



NEWS

Fast ~ Friendly ~ Generous ~ The Car Club Others Respect

President's Message



Greetings my fellow Gents! I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New

Year.

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. 2022 gave us a lot of things; some good, some bad. It was truly our first full season without CoVid; we lost some good members, and gained some new. The show season didn't start very well as Mother Nature wasn't very kind. However, we ended with a bang. The Thrifty show was one of the club's best ever! Thanks to all my wonderful staff, it was a pleasure working with you this last year. I'd also like to thank all of you for making 2022 (my first year as president) a great one.

The club has gone through a lot of changes, all for the better, I hope. I look forward to celebrating the club's 60th anniversary. Wow 60 years - I was one year old! As we start 2023 let us remember the ones we have lost, welcome the ones that have joined us, and

The Origin of the Gents ~ Sixty Years Ago

In 1963, a group of high school juniors at West Valley High School in the Spokane Valley thought it would be fun to start a car club. We had always looked to the Dukes Auto Club in Spokane as the ultimate club, but we were decidedly low budget school kids, and were not able to be members of a prestigious club like the Dukes. Besides, we drove a bunch of assorted jalopies with very few in possession of a car that would qualify to join the Dukes.

The very first meeting took place in the basement of my home on Park Road and 8th Avenue in the valley. The initial meeting included Ben Curtis, Mike O'Brien, Dale

Gibson, Al Taylor, Ken Gregg and Dennis McIntyre. Discussion was had regarding a name for the loose group of misfits, and



since DUKES was taken, we decided on GENTS. Next came discussion about our club logo. We wanted to include the top hat to acknowledge the Dukes logo, but since we were all avid students of modern literature, we wanted to include the Playboy Bunny to represent our

together let's make 2023 a kick ass year! ~ *Steve Williams*

Introducing the G-Board

At the November 2, 2022, meeting a motion was made, and seconded, to approve the formation of the G-board as recommended by the elected officers. It passed unanimously. The Board is advisory only and will discuss subjects affecting activities, policies, and procedures. They will also recommend items that should be brought to the general membership meeting agendas. In keeping with the ideals of the Gents, the elected officers wanted to embrace the desires of the club members in making decisions about how the club operates. The new members are:

Barney Ryan
Dale McHargue
Dean Carriveau
Forrest Anderson
Jack Haley
Jim Earls court
Kit DeAndre
Lon Hansen
Maria Flores
Randie Graham

voluminous library of the publication. Capitalizing on another stroke of genius, we decided the bunny must look drunk. I blame this on Don Sparrow since Don was a purveyor of fine canned alcoholic beverages. We traded a local young artist a case of beer for the drawing that remains today, unchanged, as the logo of the Gents Auto Club. By the time we organized a second meeting we had added



Author: Ben Curtis

classmates Lon Hansen, Don Anderson and Don Sparrow to the roster. In addition to that original group, classmates Paul "Rusty" Inman and Paul Yount joined up with us along with the younger members Wayne Gibson, Cliff Gregg and Scott Messmer.

We formed a "Grievance Committee" that was tasked with making certain that the club cars were meticulously cleaned and polished, and that their club plaque was properly displayed. They also maintained decorum during the sometimes-raucous meetings. If your car was not presentable, or you were observed racing on the street or any other poorly advised behavior, the grievance committee would remove your plaque from your rear window and hold it until you pled your case at the next meeting.

As we continued to grow, we wrote up some loose rules and regulations that eventually would grow into the by-laws under which the club operated. Dues were assessed by the treasurer in an amount that was certainly in line with our limited income as high school 11th graders. In order to improve the public image of hot rodders in

New 2023 Sponsor:

Five Mile Auto Center

The Five Mile Auto Center opened it's doors over 43 years ago in September 1979, and it still exists in the same location today as it did then. Before it was an auto center it was an ice skating rink and was known to the many people and families that would go there to skate as the "Five Mile Ice Plaza".

Five Mile Auto was first opened, built, and ran by Rod Horner. Rod loved cars, racing, and people. In August of 1984, Steve Schafer was asked if he would work at Five Mile Auto for a couple of weeks because they needed some help. Steve never left. The rest is history.



In September of 2001, Steve and his wife Vicki purchased Five Mile Auto. Rod's vision by then had grown exponentially. Rod

Spokane we printed up "Courtesy Cards" that members would hand out to other motorists that they were able to assist on the road.

We also noticed increased interest paid to our members by local Law Enforcement. We took the route of inviting them to our meetings and pro-actively engaging with them before they retro-actively engaged with us. Three of the officers I recall attending our meetings were, Trooper McCollum, Trooper Mitman and Trooper Feldhausen. They got into the habit of reporting to us about witnessing any bad behavior by club members while running the plaque. I honestly think that by us reaching out to them, we all developed a mutual respect for the efforts of one another.

