



Gas Gauge Ye Olde Car Club December 2022 Newsletter

December 2022 Prez says ramblings

Our club continues to get stronger with new members Bill & Julie Schwartz from Kennewick. They have a 1965 Ford Galaxie Convertible and a 1967 Ford Mustang. Welcome to the club and hope you become an active member.

Our annual Christmas dinner and party on December 14th at the Pasco Eagles Club in Pasco was a great success. This was the largest gathering of club members with 102 members participating. During the Christmas dinner, our 2023 club officers were elected:

President – Dave Hannah

Vice President/ Activities Director – John Hopkins

Treasurer – Don Buckles

Secretary – Randy Bunch

Board Member – Kevin Davis.

Service positions are: Editor - Frances McGillis, Sunshine - Bonnie Suminski, Webmaster - Scott Noga, and 2024 Swap Meet Chairman – DaJuan Recknagle.

The club is collecting \$15 dues for 2023 at our weekly Wednesday meetings or by mail at Ye Olde Car Club, P.O. Box 2023, Richland, WA 99352.

Thank you once again for making the Ye Olde Car Club the friendliest and most enjoyable car club in the Tri-Cities.

2023 Dues are now due. Still \$15.

Please pay by sending a check to YOCC, PO Box 2023, Richland, WA 99352

Bits and Pieces

Life is short. Eat the Christmas cookies.

Christmas is the only time of year you can sit in front of a dead tree eating candy out of a sock.

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas, but if the white runs out I'll drink the red.

Anyone who believes that men are equal to women has never seen a man trying to wrap a Christmas present.

When you stop believing in Santa Claus, you get underwear for Christmas.

Don't blame the holidays. You were fat in August.

Remember that the important thing is not what you give or how you wrap it. The important thing, during this very special time of year, is that you save the receipt. (Dave Barry)

Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men and Batteries not Included.

I wanted to send you something AMAZING for Christmas but the mailman told me to get out of the mailbox.

He sees you when you're sleeping. He knows when you're awake. He knows about that time you said you only needed one thing at Target but came home with six bags and a pumpkin latte. Liar!

One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room Christmas day.

The Remarkable Body

About half of your body is bacteria.

Where in the world.

There is a village in the Netherlands with no roads. The only form of transportation is by boat.

A Christmas Poem

'Twas the night before Christmas at Rock-Away Rest,
And all of us seniors were looking our best.
Our glasses, how sparkly, our wrinkles, how merry;
Our punch bowl held prune juice plus three drops of sherry.
A bedsock was taped to each walker in hope,
That Santa would bring us soft candy and soap.
We surely were lucky to be there with friends,
Secure in this residence and in our Depends.
Our grandkids had sent us some Christmassy crafts,
Like angels in snowsuits and penguins on rafts.
The dental assistant had borrowed our teeth,
And from them she'd crafted a holiday wreath.
The bedpans, so shiny, all stood in a row,
Reflecting our candle's magnificent glow.
Our supper so festive -- the joy wouldn't stop --
Was creamy warm oatmeal with sprinkles on top.
Our salad was Jell-O, so jiggy and great,
Then puree of fruitcake was spooned on each plate.
The social director then had us play games,
Like "Where Are You Living?" and "What Are Your Names?"
Old Grandfather Looper was feeling his oats,
Proclaiming that reindeer were nothing but goats.
Our resident wanderer was tied to her chair,
In hopes that at bedtime she still would be there.
Security lights on the new fallen snow
Made outdoors seem noon to the old folks below.
Then out on the porch there arose quite a clatter
(But we are so deaf that it just didn't matter).
A strange little fellow flew in through the door,
Then tripped on the sill and fell flat on the floor.
'Twas just our director, all toggled out in red.
He jiggled and chuckled and patted each head.
We knew from the way that he strutted and jived
Our social- security checks had arrived.

We sang -- how we sang -- in our monotone croak,
Till the clock tinkled out its soft eight-p.m. stroke.
And soon we were snuggling deep in our beds.
While nurses distributed nocturnal meds.
And so ends our Christmas at Rock-Away Rest.
'fore long you'll be with us. We wish you the best.



Fun Food Facts

Unlike most other berries, cranberries grow in marshes. More than 50% of the world's cranberries are grown in Wisconsin.

