



## **TOW Line**

**FREE #5** June 2003

Published whenever  
Marty Boehme – Editor  
20232 S Jasan Drive  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
503-632-6563  
[ktormarty@bctonline.com](mailto:ktormarty@bctonline.com)

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

*Serving those who are or yearn to be teardroppers*

### **KELSON'S TEARDROP CAMPOUT**

Ed Kelson has invited teardroppers to attend a campout on his property during a rally of 40-foot Eagle RV buses. Ed's business is converting these large buses into homes on wheels with the owners gathering on the Kelson spread for an annual event. This should be interesting as I think this demonstrates both ends of the RV experience. Our trailers are very small RV's that put the owners outside where we commune with surroundings that include curious people as well as each other, the outdoors and the weather. The buses are cocoons of civilization similar to a regular home insulated from what we experience. However, as we get older, many of us will enjoy the comforts of the big RV. Me included.

Ed tells us that we can "Show the big guys what the little guys can do". This will include Dutch oven cooking and a display of our camp. The Kelson property is made up of five acres with plenty of room to spread out. The Kelsons are gracious hosts who sponsor many different types of automobile events every summer.

The dates are **June 19, 20, 21 and 22**. The location of the Kelson spread: 15045 SE 256<sup>th</sup> St, Covington, WA 98042. Those who receive the TOW Line via e-mail can also use your computer Mapquest-type locator for detailed directions. Or, you can call Ed for directions at **253/630-2423**. Their e-mail address is: [raisinldy1@aol.com](mailto:raisinldy1@aol.com).

### **OUR SECOND INDEPENDENCE DAY GATHERING**

Teardroppers Ken and Marty Masden have graciously extended an invitation to us in a note they sent the TOW Line:

"Please join us for the second annual "4th of July Teardrop Fun in Carnation" long-weekend campout. Camp on our five-acre property just outside of town a day or two before the Fourth, then on the Fourth join in the fun of a real small-town celebration including a Pancake Breakfast, Hot Rods & Harley's show, and parades in Carnation. Back to the Masden's in the afternoon for a potluck dinner. Then, back to Carnation at dusk to see the fireworks. Much more to do on the **2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>** with a Saturday evening "Dutch oven cook-off" dinner. Plenty of rumble seat rides this year, plus Model T rides too!"

Ken added more information: If the times are the same as last year, on the 4th, you can eat Pancakes in Carnation 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, then come back to our place.

On the Fourth, we will try to have the main meal around 5:00... Significant others, friends, kids, and pets are welcome. Other friends/neighbors of ours will show up for the day. We will have some generic beer, diet coke and 7up, hamburgers, polish and hot-dogs available. Please bring anything special that you or you family may need and some dish that we can all share.

If you manage to hold out until dusk, Carnation also has fireworks to view.

Please do **NOT** bring any fireworks to our place however, as the animals (and Marty) will go nuts and the woods might burn!

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

(Editor – It turns out that there are many ways to get to the Masden spread depending

where you are coming from, so e-mail them at [36fun@centurytel.net](mailto:36fun@centurytel.net) or call (425) 333-5219 for specific directions. Or, you can go to your own choice of map finding program and put in 2711 W Snoqualmie River Rd NE; Carnation, WA 98014 Because they are providing some extras for us, please register with Ken and Marty so that they can get an accurate attendance count. They have a registration form you can call up on your e-mail program. **BY JUNE 15TH.**)

## **A ROOKIE'S REPORT ON THE SHASTA GATHERING**

Submitted by Rod and Trudy Glassett

The Glassetts and Jacobsons caravanned from Tacoma to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dam Gathering near Lake Shasta on Thursday and Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. We had good weather on the trip down and camped near Roseburg, Oregon along the Umpqua River. We arrived midday Friday, wondering if we should have brought lighter-weight clothing. No need to worry.

It was great to meet up with our old teardrop friends from the Northwest. We camped near some of them and all of us put up our awnings - just in case of rain. It was a good thing that we were prepared because it rained almost the entire time we were at the gathering.

We enjoyed our time at Shasta, meeting new friends, comparing the 50 plus teardrops that were camping there, Dutch oven cooking and potlucking with those camped nearby, fireside chats, s'mores, touring Grant Whipp's Lil' Bear manufacturing shop, and showing off our teardrop to those who ventured out.

