

March/April 2019



# The Nor'Wester

**Newsletter of the Olympic Peninsula Region**

Porsche Club of America

## **2019 OPR Board and Chair Members:**

### **Board of Directors**

President: Bill Elwell

Vice President: Don Knievel

Secretary: Brian Forde

Treasurer: Bob Becken

Member at Large: Brooks Hanford

Past President: Alex Raphael

### **Committee Chairs**

Advertising: *position open*

Auto Events: John James

Goodie Store: Don & Sue Knievel

Membership: Dave Ferguson

Newsletter: Thomas Micka

Safety: Bill Corrigan

Social & Events: Maryann Elwell

Technical: Alex Raphael

Webmaster: Bill Corrigan

# PCA Olympic Peninsula Region 2019 Event Calendar

Event/Social Chair: Maryann Elwell ([maelwell@centurytel.net](mailto:maelwell@centurytel.net)) — 253-853-4003

## March 2019

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8A-2P - **Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby & Car Show** in Gig Harbor – **We Need More Cars!**
- 8<sup>th</sup> – **PCA Werks Reunion** on Amelia Island, Florida
- 16<sup>th</sup> – noon/1P – **Lunch/Member & Board Meeting** at Totem Room in 7 Cedars Casino – Sequim - Meyers
- 24<sup>th</sup> – 2P **Chili Cook-off** – at Elwell's in Gig Harbor

## April 2019

- 3<sup>rd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> – **PCA Treffen** in Santa Barbara, CA.
- 4<sup>th</sup> – **PCA Parade Phase 2 Registration Opens**
- 10<sup>th</sup> – 6P/7P **Dinner/Member & Board Meeting** at Clubhouse, McCormick Woods in Port Orchard
- 15<sup>th</sup> – **May/June Nor'Wester Deadline**
- TBD – **Social/Tech Session** – **Need someone to plan!**

## May 2019

- TBD – noon/1P – **Lunch/Member & Board Meeting** Need someone to plan on West side of Hood Canal!
- 18<sup>th</sup> – **Spring Tour** - Dan Kalinski planning tour to car collection
- 25<sup>th</sup> – **SOVREN Pacific NW Historics** Car Corral ticket ordering deadline

## June 2019

- 1<sup>st</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> – **Rally** – Robin Hake & Bill Corrigan
- 15<sup>th</sup> – 10A-4P **Charity Car Show** at Tacoma Yacht Club - Knievels
- 15<sup>th</sup> – noon **Lunch/Member & Board Meeting** at Tacoma Yacht Club - Knievels
- 15<sup>th</sup> – **July/August Nor'Wester Deadline**
- 22<sup>nd</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> – **Zone6 Grand Tour** – Bob Becken. PNWR/OPR Friday June 22<sup>nd</sup> ending at Kokopeli Grill in Port Angeles for dinner.

## July 2019

- 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> – **SOVREN Pacific NW Historics Races**
- 10<sup>th</sup> – 6P/7P – **Dinner/Member & Board Meeting** at Clubhouse, McCormick Woods in Port Orchard
- 20<sup>th</sup> – noon – **Lunch** at the O'Rorke's in Sequim
- 21<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> – **PCA Parade** in Boca Raton, Florida
- TBD - **Tour Weekend on Vancouver Island Region**

## August 2019

- TBD – noon/1P **Lunch/Member & Board Meeting** Need someone to plan on West side of Hood Canal!
- 15<sup>th</sup> – **September/October Nor'Wester Deadline**
- 16<sup>th</sup> – **PCA WERKS Reunion** – in Monterey, CA
- TBD – **Summer Tour** - Need someone to plan!
- TBD – noon – **New Member Welcome Picnic** at Mitchell's in Sequim

## September 2019

- 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> – **PCA Treffen** in Green Mountains of Woodstock, Vermont
- TBD – noon/1P – **Lunch/Member & Board Meeting** Need someone to plan on West side of Hood Canal!
- TBD – **Winery Tour** – Brett Burroughs & Jan Putman

## October 2019

10<sup>th</sup> – **2018 Board/Chair Nominations Due**

9<sup>th</sup> – 6P/7P – **Dinner/Member & Board Meeting** at Clubhouse, McCormick Woods in Port Orchard

15<sup>th</sup> – **November/December Nor'Wester Deadline**

TBD – **Social** - Need someone to plan!

