



TOW Line

FREE #9 Aug 2004

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

MT. BAKER TCT RALLY

The annual Majestic Mt. Baker Rally will be held on the weekend of August 19th to the 22nd. The focus is on all vintage trailers & motor homes 25 years and older. Because teardrop trailers are icons of the past, all teardroppers are welcome too. The TCT (Tin Can Tourists) do a great job in putting on this event.

The rally site on the Deming Log Show Grounds is quiet with numerous antique logging equipment displays to view. There are clean restrooms and a shower house available. Thirty power/water hookup sites and unlimited dry camping is available

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.

One meal will be a potluck dinner on at least one night. Another night will be a TCT (Tin Can Tourist) sponsored pizza feed. Vintage trailer video movies will be shown in the evenings. In addition, a "trailer tech talk" program will be held Saturday morning.

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.

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.

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

TEARDROP TRAILER DISPLAY AT PORTLAND'S EXPO CENTER

A great time is had by all those who really love to show off their craftsmanship used to build their teardrops at the annual display put on by TOW at a car show and swap meet at the Portland's Expo center.

TOW would like to invite all those vintage and street rod cars owned by teardroppers to take part in this year's event. Contact the editor at the phone number or e-mail address shown on the TOW Line's masthead to take part in this great show of cars and our teardrop display.

A great time is in store for teardroppers taking part in this year's display weekend. The dates are October 15th through 17th. The Boehme's Oregon City home is the place to camp out over this weekend for those needing a place to eat and sleep. Here's the drill: display construction on Thursday afternoon/evening the 14th; car/trailer move-in on Friday; show on Saturday/Sunday the 16th and 17th with teardown and move-out at 3:00 PM on Sunday.

We'll have free tee shirts for everyone who takes part. Duty hours have been assigned our group. We need four (4) volunteers is fire/security watch for very early Sunday morning. These people will be the real heroes of the weekend. Breakfasts provided free on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Sack lunches will be made for all those at the show both days.

This is a fun time with all proceeds going to support teardrop gatherings.

SPRING FLING ENJOYED BY ALL ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

This year's Spring Fling hosted by **Rod and Trudy Glassett** turned out to be a little wet. However, there were no dampened spirits as everyone had an enjoyable time. A picture of a group of us standing around a campfire holding umbrellas tells it all.

The guys fixed a pancake breakfast Sunday morning with the gals doing the same with French toast the next day. It was reported that we had 22 teardrops and a couple of teardrop shaped T@B camp trailers in attendance. New TOW affiliates were **Gary and Sally Lodholm** who brought their original 1949 Kit Château camp trailer. **Ron and Jeanne Mecham** camped out in their car-twin trailer. The other vintage camp trailer that showed up was the Airstream Bambi owned by **Pat and Joanne Ewing**,. Rod counted 69 campers and friends at the main potluck held on Sunday night. The long haul attendee was **Brittany App** from Southern California.

The tradition of playing Bingo after supper Friday was its usual howl. Saturday night after dinner, we played a Family Feud game. Questions selected by a California game-show audience featured one that asked to name the most famous sites in France. Believe it or not, the Leaning Tower of Pisa had been selected!

The Dutch oven cook-off was won by **Randy Thompson** for his Strawberry Volcano. The prize was a Dutch oven tripod made and donated by **Kelsey Farrell**.

Donya Wiland, as creator of the TOW logo was awarded one of the new aluminum-cast plaques featuring our logo as seen on the heading of this newsletter. Ed Kelson has made these plaques and had them for sale.

Rod tells us that the same location is reserved for next year. However, we'll not know for sure until after the first of the year.

A great read is the next article written by a rookie couple attending their first gathering.

