



OlympicVintageAutos



## MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ!

Greetings OVAC members!

As I write this, I think back to my last letter talking about the “dog days of Summer”. There certainly has been a big shift to Autumn weather. The change of seasons is still a few days away, but we are there weather wise! The rain is needed, but does it have to happen when there are outside events taking place?

I believe we had a good meeting at McClouds on September 16. I had thought we would meet in their outdoor patio area, but they had the tables set up inside, so that's where we met.

At the meeting, I reported on some locations I had contacted to hold our meetings at. The only positive place I found was The Family Pancake House on Kitsap Way. The Skills Center did not reply, nor did the Kitsap Mall (they have a room designated “Community Room”). I did reach someone at All Star Lanes, but they do not reserve their large room. During the discussion, Casa Mexico at Keyport was proposed. Pete had talked to them about us meeting there. They were fine with that. It was put to a vote by those in attendance and approved as our next meeting site. I hope we will have a good turnout!

We also discussed election of officers. Pete has agreed to stay on as Vice President, Bob Arper will also continue as Treasurer/Webmaster. Others can also offer to run for those positions. I have previously offered to run for Secretary, as I will not continue as President. Please try to make the meeting on Oct 16, so we can have candidates to vote on for the New Year.

I will continue to hold meetings at 3:00PM through the end of the year (which those attendees at the meetings have preferred). Background on this time choice; we moved to 3:00PM to allow outdoor meetings during the COVID crisis.

Take care and stay safe!

Prez Bonnie



**OCTOBER 2021**

**1**

**OCTOBER  
2021**

**Next Meeting**

**OCTOBER 16, 2021**

**Casa Mexico**

**1783 WA-308 NE**

**Keyport, WA 98345**

**3pm**



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**THE DUSTER**

# OVAC Business

## OVAC OWNER's Manual

The Olympic Vintage Auto Club (OVAC) is a non-profit organization, incorporated in Kitsap County, Washington in 1959. The mission of the Club is the preservation and enjoyment of vintage motor vehicles in stock condition.

The address is **OVAC, PO Box 1614, Silverdale, WA 98383**

Vehicles eligible for touring must be thirty (30) or more years old and have no modifications with the following exceptions: (1) modifications or accessories that were available at the time of manufacture; or (2) changes or additions for safety purposes. Ownership of such a vehicle is not a requirement for membership in OVAC.

Monthly meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, except for the months of January, August, and December.

## OVAC OFFICERS

### President

Bonnie Chrey ~ bchrey@wavecable.com ~ 360-308-0011

### Vice-President

Pete Britton ~ 360-535-4637

### Secretary

Kathrin Carr Janssen~ kathrin.carr@gmail.com ~ 425-870-4591

### Treasurer

Bob Arper ~ b.arper@comcast.net ~ 360-692-1465

### Immediate Past President

Art Schick ~ artschick2@gmail.com ~ 360-692-2921

## OVAC Committees

### Swap Meet

Art Schick ~ artschick2@gmail.com ~ 360-692-2921

### Financial Manager

Bob Arper ~ b.arper@comcast.net ~ 360-692-1465

### Vendor Coordinator

Dana Lerna ~ wak9dana@gmail.com ~ 360-710-9890

### Historian

Pete Britton ~ 360-535-4637

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Bob Arper ~ b.arper@comcast.net ~ 360-692-1465

### The Duster

Britt Feldman ~ brittfeldman@comcast.net ~ 360-620-5001

Editor

## LADIES OF OVAC LUNCHEON

NO OCTOBER Luncheon

*dreamtime*

Contact Ann Sears

360-830-4138

**angelannie@wavecable.co**



Seeking  
OVAC President  
Nominations-2022  
*dreamtime*  
Contact Bonnie Chrey

bchrey@wavecable.com

360-308-0011

# Westreck 2021

## Westreck 2021

The event that almost didn't happen!

What on earth is a Westreck? Seems like a reasonable question since few people outside of the Franklin owners have ever heard of such an event. Every year the Franklin Owners host their major event in Cazenovia New York, near Syracuse New York, where the Franklin Automobiles were built. That event is called the Treck and the West Coast Franklin owners host a similar event called the Westreck.

Unlike the east coast event that is always in Cazenovia, the West Coast event is hosted in a different location each year.



Carol and Jerry Weiler on the left.

we saw and visited some amazing places including:

The town of Sisters Oregon.  
Lava Lands and the High Desert Museum.  
Elk Lake and the Mount Bachelor Chair Lift and Zip Line.  
The last Block Buster Video Store in the US.  
Bauer Electronics (produces wiring harness for old cars!).