## November 2019

1<sup>st</sup> – **Holiday Party RSVP & Payment Due**

TBD – noon/1P **Lunch/Annual Meeting** Need someone to plan on West side of Hood Canal!

TBD – **Movie Night**

25<sup>th</sup> – **2019 Board Election Ballots Due**

30<sup>th</sup> – **Silent Auction Donation Responses Due**

## December 2019

TBD – 6P/7P – **Cocktail Hour/Holiday Party**

15<sup>th</sup> – **January/February Nor'Wester Deadline**

## CALENDAR DETAILS

### March 2019

**2<sup>nd</sup> – 8A-2P Boy Scout Pinewood Derby – We need more cars!** The Gig Harbor cub scouts invited us to bring our Porsches to their our Pinewood Derby & Car Show on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Voyager Elementary School located at in Gig Harbor. We also need to give them a car count parking, so please RSVP to Maryann Elwell at [maelwell@centurytel.net](mailto:maelwell@centurytel.net) or phone (253) 853-4003 by 2/28/19. Meet at 7:30A at Gig Harbor McDonalds at 5050 Borgen Blvd. (near Home Depot/ Costo). Best parking is in from of Pizza Hut across the driveway. We'll drive over at 7:45A in a caravan to Voyager Elementary located at 5615 Kopachuck Dr NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335.

**8<sup>th</sup> – Werks Reunion Amelia Island 2019** – Registration opened on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Porsche Club of America (PCA) welcomes all Porsche clubs, owners, and enthusiasts to the third annual Werks Reunion Amelia Island on March 8, 2019, the Friday preceding the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance. Event will take place at 39 Beach Lagoon Road, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034. For schedule and details go to <http://werksreunion.com/amelia.cfm> and to register go to <http://www.motorsportreg.com/events/porsche-club-of-america-werks-reunion-amelia-2019-omni-island-plantation-365540>.

**16<sup>th</sup> – Lunch and Member/Board Meeting** – Join us for lunch at 12:00 noon, followed by the monthly member/board meeting at The House of Seven Brothers, the new restaurant located inside the 7 Cedars Casino, 270756 Highway 101 in Sequim. We have reserved a private room called the Totem Grill. Members can order anything on The House of Seven Brothers lunch menu. There are lots of good items from which to choose. We need to give them a headcount in advance. Please RSVP by March 12th to Patty & David Meyers at [pmeyers@bellhill.net](mailto:pmeyers@bellhill.net) or (360) 681-4947. You can pick up a Totem Rewards card to save 10% when we arrive; for details go to <https://www.7cedarsresort.com/totemrewards>. Let us know if you plan to meet at the restaurant, or if you want to drive with the group from East of the Hood Canal. We will be meeting at 10:20 a.m. at McDonalds in Poulsbo (20533 Viking Avenue NW) for 10:30A departure.

**24<sup>th</sup> – 2P – 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-off** – Have a favorite Chili recipe, like to compete? Bill & Maryann Elwell will host this event at their home in Gig Harbor. Please know that there is no requirement to bring anything other than yourself, but some people like to bring something, even if they are not competing with chili. RSVP by 3/15/19 to Maryann & Bill via email at [maelwell@centurytel.net](mailto:maelwell@centurytel.net) or phone (253) 853-4003 and mention if you are making anything, so we can coordinate the food.

### April 2019

**4<sup>th</sup> – 9A PST/noon EST - PCA Parade Phase II Registration Opens** – This year's Parade will be held July 21-27, 2019, at the Boca Raton Resort and Club in Boca Raton Florida. Parade activities include Concours, autocross, time-speed-distance and gimmick rallies, destination tours, and so much more! Join us as we explore the Florida Coast and at this weeklong gathering of people and

Porsches from all over the world! Additional information including registration dates for housing and activities can be found soon [porsche-parade.org](http://porsche-parade.org).

**We need someone to plan a Social Event or Tech Session for April.** If interested, please contact Maryann at via email at [maelwell@centurytel.net](mailto:maelwell@centurytel.net) or phone (253) 853-4003.