SPRING FLING MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND AT PACKWOOD

By **Monique Brewer** (and **Mike Rodriguez**)

Michael had always been fascinated with the tiny camping trailers of the 1940's. He finally had the treat of seeing one up-close at the Harvest Days festival in Battleground, Washington four years ago; and that trailer belonged to our very own **Jack Jacobson**. This encounter sparked Mike's interest and having decided to "retire" from tent camping he dreamed of building his own teardrop trailer. So, in May 2003 we set aside money and cleaned out our single car garage to finally make his dream come true. After interviewing and photographing teardrops at LeMay in September Michael was armed with a notebook of advice and contact information for building his own. Now nine months later after spending nearly every weekend, vacation day, evening, and about \$1,800 his shiny new 4x8, 720 pound, "tin -top woody" trailer was ready for it's first official gathering. We took a one-night shake down trip to Oxbow Park in Oregon on May 17. All the lights worked, it tracked straight, and the van pulled it effortlessly. We were now ready for Spring Fling!

Despite the wet weather forecast we loaded up all the camp gear, food and the dogs. Then set out for the Spring Fling. We were welcomed immediately upon arrival at 9:00 PM and guided to a non-flooded parking area. Everyone seemed anxious to get a peek at the new addition. **Ed Ester** even pulled out his flashlight and began inspecting the running boards and fenders!

On Saturday we headed into Packwood to tour the biggest swap meet I had ever attended. That this tiny town, miles from a major city could stage such an event amazed me. (Later I heard that the swap meet in September is even bigger!).

The rest of the weekend we spent at camp showing off our trailer and admiring other trailers. The highlight for me was the Dutch-oven cook-off. Michael, being a former Boy Scout, had served up many tasty dishes from his Dutch oven on previous camping trips. But, Dutch oven cooking en masse is a site to be seen - and tasted! We sampled venison stew, two types of enchiladas, green beans, potato-beef surprise, Spanish rice with sausage, rhubarb pie, peach cobbler, and the best pineapple upside-down cake ever! (I'm still hoping for a copy of that recipe). That evening, everyone celebrated a surprise triple 50th birthday party for **Clyde Demoss, Jim Lanegan, and Jack Jacobson**. The cake decorations were amazing, the tacky gifts were, well...tacky, and the birthday boys handled it all with good spirits.

After unveiling a large light-up, moving flamingo gift at the party I was left wondering - Is there a limit to tacky decorations? Some have suggested a support group may be necessary for certain campers (you know who you are). To me the decorations are an integral aspect to teardrop camping. We have spent many hours discussing the theme for our teardrop and have so far only purchased some spinning flowers. We hope to add some stringed lights soon. Being enrolled in a "tacky decorations support group" would be a crowning achievement for any teardropper!

Our first gathering (although rainy) did not dampen our spirits. (Actually it provided a needed water-tightness test!). We felt like we were instantly accepted into the TOW family. Everyone in the group is nice, enthusiastic, and helpful. We would especially like to thank **Rod and Trudy Glassett** for all their efforts organizing, planning, and pulling off a great weekend outing. We would also like to thank **Ed Ester** for all of his willing advice on the intricacies of the building process. His experience proved invaluable for saving time, money, and headaches on many occasions. Thanks Ed! (Editor – That's a great thing all teardroppers do.)

Since Spring Fling we have traveled to the Masdens for Fourth of July (that's a story unto itself - thanks Ken & Marty), the Oregon Coast, Mt. Adams, and Beacon Rock totaling about 1,000 miles! We hope to squeeze in a trip to the Redwoods in California, another trip to the beach, and the Champoeg gathering this year. Spring Fling 2004 will always hold a special place in our hearts as our first official Teardrop Gathering. Thanks again! Happy Trails!

MIKES TEARDROP TRAILER

I've often wondered if an old tent trailer chassis could be used as a base for a homebuilt teardrop trailer. Well, Mike Rodriguez has done it! All who have seen his TD are very impressed with the craftsmanship and ingenuity he put into his project.

One feature is the running board he added to each side. When asked about it, he told me that the main tent trailer chassis was wider than four (4) feet. In addition, there were extensions out from each side. Not wanting to do any welding modifications, he built a four-foot wide cabin on the main chassis and then mounted running boards to cover up the frame extensions. Very ingenious!

Finished with aluminum fenders, bright wheel rims and an aluminum top, this teardrop is a real looker!! With its birch plywood sides, he can rightly call it a "tin-top woody".

