

# Heartbeat of Olympia

Volume 41, Issue 3

May 2013

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## MG Car Club 32nd Tulip Rally

by Duncan & Dee

We drove "Vermont," the blue '04 roadster, representing CdeO at the Tulip Rally in Skagit County. Our club has sent teams to this rally many times in the past, but we saw only one other Corvette this year, a yellow C3 from CMCS. If we missed you in the crowd of hundreds of rally cars, we apologize. Once again many classics came out of their barns for this meet (going way back to an MG-TF, circa 1954) and gave us a chance to re-live our formative years during the sports car craze of that period.



This annual version was one of the best road rallies we've ever been on, period. That's saying a lot with our centuries of rally experience. The course was 90+ miles of great back roads, running against a 4-hour time limit to keep the pressure on. That doesn't sound fast, but in a gimmick rally where you are on dinky little roads and you have to poke around and really exercise your Situational Awareness and look for stuff, that isn't much slack. (We finished with 9 minutes to spare.)

We started southeast out of Burlington, got out in the country promptly (no diddling around in the suburbs, hurrah!) and took the tertiary roads roughly parallel to SR 9 and a SR 20 all the way to the village of Concrete up on the North Cascades Highway, and finally back again. We found only one hiccup in the Route Instructions, a "Straight onto Main St." that should have been "Straight across Main St." but that didn't deter us much. One part of the course was SO good we note it here. From SR20 near Birdview, turn north on Baker River Rd., a fine scenic forest drive along a roaring river. After some number of miles take a right on Burpee Hill Rd., which eventually pops you out in Concrete, directly at the North Cascades Highway again, and about a block from the public rest rooms. (This rally had great rest rooms and lots of them.) Burpee Hill Road is narrow, very twisty and hilly with steep side drop-offs for the unwary, and some "technical" elements like negative camber turns and slippery pavement. We went into our Pro Rally mode and "Vermont" really enjoyed devouring the road, which gave us the pleasure of reeling in The Odd Couple, a new-gen Shelby Mustang trying to pursue an early Miata. Imagine their surprise as they're going like the hammers of heck and suddenly this Corvette appears out of nowhere in their mirrors. Hello-o-o?

One narrow country road had (get this) a steep uphill hairpin right, and it crossed a railroad exactly at the apex of the hairpin, a real challenge to your car's traction control and stability control if you are "pressing on." Unfortunately, we have utterly no idea where that fun feature may have been, so it will be tough to revisit. There were also two long "confidence legs" along Challenger Road and Lyman Hamilton Highway (more good Sports Motoring roads) where you go for miles and miles with no route changes or gimmicks

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### Heartbeat of Olympia

The Heartbeat of Olympia is the official publication of Corvettes de Olympia. It is published monthly and samples can be obtained by writing to: Corvettes de Olympia, PO Box 2154, Olympia WA 98507-2154, or by contacting any club member. Heartbeat of Olympia Editor-in-Chief: Keith Frost

Corvettes de Olympia is a non-profit organization formed in 1972. Our purpose is to:

1. Develop friendship and pride among Corvette owners and drivers,
2. Encourage skillful, safe and sportsmanlike driving habits on the highways,
3. Improve relations between the community and Corvette people,
4. Actively promote, sponsor, organize, and supervise sports car competition, outings, meetings and other Corvette or sports car activities.

Annual membership dues are Family—\$55.00, Single—\$27.50. Monthly meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at a suitable location in Thurston County. Meetings are open to any and all Corvette enthusiasts.

Visit us on the web at: [www.corvettesdeolympia.org](http://www.corvettesdeolympia.org)

## Next Meeting

May 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Hawks Prairie Inn Restaurant, Lacey, WA

## President's Message



As I write I am thinking of all of you out on the open road enjoying this amazing May sunshine.

Last month, April's weather held for us most of the way as we drove together on the Blue Slough run. The drive was everything we hoped it would be and more, as Mark led the group home on a bonus windy scenic route. Thank you Denny and Mark for a most enjoyable tour.