### **Other Region and Car Related Events**

- 3/2 – 8A – **Caffeine & Gasoline** at Griot's Garage 3333 South 38<sup>th</sup> Street in Tacoma. Theme: Ferrari.
- 3/7 – 8A-10A – **Cars & Coffee** Thursdays rain or shine at Jakes Pickup located at the Chevron in the Hungry Bear Market (406 High School Road NE, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110).
- 3/9 – 10A-noon – **PNWR Porsche Cars & Coffee** at The Shop located at 2233 6th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98134. No RSVP required.
- 3/9 – 9A - **Sequim Cars & Coffee** - Meet at Adagio Bean and Leaf at 981 E Washington St, Sequim, WA 98382. For details go to [Sequimcars.com](http://Sequimcars.com).
- 3/12 – 11:30A-12:30P – **If Cars Could Talk** – Women in the Automotive Field at America's Car Museum (2702 East D St. in Tacoma). For details go to <https://www.americascarmuseum.org/events/>.
- 3/14 – 8A-10A – **Cars & Coffee** Thursdays rain or shine at Jakes Pickup located at the Chevron in the Hungry Bear Market (406 High School Road NE, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110).
- 3/16 – 8A-4P – **PNWR Autocross #1** at Bremerton Motorsports Park. For details go to <http://www.pnwr.org> or register at [MotorsportReg.com](http://MotorsportReg.com).
- 3/16 – 12-4P – **Family STEAM Day** – Bridging the Gap at America's Car Museum (2702 East D St. in Tacoma). For details go to <https://www.americascarmuseum.org/events/>.
- 3/21 – 8A-10A – **Cars & Coffee** Thursdays rain or shine at Jakes Pickup located at the Chevron in the Hungry Bear Market (406 High School Road NE, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110).
- 3/23 – 8A-5P – **PNWR Olympic Lowlands Tour** starting at Porsche Tacoma in Fife. For details go to <http://www.pnwr.org> or register at [MotorsportReg.com](http://MotorsportReg.com).
- 3/28 – 8A-10A – **Cars & Coffee** Thursdays rain or shine at Jakes Pickup located at the Chevron in the Hungry Bear Market (406 High School Road NE, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110).
- 3/30 – 7:30A-4P – **PNWR Drivers Skills** at Bremerton Motorsports Park. For details go to <http://www.pnwr.org> or register at [MotorsportReg.com](http://MotorsportReg.com).
- 3/30 – 9:30A-12:30P – **PNWR Porsche Tech Session** at Columbia Valley Luxury Cars. For details go to <http://www.pnwr.org> or register at [MotorsportReg.com](http://MotorsportReg.com).
- 3/30 – noon-2P – **Lemay Marymount Tea Party** at Marymount Event Center located at 325 152nd Street East, Tacoma, WA 98445. For info. and tickets go to: <https://www.lemaymarymount.org/teaparty>.
- 4/4 – **PCA Parade Phase II Registration Opens**
- 4/3-6 – **PCA Spring Treffin in Santa Barbara.** Registration opened 1/16/19 at noon PST - For more details and to register go to <https://treffen.pca.org/index.cfm?event=main.showcontent&page=54>. Event.
- 4/6 – 8A – **Caffeine & Gasoline** at Griot's Garage 3333 South 38<sup>th</sup> Street in Tacoma. Theme: Super Cars.
- 4/13 – 8A-4P – **PNWR Autocross #2** at Bremerton Motorsports Park. For details go to <http://www.pnwr.org> or register at [MotorsportReg.com](http://MotorsportReg.com).
- 4/13 – 7:30A-4P – **PNWR Drivers Education** at The Ridge Motorsports Park in Shelton. For details go to <http://www.pnwr.org> or register at [MotorsportReg.com](http://MotorsportReg.com).
- 4/13 – 9A - **Sequim Cars & Coffee**- Meet at Adagio Bean and Leaf at 981 E Washington St, Sequim, WA 98382. For details go to [Sequimcars.com](http://Sequimcars.com).
- 4/14 – 8A-5P – **PNWR Backroads to the Bakery Tour** starting at Top Pot Donuts in Issaquah. For details go to <http://www.pnwr.org> or register at [MotorsportReg.com](http://MotorsportReg.com).
- 4/20 – 12-4P – **Family STEAM Day** – at America's Car Museum (2702 East D St. in Tacoma). For details go to <https://www.americascarmuseum.org/events/>.
- 4/20 – 11A-2P – **Customer Appreciation Day** at Griot's Garage 3333 South 38<sup>th</sup> Street in Tacoma.
- 4/20-26 – **Spring Treffen Stuttgart, Germany.** Drive a new Porsche throughout Germany, including visits to Mercedes Museum, RUF facilities, and ending with Porsche Factory and Museum tours. For details go to <https://www.fastlanetravel.com/index.php/thetoursv5>.

