



Teardroppers of **O**regon and **W**ashington
Serving those who are or wannabe teardroppers

TOW Line

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ATTENTION – REGISTRATION DUE TODAY FOR SPRING FLING

Please go to the announcement for Spring Fling 2006.

LAKE SHASTA RALLY – THE 13TH DAM GATHERING OF TEARS

This year, the Shasta Rally will be held on May 4th to 7th. Again, it will be at the Antlers RV Park and Campground on the banks of Lake Shasta, 25 miles north of Redding, California. The good times with teardrops and teardroppers just keep rolling along

This is a great event and should be experienced by all new teardroppers. This rally is indeed the granddaddy of all teardrop gatherings. There's lots of visiting, looking and "that's a good idea" comments made by all who view the many teardrop trailers in attendance.

The reservation fee is \$10 with \$11 per night camping fee. For more information call **530-275-6728** or e-mail info@teardrops.net. A registration form can be called up at www.teardrops.net/13thDG.html.

THIS WILL BE THE 8TH SPRING FLING AT PACKWOOD SWAP MEET

Fresh off the Internet: **Rod and Trudy Glassett** are announcing a repeat performance of the annual Spring Fling. The dates are May 26th to 29th.

It's being held at the group campsite reserved for us at Cascade Peaks RV Park located 55 miles east of the I-5 freeway exit #68 on Hwy 12. Enjoy Northwest-style teardrop hospitality with potlucks, Dutch oven cooking, games and the great NW outdoors. The site is located near Packwood, Washington where on every Memorial Day Weekend; the whole town turns into one huge swap meet/flea market.

There is a \$10 registration fee and a \$19.66 per night camping fee. No pet fees (leashes required, though). All dollars are required prepaid by April 20th, so send your reservation right away to Trudy for the total amount. We've been notified that the prepaid camping fees are NOT refundable.

In addition, reservations are on a first come basis. It looks like all available sites will go very, very fast. Trudy will advise those wanting reservations when the group campsite is full. Contact Trudy directly for more info and reservations: Call **360-293-1108**. Her e-mail address is glassettgang@juno.com. The Glassett home address is: 5501 Doon Way Anacortes, WA 98221.

TEARDROPS AT THE PORTLAND ROADSTER SHOW

By **Larry Snedden**

The 50th edition of the Portland Roadster show, held every year at the Portland Convention Center, was filled to capacity. One of the primary organizing couples for the Roadster Show are fellow teardroppers **Dick and Pat Harmon** who extended an invitation for us to display a collection of our teardrops.

It's got to be noted that it was quite a challenge to get the trailers to the room that they put us in. We had to go down a narrow corridor, past a lot of equipment that the Convention Center uses, moving some of it, and then around a couple of sharp corners. This was all done by pushing the trailers by hand. **Jim Lanegan** had to drive his roadster down this same corridor and yes, it was a challenge.

Lots of people stopped by to see the display with the kids especially enjoying getting inside the sleeping cabin, opening and closing the cabinet doors and marveling that it was a "cool" place to sleep. It's reported that one kid came back many times.

An added feature was a kiddie-sized teardrop towed by a pedal car. The kids really got a kick out of that, especially when teardropper **Larry Snedden**, the owner, encouraged the kids telling them it was really "COOL".

The same questions were asked: "Do you really sleep in there?" – "You mean you can fix meals in the back?" - "Did you build this yourself?" You know - all the ones we hear when on the road getting gas or at rest stops.

In many cases, when really getting into a good visit with a spectator, the conversations sort of turned into "liars" contests. But, it was fun for all, especially with the teardroppers enjoying sharing the stories of their travels and group campouts.

Those that displayed were **Jim Lanegan** (with his cool roadster), **Terry and Diana Lindsley**, **Rich Godat**, **Mike Rodriguez** and **Larry and Terri Snedden**. Thanks to all.

KELSON KAMPOUT MOVED FOR THIS YEAR

We've been notified that the Kelson affair has moved this year – not only from August, but also the location. Ed worked on this at the Midwinter Potluck and chose the weekend of June 9th and 10th. His parents, **Don and Annette Kelson** have property in Roslyn, Washington where we will be gathering for an old-fashioned campout of teardrop trailers.

Please note that all tiny vintage travel trailers are invited too. There is lots of room to park all the rigs at this location. Ed and Linda have lots of activities planned for the weekend..

