

T.O.W. Line

TEARDROPPERS OF OREGON AND WASHINGTON

Serving those who **are** or **wannabe** teardroppers.



Mid-Winter Potlucks

A fun event.

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The Gorge Gathering

A repeat performance.

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Gathering Recaps

Read about some of the fun gatherings in 2011.

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Calendar of Events

Plan your 2012 camping season now. Information on events are listed.

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Albany, OR Mid-winter Potluck

February 18, 2012

By Glenn Anderson

We put a date on the Mid Winter Potluck of February 18th (Saturday). Gather at Noon and Eat at 1:00 PM. As a special treat, there will be a very special demonstration on making Aebleskivers! See definition below. Some of you likely have a cast iron pan for making these treats and have never tried to make one. I have two matching Griswold Pans, bring yours if you have one, and if you have a special recipe, bring some batter too! We are all going to get a lesson on making these at the potluck... As always we have room for you to park and camp, but we normally don't have the weather for it.

See you there...

Glenn & Laurie Anderson

Æbleskiver (Danish meaning apple slices (singular: æbleskive)) are traditional Danish pancakes in a distinctive shape of a sphere. Somewhat similar in texture to American pancakes crossed with a popover, æbleskiver are solid like a pancake but light and fluffy like a popover. The English language spelling is usually **aebleskiver** or **ebleskiver**.




In the United States, a version of æbleskiver is sold with a commercially repackaged pan, branded as "Pancake Puffs"

DIRECTIONS

To get there, exit # 233 off I-5 heading to US Hwy 20 West. Drive about 0.5 miles until you come to Waverly Drive. At that point, turn Left and go 1.2 miles until you come to Grand Prairie Rd. Turn Right. Go another 0.4 mile and turn Left onto Chicago. This street dead-ends into a cul-de-sac, so go to the end and look Right. You will see a barn in

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this mostly urban neighborhood. It's grey with white trim and a black roof.
The barn address is 2656 Chicago St, Albany, Oregon.

If you have any trouble finding it, the number at the barn is **541-967-3479**. Glenn's Cell is **541-619-2179**. They will send out a search party! Laurie would like a head count, so please give them a call or drop them an email if you plan to attend.

SEATTLE, WA - Saturday, February 11, 2011

This year our Washington TOW Mid-Winter Potluck will be held on Saturday, February 11th. **Ed Kelson** extends the invitation to the get-together to be held in the private museum called "A Touch of Nostalgia". He is very excited to have everyone come and enjoy what they see every day. The museum, located in the South Seattle area, is in the building that's part of the business the Kelson family runs. Bring your favorite dish and don't forget to bring serving spoons. Dinner will be at **12:00 PM**.

DIRECTIONS

The address is 201 S. Austin St, Seattle, WA 98108. There are two large Texaco signs outside the building that stands tall in the air plus a sign that will say MID-WINTER POTLUCK. If lost getting there, you can call the shop phone at **206-762-2227**.

FROM THE NORTH – Exit I-5 at #162 (Corson Ave) – Drive 0.8 miles until you come to Michigan St. – Turn Right onto Michigan and drive about one (1) mile until you get to WA-509 – Drive South on 509 a little bit and do a whoop-de-do up to the Right and back over the road to get onto WA-99S – Continue South another 0.3 miles until the traffic signal light at Holden – Turn Left and immediately turn left again on 2nd Ave – Go to the next street and turn Right onto Austin St – You will see the shop/museum on the right.

FROM THE SOUTH – Exit I-5 at #156 (Tukwila/W Marginal Way) – The highway turns into WA-99N – Drive a total of 5.2 miles until you come to a traffic signal light at Holden – Turn Right and immediately Left onto 2nd Ave and go to the next street and turn Right onto Austin St – You will see the shop/museum on the right.

Contact vintageracer@q.com or 206-948-7840 for more information.

A Note from the Editors:

Many of your teardrops are probably stored away for the winter, but it's not too early to start planning for the 2012 camping season. Be sure to check out the gatherings that are planned and let us know of any that are planned but are not listed.

Thanks to those of you who wrote about the teardrop gatherings and trips and provided us with photos. This newsletter couldn't exist without your input.

Happy camping.

Gretchen & Marty

Gretchen DeMoss
trdrpr@me.com

Marty Boehme
teardrops@bctonline.com

In Memoriam: We lost some wonderful members of our teardrop community this year.