- 4/21 – 11A-2:30P – **PNWR Show & Shine** at XXX Drive-In located 98 NE Gilman Blvd, Issaquah, WA. No RSVP required.
- 4/22-5/1 – **Spring Treffen Plus Stuttgart, Germany.** Drive a new Porsche throughout Germany and Austria, including visit to Mercedes Museum, RUF facilities, and Porsche Factory and Museum. For details go to <https://www.fastlanetravel.com/index.php/thetoursv5>.
- 4/26-28 – 7:30A-4P – **PNWR Drivers Education** at Thunderhill Raceway Park in Willows, CA. For details go to <http://www.pnwr.org> or register at [MotorsportReg.com](http://MotorsportReg.com).
- 4/27 – 9:30A-12:30P – **PNWR Porsche Tech Session** at Haury's Auto Rebuild in Lake City. For details go to <http://www.pnwr.org> or register at [MotorsportReg.com](http://MotorsportReg.com).
- 4/27 – 8A-4P – **PNWR Autocross #3** at Bremerton Motorsports Park. For details go to <http://www.pnwr.org> or register at [MotorsportReg.com](http://MotorsportReg.com).
- 4/27 – 12-4P – **Fully STEAM DAhead** – K-12 Educator Workshop at America's Car Museum (2702 East D St. in Tacoma). For details go to <https://www.americascarmuseum.org/events/>.
- 4/27 – 11A-2P – **Italian Fest** at Griot's Garage 3333 South 38<sup>th</sup> Street in Tacoma. Theme: Super Cars.
- 4/27-28 – noon – **LeMay Wine, Spirits, & Chocolate** at Marymount Event Center located at 325 152nd Street East, Tacoma, WA 98445. For info. and tickets go to: <https://www.lemaymarymount.org/lemay-wine-chocolate>.
- 5/4 – 8A – **Caffeine & Gasoline** at Griot's Garage 3333 South 38<sup>th</sup> Street in Tacoma. Theme: Motorcycles.
- 5/12 – 9A – **PNWR Hood Canal To Whitney Gardens Tour** starting at Porsche Tacoma in Fife. For details go to <http://www.pnwr.org> or register at [MotorsportReg.com](http://MotorsportReg.com).
- 7/21-27 – **Porsche Parade** – Parade this year will take place at the Boca Raton Resort and Club in Boca Raton Florida. Activities include Concours, autocross, time-speed-distance and gimmick rallies, destination tours, and so much more! Join us as we explore the Florida Coast and at this weeklong gathering of people and Porsches from all over the world! Additional information including registration dates for housing and activities can be found soon [porsche-parade.org](http://porsche-parade.org).
- 9/4-7 – **PCA Fall Treffen in Green Mountains of Woodstock, Vermont** – For details go to <https://treffen.pca.org/>.

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Welcoming New Members to the  
Olympic Peninsula Region of the PCA

**Jeff Angel, Port Ludlow, WA,  
2002 Silver Boxster S**

**John and Carol Ewart, Gig Harbor, WA,  
1999 Black 911 Carrera**

**Andrew and Lynnette Bentley, Tacoma, WA,  
2003 Black 911 Carrera 4S**

**Mark Wilson, Rollingbay, WA,  
2009 Red Cayman S**

**Douglas Farrar, Port Ludlow WA,  
1980 928 Black-Metallic**

**George Avila and Ellen Anderson, Kingston, WA,  
2007 911 Carrera 4S Slate gray metallic**

**Thomas Herriott, Bainbridge Island, WA,  
1968 912 Burgundy Red**

# *Fire at the Narrows* *15th Annual Chili Cook-off*



**When: 2:00P March 24th**

**Where: Elwell's in Gig Harbor  
135 Pt. Fosdick Cir. NW**



**Awards for  
1st - 3rd place**



**RSVP to Bill or Maryann by 3/15/19 at  
(253) 853-4003 or [maelwell@centurytel.net](mailto:maelwell@centurytel.net)**

## **From the President's Desk**

### **Bill Elwell**

**Constitution and Bylaws** - Later in the newsletter you'll find something that most of you have never seen before, the Club Constitution and Bylaws. A member requested that we publish the latest version of these documents and we realized that there are only a few of us that have copies of them. So it's time to make them available to everyone. At some point this year, I hope to put these documents up on the website so that anyone can see them at any time. Let me quickly tell you what to expect. The Constitution is a simple 2 page document that outlines the basics of how and why the club exists. The Bylaws are 4 pages long and give high level guidance on how the club should be operated. For example if you ever wonder why we have board/member meetings every month, you can find the requirement for those meetings in the Bylaws.