The highlight of the Dam Gathering was the CHILI FEED, for those who dared. People gathered on camp chairs under tarps, but the rain held off until later that evening. As a memento of the 10th year, each family was presented with a dash plaque and an engraved mug. The campers gave Grant and Lisa Whipp, the hosts, a huge trophy, thanking them for 10 years of Dam Good Fun! Raffle prizes were given out and Glassetts won a nice T-shirt. Rod was one vote short of winning the "Best Idea" prize (for using Rhinoliner as the outer skin on the TD). We also tried to convince some of the California people to join us for the Northwest Spring Fling, but most thought it was too far to travel.

Someday we will participate in the Dam Gathering again, but it is quite a distance to travel. There are several meets planned for the Northwest that are much closer that we will attend.

As a post scrip: Check out Mike Burton's site for Shasta photos:

[www.teardrop.blogicalthoughts.com](http://www.teardrop.blogicalthoughts.com)

## **THE NAME "DUTCH" OVEN**

I picked up an interesting book the other day entitled "Cast Iron Cooking – From Johnnycakes to Blackened Redfish" by A. D. Livingston. With Dutch oven cooking becoming a part of the teardropper experience, I thought this would be an interesting reference from which I could write articles for the TOW Line.

We've all been intrigued about the origin of the name "Dutch" oven. The author sheds some clues about this. He states that the inventor of the original Dutch oven remains in question. He goes on to tell us that some writers speculate that Paul Revere designed it. But, he continues: "In all probability, the more or less final shape of this versatile piece of cookware came about in steps, evolving to suit the needs of the American settler and the westward expansion. Most modern authorities believe the name 'Dutch' to have come about because the cookware was sold by Dutch peddlers."

Another explanation attributed the name to Dutch O'Leary, a celebrated frontiersman. Maybe he was famous because of his skill with this type cookware. In addition, the author thinks that a trapper named Steeljaws Newhouse added the lid with an upturned rim for holding coals on top of the oven. In any case, the Dutch oven was an important piece of gear for frontier people.

So, whether Paul Revere, Dutch peddlers, O'Leary or Steeljaws were involved, we happily use this piece of cast iron cookware at most of our gatherings for us all to enjoy.

## **SPRING FLING 2003 – A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL**

We sure had a GREAT time at this year's spring fling. It was held at a new location with lots of choices for camping spots. The town of Packwood, just up the highway about seven miles, was taken over for this year's Memorial Day weekend by swap meet/flea market vendors. All had a fun time browsing and buying for stuff. Lots of us had specific items we always look for!

There were new rookie teardroppers from all over the Pacific Northwest in attendance. The Long Haul award went to Sue Newstetter and John LaLiberte for their trek from Mt. Vernon, Oregon to join us. We rubbed elbows with 21 teardrop trailers, one Airstream Bambi and one Car-Twin-Trailer. Rod Glassett counted 45 adults and nine kids at the Saturday night potluck. One of the reasons for doubling

the attendance this year were the very reasonable camping fees we paid at the Cascade Peaks RV Resort. It cost only \$13 a day for a dry camping site.

As usual, we had quite a few visitors who joined us at one time or another during the weekend. They had seen the notice on the destinations page of our universal teardroppers website [www.teardrops.net](http://www.teardrops.net). Most were there because they wanted to collect ideas on building a TD. That's a great way to start their interest in being a teardropper.

Our hosts, Rod and Trudy Glassett, did a GREAT job in putting on this event. It was well organized with a schedule of events passed out on our arrival. This year, Peter Glassett designed the logo. The graphics featured a field of teardrop trailers in front of a range of Cascade mountains. Ed Colvin used it for our colorful nametags. Thanks Ed! BTW, the Glassetts had to tow their TD with a truck instead of their '40 Chevy – they just had way too much gear to bring to this expanded event. The Kelson's donated many of the door prizes, so each family received one as our names were pulled out of a hat.

On Friday, we had our usual potluck with many, many dishes to sample. No one left hungry!! Sunday featured the Dutch oven cookoff. It is reported that all dishes were winners. Trudy ran a Bingo runoff on Friday evening. Lots of candy prizes were given out with many of us winning several Bingos. Rod even tried to give out potatoes as prizes!!

Saturday, after our return from Packwood, we had our traditional potluck and our fun, exciting Team Pictionary. Everyone was a winner with many suggestions made for the sketches drawn. We heard "Autopsy Table" shouted out for someone trying to draw a gravesite!