Throw in a Banquet, Trivia Night, Movie Night, welcome BBQ and a Silent Auction and its easy to see why this is high on our tour list for the year!

JB



This years Westreck was in Bend Oregon. Originally scheduled for June this event had to be moved to September due to Covid concerns. Organizers scrambled to reschedule all the elements of this four day tour and to their credit they did an amazing job.

This years event saw twenty seven Franklins from 1919 to 1931 and folks arriving from as far away as Illinois. In four days of touring



This is one of the old weaving machines that has been restored by Bauer Manufacturing, to weave the cloth covering over modern wire. Need a tracer, they can add one of six different patterns to help identify wires.

# AUXILIARY EVENTS & NEWS

Coffee

**Every Wednesday morning  
Envy, Poulsbo, 8:00am**

Breakfast

**First and Third Thursday of each month  
Putters Restaurant, Rolling Hills Golf Course, 9:00am**

Cool Car Cruise

**The Cool Car Cruise First Tuesday of Each month,  
April through September, Kitsap Mall, Silverdale  
3:00pm**

Port Gamble Cruise **Every Thursday Evening: April through September  
Port Gamble, 5:00-7:00pm**

Bremerton National Airport **Every Wednesday Night Car Cruise from 4:00pm-  
7:00pm through September**

Ladies of OVAC Luncheon **Third Tuesday of each month ~contact Ann Sears  
360-830-4138 angelannie@waveblue.com**

**Due to COVID-19, please check on the event to ensure it is  
still taking place.**



# 2021 TOURS AND EVENT CALENDAR



Let's plan some great tours  
and events for 2021!

## OCTOBER

**21-Monthly Meeting  
Casa Mexico  
1783 WA-308 NE  
Keyport, WA 98345**

## NOVEMBER

**18-Monthly Meeting**

## DECEMBER

**NO Monthly Meeting**



**PLEASE REMEMBER  
THAT TOUR INFOR-  
MATION MAY CHANGE!!!**

**PLEASE CHECK WITH THE  
TOUR/EVENT HOST BE-  
FORE LEAVING HOME**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Harvest Show Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup> 10-2pm**

Aka Ron & Chuck's frivolous fritter run to celebrate Washington's Apple Harvest Festival at the farm



Meet 8:45, leave 9am Shelton Walmart to cruise to event  
FREE entry for car show vehicles, \$5 for all other cars

Lattin's Country Cider Mill & Farm

9402 Rich Road SE Olympia WA 98501

3.5 miles south of Olympia Airport on Old Highway 99 to Rich Road

Car show judging with awards

Live Bluegrass music

Enjoy National Award-Winning Cider

Vendors

Lots of good things to eat like apple crisp, caramel apples, apple pie, cold & hot spiced cider, berry cider, cider donuts, apple cake, and the famous Apple Fritters.

Tractor-drawn wagon rides to the Pumpkin Patch - Come pick your own pumpkins!



Explore the Wooden Maze - Take a walk to the watermill

Visit the farm animals.

More info: Chuck 360.584.8747, Ron 360.731.5040

**THE BASH™**  
Fona/shutterstock.com



## Brief History of Hearses



Sayers and Scovill introduced the landau-style hearse in the 1930s. This form of hearse is still popular today.

SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

In the funeral industry, a hearse isn't usually called a hearse. It's referred to as a funeral coach. Funeral directors find that term a bit more dignified and a little less frightening than the more familiar word. In this article, however, we'll continue to refer to these vehicles as hearses, because that's how most of us know them. The word "hearse" comes from the Middle English "herse," which referred to a type of candelabra often placed on top of a coffin. Sometime in the 17th century, people started using the word to refer to the horse-drawn carriages that conveyed the casket to the place of burial during a funeral procession.

Hearses remained horse-drawn until the first decade of the 20th century, when motorized hearses began to appear. Nobody's quite sure what year these motorized hearses were first put into use, but it was most likely between 1901 and 1907. Here's another interesting piece of info: The first hearse motors were electric. The first hearse built with an internal combustion engine didn't appear until 1909, at the funeral of Wilfrid A. Pruyn. The undertaker responsible was H.D. Ludlow, who commissioned a vehicle to be built out of the body of a horse-drawn hearse and the chassis of a bus. This new type of hearse was quite popular with the funeral home's wealthier customers and Ludlow used it for 13 more funerals before replacing it with

a larger model.

