



Gas Gauge

Ye Olde Car Club

January 2016 Newsletter

The President's Message

Happy New Year and I hope this year finds you well and in good spirits. As your new president for 2016, I thought I would introduce myself to the group. Rick Ball is the name and transportation is my game. I was born in Tacoma, Washington, moved to Federal Way and attended school there. Our family business was Ball Brass Co. and it was a non-ferrous foundry that was founded in the early 1900s in Tacoma to repair the transcontinental rail road locomotives so they could make it back to the East Coast. This business lead me to have the pleasure to make some one-off items for classic cars. I was always working on gas powered equipment and the move to automobiles was a natural step. I have too many cool stories about the odd parts and emblems I made to mention here, so ask me and I'll be happy to share some with you.

I got married in 1987 to an amazing woman, Wendi. I have four children and my wife has five, I'm the oldest. You have seen my youngest daughter attend some of the Rod Runs this year and she really enjoys her Dad and Me time. Back to how I got here from Tacoma. Getting married and closing the business meant I needed to find a job that I was half way good at and enjoyed, THE CAR BUSINESS. I thought being a parts guy was right up my alley: needed parts, knew parts, know where parts go and I could stay clean.... I wasn't to be... I was placed fixing leaks, rattles and squeaks in the service department at the local Ford/Volvo store.

A long story shorter I eventually ended up working the service drive and soon after I became the SERVICE ADVISER, the guy who gives you the bad news about your car and the bill. After 18 years of Auto Dealers and RV Dealers, the Puget Sound crowd and commute was becoming unbearable and it was time for something new. Well, Brother-in-Law grew up in Richland and moved back with my sister and told me of an RV Dealership looking for a guy just like me. "Where is Pasco and do they sell a lot of Coaches?" I came over in 2001 and we started a new chapter in the wonderful Tri-Cities.

RV gig didn't last long and I came to find out about a little Suzuki Dealership that need a few good bodies. I met Tim Bush and became a SALESMAN... How? A Service Adviser selling cars? I know what Salesmen say to close a deal, I dealt with that most of my days. Go to the Darkside they say. I did and I enjoyed the ten years I did and so did my customers. I called myself a Sales Adviser and I would help match you with a great car for your needs and desires.

The Bush Family in 2010 decided that there was a need for a good quick car wash in the Tri-Cities like the bigger cities have. They built the first Tim Bush Car Wash right next to BMW of Tri-Cities and in November of 2011 they opened, with myself and four other young men operating it. I enjoy the interaction of the machine and dealing with the customer. After opening the fourth Bush Car Wash late last year,

each day gets more interesting. Thank you all for accepting me into the club and trusting me to lead you this year. I am excited to spend some time to get to know each and everyone of you.

Rick Ball, Car Guy

BITS & PIECES

*****NOTE: Ye Olde Car Club has a new mailing address.**

Ye Olde Car Club
PO Box 2023
Richland, WA 99352

***Dues are due no later than March 1, 2016. Still a bargain at \$15. Avoid the rush, pay early, and receive a nice YOCC embroidered patch. Dues may be mailed to: YOCC, PO Box 6873, Kennewick, WA 99336-0601.

*** "January is named after the Roman god Janus, who was always shown as having two heads. He looked back to the last year and forward to the new one. The Roman New Year festival was called the Calends, and people decorated their homes and gave each other gifts."

*** "Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot and days of auld lang syne?
For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup of kindness yet, for auld lang syne."
- Robert Burns, *Auld Lang Syne*

***As the new kid on the block in the mid-1920s, Walter P. Chrysler strategically tried to differentiate his products in even more ways than just through advanced engineering. He designated his early models (50, 60, 70 and 80) as a function of the "effortless" speed they could attain on a flat, smooth road surface. Considering that the Model T Ford was (and still is) a 35/40 mph car, those model names spoke volumes. *Antique Automobile Magazine*, Nov/Dec 2015

***Historically, a mixture of alcohol and water was first used as the most common form of antifreeze protection. In addition to a low freezing point though, alcohol also unfortunately demonstrated a low boiling point. So it was back to the drawing board, particularly when engine outputs started to increase. *Antique Automobile Magazine*, Nov/Dec 2015

EVENTS

Thursday, January 14, The Ladies Luncheon was held at the Manor at Canyon Lakes and was hosted by Myrtle Nesbitt. Fourteen ladies attended and it was a great lunch. Thank you Myrtle.

