



The Motor Mouth

LOST

"Where the !@#\$\$%& are we, anyway?"*



Beautiful Birds -- *Jim Stott surveys the array of PSEB vehicles parked in his driveway at the conclusion of a rallye 'round Gig Harbor.*

It was the best of times. . .

A rare, sunny first day of spring. A driveway filled to the brim and overflowing with delectable bits of Easter-egg worthy Thunderbird eye candy.

A gathering at a Gig Harbor beach house with 26 Puget Sound Early Bird members, happily socializing while munching on a variety of fresh-baked pastries, juices and rich Costa Rican coffee. Soft, rapidly warming morning breezes wafting off Colvos Passage onto those on the sun deck. Happy

anticipation of a lovely tour through the Gig Harbor Peninsula countryside as part of a timed rallye.

And much later, another driveway filled with the same luscious beauteous birds. More sunshine-driven socializing outdoors while enjoying a fabulous view of Fox Island and Hale Passage.

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A Caravan to Sequim

plus a car collection, antiques and lunch at the Gilchrists'

B & B

April 17

See page 6 for details

Save the Date!

O-O-O-O-O
Oysters!

at the Perrys' Hood Canal oyster-laden beach!

May 15

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President's Message

For those of you who missed our March Rallye, you missed a challenging event. The day started with a wonderful array of fresh fruit, juice, rolls and Costa Rican coffee that the Thornes brought back from their recent trip, and a lot of chatter. The weather was absolutely wonderful and a great opportunity to get the Little Birds out for a Spring Stretch.

From the Thornes, the flock made their way to the Stott-McCallums' beautiful home overlooking Fox Island where we sat on the deck enjoying the sunshine. We were treated to libations, soft drinks, nibbles and a wonderful lunch concluding with cookies and coffee. Thank you Rallye Masters Gordon Thorne and Bob and Martha Callard, and



thank you Gordon and Judy Thorne and Jim Stott and Darlene McCallum for hosting the event.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, April 17, for our trek to Sequim hosted by the Gilchrists and Weilers. The Gilchrists will open their home, which has been a bed-and-breakfast with each room's decor consisting of a collection of antiques and goodies that will amaze you. We will also have an opportunity to see Fred and Helen's car collection. We'll have a lunch put on by Helen and Carol Weiler, and from there we will visit Tom and Mari Andrus, friends of the Gilchrists, to see their doll, car and motorcycle collection. We'll conclude our day at the Dungeness River Audubon Center for a short tour. We should finish about 4 p.m. See page 6 for details.

---*Duane Niemi, President.*

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THE MOTOR MOUTH

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Members are encouraged to submit articles written by themselves or others. All submissions are subject to editing and space available.

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Our Mission: To encourage and promote the preservation, admiration, ownership, enjoyment and restoration of the 1955, 1956 and 1957 Ford Thunderbirds.

Web site:
www.pugetsoundearlybirds.org



(Continued from page 1)



Joni Bayler photo



Our gracious and talented hosts, Darlene McCalum and Jim Stott providing a baked potato bar bonanza – huge bakers with a variety of great toppings, Caesar salad, rolls, various libations and great cookies and brownies. More sunshine streamed down on those lucky enough to nab outdoor seating. And a meeting with prizes being awarded.



And in between . . . was it the worst of times?

Cars left the Thornes' house starting at 10:15 a.m. at precisely three-minute intervals to keep people from just following one another as they twisted and turned through the back roads on a rallye laid out by Gordon Thorne and Bob and Martha Callard, the winners of the fall 2008 rallye. Commenting on how easy the first rallye had been, and how well everyone had done, it was decided to make this one a wee bit more challenging. Apparently they did.



But many PSEB members, being the free spirits and free thinkers they are, decided that a little uphill curve to the left on Pt. Richmond Beach Rd. (the main road they started on) somehow really deserved to be the first left opportunity, so at the top of the hill, skipped to the next question and turned right at the stop sign instead of left, which was the real first left opportunity.

Since this was the very start of the rallye, disaster struck early – and then it went steadily down-





hill from there, becoming known as the !@#%&*+}@!!!! Rallye, as in "this is the worst !@#%&*+}@!!!! rallye I've ever been on!!"

The first inkling of trouble brewing on the horizon was when the Thornes and Callards went to Sea Glass Interiors, one of the timed stops, and found that only one couple had been by so far. Oops. And then phone calls came in from Bob and Judy Lowe and Mike and Sandi Talbot saying they were lost. Oops. Double oops.



