



TOW Line

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

POTLUCK GATHERING IS THE NEXT TEARDROPPER EVENT

The First Annual Mid-Winter Teardrop Potluck is on for Saturday February 8th. That date is only a month away, so put it on your calendar. This is a "because-it-seems-like-Champoeg-was-long-ago-and-the-Spring-Fling-is-too-far-away-yet" event. Although there isn't any camping involved, the rest of the fun, food and friendship will be there. You might consider to carpool it with fellow teardroppers if you have a ways to drive.

It's being held in Tacoma in the Marymount dining hall. The time is from 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM. All that you will have to bring is your favorite potluck dish. The plates, utensils, cups and soft drinks will be provided.

Jack Jacobson needs a number count, so please contact him via phone at 253-927-6568, or better yet, e-mail him at Castiron43@aol.com. Contact Jack before Wednesday, February 5th.

Jack will be arranging a tour of some of the buildings on the campus. We will also be getting an update on the status of the restoration that TOW is planning for the LeMay teardrop trailer.

Directions to get to the Marymount Campus are as follows:

1. Going North or South on I-5
2. Look for EXIT #127 (State Hwy 512)
3. Exit so that you are going East on state Hwy 512
4. Drive about one (1) mile and look for Pacific Avenue (Route #7)
5. Exit onto Pacific Avenue going South (Right turn at light)
6. Drive about two (2) miles South on Pacific Avenue
7. Look for 152nd and it's LEFT turn lane.
8. Turn Left onto 152nd and drive East
9. You will notice a new Albertson's store on the right
10. Drive past the store about one-quarter mile
11. Look on the LEFT for the West entrance onto the Marymount Campus
12. By the entrance you will see a sign "Spanoway Senior Center."
13. Turn LEFT into the campus
14. Follow the road through the gate
15. Turn right and drive past the gym
16. Park at the East end the gym building
17. Walk East under the breezeway and enter the main building
18. We will be meeting in the dining hall

THE LeMAY MUSEUM TEARDROP PROJECT

By Jack Jacobson

Teardroppers of Oregon and Washington (TOW) would like to provide the labor needed refurbish the teardrop trailer that is in the LeMay collection. At the Northwest Collector Car Show in Portland Oregon last fall, we had talked to David Madeira about the possibility of this project. We then, as a collective group of teardrop builders and enthusiasts, inspected the teardrop trailer and determined items that needed to be performed to make this trailer roadworthy. David had expressed interest in possibly using this teardrop on the road while promoting the museum. The "list":

1. Wheels & tires, determine whether to use the original type tires and wheels
2. Rewire the trailer
3. Hitch and safety chains
4. Axle and wheels, changing the axle might mean changing the wheels to fit the hubs
5. Repair and refinish wood as needed. The basic structure appears to be sound

6. Replace the mattress, curtains
7. Seal the under side
8. Clean up outside and check for leaks and repair as needed

TOW is not trying to restore the teardrop to the level of the vintage cars in the collection. That usually results in building a "new" teardrop. We feel that retaining the "unrestored vintage" look of the trailer would appeal to people and still be usable. As with any project of this type, visual inspection and what is found after the work is started could be different. Items of concern would be dealt with as found. A group of TOW members would provide labor with LeMay's providing the funding/parts as needed with the process to be agreed upon.

The estimated cost, with the variables of the wheels, tires, and axle should be less than \$1,000.00. The TD would be trailered to Ken Masden's shop in Carnation, Washington where the work will be done. TOW could pick up the trailer on February 8, 2003, which is the date TOW is hoping for to have a potluck meeting at Marymount. TOW's target date for completion would be early summer.

FIFTH ANNUAL OREGON TEARDROP CAMPOUT

By Trudy Glassett

Once again Gary Wampole and his crew put together a great teardrop gathering in Champoeg, Oregon. Old friends were greeted with hugs and new friends left the weekend as old friends. Campers came from Oregon, Washington and even San Francisco. Teardrop trailers were our common bond.

The group camp area was ready for us when we arrived Friday, September 27th, and so was the community soup pot. Setting up was done so quickly that several ladies headed to the Woodburn Company stores to pick up a few bargains. Upon returning, a total of 25 teardrop trailers, campers and motor homes had arrived and everyone was ready for dinner, sharing photos, and tales of their teardrop travels. Gathering around the huge fire circle was a must that evening.

Saturday morning dawned as another beautiful day in this historic area. The campers gathered in the group building for a yummy pancake breakfast. A carload of men took off to check out the latest gadgets at Fry's Electronics in Wilsonville. After picking up some treasures, they also visited several antique stores. Some of the ladies and kids worked on craft projects. Angie and Lui Gue, 12 year-old twins, helped Kristin Sellers, 10, learn to ride a unicycle. Ken Masden, 50+ years old, showed them all up by juggling while unicycling!

