

# Messenger

Volume 24, Issue 1

EDUCATION IS OUR PURPOSE

[www.nwcarandcycle.com](http://www.nwcarandcycle.com)

January — March 2026



## MEMBERS GATHER TO CELEBRATE AND SOCIALIZE. CHEERS TO ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL AND FUN YEAR!

(Story on page 4)

We had a great turnout for the party



Linda Leek and Keta Brown posing for a picture.



### IN THIS ISSUE

Donation and Membership Form	2
Letter from the President	3
Matching Funds Goal Achieved	3
Volunteer of the Quarter	4
Joke of the Quarter	4
It Was a Fun Party!	5
Lifestyles Area Update	5
From the Organ Corner	5
Welcome, New Members	6
Thank you, Donors	6
Membership and Donation Form	7
Calendar of Events	8



Members Tony and Gary probably discussing the Speedster Program at the party.



The musical quartet in action.

## Letter from the President

By Ron Smith, President

I talk about this every newsletter, but this one thing is what keeps the Museum going.

The Speedster Program is going very strong and has several new mentors and they are working on lots of projects like getting some of our own museum cars running.

The ladies in Lifestyles have been working on donations to the Museum (lots of smalls) to help with the display for next season.

The organ crew set up all of the Christmas lights.

The maintenance crew has been getting the elevator punch list finished up. If we can get the elevator people to finish up, we should have a working elevator soon.

The display committee will be getting together to come up with a plan for next season.



The second story meeting room and library will be our next BIG project. To get it ready to use, we need electricity and plumbing (3 bathrooms and a warming kitchen), lights, walls and flooring. Plus, metal rails to the stairway and HVAC. It won't be cheap or fast, but we will keep moving forward.

I want to personally thank the 45 Museum members that helped raise a total of \$66,000 for our Matching Funds Campaign. It will

be a great help toward beginning the upstairs buildout infrastructure and construction.

As always, thanks to everyone that volunteers and others that will in the future.

Ron Smith

## Well Done, Benefactors! You Did It!

By Andy Ottolia

A big THANK YOU to all of you who have generously donated to our Matching Funds Campaign which recently ended on October 31. A total of \$66,000 was raised. This will serve as seed money to begin the buildout of our new 6,000 square foot second story.

The brand-new second floor will provide a larger conference area for educational purposes and special events. There will also be a large library and restrooms too.

The current conference area and bookcases on the first floor will move upstairs and thus free up that space for more vehicle displays. This will make our museum entry much more aesthetically pleasing and visitor friendly.

Our second story is currently an empty shell, but the buildout will include considerable construction to include walls, doors, electrical, lighting, HVAC, bathrooms, flooring and finish carpentry and furniture for this new venture. The \$66,000 raised will begin the project, but the total construction costs will depend on how detailed the buildout is. Money is always the limiting factor here. Our goal is to have it finished within 2 years.

Construction will progress as funding is secured from donations and grants. That is why fundraising at the Museum never stops and next year is a new year with new goals.

Do you know that only 20% of our membership contributed to this latest fundraiser? This means that the other 80% can step up and donate during the coming year. Imagine, if just half of the 80% that did not donate sent in a check, we would have a completed upstairs in no time! (Donation form on page 7 of this newsletter).

Happy New Year and Thank you for your generosity.



## Museum Contacts

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## Volunteer of the Quarter:

### Judy Kraxberger

By Ron Smith

Judy Kraxberger comes down to the Museum every Thursday and brings dessert to all of the Speedster students, mentors, and volunteers. She also helps with the organ and always has a smile on her face. She also lets her husband Tony come down and keep the organ running like a top. Thank you for your service to our museum, Judy! We appreciate you.



## Ruthless Torque: Joke of the Quarter

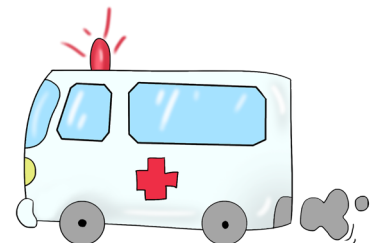
Collected by Ruth Jarmusz

Jack calls an ambulance for his friend who has been hit by a car. The operator asks for his location.

Jack says, "I'm outside 28 Eucalyptus Road". The operator knows there is no room for error and for clarity asks, "How do you spell that?"

There's shuffling and sounds of straining at the other end of the phone. "Jack?" says the operator, concerned.

More shuffling and grunting. "Sorry about that" says Jack. "I just dragged him 'round to 1 Oak Street."



## It Was a Fun Party!

By Pat Roby

Members of the Northwest Vintage Car and Motorcycle Museum gathered for our annual membership appreciation/Christmas party on Sunday, December 7th. It was a fun-filled event with pizza and loads of great food.

For entertainment, member Stephen Price, a violinist, sat in with Tom Ruttan's musical quartet. Members also enjoyed the raffles, clothespin game and silent auction. A talk by member Jack Jenkins, featuring his dear friend, Louis G. Hanberg, and the gifts to the Museum, was a highlight for this writer.

