



# NEWS

*Fast ~ Friendly ~ Generous ~ The Car Club Others Respect*

## President's Message



### Editor's Note:

*Steve's message for June has been delayed to the July issue*

*of the Gents News. Due to a myriad (countless, or enumerable) reasons, it has had to be moved to the back burner. We've all been in his shoes and appreciate the need for prioritization during this busy season. Here he is at work - while at play - at the Fairmont*



### Jesus Moreno, an Official Dodge Shelby VIP

I grew up in Donna, Texas which is fourteen miles southeast of McAllen in the Rio Grande Valley. Our family followed the harvest by traveling to Montana to pick sugar beets; then on to Michigan to pick cherries; and in Ohio we picked tomatoes. When the season ended, we would return to Donna to pick strawberries and to resume our studies at school.

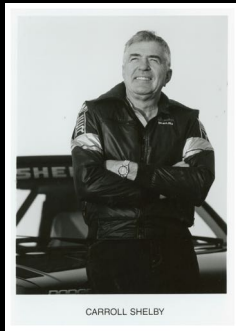
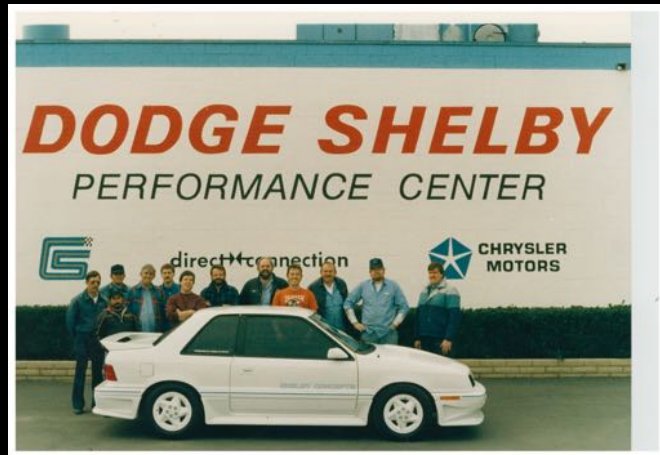
My interest in cars began when my family moved to Homestead, Florida for a couple of years when I was in junior high school. My father, Jesus (I'm a Junior), started his own business making tortillas at this time. His passion for muscle cars sparked my interest in the hobby. He had a '64 Chevy Impala that he traded for a '66 Chevy SS, 4-speed with a 496. As a teenager I owned a '70 Chevelle with a 454; and my brother had a '57 Chevy.

In 1979, I started working for Chrysler Corporation's New Car Assembly Plant that was located on 40 acres in Los Angeles. The assembly line was massive with a 30-foot-long conveyer belt. We averaged 200 to 300 cars per day. Think about that for a second.

In 1983, Carroll Shelby partnered with Chrysler and opened the Dodge Shelby Performance Center in the same location as the Assembly Plant. Shelby's Cobra was parked in the shop (later it was sold for \$5 million).

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One day a few men toured the assembly line and one of them asked me if I would be interested in handling the Parts Department of the Performance Center. I agreed and inherited a fenced-in area full of parts. I cleaned it up, got it all organized and was complemented by Carroll who said, "Nice job, I've never seen something like this." I received Mopar trucks that would arrive to drop off big containers of parts; I'd inventory them and put them away in an orderly fashion.



There were about 12 or 13 Technicians at the Center. Every engineer had a bay and worked on their own projects. Snap-On Tools were big back then. Carroll had open accounts all over LA. From '83-'88 I was kind of a gopher, as well as the Parts Manager. I'd travel in a company pickup (the grounds were fenced in, and the gate was guarded, so all the pickup's keys were kept in every pickup's ignition!) all over LA to different warehouses getting parts. I simply signed for them - no questions were ever asked the by supplier when I signed for them either - they all knew that Carroll was a good risk!

A sampling of memories from those days:

The cars would be taken to the Riverside Racetrack for testing. One day I had to use a company car to deliver a tool they forgot to bring with them for the day!

Every guy had their own coffee pot and wouldn't start work until they'd had their coffee! Well, one time they ran out of coffee. I grabbed a company car and went to the store to get them some coffee. Heaven forbid if they ran out of coffee!

