



Teedroppers of **O**regon and **W**ashington
*Serving those who **are** or **wannabe** teardroppers*

TOW Line

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NEXT UP - TEARDROP DISPLAY AT ANTIQUE POWERLAND

We're going to have a campout at Antique Powerland the first weekend of August. Move in on Friday, July 31st and stay Saturday for the famous Steamup. Saturday night campers are welcome too. For those who just want to display their teardrops on Saturday, you must arrive by 9:30 AM and stay the day leaving after 3:00 PM. We will enjoy a special band performance at the nearby gazebo late Saturday afternoon. Also, we will provide grilled hotdogs and/or hamburgers for all teardroppers. Reply via e-mail so we can buy your choice, beverage, chips, corn and potato salad. We'll eat at 6:00 PM.

Antique Powerland's annual Steamup is attended by thousands of spectators that wander the grounds enjoying demonstrations and displays of 14 separate museums. One feature is the steam-driven vintage sawmill. Another is the outstanding Pacific Northwest Truck Museum occupying two buildings. Many, many antique tractors of all types operate all day long. Caterpillar has a museum building. John Deere tractors are everywhere. A vintage trolley runs on tracks around the grounds. Great place for kids as there is an operational railroad they can ride on. Food booths are everywhere. A flea market too.

Located at I-5 exit #163 just south of Salem, Oregon, you drive west about a quarter mile to the entrance. It can't be missed. The property is many acres, so drive in on the I-o-n-g driveway directly towards a Texaco sign seen in the distance. Turn right at the station to the camp. We will be easy to see from there. We're behind the BIG building.

Entrance to the grounds is free as arrangements have been made at the main gate. In fact, you get two passes onto the grounds. We will be part of the Steamup as we will be displaying our treasured teardrop trailers as part of a car show. You can call up Antique Powerland, Brooks, Oregon on the Internet to view all the activities going on.

This is a dry camp with no hookups. A three minute walk brings you to a fully operational public restroom (with showers) or close by there is a Porta-Potty. We camp on a very lush lawn that's part of the Northwest Vintage Car and Motorcycle Museum.

Pay \$15 per trailer for food and camping. No charge if you just display your trailer and don't eat and \$5 if you do. For more information, call or e-mail Marty or Katie Boehme at 503-632-6563 or teardrops@bctonline.com.

THE SHASTA GATHERING WAS WET THIS YEAR

By Fred Group

The 16th Dam Gathering at Shasta Lake's Antlers RV Park had a total of 90 + teardrops show up. Unfortunately, it started to rain around mid afternoon of Friday and it did not let up until Sunday morning. It was reported that six inches fell on the weekend. Rats! But, Sunday afternoon was good and gave us time to pack up our camping gear and head home. Some left early, but most stayed until Sunday.

We did not have the Chili cook-off on Friday because it was raining too hard. The Dutch oven cooking still went on at most of the campsites. We just hopped from one area to another to see who had what.

The raffle went on as usual. It was held at the sign-in area. An item was showed to everyone, then tickets put in a bowl from those who wanted it and a name called out.

It was good to see old friends. I did not have a teardrop there this time. I'm still working on it.

HITTING THE ROAD ON PART OF ROUTE 66

By Jack Jacobson

Sue and I drove on Route 66 from Seligman, Arizona to Needles, California. It was a great drive through history. The Sno-Cap Drive-in at Seligman is a must stop for ice cream and some subtle humor that is included in the price. We went west through Peach Springs, Hackberry and some other small burgs that have slowly been fading away. Almost could see where they made the movie "CARS". It would have been great to have the '51 Chev on this leg of the trip. On some parts of the road, you could see earlier sections of Route 66 before the realignment of the portion we were on.

The Route 66 museum we stopped at was in Kingman, Arizona. It has quite a bit of the road's memorabilia and information. Pretty good gift shop too. It is housed in an old powerhouse that provided electricity for the area in the early days. The museum depicts the historical evolution of travel along the road. There are murals, photos and life-size dioramas that capture each of the groups that have traveled the route that has come to be known as the "Mother Road".

