



## ***TOW Line***

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Published whenever  
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### **T**eedroppers of **O**regon and **W**ashington

#### **HERE WE GO!!**

When I was asked a couple of years ago to publish a newsletter for us Pacific Northwest teardroppers, I didn't pay much attention to the request. No way was I going to compete with established information publications and web sites. However, since that time, some of us have been involved with displaying our teardrop trailers in our area. This exposure has resulted in many requests for information on our hobby of owning, restoring or building a teardrop.

Most of the requests come from those without computer means to surf our universal teardrop web sites. These people have no way of getting more information on what's happening in the Pacific Northwest in the world of teardropping. Hopefully, this newsletter will be helpful.

Subscription is FREE. That way, I have no obligation to publish on a regular basis. You might ask, "How can you do this – where does the money come from?"

It basically comes from our involvement with displaying our trailers at the Northwest Car Collector's Show and Swap Meet held every October. We've done this for the last two years. Each year, the show committee has given us a donation for being a part of the show.

Writing this "line" extends the teardrop hobby for this editor to a new level. I enjoy this expansion of the hobby and I hope it will be an enjoyable experience.

#### **WHAT' S WITH THIS "TOW" ORGANIZATION??**

*TOW* is short for "*Teardroppers of Oregon and Washington.*" Appropriate, don't you think? After all, we do "*tow*" our teardrop trailers.

After our involvement with the 2001 October car show put on by the Northwest Car Collectors Association, it was suggested by the show manager that we petition for full membership in NWCCA. But, we had to have a name to do this. Thus, *TOW* was created and registered with the State of Oregon. Just this last March of 2002, *TOW* became a full member of the NWCCA. All member clubs share in the net proceeds of the October show and swap meet.

The intent of becoming a full member is to help fund this newsletter and a possible web site. Also, we can help with the expenses of the two original Pacific Northwest teardrop campout gatherings – the Spring Fling and the Champoeg Campout. Their current registration fees no way cover all the expenses that their hosts pay out each year to put on these functions for us.

#### **HOW DO YOU LIKE OUR LOGO??**

The logo that you see as the masthead of the *TOW Line* was created by Donya Wiland. Donya is this editor's daughter. She is really talented (boast, boast)! She and her husband, Craig, are camping fanatics and use their Larry's Tears trailer many times a year.

I will make business cards for anyone that wants to use the logo with their name as part of the card's text. They're great to pass out to spectators who ask about our teardrops. Just contact me and I will print out a couple of sheets for you.

### **THE "SPRING FLING" CAMPOUT +++**

We had a wonderful time at this year's Spring Fling. Rod and Trudy Glassett really put on a great event for us teardroppers. The highlight of the event was the Dutch Oven Cook-off on Sunday evening. The setup for this was just great with an open campfire site reserved just for us. There must have been 10 to 12 different ovens going at the same time. And, it was decided that we would eat outside. The ovens were placed on nearby tables, opened up and with the salads at the other end of the table, we had a wonderful potluck. Later, we voted on the most favorite and Jack Jacobson's "Chicken Pop-up" won hands down. (It was a rubber chicken that popped up when the oven's lid was removed.) In addition to the dinner, we had a special violin duet by 11 year old twin sisters Angi and Lui Gue.

Saturday was taken up with the caravan to Packwood for the annual Swap Meet that literally takes over the whole town every Memorial Day weekend. Many of us really found some special treasures to add to our hobby, tool shed or tacky collection.

Due to a glitch in next year's reservations, the Memorial Day weekend Spring Fling will be held closer to Packwood at Cascade Peaks RV Resort and Campground in the town of Randle, along US Hwy 12. We will have a grassy group camp area with a large gazebo for us to use. We can share water and electricity and have our own restroom facility. The cost will be about \$13 per site per night and no cost for pets. Look for more information in early 2003. It will still be on Memorial Day Weekend.

Attending the event were seven veterans from past years. The great news was that we had six rookies, some who had never, ever attended a teardrop gathering before! Perhaps the most unusual was the six-foot wide unit that Ed Kelson brought. It was restored from one given him. Doug Cronn brought his '29 Ford panel street rod and matching restored KenSkill that won a trophy at this year's Seattle Roadster Show as the "Moonshine Express". Ron/Jeanne Mecham brought the boat-tear combo that they are reproducing as a brand new trailer for sale. Kelsey/Marilyn Farrell, from Kennewick camped in the original Nighty Mite that was used for the pattern being sold by the Ennis father/son duo. The Dick Gue family showed up with their Cozy Cruiser towed by their bright red diesel-powered modern Volkswagen Beetle. Ed Avila, from the Seattle area, and Bill/Cindy Birt brought their special teardrop treasures and rounded out the Spring Fling rookies.

### **"FOURTH OF JULY TEARDROP FUN" IN CARNATION!!**

We've been invited to stay at Ken and Marty Masdens over the Fourth of July holiday and take in the celebrations in their hometown of Carnation, Washington (in the Seattle area). This will be the first annual event. And, they are extending their welcome for us to camp on their five-acres just outside of the town a day or two before and after the Fourth.

In a nutshell, this is what we'll see as a small-town celebrates our Independence Day:

You can eat pancakes from 8:00 - 11:00, check out the Hot Rods & Harley's show, let the kids enjoy the carnival, watch the Kiddies Parade at 10:30, the Grand Parade at 11:00, eat some strawberry shortcake after that, hear some tunes and then go back to the Masdens.

The main meal on that day will be around 5:00 PM. Significant others, friends, kids, and pets are welcome. Ken will have some generic beer, diet coke and 7-Up, hamburgers, polish dogs and hotdogs available. Please bring anything special that you or your family may need and some dish that we all can share.

