



# Gas Gauge Ye Olde Car Club December 2023 Newsletter

## December 2023 Prez says ramblings

Another spectacular year is coming to an end. This will be my last report and it's been an honor to be your president for the fourth time. I have been truly blessed to have talented and wonderful people to help me these past couple of years. I owe a special thanks to John Hopkins, Randy Bunch, Don Buckles, Frances McGillis, Dolores McClary, Bonnie Suminski, Bill White, Scott Noga, DaJuan Recknagle, Bob Gough, Larry Stephenson, Barb Fecht, Dennis McGillis and Kevin Davis for their dedication to making our club strong and active. Not to mention all those that volunteered for the Swap Meet, Tours, Friends of Disabled Veterans Car Show, and the 60th Anniversary Celebration. Thank you all for your support!

At our Christmas dinner we will be electing Club Officers. Currently we have volunteers for each position in our club. However, you have one last chance to volunteer prior to the election.

2024 Club Officer Candidates are: President: Robbin Johanson  
Vice President: John Hopkins  
Treasurer: Don Buckles  
Secretary: Randy Bunch  
Board Member: Larry Stephenson.

Board Members are: David Hannah Past President, Barb Fecht and Kevin Davis

Unelected Officers are: Editor: Frances McGillis, Sunshine: Bonnie Suminski, Swap Meet Chairman: Bill White and Webmaster: Scott Noga

Something all of you as Ye Olde Car Club members should be very proud of is your generosity to our community through financial donations. They are:

\$ 9,800 Friends of Disabled Veterans  
\$ 1,500 Service Peace Warriors  
\$ 600 Funeral Donations  
\$ 500 Red Rutherford Scholarship  
\$ 500 Tri-Cities Food Bank  
\$ 500 2nd Harvest  
\$ 500 Union Gospel Mission  
\$ 500 Cork's Place  
\$ 100 TROT - Therapeutic Riding of Tri-Cities

---

\$14,500 Total For 2023

Dave Hannah

**DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR 2024 DUES BY JANUARY 1. DUES ARE NOW \$20. AFTER MARCH 1, DUES ARE \$25. PAY EARLY.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**A Note from your Editor:**

Dennis and I have a 17 year old great-granddaughter, and I mean great, who received the Presidential nomination from Representative Cathy McMorris Rogers to West Point on a full ride scholarship. We are two very proud great-grandparents. I just had to share this news with everyone.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Bits and Pieces**

Why did the Christmas tree go to the barber? It needed a trim.

What do you get when you come across a Christmas tree with an apple? A pineapple.

The holidays make me feel extra Santa-mental.

What do elves learn at school? The elfa-bet.

Why does Santa prefer going down the chimney instead of the front door? Because it soots him.

“Season’s greetings,” said the rosemary to the sage.

The Christmas alphabet has noel.

Christmas trees wear skirts so you won’t cedar roots.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Remarkable Body**

Every second, your body produces 25 million new cells. That means in 15 seconds, you will have produced more cells than there are people in the United States.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Where in the world.**

The Amazon rain forest produces more than 20% of the world's oxygen supply

\*\*\*\*\*

**Fun Food Facts**

Your favorite drink may taste better at McDonalds because their straws are bigger than the average straws because they allow you to savor the flavor of your drink more, letting it linger on your tongue and improving air circulation for the optimal beverage experience.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Ladies Lunch** – No ladies lunch in December. Join us in January as Myrtle Nesbitt and Ginger Vetrano host the lunch at the Canyon Lakes Manor on January 11.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Christmas Trivia**

**What was the original name of "The Night Before Christmas" by Clement Clarke Moore?**

**Answer:** “A Visit from St. Nicholas.” After Moore first wrote the poem, he read it to his children on Christmas Eve, and a friend who was visiting was so impressed that she sent it to a newspaper, who published it the next year in 1823.

**How many total gifts were given in the "Twelve Days of Christmas"?**

**Answer:** 364, or one for every day of the year except Christmas.

**What song tops Billboard's list of the greatest of all time holiday 100 songs?**

**Answer:** "All I Want For Christmas Is You" by Mariah Carey is in the No. 1 seat followed by "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree" by Brenda Lee and "Jingle Bell Rock" by Bobby Helms

**How long does it take for a tree to reach the average height for a Christmas tree?**

**Answer:** It can take as few as 4 years or as many as 15, but the average amount of growing time is 7 years, according to the National Christmas Tree Association.