One reason we stopped was to ask about the original alignment of Route 66 from Kingman to Oatman to Needles. The lady told me that the road was paved and had a few turns. Soooo, off we went. We went thru Cool Springs (Google Cool Springs to see it) which was a wide spot for gas, ice cream and cool drinks in the old days. Then the curves really started. It was nine miles uphill on twisting turning road, then about nine miles going down hill. A narrow road with sharp turns that even with towing a small teardrop; we used both lanes on some turns.

While we drove on it in a modern car with air conditioning, automatic transmission and disc brakes, it was quite an experience. I could not fathom what it would be like in a Model T or A, loaded with all your worldly possessions, on a hot summer day and moving from the dust bowl to the land of milk and honey (a cheap plug for The Grapes of Wrath).

Oatman, Arizona is about half way on this portion of road and is an interesting place as it looked like a ghost town that has been rejuvenated into a quirky place for visiting tourists. There was gold mining in the early days with prospectors using donkeys to carry their goods. When the mines folded, the donkeys were left and the descendants of the original donkeys still roam freely around the town.

In 2007 we were in St Louis and walked across the Chain of the Rocks Bridge and drove on a few miles of Route 66 in that part of the country. It was interesting to see this other part of the road. Both areas were fascinating to see and reflect on why people traveled Route 66. Were they going on a trip, to a new life, just some salesman trying to make a living or what?

THE CRESWELL CAMPOUT WAS GREAT FUN FOR US FIRST TIMERS

By Tom Howard

To put it simply - it was superb! **Lonnie and Sherry Aaron** along with **Pam Hernandez** sure hosted a great time enjoyed by all 11 teardroppers. The experience ranged from the very personable hospitality of **Larry and Della Boehme** and their lovely homestead, to the fabulous food from the Dutch ovens and interesting and friendly people with all their very different versions of teardrops. It was fun after dinner on Saturday night, having everyone tell their stories of how they came to be teardroppers. We loved what Larry said about all of us being people who love the outdoors, love to camp and love to form friendships with other teardroppers.

We spend a lots of time outside with our teardrop, so make ourselves accessible to meeting other campers and lots of neat people. We have so much in common, yet all of our ideas were different when it came to either buying or building our teardrops. Every one is so unique.

The teardrop birdhouse/feeder kits were a very nice idea. I'm sure they are worth far more than small fee of \$5 we paid in Larry's time in putting all the kits together and then his personal instruction on building and painting them.

Larry's custom teardrop was just amazing. I have always said that we have taken our teardrop to the limit (mud, snow, 12 degrees, etc), but Larry has taken his imagination and design to the limit. Nice work Larry!!

I might add that this gathering cost us new camping chairs like the ones brought by **Kelly and Catherine Gerkes**, a new jack stand, a new side tent like **Ron and Olga Christianson** had and believe it or not, an air conditioner like Ron Christianson said they use in really hot weather.

Also, in our travels, we have had some very good experiences and some comments, as I am sure all have had. One being the gentleman (and I use that word without reservation) looking down his nose calling our teardrop a "Podunk Piece of Junk". Another comment made by a young man at Craters of the Moon in Idaho, after asking such questions like, "Can you sleep in that?", was, "It's almost like a REAL trailer."

Our next teardrop vacation is a two-week trip to Canyonlands National Park this next September. Meanwhile, **Leslie Ann** and I will be attending all the Oregon and Washington gatherings we can get to.

NEW LOCATION FOR ANNUAL MT. BAKER VINTAGE TRAILER RALLY

By Pat Ewing

Come join us for our ninth rally being held this year at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds in Lynden, Washington from September the 10th to 13th. You can arrive as early as Tuesday the 8th. Our vintage trailer rally is open to all trailers, all teardrops (manufactured or homebuilt) plus motor homes 25 years old & older.

Everything is either grass or paved so there's NO MORE DUST to contend with. We have a very nice meeting room and plenty of power/water sites with a dump station on the grounds. This new rally location has good showers and clean restrooms.

The quaint town of Lynden has a Dutch theme with many little shops to explore. There are numerous restaurants, some within walking distance of the rally.

For the last few years we've had over 120 units in attendance. Over time we've been getting some very excellent older units from the 1930's, 1940's and 1950's. Many are very nicely restored both inside and out with period furnishings. *We also welcome those vintage*

trailers that are "Works in Progress" as "Come As You Are". Many tow vehicles are older restored rigs as well.