CARNATION FOURTH

Ken and Marty Masden extended their traditional hospitality and generosity to all of us that attended the gathering on their property. Lots of things were happening all the time during this Fourth of July weekend. The breakfasts and dinners were great. Word got around that one sleepy couple (at 10:15 AM) was about to have the coroner called to wake them the morning we had omelet in the bag!

A first-time feature this year was the horse and wagon rides that a neighbor gave to all the campers. Another was the hayrides in a wagon pulled by one of Ken's antique John Deere tractors. The usual rumble seat tours on nearby country roads were given in a few of the vintage cars in Ken's stable. This editor was thrilled to drive a Model A where a challenge for this 1928 car was the requirement to double clutch through the gears. What fun to give rides in this icon from the past.

The nearby town of Carnation provided a parade and fireworks. A car show had entries from a few of our teardroppers. Trophies and award ribbons were won by **Ed Avila, Jack Jacobson, Jim Lanegan** and **Doug Cronn**.

On one of the evenings we saw a map of the United States pinned to the wall. **Trudy Glassett** led the discussion about a proposed caravan of teardrops to Minden, Nebraska for next June's International Teardrop Gathering. No decisions were made. One proposal would be to meet on the Friday before and take a week with sightseeing on the way. Mapquest tells this editor that it's only 1500 miles away from Oregon City and takes 22.5 hours to drive. Sounds like this is more than a one-day drive.

TEARDROP VIRGIN NO MORE

By **Wendy Hughes-Jelen**

What began as a mirage last February soon blew up into a full-fledged obsession. Wondering aloud to my husband, Steve, one night while driving in the car (a 2003 MINI Cooper) I said, gee, wouldn't it be neat if there was a small trailer we could pull behind the car so we could go camping. Having passed the age of the ability to sleep on the ground (and on in-laws living room floors), alternatives must exist. I may have seen something somewhere in the past - I didn't have any real picture in my head of what something towable behind a MINI would look like. So I first went to my old friend Google and searched on "small camping trailer". Just a little ways down the page was a listing for "Tiny Tears Teardrop Trailer Homepage" and I thought the name was so cute I clicked on it. I didn't really like the picture of what they had on their page, but now I had a new keyword to Google: teardrop trailer. And then you have literally hundreds of web sites discussing teardrop trailers.

I knew within a very short time I really wanted one, and my husband fell right in line with this idea. I would email him links and pictures at work, soon he was doing searches on his own and sending

me information I hadn't found yet. We verified the towing capabilities of the MINI CVT, figured out how to tow it, how much it was all going to cost and - where were we going to get the money? We read so many web sites, we would be up until late at night going cross-eyed with all our ideas and all the options available. Yet we still had not seen one in person. On one web site I found photos from a gathering and there was a map associated with it and people who had attended could put themselves on this map. There were about five people in the Seattle area. So I surfed over to dexionline.com and looked folks up in the online phone book. People in the Seattle area were coming home to answering machine messages like "I know this is kind of a weird request, but I found a web site where you said you had a teardrop trailer and we're thinking of buying one - I was wondering if I could come over to your house to see it?" I found three parties listed and left messages - one person called me back. And he lived four blocks from us. We hopped right into the car and buzzed over to see our first real-life teardrop.

We really liked what we saw - and asked where he got his. He said a cabinetmaker in Burien, **Ed Ester**, builds them. Next we asked, with a trembling voice, do you have his phone number? On the cell phone once back in the car, we called up Ed and were out later that same day admiring five of them in a small warehouse. Just sitting there. To think of all the effort we went to find him and those little tears - and there they were sitting in the next town. Amazing - and now we could relax knowing they were so close.