New campers were surprised at the crowd of visitors that descended upon us on Saturday. Several folks who had seen the teardrop display at the Portland RV/Van Show stopped by and even brought their friends! Some guests had seen the event listed on the "Destinations" page of Tales and Trails. Campers from the main campground wandered over, as the word of these small trailers spread. Even the Champoeg Park rangers just couldn't stay away! The Cozy Cruiser builders came to greet everyone, especially the C.C. owners.

Time passed so quickly. When dinner preparations got underway more than a dozen Dutch ovens came out of hiding. Charcoal briquettes were heated and the cooking began. At least 50 campers and friends devoured a delicious outdoor potluck.

After cleaning up, it was time for the BIG campfire. We had such a large group that we double-circled the fire pit. Bill Darland was the raffle MC, with prizes and comments for nearly every family present. Thanks to those who donated the interesting, useful, questionable and funny items. As the fire died down, so did the crowd, as it was getting late.

About 4 AM Sunday, the beautiful weather ended with a downpour. However, a little rain didn't prevent us from enjoying a fantastic French toast breakfast in the warm and dry group campground building. We began to say good-byes to our friends.

Gary has booked all the spaces in the Champoeg Group Camp Area for September 2003. Don't let that prevent you from coming, though. Give him a call or send an e-mail, so he can put you on the "Waiting List." You won't want to miss the event next year! (Gary Wampole: teardrop@onlinemac.com or 503-876-4431)

Many thanks again to all who were involved in making the Oregon Teardrop campout such a terrific event!

TEARDROPS AT THE NORTHWEST CAR COLLECTORS SHOW

Since becoming a permanent member of the Northwest Car Collector's Association, TOW has been planning to display its trailers at the 2002 show the association puts on every October. The car show not only has cars on the show floor, but also has displays put together by member clubs of NWCCA. All club displays were to reflect the theme of "United We Stand".

We were given a 20 X 30 foot space on a corner of one of the main aisles. Fortunately for us, the two exhibits adjacent to our space had eight-foot walls on which we could hang decorations. Ten five-foot American flags were hung on the walls with three large Statue of Liberty posters. Red, white and blue strings of lights were used as this year's rope barriers.

The feature decoration was a large vinyl banner that Bob and Tanya Book made for TOW. It had an outline of a teardrop trailer superimposed on the field of a stars and stripes flag. It was beautiful! It was proudly hung above the display. For the guys who worked the display, TOW bought tee shirts with the banner graphics printed on their fronts.

Each of the 35 club representatives was to vote on the best eight displays at the show. TOW was awarded a beautiful large ribbon for being one of those eight. Needless to say, all who helped with the display were thrilled.

Jim Smith showed his wonderful woody teardrop trailer. He even brought the new boat he had built as an accessory. We all know that Jim loves to talk to people about his project. He was really swamped with people wanting to know all about the boat and trailer. Later, he was found hiding at the back of the display in order to have a chance to eat his lunch. Rod Glassett and Jack Jacobson also had their finely crafted trailers in the display. They were just as busy as Jim in talking with spectators.

Matt Basher brought his DropTear to the show and had it set up in a display row across the aisle from the TOW display. It sure got its share of admiring looks from the crowd. Jim and Viv Lanegan had their Ford roadster hooked to the trailer that Jim had handcrafted from plans. (Jim first saw the teardrop display at the 2000 show and knew he wanted to build one.) This very attractive combination was also parked along the display row in front of the TOW display. A great collection of teardrop trailers was admired by all.

TOW had a table with notebooks that displayed literature of teardrop builders and plan suppliers as well as vendors selling parts and hardware. There were flyers that listed all West Coast teardrop suppliers. Over 150 flyers were picked up by spectators. All of the guys helped in manning the information table and talked to many interesting in teardrop trailers.

We knew that the new LeMay Museum would be at the show with a promotional display. Accompanying the display was David Madeira, the new CEO for the museum. The TOW gang helped David unload the LeMay transporter trailer loaded with a 1948 woody station wagon and a very vintage 1924 BSA motorcycle. The woody was set up along with a couple of tables that displayed museum information and merchandise. With no room for the motorcycle, Matt got the honor of showing it along with his display. We found Matt polishing this beautiful cycle almost immediately.

After the show closed on Saturday, a supper meeting was held at the Jim Dandy restaurant owned by the Lanegans. A great time was had by all who volunteered to help staff the LeMay Museum display and pulled show duty for TOW. The Books, Lanegans, Boehmes and Harmons as well as Rod Glassett, Matt Basher and three friends of the Harmons completed 48.5 hours of duty time. On Sunday, a new TOW couple, Clyde and Gretchen DeMoss, volunteered to help with the museum display.

