



Oil Capitol Auto Club

P.O. Box 1861

Mills, WY 82644

We are on the Web at www.ocac.cc

Blown Gasket

January 2020, Volume 1

The Blown Gasket is published by the Oil Capitol Auto Club. Newsletter info, pictures and interesting tidbits can be sent to Jerry Russell at GhostMerc@gwestoffice.net or 577-7119. Editor reserves the right to edit all copy for length, grammar, and/or style. Deadline is the Thursday after that month's meeting, which is held on the second Wednesday of the month at Z's Classics, 2049 E. Yellowstone, Casper, WY. ***Dues are \$20 per year payable January 1st.***

Upcoming Club Activities

FRIDAY CLUB DINNER

Contact Pat Potter - 315-5144

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

.January – Yellowstone Garage. Plan to be ready to order at 8:00 a.m.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

WAYNE CARLSON, VINCENT GARGIULO, ROSEMARY LANTTA, MILLIE NISSEN, JIM PATTAN, ARLENE RUSSELL,
RICK THURSTON, SUE WADDELL, GLEN WILLIAMS



**Oil Capitol Auto Club
General Membership Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2020**

Board of Directors

President:	Mark Pitts
Vice President:	Mike Johnson
Treasurer:	Ken Lantta
Secretary:	John Gudgeon
Car Show Committee Chairman:	Jerry Barton
Newsletter Editor:	Jerry Russell
Webmaster and Social Media:	Mike Kennedy

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 P.M. by President Mark Pitts

*All officers present.

TREASURY REPORT: Ken Lantta - Treasurer

The General Club Account and the Car Show Account were presented to the membership and discussed.

CHARITY COMMITTEE REPORT: Pat Potter - Chair

The Service Committee has met with the results for distribution of the funds from the 2019 OCAC car show. We had 7 requests to be considered and included Dennis & Phil's opinions.

Donations were made to the following organizations:

Mimi's House for homeless girls

Patriot Guard Riders

Pop in the Shop

Food for Thought

Greenup's jail supplies for journals & bibles

Friends of the Wyoming Veteran's Museum (it would be great to see our members assist in the restoration of an old fire truck.)

\$500 will be held in reserve for an urgent request.

CAR SHOW COMMITTEE REPORT: Jerry Barton – Chair

Jerry Barton reported that all is on track for the 2020 MW Cruizin' with the Oldies Car show. This will be our 20th annual show. The first Car Show organizational meeting will be on Feb. 5th at 7:00 P.M at Z's Classics. Some new events for the show this year will be a Sock Hop on Friday night (May 22) at the Hall on Ash, operated by the Yellowstone Garage. There will be food trucks on site, a cash bar and a DJ spinning classic rock tunes. Another added event will be a 9-hole golf tournament on Thursday May 21 for all participants. Fees & full details to follow; John Lannum will be organizing the tournament.

BENEVOLENCE: None reported

OLD BUSINESS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None reported.

NEW BUSINESS:

Member John Lannum suggested attending the Cobra Mustang Club event in Denver, CO. It is a regular event occurring every week during warmer months. John will provide more details & coordinate a date to caravan down as a club event.

A new meeting location will be needed for the summer Wednesday cruises, as the old Kmart parking lot is no longer available. The signup sheet for the Wednesday cruises will be available on the club website. The first summer cruise will be May 20th - Dennis Day will lead; it will be the test run for the Dash for Cash at the Memorial Weekend car show.

Mark Milliken mentioned that the Veterans Museum on the Casper Airport grounds has acquired a firetruck of WWII era, and they would like to restore it for display & parades. Mark asked for a donation of funds, as well as soliciting members to evaluate & help with the restoration of the firetruck. Mark will schedule an appointment to view & evaluate the truck, and will coordinate with interested members, and report at the February OCAC meeting.

Jerry Russell requested submissions of member profiles, car restoration stories or other interesting classic car items to publish in the Blown Gasket newsletter.

50/50 Raffle: \$31.00 total taken in – Mike Kennedy was the winner for this month.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:52 P.M.

John Gudgeon – OCAC Secretary

New Members

Dean and Liz Blevins – 1955 Ford F100



MY CAR

I was born right here in Casper, attended schools and graduated from N.C.H.S. Following graduation, I attended Casper College for two years before deciding to make my mark in the oil field. I started in Casper, spent 13 years here, then went to West Texas for 4 years, south Mississippi for 5 years, south Louisiana for 5 years, 1-1/2 years back in Wyoming and then my career took me overseas. I spent 2 years in Kazakhstan, 3 years in Azerbaijan (both in the Caspian Sea region), finishing my overseas work with 3-1/2 years based in Equatorial Guinea (West Africa). I finished my oilfield glory days with 3 years in Houston, TX, where I retired and moved back home. Yes, I had some interesting times.