- Pam Hernandez
- Bill Darlin

Trailorboat Gathering

May 10–12, 2012

By Dan Morley

There will be a Trailorboat trailer gathering May 10th, 11th and 12th, 2012 at the KOA in Petaluma CA. The KOA is just a bit north of San Rafael, the home of Trailorboat. For the second year in a row we will be showing our trailers in the downtown San Rafael May Madness car show. The trailers were the stars of the show last year and I expect more this year. For full details see the blog page at <http://trailorboattrailers.multiply.com/> or email trailorboat@yahoo.com

Taco Soup (by Katie Boehme)

- 1 medium onion – Dice and brown in pan.
- 1 pound lean ground hamburger – Add to onion, brown and crumble.
- 1 envelope of mild taco seasoning (or spicy if you prefer) – Add seasoning to meat mixture.

Place this mixture into a crockpot or large soup pot. Next, add one complete can of the following (15 ounce cans, with the liquid):

- Diced tomatoes
- Tomato sauce
- Whole-kernel corn
- Kidney beans
- Black beans

Simmer all this in pot until hot (or simmer on low in crock-pot). Flavor improves if you simmer this for a few hours. Before serving, get the following:

- One bag of Corn or Tortilla Chip
- One sack of Shredded Cheddar Cheese
- One tub of Sour Cream

To serve:

- Serve the soup hot from the crock-pot into an individual bowl.
- Take a handful of corn chips and crush some to put on top of the soup or put some in the bowl first, add soup – then add more on top.
- Spoon on shredded cheddar cheese.
- Add a dollop of sour cream and ENJOY!



The Gorge Gathering - Stevenson, WA May 25 - 28, 2012

Hello Fellow Campers. Once again we will be hosting “The Gorge Gathering”. – . Last year was a lot of fun, relaxing and great time visiting with all! So we are having it again!! It is held on the Skamania County Fairgrounds just up river from the Bridge-of-the-Gods in Stevenson, Washington.

This beautiful site provides a grassy campsite right in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge. Each unit has access to power (via extension cords) and centrally located water bibs. There are heated men & women’s bathrooms with coin operated showers.

The 6000 sq ft. event hall is also heated that has a large kitchen and floor to ceiling glass “garage” doors that overlook the mountains – raised weather permitting. This gorgeous location offers much to explore including the close-by Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center, the Hood River Air and Auto Museum, the famous Skamania Lodge, and numerous Gorge waterfalls and trails. For more info on this locale, search for the Skamania County web site. <http://www.skamaniacounty.org/facilities-rec/homepage/events/tear-drop-trailers/>

Planned Events:

- Friday night is our Welcome Meeting; cardboard games will be available to play and/or just relax in the event hall.
- Saturday night is our “Adult Carnival” including a creative version of “shuffleboard”, Ping-Pong, and numerous board games, new games are being added this year! Please bring a “white elephant gift” for the game winners.
- Sunday evening will have a special movie presentation and any left-over desserts as well as popcorn & hot chocolate.

Meal menus:

Saturday: Breakfast - omelets-in-a-bag & fruit. Lunch – on your own

Dinner – baked potato with all the trimmings, hot dogs, chili bar & veggies

Dessert potluck – bring your favorite

Sunday: Breakfast – Pancakes,Sausages & Scrambled Eggs; Lunch – on your own; Dinner – Chill Feed (details to follow on this)

And of course the popcorn machine will be available throughout in the event hall!

To register – go to the events page at www.teardroptrailers.org.

The 4-day (3 night) weekend total fee is just \$50 per trailer, which covers the event expenses including three group meals, coffee, welcome packets, dash plaques, plus fairgrounds rent including the hall, campsite, power, water, garbage service, restrooms, etc. This is a fairground rental package where we all share the group fee (not a per night fee like most campgrounds).

Don’t miss this *FUN* weekend! Only registered units may attend–limited to 60 Teardrop and vintage-type trailers, so register early. For questions (such as trailer style) contact Jim Bailey at jcbailey@gorge.net or call 541-400-0393 (home) or 509-427-5835 (cell). See you there!

Gathering Recaps

The Gorge Gathering - Memorial Day Weekend 2011



The Gorge Gathering saw 41 registered with only three no-shows. The biggest meal was the Sunday night baked-potato bar where we fed 65 people. The highlight of the event was the Saturday night "Carnival Games" held in our 6000 sq ft heated hall.