Ludlow's innovation may have been popular with the public, but most funeral directors found motorized hearses too expensive -- about \$6,000 per hearse. A comparable horse-drawn hearse of that period would have cost about \$1,500. But, as prices dropped and internal combustion engines became more powerful, those same funeral directors realized that speedier hearses would mean more funerals per day. So, despite the extra cost, gas-powered hearses became the norm by the 1920s.

In the same year that Wilfrid A. Pruyn was buried, the Crane and Breed Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, became the first manufacturer of hearses. Their vehicles purred along at a brisk 30 mph (48 kilometers per hour), fairly fast in those days for a car of any kind. The four-cylinder engine generated just 30 horsepower and used a three-speed transmission. Other companies soon began to offer hearses of their own. These first gasoline-driven hearses imitated the boxy design of the horse-drawn variety, but in the 1930s the longer, landau-style hearse was introduced by Sayers and Scovill, and its sleek, limousine-like form remains popular today.

It was not uncommon in the early and middle parts of the 20th century for hearses to serve as both funeral coach and ambulance, depending on the immediate need that the community had for them. Such vehicles, once common in small towns, were known as combination coaches. Regulations for ambulances became stricter after the 1970s, however, and now it's rare for one vehicle to serve in both roles.

So how are hearses made? We'll look at that subject on the next page.

*Continued on page 7*



# How Hearses Work

continued from page 6

## How Hearses Are Built



Mourners line the road in Camarillo, Calif., as the hearse carrying former President Ronald Reagan's casket passes on June 9, 2004.

AP PHOTO JOE CAVARETTA

No major American automobile manufacturer builds hearses at the factory. General Motors has no hearse division. Neither does Ford or Chrysler (or, for that matter, Honda, Mazda, or Toyota). Instead, most hearses are hand-crafted by companies that take the bodies of existing cars and customize them, making them longer and adding special purpose parts. Let's look at how this process works.

Although the ambulance industry moved several decades ago to using trucks as their base vehicle, hearse makers prefer to use luxury cars from companies like Cadillac, Lincoln and Buick. To turn a luxury car into a hearse, the electrical system and all vital fluid lines are removed and a circular saw is used to cut the car into two halves, a front half and a rear half. These two halves are then fitted onto a longer chassis, often supplied by the original manufacturer, and overlaid with a molded fiberglass shell that connects the front half with the back half. The shell is painted to match the rest of the vehicle, the electrical system and fluid lines are reattached and now the car resembles what we think of as a hearse. But the custom-build isn't quite that simple.

A number of internal and external features are added in the process, too. A long platform is placed inside to hold the casket. This platform has rollers on top of it so that the casket can slide in and out through the rear doors. **Bier pin plates** allow the casket to be secured in place so that it won't accidentally roll while the hearse is in motion. Drapes are also placed on the windows that run the length of the coach. These come in two different styles: formal drapes, made from a velvet-like material and hung in arches, like the curtains on the sides of a proscenium-style stage; and airline drapes, which hang straight down for a more modern look. The latter style is the newer of the two styles, having first appeared in the 1950s.

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The largest manufacturer of hearses in the United States today is Accubuilt, Inc., of Lima, Ohio. Over the years a number of major hearse makers have merged and are now part of Accubuilt. These include Superior Coach, Eureka, Miller-Meteor, and Sayers and Scovill, names that will be instantly recognizable to anyone interested in funeral coaches. Accubuilt currently builds 60 percent of the hearses used at American funerals. In fact, Accubuilt supplied the hearse for the 2004 funeral of former President Ronald Reagan as well as the limousines for his funeral procession. Other hearse makers include Wolfington Body Company and Binz Hearses. The latter builds hearses on the Mercedes-Benz chassis. So, how much do handcrafted hearses cost? Well, if you must know, they're in the neighborhood of about \$60,000. Like we said earlier, if you have to ask, you probably can't afford one, at least not a new one, anyway. Next, we'll look at people who are quite happy to buy their hearses used.

## Hearse Collectors

Hearses and other professional cars (a category that includes ambulances, limousines, and funeral flower cars) recall a time when most cars were large, luxurious and occasionally even handcrafted.

These cars have a kind of mystique to them -- an air of glamour and mystery -- and as we all know, any car that's glamorous or mysterious will attract collectors. And yet, until the 1970s, hearse collectors were somewhat difficult to find. Maybe it's because the idea of a privately owned hearse seemed just a little too morbid or a little too odd? But that didn't stop everyone.