This month, we'll tour beautiful curvy roads from Olympia to South Bend (then back, of course) on the Southwest Washington Tour. This day tour is noteworthy as we tend to stay together in our caravan and savor the winding chain of Corvettes ahead and behind. Come join us!

Also, in a celebration of club spirit, we are putting together an order for sweatshirts and jackets (and maybe hats). If you have a CdeO sweatshirt or jacket, please wear it to the May meeting so new members can see the possibilities. More information about ordering will be coming soon.

Save the Wave!

Anne Wax, President  
Corvettes de Olympia

**Congratulations to Don Patnoe for winning a trophy at the Wenatchee Apple Blossom Corvette Rally!**

### Past Presidents

#### Corvettes de Olympia

1972	Rich Lockhart
1973	Larry Johnson
1974	Rich Lockhart
1975	Terry Halliday
1976	Ralph Adams
1977	Bill Pollard
1978	Sandy Lockhart
1979	Mike Halliday
1980	Ralph Adams
1981	Larry Johnson
1982	Mike Halliday
1983	Karen Johnson
1984	Jerry Crabill
1985	Tom Kuchman
1986	Larry Johnson
1987	Duncan Johnson
1988	Skip Burch
1989	Jim Turcotte
1990	Karen Johnson
1992	Tom Kuchman
1991	Ron Zielin
1993	Roy Scioli
1994	Tom Hanson
1995	Tom Kuchman
1996	Peggy Rogers
1997	Peggy Rogers
1998	Karen Johnson
1999	Randy Harris
2000	Randy Harris
2001	Jim Turcotte
2002	Peggy Rogers
2003	Peggy Rogers
2004	Vince Puntenev
2005	Vince Puntenev
2006	Vince Puntenev
2007	Brian Cousineau
2008	Peggy Rogers
2009	Meagan Renick
2010	Meagan Renick
2011	Meagan Renick
2012	Meagan Renick

## MG Car Club 32nd Tulip Rally (Continued)

and you start to wonder if you did something wrong and are Thoroughly Lost. That is different from just plain ordinary Lost. Those sections were doubly troubling because rally cars were on multiple routes that crossed and reversed, so we met rally cars coming at us from just everywhere.

How did we know they were rally cars? We all had old-school shoe polish numbers painted on our windshields to obscure the navigator's visibility. That is, we had them until the rain and wipers dissolved the numbers into little flecks of white that stuck all over the body and made the Lot Boy's next car washing job more interesting. Overall we prefer our club's technique of using little stick-on fluorescent windshield "meatballs" with the car number on them in indelible marker.

The clues/gimmicks weren't too ridiculous, although one never knows how the scorers will interpret your answers. We really liked the one about "a black cat left out in the rain," which referred to a super-obscure black Jaguar XK-E V-12 coupe abandoned in the blackberries beside somebody's barn. This rally has traditionally included generic trivia questions, and that concept is now "past its pull date" because 21st Century navigators just ask their smartphones for the answers. There was at least one trivia question that could be answered by what you saw along the route. It was something like "True/False: Valley Buzz is the local gossip newspaper." Just down the road we spotted a sign for the Valley Buzz Bee Farm and Apiary. Fairly cool.

To the uninitiated, rallying makes no sense at all. You drive hundreds of miles to/from the start (sometimes through rain and slop or worse) and then drive around even more on roads no normal person would ever take, all in an attempt to spot roadside items nobody cares about, plus you spend hundreds of dollars on gas/food/hotel along the way. But all this is WHAT WE DO as motor enthusiasts going out on our adventures in Sports Motoring. If the ordinary people don't get it, well, that's just too bad.

## Blue Slough and Lunch A tour report

*By Denny and Josette*

Thirteen shiny corvettes gathered in the Barns and Noble parking lot on Sunday, April 28 with the compelling promise of Blue Slough Road and a good meal. The drivers and passengers included Denny and Josette, Lee Cousineau and Jim Gould, Billy and Wendy, Will, Keith, Bob and Marge, Mark and Kathi, Anne, Shoshanah, Brian and Betsy, Carolyn, Don and Megan, and Don and Cindy (visitors).