But hark -- who should come into view but Les and Jo White, who made all the turns and wound up in front of the store. Les went in, got his photo taken, slid back in his car and was promptly pounced upon by two very earnest young men on a mission from the Mormon Church to save souls in downtown Gig Harbor, that bastion of atheists. And they had zeroed in on Les as their chosen one to be saved. But since the clock was ticking, a rallye master ordered Les and Jo on their way. Their sigh of gratitude was heard over the squealing of tires as they peeled out.

The next sign that real trouble was brewing was when the Callards and Thornes drove up the Stott-McCallum driveway and saw that Thom and Joni Bayler had already arrived, much earlier than they were supposed to. Good-natured griping and grumbling directed towards the rallye masters was only interrupted by other cars showing up, with

one greeting us by announcing, "I've been lost for four !@#%&*+}@!!!! hours!" As cars showed up, we realized just how lost most of them had been. Many had met each other along the way, one woman yelling out her car window, "where in the @#%&*+}@!!!! are we?"

Well, good question. It seems they were in Yelm, or Home, over the Purdy bridge on the Key Peninsula, or Buckley, wandering around Fox Island, or





on the way to Shelton, looking for East Armpit Rd. One couple was last heard from having fish and chips at Anthony’s restaurant in Gig Harbor, thinking that was one of the timed stops, (eat fast, honey, we only have five minutes) and another report had a couple on a ferry bound for Vashon Island. From where they were, it seemed to make sense -- turning onto the ferry line was their third left opportunity.

After the wonderful lunch, which helped calm down frazzled nerves, Gordon read the answers to the rallye questions. Because the Motor Mouth may sometime be read by someone who is pure of mind, body and soul, most of the rallye comments -- including words and descriptions used in combinations never before seen by the rallye masters -- have been deleted. But in looking at them, one unique curse stands out in summing up the general feeling toward the rallye masters: “May the sewers of Calcutta back up into your !@#*&\$# breakfast cereal!”

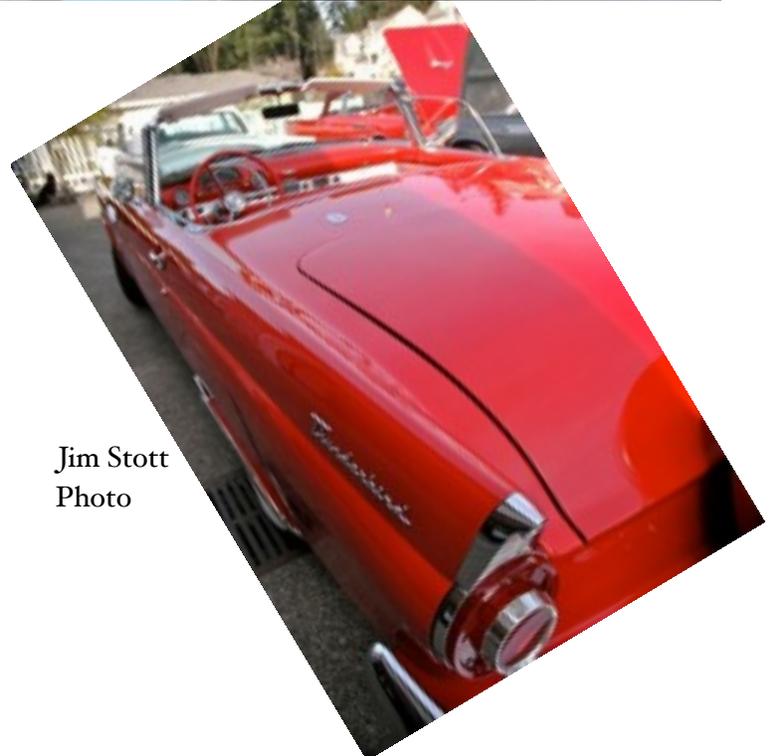
Bob announced the rallye “winners”: First place, Archie and Barbara Matthew; second place, Les and Jo White; third place, Der and Judy Roupe. Each surprised lady navigator stepped up to pick out her prize, a Just Beachy shellscape handmade by Judy Thorne. Bob and Judy Lowe had the winning playing card and also selected a prize.

Also enjoying the spring sunshine were: Austins, Baylers, Coopers, Johnsons, Niemis, Talbots and Vingos.

And the Rallye Meisters? Pressure washing has cleaned most of the rotten goo off their houses as a result of several drive-by fruitings. One has gone into hiding in Florida and changed his phone to an unlisted number. It’s been reported the other was granted sanctuary -- in the basement of an unidentified Mormon Church.