Friday night will be a potluck dinner and Saturday night will be a dessert social where everyone brings a dessert to share. Following the dessert social we will be entertained by the "Valley Voices", a local women's Barbershop Chorus.

Saturday at 1:00 PM there will be a swap meet/flea market in the meeting hall. Bring any trailer, household, craft or other items to sell that might need a new home.

The rally fee is \$25.00 per unit. Camping will be \$17.00 per night including water/power hookups. There are few trees so bring your own shade. Those with air conditioning should be able to run them as needed as there are 30/50 amp-power sites. Bring your own outdoor table & chairs. Pets are welcome but need to be kept on a leash, picked up after and not brought into our meeting building during rally functions.

Directions: From the south take I-5 to exit 256 in Bellingham then head north on Guide Meridian about eight (8) miles until you get to Lynden. Turn right onto Front Street and within a mile you'll see the fairgrounds on your right.

From the north it's easiest to take the Lynden border crossing. Drive south on Guide Meridian until you get to Front Street in Lynden and take a left.

Any questions please contact Pat or Joanne Ewing at 360-966-4253 or e-mail at pre47airstream@aol.com.

THE LeMAY OPEN HOUSE DISPLAYS OUR TREASURED TEARDROPS

For us teardroppers, it will start on Friday August 28th to camp overnight. Camping is limited to teardrop trailers only because of limited space. When you attend, there is a chance for you to pull volunteer duty when LeMay plays host to thousands of visitors at their annual Open House on Saturday.

The LeMay collection of automobile and transportation related memorabilia has no equal in the world. It's located on two sites in Tacoma with shuttle buses taking you from one place to the other. We teardroppers can view the collection "up close and personal" because we're camping at one of the sites.

Teardroppers take pride in manning all the volunteer posts assigned us by the LeMay organization. The rewards are many. We get a collectable tee shirt and either your choice of baseball cap or flat hat. We also have lunch and dinner provided on Saturday. The tee shirt is the ticket for these meals as well as the bus rides. Public visitors pay to view the collection, but teardroppers don't if they volunteer. Our teardrop hosts provide a Continental Breakfast on Saturday morning. That morning, we get up early to get ready. You'll be provided with a complete information packet when you arrive. You will get a special teardrop collector Dash Plaque for this, our 12th year.

Our campsite and display of teardrops is located on LeMay's Marymount Campus in the Spanaway area in south Tacoma. Take I-5 exit #127 driving east towards Mt. Rainer. After driving about three miles, get off at Pacific Ave. Go south about three more miles to a major intersection with 152nd Street on the left and Military Road on the right. Turn left and go east a few blocks to the main Marymount entrance (look for a sign and address of 325). Turn left again onto the main grounds and proceed left to our camping area..

The hosts for the event, **Pat and Jan Estes**, ask us to register with them (see the form on the TOW website (www.teardroptrailers.org) for \$10. We're reminded to mail in the registration by August 7th to Pat Estes, 13504 14th Ave. S, Tacoma, WA 98444. To help out with hosting the Open House, we have to also register with the LeMay website (http://www.lemaymuseum.org/carshow_volunteer.php). On this on-line registration form you should indicate "TEARDROP GROUP" in the space asking for "Club Affiliation".

RIVER BEND VINTAGE TRAILER RALLY

By Hiram Stumpjumper**

I was fortunate to get a reservation to the rally when the announcement first came out. It was good timing because the whole park filled up almost immediately. **Jerry and Linda Kwiatdowski** did a wonderful job organizing the rally.

For us teardroppers it was wonderful to rub elbows with all the vintage folks. And we were vintage too as pointed out by one teenage camper - "Everyone is old here". We had a total of seven teardrops, two of which were very new homebuilts (one couple slept in their's for the first time).

The weather was superb. I slept with my door open all night. Daytime temperatures peaked at 80. The park has level paved parking spots, each with power and water hookups. All sites were very secluded as it looked like the park was carved out of an abandoned Christmas tree grove. There was lots of shade from the thick trees at each site.

Saturday's activity for me was the car show in downtown Sweet Home. About 150 cars attended. Then, it was back to camp to open our outfits for visitors. That also meant I walked a lot looking at the different setups on the insides of the vintage stuff. All were decorated with many different themes. These proud owners really put on a show.

