboring properties. The plan is to expand a small city park located behind Big Daddy's. Although in recent years they didn't have nearly the gearhead following as the XXX Drive-In in Issaquah, they were still an iconic mainstay for south-end rodders. The owners plan to re-open in Federal Way, but not as a drive-in.

2014 ABFM Gallery

Donn Anderson, owner of a half-dozen Rapiers, admires Alan Miles' Series IIIa Rapier.

Eric Heuscher is the proud papa. Later, his former Lord-Rootes winning Tiger took home a first place trophy.

Five Alpines rounded out Rootes' representation at the ABFM, along with the roughly dozen Tigers shown in the Page 1 photo.

PTC members are used to seeing Budd Bennion's Series I Husky at club events, but the"Mark" Husky in the foreground is an even rarer beast. The Hillman owners were on hand to celebrate the 3rd Hillman Gathering.

Rootes Classes ABFM Trophy Winners

Tiger	*Alpine*
1. Eric Heuscher Mk 1a	1. Bill & Glenda Clemen Ser II
2. Larry & Eileen Ingersoll Mk 1	2. Marc Stenchever Harrington LeMans
3. Paul Sanders Mk 1a	3. Susan Pray – Ser V

Unique Rootes

1..Craig Burlingame	'55 Hillman Minx
2. Budd Bennion	'59 Hillman Husky
3. Rob Brodie	'67 Hillman Minx

More Letters!

Family & Friends;

After sitting in the back corner of my shop for over 10 years, yesterday evening my '65 Tiger came back to life. This miracle was the result of my three sons descending on the Tiger in full force. Kirk, as the self appointed leader, worked tirelessly for five days & some nights to achieve this milestone. Ken & Mark managed to contribute significantly to the project even though they had to give the requirements of their jobs priority.

What was planned as a clutch replacement expanded to a brake, fuel system & last hour carburetor rebuild.

This effort had been scheduled for the last week in August for several months. I had managed to make considerable progress on my long overdue shop clean up & organization. Though only about half done we were able to find most of the parts &

tools needed.

PTC club member Max Pahmeier was a big help in furnishing hard to find parts and welcome

advice and demonstrations. Attached are some photos from yesterday evening.

Again, thanks to every one that help make this happen.

Happy Camper, Dad [Elliott Fletcher]

(photo - above left) A close look at the windshield tells us Elliott had autocrossed his Tiger not too long be fore the clutch went out 10 years ago (below left) Sons Mark (left)and Kirk clean parts for Dad's Tiger. (above) Elliott takes the Tiger on its first test drive as Kirk looks on.

MarkYour Calendar!

PTC Club Events

Sept – TBA

October 16 1pm **Annual General Meeting** *Robb's 125th Street Grill* in North Seattle. New officers, "Boxes of Mystery" (known in England as "Feel the Bit), Door Prizes, Free Buffet

November 16 11am Meeting and tour of ***Britsport of Seattle***, a full service restoration shop specializing in British motorcars. 4214 24th Ave W., located in the industrial section of Seattle's Magnolia neighorhood.

Vintage Racing Action

Sept 27-28 Fall Finale – Pacific Raceways
Oct 4-6 Maryhill Loops Hill Climb and Car Show – Goldendale, WA
Check SOVREN.org for more info.

Misc. Goings-On

Kevin Jewell alerted us to the Exotic Car Days, held every Saturday morning at the Redmond Town Center when the weather is nice. As Kevin wrote: ***"...****A couple of weeks ago we had the Tiger there. On one side we had a hemi Challenger, on the other was a Datsun Fairlady. In front of us was an original Scarab. The Tiger got lots of attention."* August 23's show was British Car Day and several members took advantage to add their cars to the display. The above photo gives you an idea of the variety of cars at any one of these shows. Below, you can make out from L-R, the green Tiger of **Dave Buck**, **Budd Bennion**'s Husky, and the green Tiger of **Brent Edinger**.

FOR SALE: 1957 Sunbeam Rapier Series I A3605792 R67 Hardtop 22,144 miles.Check out: http://clubs.hemmings.com/sunbeam/office/featured.html This Rapier has paint, weather-stripping, and upholstery issues.Asking $6,500. Elliott Fletcher, 360 668 3532. Rapier located three miles NW of Woodinville, WA at Maltby.