At a recent board meeting, someone asked a great question. It was so good that I figured I should address it here in the newsletter. The question was, "We have emails, a newsletter, a website, and Facebook, which am I supposed to use for what?" Let me give you my opinion.

**Emails** – Maryann, our social chair, periodically sends out emails with the latest social calendar and event information. This is the best and most up to date information for social events and club activities. If you don't know what I'm talking about, these are emails that come from [enews@enews.pca.org](mailto:enews@enews.pca.org) and they are titled "*OPR-PCA Upcoming Events & RSVPs Due*".

**Postcards** – On occasion, we send out post cards with the latest social calendar information. We haven't done postcards recently because, frankly, they are labor intensive and Maryann and I don't have the time to do them. But we do them so that you can stick them up on the fridge as a reminder of coming events. They are also a way to get our social calendar info to anyone in the house that doesn't get our emails.

**Newsletter** – The newsletter is a requirement from PCA National. They aren't specific about what the newsletter is supposed to look like, but each region is supposed to have some sort of periodically published newsletter. We use our newsletter to communicate the social calendar, write about past events, occasionally explore technical topics, welcome new members, and talk about other adventures our member care to share with the club. Also if you have a car or Porsche related item for sale or are looking to buy, ads for these are free to our members as well.

**Website** – The first job of the website is to be a repository of club reference information. If you want to find an old newsletter, old meeting minutes, the mailing address for the club, the name and contact information for the secretary and more, you can find it on the website. Historically, we haven't kept the social calendar on the website current enough for it to be a good long term calendar reference. But if you need information about an event you're planning to attend this week but you forgot the address or some other detail, the website is a great place to go for that information.

Now that we have a new webmaster, the quality of the longer outlook calendar may improve.

**Facebook** – While we post social information to our Facebook page, you know how Facebook works, nothing stands still. Think of it like a running conversation about club and Porsche related information. You might see videos that members have found about Porsches. You might see pictures that were posted from the latest social event. But a few days later, those post will be down lower on the page as new material gets posted.

So, if you had any confusion, I hope helps. If you use our resources differently, let me know. If you think there's a better way we should be doing things and you'd be willing to help us make it happen, let us know your ideas.

I hope to see you at one of our next events.

### **Winter 2019 PCA National Staff Meeting ... and the Snow!**

As region President, I'm a member of the PCA Board of Directors. All that means is that a few times a year, I'm required to call into a giant conference call with all the region presidents and the PCA Executive Council for a meeting that usually lasts an hour and has very little impact at our level of the club. But every so often, there's a meeting call the National Staff Meeting that is held at a physical location. Folks are encouraged to attend in person. On February 9<sup>th</sup>, PCA held the 2019 Winter Staff Meeting at the W Hotel in Seattle.

My plan was to attend the Staff Meeting in person since it's a wonderful chance to network with the Executive Council, the national office staff, other presidents, and zone reps other than our own. But I'm sure you all remember what was happening on February 8<sup>th</sup>. In case you don't recall, that was early in a series of multiple snow storms that hit the area. Most of the folks that needed to be there to run the meeting were already at the hotel before the snow hit, so the meeting went on as planned. But I wasn't about to chance driving up to Seattle. So I missed the meeting. But dinner was scheduled at Griot's in Tacoma. I wasn't willing to drive to Seattle, but a short hop to Tacoma wasn't a problem for me with my truck.

So Maryann and I joined the crowd from the Staff Meeting for dinner at Griot's. We got the opportunity to network with quite a few people. Probably the best discussion of the night was with Doug Andreassen, the new President over at the Pacific Northwest Region (PNWR). Life is a bit easier when we have a good working relationship with our neighbors over at PNWR. Our conversation with Doug suggested that we will have a good relationship while he is at the helm.

I bored you enough. I would not have written this article at all if we didn't get to see part of Richard Griot's car collection while we were there. A little background is necessary. For those of you that have been to the Griot's building in Tacoma, you may or may not know that easily 30% of the space in that building is devoted to the restoration and storage of Richard's car collection. The public rarely gets to see these cars. I consider myself lucky because I've now seen parts of his collection three times. And only during this visit was it made clear that he has cars in numerous building

scattered around the area. He is currently renovating a building down the street where he will consolidate storage of his collection.