Potluck for Saturday supper also featured some Dutch oven cooking, most all from the teardrop trailer crowd. A raffle was held to help finance the 2010 event to be held in the same park. After, a lot of visiting went on by all the folks around their trailers.

Sunday was time to leave. I went to a great Sunday service in a beautiful outdoor amphitheater in Sweet Home. As a guest, I was given the BBQ free with great food and fellowship. After, I went to the local Elks Club for a tool auction. I spent a LOT and came home with some great stuff, one of which was a large Ding-Dong bell to be donated to the gazebo on the campus of the Car Museum at Antique Powerland. You'll see it at our next teardrop gathering the first weekend of August.

** Hiram is a roving reporter for the TOW Line from Aumsville, Oregon.

THANKS FOR HELPING WITH OUR SVARD YARD MEET

By Pat Svard

If the many appreciative thanks we've received are an indication, then our first Meet was a huge success. There were 15 teardrops, one Airstream and **Pat Ewing's** van with lots of room in our yard and the neighbors back field under the big trees. The weather was great, even the coolness and small showers on Sunday felt good.

A friend of our son, Luke donated a bunch of eggs so we were able to do some omelet-in-a-bag breakfasts. The potluck dinners were varied and delicious as always.

Seven ladies carpooled into Vernon Saturday morning to experience the Creative Chaos Craft Show. All the men went for a cruise in Ingvar's 1957 Volvo Military Radio Command Car. It was reported that it was a wild ride with lots of laughter!!

The weekend went so smoothly because we had the expertise and generosity of those teardrop travelers who have been doing meets so well for years. **Ingvar** and I are grateful to have met and been welcomed into this group of comfortable fun-folks and look forward to hosting another gathering. See you at the next one!!

INLAND NORTHWEST TEARDROP AND VINTAGE TRAILER RALLY

By Ralph Liguori

This is a new vintage and teardrop trailer event being held from Friday, August 28th until the following Sunday. The location is the Pend Oreille County Park in the far northeast corner of Washington north of Spokane.

Here is an opportunity for good old-fashioned camping. This is a campground that has not changed in 40 - 50 years so it will be like the old days of camping. There are no water or electric hookups. But there are several water faucets plus hot and cold showers. If you have a

generator you might want to bring it. The park is in a cedar grove on the side of a hill so we have to limit the size of the trailers to 24 feet. Most of the sites will have fire pits with free wood. Because of the slopes on some of the sites bring wood blocks to level your trailer. No one will be out in the sun as there are lots of big trees.

There are 400 acres to run around in and lots of trails. There will be a limit of 20 trailers and the smaller they are the better.

The camping fee is \$10 a night and must be paid with cash or check when you arrive. Because of the limited space a prompt reply is needed. Since there will be a limit of 20 trailers we will need whoever is interested to call or e-mail for reservations. If the limit of 20 is reached a waiting list will be made and if someone drops out the first person on the waiting list will be called and so forth. If we can get 20 trailers to commit we should have the camp grounds to ourselves. There will be a potluck on Saturday night for anyone that is interested. Bring chairs and a portable table if you have one.

Directions: From I-90 East or West take the Division Street (US Hwy 2 East and US Hwy 395 North) exit in Spokane. Head North on Division St for about five (5) miles where the road splits. Stay to the right and head for Newport (Hwy 2 East). You're out of Spokane now. Continue on Hwy 2 and drive another 24.5 miles. You are there when you will see a sign for Pend Oreille County Park. Turn left off Hwy 2 into park.

Questions and contact person for reservations: Ralph Liguori at 509-276-6079 or e-mail at ralphinforest160@dishmail.net Alternate phone number: 509-435-3889.

TEARDROPPER YOSEMITE ADVENTURE

By Kirsten Edwards

Tom and I finally fulfilled our dream of camping at Yosemite at the end of last April. To get a reservation one needs to be on-line at 7:00 AM five months before the date and hope to get lucky on getting a site. In our case, we were camping with friends, so acquiring two sites next to each other was an adventure in itself.