Thursday, January 28, The annual YOCC Pizza Party, 6pm to 8pm at the Round Table Pizza, 1769 Leslie Road, Richland

Thursday, February 11, The annual YOCC Chocolate Extravaganza, 7pm to 9pm at the beautiful Kiona Vineyards Winery. The theme of this potluck event is CHOCOLATE...all kinds and anything made with chocolate. Diets...out the window!

Thursday, February 11, The Ladies Luncheon will be held at El Rancho Alegre, 2731 Queensgate, Richland hosted by Mary Fraser. Contact Mary, 509-946-9850 to confirm reservations.

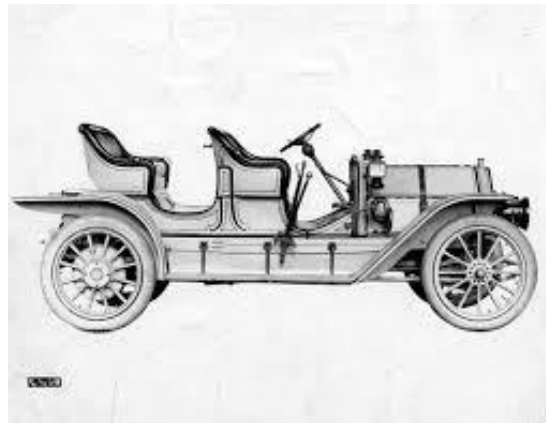
David Dunbar Buick was born in Arbroath, Angus, Scotland on September 17, 1854. He moved to Detroit at the age of two when his parents emigrated to the United States. He left school in 1869 and worked for a company which made plumbing goods. When the company ran into trouble in 1882, he and a partner took it over. At this time Buick began to show his promise as an inventor, producing many innovations including a lawn sprinkler, and a method for permanently coating cast iron with vitreous enamel which allowed the production of "white" baths at lower cost. Although cast iron baths are uncommon nowadays, the method is still in use for enameling them. With the combination of Buick's innovation and his partner's sound business management the company became quite successful. During the 1890s, Buick developed an interest in internal combustion engines and began experimenting with them. He was spending little time on the plumbing business, and his business partner became impatient with him. The partnership was dissolved and the company was sold. Buick now had the time and capital to work on engines full-time, and he set up a new company, the Buick Auto-Vim and Power Company, in 1899 to do so. The stated aim of the company was to market engines for agricultural use. Buick soon turned to the development of a complete car, rather than just an engine. He also concentrated on research and development at the expense of manufacturing and sales. The result was that he consumed his capital by early 1902 without generating any significant return, other than a single car. In early 1902, he set up a second company, the Buick Manufacturing Company, with the twin aims of marketing engines to other car companies and of manufacturing and selling its own cars. Once again manufacturing and development problems meant that by the end of 1902, Buick had run out of money with only one car to show for his work. The concentration on development had produced the revolutionary "Valve-in-Head" overhead valve engine. The money ran out again and in 1903 Buick was forced to raise more money via a \$5,000 loan (equal to \$131,685 today) from a friend and fellow car enthusiast, Benjamin Briscoe. With this financial help from Briscoe, Buick formed the Buick Motor Company which would eventually become the cornerstone of the General Motors empire. He headed this company and its predecessor from 1902 until 1906, thereby helping to create one of the most successful nameplates in United States motor vehicle history. Buick, founded in 1899, is currently the oldest active American car maker. David Dunbar Buick incorporated his company as the Buick Motor Company on May 19, 1903, in Detroit, Michigan.

Wikipedia

Think About This...

1. Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
2. Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.
3. There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.
4. The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.
5. A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
6. There are more chickens than people in the world.
7. Two-thirds of the world's eggplant is grown in New Jersey.
8. The longest one-syllable word in the English language is "screched."
9. On a Canadian two dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament building is an American flag.
10. All of the clocks in the movie "Pulp Fiction" are stuck on 4:20.
11. No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.
12. "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt."
13. All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.
14. Almonds are a member of the peach family.
15. Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.
16. Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.
17. There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.
18. Los Angeles' full name is "El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula."
19. A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
20. An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
21. Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

22. In most advertisements, the time displayed on a watch is 10:10.
23. Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.
24. The characters Bert and Ernie on Sesame Street were named after Bert the cop and Ernie the taxi driver in Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life."
25. A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.
26. A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.
27. A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.
28. It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
29. The giant squid has the largest eyes in the world.
30. In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak.
31. The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.
32. Mr. Rogers is an ordained minister.
33. The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.
34. There are 336 dimples on a regulation golf ball.
35. "Stewardesses" is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.
36. A polar bear's skin is black. Its fur is not white, but actually clear.
37. Marilyn Monroe had six toes.
38. Right handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left handed people do.
39. The continents names all end with the same letter with which they start.
40. If the population of China walked past you in a single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.
41. A snail can sleep for 3 years.
42. The electric chair was invented by a dentist.