**When were gingerbread houses invented?**

**Answer:** Quite a while ago, actually! They are thought to have been invented in Germany during the 16th century and rose in popularity with the Brothers Grimm's Hansel and Gretel story

**How many U.S. households put up a Christmas tree?**

**Answer:** If you guessed 96 million, you'd be right!

**How many pieces of mail and packages does USPS deliver during the holidays?**

**Answer:** Per estimates from the United States Postal Service, USPS delivers about 15 billion pieces of mail and about 800 million packages between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

**What two things made red and green popular Christmas colors?**

**Answer:** Holly and Coca-Cola. While the tradition of red and green holly dates back to Roman winter solstice celebrations, the Coca-Cola Company also played a role. The soda makers popularized the plump and jolly red-suit-wearing Santa in an ad in 1931, Arielle Eckstut, co-author of *Secret Language of Color*, told NPR.

## Merry Christmas



\*\*\*\*\*

## Santa's Sleigh

Back in 1823, Clement C. Moore published the classic Christmas poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, which convinced the world, once and for all time, that Saint Nicholas (perhaps now better known as "Santa Claus") traveled the world in a miniature sleigh pulled by eight tiny reindeer.

The story describes Santa's eight reindeer pulling his sleigh through the frosty night sky to deliver presents. Two years later, in Clement Clarke Moore's beloved poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas", these reindeer were given the iconic names that we all know them by today.

Reindeer are the only domesticated species of deer, and people have been using them to get around since the Stone Age. People ride on their backs like horses, and use small herds of them to drive sleds, just like Santa.

Every December, millions of families around the world track Santa's Yuletide journey through the North American Aerospace Defense Command's Santa Tracker. "NORAD Tracks Santa" is a holiday tradition that started from humble origins — and as a fluke — but has now grown into a massive volunteer operation.



\*\*\*\*\*

**Did You Know...**

Peter Pan was created by J.M. Barrie and first appeared as a character in one of his novels, *The Little White Bird* before gaining more widespread fame as the main character of the stage play, *Peter Pan*, or *The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up*, and the subsequent novelization of the play.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHRISTMAS TREES in the UNITED STATES**

It has been claimed that the first Christmas trees were introduced in the United States around 1777 by German mercenaries fighting for the British colonial army during the Revolutionary War. Another claim has been made for Easton, Pennsylvania, which some say was the site of the “First Christmas Tree in America,” brought over from Europe by German settlers in 1816. Whatever its exact origins, by the 1840s the Christmas tree was widely known in the United States. An 1845 children’s book, *Kriss Kringle’s Christmas Tree* had helped promote the popularity of the tree.

The earliest American trees were small and were often displayed on tables. These early trees were decorated with gingerbread, pretzels, cookies, fruit, strings of popcorn, dolls, paper roses, glass balls, and ornaments made of eggshells or cotton. Americans gradually switched to larger trees placed in stands on the floor because of the increasing availability of a variety of commercially made ornaments for the tree branches. As they had in Europe, some clergy voiced opposition to what they declared was originally a pagan custom. But the Christmas tree continued to make its way into American homes – and even into churches during the holiday season.

In 1856, Franklin Pierce became the first US president to celebrate Christmas in the White House with a decorated tree. By the beginning of the twentieth century, so many trees were being cut down at Christmastime that President Theodore Roosevelt expressed concern about over consumption of evergreen trees. Advisors sought to reassure the president that America’s forests could survive the yearly harvest. Hearing the president’s concern, however, some companies began to introduce artificial trees, a concept which would take decades to catch on.

In 1913, President Woodrow Wilson asked for a Christmas tree to be placed near the Capitol so that a tree-lighting ceremony could be recognized as a national event. On Christmas Eve of that year, a crowd of twenty thousand people gathered to witness the lighting of the Christmas tree, and they were entertained by the US Marine Band, a thousand singers, and a costumed group of people reenacting the Nativity of Christ.

The first officially designated National Christmas Tree was lit in 1923 by President Calvin Coolidge, who granted permission for a Christmas tree to be placed on the grounds of the White House. The ceremonial lighting of the National Christmas Tree has been performed on the south lawn of the White House every year since 1923, except for 1942 to 1944 when wartime blackouts prohibited the use of festive, outdoor lights.