Amazing Things to See at Antique Powerland

By Randy Gottier

Riki and I had a wonderful time at the 2011 Antique Powerland campout and display of our teardrop trailers. It seemed like there were spectators always wandering around our collection of 16 trailers. It was a very simple gathering with most of the meals on our own or us taking advantage of the many food vendors set up for this second weekend of the annual Steamup. Our camp on the lush lawn and display field behind the car and motorcycle museum was simply great.

We really didn't know what to expect. When I begin to look around, I was amazed. I thought it was totally awesome to experience the sights, sounds, and smell of the machinery that built America. All of Powerland's 15 vintage-style museums were operating full blast. At the steam-powered sawmill we saw two-by-fours being cut out of logs right before our eyes. It was awesome to see huge steam-engine tractors, a Stanley Steamer car, and lawnmowers from the turn of the last century, trucks, buses, and train cars. It was a visual history of our great country's progress through the industrial revolution.

It was a great weekend of fellowship. Our Saturday ended with a hamburger supper and a talk about the history of Antique Powerland. Pictures are worth a thousand words, but this teardrop trailer event is one you have to experience for



FALL BRIGADE 2011

Sept 30 – Oct 2, 2011

by Marty Boehme

SPECIAL THINGS HAPPENED AT FALL BRIGADE 2011

Rod Glassett bounded into the lodge as he came back from a tour of the Aurora Colony Museum all excited about what he thought was going to be a ho-hum tour of a pioneer-era collection of old stuff. The tour was escorted by the most informed and knowledgeable person steeped in colony history that was out-of-this-world fascinating. Rod described in detail the excitement of being allowed to operate some of the pioneer machinery usually off-limits to the general public. This teardropper-only tour was told about some pioneers being buried (maybe) alive with an arm sticking out of the ground with a string tied to a bell. If the body came alive, it could ring the bell.



Another highlight after our potluck supper was a presentation by Roger Wendlick, who portrayed a hunter from the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Complete with all the trappings of an expedition hunter, he demonstrated items taken on the trip, showed us sign language used with natives and related the trip by tracing the route the Corps of Discovery took during their travels from 1803 to 1805. He even mentioned what most Oregonians and Washingtonians know; it usually rains in the lower Columbia River region. The Corps experienced only 12 days without rain during their 1804-1805 winter-over near current-day Astoria, Oregon.

We had 33 teardrop and TTT (vintage Tiny Travel Trailers) campers. Several visitors also showed up to view the trailers. The long-haul award went to Sally Eastham from Monterey, California who traveled with another Californian from Chico.

Almost all the meals were provided starting with the famous TOW Taco Soup (Friday supper), a Saturday pancake, eggs, and sausage breakfast, a wonderful potluck supper and ended with the favorite Omelets-in-a-Bag Sunday morning.

In making the Taco Soup (see page 2), we had to borrow a five-gallon pot from another soup-maker. It was suggested we needed a long-handled stirring spoon if we could find one. Danny Fantoni was asked if could “cobble” something together. Cobble indeed! It was a wooden marvel crafted by both Danny and Jane. We now have a paddle that’s adorned with our TOW cartoon logo and endorsed on the other side as the “Official TOW Pot Stirrer.”

The weather last year was very WET. On Thursday this year, it was 83 degrees at the campground. Friday was GREAT and warm enough for eating outside on the lodge porch. Saturday was warm, but it started to sprinkle in the afternoon. Sunday, packing-up was slightly wet, but not impossible. All 65 campers enjoyed our 2011 Fall Brigade weather.

The hosts, Marty and Katie Boehme, thank everyone who volunteered to help. Our campers helped with preparing the meals. They chopped ingredients, manned breakfast griddles, served, helped clean up, and made the Fall Brigade a great success.

Summer Daze #1 was a Success!