Many comments were heard about the success of the party. The members who volunteered their time really brought the event to a new level and were

instrumental in creating an enjoyable afternoon. A big Thank you goes out to all the generous members and non-members who donated items for the raffle and silent auction. Members Judy Hall, Linda Leek, and especially Ruth Jarmusz worked diligently to provide a wonderful party. Great Job!! See you all in the New Year!!



*The food line. We had so much yummy food!*

## Lifestyles Area Starting Plans for 2026

By Pat Roby

It is that time of year when the Lifestyles displays have all been taken down, stored away, and/or given back to their respective owners. This past year we heard many positive comments about the videos and displays that accompanied the cars that were part of the theme "Movie and Television Cars and Motorcycles."

The theme for next year has yet to be decided, but some of us Lifestyles gals are working with the display group to get an early jump on the planning needed for next year's summer season.

We are always enthusiastic about the items loaned or donated. And as always, I will be eager to welcome anyone interested in helping. Our volunteers will once more help define the Museum with creativity and flair.

I will be scheduling a committee meeting in late winter to start planning how Lifestyle can support the car and motorcycle displays.

Additionally, our quilt display is always a popular feature, and it is always with great anticipation that we will see what members and non-members alike loan or donate to us. If you have anything you would like to donate or offer as a loan for the upcoming season, please contact me! This year we are accepting only vintage clothing for displays as we have made the decision not to sell regular clothes. The Museum is open on Thursdays as well for drop-offs. Pat Roby (home) 503-692-0774 (cell and text) 503-705-6015 or (email) truckgirl51@yahoo.com.

## From the Organ Corner

Submitted by the Organ Crew

Jim Cutting, member of the Museum, has donated a 1918 Krakauer upright piano which was manufactured in New York. Simon Krakauer, son David and brother Julius came from Germany in 1869 and went into the piano manufacturing business. This was a quality instrument, and the company survived the Depression, many didn't, without being absorbed into a big conglomerate. In 1977 the company changed ownership and ceased manufacturing in 1985. The Baldwin piano donated by Rick Simmons will be moved upstairs to the new meeting room.



*Jim Cutting plays the Krakauer with Tom Popelka looking on.*



## Speedster Program Update – These Crews Are Busy!

By Gary Dennis

**W**ith the help of our wonderful mentors, we have made a lot of progress on shop projects. Arlen and his team, Amelia & Zoe, have adapted a set of top bows, that were for who-knows-what, to the '23 Chevy convertible sedan. Next, the actual top will be manufactured and fitted. The plan is to sell it as-is in primer.

us anticipated. It's off, and now on to evaluate the health of the engine.

Joel removed the starter off the donated Suburban (thank you Al & Judy), Gary repaired it, and the vehicle was cleaned inside and out and is available for purchase.

Tony and crew, Kao & Joel, have been working on getting the engine of the circle-track race car completed.

It was missing the intake & ignition systems.

Dave continues to work on the Model A body. Tony has been making patch panels with his sheet metal roller.

One more item to discuss. This will be my last speedster report. For a myriad of reasons, I've decided that I need to step back from managing the Speedster Program. Fortunately, there is someone who is more than qualified and willing to take over. That person is, of course,



Our newest mentor Jeff and his team, Tristan and Cody, have been working on the pie wagon. Both doors are properly fitted and metal reinforced into a solid unit. The final fitting of the windshield frame is complete. Jeff also managed the red Dodge Dart repairs to get it in shape (and sold).

Jeremy and his team, Kao and Peter, have worked to get two donated motorcycles, a 1975 Yamaha TT500 and a 1980 Honda XR75, running & riding.

Les has been working with Connor to learn machine shop skills, mostly on our donation lathes.

Don has been working with a rotating crew, including most of the students, to get the aluminum head off the donated '34 Chrysler convertible sedan. This was a project that proved to be way more difficult than any of



*Some of the trophies that the students have built and are selling through the Speedster Program.*

Tony Darcy. Tony brings a level of enthusiasm and energy that will take the program to a new level. While I'm sad to step aside, I'm thrilled that Tony is onboard with this move. I will continue to mentor in the machine shop and collaborate with Tony.

## Welcome, New Members! And Thank You, Donors!

By Ruth Jarmusz

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Neil Cohen, Newberg  
Jacob Rehlinger, McMinnville

### DONATIONS - thank you!

Arni Andersen  
Dennis Barci  
Don & Joanne Blain  
Jim Brown  
Pete Charbonneau / Linda Shinn  
Frank Cunningham  
Jerry Ekstrom  
Mary Feller (In Memory of Donald Feller)  
Doug Harnar  
Mickey Hatley  
Heritage Auto Show (for Speedster program)  
David Koetje  
Tony Kraxberger  
Donna Larrowe  
William (Bill) Lockner  
Scott Olson  
Oregon Region Classic Car Club of America (In Memory of Howard Freedman)  
Packards of Oregon (In Memory of Howard Freedman)  
Stephen Price  
Lanny Quackenbush  
Don Risor  
Rose City Motorcycle Club  
Tom Ruttan  
Lara Tiffin  
Gene & Jean Walker  
Willamette Valley Street Rods (for Speedster program)

### THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS WERE MADE IN MEMORY OF RONALD ROLLINGS TO THE SPEEDSTER PROGRAM:

Allen Memorial Home (NY)  
Tom & Becky Cox (OR)  
Tony & Candice Kumming (FL)  
Rick & Jodi Field (OR)  
Joan Gard (AZ)  
Patrick & Sheryl Hoke (OR)  
Anthony Sorrells (GA)



Gary Dennis, Speedster program (L) and Ruth Jarmusz Co-Treasurer (R) accept a check for \$500 donated by Paul Pfnister (in the back behind Gary and Ruth) with Heritage Auto. Heritage Auto hosts an annual car show at the Northwest Vintage Car and Motorcycle Museum field. This past September was their 26th annual show. The check is to be used for the Speedster Program.

## Shelving Needed for Ferne Hellie Library

By Ruth Jarmusz

**T**he Library at the NWVCMM is in need of six-foot-tall shelving with 12-inch-deep shelves that will hold **LARGE** car and motorcycle manuals and books. If you have some to donate or have a lead where we might get some, please contact Ruth at [readingsgr8tfun@yahoo.com](mailto:readingsgr8tfun@yahoo.com), or text 909-554-0584.

# DONATION AND MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail this form, along with your payment, to:

**Northwest Vintage Car & Motorcycle Museum**  
**PO Box 15**  
**Salem, OR 97308-0015**



Questions? Call Ron Smith at 971-338-8675 or [nwvcmmpres@gmail.com](mailto:nwvcmmpres@gmail.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation (current or past) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/significant other \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

(Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **DONATION** in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership levels:

\_\_\_\_\_ **SPECIAL 3 years for \$100**

\_\_\_\_\_ Standard membership, \$40 a year

\_\_\_\_\_ Club membership \$200 for first year, \$100 each year after

\_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime membership, \$10,000 (*one-time fee, includes family*)

Tell us about your vehicle(s) and interests:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ I (or my club) would prefer to receive all correspondence via email

☐ Contact me (or my club) regarding volunteer opportunities

*The Museum also accepts cars and motorcycles to display and to sell.  
These donations are used to help build the endowment fund that will help support the Museum in the future.*

*The Northwest Vintage Car & Motorcycle Museum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. Thank you!*



"EDUCATION IS OUR PURPOSE"

P.O. Box 15 • Salem, OR • 97308-0015

The NW Vintage Car & Motorcycle Museum  
is at Powerland Heritage Park,  
off Brooklake Road, west of I-5.

I-5 Exit 263, Brooks

10 minutes north of Salem  
30 minutes south of Portland

[www.nwcarandcycle.org](http://www.nwcarandcycle.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Jan 1         | Willamette Valley Corvette Club Mtg, Nelson Bldg, 6 – 8 pm      |
| Jan 7         | Willamette Valley Model T Club Mtg, Nelson Bldg, 6:30 – 8:30 pm |
| Jan 13        | Oregon Tractor Pull Mtg, Nelson Bldg, 6 – 8 pm                  |
| Jan 14        | BOG Mtg, Nelson Bldg, 6 – 8 pm                                  |
| <b>Jan 15</b> | <b>NWVCMM Board Meeting, Nelson Bldg, 2 – 4 pm</b>              |
| Jan 21        | Early Ford V8 Club Mtg, Nelson Bldg, 7 – 9 pm                   |
|               |   |
| Feb 4         | Willamette Valley Model T Club Mtg, Nelson Bldg, 6:30 – 8:30 pm |
| Feb 5         | Willamette Valley Corvette Club Mtg, Nelson Bldg, 6 – 8 pm      |
| Feb 10        | Oregon Tractor Pull Mtg, Nelson Bldg, 6 – 8 pm                  |
| Feb 18        | Early Ford V8 Club Mtg, Nelson Bldg, 7 – 9 pm                   |
| <b>Feb 19</b> | <b>NWVCMM Board Meeting, Nelson Bldg, 2 – 4 pm</b>              |
|               |   |
| Mar 4         | Willamette Valley Model T Club Mtg, Nelson Bldg, 6:30 – 8:30 pm |
| Mar 5         | Willamette Valley Corvette Club Mtg, Nelson Bldg, 6 – 8 pm      |
| Mar 10        | Oregon Tractor Pull Mtg, Nelson Bldg, 6 – 8 pm                  |
| Mar 18        | Early Ford V8 Club Mtg, Nelson Bldg, 7 – 9 pm                   |
| <b>Mar 19</b> | <b>NWVCMM Board Meeting, Nelson Bldg, 2 – 4 pm</b>              |

**WEEKLY WORK DAYS**  
**Thursdays, 9 am – 2 pm.**  
**Everyone is welcome to**  
**come help!**

**MEMBER/BOARD**  
**MEETINGS**  
**are the 3rd Thursday of**  
**each month,**  
**2 pm at the**  
**Nelson Exhibit Hall.**  
**Everyone is welcome!**