



February 2026

Volume 63, Edition 2

Publication of:

The Gents Auto Club

Spokane, Washington



Tickets will be available
at the February 4th
meeting.

Donations Wanted

We will be collecting donations for
the raffle basket at the meeting on
February 4.

INCCC SHOW-NO-SHINE BANQUET

February 21, 5:00, Mirabeau Park Hotel

Tickets are \$65

Special Room Rate for Members \$121

Mention you are attending the INCCC Banquet for special room rate.

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Membership Meeting

February 4, 6:00
Social hour at 5:00

G-Board Meeting

February 25, 6:00

Officers of The Gents 2026

Elected Officers

- Ben Curtis, President
- Ken Warren, Vice President
- Darlene Inman, Secretary
- John Scofield, Treasurer
- Jim Earls court, Sgt. At Arms

Meet Your Newsletter Publishers Greg and Esther Collin



As many of you know, last month The Gents Auto Club Newsletter reappeared. Greg and Esther Collin agreed to get the newsletter up and going again. They work together writing stories and Esther does the layout and design. Both Greg and Esther retired in August leaving them with a little extra time to do the things they enjoy, including the car club. Greg retired after 46 years of working as a photographer for Dorian Studio and Esther retired after teaching for 39 years. Both are excited to be a part of *The Gents* and share their talents with the club.

Continue reading their story on page 3



President's Thoughts

As we begin the 63rd year of the Gents Auto Club I am proud of what the club has become, and thankful for the good and consistent leadership the Gents have enjoyed over the decades.

My vision for the club in 2026 is for us to enjoy more activities that are designed so that we get to drive and show off our cars. Such as one day runs to surrounding communities where we can meet and get to know other clubs in the Eastern Washington and North Idaho area. I am hoping to see more attendance and participation from those members that we usually only see at the Christmas Party. We all have cars that we are proud of, so let's get them out of the shops and garages, and on the road.

We have a lot of talented car builders among us, and the plan is to get everyone enthused about working with one another on problems, projects and plans to further improve or modernize their cars. Rather than working alone and worrying about an issue with your car, it makes way more sense to ask another club member for help. We

will all be surprised at the available automotive talent in the Gents. We have three great Gents car shows planned for the show season. We need more participation from members to make certain that our shows are well run and we do well financially so that our charities will be rewarded with even better contributions than before. That only comes from member participation, promoting shows, and passing the word in your circle of car buddies.

Weather permitting, we plan to take part in the Spokane Lilac Festival and Parade in May. If you have a convertible, plan on hearing from us asking for your help. In July we are hosting the National Collector Car Appreciation Day for the inland PNW. Step up and volunteer to help us put on a great run for car enthusiasts of all types in July. During this coming year we would like to see our active Member Roster count top 110. The Gents have always had a reputation for having some of the nicest cars in the area and we should be able to prove that to an even higher degree. One of my goals is to plan events at which we can enjoy one another, enjoy our cars and to meet other enthusiasts in the process.

The Gents is the second oldest local car club, but we are by far the most generous and active. As Dean Carriveau would say... "GENTS DO IT RIGHT."

INCCC Upcoming Events

February 21INCCC Show No Shine Banquet

February 28Miss Shifters Mardi Bras

April 26West Valley Senior All Nighter Car Show

June 6Gents/AutoNation "Spring Fling" Open Car Show

June 20Miss Shifters Broads and Rods

June 21Gent's Wendle Father's Day Show

August 1Chewelah Misteqa Casino Hotel Car Show

August 8Pinehurst Show

August 15Gents Thrifty Auto Supply Reunion Open Car Show

September 19Hot Rod Hall of Fame Banquet



Greg's Love of Cars began when he was young. Greg's first car was purchased at the age of 15. He bought the 1965 Plymouth Fury that his parents had bought new, and he still owns it today. His interest in cars expanded when he discovered a 1935 Plymouth 5 window coupe in a farmer's field. He was working for the farmer and they made a deal for Greg to earn the car. He soon drug the car home. He kept it for quite a while, but his dream and his wallet never met, and the car was eventually sold.