Another day a couple of us had to deliver a Chrysler Lancer to Carroll's house in Bel Air. Well, it wasn't a "house" it was a mansion and it was huge. We were asked to simply leave the car in the driveway with the keys in it. As we were driving back to the shop in a company car, a woman driving the Lancer passed by us, well actually, flew by us in the car we had just dropped off!

Some big shots were coming from Detroit to a meeting in San Diego and they wanted a Chrysler Fifth Avenue waiting for them at the airport's gate. ~Continued on Page 3~

It was delivered on Friday as requested. On Monday we had to drive a company pickup from LA to San Diego to retrieve the car.

Another time when Carroll was in the Performance Center, he looked me up and told me to hide or be very careful because immigration was on the



premises looking for illegals. He joked around a lot! He was always buying the guys stuff too! Sometimes he would show up, tell the boys to close the shop, and we partied with him over the beer he provided. Another time he asked for everyone's

size. He had fine leather jackets made for all of us with "Shelby" written in blue on one front pocket, and "Dodge" written in red on the other. The inside label says, "Dodge Shelby VIP." It is one of my prized possessions, and it is still in perfect condition.



Carroll was a down-home country boy that liked to have fun. He was not a boss who would come around just to make sure you were working. He enjoyed joking around with us. Working with Carroll was an unbelievable job. There was no pressure, everything was laid back. In fact, all the guys I worked with were great. It was a once-in-a-lifetime dream job.

Chrysler closed the Performance Center in 1989. Eventually we left Los Angeles and moved to Spokane Valley in 1994. In 2017, after gentle, but consistent pressure from Dean Carriveau, I joined the Gents. I retired in December 2022, from the Central Valley School District.

My wife Karen and I spend our days now on another very rewarding job: we are the Monday through Friday caretakers of our grandson, Ezra. He can put a twinkle in my eye quicker than the fastest car on the track.





*The Joya Penny Drive - Saturday, May 20, 2023*

**Mother Nature strutted her summer stuff for the Joya Penny Drive - abundant sunshine all day!**

*Touching story: As Dean was standing with a sign and bucket on the driveway to the old school location, an older sedan pulled in with three late teens or early twenties inside, all long-haired boys. A guitar was taking up a spot on the back seat. The driver said, "I don't have any money to give you but I see all of you out here every year and I just wanted to stop and say thank you. When I was little I had problems with my*

*legs and could not walk right. My mom brought me here to Guild's school and this is where I learned to walk. Thank you."*



**And, oh my, the pennies!**



**Plenty of cars to see!**



**The kids made the day!**

**Facts:** the Garland District Penny Drive site raised \$1,164 in cash AND 128 pounds of coins!

In total the Penny Drive day raised \$21,173.04

**2023 Gents Officers**

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

**Next Meeting:**

**July 5, 2023**  
Eagles Aerie 2  
6410 North Lidgerwood

**[gentsautoclub@gmail.com](mailto:gentsautoclub@gmail.com)**

A beautiful day, and a beautiful location for respectful remembrance at Fairmount Memorial.

Thanks to Bill Keehner for sharing this incredible photo.



Far and away the best prize that life has to offer  
is to work hard at work worth doing. ~ Theodore Roosevelt



Gents 60th Anniversary T- Shirt Folding Party.

Three  
Gents'  
minds  
working at  
playing  
during  
Andy's  
blow-out of  
a Birthday  
Party  
recently!