But being brave souls, they say they are up to doing it again – in 2029. -- *Story and photos by a former rallye master in hiding*

Thank you to our hosts, from left: Jim Stott, Darlene McCallum, Martha and Bob Callard and Gordon and Judy Thorne.



Jim Stott Photo





Join your favorite Bird Buddies for a day of great PSEB fun. Our destination is the Sequim home and B & B of members Fred and Helen Gilchrist, who operated the two-room hostelry, Rancho Lamro, until mid-February. We'll take a look at their plentiful antiques and car collection and enjoy a lunch prepared by Helen and Carol Weiler.

Let's Caravan to Sequim!

April 17

**Please RSVP no later than
April 10**
to the Gilchrists
at gilchris@olyphen.com (note:
there is no 't' in their e-mail
address)
or 360.683.8133



But wait -- there's more! Then we'll see a collection of cars, motorcycles and dolls at the home of Tom and Mari Andrus, friends of Helen and Fred.

But wait -- there's even more! We'll conclude our day with a visit to the Dungeness River Audubon Center for a short tour.

The day begins in Port Gamble. We'll meet in front of the General Store at 10 a.m., and the caravan will depart at 10:15 a.m. We'll be finished about 4 p.m. for departure from Sequim.



The Road Ahead 2010

Mark your calendar now and join PSEB for great events throughout the year.



<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Hosts</i>
<i>April 17</i>	<i>Caravan to Sequim and Gilchrists' B&B, antiques, car collections, Audubon Center</i>	<i>Gilchrists/Weilers</i>
<i>May 15</i>	<i>Hood Canal Oyster Feed and Gathering Event</i>	<i>Perrys</i>
<i>June 20</i>	<i>Kingston Car show to benefit American Cancer Society; barbecue at Baylers'</i>	<i>Baylers</i>
<i>July 25-26</i>	<i>Loganberry Festival and overnight, Whidbey Island</i>	<i>Thornes</i>
<i>Aug. TBD</i>	<i>To be determined</i>	<i>Host needed</i>
<i>Sept. 11-12</i>	<i>Eatonville train ride, Northwest Trek wildlife and overnight</i>	<i>Talbots</i>
<i>Oct. 9 or 10</i>	<i>Port Angeles Dungeness Crab and Seafood Festival</i>	<i>Weilers</i>
<i>Nov. 14</i>	<i>Great Chefs of the Northwest</i>	<i>Johnsons</i>
<i>Dec. TBD</i>	<i>Christmas party/gift exchange</i>	<i>Austins</i>



Cars vs. Stars

Which beauties age best?

By Jim Stott

Last month, I wrote about the age-old question (at least since 1955 and following) of restoration v. preservation of our example of Ford's Finest.

After much personal consternation and then hearing from the local T-Bird gurus and genius folk, I have reached a decision about the above-referenced resto v. preserv question.

Intentionally I delayed my decision until we had entertained PSEB members at our house in Gig Harbor. During our time together, many members provided me with their insight, thoughts, ideas, recommendations and conclusions. In particular, Les White and his wife, Jo, were very helpful, as were Duane and Nancy Niemi and others.

So, (drum roll, please) I'm going to preserve the old lady. Keep her well maintained. Keep her fluids changed. Keep her dusted, washed and polished.

My goal is to keep the old lady as original as possible. I still wrestle with the, "... where do I draw the line on replacement parts?" question. It seems the guiding mantra from Les White and others is to "keep it original, but in great running shape". That is now my new Thunderbird goal.

As an example, because of her ethylene glycol incontinence, do I just keep adding fluid to the old original three-core radiator, or do I spring for a new NOS (new original stock) "almost exactly the same as the original" radiator from CASCO or Larry's T-Birds?

As an aside, in consultation with June Allyson, I tried an engineered application of Depends. Sadly, all that experimentation produced were a series of outstanding and memorable failures.

My clear inclination is to spend even more of my kids' inheritance and spring for a new replacement NOS radiator. Likewise, do I just keep using starting fluid, as the old girl is very hard to start



Marilyn Monroe enjoys her early Bird.

when cold? (Apparently, this is not an unusual condition with most older automobiles and the female gender in other species). Or, do I continue to wantonly spend my kids' cash stash and have the old girl's inhalation-aspiration, air/fuel, 16:1 mixing-device rebuilt?