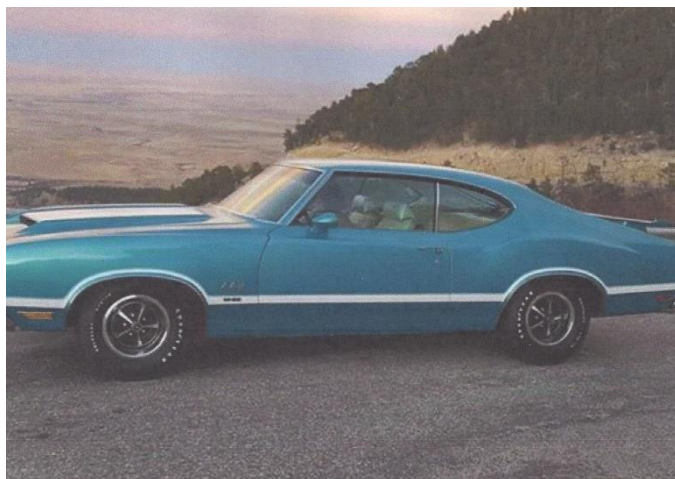
I have always enjoyed cars, but during the years chasing paychecks and moving, I never had the opportunity to have one until 4 years ago when I purchased Pearl, my 1970 442 W-30. The car was done when I found it and some people will say I got a good deal on it, other probably wouldn't. But that's a story for another time. Pearl has been fun to drive and show, she is a numbers matching (castings anyway) car, no modifications, just as it came out of the factory. The last time I had Pearl in Billings for the Original Car Show, she placed first in her class. Not bad for a 49 year old!

Two years ago I acquired my second car, Ida Mae, a 1960 Chevrolet Impala. Ida was a solid car, but she was showing her age. The 283 was getting tired, the transmission leaked, she had some rust developing, and so forth. My wife was very excited about the car, so we purchased it. We drove it for a year and finally decided to have the car restored. Well, a Rest-Mod, to be more exact. We are one year into the restoration and the body and paint work is coming to an end, next up is the drive train, electrical, and a few other goodies followed by the interior. I truly don't expect Ida Mae to make her debut until next Spring, we'll see how that goes.

My other hobby is collecting license plates. Yes, those pieces of tin with numbers that go on your bumpers. I've been around that hobby since I was 16 and have proudly completed a Wyoming set from 1913 (the first year for state issued plates) to the current year. I have three reserved numbers, one has been in the family since 1930, one since 1951, the other since 1964. I also have a Presidential Inaugural set, which are issued every 4 years for the inauguration of the President. The first year for those was 1933, the last official issue was 2001.

So this is me in a nutshell, or 4 paragraphs. Thanks for reading!

Mark Pitts



NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH AT RAMKOTA



PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS

During World War II, Packard opened up its proving grounds in Shelby Township, outside of Detroit, for testing one of the few vehicles at the time sturdier and stouter than a Packard automobile: the M4 Sherman tank. As the tanks circled the proving grounds' high-speed track, passing by the time stand otherwise used for recording speeds of far faster vehicles, they caused a cascade of damages which will only now, more than 75 years later, be corrected as part of a duo of grants the current caretakers of the grounds recently won.

According to Roger Ludsik, vice president of the Packard Motor Car Foundation, the two-story timing stand was already restored once in 2004, but needs maintenance, a repaint, and most of all a lift.

"Further study has shown that the building is now below the grade level of the high-speed test track and needs to be lifted to avoid water pooling around the perimeter of the foundation," Ludsik wrote. "It's not that the building has sunk, rather after WWII the track had to be rebuilt by Packard because the Sherman tanks that were tested at the PPG broke up the track. The newly paved surface then became higher than the old grade."

The timing stand restoration is just one of multiple projects the Packard Motor Car Foundation has planned to take advantage of the \$10,000 challenge grant and a \$1,500 mini grant that the MotorCities National Heritage Area awarded to the foundation last month. The foundation also plans to continue restoration work on the proving grounds' two original main gates, re-construct a building that Albert Kahn designed for the grounds, and create an interactive display that highlights Packard's engineering strengths.

The gates, installed when Packard constructed the grounds more than 90 years ago, have corroded to the point where the hinges "have worked loose from their anchor bolts in the stone columns," causing the gates to sag, according to Ludsik. Restoration on the northern of the two gates is nearly complete after the foundation won a \$30,000 cash grant from the Americana Foundation last year, but work on the southern gate—budgeted at \$40,000—has yet to begin, Ludsik said.

The Kahn-designed building, one of the original set of buildings constructed on the grounds, was a rather straight-forward six-car garage at the base of the water tower. It remained standing until the late Sixties, when Ford occupied the proving grounds and used the buildings there as storage for upholstery materials. Reconstructing the garage—a roughly \$75,000 project—will give the foundation a climate-controlled storage area for its historical documents and archival materials currently housed in the grounds' engineering building.