"The Coolest Motor" - Howard Marmon's Air-Cooled Engines

"The Coolest Motor" is the slogan the Nordyke and Marmon Company of Indianapolis, Indiana used in its 1907 advertising campaign to build buyer's confidence in its unique air-cooled engines. Howard C. Marmon and his brother Walter were a part of a long line of family members who first went into business as the Nordyke, Ham & Company in 1851. The business prospered while manufacturing a line of food milling and associated equipment for over 50 years. Howard C. Marmon began working with his brother Walter in 1902 to develop a better automobile than that which was being produced at the time.

In 1902, the first of the experimental air-cooled engines designed by Howard was a two-cylinder V-twin featuring a full pressure oiling system for both the main and rod bearings. This then led to experimental V-4, V-6, and V-8 engines. Production began in 1905 with a V-4. A year later in 1906, a Marmon entered in the Glidden Tour and finished the endurance event with a perfect score.

IN December of 1906, Marmon introduced and offered the ultimate extension of this design at the New York Auto Show. The piece-de-resistance was a new model with an air-cooled 707 c.i. 75 hp V-8 offered for \$5000. This new engine featured a 4.5 x 5-inch bore and stroke that was set in a 128-inch w.b. chassis with 3 to 1 rear axle ratio. Press reports of the day indicate that it was to be offered to the public for the 1907 season, but others tell of it being an experimental model. The first water-cooled engine offered by Marmon in 1908 was a conventional four cylinder T-head design. The following year the automaker changed over to water-cooling for all of its offerings.

When you think of air cooled engines you perhaps think of Franklin, NSU, Mazda, Corvair, etc. But did you know that Marmon had a 2,4, & 8 cylinder engine, the 2cyl developed way back in 1902! The V8 was a 75 hp engine which was quite a powerful engine in its day. The Marmon was called "A Mechanical Masterpiece". The Easiest Riding Car in the World.

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Thanks to Lee Noga for this contribution.

Airstream Trailers

The formative years of America's Aluminum Icon

by Patrick Foster, Hemmings Classic Car Magazine, February 2016

In the travel trailer industry, one company stands above the rest, famous for its timeless styling: Airstream. It's also the oldest brand in business.

Airstream came about because of one man's determination to ring a new idea to market. His name was Wally Byam. Born on the 4th of July, 1896, in Oregon, Byam was 12 when his uncle decided he was old enough to shepherd a flock of sheep during the summer at a pastureland high up in the mountains. He set the boy up with a small two-wheeled, canvas-topped wagon pulled by a donkey and outfitted with blankets, bed mat, cook stove and food. Byam spent the entire summer working alone, sunup to sundown. At night he would let down the wagon's tailgate to provide room for sleeping. The experience was transformative; it led him toward a life and career in trailering.

In 1921,, Byam graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in history. His original plan was to stay on and earn a degree in law, but his restless, foot-loose nature got the best of him. He wanted nothing more, he said, than "to get out of that place." He decided to move to Hollywood and become a famous motion picture director. When that idea didn't work out, he started his own business publishing magazines about Hollywood, the radio business, and handyman how-to-topics. In the meantime, Byam met a beautiful young woman named Marion James.

Byam loved camping and took his new wife on several trips using a tent, but Marion found sleeping on the ground not to her liking; it wasn't all that romantic, and it certainly wasn't comfortable. To appease his wife, Byam built a wooden platform on a used Ford Model T chassis, on which he erected a tent each time they stopped for the night. But erecting the tent every night was a pain, so Byam next hit on the idea of building a small room on the chassis. He designed a teardrop-shaped 13-foot trailer that was modern, light and strong. For Marion, it was a major improvement.

In late 1929, when the stock market crashed, Byam's magazine business was in trouble. He eventually had to shut down. Now unemployed, the couple decided to pack up and move to Oregon. But before they got going, a neighbor asked Byam to build him a trailer. Byam and a hired man built the new trailer in his backyard - and then "No sooner was it finished when the fellow next door wanted one," Byam recalled. So did another person, and before long, "I began to think that this might be a pretty good business to get into." Byam built more trailers, but soon neighbors began complaining about the constant noise of sawing and hammering, so he rented a small commercial building.