Now you may have seen a video from PCA where PCA Executive Director Vu Nguyen did a PCA Spotlight video at Griot's in Tacoma. My guess is that the video was done in December or January. Many of the cars seen in the video are different from what we saw.

If you want to check out the video, here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0AnZJ8qBywU&feature=youtu.be>

There were quite a few cars to see. I snapped pictures of the few Porsches in there. I didn't get specific details on the years and models of all the cars. You folks will probably know most of them by sight. I was more focused on some of the other cars in the background of the pictures. You'll see what I mean. I hope you enjoy the pictures.

Obviously the green 911 is front and center in this picture. But let's talk about what's around it. There's a tiny bit of green poking in from the lower left of the picture. That's a partially finished Meyers Manx Dune Buggy. Moving clockwise is the back end of a Fiat Jolly. There were only about 200 of that particular Jolly made. Richard completely restored it. It's a crazy car with wicker seats and it's not much more than a glorified golf cart but it's street legal. Next to the Jolly and behind the 911 are a few Ferraris. Moving to the upper right corner of the picture is what appears to be a completely striped body from a BMW 2002. The Griot's folks call the red BMW wagon in front of the 911 "the fastest detail car in the world". It's a hopped up BMW wagon and the interior has been refitted for mobile detailing including a water tank and custom foam inserts to hold every Griot's product you could ever want.



Moving to the next picture, we have a white 1972 911S which is Richard's 2<sup>nd</sup> Porsche. Right next to where I'm standing, but not in the picture, is a 908 race car. I'm not sure about the details behind the blue race car sticking its nose into the picture. Just beyond the 911 is a Lancia Stratos. Beyond the Lancia is Niki Lauda's Ferrari 312T-022. Yeah, that's the real thing, not a reproduction. You can see the nose and tail of two other race cars. Beyond that is a Cobra and a couple Ferraris.



Next, the Porsche is a Maritime Blue Carrera RS that was purchased in Japan. Next to it is a red DeTomaso and a GT40. Now before you jump to the conclusion that the DeTomaso is a Pantera. It isn't, it's a Mangusta. There are two give-aways. First, the rear windows don't match the Pantera, they match the Mangusta. Second, the cover over the engine of this car has two gullwing doors which is what the Mangusta has.

Finally, sitting in front of the beautiful red 911 is a bare metal Cobra. I've seen a bare metal Cobra before where the owner was keeping the body paint free on purpose. I don't know if that is Richard's plan here or not.

That gives you a little peek at what's inside the red and white Griot's building in Tacoma. What you see in my pictures covers maybe 50% of the cars that were there. In past visits there were numerous Lamborghinis, but I didn't see any this time around. I asked Richard's son Nick about some of the other cars that I remembered from past visits but didn't see. He said they were in other buildings, so I have to assume that the Lambos were there as well. His son stressed that these cars are drivers. Whether race or street, they all get driven somewhere, somehow.



## Heritage Distilling Visit & Dinner at El Pueblito in Gig Harbor

Bill Elwell

Our January social event was a combination of a tour of Heritage Distilling in Gig Harbor and then dinner at El Pueblito, also in Gig Harbor. Events during the winter months can sometimes be challenging if nobody steps up with an idea for something new and different to do. When that happens, it falls back on our social chair, Maryann, and me to come up with an idea. We hate to just do dinners at the same restaurants we've done before. As luck would have it, Maryann and I were recently at a financial seminar that started with a tour of Heritage Distilling. I immediately thought the distillery tour would be a great way to add some spice to a winter dinner event. I just love it when good ideas drop in your lap like that.

Maryann had to do her magic to make everything work between Heritage Distilling and El Pueblito. Actually El Pueblito was easy. They have a back room that can handle groups our size and they always welcome us when we come. But our visit with the distillery required some negotiation. Our group was bigger than most they handle and we had to work around some other issues with their schedule. But Maryann made it work.

At Heritage Distilling, we split up into two groups. I was in the first group and we went down into the distillery with Scott, our tour guide. You could tell that Scott loves what he does. He gives a great tour and he knows his stuff. While we got our tour, the second group was up in the tasting room where they had a choice between tasting a flight of vodka or a flight of whisky and bourbon. As our tour was wrapping up, Justin brought down the second group from our club for their tour. Now it was our turn in the tasting room. Like I said earlier, we were a big group for Heritage. We kept the staff busy. But they were all super helpful. All-in-all, Heritage Distilling was a pleasant change of pace for our social calendar.