As I reflected on these issues, an apparition came to me. No surround sound, 3-D, or other visions through gossamer veils. Just a vision of the striking similarity between keeping my old girl T-Bird alive and running, and keeping an aging movie star beautiful. Note: This is much harder if the movie star is no longer with us.

Obviously, similar decisions needed to be made for both T-Bird and/or aging movie stars regarding their fluids, intake and output, maintenance of their spark and

keeping them clean and presentable. As is the case with an aging ingénue, the same is true for an aging classic automobile of incredible beauty. To keep my Thunderbird and/or an aging movie star looking good requires a tremendous amount of work.

My T-Bird sits in her own single-car garage. In her new permanent home, when I make surprise visits at night, she reminds me of an aging motion picture star from the 1950s. In their days, both were stunning beauties. Both car and woman had admirers who traveled from far away to admire the curve of their bodies, their heady gasoline-scented perfume, padded seats, upholstered body parts, the fine lines of their body design and build. Both were, and are, strikingly beautiful.

Think about this, unhampered aging is the bane of every young starlet. In some ways, the same applies to beautiful cars far from their prime. In both cases, aging early Thunderbirds and aging movie stars have rediscovered a strong following well after they passed their "youthful prime."

As is the case with most fickle Hollywoodites, those who come on the scene and rapidly rise to instant stardom and prominence, will, with equal velocity, descend from their perch of prominence.

In the case of my '56 Bird, in her day, she was an amazingly beautiful machine. However, the cross-town trollop, the Corvette, soon drew more attention from the motoring masses. The Corvette competition said it was, "Faster and



more powerful." Ford promoted the Thunderbird as a new "personal automobile."

Generous Motors, or now Government Motors, promoted the '55, '56 and '57 Fiberglas Corvette as "America's true sports car." The automobile press (much like the paparazzi chasing movie stars) continued to compare the two autos

only in a competitive universe. Remember: Our Thunderbirds were based and built on a Ford station wagon frame and suspension!

It's interesting that today, aging motion picture icons, i.e., Shirley McLaine, Liz Taylor or even Betty White are now sought after for roles that reflect their glorious past.

Seems to me we find the same phenomenon with early Thunderbirds. As many of you know, our 1955 - 1957 Thunderbirds turn heads any time we're on the road and quickly become the center of attention when we are stopped.

This also is the same with old movie stars.



Ready! Set! GROW!

As membership chairman, it is my pleasure to announce two new members to the growing Puget Sound Early Birds family. They are Jay and Sharon Howard of Port Orchard, and they own a 1956 T-Bird on which Jay is doing a body-off restoration. At the moment the body is on a rotisserie, and he's cleaning off the undercoating, so nothing is running yet.

The Howards also own Possum Run Farm in Port Orchard and raise registered Highland cattle. Please all join me in welcoming them to the club!

With the addition of the Howards, I'm pleased to report we now have a new high total of 62 individual members comprising 30 couples and two single men. And 100 percent of the 2009 membership signed up again for 2010! This is now the largest membership in the history of Puget Sound Early Birds. Lin Somsak, editor of the CTCI national publication *Early Bird*, said that in a time when many clubs are struggling, it's good to see a club that's growing.

She attributes a growing club to strong, enthusiastic leadership and a variety of great events. She says that fun, interesting and unusual activities tend to draw more club mem-

Welcome New Members!
Jay and Sharon Howard
Port Orchard



bers, raising the level of camaraderie and mutual enjoyment. An example of that was seen at the March rallye: Of the club's 62 members, 28 were involved -- a 45 percent participation level -- that's outstanding!

But I think there's one more major factor that's specifically led to our growth -- and that's the fact that word-of-mouth has spread, and we have become known as being a friendly and outgoing club, a club without cliques and one where new members are made to feel welcome from the very beginning. So give yourselves a pat on the back -- we're becoming noticed!

-- *Gordon Thorne*



Birthdays

- 1 Dennis Hasard
- 1 Pat Hasard
- 7 Duane Niemi
- 8 Michael Perry
- 18 Tom Harris
- 20 Sandi Talbot
- 24 Judy Lowe

Anniversaries

- 3 Mike & Sandi Talbot
- 6 Archie & Barbara
Matthew

Best Wishes

to All

Car Shows and Swap Meets

April 11 -- 4th All Emergency Vehicle Show; Issaquah XXX Drive In; 8-3 425.283.6761.

April 17 -- 29th Mount Vernon Auto & Vintage Motorcycle Swap Meet; Skagit County Fairgrounds; 8-4; North Cascade Street Rod Association and Washington Vintage Motorcyclists; 360.421.1407.

