



TOW Line

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Teedroppers of **O**regon and **W**ashington

OUR NEXT NORTHWEST TEARDROP GATHERING! !

Gary Wampole reports that all of the 20 spaces in the group campsite at Champoeg State Park have all been filled. The dates are September 27 & 28. Contact Gary at 503-876-4431.

The overflow tears will be staying in adjoining campsites in the regular campgrounds. Call Reservations Northwest at 1-800-551-6949 in order to hold a space for you. The fee is \$6 with the sites going for \$19 per night. One night will cost \$25 with the second night going for another \$19. In order to help defray the costs of the dash plaques, group breakfasts and raffle prizes, please send the \$5 registration fee to Gary. All overflow campers are welcome to group events.

Gary reminds us that the meals are the same as last year. Bring soup for the pot on Friday (no cream style soups allowed in the pot). Come together for a group pancake breakfast on Saturday. There is potluck Saturday evening and a Sunday morning group feed of French toast.

This is a great event for those interested in seeing different teardrop trailers. There probably will not be any two-alike trailers in camp. Usually, we have visitors who like to look and talk to us. In camp, the fun and camaraderie is first rate.

NORTHWEST CAR COLLECTORS SHOW AND SWAP MEET!

Teardroppers of Oregon and Washington (TOW) is getting ready to participate as a full-member club in this year's show being held on October 19th and 20th at Portland's Expo Center. The theme this year is patriotic so the display will be judged accordingly. Our display will feature the showstopper tear handcrafted by Jim Smith of Seattle. It's a woody that has no equal.

As full members, we are also required to put trailers and/or car/trailer combinations onto the show floor. It's not been decided on how the trailers will be selected. Contact Mary Boehme at 503-632-6563 for more details.

We also are pulling 49 ½ hours of duty – most in four-hour shifts. Most of the volunteer duty spots have been filled. If you are available, please contact Dick Harmon for more details on the duty posts still available. He's at 503-774-7962 in Portland. TOW will pay parking and entrance fees for all TOW volunteers.

If you would like to help build the display, show up at the Expo grounds on Thursday late afternoon and all day Friday. You can park and get into the buildings for free. This is a real fun time of working together.

CARNATION FOURTH-OF-JULY GATHERING! !

Submitted by Ken Masden, our host for this new gathering.

Most folks arrived on the third. Those of us that were here early went to the Spaghetti Feed in Carnation that evening and then took a little tour of the area in our antique cars. We had a yellow 1936 Oldsmobile Touring Sedan driven by me with Marty and her folks riding, a Washington blue 1936 Ford 3 window coupe driven by my brother-in-law with my sister Pam riding. Rod Glassett drove his brown 1940 Chevy Sedan with Trudy. Doug Cronn and son Trever drove the super cool Model A with matching teardrop. Jack Jacobson had his green 1951 Chevy with Sue riding. We stopped in Carnation on the way back

home for an ice cream break. When we finally got back, a bunch of other teardroppers had arrived. This included Ed/Linda Kelson with their truck and LOW teardrop trailer, Bob and Tonya Book in their pickup with their teardrop and Dick/Judy Gue along with their twin girls. Everyone got settled and we got Jack and Sue's car, my blue/blue 1931 Model A and Ed/Linda's truck and teardrop trailer ready for entry in the next day's "Hot Rods and Harley's Show". Then we all crashed for the evening.

On the Fourth, everyone was up early and most everyone headed for Carnation for the pancake breakfast and to put our vehicles into the show. At 10:30 we watched the Kiddy Parade and then the "Grand Parade" at 11:00. The folks with their cars in the show also got to join in the parade near the end and we drove through town. Ed, Rod and Jack had a great time with Rod riding in Ed's truck and Jack behind. They were cooking burgers on Ed's teardrop outrigger grill and would stop, lower the trailer on the ground, then all jump out with Rod holding an umbrella for Ed and run to the back of the trailer to flip the burgers. Jack would jump from his car and run up with the salt and pepper. It was quite funny! We had just a few sprinkles before and after the parade, but it was quite nice weather.