In a brief drivers meeting, we agreed that Lee, Billy, and Will, as the most "active" drivers, should start out in the front of the entourage behind Denny and Josette. Then at 10:02 we were off, heading north through the parking lot, turning right on Cooper Point Road, and driving slowly out to State Highway 101 so everyone could catch up with the lead cars.

Once we went right onto 101, we were truly on our way. Then after no more than a mile, a light rain started to fall. Thankfully current corvette models don't leak so onward we went! Traffic stayed relatively heavy on

Highway 12 through the Black Hills, so we drove primarily in the left lane at just over the posted speed limit.

As we drove by the Summit Lake turnoff, Allison called Josette to say she was just leaving her Mud Bay home. We agreed that she could catch up with us at our first break at the Chevron Station in Montesano. And so we were soon to become a 14-Corvette tour.

Fortunately, the rain stopped and the sun started to break through the clouds by the time we passed by Satsop. As a result, we enjoyed a rain-free break at Montesano. At the driver's meeting before heading out to Blue Slough Road, we organized ourselves into two groups: 1. those who wanted to drive fast through Blue Slough Road behind Denny and Josette, and 2. the remaining drivers behind Anne.

We headed South and West on State Highway 107, taking care not to exceed the 40 miles per hour speed limit in the first leg through the Montesano industrial area. Upon reaching Blue Slough Road, we turned right and with great luck did not catch up with any cars for a full three exhilarating miles.

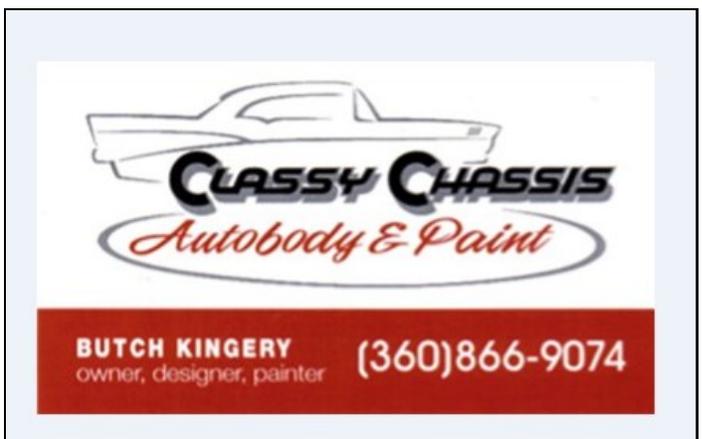
At the end of Blue Slough Road we turned left onto Highway 101 and headed South over the foothills and on to Clark's restaurant. Once again, Clark's restaurant did not disappoint: while service was a little slow, they did serve up award-winning milkshakes, burgers, sandwiches, salads, and desserts. An hour later we were all full and ready for the trip back to Olympia.

The tour plan called for doubling back on the same route to Olympia. Mark volunteered to lead all those who were interested on a side trip from Elma past the Little Creek Casino to Highway 101. Most everyone thought that was a good idea.

North we went from Clark's Restaurant, back over the foothills, then right onto a dry Blue Slough Road for a great four mile run. From there we turned left onto Highway 107 for an uneventful drive to the Chevron Station at Montesano.

Leaving Montesano 20 minutes later, we entered highway 12 heading east and found the freeway dominated by lumbering motor homes. As a result, it took some time for everyone to catch up, after which we cruised to Elma where Mark led the majority of the cars off the freeway and on their way past Little Creek to Highway 101.

A few of us had a quiet drive over the Black Hills to Olympia to end an all-around fun day!



## Driving in a Parade

There's nothing like driving your Corvette down the middle of Main Street in front of the whole town. Whether you are the driver for a homecoming queen or dignitary, or just displaying club fiberglass, here are a few pointers.

### Before the Parade

- People love seeing our Corvettes' parade by, so shine up your rig to do them justice.
- Make sure your Vette is up driving at 5 mph for up to an hour, or risk the embarrassment of having to pull to the side of road in the middle of the parade.

### The Day of the Parade

The group will gather outside the parade route to work out the vehicle order, make last minute dignitary and princesses passenger arrangements, and hang out.