**INCCC Liaison and Photographer: Dean C. ~ 509.724.7301~d.carriveau@att.net**

**Photographer: Bill K. ~ 509.924.9008 ~ [keehners@aol.com](mailto:keehners@aol.com)**

**Professional Photographer: Deke C. ~ 509.744.0971 ~ [dcloyd@ontheedgeimages.com](mailto:dcloyd@ontheedgeimages.com)**



Armed Forces Torchlight Parade May 20, 2023



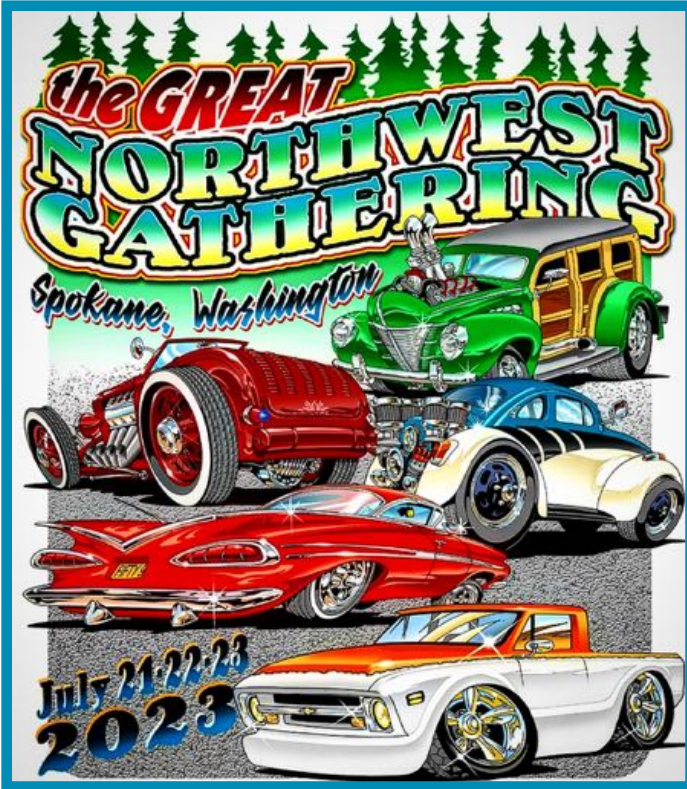
Following the Joya Penny Drive, Dean and Janice made time to escort dignitaries at the Torchlight Parade.

Marc Flemming carried the Korean Sister City -Jecheon -dignitaries in his 1966 Cadillac.





# \* \* \* \* Upcoming Events \* \* \*



## 2023 GENTS EVENTS

**2023 AUTONATION SPRING FLING AUTO SHOW**, Saturday, June 3, from 9 am-2 pm. All proceeds go to Second Harvest Food Bank.

**2023 FATHER'S DAY WENDLE AUTO SHOW**, Sunday, June 18, from 9 am - 2 pm. All proceeds to benefit the Children's Miracle Network.

**2023 HONOR FLIGHT AUTO SHOW**, Saturday, July 22, from 9 am - 2 pm. All proceeds to benefit the Inland Northwest Honor Flight Organization.

**2023 THRIFTY AUTO SUPPLY REUNION CAR SHOW**, Saturday, August 19, from 9 am to 2 pm at Mirabeau Meadows. All proceeds to benefit Team St. Luke's Rehabilitation program.



Register online for  
the Great  
Northwest  
Gathering at  
[eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Online  
Registration Ends  
July 1, 2023.

**TURNING POINT CHURCH  
FIRST ANNUAL OPEN  
SHOW & SHINE**

24 TROPHY CATEGORIES

RAFFLE PRIZE  
(1ST PRIZE TRUCKER PELLET GRILL)

50/50 RAFFLE

T-SHIRTS

DASH PLAQUE & GOODY BAG TO THE FIRST 100 PARTICIPANTS MOTORCYCLES WELCOME

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17 AT 9AM**  
11911 NORTH DIVISION STREET SPOKANE WA

**REGISTRATION 9:00AM-11:00AM**      **CAR SHOW FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**      **SHOW HOURS 9:00AM-4:00PM**

PROCEEDS BENEFIT UNION GOSPEL MISSION MOTORS & THE FATHERHOOD PROGRAM WITH LIFE SERVICES

FOOD - FREE T-SHIRT TO THE FIRST 50 REGISTRATIONS - PASTOR'S CHOICE AWARD

LARRY FOUNTAIN      CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION      BOB MILTON  
(509) 475-3920      (360) 789-2448

Please detach and send or bring in with payment to register for show

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Club Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Disclaimer: Turning Point Church representatives will not be held responsible for any losses or damages, injuries, losses, judgments and/or claims from any cause of personal property while attending car show. I agree to the above terms.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Car Info - Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_

PRE-REGISTRATION: \$25      DAY OF EVENT: \$30  
FORMS WILL BE TURNED IN ONE WEEK PRIOR TO EVENT FOR PRE-REGISTRATION PER DISCOUNT. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TURNING POINT CHURCH. FOR ADDITIONAL REGISTRATIONS, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (509) 467-3322  
TURNING POINT CHURCH, 11911 NORTH DIVISION STREET, SPOKANE, WA 99208  
MAIL REGISTRATIONS TO: TURNING POINT CHURCH, 11911 NORTH DIVISION STREET, SPOKANE, WA 99208  
OR REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.TPOB.ORG/CARSHOW