In 1988 Greg came across a 1939 Plymouth P7 2 door sedan. His first child was due in a couple of months and he decided he needed a Father's Day present, so he purchased the car and drove it home. That was the start of a love for original cars. Greg had the bumpers rechromed, got a fresh coat of glossy black paint and new wide whitewall tires installed. He also had the old flathead six rebuilt. Now that he had a car to show Greg and Esther joined the Hassie Club and were active members for 5 years.



During that time Greg purchased a 27 Dodge from one of the club members. Restoring this car was also a priority so that it could be driven for shows and tours. Greg became the Vice President of the club. During the time they were in the Hassie Club they were awarded Best Prewar Restoration and the Spark Plug award for being the most enthusiastic and involved members.

In 1992 they moved to Lake Spokane to raise their 2 children and the cars needed to find a new home, so they were both sold to the same person. That left Greg with his 1965 Sport Fury. Tragedy

struck when a tree fell through their garage one night and destroyed the front end of the Sport Fury. It was a 5 year process, but Greg along with some friends were able to restore the car and even rebuilt the engine. Greg earned many awards with his 65. They both joined Mopars Unlimited and served as officers in the club. Greg was the Activities Coordinator and Esther was the Publisher for their newsletter and received an award from INCCC for the publication. Sadly the club folded after Covid 19, leaving them without a club association.

In 2024 Greg was invited to join The Gents. He attended a meeting and was very impressed by how the meeting was run so efficiently and that members were given a voice. He also was excited to see that both men and women were at the meeting, being able to do things with Esther was very important to him. They joined the club as soon as Greg was able to complete the application process.

Now that they are retired they are enjoying spending time with their two children and four grandchildren. Living on the lake gives them the opportunity to do one of the things they love most, which is slalom waterskiing. They are involved with their church and enjoy doing what they can for others. Esther's other activities include many different kinds of crafts she does in her special craft room, and she is involved with theatre, performing and helping out with the Spokane Children's Theatre. Greg and Esther look forward to getting to know each of you better in the future.



Club Business

- ♦ Welcome to new member, Larry Setchell, who was voted in at the January meeting. Watch for his story in an upcoming newsletter.
- ♦ The INCCC scholarship application is available. Speak to Dean Carriveau if you have any questions or pick up an application at the February 4th meeting.
- ♦ O'Brien Truckers is building a pattern for the small 4" x 6" plaques, and Ben has ordered 24. The cost to members will be \$30 for the small plaques and \$35 for the larger plaques. Plaques are not sanded, polished, or painted.
- ♦ The club is interested in monthly car-related activities. Please let one of the officers or G-Board members know if you have any ideas. (i.e., drive to Harrison, poker run, etc.)

Meet Your Secretary Darlene Inman



Hello, my name is Darlene Inman, and I live in Liberty Lake, WA. I was raised in the small town of Morgan Hill, CA, on five acres with my parents and four older siblings. Living in the country brings many adventures. Two things that helped shape who I am today were learned in the years I lived in Morgan Hill, and they were animal science and working for my dad's business. Since my dad ran

the 4-H Club, I had no choice but to be involved. This was a great opportunity for me to learn about animals while gaining life skills. And, since my father owned his own business, Foodpro International, Inc., working for him was also not an option. I learned how to succeed in the work force and had the opportunity to travel both domestically and internationally. In hindsight, both were opportunities to learn valuable life lessons (neither of which I appreciated until later in life), such as respect, work ethics, problem solving, responsibility & commitment, etc.

In my mid 20's, I ventured out on my own, attended college, worked in the medical field, got married, and had two beautiful daughters. After living in San Jose, CA, San Diego, CA, and Roy, WA, I decided to settle in Liberty Lake in 2006. I had one more beautiful daughter, got divorced, realized the importance of my acquired experiences mentioned above, and then married my best friend, Paul "Rusty" Inman. My two older daughters are on their own and are creating their own journey in life, while Paul and I are raising the youngest until she is ready to do the same. In my spare time, I enjoy getting together with family, studying the Holy Bible, hiking, working outdoors, candle making, and being a secretary for a kids' program. I am also the Secretary for the Gents Auto Club that Paul "Rusty" and I have been involved with for the past eight years plus.