In recent years, concerns about the effect of Christmas tree farming on the environment have prompted a rise in the number of Americans who buy artificial Christmas trees. But whether real or artificial, millions of trees appear each year in businesses, homes, and on the streets throughout the United States. From its beginnings as a symbol of hope and strength, the Christmas tree has evolved to become the central symbol of one of the most celebrated holidays in the world.



\*\*\*\*\*

## *WOMEN'S CORNER*

### **A DIETER'S CHRISTMAS**

Twas the night before Christmas and all round my hips  
Were Fannie May candies that sneaked past my lips.  
Fudge brownies were stored in the freezer with care  
In hopes that my thighs would forget they were there.  
While Mama in her girdle and I in chin straps  
Had just settled down to sugar-borne naps,  
When out in the pantry there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the kitchen I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the icebox then threw up the sash.  
The marshmallow look of the new-fallen snow  
Sent thoughts of a binge to my body below.  
When what to my wandering eyes should appear:  
A marzipan Santa with eight chocolate reindeer!  
That huge chunk of candy so luscious and slick,  
I knew in a second that I'd wind up sick.  
The sweet-coated Santa, those sugared reindeer,  
I closed my eyes tightly but still I could hear;  
On Pritican, on Stillman, on weak one, on TOPS,  
A Weight Watcher dropout from sugar detox.  
From the top of the scales to the top of the hall,  
Now dash away pounds, now dash away all.  
Dressed up in Lane Bryant from my head to nightdress,  
My clothes were all bulging from too much excess.  
My droll little mouth and my round little belly  
They shook when I laughed like a bowl full of jelly.  
I spoke not a word but went straight to my work,  
Ate all of the candy then turned with a jerk.  
And laying a finger beside my heartburn,  
I gave a quick nod & toward the bedroom I turned.  
I eased into bed, to the heavens I cry,  
"If temptation's removed I'll get thin by and by."  
And I mumbled again as I turned for the night,  
"In the morning I'll starve... 'til I take that first bite!"



\*\*\*\*\*

## Birthdays and Anniversaries in December



### Birthdays

Randy Bunch	December 27	Roseanne Davis	December 19
Dean Dennis	December 22	Becky Edwards	December 24
Anita Gough	December 13	Rachael Hannah	December 29
Bill Jarrard	December 19	Ron Kihlman	December 6
Reuben Luera	December 5	Kent Madsen	December 2
Vern Marking	December 14	Jim Newell	December 5
Jamie Pardue	December 1	Dale Peters	December 5
David Randall	December 25	Joel Rehfeld	December 31
Carol Sherfinski	December 1	Jan Smith	December 6
Ingrid Smith	December 12	Glenis Tarr	December 15
Kyle Thornhill	December 25	Becky Thornhill	December 11
Thora Trumbo	December 5	Ruth VanKommer	December 25



## Anniversaries

John & Shahna Airoldi	December 13	Jess & Debra Allison	December 30
Steven & Linda Bell	December 30	Dean & Mary Dennis	December 28
Kent & Julie Ganey	December 17	Karl & Trish Kiichle	December 23
John & Elaine Kutrowski	December 3	Reuben & Mary Luera	December 5
Aaron & Tina Madden	December 14	Michael & Judy Ostler	December 23
Kyle & Becky Thornhill	December 3		

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2023 YOCC Officers

**Dave Hannah, President**  
627-4589  
dwhannah1@gmail.com

**John Hopkins, V.P., Activities Director**  
987-4504  
jhn\_Hopkins@hotmail.com

**Randy Bunch, Secretary**  
543-6554  
jrbunch@charter.net

**Bill White, Swap Meet Chairman**  
946-7633  
williamblwh@yahoo.com

**Bonnie Suminski, Sunshine**  
579-0030  
moleski@seanet.com

**Don Buckles, Treasurer**  
627-0535  
dbuckles0535@charter.net

**Frances McGillis, Editor**  
545-4077  
sixkidsplusthree@gmail.com

**Jimmy McQuown, Facebook**  
Ye Olde Car Club-Tri Cities  
430-6556  
jamesfrompasco@hotmail.com

## Directors

**Kevin Davis**  
521-3693  
wildrose4whippet@netzone.com

**Larry Stephenson**  
253-376-256  
stephensonld1@gmail.com

**Barb Fecht**  
521-5074  
efecht@frontier.com

**Dennis McGillis**  
545-4077  
dennis.mcgillis@gmail.com

## Tour Committee

**John Hopkins, Committee Chairman**  
509-987-4504  
jhn\_Hopkins@hotmail.com