Many folks toured the town a bit after the parade then went on back to our place. Those of us in the car show had to stay there until 3:00 PM. Ed and Linda won an award at the show. By then a whole bunch of my teardropless friends and neighbors were arriving for the Pot Luck. I gave a bunch of kids (and even some older folks who, like me, refuse to grow up) rides in my 1928 Model A roadster with the rumble seat while my brother-in-law did the same with his 1936 Ford 3 Window Coupe (also with rumble seat). My kind neighbors jumped in and started cooking the burgers and hot dogs for me such that I didn't even have to cook. We had some great food with everyone bringing something. My mother-in-law, Margaret, made some fantastic Carolina style baby back pork ribs. Everyone had more than enough food and drink (we had a supply of beer and soda available). Towards dusk, everyone headed back into Carnation for the fireworks. It was drizzling a bit, and then just when they shot off the first of the fireworks, the sky opened up and it just poured. Some of us had umbrellas, others watched from the cars, but most got a bit drenched. However, it was a fine fireworks display and worth getting soaked for.

Don Ennis and his son Phil showed up with their two trailers. One contained a vintage Harley Davidson Scooter. I had never seen one of these before. These teardrop trailers open up and actually allow you to roll a motor scooter up into them. Don returned the next day with another trailer that was large enough to actually put a full sized Harley into. I am interested in this one for perhaps taking my Harley to Milwaukee next year for Harley-Davidson's 100th Anniversary party. Doug Stauffer also arrived on the Fourth with his '56 Benroy teardrop. My sister was there with their fifth-wheel camper and some friends from Portland showed up in their pickup camper. So, I think we had a total of seven teardrop rigs camping and two other camper vehicles. Plus, the Ennis duo stopped by with their teardrops. Marty and I had planned on sleeping in ours, but we ran out of steam and did not get it ready in time.

On Friday, we slept in a bit, then packed a picnic lunch and headed up to Snoqualmie Falls driving our old cars with the Gues in their VW Bug. We had our picnic, viewed the falls and then went on up to Snoqualmie and spent some time in the RR station and the antique store next door. We walked down the street a bit and everyone enjoyed some ice cream. Once back in the cars, we decided to do a bit of a tour, so we drove up SR 203 almost to Duval, WA, then across the river and back down the valley past the Carnation dairy (now Nestlé). Our cars ran very well, it was a beautiful day, the scenery was great and we all had a great time.

Back at our place, we all got the Dutch oven cooking under way. Marty and I used our new Dutch oven. Marty made some scallop potatoes that turned out great. So did everyone else's Dutch-oven treat. We had a ton of food, but managed to eat almost all of it. After dinner, we played some games until it was time to turn in. Some folks left for home or places unknown on Friday evening.

On Saturday, we got up a bit late and most folks started packing up for home. The men decided we just had to see the Antique Tractor Show just down Snoqualmie River Road a mile or two, so off we went while several of the women played an exhausting round of horseshoes. On returning, everyone packed up, said our goodbyes and headed home. It felt lonely seeing them head down the driveway. Someone requested that we all try to get into the parade with our cars and trailers next year and perhaps hand out TOW information leaflets, throw candy, etc. I'll be looking into this to try to find out what it takes for TOW to be an entry in the parade. We hope that all will be coming back next year. (Ed: "Thanks Ken – this is a great report!!")

THE TRUCK SHOW AT ANTIQUE POWERLAND! ! !

Submitted by Jim and Sheila Abbott

Five teardroppers found themselves relaxing under shade trees with grass under our feet while people of all sorts walked around the grounds in Brooks, Oregon on August 24, 2002. Not only were there all sorts of people, there were all sorts of trucks from all sorts of occupations. There were logging trucks, old and new, with unbelievable stories you could listen to all day told by the old-timers. There were modern refrigerated trucks like the Pepsi one handing out free Pepsi products. We could go on but you just have to see it to appreciate it. Some of us enjoyed the Pacific NW Truck Museum with its huge collection of trucks. We could watch a video of a Kenworth at Bonneville Salt Flats trying to set a new record and a Kenworth running a timed race up Pikes Peak - that was a thrill!!!