- The coordinator will orchestrate arranging our cars in a colorful pattern, arrange for those dignitaries and princesses, and where to drop them off after the parade.
- Also, the parade officials always appreciate when we decorate our cars to support the parade theme.

### Transporting People

If you are transporting another person in your Vette, you should decide on where that person will sit.

- For T-top Corvettes passengers can sit on the top of the seat back, or on the roof at the edge of the T-top, or lean on the roof and stand on the seat.
- If you have a roadster, the passenger can sit on the rear deck. Provide a blanket or towel to protect the paint.
- Move the passenger seat well forward so the passenger can sit on the rear deck and place their feet behind the seat.
- The parade organizer or sponsor will usually provide signs for the passenger. We use suction cups provided by our club or the parade organizer to safely hang the signs on our car.

### Driving the Parade

When the parade starts, relax.

- Avoid burn outs and candy throwing
- Make sure parking lights or driving lights are on for effect.
- Stay focused enough to follow the driving instructions provided by the coordinator.
- Also, should we have to follow a horse unit, remember your autocross skills!
- At the end of the parade, drop off your passenger at the designated spot.

Well that's it. Remember, the key points to any parade are to be prepared, relax, and have fun!

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Ph (360)754-7890  
Fax (360)754-1498

**Al Clark**

## A Radio Update

by Anne



Last month we published information about the Motorola RDU2020 radio the club uses to stay in touch during tours.

Since then we have found an alternate radio that is compatible with the RDU2020, the Blackbox Bantam. Arthur purchased one from the person listed below for \$145.00. This radio is smaller, and has a larger range than the RDU2020 at a lower price. Arthur used his this weekend on his trip to Wenatchee and said it worked great.

If you would like to order this radio, here is a hyperlink to the site, and the name of the contact person.

When you order the radio, the channels need to be programmed. You will want to let Brandon know that you need to match the 2 channel RDU2020 radio and that the programming is the same as he did for Arthur Green.

Here is the contact information:

<http://www.twowaydirect.com/blackbox-bantam-radio-16-channels-vhf-bantam-v-m1/>

Brandon Ocampo  
Two Way Direct  
Toll Free: [1-888-742-5893](tel:1-888-742-5893) Ext. 800  
Email: [Brandon@twowaydirect.com](mailto:Brandon@twowaydirect.com)

PS. Fred is researching another alternative. Contact him if you are interested.

**Call To Order/Introductions/Approval of Minutes (Anne Wax)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at Hawk's Prairie Inn Restaurant in Lacey, followed by introductions. The meeting minutes from the February meeting were approved as printed.

**Treasurer's Report (Will Trogden)**

Will presented the report. Will can provide copies of this month's report to individuals if requested.

**Committee Reports****Sponsorship Update (Peggy Rogers)**

The Detail Shop and Capital Corvettes will be coming on board as sponsors.

**Membership Update (Fred Millstead)**

Neil is back, Rusty and Lynda are new members – welcome! And Mike and Sandy came back from Arizona. Fred and Charmaine will prepare a prospective/new member packet.

**Sunshine Chair (Brenda Johnson)**

Brenda sent a card out to Lee Smith.

**Webmaster (Allison McFadden)**

See report in New Business.

**Historian Update (Marilyn Trogden)**

Next month, Marilyn offered to give a presentation on the digital photo album project. This is a great way to make the club pictures easily accessible. Two people have volunteered already, and the project needs help from us to scan in more pictures.

**Scholarship Fund (Mark Twardzicki)**

Nothing to report, but it was reported clearly and without a microphone.

**NWACC (Meagan reporting for George Schwartz)**

NWACC meeting discussed upcoming autocross season. The Annual Tech event will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> at a shop in Lakewood. Great way to get your car autocross-approved for the entire year.

**National Corvette Museum (George Schwartz)**

No News.

**Events and Activities (Josette Miller)**

See event calendar for details on all events.