"Our long-term goal is to create numerous educational exhibits, but that cannot be accomplished until we meet our short-term goal to restore more buildings to house those displays," Ludsik said. "We're still building the museum up around us."

For more information about the Packard Proving Grounds and the MotorCities grant cycle for this year, visit PackardProvingGrounds.org and MotorCities.org.



CLASSIC CLUES

Question: When were seat belts first fitted to a motor vehicle?

Answer: In 1902, in a Baker Electric streamliner racer which crashed at 100 mph. on Staten Island!

CRUISE NEWS from Ken Lantta

This afternoon, I stopped by the U-Haul store on East 2nd Street. I spoke at some length with the franchise owner, Kelly Winters.

Kelly gave us permission to stage in the U-Haul parking lot for the start of our Wednesday cruises. He asked that we use a specific portion of the lot as noted in the diagram below.

The part of the lot we used in the past is first going to have some construction work and then Kelly will be using that area for his business.

He continues to be plagued by ‘hooligans’ who create havoc – spinning donuts, racing, drinking, doing drugs, running over landscaping, etc., etc. He showed the results of last Friday evening – a couple thousand miles of tire rubber spun into the pavement all over the lot (both donuts and drag racing).

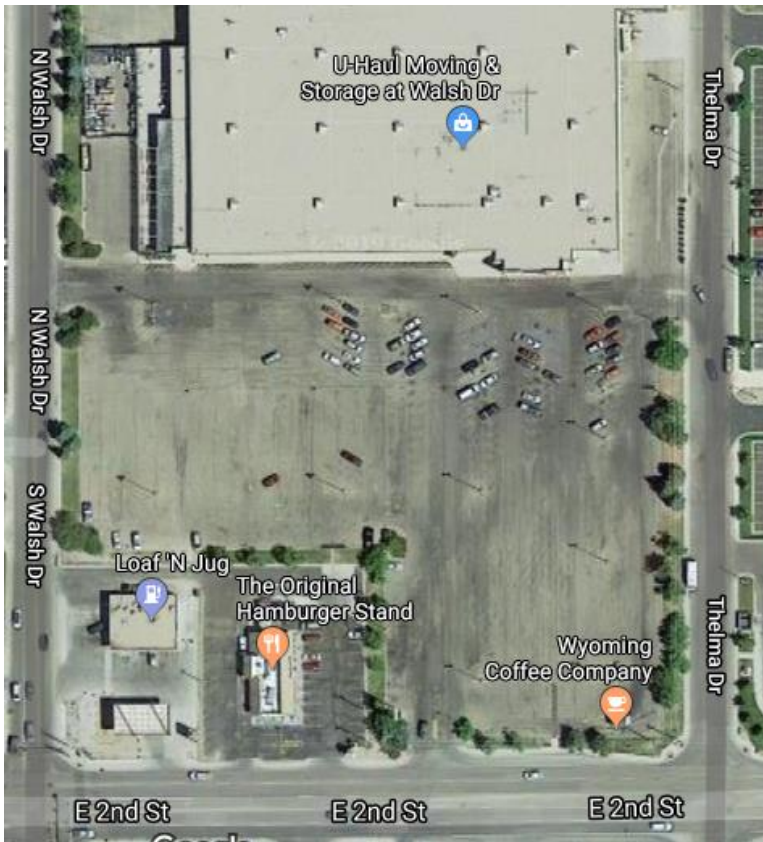
I will send to Kelly a letter on our club letterhead detailing the ‘when & what’ of our intended use. He will share the letter with the Casper PD so they will know we have permission to use the lot.

Kelly is at a loss on how best to regain control of his private property. Since he services customers after sunset, he is real concerned about a customer or an employee getting run over by the hooligans. Because the lot is private property, the police department has limited jurisdiction when someone is spinning donuts within the lot boundaries.

It is a real mess for this business owner.

Kelly reiterated many times that he is supportive of OCAC using the lot. His only concern is whether anyone who does not have permission will see our use and then ‘assume’ they too can use it. Time will tell on that front. We might be able to help by watching for and running off trespassing troublemakers while we are staging for a cruise.

Thru the summer, if you have occasion to do business at this U-Haul store, please tell Kelly “Thank You”.



is north side (behind) of Hamburger Stand.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cars & Coffee, 2/2/20, Cheyenne, WY.

Car Show Meeting, 2/5/20, at Z's Classics.

Sabers Swap Meet, 2/8-9/20, Denver, CO.

Board of Directors Meeting, 2/10/20.

Regular Monthly Meeting, 2/12/20, at Z's Classics, 7:00 p.m.

Kool Kustom Kar Show, 2/14-16/20, Pueblo, CO.

International Mercury Owners Association National Show, 6/24-28/20, Westminster, CO.

All Ford Picnic/Car Show, 6/28/20, Golden, CO.



DASHING THROUGH THE SNOW