April 17-18 -- Kent Defrost Kickoff; Pacific Raceways; 9-5 both days; SOVREN; 425.277.3177.

April 23-25 -- Tacoma Mild to Wild Hot Rods and Hot Rides; Tacoma Dome; noon-9; 9-9; 253.539.3929.

April 24 -- Warrenton, Ore., '50s Cruise Reunion; Camp Rilea, 9-4; Lower Columbia

Classics Club & Beach Barons; 503.440.0381.

April 24-25 -- Port Townsend 10th Annual Jeffco Expo; Jefferson County Fairgrounds; 9-5 both days; 360.385.1013.

Always Call Before You Go

April 25 -- Puyallup Breakfast & Poker Run; Puyallup Elks Lodge; 8:45-2; Gallopin' Gerties Model A Club. 253.566.4374.

May 1 -- Old Silvana Annual Car Show; Old Silvana General Store; 8-4; 360.654.0966.

May 2 -- Puyallup 21st IPMS/Puget Sound Model Car Show & Swap Meet;

Puyallup Elks Club; 253.627.1005.

May 2 -- Ferndale WCCA Spring Rod Run; Les Schwab Tire Center; Whatcom County Cruising Association; 360.739.5931.

May 7 -- Covington Friday Nigh Cruise In; 4-8; Maple Valley Street Rats; 253.797.7071.

Ted Austin reports that the monthly Car Gathering in Bremerton has been changed to the first Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. beginning April 6. New location is Shari's Restaurant parking lot, 4220 Wheaton Way, East Bremerton, next to the K-Mart. It is open to everyone with old or new cars who just want to drive and visit.

MULTI-CLUB EVENT SCHEDULED

OCTC is hosting the Eruption to Erosion Tour to Mount St. Helens, June 26-27 plus overnight at the Comfort Inn, Three Rivers Mall, Kelso. Reservations: 360.425.4600; mention T-Bird Car Club for special \$79.99 rate for 1 king or 2 queens (upgrade to suite for \$10). Dinner scheduled for Azteca next door, 6 p.m. Information/RSVPs: Chuck & Julie Birch, 425.391.2710; cell 425.736.5495. More details next month.

JULY TOUR
 is for the Berries
 and the Birds!
 Save the date now
 for the
 PSEB Loganberry Festival
 overnight tour to Whidbey
 Island July 26-27



Although July is still a few months away, it's not too early to start thinking in terms of loganberry wine, Whidbey Island, quaint country inns and touring.

Plan now to join us for what promises to be a close-in, fun festival and overnight tour on scenic Whidbey Island, Sunday and Monday, July 25-26. We've also invited sister clubs, Olympic Classic and Totem Thunderbirds of British Columbia, to turn this into a potential multi-club event.

The occasion is the annual Whidbey Loganberry Festival, held on the grounds of the Greenbank Loganberry Farm. Most of us on the west side will take the ferry from Port Townsend to Keystone, and at Freeland, we'll meet members from the other clubs who have ferried over from Mukilteo to Whidbey. or come south from Deception Pass.

Then we'll caravan to our special place of honor alongside the entrance to the Loganberry Farm, and spend the next two or three hours browsing through art, craft and clothing booths; specialty food booths, having lunch at one of the several food stands; enjoying live music; and sampling the various wines from up to 20 different wineries – no, its NOT all loganberry wine. You could, however, sign up for a pie eating contest – guess which flavor?

Later we'll take a leisurely tour of the scenic back roads of the island, landing in the historic waterfront town of Coupeville where we'll stay at the lovely Coupeville Inn. Part French Mansard country inn and part unique motel, the hostelry is situated right at the end of the main downtown waterfront street. There will be time for browsing the shops before cocktails, followed by a short tour to the famous Captain Whidbey Inn for dinner.

After a complimentary breakfast Monday, we'll continue our tour of Whidbey's scenic roads and vistas, before splitting off to either Keystone on the west or Columbia Beach on the east to return home.

The Coupeville Inn is holding 14 rooms with a variety of bed configurations, décor and prices; some have already been reserved, so we urge you to contact them now at 800/247-6162 to reserve a room. Be sure to let them know you're with the Puget Sound Early Birds tour to access our block of rooms. Our room prices start at \$105 per couple, and they do have some pet-friendly rooms! You can also look them up online at www.thecoupevilleinn.com.

We hope you'll join tour leaders Gordon and Judy Thorne for what promises to be a beautiful, scenic tour combined with a very fun, old-time festival close to home -- but a world apart.