NO Ladies Lunch in December. Thanks. January Ladies Lunch will be hosted by Myrtle Nesbitt & Ginger Vetrano. Please call them if you plan to attend. Myrtle – 509-586-5629 or Ginger – 509-783-9205

Fractured Christmas Carols

1. Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly...
2. We Three Kings of Porridge and Tar...
3. On the First Day of Christmas My Tulip Gave to Me...
4. Later on, We'll Perspire, As We Dream by the Fire...
5. He's Makin' a List, Chicken and Rice...
6. Noel, Noel, Barney's the King of Israel...
7. With the Jelly Toast Proclaim...
8. Olive, the Other Reindeer...
9. Frosty the Snowman was a Ferret Elf They Say...
10. Sleep in Heavenly Peas...
11. In the Meadow We Can Build a Snowman, Then Pretend That He is Sparse and Brown...
12. You'll Go Down in Listerine...
13. Oh, What Fun it is to Ride with One Horse, Soap and Hay...
14. Oh Come, Froggy Faithful...
15. You'll Tell Carol, "Be a Skunk, I Require"...
16. Good Tidings We Bring to You and Your Kid...
17. O Tanning Balm...

Carols for Personality Disorders

SCHIZOPHRENIA: Do you Hear What I Hear?

MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DISORDER: We Three Kings Disoriented Are

DEMENTIA: I Think I'll Be Home for Christmas

NARCISSISTIC: Hark the Herald Angels Sing About Me

MANIC: Deck the Halls and Walls and House and Lawn and Streets and Stores and Office and Town and Cars and Busses and Trucks and Trees and Fire Hydrants and...

PARANOID: Santa Claus is Coming to Get Me.

PERSONALITY DISORDER: You Better Watch Out, I'm Gonna Cry, I'm Gonna Pout, Maybe I'll tell you why...

BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER: Thoughts of Roasting on an Open Fire...

OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDER: Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell Rock, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell Rock, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell Rock, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell Rock, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell Rock,(better start again)



Robbin's 1949 Next Build

With the 1966 Plymouth Belvedere two-seater almost on the road, it's time to plan the next build project. Carolyn and I bought this very solid and original 1949 Chevrolet Fleetline Special two-door over ten years ago from a fellow Ye Olde Car Club member who had too many similar cars at the time. Post-war Chevy people are aware of the Fleetline Deluxe like fellow YOCC member, Jim Galloway's beautiful yellow 1949 example. The Deluxe had more chrome and trim, fancier steering wheel and speedometer trim, stainless trim around the front 2-piece windshield and rear window, stainless front fender and door spear than the Special. The unique sloping rear deck (fastback) of the Fleetline set it apart from the Skyline series of that era of Chevrolet cars.

The Special was the low-price entry of the Fleetline series and had the same engine and drivetrain as the Deluxe (90hp 216ci in-line 6, 3-speed manual on the column, and enclosed 'torque tube' driveline attached to the rear axle w/4.11:1 ratio). Performance, you ask! Not much...compared to today's automobiles with a 0 to 60mph in 21.2 seconds, which is about the same as its quarter-mile time of 22.2 seconds. Advertised top speed at a blistering 70mph.

Why was the Deluxe by far the biggest seller of the two models? Likely due to the strange pricing between the two models. The Deluxe model sold new for \$1,492. The Special for \$1,413. Without question, I am sure either was a lot of money in 1949. But for 'only' \$79 more, one could go first-class with the Deluxe. Fast forward to 2022, due to the significantly lower Fleetline Special production numbers, parts unique to the Special are not easily found. Factoid: Chevrolet sold more vehicles than any other brand in 1949 with 1,109,958 units rolling out of the many assembly plants across the country.

Enough automotive history! Why the '49 Fleetline as project? I have a few other mid-sixties cars that run and drive that are good restoration candidates, but the '49 has always been one of my favorite cars and it has a

completely redone interior including seats, door panels, carpeting and headliner. A previous owner had spent some bucks on the interior and requires no work or expense, other installing seat belts front and rear. Also, despite minor rust near the trim band on the quarter panels, the car is very clean with no dents, body damage, or undercarriage rust, prepping the car for paint will be relatively easy. The years- ago backyard 'Robin Egg Blue' paint job on the car, engine, steering wheel and almost everything else simply must go! The paint code (389) on the A pillar tag indicates the original color was Vista Gray Poly, which was metallic. I did not know metallic paints existed in the late 1940's. The new paint will be TCP Global Restoration Shop series of acrylic urethane "wet look" single stage in 'Graphite Gray Metallic', which should be close to the original color.