Roslyn is famous in itself. It was the town featured on the "Northern Exposure" television series filmed in the 1990's. We all remember Roslyn looking like a small Alaskan bush town. I doubt that we will be seeing the moose wandering the streets as always shown in the introduction of every episode of the TV show.

Roslyn is located just off I-90 east of Seattle. Ed tells us there will be lots of food activities – pizza, potlucks, BBQs and maybe Dutch oven cooking.

Again, that's June 8th and 9th. For more information contact **Ed and Linda Kelson** at **253-630-3423** or raisindy1@aol.com.

HOW DID THIS TOWTHING GET STARTED?

There have been so many new affiliates of TOW added in the last couple of years that it would be a good idea to revisit the beginnings of how TOW got started.

First of all, TOW stands for Teardroppers of Oregon and Washington. This is a good moniker for a bunch of people who "tow" their teardrop trailers.

The beginning really started in 1998. That was the year of the very first teardrop gathering in the Pacific Northwest. It was the Open House for the LeMay automobile collection in Tacoma, Washington.

The LeMay gathering is a sidebar to the story. The founder of this teardrop gathering had visited the 1997 Open House and after attending the 1998 Shasta Dam gathering, thought how neat it would be for teardroppers to experience the LeMay collection as part of a gathering weekend. Contact was then made with one of the LeMay staff. While the staff member was conducting a tour of LeMay's Marymount Campus, the man himself, Harold LeMay, turned up driving around the campus in one of his vintage pickups. When it was explained to him that teardroppers wanted to visit the Open House while camping at a local park, Harold said, "Well, why don't you just camp here?" So, that's how the LeMay Open House gathering got started. It continues today with the ninth gathering happening this summer.

All teardrop trailer owners experience the fascination the general public has with our icon of the past. This happened every year at the LeMay Open House when our trailers were on display. At this time in history, the Northwest Car Collectors Association were asking their 32 member car clubs to put up theme-type displays during their annual Car Show and Swap Meet held every October. The NWCCA was approached with the idea that teardrop trailers could be displayed. So, it happened in the fall of 2000. It was a smashing success with lots of interest as spectators viewed our trailers. After this first show, an unexpected check made out to "Teardrop trailers" was received. And, it happened all over again in the year 2001.

As we were cleaning up the display that year, the show manager asked us to petition for full membership. One wonders how a trailer group ever got into a car collectors association, but during the petition presentation, it was emphasized that vintage cars pull a lot of teardrop trailers. But, there are responsibilities along with membership in NWCCA. We were accepted as members in March 2002. But, as they say, there is no such thing as a "free lunch" - we have over 35 duty hours to fulfill during the October show.

So, we had to have a name. After thinking of many variations, it was decided that it should be Teardroppers of Oregon and Washington – or TOW. The name is registered with the State of Oregon, it has a free checking account with the Bank of America and, at the encouragement of a Washington teardropper couple, the TOW Line newsletter was started.

The NWCCA shares the net take from the show and swap meet with the member clubs. Usually, a \$1000 check is received. After a three-person committee examines all expenses for the TOW operating year, all proceeds are divided between events held in Oregon and Washington. To this end, an

accounting is published each year in the TOW Line. The biggest expense happens for the October car show – mainly for decorations and when permanent fixtures are added to the display. TOW pays gas money for those driving over 50 miles to help with the display and to pull duty hours. Food such as breakfasts, lunches, snacks and beverages are also an expense.

Since it's beginning, TOW now has its own web site (www.teardroptrailers.org) and about 300 affiliates, 273 of which receive the TOW Line via e-mail with snail-mail for the rest. TOW is not an official organization or club. That's way we have "affiliates" and not members. And best of all, we only have one or two meeting a year. These are at the campout gatherings where the host acts as the presiding "officer".

MIDWINTER POTLUCK = LOTS OF FUN

This year's edition was great fun. Lots of food and lots of visiting with fellow teardroppers was the order of the day. It seemed that it was a continuation of our times together at the campouts and gatherings we attend each year. New visitors were in abundance with one bringing a very LARGE serving of ribs.

The summer's calendar was reviewed. The same number of mistakes were pointed out, the first being the date of the midwinter potluck (listed as the Saturday before!). Ed Kelson was seen at a table with a calendar deciding on which weekend he and Linda would hosting their annual gathering.

We had a new teardrop show up on display. It was a homebuilt using the Cubby plans. **Bob and Jane Johnson** brought their tiny, tiny walk-in teardrop where we all saw the progress made in getting it completed before this year is out.