Ranger & Dolores Travis visited the Spring Fling rally on Sunday afternoon and shared with the group their adventures of living in a teardrop trailer shortly after they were married. The year was 1941 and Ranger was transferred to southern California in the service. Out of necessity they purchased a homebuilt little teardrop trailer and parked it next to where Ranger worked. Dolores mentioned that the trailer park had bath and laundry facilities. They lived in the cozy little home for around six months before Ranger was transferred back east. After the service they vacationed for a number of years with the little trailer. Dolores said that with the growing family they had to get a larger trailer eventually. Ranger shared a number of different experiences with the group from his busy and varied life. They are a truly wonderful couple and we appreciate their coming out to share their experiences with us. They've been married for 62 years!!

A special and enjoyable time was had by all of us teardroppers. We always value our friendliness with one another – visiting times were just great. In addition, we always like to admire each other innovations and craftsmanship we've put into our icons from the past.

Check out Mike Burton's site for great photos: [www.teardrop.blogicalthoughts.com](http://www.teardrop.blogicalthoughts.com)

## **MT. HOOD SALMON & MUSHROOM FESTIVAL**

A new teardropper couple, the Steven Price's of Portland has invited us to camp with their group for this festival during the weekend of **October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>**. The location is Mt. Hood Village in Welches, Oregon. Saturday is the Oregon State Chili Championships. Sunday, it's the Mt. Hood Grilling Competition. Both will feature home cooking!! Anybody hungry?? All of us should be contacting Steven at 503-252-1897 or [spdpvp@msn.com](mailto:spdpvp@msn.com) for site reservations.

## **REGISTERING YOUR TEARDROP IN OREGON**

This has been a controversy for quite a while in Oregon. So, this editor decided to surf the web page of the Oregon DMV.

It appears that our teardrop trailer can be defined as a "travel trailer". Per the [Camper and Travel Trailer Information](#) page, section 2 tells us:

"A travel trailer is designated to provide facilities for human habitation (permanent sleeping and cooking facilities). A travel trailer is 8.5 feet wide or less that is **not** used for commercial or business purposes." It continues to describe the sizes of a travel trailer.

Thus, my conclusion is that you **do not** have to register our "Recreational vehicle" if you claim that you do not have a **permanent** cooking facility. My thinking is that a removable camp stove in a drawer is **not** permanent. If the stove is bolted down, it also would **not** be a permanent installation. A built-in stove would be permanent.

However, one of the DMV cautions states: "You may wish to title your trailer because most law enforcement agencies and insurance companies want to see proof of ownership if it is ever stolen." Fees are \$54.00 if it is 10 feet long. For 14 feet, you pay \$72.00. Every two years.

On our trip through Colorado, a trooper stopped us because of no license plate. When I approached him, I jokingly said, "Friends in Oregon told me you would stop me, but in Oregon we don't have to register a teardrop trailer". He let me go. However, you might want to have a copy of the page mentioned in this article in your trailer.

## **TOW'S RESTORATION OF THE LeMAY TEARDROP TRAILER**

Submitted by Jack Jacobson via an e-mail message.

Hello Everyone, - I am sorry it has been a while since a LeMay TD update. It has been a busy spring for me and not a whole lot was done in the past few weeks. But let me update where we are now.

The LeMay TD was taken to Ed Kelson's shop in Seattle where the axle was replaced, woodwork refinished, different wheels and tires put on and asbestos countertop replaced with aluminum sheeting along with other repairs. Bob Book then took it to his shop in Auburn. Bob and I figured maybe that was one way we could get a chance to do something to the trailer.

We rewired the trailer and repaired the taillights with new "beehive" style lenses. Bob has also has done some painting and polishing on the TD. Tanya Book made some vintage looking curtains and a nice pillow. (Editor: "The pillow cover was made from a discarded TOW tee shirt featuring the gangbuster graphics created by Tanya for our display at the NWCCA show.") Some disc hubcaps finished off the look of what we were trying to achieve.

Rod Glassett was going to try and find a vintage Washington trailer license plate at the swap meet at Monroe. (Editor: "Rod did find the plate".)

Bob needed his shop space back, so at a meeting with LeMay folks last week about this year's Open House, it was arranged to take the TD back to Marymount. Bob and I were hoping to figure out some kind of get together again when it was delivered, but it just was not to be.

Kitty Hammer, who led us through the short tour last February (during the Potluck gathering), was there to receive the TD. She was quite pleased on how it looked and stated that Mrs. LeMay was looking forward to seeing the finished trailer the next day.

Kitty also said they are getting a 1942 Chrysler ready for the feature car at this year's Open House and she would like to see, and will do what she can, to have the teardrop behind the Chrysler. That would be neat to see.