"Separate Sunbeam vacations?" While I was out tooling through the windy roads around Snohomish on the club tour in my yellow Series V a few weeks ago, my wife Hollie (center in photo) took our other Alpine out for an afternoon with a group of her gal pals, aka "The Secret Squirrel Society." Naturally, they all wanted their picture taken in the Alpine. I bought it last summer and have driven it very little. It still needs some sorting out. Not long after this outing, I found that a persistent rattle from the front of the engine was the alternator pulley about to fall off!

Dick Sanders

Renewing your membership?

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

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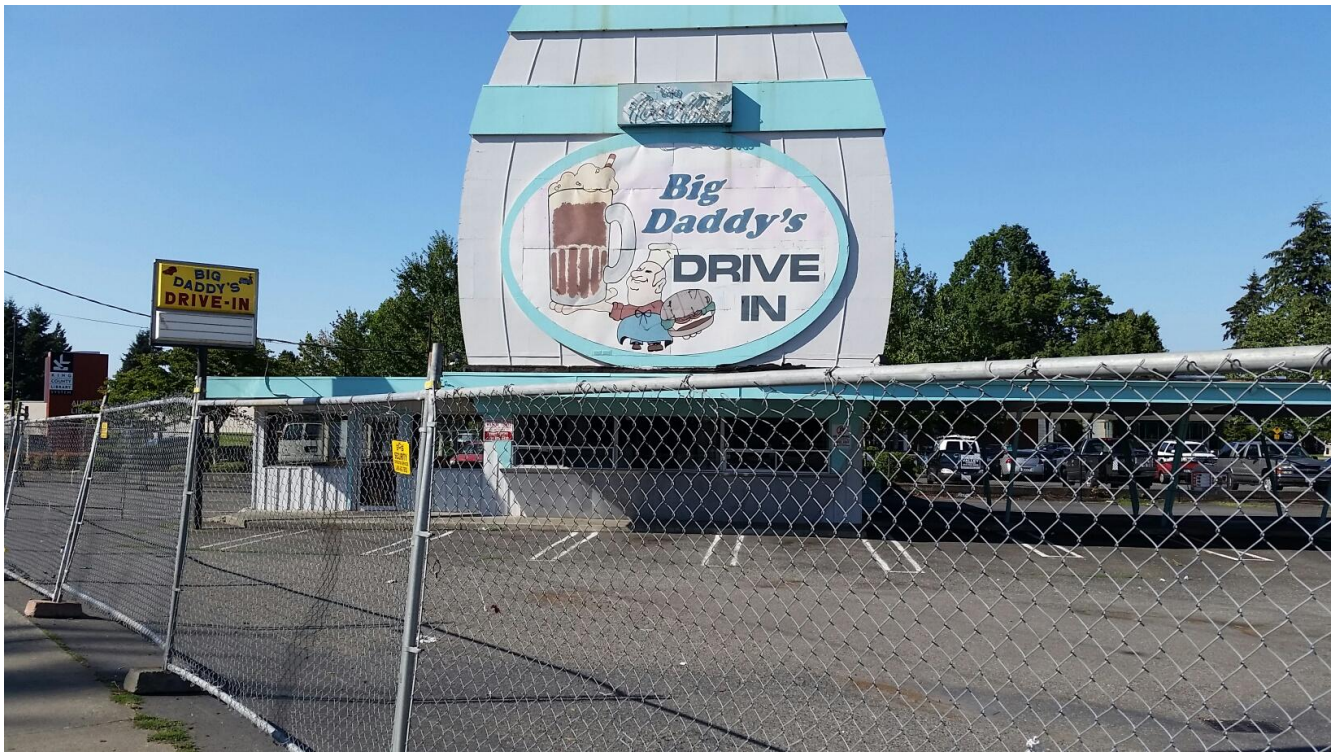
Annual Membership Dues: *$32.00 US/35.00 for foreign members. Make checks payable to: PacificTiger Club.*

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.

July/August 2014



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