About 35 years ago, the Professional Car Society was formed to bring attention to these vehicles and remind people how beautifully crafted they are. Gregg D. Merksamer, author of Professional Cars: Ambulances, Hearses and Flower Cars, suggests that the society was able to overcome the stigma surrounding hearses by forbidding any display of caskets, skulls or other spooky artifacts at auto shows and club functions, emphasizing instead what wonderful pieces of automotive memorabilia these vehicles truly are.

Whatever the case, the collecting of hearses has caught on among automobile enthusiasts. In addition to the Professional Car Society, organizations like the National Hearse and Ambulance Association and the Last Ride Hearse Society have sprung up, as well as local groups like the Denver Hearse Association and the Tomb. Clearly not all hearse clubs are afraid of associating the vehicles with spooky images. Celebrity hearse enthusiasts include rock singer Neil Young, who at one time used a 1948 Buick hearse to transport his equipment to concerts. Similarly, Domingo "Sam" Samudio of the 1960s rock group, Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs (best known for the song "Woolly Bully"), used a 1952 Packard hearse as an all-purpose equipment vehicle.

Up next, we'll take a look at some of the unusual stories and legends that have grown-up around hearses. *Continued on pg. 10*

## Posters to Think About

Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.

When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing" It does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.

Sixty might be the new forty but 9:00 is the new midnight.

The older I get the earlier it gets late.

If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"

featured on iFunny.com

When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.

I DON'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT PEOPLE  
I JUST RANDOMLY REMEMBER THINGS & GET REALLY EXCITED

My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.

INTERVIEWER : SO, TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF.

ME : I'D RATHER NOT..I KINDA WANT THIS JOB.  
@REBEL CIRCUS

coolstrange.com

I REMEMBER BEING ABLE TO GET UP WITHOUT MAKING SOUND EFFECTS...

GOOD TIMES.

When I say "the other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago

I had my patience tested.  
I'm negative.

# OVAC MEETING MINUTES

September 16, 2021-Members in attendance; 25.

Meeting held at McClouds Restaurant, East Bremerton, at 3:00 PM.

**Board Members Present:** President - Bonnie Chrey, Vice President – Pete Britton, Secretary – Kathrin Carr Janssen, Art Schick - Past President and Swap Meet Chair. Absent was Bob Arper - Treasurer.

The meeting was called to order by President Bonnie Chrey followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Last Meeting Minutes** – A motion was made and seconded to approve them as published in the Duster.

**Sunshine Report;** Nothing to report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob had emailed the financial statement to President Bonnie. She had copied it and passed it around prior to meeting start. Income for Aug/Sept; \$75.00; new members Glenn & Debra Davis, Wayne & Wendy Stowsand, and Jon Lechich (reinstated).

There was no Web Report.

**Swap Meet** – Art Schick said he did not have much info. He has been thinking of the Kitsap Mall parking lot as a possible site. Discussion followed, including info that the Mall was in bankruptcy and being sold. It was stated there would be no Swap meet for 2021. It was decided to have a committee to work with Art; those members that volunteered are Pete Britton, Sig Chrey, George Mize, Dana Lerma. They decided to hold a brief meeting right after our meeting to discuss some ideas.

**Old business;** Discussed the upcoming election of officers. Bob Arper is willing to stay on as Treasurer/Web master, Pete Britton is willing to stay on as V.P. Bonnie is stepping down from President, will run for Secretary. We will have a vacant position for President. Needed are members who will run for President.

Discussed Cruz Car Show held in August; the club again took home the Best Participant Club award, George Mize accepted it, several members received trophies for their cars. There was a big turnout for this event.

Discussed memorial for Bruce Harlow. George Mize reported on this, a good turnout, 22 cars from OVAC along with members of the CCCA and Mercedes club. All parked on the grassy field in front of the home, including Bruce's cars. He also mentioned he had purchased his 1936 Plymouth from Bruce.

**New business** – Discussed changes that are needed on the Auxiliary page of the Duster. Bonnie will contact Britt Feldman, Editor, to make changes.

Bonnie reported she has checked with several sites about meeting rooms; has not heard back from Skills Center, or the Kitsap Mall (they have a room designated as "Community Room"). All Star Lanes was a "No", they don't take reservations, Family Pancake House on Kitsap Way was a "Yes". Pete mentioned Casa Mexico at Keyport. He has discussed this with owner and they say "Yes" to our meeting there. A motion was made, seconded. Our next meeting, Oct 21, will be held at Casa Mexico. Bonnie will ask Britt to put out an email announcement.