Other improvements for the car include replacing all glass which is not too bad other than the split windshield which is bubbling and some chips and piece out of the driver's door window. Windshield and rear glass rubber molding will be replaced, of course. New glass will be gray lightly tinted with shade band at the top of the windshield pieces. Also, an aftermarket analog gauge cluster will fit in place of the original instrument cluster which in seventy-three years most of the lettering and numbers have fallen off and are resting at the bottom of the speedometer...rather amusing...

Mechanically, the changes to the '49 will be aggressive. Out with the smooth running 216ci in-line six-cylinder engine, 3-speed transmission, and one-piece torque tube rear axle assembly. The original rear leaf springs on the car are offset to accommodate the seemingly strange torque tube to axle design. This rear suspension will be replaced with an aftermarket kit consisting of modern leaf springs, frame mounts and modern shock absorbers.

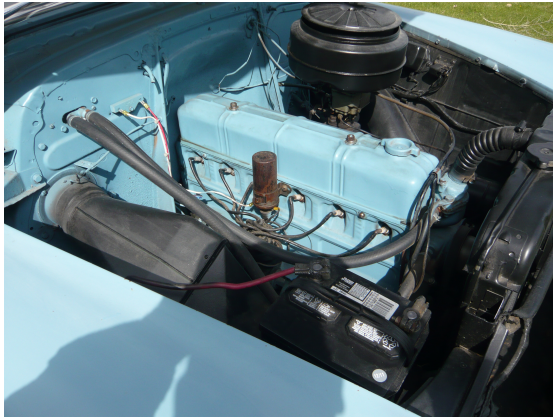
At the front of the chassis, the original suspension including cross member, springs, A-arms, brakes/hubs, and steering box system is removed and replaced with an aftermarket kit with fabricated cross member and spring/shock towers along with an aftermarket Mustang II suspension with power rack and pinion steering, tubular upper and lower A-arms, disc brakes, and anti-sway bar. As is, the original front-end has at least ¼ turn play in the steering wheel. Keeping the car between the fog lines on the road is a challenge.

Improving on the original 90 horsepower 'splash oiler' engine will be a 454ci aluminum-headed, LS6 Mark IV big block Chevy engine topped with single-plane high-rise aluminum intake manifold and Holley carburetor. I have the engine sitting in the shop. Coupled to the engine is a 700R4 overdrive transmission with a manual lock-up converter connected to a custom-made driveline spinning a Ford 9" nodular third member with Traction Lock and 3.50:1 ratio in an aftermarket fabricated housing with Currie 31 spline axles with hubs drilled to accommodate either Chevy or Ford/Mopar stud spacing, and disc brakes. Also, an original position (under floorboard) aftermarket power dual reservoir brake master cylinder with 7" booster, leak-back valves, and adjustable rear brake proportioning valve.

Lastly, regarding the shiny parts...bumpers, chrome and stainless trim. The trim is in good condition, the chrome hood and trunk emblems are okay but somewhat pitted. The bumpers are straight but dull and scarred. Several years ago, these simple front and rear bumpers could be purchased as good reproductions for about \$120 each...Not today if you can find them! Having the original bumpers repaired and triple-chromed is really out-of-sight, cost wise. Since there is so little bright work on the car anyway. And this is obviously not a restore-to-original build, but a 'Restomod'. I am leaning toward prepping the bumpers/guards, emblems and trim for powder coating in a very shiny gloss black. This is certainly contrary to my usual thinking but might look good in subtle contrast to the graphite gray metallic paint and gray tinted windows; and save some cost and time in restoring the chrome parts. I would be interested in receiving feedback on this idea... I should mention, I plan to use body color painted steel wheels and 'baby moon' hubcaps (black powder coat those also). And certainly, keep the visor, fender skirts and period-correct evaporative window cooler.