There were food booths just in case we didn't bring our lunch and a BBQ for dinner if you chose to stay and eat. For those bargain hunters there was even a swap meet!!! It was a fun, relaxing day. The cost for entry was a whopping \$5.00 that included a dash plaque as well as a "goody bag". The people running the show were very cordial and accommodating. If you'd like to participate in this very low-key, relaxing day next year, mark your calendars for Saturday, August 23, 2003. This does not coincide with LeMay for those of us who love going to Tacoma but it will in following years. Please come join us!!!

Johnny Johnson from Coquille, Ken/Sandy from Oakland, OR, Marty Boehme of Oregon City as well as two tears from our family were displayed.

Jim, Sheila & Derin Abbott, jsn4d@aol.com, 503-874-0330
(Ed: "Antique Powerland is a collection of museums, one being the Pacific Northwest Truck Museum. The annual Steamup is a great event to attend in July and August.")

HOORAY FOR LeMAY AND THE TEARDROP DISPLAY! ! !

By Katie Boehme - Dateline: August 31st, 2002

Driving in from Canada, California, Washington and Oregon, a record twenty-one little tiny teardrops snuggled together on the lawn at LeMay's Marymount Campus. We were all spit and polish, ready to charm the on-lookers. As we parked, door to open door, believe me the "Lonely Tears" (Terry Fahrendorf and Fred Group) were *not* lonely and the "Cozy Cruiser" (Dick and Judy Gue) were *very* cozy indeed! No "reeling and a rockin" in these tight quarters just "a snoozing and a snoring"!

The surprise and delight of the weekend was the arrival of Matt and Stacy Basher. Their tear brought audible "o-o-h's" and "a-a-h's" as the teardroppers gathered round. Matt razzle-dazzled us as his tear lowered to the ground, the mighty hatch was lifted and out rolled a *motorcycle*. We watched with amazement as parts rolled and folded into place....and what to our wondering eyes should appear but one awesome, custom designed, home-built, air-powered tear. Ron Mechan exclaimed, "It's like a kid's transformer toy!" Way to go Matt!

Jim Smith's woody, attracted even more attention this year,... it now carries a gorgeous matching wood boat with its own fish finder. He keeps perfecting "perfection" with all comforts and delights known to man. A 12-volt water delivery system, LED lights all around the undercarriage and in the taillights, a color TV and VCR and even a light in the shower. What's next Jim?

All the personality-extras just dazzled and fascinated the crowd. The cute wood-stove pipe on the side of the Abbott's historic tear, ... deluxe marble countered kitchens, ... flamingos, ducks, flames, and Coke memorabilia, ... the outhouse logo on the door, ... antique cooking gear, ...the ultimate convertible - a boat-topped tear, ... handsome Model-A spoked-wheels and fenders, ...TV sets on turntables,... slide-out stoves,... and of course, all those good looking vintage cars towing the tears. I think we will see many new teardrop owners if all the inquiries and enthusiasm are any indicators (we handed out about 250 tear info brochures). We definitely got the crowd's attention. As a side note, the LeMay Museum staff reports they had a record attendance of 12,000 this year!

Friday night we greatly enjoyed the slide show of Rick Sladen's tour by teardrop trailer of Lithuania and Russia. What an amazing and adventuresome trip with the language challenge, and no real gas stations (buy from the barrel on the street). We think tears are rare here - cars were somewhat of a rarity there when he took the trip 14 years ago in 1988. This was one unique trip full of adventures. Also on Friday, Fred Group received the long-haul award, a handcrafted teardrop weather vane crafted by Marty Boehme (good job hon).