By Trudy Glassett

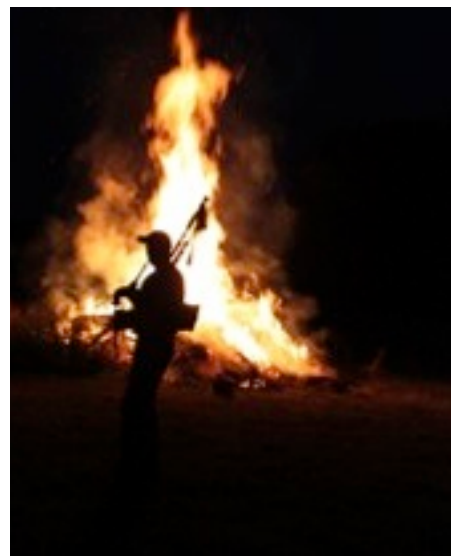
That is, if you consider the beautiful, warm weather and lots of great people and their trailers attending this “new” event. **Steve and Peggy Birley** again welcomed us to camp FREE on their golf course-like pasture in Chehalis, WA, The barn and “pavilion” offered shelter from the sun and was a great area for our continental breakfasts and Saturday evening potluck and celebration of our Veterans. The “Cowchips” used the shade of the barn for their performance of toe-tapping cowboy music Saturday afternoon.



The former “Spring Fling” turned “Summer Daze” worked out as an August event. Some guests rode bikes on the Rails to Trails, some rode scooters to local garage sales, and some visited the antique and outlet malls. Some just stayed at Camp B and enjoyed the weather: Several younger participants enjoyed a bean-toss game, while some gathered in groups at trailers to visit and some even shared their musical skills (guitars, banjo).



Friday night’s traditional Bingo was well-attended with lots of candy prizes. The smaller wood pile was torched for the campfire. Saturday’s campfire was more of a bonfire, shooting high into the air, so campers had to sit a distance from it. We were treated to more special music: Jay Birley appeared to be coming from the fire, treating us to several songs on his bagpipes, and Bill Coberly’s son, on guitar and singing, joined by Linda Coberly’s granddaughter, a high school student, singing for us. Of course, S’mores, using huge marshmallows, were made by those who wanted an evening snack.



This year’s attendance included 34 teardrop trailers (ranging from a 1930’s homebuilt to a brand new 2012 American Tear), 6 vintage trailers, 6 fiberglass “eggs”, and 2 new trailers. In addition, there were 8 tents with campers. We had 8 dogs and 1 cat who participated, along with about 90 people. There were 14 units new to “Camp B”.

Thank you again to **Birleys** for welcoming us to their beautiful property for Summer Daze. They’ve offered the use of their property again next year. Mark your calendar for August 10-12, 2012.

Photos by Gretchen Gaydos

LeMAY OPEN HOUSE NOW LeMAY CAR SHOW

This annual campout of teardrop trailers was started in 1998. It was the first gathering in the Pacific Northwest with campers from Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Only a few teardrops showed up on the Marymount Campus on that last Saturday in August 1998.

It all started via the 1998 Shasta Lake campout in early May. Sleeping was in a very narrow teardrop designed for a single. What a great time was had visiting with other people and walking around the campsite looking at the various teardrop trailer designs, most of which were homebuilt.

The LeMay organization was approached about a teardrop group attending the Open House. During a Marymount visit, Harold LeMay himself was found driving one of his collector pickup trucks. When told that teardroppers would like to visit the Open House by caravanning from a local campground, he looked around and said, "Why don't you camp here?" What an opportunity! For the next couple of years, teardroppers would appear a couple of days early, help move cars, clean buildings with the rookie campers washing the double-decker buses as a "rite-of-passage" for their first campout.

Over the years, there have been various hosts organizing the event. The hosts now are Pat and Jan Estes. Their guidance during the recent years has made the presence of teardrop trailers one of the special features of this annual LeMay event.

The LeMay family has established a foundation that is separate from the LeMay Museum currently under construction next to the Tacoma Dome. The intent is to display the family's cars, trucks and memorabilia on a regular basis. So, now the annual event is officially known as the LeMay Car Show. New features are added every year. The entire facility is being updated too. It is a car show not to be missed.



TOW Camp Site Banners are available.

TOW camp site banners are available for \$20 each. They can be imprinted with up to two lines of custom text. Typically, people include their names and home town, but you can include anything. Banners measure 12" wide by 18" long with grommets in the corners. You will need to provide the garden flag holder.