Hopefully, this build will go smoothly and timely as these mechanical and suspension modifications are common upgrades to '49 to '54 Chevy cars. There are lots of You Tube 'how-to' videos and written instructions also. Project launch is planned for 'warm weather' in 2023.

Thanks for reading,
Robbin Johanson



Did You Know...

The first and only U.S. President to have a doctorate degree was Woodrow Wilson.

The Many Faces of Santa

On the night before Christmas, all across the world, millions of children will be tucked in their beds while "visions of sugarplums dance in their heads." When they awake they will check their stockings to see if Santa Claus has come.

Santa Claus has become the most beloved of Christmas symbols and traditions. The image of the jolly old elf flying in a sleigh pulled by reindeers and leaving toys and gifts for every child is know worldwide. The history of Santa Claus begins with a man called Saint Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor, in what is now Turkey. Saint Nicholas was know for his charity and wisdom. Legends tell of him coming from a wealthy

family and giving all his money to the poor. He also was said to possess magical powers. He died in 340 AD and was buried in Myra.

Late in the 11th century religious soldiers from Italy took the remains of the saint back with them to Italy. They built a church in honor of him in the town of Bari, a port town in southern Italy. Soon Christian pilgrims from all over the world came to visit the church of Saint Nicholas. These pilgrims took the legend of Saint Nicholas back to their native lands. As the legend of Saint Nicholas spread it would take on the characteristics of each country.

In Europe during the 12th century *Saint Nicholas Day* became a day of gift giving and charity. Germany, France, and Holland celebrated December 6th as a religious holiday and gave gifts to their children and the poor.

When the Dutch colonists traveled to America, they brought with them their *Sinterklaas*, an austere bishop who wore a red bishop's costume and rode on a white horse.

The American image of *Sinterklaas* would gradually evolve into that of a jolly old elf. He was first described as a plump and jolly old Dutchman by Washington Irving in his comic *History of New York*. In 1823 *Sinterklaas/Saint Nicholas'* metamorphosis continued with the publication of Clement Moore's poem, *A Visit from St. Nicholas* (Twas the night before Christmas...).

In the 1860s cartoonist Thomas Nast drew pictures of a plump and kindly *Santa Claus* for the illustrated *Harper's Weekly*. This image of Santa Claus was becoming ingrained in the minds of the American people. As time went on this image of Santa Claus traveled across the globe, back to Europe, to South America, and elsewhere.

Many countries have kept their own customs and traditions of Saint Nicholas. In some cultures *Saint Nicholas* travels with an assistant to help him. In Holland, *Sinterklaas* sails in on a ship arriving on December 6th. He carries a big book which tells him how the Dutch children have behaved during the past year. Good children are rewarded with gifts and the bad ones are taken away by his assistant, *Black Peter*.

In Germany *Saint Nicholas* also travels with an assistant, known as *Knecht Ruprecht*, *Krampus*, or *Pelzebock*, and comes with a sack on his back and a rod in his hand. Good children receive a gift, but naughty children are punished by the assistant with a few hits of the rod.

In Italy *La Befana* is good witch who dresses all in black and brings gifts to children on the Epiphany, January 6th. In many Spanish countries; Spain, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and South America, the children wait for the Three Kings to bring their Christmas gifts.

In France *Father Christmas* or *Pere Noel* bring gifts for the children. Switzerland has the *Christkindl* or *Christ Child* who bears gifts. In some towns children await the Holy Child and in others *Christkindl* is a girl-angel who comes down from heaven bearing gifts.

The Scandinavian countries celebrate with an elf, called the *julenisse* or the *juletomte* who bears gifts. And in England *Father Christmas*, an more austere and thinner version of Santa Claus, brings gifts.

In North America it is the round and plump "Ho Ho Ho'ing" Santa Claus who flies in a sleigh pulled by eight reindeers delivering toys to the children of the world.



WOMEN'S CORNER

Christmas with Louise

As a joke, my brother used to hang a pair of panty hose over his fireplace before Christmas. He said all he wanted was for Santa to fill them. What they say about Santa checking the list twice must be true because every Christmas morning, although Jay's kids' stockings were overflowed, his poor pantyhose hung sadly empty. One

year I decided to make his dream come true. I put on sunglasses and went in search of an inflatable love doll. They don't sell those things at Wal-Mart.