**Where we've been:**

- Ocean Shores St. Patrick's Day Parade was very fun – 17 people attended with lots of green. Bill sported a very hot twinkle tie.
- Lion's club 22 cars came and raised \$3000 – very successful. See the great write up in last month's newsletter. People's Choice Award went to Rich Sokso! Went on a great tour after – weather was excellent. Went to Johnson Creek road, ended up at QFC at Lacey.

**Coming Up**

- **Corvette Summer Car Show** on June 27<sup>th</sup> at Port Orchard. Rich Culley, past president of Glass Odyssey Corvette Club described the event. They are aiming for 100 Corvettes. This is the fulfillment of Rich's dream of a world class car show. NWACC is sanctioning the event, and there is a \$25

entry fee. Offering goody packs, points, food, and free T-Shirt as well. The organization is a big supporter of many charities. Come out and support this car show! The event needs judges!

- Larry and Karen are hosting the 500 Corvettes Event in Puyallup Fair-grounds to LeMay. It's held in August. Larry offered to make a donation to the club if at least six members volunteer each day (Saturday and Sunday). Enough people showed enthusiasm, so we have committed to Larry that we will help.
- Idea from Dr. Gould – It is Apple Blossom time – great time for bringing out some Vettes for pictures.
- Confirmed Lakefair car show has been cancelled.
- The three day Oregon Trip has been set. See web site for dates.
- On Aug 31<sup>st</sup>, there's a Wounded Warrior car show in Yelm. Lots of displays, proceeds go to Wounded Warrior fund.

**Old and New Business**

Larry and Meagan received their Recognition Mugs. Denny presented tips and tricks for touring. See Newsletter for the touring trips.

**Web Site (Allison McFadden)**

The web site's Event Calendar contains local events, big corvette events, and our club events. But there are great events that are outside our area, or on the same weekend as another event. To give our members more options, we will be offering a list of additional events, including links to the 'big' sites that show what's going on in the Corvette world.

The web site will now be providing a For Sale page for posting Corvettes and Corvette parts for sale.

**Raffle (Will Trogden)**

Starbucks card and great Corvette mug was won by Rich Culley, and the 50/50 went to Sandy, who will provide the raffle prize for next month!

Minutes submitted by: Shoshannah Bain, Secretary



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## Upcoming Events

### May

Wed 8th  
Thurs 9th

**CdeO Monthly Meeting, Hawks Prairie Inn Restaurant\***  
**Collector Car Cruise-in at LeMay America's Car Museum (5-8:00 p.m.)**

Selected cars will be featured on Anderson Plaza rain or shine. For more details, check out the LeMay Web site:  
<http://www.lemaymuseum.org>

Sun 19th

**SW Washington Day Tour\***

One of our favorites! Travel some cool back roads with time for lunch. Leaving from the Royal Bean Latte Stand, 703 Tumwater Blvd. S.E., Olympia, WA at 10:00 a.m. We should be home by 5:00. Contact Josette with any questions.

Sun 19th

**NWACC Autocross #1 in Shelton**

A Corvette ONLY autocross presented by the Northwest Association of Corvette Clubs (NWACC). Held at Sanderson Field, north of Shelton, WA. For more details, check out the NWACC Web Site: <http://www.nwacconline.com/>

Fri-Mon 24-27th

**42nd Annual Big Sky Corvette Meet by The Hellgate Corvette Club**

### June

Sat 1st

Majestic Glass Waterfront Corvette Show in Anacortes

Sat 8th

Ocean Shores Flag Day Parade\*

Wed 12th

CdeO Monthly Meeting, Hawks Prairie Inn Restaurant\*

Thurs 13th

Collector Car Cruise-in at LeMay (5-8:00 p.m.)

Sun 16th

NWACC Autocross #2 in Shelton

Sat 22nd

Glass Odyssey Corvette Club Show –n– Shine

Fri-Sat 21-23rd

Yakima Valley Vettes "Vette-A-Bration"

Thurs 27th

Yelm Prairie Days Parade\*

Sun 30th

One Lap Around Mt. Rainier Tour\*

\* Indicates Club sanctioned events that count for membership qualifications. For more information and additional events, visit <http://www.corvettesdeolympia.org>