If you manage to hold out until dusk, Carnation also has fireworks to view. Please do not bring any fireworks to the Masdens, as the animals (and Marty) will go nuts.

Ken will try to have a few antique vehicle rides up and down Snoqualmie River Road including rumble seat rides for the kids (and young at heart).

Note that you will be more/less on your own for meals, etc. while camping (especially before and after the Fourth).

They will have two bathrooms with showers available (unless/until the well runs dry) - one in the "toy box" (car barn) and one in their walk-in basement. They may have to rent some honey buckets if we get a large turn out. We can get electricity to some (perhaps most) teardrops if we daisy chain our electrical cords.

The property is on a bit of a hill, so level camping spots may be a bit hard to find. Some of the events in Carnation like the Spaghetti Feed, Pancake Feed and Strawberry Shortcake will cost us a few bucks. No charge for camping at the Masdens.

On the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> we will caravan to Snohomish to view antiques and old cars, picnic at Snoqualmie Falls and perhaps attend the car show in Issaquah.

Be sure to register with Ken and Marty if you can make this celebration. Their numbers: (425) 333-5219 and [36fun@centurytel.net](mailto:36fun@centurytel.net)

### **"TRUCK SHOW DISPLAY" WILL BE A FUN TIME!!**

Jim Abbott has come up with a great way to display our teardrops as well as an opportunity for us to attend the Truck Show at the Pacific NW Truck Museum. We've been invited to attend one of the greatest truck cruise-ins on the West Coast. It's held on the grounds of Antique Powerland in Brooks, Oregon (near Salem). They will be putting us in a grassy area along with all the vintage cars and trucks that always attend this show.

The show registration on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> starts at 8 AM. The cost is \$5 and includes a dash plaque. A BBQ Dinner is part of the show and is part of a fund-raiser with reservations required by August 14<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$15 and includes either BBQ beef or chicken with two side dishes, beverage and desert.

Camping is available at \$10 per site, but some of us have big backyards for those who travel a long way to attend this event and need a place to stay.

This show is held every year on the fourth Saturday of August. The LeMay gathering always takes place on the same weekend except for this year and next. It's always been a great show of trucks, a swap meet, Kenworth factory restored antiques, factory sponsored racing trucks and factory one-off customs.

Be sure to contact Jim at 503-874-0330 or e-mail [jsn4d@aol.com](mailto:jsn4d@aol.com) so you can part of this new gathering. Contact before the 14<sup>th</sup> if you want the dinner BBQ.

### **"LeMAY 2002" WILL BE ON LABOR DAY!!**

The annual Car Show/Open House for the LeMay Collection is always held on the last Saturday in August. That means it will also be on Labor Day next year also. This gives those that have quite a haul to get to Tacoma an extra travel day.

This year celebrates the silver anniversary of the event. We must remember that it started out with Harold and Nancy LeMay inviting just a few friends to view their collection 25 years ago. The attendance is now around 10,000!

Officially, it's put on by the Harold E. LeMay Museum. Inviting us teardroppers to camp on the Marymount Campus is such a special treat. Even more special is the opportunity for us Friday arrivals to get a real close look at some of the collection before the visitors arrive on Saturday.

For the last two years, we've had 20 plus teardrops on display. As always, the camaraderie and friendships we share with one another is present for the entire weekend. We are also welcome camp on both the Thursday before the show and the Sunday after the show. The camping is FREE because we're guests of the LeMays. The announcement page and the registration form for LeMay 2002 are included with this newsletter. Please contact this editor for more information and questions. The numbers: 503-632-6563 & [ktormarty@bctonline.com](mailto:ktormarty@bctonline.com).

### **"5<sup>th</sup> OREGON TEARDROP CAMPOUT" IN SEPTEMBER!!!**

This great campout will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> at Oregon's Champoeg State Park. Camping fees for Friday and Saturday nights are \$9 per night. Send in your \$5 registration by September 15<sup>th</sup> to Gary Wampole, PO Box 1190, Willamina, OR 97396.

This is a real family type setting with a wonderful potluck supper on Saturday night. We always have lots of drop-ins who just want to visit our gatherings to greet friends and to look at the many variations of trailers.

The park is located between Portland and Salem on the banks of the Willamette River west of I-5. You can follow the signs to the park at the first exit after crossing the river at Wilsonville if traveling south, or by taking the Donald exit if going north. Gary can be reached at 503-876-4431 or [teardrop@onlinemac.com](mailto:teardrop@onlinemac.com).

### **TIME FOR SNIPPETS+ + + !**

1. Look for the next issue of *CruZin'* Magazine – Jack Jacobson sent in pictures.
2. The LeMay Museum has extended \$50 charter memberships to the end of the year.
3. The Museum published their very first issue of *Behind the Wheel* in March.
4. Jack Jacobson submitted a teardrop story for the next issue of the *'Wheel*.
5. There will be another issue of the *TOW Line* published by summer's end.
6. It was GREAT to see Grant Whipp as a visitor to this year's *Spring Fling*.
7. *TOW* will be looking for volunteers to help with duty at the October *NWCCA Show*.
8. The *2002 Portland Roadster Show* had a teardrop display via by Dick/Pat Harmon.
9. Please submit your teardrop gathering stories for possible *TOW Line* publication.
10. If you are selling teardrop items, send in a notice for possible FREE publication.
11. After four years with borrowed tears, this editor finally, finally, finally built one.
12. The teardrop message boards and web sites are very good places for information.