At our supper gathering, David Madeira was asked to talk about his vision of the museum. His comment was that the Harold E. LeMay Museum was to be "America's Car Museum". It would feature the LeMay automobile collection along with the memorabilia that has been collected by Harold and Nancy LeMay. It would reflect all aspects of the automobile industry and the years during which these cars were produced in the USA. It will be a real display of our American history.

A BOOK ABOUT VINTAGE TRAVEL TRAILERS

Katie and I were listening to a national TV news show awhile back and heard a story about a very old trailer park in the Los Angeles area that is applying for the status as a National Historic site. The story mentioned a recently published book about "vintage travel trailers". We were able to check the book out of our local library. It was very intriguing and "consumingly" interesting. It was hard to put down once we opened it. There is a chapter on teardrop trailers with information we've seen nowhere else. There are other fascinating things included in the book that are mentioned in the following book promotion.

"Trailer Travel: A Visual History of Mobile America showcases the rich visual history of America's enduring fascination with life on the road. Beautifully reproduced color and black-and-white images culled from public archives and the private collections of passionate trailerites vividly document the travel trailer's storied past.

"This engaging volume offers a look at motor-camping trips in the early 1900s, the unparalleled innovations in trailer design during the thirties, rare and unique trailer models and interiors, and an extensive array of bold and graphic promotional material, literature, and postcards that illustrate the undeniable attraction of living on wheels. *Trailer Travel* is the perfect book for the fan of the open road and the fervent collector of trailer ephemera."

Another review states: "It took three people (Bryan Burkhart, Phil Noyes and Allison Arieff) to create what's essentially a picture book. But the design is tremendously appealing, and the content – reproductions of vintage postcards and photos, of magazine covers and product brochures, and a few well-chosen words – details a time when America was upwardly mobile, with the emphasis on mobile."

The book is available for resale at \$12.50 each through the effort of TOW buying in quantity. This is a 50% savings over a bookshop price. Contact the editor at the e-mail address shown on the masthead or call. They will be available at the Potluck Gathering.

LeMAY AT THE PORTLAND ROADSTER SHOW

The Harold E. LeMay Museum, "America's Car Museum", has been extended an invitation by the Multnomah Hotrod Council to display two of their cars and an information table at the 2003 Portland Roadster Show. The museum's featured cars will be a 1939 UTE (an Australian sedan-pickup) and the 1960 El Camino. Both are fine examples from the collection.

If you would like to volunteer for some booth duty during the show, the museum would be interested in hearing from you. Volunteer time would be a two or three hour shift on one of the three days of the show. Passes will be provided along with one of the museum's official caps.

Show times are Friday, February 28 from 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Saturday: from 10:00 AM to 10:30 PM. And, Sunday's time is from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

The contact is Veronica at e-mail address of veronica@lemaymuseum.org. She will give you more information on what is involved. There will be signup sheets at the Potluck Gathering.

THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY DAM GATHERING

The granddaddy of all teardrop gatherings will be held May 1-4 at Lakehead, California. It'll be at the traditional site for the last few years in the Antler's RV Park and Campgrounds on Shasta Lake, 25 miles north of Redding. The park is less than a mile from I-5. For those traveling from the Pacific Northwest, look for the Lakhead exit.

This will be an extra-special event because it's the *10th Annual* campout. We're told to be ready for some surprises. For more directions and registration information, tune in to the teardroppers universal website www.teardrops.net.

FIFTH NORTHWEST TEARDROP SPRING FLING

This Memorial Day weekend campout will be at a new location this year. It's being held at Cascade Peaks RV Resort and Campground located along the Cowlitz River on Highway #12. Leave I-5 at Exit 68, drive east on #12 for 55 miles to the town of Randle, Washington.

Enjoy camping Northwest style with potlucks, Dutch oven cooking, games and the great outdoors. Saturday and Sunday breakfasts will be provided by the hosts, Rod and Trudy Glassett. A feature of the weekend is the all-city Packwood Swap Meet on Saturday and Sunday.

Registration is \$10 and sites are \$13 per night. There are a limited number of RV hookups at an additional fee. No pet fees, but pets must be on a leash. To register, contact the Glassetts at glassettgang@juno.com or phone 360-659-1082. Call for more information.

TIME FOR SNIPPITS + + +

Matt Basher is putting together a caravan to Lincoln, Nebraska for the 11th annual Americruise.

Proceeds from TOW's display at the NWCCA Show will be announced in April or May.

TOW will be putting together a shop tour of a vintage trailer collection in the Portland area.