We read a lot ahead of time so we could make the most of our short trip. On April 26th, we pulled in and had to stop to check out Upper and Lower Falls and El Capitan before making it to our campground. The campsites do not have electricity and water is at a central location. Showers are available at Housekeeping Camp or at Camp Curry.

As we checked in we were reminded of the bear precautions and were required to sign documents stating that we understood how to store our food and keep the campsite cleaned to reduce the possibility of bear visits. We were told that the previous week there had been seven "bear incidents" in the campgrounds. As we pulled away from check-in, I said to Tom that we would be extra vigilant in bear proofing our vehicle and site as I certainly didn't want to become a statistic.

We enjoyed the best weather of the season; every day was sunny and warm. The park service offers all sorts of educational walks including photography, geology and more. Dogs are allowed on any paved surface so we could hike for miles with Ryno. Our campsite was directly below North Dome. As usual, we had several visitors that wanted to check out the teardrop.

It was a wonderful trip until 3:30 AM on our third night. I sat bolt upright upon hearing a huge crashing noise. I woke Tom exclaiming, "I think we have a bear in our campsite". He had a better view of the "bear box" that stored our food and sure enough there was a bear! He had broken into the bear box, pulled out one of our coolers and was stuffing himself on all our goodies. I suggested we needed a plan to scare him away. Our friends said they had pots and pans ready to bang in case of unwanted visitors. - well we all know where the galley is on a teardrop. In this case it was between the bear and us! I decided that t-shirts and socks being banged together would not make enough noise to scare him off. Tom came up with the idea to bang our doors open and shut. Yes, this would create a racket, but the only part I didn't like was the OPEN door part. This is when I really wished we had cell phones and I could call our friends on the next site to start banging pots and pans. As the bear pulled out the second

cooler, we settled on the door banging idea. It worked! Tom jumped out and I was right behind him. The last we saw of our bear was when he looked at us, happily holding Ryno's food box by the handle in his mouth as he sauntered off.

By now, everyone in our group was up swapping bear stories. Then I looked over and saw our friend emerge from his pop up tent trailer with two bags of contraband that belonged in the bear box. Great time to put it away! We waited a couple of hours until daylight to walk around the perimeter of the campground and found Ryno's food box with enough food to make it through the day. Our friends fed us and we pulled out the following day as planned. Next stop: The Shasta Dam Gathering, but that's a whole other story.

SPRING FLING HELD AT "CAMP B"

By Rod and Trudy Glassett

Spring Fling #11 was held on **Steve and Peggy Birley's** property on Memorial Day weekend. Due to this being our alternative location and Birleys' last name beginning with a "B", we called it "Camp B." Birleys spent several months preparing their facilities for us to use as a campground. Steve and Peggy can't be thanked enough for letting us invade their space. What an awesome location!

This year's weather was also amazing. It was warm and sunny every day and a kid's swimming pool made an appearance to help some campers cool down. The evenings brought beautiful starlit skies and huge bonfires in the pasture.

Fifty-three trailers and over 100 people were in attendance. Thirty-eight teardrops from 1940 - 2009 and 15 assorted other trailers from 1935 - 2008 were present. It was great to see a photo of the gathering taken from an airplane. Thirteen "newbies" were welcomed to Spring Fling this year, including **Skip Calimlin and Maria Rynes**, who came all the way from San Diego, California for this event. They were presented with a large emergency kit, which we hope they will never have to use!

Our traditional Spring Fling activities were held again this year: Friday night Bingo, Saturday and Sunday night potlucks, Sunday pancake breakfast (prepared by the men) and Monday French toast breakfast (prepared by the women). Sunday's informal worship service, led by **Irma and Larry Reed**, gave new meaning to GSP (God's Salvation Plan) and Preparation H (Heaven). The tech talk included a variety of topics and was attended by about 30 men and women. Sunday afternoon we enjoyed another "Cowchips" concert, with camper **Bob Johnson** on bass. It was a wonderful two-hour gig!

Due to our new location (the fourth one in 11 years - we keep outgrowing the others), new sites and sights nearby were visited by the Spring Fling participants. Several returned to the Packwood swap meet, while others toured the Veteran's Museum, shopped the outlet and/or antique malls, visited the historic Olympic Hotel, rode the Rails to Trails bike trail and took the steam train excursion. Several of the public saw the trailers from the train and made their way to Camp B to view them. Some motorcyclists and others interested in teardrops come to see them, gather information, and photograph them. Also, stopping by for a visit were former Spring Fling campers **Arthur Pratt** and his wife and **Greg Merkley** and his wife. Teardrops are definitely attention-getters!