It was not long before we attracted other car guys from other schools that wanted to join our club. We had members from every high school in the Spokane area and our numbers quickly outgrew the basement meeting venue and we moved to a building construction office on Park Road for a while, and for some time met in a partially abandoned building behind Byrne Machinery off Trent Avenue. In addition to weekly meetings, we made good use of the building as a place to rendezvous before our Saturday night cruising of Riverside Avenue in downtown Spokane. Other spots where you would find us were Bakers Beacon on Division, Triple XXX Root Beer on Sprague, Top Hat Drive-In on Sprague, Joe's Pizza near West Valley on Trent, the A & W in Dishman, and Ron's Drive-In on East Sprague.

During Drag Race season the club members participated at the Deer Park Drag Strip on Sundays for grudge racing and various class racing. Some of us even won trophies and all of us had a great time at the strip. By the time we were seniors at West Valley, the club had grown to 30 or 40 active members and had become well known throughout Spokane.

and Steve had worked together for years, planning and making it work - building a business by fixing all makes and models of customer's cars, selling parts, and specializing in performance parts.



Our Motto has always been:

Business goes where it is invited.

It stays where it is well treated.

Price may offer an inducement, but Quality and Service Offer the Reason.

Also, treat your employee's right and they will do right by you.

The Youth are Gonna be Fine

by Ryan Sain

In my part of the world it's rare to even see an El Camino - let alone a shiny custom one ('78). I was using the ElCo to haul something other than ass on a beautiful Saturday afternoon near Waynesboro, a quaint town akin to Colville, in the middle of the Shenandoah Valley. I pulled in to top off with gas before I charged loudly home down the 250. It's only 15 miles but I never know how much is in the tank. It is well within my skill set, I have the tools, and the parts to remedy this problem by connecting the sending unit to the gauge, but alas, it's been that way for 20 years and at this point it's become a small form of personal rebellion. So I drive, anxiously, from gas station to gas station filling up the tank with 93 octane (yes, we have 93 in Virginia).



The point of this story is not about my failures to complete projects. Rather, it's about a random encounter at said Speedway Gas Station. As the dino juice slowly poured into the mostly full tank a young man, straight out of the Sandlot, rode up to me on his bike from across the parking lot. He confidently

Duty
Unfurls
Each
Season

This is a reminder to those who haven't paid yet. You can mail your dues to John Scofield (212 E First Ave, #9, Post Falls, ID, 83854) or bring check or cash to our next regular meeting: **January 4, 2023.**

2023 Gents Officers

President: Steve Williams
Vice President: Paul Inman
Treasurer: John Scofield
Sergeant at Arms: Ben Curtis
Secretary: Cindy McHargue

gentsautoclub@gmail.com

Next Meeting:
February 1, 2023

Eagles Aerie 2,
6410 N Lidgerwood

POTHOLEs are like DUES:

We have to take care of them every year.

bellowed "I didn't know they made a Monte Carlo Truck!"

"It's not a Monte, it's an El Camino, but I'll forgive you as they're basically the same; mine just has a bed."

"1978?" he asked. I was, and am, still floored. How could a kid, not 11 years old, have any idea what year my toy was? I'm a scientist, and hence skeptical, so I pressed the issue: "What makes you think it's a '78?" His chest puffed. I got a sinking feeling that he knew more than me. "Well, two headlights, not 4; the grill is less detailed than the '79; the smooth bumper; and who can mistake that Monte Carlo hood!"

He proceeded to comment about my missing badge in the grill (repop's suck). About how my dash isn't normal, and he asked where my door handles had gone. I joined his chorus and showed him that my fuel gauge didn't work either. "Then fix it!" he quipped.

He kindly said "bah" (bye) in his thick Virginia accent and slipped away on his stock Schwinn as quickly as he appeared.

The youth are gonna be fine. And he's right.

Free Stuff to do in Your Garage:

Sort your clutter in blissful solitude. Putter. Decide to leave things pretty much the way they are. Toast your accomplishment with a startlingly cold beer.

Proud member of:



Christmas Party Memories 2023, Authored by Paul Inman

The **Most Improved Car Award** was presented to **Gerry Ensminger** for all of his outstanding craftsmanship on his '29 Tudor Model A Ford. Gerry utilized the Gents website to keep us posted on his project throughout the year. It was entertaining to see his vision become reality.



The **Most Inspirational Award** was presented to **John Scofield** for stepping up to take over the duties of the Treasurer for the Gents. John has done an amazing job of organizing our finances, improving our tracking tools, and creating reports that keep the officers informed in a precise manner. He also created a much more effective way to acquire our Gents apparel. His organizational skills, willingness to step up to help out, and creative ideas are very much appreciated.



The First Annual Drag Race! Santa's Helpers made sure every attendee received a wrapped gift containing a brand new Hot Wheels car. Behind the scenes Santa made arrangements to make certain a track was available, and he provided awards which will most likely be valuable collector's items. Many thanks to **Jackquie Witham** and **Ted Davis** for setting up their track and running the race. Jackquie did a superb job of coordinating and announcing, and Ted was the track manager. It's safe to say we enjoyed a night of great camaraderie, good food, and a lot of racing. Wonder what Santa will do next year?



Competitors Sherry and John setting up for a heat with Track Manger Ted Davis.

Upcoming Events

The INCCC Show No Shine Banquet, 2.25.23



HAPPY NEW YEAR!