Bob and I have met a number of times this spring and have agreed that the LeMay teardrop project resulted in what everyone was hoping to achieve. A teardrop that is now usable but that retains the patina of a vintage look. Everyone involved should be proud. I know that the LeMays are very grateful on what we have done. I have been requested to get pictures of the project and a list of names of everyone that worked on it to Kitty. We have done another first for the LeMay Collection. The first was TOW staffing a building at the Open House and now volunteering their labor to refurbish something in their collection.

I would like to thank you again for everyone's help and the support from the rest of the TOW group.

Editor: "At the Spring Fling, Jack had his laptop programmed to view a slide show he prepared during the restoration project. It was well done and enjoyed by all."

## **TWO TRUCK SHOWS THIS YEAR**

We've been invited to display our trailers at a truck show in Washington as well as in Oregon. Washington's show is on **August 9<sup>th</sup>**. Oregon's on **August 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Both have RV camping available. See the schedule at the end of this newsletter for more details.

## **WE'RE INVITED TO A VINTAGE TRAILER RALLY**

Submitted by Pat Ewing

Please join us for our third annual Majestic Mt. Baker Rally the weekend of **August 14<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>**. The Deming Log-Show Grounds, near Bellingham, Washington is the location. The focus is all vintage trailers & motor homes 25 years and older. Because teardrop trailers are icons of the past, you all are welcome too. Come and see the trailers as seen in the book "Trailer Travel – A Visual History of Mobile America".

The rally site is quiet with grass and trees with numerous antique logging equipment displays to view. There are clean restrooms and a shower house available. Thirty power/water hookup sites (first come first served unless there is a medical need) and unlimited dry camping is available. There's a small playground for the children. Children and well-behaved pets are welcome. Owners are responsible for

cleaning up after their pets. There are water taps available for drawing water and there's a sewer dump station at the grounds.

A nice grocery store with gas is close by on the Mt. Baker Hwy. Area attractions include Mt. Baker, the Nooksack river, the Nooksack Tribal Casino, mountain biking trails at Lake Padden, the Dutch town of Lynden, an old time country store called "Everybody's Store" and lots of country roads to explore.

We plan on having a potluck dinner on at least one night. Another night will be a TCT (Tin Can Tourist) sponsored pizza feed. There will be vintage trailer video movies in the evenings and a nice campfire to visit around after dark. This will be our first year for a swap meet so please bring miscellaneous trailer related, household, etc items for this event. There will be a "trailer tech talk" program Saturday morning. A question and answer session will be included.

Parking is \$10.00 per night for water/power hookups and \$5.00 dry camping. The rally fee is \$10.00 for TCT members and \$15.00 for non-members per unit for the four-day event. Early arrivals are most welcome.

Directions: Take I-5 to exit #255 in Bellingham, WA - the Sunset Drive/ Mt. Baker Hwy exit. Head east on the Mt. Baker Hwy towards Mt. Baker until you pass mile marker #9. Then at the bottom of a hill turn left onto the Cedarville road. In about a mile the Deming Log-Show Grounds will be on the left. We will be camped in the back away from the little country road.

For reservations or more info please contact Pat or Joanne Ewing at **360-966-4253** or [pre52@verizon.net](mailto:pre52@verizon.net).

### **"LeMAY 2003" WILL BE ON LABOR DAY**

The annual Car Show/Open House for the LeMay Collection is always held on the last Saturday in August. We will be arriving on **Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup>** in preparation for the Open House. The holiday gives those that have quite a haul to get to Tacoma an extra travel day.

This year celebrates the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event. It started out with Harold and Nancy LeMay inviting just a few friends to view their collection. And, those of us that remember Harold looking at our trailers have a special memory during the first years of our invitation to camp on the Marymount Campus during the Open House weekend.

Officially, it's put on by the Harold E. LeMay Museum, now known as "America's Car Museum". A special treat is the opportunity for us Friday arrivals to get a real close look at some of the collection before the visitors arrive on Saturday.

Most of the work we've volunteered to do to help ready the collection for visitors will have been done by Friday. However, last year, Gordy Engelstad supervised volunteers in washing of the London buses used to transport visitors between our camping location on the Marymount Campus to the Home Grounds in another part of Tacoma.

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. The camping is **FREE** because we're guests of the LeMays. We'll have a GREAT campfire on Saturday evening. Our artificial campfire made by Bob and Tanya Book is a most wonderful invention. We have some wonderful skits planned for this year. Better than last year's!!!

