

YE OLDE CAR CLUB, INC OF TRI-CITIES  
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SPOKANE WA 992

20 JAN 2007 PM 5 T



Jim & Ginger Vetrano  
4512 W. Yellowstone Ave.  
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99336+1500



# Gas Gauge

JANUARY  
2007

A publication of  
Ye Olde Car Club

## CLUB OFFICERS

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Sec. Jim Vetrano 735-4248  
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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fred Fraser 946-9850  
Martha Shreve 582-7530  
Bob McClary 783-3622  
Pete Jackson 783-3317



## PRESIDENT'S BACK FIRE

As your new President, I want to fulfill your desires for the club and have some fun. But, that requires some feed back from you, the members, (sound familiar) What do you want? Look at the list of officers and board members and give them your ideas.

We will have a Board meeting every second Wednesday, following our regular breakfast at The Hut.

Lets get our cars out and have some fun... It's up to you. Remember, we wont go anywhere until you step on the gas.

Roy



## DUES ARE DUE

It is that time of the year again. Dues are now due. The dues for this year is \$15.00. You can mail a check for \$15.00 to Ed Edwards, the club's treasurer at P. O. Box 4566, West Richland, WA 99353.

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## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 10, 2007

1. Members present:  
Martha Shreve, Bob MC Clary, Joe Kuhns, Roy Holmes, Fred Fraser, Ted Walters, Jim Vetrano, Pete Jackson.
2. President Holmes passed out copies of Corporation papers and By-laws
3. Discussion of possible programs for the year:
 

Feb. 9	Chocolate extravaganza at Vetrano's home
March	Heppner tour... Shreve to plan
April	Southridge Show ? Walters to look into
May	Swap meet...Underwood plus
June	La Grande tour...Shreve
July 4th	Parade and lunch...McClary
Aug.	Fair parade and picnic
4. Discussion of telephone tree:  
Shreve and Holmes to form

Recorded by Jim Vetrano

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I apologize for the lateness of this newsletter. My computer got sick and died (hard drive broke down and there was a problem with the bios) . Hopefully all of the problems are now fixed.

Cyndy

## CHOCOLATE EXTRAVAGANZA

Jim and Ginger Vetrano will be hosting a Chocolate Extravaganza. It will be held February 9th at 7 p.m. at 4512 W. Yellowstone Ave, Kennewick. Those planning on attending will need to bring something Chocolate. They have been doing this the past 2-3 years. It has always been a fun activity. Hope to see you there.

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### Tri-City Model Railroaders Annual Show

January 27, 2007  
10 a.m.—4 p.m.  
Benton County PUD  
10th & 395 in Kennewick  
Operating model railroads,  
Displays and Mini-Clinics  
Free Admittance

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## FOR SALE

1928 4-door Model A sedan, completely restored, runs excellent, \$9,500 or best offer.

1930 2-door Model A coupe, completely restored, runs excellent, \$9,500 or best offer.

1960 2-door Nash Metropolitan sports coupe, completely restored, runs excellent, \$7,500 or best offer.

Contact Joe Kuhns, 586-6848 or 947-2425

# You snooze; your project loses

## **F**amiliarity breeds laziness!

You're guilty of it and so am I! It relates to lots of things in life, including your hobby car. Think back to when you first purchased your muscle machine, and how eager you were to get the simplest problems fixed. You couldn't wait to rectify every little deficiency in order to make the car as perfect as possible. But over time, complacency sets in, and fixing things just doesn't seem as terribly important. Big stuff, things that would lay the car up, usually get dealt with within a reasonable amount of time because you enjoy driving. But, the fact that the horn doesn't work anymore somehow isn't a major life-altering event.

Personally, I have several muscle car automotive problems that need attention, and have for a while, but familiarity has gotten in the way. It's like living in the same house for 20 years, you'll get around to painting the exterior and fixing that leaky faucet—soon. We tend to ignore something that has been wrong for so long, that it now seems all right.