The desire to customize (and find some of the money needed to make the purchase) won out over instant gratification. Ed built a whole new teardrop for us rather than modify one he already had made. He was really great in that we changed a few things - including having a cabinet built to hold a nine-inch TV/DVD/CD player in the sleeping cabin - we brought him the TV in April. He also put it on a brake axle, which will help out our little car. Later we brought him vintage 1964 classic Mini Cooper handles (bought on e-Bay), to be told they wouldn't work on the doors, but he pulled out a catalog and we found something else that looked very similar. One day he called us up and asked us if we wanted to come pick out the cabinet colors? We hopped right into the car. Another day we came across a huge sale at the Bon and purchased bedding for our little teardrop - and an extra duvet cover for **Barb Ester**, the "interior decorator", to cut up for the curtains. There was so much material she even made matching pillow shams. Green was our theme - so there were also dishes, silverware and other things needed for our new little kitchen. We were amazed at how quickly the money flowed into this little recreational investment - but we did it all with a smile since we knew we would have years of fun in our new little teardrop.

Ed and Barb told us about TOW in April and we'd been receiving the newsletter and were itching to be a part of the crowd. Ed promised us we would have it before the Fourth of July so we could attend our first campout at **Ken Masdens** in Carnation. We picked it up the Sunday before and spent the week airing it out (it still smells like fresh oak stain) and making sure we had everything we needed. Saturday, July third we pulled into our first campout and were greeted with, "We heard a MINI was coming, welcome!" and lots of hands to help us get unhitched and our green matching EZ-UP up.

There were so many tears there, all different, we had a really great time meeting so many people we had been seeing pictures of for months on the Internet. When asked how long we'd had our trailer, we said less than a week and we were yet to sleep in it! We were teased about there being some sort of initiation - luckily that never materialized. On Saturday night when everyone else went into town for spaghetti we stayed at camp and Steve, tried out his first Dutch oven recipe on my parents (visiting from Monroe). Aside from the massive mosquitoes, we had a great time - and our answer to that was on day two we locked ourselves inside our teardrop and watched a movie.

Our first night was a little rough - I remember turning over a lot and then sometime after 2:00 AM, lying awake, hearing coyotes yip yip what seemed like not too far away. I lay there for another ten minutes trying to not admit I now had to use the restroom - and finally dragged my husband out of bed to escort me. Both mornings, while sitting there at the bottom of the hill and drinking tea, we watched deer wander through. It was really amazing. And then there were all of the classic cars we got to ride around in. One rumble seat ride was enough for me, but I have to say the Morris 8 was the most fun - because it was the smallest car there and reminded me of our MINI.

The second night we slept a little better - I think it just takes getting used to. Also, I've been told, memory foam. I am going to have to get some of that! I want to thank everyone for being so nice and for giving us so much advice. We knew we would have a good time just sitting around and visiting with people and exploring their different teardrops. And the meals were really fabulous.

We have a lot of plans for our new Cooper/teardrop combination. It's already been on display down by Alki Beach, and planned events include the BMW Concours d'Elegance (in the Display category - we're hoping to win People's Choice), and then we go international to Vancouver, BC with other MINIs in an attempt to break the Guinness Book world record on the longest line of MINIs (or Minis) in one place,

all strung together in a giant Mini Dragon through Chinatown (we're hoping someone will let us camp in their driveway). We will be at a West Seattle community festival, the Mt. Baker Vintage Trailer Rally and then go on tour with Brass Band Northwest to Lake Chelan and Leavenworth (Steve is on the Board of Directors, and we will be using the teardrop as our little store of BBNW merchandise). This is all practice, leading up to the really big trip in September. "Route 66 or Bust", we're taking off for two whole weeks and driving to Chicago to catch the beginning of old Route 66 and then are following it through the first six states to Albuquerque, New Mexico for a few days to visit friends. We return to the Northwest via UT, CO, and Crater Lake in Oregon.

Our MINI Cooper/teardrop combination (the car is GRNSTRK, the drop is TRSTRK) lends new meaning to the MINI Cooper motto of "Let's Motor". Because of our new teardrop now we can even take our MINI camping!

ROAST PIG AT CHAMPOEG THIS YEAR???

Rumors have circulated this year that one of the features of this year's Great Oregon Campout at Champoeg State Park will be a roast pig. Truth to this rumor is not verified, but if it happens that would be a sight and a half!!

It's reported that all of the sites with the group have been reserved, so if you are not registered you'll be with the rest of the campers in a nearby area. There should be plenty of room in the rest of the park because the date is from Friday, October 8th to Sunday the 10th. At that time of the year, you won't have to make a reservation.