Registration for this year's event will be \$10. Please contact the head wagon master and host, Jack Jacobson, for more information and questions. The numbers: **253-927-6568** and [Castiron43@aol.com](mailto:Castiron43@aol.com).

### **TIME FOR SNIPPETS**

1. See the next page for a schedule of teardrop events in our part of the world.
2. TD for sale in South Bend, WA – Call Bob Kammer at 360-875-6382 or 1-800-201-6392
3. \$2200 US funds for a teardrop for sale in Victoria, BC. Geo Wright @ 250-388-5567
4. Jim MacFarlane has his more or less gutted factory built TD for sale – 503-784-8518
5. Portland area teardrop display at Cruise to New Hope **June 28<sup>th</sup> – 503-659-5683**
6. Don Ferdinand's "Call of the Wild" teardrop plans now on CD – [donironone@aol.com](mailto:donironone@aol.com)
7. The Teardrop Message Board is a great read – link in the [www.teardrops.net](http://www.teardrops.net) web site.
8. Some GREAT camping in Clackamas County parks. Only \$16 per night w/power/water.

## **TEARDROP CALENDAR FOR 2003**

*(More details in this TOW Line unless noted)*

**JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> – 22<sup>ND</sup> *Kelson's Teardrop Campout***

At Kelson's place near Kent, Washington. Contact Ed Kelson at 253-630-2423 or e-mail the Kelsons at [raisindy1@aol.com](mailto:raisindy1@aol.com).

**JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup> – 29<sup>TH</sup> *Americruise Caravan of Tears***

Leaves from LeMays in Tacoma on Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> for Lincoln, Nebraska. Contact Matt Basher at [www.droptear.com](http://www.droptear.com); 1-866-803-1836 toll free.

**JULY 2<sup>ND</sup> – 6<sup>TH</sup> *Fourth of July Fun in Carnation Campout***

Campout at the Masdens on their five acres near Carnation, Washington. Contact Ken/Marty Masden at [36fun@centurytel.net](mailto:36fun@centurytel.net); 425-333-5219.

**AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup> – 9<sup>TH</sup> *Truck Show Display - Washington***

Teardroppers invited to display vintage/restorod cars/trucks & trailers at the Mason County Fairgrounds near Shelton. Overnight camping available. Contact Roy Friis at [rjfriis@attbi.com](mailto:rjfriis@attbi.com); 360-866-7716.

**AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup> – 17<sup>TH</sup> *Tin Can Tourists' Fabulous Mt. Baker Rally***

Teardropper have been invited to participate in this vintage travel trailer event. Held at the Deming Log Show Grounds nine miles east of Bellingham, Wash. Contact Pat Ewing at [pre52@verizon.net](mailto:pre52@verizon.net); 360-966-4253.

**AUGUST 22<sup>RD</sup> – 23<sup>TH</sup> *Truck Show Display – Oregon***

Display trailers in Brooks at Antique Powerland. Lots to see and do during this show. Many vintage trucks and other vehicles to view. Overnight camping available. Contact Jim Abbott at [jsn4d@aol.com](mailto:jsn4d@aol.com); 503-874-0330.

**AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup> – 31<sup>ST</sup> *LeMay Open House Display/Campout***

On the Marymount Campus in Tacoma, Washington. Contact Jack Jacobson at [castiron43@aol.com](mailto:castiron43@aol.com); 253-927-6568

**SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> *RV Show Teardrop Display – Portland***

Display teardrop trailers at a RV Show at the Expo Center. Contact Marty/Katie Boehme at [ktormarty@bctonline.com](mailto:ktormarty@bctonline.com), 503-632-6563 for more information.

**SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> – 28<sup>TH</sup> *Oregon Teardrop Campout at Champoeg***

Family campout at Champoeg State Park just south of Portland. **See next issue** Contact Gary Wampole at [teardrop@onlinemac.com](mailto:teardrop@onlinemac.com); 503-876-4431

**OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> – 5<sup>TH</sup> *Mt. Hood Salmon & Mushroom Festival***

Camp with the contestants for this food and fun weekend of Championship Chili cooking and grilling of Salmon and mushrooms. Contact Steven Price at 503-252-1897 or [spdplpvp@msn.com](mailto:spdplpvp@msn.com) for RV site reservations.

**OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> – 19<sup>TH</sup> *NWCCA Car Show with Teardrop Display***

Display of our teardrop trailers at the Car Show/Swap Meet in Portland. Contact Marty at [ktormarty@bctonline.com](mailto:ktormarty@bctonline.com); 503-632-6563 (more info later)