Thank you to those who attended Spring Fling #11, those who helped set up and clean up, those who loaned us equipment, cooked, lead worship, entertained, donated door prizes and showed their trailers to guests. Most of all, we owe a huge THANK YOU to Steve and Peggy, who have offered their property for Spring Fling #12 for Memorial Day weekend 2010.

A NOTE FROM OUR HOST FOR THE CARNATION FOURTH

By Ken Masden

I want to send a big **thank you** for attending this year and for being such great guests! This group is amazing in that everyone pitches in to help when they see a need! **Marty** and I could not possibly put on the meet if this were not the case. I tried to make a list of everyone

that helped, but my head started spinning... Everyone helped and so I'll just say a big thank you to ALL that pitched in! Some folks came early to help set up, mow, wash cars, get vehicles running, etc. Many helped with meal preparation and cooking, car maintenance, cleanup, etc. during the event. Even after the event, I had no garbage in the yards, benches were already put away, and very little cleanup to do. Our "family of friends" is simply a fantastic group.

Trudy Glassett tells me we had a total of 52 trailers present - 38 Teardrops, 12 "other" trailers and 2 "new" trailers... This did not include our two teardrops and the Masterbilt trailer that Marty and I had on display. We had about 96 campers and likely well over 100 folks (including our local friends and neighbors) for the potluck on the Fourth.

So again thanks for attending and making it such a fantastic fun time for us. The meet would be nothing if folks did not attend and enjoy themselves.

TOW NAMETAGS, PATCHES AND JACKETS ARE AVAILABLE

At last year's Midwinter Luncheon the new TOW jacket patch went on sale. It was designed by **Herb and Elaine Kipp** and features the TOW logo. It can be seen on the TOW website www.teardroptrailers.org. The new magnetic nametag everyone is wearing at our gatherings is shown on the site also. There is an additional supply of patches available. They are quite attractive and have to be seen to be appreciated.

Along with these two items, a jacket for both sexes can be purchased with the patch embroidered on the back. But, many prefer to sew the patch on a favorite jacket. Look for the order form on the website. The order form has pricing information.

If orders are received by July 15th, free delivery will be made at the Antique Powerland Steamup in Brooks, Oregon. What you pay is what TOW buys them for.

We also have a source for small patches used for hats and shirts at a cost of \$6.00.

CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 31ST – AUGUST 2ND - *Antique Powerland – Brooks, OR*

On the campus of the Northwest Vintage Car and Motorcycle Museum. Contact Marty & Katie Boehme at **503-632-6563** or teardrops@bctonline.com for more info.

AUGUST 28TH – 30TH – *LeMay Display Campout – Tacoma, WA*

This will be the 12th campout and display that started in 1998. For detailed information, contact Pat & Jan Estes at **253-538-2859** or opasgang@yahoo.com

AUGUST 28TH – 30TH – *Pend Oreille County Park - Newport, WA*

This is a new vintage trailer and teardrop meet at an old-fashioned campground. For info contact Ralph Liguori at **509-276-6079** or ralphinfores160@dishmail.net

AUGUST 30TH – *Cruisin' Sunday – Port Orchard, WA*

This is an event you can get in free with a canned food donation to the hosting Christian Life Center. There will be a caravan from the LeMay Display. Register on the day of the event. There's a free lunch and trophy for the best teardrop. Call **360-876-5595** for more information. Registration starts at 7:00 AM and ends at 10:00 AM.

SEPTEMBER 10TH – 13TH – *Vintage Trailer Rally – Lynden, WA*

This is a new and better location at the NW Washington Fairgrounds. Contact Pat & Joanne Ewing at 360-966-4253 or pre47airstream@aol.com for more information.

OCTOBER 9TH – 12TH *Fall Brigade – Mulino, OR*

At Oregon City Elks Park with a great vintage lodge for gathering. For more info contact Marty & Katie Boehme at **503-632-6563** or teardrops@bctonline.com