WELCOME TO THE 5TH ANNUAL CARNATION 4TH OF JULY

Ken and Marty Masden have invited us to share their hospitality on their rural property near Carnation, Washington over the Fourth of July weekend. What a great time we're all looking forward to. Remember, all sorts of teardrop trailers as well as vintage camping trailers will be attending. Their phone number is **425-333-5219** if you have any questions. They have a registration form that can be sent to you via e-mail. Contact 36fun@centurytel.net for driving directions.

For those who have never attended this stellar event, talk to someone who has or see the reports in past TOW Line newsletters. You can call up issue #9 at www.teardroptrailers.org. You can see some pictures of prior events at <http://teardrop.blogicalthoughts.com/>.

We've just received the tentative schedule of what will be happening. So, here goes:

- **June 30th - (Friday) - Arrive** and get your campsite set up. We will have a few **pizzas (6:00 PM)** available for you to munch on as you get set up.
- **June 30th - 9:00 PM – Kick-off meeting** - in Marty's Studio (the lower level of the house) where we will go over this information and finalize the coming activities.
- **July 1st - 9:00 AM – (Saturday) – Pancake Breakfast** – provided in Marty's studio.
- **July 1st - 11:00 AM – Snoqualmie Falls trip** – Old car caravan to Snoqualmie Falls. We will have lunch there and then take a tour of the area stopping either at Snoqualmie or Carnation for Ice Cream. Eventually back to our place to play with the vehicles and get ready for the Dutch oven dinner. We'll be playing with our cars and **rumble/tractor rides**
- **July 1st - 6:00 PM – Dutch-oven dinner** - We will all get together and share whatever we come up with. If you don't have a Dutch oven, just make your favorite potluck dish.
- **July 1st - 8:00 PM - "Marty's Studio" Meeting** - We will have a few door prizes and will go over up-coming events.
- **July 2nd - 9:00 AM – (Sunday) - Breakfast** – In Marty's studio - **Freezer bag omelets**.
- **July 2nd - 11:00 AM – Snohomish trip** – Marty will be leading a trip to the Antique shops in Snohomish, WA. Others may want to stay around the place as we may have folks interested in building teardrops stopping by. More **rumble rides** with the vintage cars.
- **July 2nd - 6:00 PM – Pot Luck dinner** - We will all get together and share our favorite potluck dishes.
- **July 2nd - 8:00 PM – Until we drop** - Time for everyone to socialize and make new and rekindle old friendships. We have a few trailer tapes to watch.
- **July 3rd - 9:00 AM – (Monday) – Breakfast** – provided in Marty's studio. TBD

- **July 3rd - 7:30 AM – (Monday)** – Some of us will be getting our rigs ready for the “Show and Shine” in Carnation. More **rumble seat rides**. Perhaps another old car tour somewhere.
- **July 3rd - 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM** - Everyone invited to go into Carnation to the Senior Center for the **Spaghetti Feed** (The Seniors charge a small fee, but the money goes to a very good cause – The Carnation Senior Center). Or attend a BBQ at a church in Carnation.
- **July 3rd - 8:00 PM – Until we drop** - Time for everyone to socialize and make new and rekindle old friendships.
- **July 4th – (Tuesday) - Head for Carnation** - Some of us will be registering our vehicles at the Hot Rods and Harley’s Show. Everyone will want to go to the **Pancake Breakfast** at the Tolt Congregational Church (8:00 AM – 11:00 AM). Then get a good spot to watch the **parades** starting at **10:30 AM**.
- **July 4th Noon – On** – Stop by the Senior Center again for their fabulous fresh **Strawberry Shortcake!**
- **July 4th 2:00 PM** – All of our teardrop challenged friends will start arriving at our place. **Rumble seat and Model T rides** will get underway. Volley Ball and horseshoes.
- **July 4th 5:00 PM – Potluck dinner** - Marty and I will be providing hamburgers, hot dogs, soda and beer. Bring something we all can share.
- **July 4th Dusk** – Back to Carnation to view the **fireworks!!!**
- **July 5th 8:30 AM – (Wednesday) - Breakfast** – Again in Marty’s studio. TBD
- **July 5th 10:00 AM – whenever** – More **rumble/Model T rides...** Volley Ball, horseshoes and swing also available. Perhaps another caravan tour someplace for folks who don’t have to leave early... (Late lunch at XXX Drive-in in Issaquah perhaps???) Sad good-bys, vows to meet again soon!!!