Contact **Gary Wampole** for more information. His phone number is **503-876-4431** or contact him at teardrop@onlinemac.com registration details.

JIM'S BOAT STILL FOR SALE

By **Jim Smith**

Yeah the boat is still for sale. 'Cept I think I'll drop the price to \$1500. That's just about enough to cover the materials. There's over \$100 just in brass fittings. Also that includes a custom made cover and oars. I just put a fresh coat of marine grade varnish on it and, boy - you'd never know that it's had over 100 Rainbow trout landed in it. I was thinking of bringing both boats this year to the LeMay gathering anyway. Maybe I'll sell it there???. Somebody could go home with a new boat. And I would only go home with one. Then I'd have more room to build a bigger one.

CUSTOM TEARDROP TRAILER FOR SALE

This is a custom built teardrop built by Larry's Tears to match a PT Cruiser. The tear has custom fenders with PT Cruiser taillights and is custom painted the car's matching red and black. TOW is hoping that this unit with its PT Cruiser can be displayed at the annual Northwest Car Collectors Car Show this coming October. The combo has won best of show in the past.

Lots of extras come with this TD, one of which is a Koolathron air conditioner. It is completely wired for AC/DC with lights everywhere. It comes complete with two TVs, one in the galley and one in the sleeping cabin. The owner tells us that all dishes and utensils come with it.

For more information, contact **Frank/Mary Rasada** at 760-408-5800 or 503-709-7000. They live in Salem, Oregon.

TIME FOR SNIPPETS

1. Harmon's Coca Cola themed Ben Roy TD for sale. 503-774-7962 & Rchieftan@aol.com
2. Pat Ewing's '51 Comet 14-ft camp trailer at \$3500. 360-966-4253 & pre52@verizon.net.
3. Pat Ewing's homebuilt rear-entry teardrop with canvas attached room for sale at \$2500.
4. Primed/undercoated steel fenders for sale. 360-834-9593 & michael1969@copper.net
5. Bill/Cindy Bert moved to Rosamond, Cal. 661-256-0570 & badcad59@sbcglobal.net
6. **Kathy Gant** is heading up the 2004 Portland Expo RV show TD/vintage trailer display.
7. **Ed Kelson** has cast aluminum plaques for sale that feature the TOW car/trailer logo.
8. **Donya Wiland** has her TD for sale for \$2200. Made by Larry's Tears. 503-624-6529.
9. The Carnation Fourth gathering wouldn't be the same if held somewhere else.

CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

(More details in this TOW Line unless noted)

AUGUST 19th – 22nd - *Majestic Mt. Baker Vintage Trailer Rally*

Tin Can Tourists have invited all teardroppers to join in the fun of their annual rally. The focus is on all vintage trailers and motor homes 25 years and older. However ALL RV's are welcome. The location is near Bellingham, Washington at the Deming Log Show Grounds. For reservations or more info please contact **Pat or Joanne Ewing** at 360-966-4253 or pre52@verizon.net.

AUGUST 27th & 28th - *LeMay Open House Display/Campout*

On the Marymount Campus in Tacoma, Washington. View the world's largest private car collection. Volunteers needed for two-hour duty shifts. For more info, contact **Jack Jacobson** at 253-927-6568 or castiron43@aol.com; Rumor has it that there will be a gang-buster of a skit again this year.

OCTOBER 8th – 10th *Oregon Teardrop Campout at Champoeg*

This is the seventh annual teardrop event at the Champoeg State Park RV Group Area, five miles west of I-5 between Salem & Portland at the Donald exit. Old or new, shiny or dull, just come & have fun in a family type setting. The loop is full, so anyone else will have to make reservations in the main campground. Contact **Gary Wampole** at teardrop@onlinemac.com or at 503-876-4431.

OCTOBER 15th – 17th *NWCCA Car Show with Teardrop Display*

Display of our teardrop trailers at the Car Show/Swap Meet in Portland
Contact **Marty** at 503-632-6563 or teardrops@bctonline.com.