I had to go to an adult bookstore downtown. If you've never been in an X-rated store, don't go. You'll only confuse yourself. I was there an hour saying things like, "What does this do?" "You're kidding me!" "Who would buy that?" Finally, I made it to the inflatable doll section. I wanted to buy a standard, uncomplicated doll that could also substitute as a passenger in my truck so I could use the carpool lane during rush hour. Finding what I wanted was difficult. Love dolls come in many different models. The top of the line, according to the side of the box, could do things I'd only seen in a book on animal husbandry. I settled on 'Lovable Louise.' She was at the bottom of the price scale. To call Louise a "doll" took a huge leap of imagination.

On Christmas Eve, with the help of an old bicycle pump, Louise came to life. My sister-in-law was in on the plan and let me in during the wee morning hours, long after Santa had come and gone, I filled the dangling pantyhose with Louise's pliant legs and bottom. I also ate some cookies and drank what remained of a glass of milk on a nearby tray. I went home, and giggled for a couple of hours. The next morning my brother called to say that Santa had been to his house and left a present that had made him VERY happy but had left the dog confused. She would bark, start to walk away, then come back and bark some more. We all agreed that Louise should remain in her panty hose so the rest of the family could admire her when they came over for the traditional Christmas dinner.

My grandmother noticed Louise the moment she walked in the door. "What the heck is that?" she asked. My brother quickly explained, "It's a doll." "Who would play with something like that?" Granny snapped. I had several candidates in mind, but kept my mouth shut. "Where are her clothes?" Granny continued. "Boy, that turkey sure smells nice, Gran," Jay said, trying to steer her into the dining room. But Granny was relentless. "Why doesn't she have any teeth?" Again, I could have answered, but why would I? It was Christmas and no one wanted to ride in the back of the ambulance saying, "Hang on Granny! Hang on!"

My grandfather, a delightful old man with poor eyesight, sidled up to me and said, "Hey, who's the naked gal by the fireplace?" I told him she was Jay's friend. A few minutes later I noticed Grandpa by the mantel, talking to Louise. Not just talking, but actually flirting. It was then that we realized this might be Grandpa's last Christmas at home. The dinner went well. We made the usual small talk about who had died, who was dying, and who should be killed, when suddenly Louise made a noise that sounded a lot like my father in the bathroom in the morning. Then she lurched from the panty hose, flew around the room twice, and fell in a heap in front of the sofa.

The cat screamed. I passed cranberry sauce through my nose, and Grandpa ran across the room, fell to his knees, and began administering mouth to mouth resuscitation. My brother fell back over his chair and wet his pants and Granny threw down her napkin, stomped out of the room, and sat in the car.

It was indeed a Christmas to treasure and remember. Later in my mother's garage, we conducted a thorough examination to decide the cause of Louise's collapse. We discovered that Louise had suffered from a hot ember to the back of her right thigh. Fortunately, thanks to a wonder drug called duct tape, we restored her to perfect health. Louise went on to star in several bachelor party movies. I think Grandpa still calls her whenever he can get out of the house.



Birthdays and Anniversaries in December



Birthdays

Bill Blankenship	December 23	Randy Bunch	December 27
Georgia Campbell	December 17	Roseane Davis	December 19
Dean Dennis	December 22	Becky Edwards	December 24
Anita Gough	December 13	Rachael Hannah	December 29
Joe Harris	December 11	Bill Jarrard	December 19
Ron Kihlman	December 6	Brian Kowalski	December 26
Kent Madsen	December 2	Vern Marking	December 14
Jim Newell	December 5	Jamie Pardue	December 1
David Randall	December 25	Ingrid Smith	December 12
Glenis Tarr	December 15	Kyle Thornhill	December 25
Becky Thornhill	December 11	Thora Trumbo	December 5



Anniversaries

John & Shahna Airoidi	December 13	Jess &N Debra Allison	December 30
Gary & Bonnie Boehnke	December 12	Dean & Mary Dennis	December 28
Karl & Trish Kiichle	December 23	John & Elaine Kutrowski	December 3
Aaron & Tina Madden	December 14	Kyle & Becky Thornhill	December 3

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