Saturday we awoke at 6:30 AM to the "cattle call" - complements of special horns on our "wakeup cops" Jack Jacobson's and Bill Birt's rigs. Out came the car dusters and accoutrements as we prepared to

show-off our adorable tears. The volunteer spirit was running high as thirty-five teardroppers (some having already washed buses on Friday) continued to serve as hosts and security for the car displays in a very large display building assigned us teardroppers. The LeMay museum rewarded us with free hats, T-shirts, plaques and meals. Way to go team!!

No live fires are permitted on the Marymount Campus, so last year on Saturday night, enthusiastic Terry Engelstad had us all gather our candles for an improvised fire. But this year we moved into the future with the first portable, plug-in campfire – thanks to the creative imaginations of Bob and Tanya Book - complete with logs and “fire” glowing in the night (with orange, red and yellow cellophane it looked REAL!) We all enjoyed kicking back around our “campfire”. Jack popped a super size batch of popcorn in his vintage pot and we enjoyed goofy door prizes, skits (the Sock-a-wana legend) and tales amidst lots of laughter.

The best comment by a spectator this year was reported by Rick Sladen when he told us that a little girl said, “those tears are so small – do you sleep on top of each other?” Rod Glassett then challenged us to come up with the Letterman top 10 responses to: “Do you actually sleep in them?” - -. My favorites were... “We don’t just sleep there – we *live* in this trailer” or Rod’s comment “oh no – this is just a prototype of the full size trailer we’re building at home”. Good ones you guys!

It was a fun-filled weekend that went by like a marathon whirlwind. We won’t soon forget the laughter, “the tears”, the enthusiastic questions, the admiring crowds, and the “campfire”. Lots of good memories with some great, fun friends!

The rookies this year were **Matt/Stacy Basher** of Seattle with their motorcycle carrier tear (w/production plans); **Steve/Peggy Birley**, Chehalis, WA, with a brand new 2002 tear (on its maiden voyage) matching their '28 Model A; **Mike/Kathy Gant** of Portland brought a homebuilt copy of a Campmaster built in 1959 (it’s for sale); **Dick/Judy Gue** (w/twins Angie & Lui), Seattle, brought a Cozy Cruiser that’s pulled with a very, very red 1998 VW Beetle; **Jim/Viv Lanegan**, Portland, who built their trailer from Desert Teardrops plans just last year; **Ron/Jeannie Mecham**, the Tacoma area, brought their trailer/boat topped tear that’s going into production; and **Doug Stauffer** from Seattle with a restored Benroy.

Returning veterans were **Jim/Sheila Abbott**, Sons **Darin & Devon w/fiancé Sarah**, all of Silverton, OR, bringing two of their vintage trailers; **Bill/Cindy Birt**, Portland area, with their Campmaster; **Marty/Katie Boehme**, Oregon City, finally able to tour in their new 2002 super-sized tear; Bob/Tanya Book, Auburn, WA, with the custom built trailer crafted in 2000; **Elvin/Christine Dalebout**, Junction City, OR with an original restored Kenskill tear; **Gordy/Terry Engelstad**, Federal Way, WA, who bought the very first ‘Lil Bear ever built; **Teri Fahrendorf** (w/fellow beermeister **Jon Graber**), Eugene, OR, with a 1999 Lonely Tear; **Rod/Trudy Glassett** out of Marysville, WA, whose Glassettbuilt #2 teardrop trailer inspired many of the features found on Marty’s tear; **Fred Group** from the Redding, California area, who has an early Lonely Tear’s trailer, **Dick/Pat Harmon**, Portland, who towed their restored Benroy tear with the very red Pontiac 1960’s station wagon; **Jack Jacobson** (with drop-in visit by Sue & daughter), Tacoma, who in 2000 worked day and night over a three month period to build his tear from Desert Teardrops plans; **Ken/Marty Masden**, Carnation, WA, who own the Glassettbuilt #1 that they tow with their street rodded 1935 Ford coupe; **Jim Smith** (w/friend **Betty Hathaway**), Seattle, who always shows up with the most innovative woody teardrop trailer in the world; and our very special guest, **Rick/Regina Sladen** from Whistler, BC, Canada, who is in the process of building a teardrop trailer that will be towed with their unique 1939 Packard pickup in the style of a fifth-wheel.