The order form can be downloaded from www.teardroptrailers.org/products.htm

Two Teardroppers in Glacier National Park

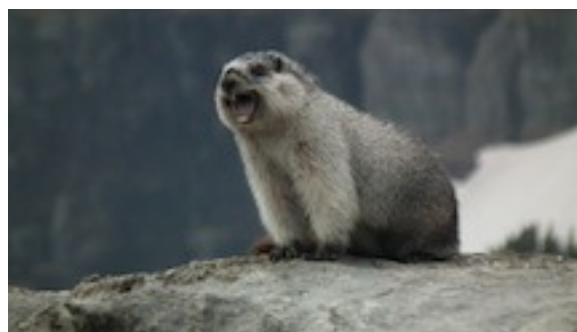
By Hiram Stumpjumper*

It seems that **Tom and Leslie Howard** (Albany, Oregon) have been traveling the Pacific Northwest in recent months. For example, we got a report of them following the footsteps of Lewis and Clark by traveling up the Clearwater River out of Lewiston, Idaho. Staying at today's Pink House campground, they walked along the same river shore as William Clark did when the Corps of Discovery returned from their journey to the Pacific back in 1805. They could visualize the toil it took to pull their canoes up the fast flowing river.

Then the Howard's continued their autumn travels by driving up to Montanan's Glacier National Park. It was not as warm or dry as in Idaho, as you can see. But the scenery was spectacular!! Their photos of native animals are keepsakes of the trip. Imagine getting that close to them.

We see no bear pictures, however. A few years back, **Bob and Tanya Book** (Auburn, Washington) visited Glacier. While returning from an excursion from camp, they found park rangers standing around their teardrop trailer. It seems they were about to levy the \$100 bear-fine because the Books had left their ice chest out while gone. But, it was explained that the chest was vintage, went along with the look of a vintage teardrop trailer and was bolted to the tongue of their trailer to be used as a toolbox. No matter!! It could attract bears! But it did not smell like food! No matter! Bears know what an ice chest looks like! The ranger's solution (with no fine) was to cover the toolbox with a tarp.

*Hiram is a well-known TOW Line correspondent from Aumsville, Oregon.



Did You Know?

This newsletter is emailed to anyone who wishes to receive it. It is sent as a BCC to protect your email from others. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for the next issue, send an email to teardrops@bctonline.com. It would be helpful if you include your home town and phone number.

All email addresses and web page links are active in this newsletter making it easy to contact event coordinators and visit web sites. If you're reading this in the snail mail version, you may want to consider moving to the electronic version.





Jim Abbott's New Spin on a Teardrop

by Marty Boehme

Jim Abbott is the patriarch of the Abbott clan in Silverton, Oregon. He and his family have been teardroppers ever since their kids were little. Recently, we had a view of the family's latest rendition of a teardrop. Here are some comments about it.

TL: Could you describe your Cab-Over-Engine (COE) Tear for us?

JA: The teardrop was built on the back of a 1947 COE Dodge flatbed truck with late model Dodge running gear. It has a fuel-injected 360 Dodge V-8 engine with overdrive transmission. Plus, it has ¾-ton Dodge van axles with disc brakes up front.

TL: What are some of the features?

JA: The sleeping cabin has a full sized bed that doubles as an indoor dinette. We put in a 40-gallon fresh water tank. It has a 12-volt fridge. There is lots of space and includes a wardrobe closet. At the rear, we built in a very large galley that's ended up being a great outdoor kitchen!! Another feature is the detachable propane swing-out BBQ.

TL: How many hours do you think you've spent making it?

JA: The family spent approximately three hours a night for the last two years.

TL: Did the whole family work on it?

JA: Derin, Devon, and I did the work, depending on who was available!!

TL: It's a showstopper. Now, what will the final graphics look like?

JA: I'm a six-year Vietnam Vet. I'm leaning toward the draped flag look (stars and stripes). The kids would like to see it flat black and flamed, so who knows who will prevail!!

TL: What ever prompted you to make the COE Tear?

JA: I've been towing my 1947 teardrop since 1981. We traded some mechanical work with a friend for it. It's been snow camping in the Sierras. Spring vacations spent on the California and Oregon Coasts. We've done many teardrop gatherings - Shasta, Spring Fling and LeMay are the main ones. We've made MANY memories with our four sons with it!! Two of them have their own Teardrops. I decided to build the COE tear because we needed more room and creature comforts. It's an age-thing and besides - I don't like towing trailers anymore!!

TL: Have you a ever attended the grand-daddy of all teardrop gathering on Lake Shasta?

JA: Yes. Two times. It rained soooooo badly the last time that we chose not to do it again.

TL: What are the highlights of a gathering for you?

JA: The people and the uniqueness and creativity of the gathering. Each gathering is different. We've made new friends at each gathering!