Discussion of future fundraising efforts; Pete asked about holding an auction to raise funds for charity, another thought was just asking for members to donate money to send to a charity. Dana Lerma mentioned a Chaplin's Program for the area Fire Deps. They are all volunteers and aid victims.

Ann Sears was not present, she was going to check on feasibility of giving Teddy Bears to the hospital as we had done under Bruce Harlow's leadership. Nothing was decided at this meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 4:10PM. Next meeting; October 21 at 3:00 at Casa Mexico, Keyport.

# How Hearses Work

continued from page 7



It's hardly surprising that hearses figure prominently in scary stories and lo-

cal myths. What's surprising is that one of these myths -- an urban legend, really -- concerns a well-known attraction at Disneyland, in Anaheim, California. Or maybe it's not so surprising after all, given that the attraction in question is the Haunted Mansion.

Disney's Haunted Mansion is a ride that takes the visitor through, as the name implies, a haunted house. There are lots of fun details for the visitor to look at, including one outside of the attraction: an old-fashioned horse-drawn hearse that sits ominously in the mansion's front yard. Somehow a legend arose that the hearse chosen by the Disney Imagineers was the same hearse used at the 1877 funeral of Brigham Young, a prominent figure in Mormonism and former president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Young is an important figure to Mormons and it would be very odd, to say the least, if his hearse ended up at Disneyland.

And, in fact, it isn't Brigham Young's hearse at all -- although this urban legend is a persistent one. Snopes.com, the popular urban legend-debunking site, points out that this hearse can't possibly have been used at Young's funeral, mainly because there wasn't a hearse at Young's funeral! His casket was hand-carried by pall bearers to its final resting place. No-

body, however, seems to know where the hearse at Disneyland came from, although it does seem to be a genuine 19th century hearse.

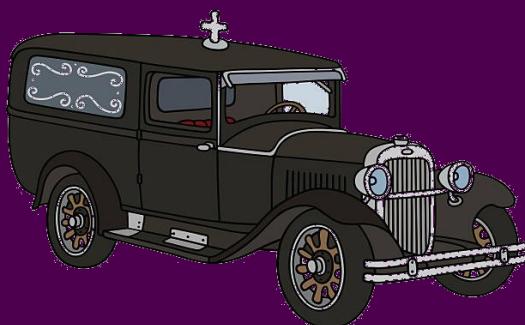
Some other hearse legends:

People who live in the northern section of Summit County, Ohio, claim that if you get too close to a house on a local dead-end street, an old man in a hearse (presumably a ghost) will chase you down a dirt road. Historians say that there really was a family in the area at one time that owned a hearse, but it's unlikely that anybody chases anybody down this particular road because the area is too filled with trees for a car to get through.

At the Archer Woods Cemetery near Chicago, Ill., a team of ghostly horses towing a phantom hearse occasionally appears in the night, seriously frightening (if not actually harming) those who claim to have seen it. The story of the horses and the ghostly hearse is part of a cycle of ghost stories concerning the cemeteries in this region and the restless spirits buried there.

Sleepy Hollow Road in Louisville, Ky., is the scene of several modern ghost stories, one of which concerns a mysterious black hearse that follows cars in the area, causing them to run off the road and fall off a cliff.

It seems that as long as hearses are a part of funerals there will be eerie stories told about them, as well as people who are fascinated by them.



# MONTHLY PUZZLE FOR THE THRONE

## Halloween Crossword Challenge



### ACROSS

- 1 Be safe and carry this when you go trick-or-treating
- 3 Lady who flies around on a broomstick
- 6 The day after Halloween, this month begins.
- 7 An unlucky cat is this color
- 9 Big bug with eight legs
- 11 Orange, Halloween fruit
- 13 A pumpkin with a face carved in it
- 15 Holiday that falls on October 31st
- 20 Another word for fright
- 21 Scary book series by R. L. Stine



### DOWN

- 1 Season during which Halloween is celebrated
- 2 Charlie Brown and Linus stayed in the pumpkin patch waiting for the...
- 4 What you yell when you go out on Halloween
- 5 What a spider spins
- 8 You'll get a belly ache if you eat too much of this
- 10 A place where ghosts might live
- 12 Color of a pumpkin
- 14 What you wear on Halloween
- 16 The tenth month of the year
- 17 Scary beings that would haunt a house
- 18 Flying mammals
- 19 What someone might yell if they wanted to scare you

**OVAC**



**Olympic Vintage Auto Club**  
**P.O. Box 1614**  
**Silverdale, WA 98383**



**OCTOBER 2021**

**THE DUSTER**