TEARDROP TRAILERS IN THE PORTLAND RV SHOW! !

Bill Birt put together a selection of teardrop trailers for the RV Show held at the Portland Expo center over the second weekend of September. Our new super-sized tear was one of those displayed. Bill’s was set up as a complete campsite with his awesome Caddy street rod. Joining us were Glassettbuilt #2, the Jacobson ten-footer and the Basher motorcycle transporter/teardrop trailer. The show had us set up as a group where we had all of our units open for inspection. Spectator viewing was from afar because our group was curtained off with a three-foot high barrier.

The show people arranged to put Rod’s teardrop as a feature on a local morning TV program along with some of the more expensive RV’s. Good coverage!

WHERE’S DILLION BEACH, CALIFORNIA? ? ?

One of the next teardrop gatherings will be held on the northern California coast. It's called Cam's Cool Coastal Cowpatty Campout VII. Dillion beach is located 50 miles north of San Francisco. It's sponsored by a guy named Cam and as I understand it, it's located in some sort of cow pasture where you will want to watch your step. Bring your kids, dogs, lots of firewood, towels, and an extra pair of shoes. The dates are October 11-13, 2002.

Call Cam for more information at 209-839-8095 or <mailto:mybenroy@iwarp.com>.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TOURING TEARS 2003

If you have a mind to take a long trip to a teardrop trailer gathering, you might want to consider driving to Southern California for the seventh annual event put on by S.C.T.T. Next year, it will be at a campground in the Sweetwater Summit Regional Park, Bonita, CA. This is a really long haul for anyone in the Pacific Northwest. The park is almost on the Mexico border!!

The dates are Feb 27th through March 2nd. I've heard that there are more than 100 tears all camping together. For more information, call up the web site: www.teardroptours.com.

JUST WHAT IS A TEARDROP?????

(Ed: "As gleaned from the pages of the teardroppers universal web site – www.teardrops.net")

In the most general terms, a teardrop trailer is a comfortable, convenient, and compact camping trailer. Most often, it has a streamlined "teardrop" shape, especially the original types from the '30s, '40s, and early '50s. There is room for two people to sleep comfortably inside. And there is an area for cooking outside under the rear "hatch" or "galley lid"

A typical teardrop is 4' wide, 4' high, and 8'-10' long. Some are as big as 6-1/2' wide, 5' high, and nearly 12' long. Most have the wheels and tires outside the body covered by fenders while larger types often have the wheels inside the body.

Teardrop trailers as we know them first appeared in the very early 1930s. From then until about 1975, someone, somewhere around the world was producing and marketing these little gems to varying degrees of success. Plans to build you own were also available from several "do-it-yourself" magazines of the time. The teardrops popularity skyrocketed in the years after World War II, partly as a result of the returning GI's wanderlust, and partly due to the improved roads and cars of the day. They were, and are, a convenient and economic way to get out and experience the beautiful and wonderful countries we all live in.

TIME FOR SNIPPITS+ + +

1. Almost every camper volunteered for a two-hour shift at LeMay 2002.
2. Teri Fahrendorf uses a smoke detector inside her sleeping cabin to scare prowlers.
3. We're supposed to see a Rhode Island teardrop at one of our gatherings next year.
4. We were asked to display our tears at a truck show in Washington next summer.
5. Terry Engelstad has a great design for an attachment room for their teardrop.
6. Katie and Marty have 5000 miles on their new tear that was completed May 2002.
7. There's a guy who wants to make a teardrop out of the rear of a '50s Jeep wagon.