Recently, over a long holiday weekend, I realized how deep I had sunk into this deplorable condition. I had made this comprehensive list of all the things I was going to fix on my cars each day, but when the weekend was over I had hardly accomplished anything. I was stunned by my lack of enthusiasm and laziness. But even the best intentions can fall victim to a nap! I felt kinda guilty, not to mention a little disappointed, that I had hit rock bottom in the enthusiasm department and vowed to join NPA (nap prevention anonymous) at the first opportunity!

Like most familiarity-induced failures, I compared my condition to other folks who are going through the same trauma. I have a friend who has been restoring a muscle car for the last five or so years. He has a wife and a couple of small kids, which take up a lot

of his time, so he has somewhat of an excuse for his slow progress. But he has also fallen victim to familiarity with his project. It's under a clear plastic cover in the garage so he can see it all the time, and that might be part of the problem. He knows it's there, it won't go away, and he knows he should work on it, but just doesn't seem to be able to make it happen. And he doesn't even take naps!

I just acquired a new high-octane, four-speed family member. I watched the car progress over the years, so I knew its history fairly well. While it's 95 percent done, there are several little items that no longer function and the previous owner simply didn't get around to fixing. So, with renewed enthusiasm (new project syndrome, which is the opposite of familiarity) I set about making these things right. Here are some examples: horn contact didn't work, 30-minute fix; radio didn't play, 2-hour fix; gas gauge was irregular, half-day fix; thorough interior cleaning, half-day job. These, and a few others, are the things that fell into the familiarity file for the last owner. How many do you have in your file?

One of the consequences of acquiring a new project (automotive or otherwise) is that your other vehicles or projects get completely ignored. So whatever has been ignored on those cars continues to get ignored indefinitely, and indefinitely can be a v-e-r-y long time! To complicate matters further, the more vehicles you own, the larger the fix list becomes. I have a sticky note (actually several sticky notes) on my workbench that simply states "wax cars," unfortunately that note has a lot of dust on it.

Guys with really big car collections like Leno and Tim Allen have the wherewithal to have a couple of dedicated attendants maintain their vehicles in pristine condition, comfortably, inside a big warehouse. Regular car guys like us are the attendants in our garage, and after a couple hundred trips under the dash, under the hood and every other nook and cranny, the fascination wears a mite thin. Even the most ardent enthusiast gets tired of working on the same vehicle year after year. In personal relationships familiarity like this usually ends in a divorce, in the car hobby it's usually a For Sale sign.

I've discussed this aspect of car maintenance with many people over the years, as it certainly isn't a new phenomenon. Almost everyone instantly understands what I'm referring to. Hobbyists who have owned the same vehicle for five years or more are quick to understand. They love their ride just as much today, but are not as interested in working on it with the same vigor as in earlier days.

Our only salvation is to get the fires burning again and re-become a member of the car culture. While working on the small projects for this new addition, I found myself getting back into the swing of things. The weather was greatly improved and so was my attitude. I'm not saying you need to go out and buy a new project, just re-evaluate the worth of the one you have. To me, my cars literally become members of the family and as such deserve attention. I've always believed that if you own something you must be prepared to take care of it yourself.

Obviously, by now you understand and hopefully can emerge from a state of denial about your state of familiarity. After that holiday weekend fiasco I started thinking about all the years I've owned my cars and all the enjoyment I received from each. Then, after a nap, I started to think about how each deserved better treatment than I have provided over the past several years. So I pulled out a parts supplier's catalog and ordered some stuff to fix a multitude of the outstanding and aggravating problems, and that got me excited again. Parts always get me excited, and more importantly, motivated to install them. So while I'm patiently waiting for the big brown truck to arrive, a short nap sounds good! 🍌

# TIM MCGOWAN

“...after a couple hundred trips under the dash... and hood... the fascination runs a mite thin.”