Luckily, trailer manufacturing was one of the few growth businesses during the Depression. For thousands of families forced to move in search of work, a trailer solved the problem of sleeping accommodations. Byam began producing a small, teardrop trailer he called an "Airstream," because it traveled down the road "like a stream of air." With an Airstream, a family could follow farm work through the various growing seasons and always have a place to stay. And of course, every trailer owner realized

that if luck ran out and he couldn't find work, at least his family would have a home, one he could move to wherever opportunity would lead him.

The first production Airstream was the Torpedo Car cruiser, featuring a low floor created by building it between the frame rails rather than atop, providing greater headroom inside, with a lower, more aerodynamic exterior height. The uplifted tail (where the bed was) made it less likely the trailer would bottom-out when exiting driveways, while also providing a sleek Art Deco appearance. They were not, however, the aluminum trailers for which he's become famous. Those were still in the future.

For Byam, becoming a trailer manufacturer was the answer to a prayer. As owner, manager and chief test engineer, Byam would go on long trips in an Airstream, and if anything broke, he'd be on the phone with engineers ordering them to correct the problem. He rode inside Airstreams being towed so he could check for air and water leaks, and to listen for squeaks and rattles.

Over the years, Airstream engineers introduced a continuous stream of new ideas. One, a fiberglass-bodied travel trailer, didn't catch on because Airstream loyalists wouldn't accept anything but aluminum. Another idea, brightly-colored trailer mimicking the flashy colors of 1950s cars, didn't work out because the attractive finish soon oxidized to a dull sheen. There was also the Airstream Holiday, a basic, inexpensive 15-footer. Too many compromises were made in the name of cost-cutting, and customers complained that the Holiday looked like a canned ham.

Byam died on July 22, 1962, 18 days after his 66th birthday of cancer of the brain. Before his death, someone asked Byam what they should do without him to lead them on caravans. Byam didn't hesitate. "Don't stop," he said. "Keep right on going. Hitch up your trailer and go to Canada or down to Old Mexico. Head for Europe, if you can afford it, or go to the Mardi Gras. Go someplace you've heard about, where you can fish or hunt or collect rocks or just look up at the sky. Find out what's at the end of some country road. Go see what's over the next hill, and the one after that, and the one after that."



Women's Corner

***Midlife is when you go to the doctor and you realize you are now so old, you have to pay someone to look at you naked.

***The good news about midlife is that the glass is still half-full...of course, the bad news is that it won't be long before your teeth are floating in it.

***Midlife women no longer have upper arms, we have wingspans...we are no longer women in sleeveless shirts, we are flying squirrels in drag.

***Midlife has hit you when you stand naked in front of a mirror and can see your rear end without turning around.

***You know you are getting old when you go for a mammogram and you realize it is the only time someone will ask you to appear topless in film.

***You know you've crossed the midlife threshold when you're in the grocery store and you hear a Muzak version of "Stairway to Heaven" in the produce department.

***Midlife is when you bounce (a lot), but you don't bounce back. (It's more like Splat!)

***Midlife brings the wisdom that life throws you curves...and that you're now sitting on your biggest ones.

***It's very hard to "get jiggy with it" in midlife...jiggly, yes; jiggy, no.

***Midlife is when your 1970s Body-by-Jake now includes Legs-by-Rand McNally. (more red and blue lines than an accurately scaled map of the state of Wisconsin).

***Midlife is when you want to grab every firm young lovely in a tube top and scream, "Listen, honey, even the Roman Empire fell, and those things will too!

***Midlife can bring out your angry, bitter side. You look at your latte-swilling, beeper-wearing know-it-all teenager and think, "For this I have stretch marks?"

***Midlife is when you start to repeat yourself...and your chins follow suit.

***Midlife is when you realize that if you were a dog, you'd need a control top flea collar.

***Midlife is when your memory really starts to go. The only thing you still retain is water.

***You become more reflective in midlife. You start pondering the "big" questions-- what is life, why am I here...how much Healthy Choice ice cream can I eat before it's no longer a healthy choice?

Thanks to Joy Thompson

Birthdays and Anniversaries in January



Birthdays

Bev Boyd	January 13	Judy Bughi	January 25
Jim Davis	January 31	Ed Edwards	January 1
Jerry Fairchild	January 22	Mary Fraser	January 22
Marlene Kuch	January 9	Marilyn LaFortune	January 17
Carol Nelson	January 2	Patty Orsborn	January 26
Gary Osborn	January 6	Terry Shegrud	January 14
Ron Smith	January 6	Jack Vornado	January 6
Martha Vornado	January 2	Bill White	January 1



Anniversaries

Dave & Barb Donaldson	January 6	Bob & Ruth Ilten	January 28
Bob & Dolores McClary	January 23		

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