TL: Have you had some disaster campouts with your teardrop trailer?

JA: Other than stuck in the snow a few times and the rain at Shasta we've fared pretty well.

TL: What do you anticipate for the future?

JA: A third generation of Abbott's towing teardrops.

TL: Thanks for the interview. We'll have to publish a photo when the graphics are finished!

Scruffy, our Adopted TOW Mascot

by Marty Boehme

Scruffy is in the past now. Being in very poor health the end of last year and suffering terribly, his owners, Steve and Peggy Birley, humanely had their vet end his life. This happened last March.

What a remarkable dog! He was always with us in our travels. When the kibosh was put on us at the LeMay campout about the NO DOGS rule, Scruffy was “grandfathered-in”. He was always welcome. A very behaved pooch was he!

On the voyage to Mindon, Nebraska in 2005 for ITG #1, we always got updates on Scruffy and the other mascot on that trip, the large and articulated Jacobson Flamingo. They had their picture taken at Devil’s Tower and other sites along the way.

Many years ago, the Birley’s awoke one morning to find that someone had dropped off a very sadly looking small dog at their farm in Chehalis, Washington. He was so disheveled; they chose the name of Scruffy for their new dog. He was cleaned up and trimmed to look like his picture included here. Devoted to Peggy, he would never leave her side. For example, at Mindon, he would patiently sit by the shower door waiting for Peggy to emerge.

There was not a mean bone in this body. We all loved Scruffy and will be missing him for many years to come.



Scruffy in July 2010

Did You Know?

TOW Name Badges are Available

Nice hard, plastic name badges are available for ordering. They use a strong magnet rather than a pin to attach to your clothing. Order badges from Marty Boehme. They are \$7.50 each. To order, fill out the order form on the web site, www.teardroptrailers.org. You need to supply your first and last names and then the home town, too. Mail the order form to Marty at 20232 S Jasan Dr - Oregon City, OR 97045. Or, you can order by e-mailing Marty at teardrops@bctonline.com.





2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	INFO	HOST(S)
February 11, 2012	Mid-winter Potluck (North) (Seattle, WA)	See what everyone's been up to	Ed Kelson 206-948-7840
February 18, 2012	Mid-winter Potluck (South) (Albany, OR)	A fun gathering to catch up with friends	Glenn & Lori Anderson 541-967-8716 (home) 541-397-3479 (shop) 541-619-2179 (cell) GlennAnderson1@q.com
May 3 - 6, 2012	19th Annual Dam Gathering (Lakehead, CA)	A great annual event.	Grant Whipp 530-242-6452 info@teardrops.net
May 10 - 12, 2012	Trailorboat Gathering (Petaluma, CA)	A campout and a car show	Dan Morley trailorboat@yahoo.com
May 25 - 28, 2012	The Gorge Gathering (Stevenson, WA)	A great way to kick off the summer camping season	Jim & Joyce Bailey 509-427-5835 jcbailey@gorge.net
June 8 - 10, 2012	Cresswell Campout (Cresswell, OR)	Limited to teardrop trailers only	Larry & Zelma Boehme 541-895-2754 larrycadt@yahoo.com
July 26 - 29, 2012	International Redwood Gathering (Carlotta, CA)	The 4th annual gathering	http://www.pamplingrove.com/Regform.html
August 3 - 5, 2012	Antique Powerland (Brooks, OR)	Held on the campus of the Northwest Vintage Car and Motorcycle Museum	Marty & Katie Boehme 503-632-6563 teardrops@bctonline.com

If you know of events that are not listed on the calendar, please be sure to submit them to Gretchen or Marty before the end of February for the Spring newsletter.

2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS (CONT.)

DATE	EVENT	INFO	HOST(S)
August 10 - 12, 2012	Summer Daze (Chehalis, WA)	Great friends, food, and fellowship	Rod & Trudy Glassett 360-293-1108 glassettgang@juno.com
September 14 - 16, 2012	2nd Annual ROVT Rally (South Beach State Park, OR)	An event for vintage trailers and teardrops.	Diana & Terry Lindsley tdiana@comcast.net
September 28 - 30, 2012	Fall Brigade (Mulino, OR)	Held at the Oregon City Elks Park.	Marty & Katie Boehme 503-632-6563 teardrops@bctonline.com



Do you think Medicare will pay for this?