TEARDROP SEEN AT THE PORTLAND SWAP MEET

Seen for the first time was the Liberty Fiberglass Teardrop Trailer. It’s a white trailer with molded fenders. It reminds one of the 1947 Kit when looking at its overall size. It’s a very, very clean looking teardrop and with the body being molded in one piece, there are no leaks to contend with. The door is ample in size and looks like it has a top quality seal. It comes with an escape window on the left side.

This trailer is available as an assembled unit or, as an optional assembly, can be a “do it yourself” project. All parts are available starting with the body that includes the frame and galley lid. From then on, lots of options are available. The brochure states that the dry weight is 885 pounds. Tongue weight is just 100 pounds. And, one of the features is a torsion-bar suspension.

Typical of the very early teardrops is the old bugaboo that this very nice teardrop only has one door. For further information, contact (in Spokane, Washington) Bell RV/Manufacturing at their website of www.bellrv.com or 509-928-2400.

BEACH CLEANUP WILL BE AN ANNUAL EVENT

It turns out that the gathering seen on the Destinations Page of our universal teardroppers web site (www.teardrops.net) will be held every year. **Allen Burton** who lives in Springfield, Oregon is a member of the Good Times VW Club and is the host for this gathering. It will always be the weekend of the Beach Cleanup. Allen tells us that their VW club always camps out at the Beachside State Park located three (3) miles south of Waldport, Oregon.

So stay tuned for additional information forthcoming in the December TOW Line.

CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 4TH – MAY 7TH - Lake Shasta Meet– Northern California

13TH Dam Gathering of Tears at Lakehead, California. Contact **Grant and Lisa Whipp** for registration information at info@teardrops.net

MAY 26TH – 29TH - Spring Fling, Our 8th Gathering – Packwood, WA

This Memorial Day Weekend features the all-city swap meet in downtown Packwood. Contact **Rod and Trudy Glassett** at 425-760-4967 or glassettgang@juno.com

JUNE 8TH – 10TH - *Kelson Kampout 2006 – Roslyn, WA*

This year's edition will be at the home of Don and Annette Kelso, Ed's parents on their rural property in Roslyn, Washington. There's lots of room for all teardrops and vintage tiny travel trailers. For more information contact **Ed and Linda Kelson** at 253-630-3423 or raisinldy1@aol.com.

JULY 1ST – 5TH – *Carnation Fourth Teardrop Fun – Carnation, WA*

This is the 5th annual gathering at Ken's '36 Fun Park. Contact **Ken or Marty Masden** at 425-333-5219 or 36fun@centurytel.net

JULY 21ST – 23RD – *Antique Powerland – Brooks, OR*

The Northwest Vintage Car and Motorcycle Museum has invited teardroppers to a campout on their new 1.5-acre campus. Powerland is located at I-5 exit 263 north of Salem. Info: **Larry Snedden** 360-423-5326 or ldsnedden@hotmail.com.

AUGUST 18TH – 20TH – *Great Oregon Campout – Lane County, OR*

At **Camp Lane**, 42 miles west of Eugene. Because of space restraint this is for **teardrops only**. This is the 9th gathering of the Northwest Teardroppers. For more information, please e-mail **Sheryl Aaron** at aaroncruiser@aol.com.

AUGUST 18TH – 20TH – *TCT Vintage Trailer Rally – Deming, WA*

Contact **Pat or Joanne Ewing** at 360-966-4253 or pre52@verizon.net for more.

AUGUST 25TH - 27TH - *LeMay Open House Campout – Tacoma, WA*

More later. Contact **Jack Jacobson** at 253-927-6568 or castiron43@aol.com

SEPTEMBER 3RD & 4TH – *Oregon Coast Aquarium Car/Trailer Show*

The location is Newport. The show includes teardrop and vintage camping trailers. Contact **Dick Miller** at 541-867-3474 ext 5640 or dickmil@aquarium.org

SEPTEMBER 8TH – 10TH – *2nd Canadian Teardrop Meet – Langley, BC*

This event is in conjunction with the Langley Car show - the largest in Canada. For more info contact **Ron Cain** at 250-743-4995 or classicsincanada@shaw.ca.

OCTOBER 13TH – 15TH *NWCCA Car Show TD Display – Portland, OR*

Contact **Marty Boehme** at 503-632-6563 or teardrops@bctonline.com.