Our next stop was a short drive into downtown Gig Harbor to the El Pueblito Mexican restaurant. I looked through my archive of event pictures and found pictures from the first club event we ever did at El Pueblito. It was back in May of 2004. That was the year the region was formed! Dinner at El Pueblito is a no-brainer. Everyone seemed to have a good time and the food is always good and plentiful.



Tour guide Scott shows Jan Putnam, Brian Forde, and June Moore the beginning of the fermentation process.

Scott explains how the guts of the distilling towers work. "Guts" means bubble cap trays for you Chem-Engg nerds.



Why is everyone smiling? Gail Ferguson, Siobhan & Todd Fisher listen to Scott tell us about Nonna, the main still at Heritage.

Dave Kish, Ed Scheid, and Stace Gordon play "stump the chump" with Scott. Scott, was having none of it!





Tour Guide Justin gives an animated explanation of the fermentation process to the second tour group including Maryann Elwell, Brett Burroughs, Dave & ADdrienne Loser, and Barb Hanford.

Brooks Hanford, Maryann Elwell, and Brett Burroughs listen to Justin demonstrate his extensive knowledge of the distilling process.



Maryann Elwell and Nancy Scheid looking down from the tasting room.

Siobhan & Todd Fisher tasting up in the tasting room. Why is everyone up in the tasting room smiling so much?





Don Knievel (on the left) and Ryan White look on in disbelief as Brett Burroughs swears that he never drives his 400HP 993 over 100MPH. Yeah, right!



Dave and Adrienne Loser (above) at El Pueblito. Adrienne can't figure out if she really needs those sun glasses or not.



At dinner, Gail Ferguson (left) explains to Sue Knievel how she is going to get into more than one picture in the newsletter.

# The Nagoya Report —Part 4

Mike and Laura Friend

When we left the story last time, the Christmas season had already started in Nagoya. Hard to believe, but there is more hoopla around the holiday season in Japan than there is in Seattle. No more than about 1% of the Japanese population is Christian, but they really like celebrating the birthday! We decided to take a **long weekend in Osaka** and do a bit of Christmas shopping. We splurged by staying at the Hotel Imperial, a really splendid old hotel inhabited by immaculately dressed and very affluent looking Japanese. The view from our window was spectacular, especially as the sun set over the city.

A visit to nearby Osaka Castle coincided with preparations for the Osaka Marathon, which thankfully took place a few hours after we left town. Just down the river from the castle was the Osaka Mint, an historic old building now housing a museum and many cool dioramas showing the process for minting coins. An engineer's delight!

We cruised down the river on a water taxi, passing many scenic bridges along the way.



**Mountain town of Kurankei** - Fall comes late to Japan and brings with it bright colors. The peak color for trees in the mountains east of Nagoya comes in early December, so a trip was in order to the village of Kurankei, where a special forest trail is lighted at night for special effect. The spectacular trees along the scenic river bank made for many artistic photos.

Our local pocket park in Nagoya was also a riot of colors, complete with a squadron of midget Santas frolicking near the pond. As you can see in the foreground, even in December flowers are still in bloom.



Since we had rented a car for the weekend (an improbably named Toyota Tank) we ranged north into Gifu prefecture for a visit to an old Edo-era village with an ancient quarter lined with cozy and rather tiny shops selling everything from personalized chopsticks (got some) to really weird tofu-based creations (which Laura happily sampled and I did not).



Laura has been attending Japanese classes at the IPE Academy in Nagoya, and they threw a **jolly Christmas party** at a local Brazilian restaurant. Brazilian food is more common than you might think in Japan, as there is a large Brazilian immigrant population providing labor for the many Toyota and Honda car plants in the area. Much fun was had by all, and far too much beer was consumed in the process of sampling the many fine grilled meats on offer.

Shortly before the holidays I was informed that an administrative boo-boo on the part of my employer had **displeased the Gods of Bureaucracy**, and that we would need to return to Seattle to reapply for a new work visa and residence card. Such invitations cannot be refused, so instead of touring the northern island of Hokkaido as planned, we flew home on Christmas day after touring the holiday lights on the Ginza in Tokyo for a couple of nights. The Ginza was more spectacular than usual, and many stores had extravagant holiday displays. Nissan even obliged me by having a Christmas display of their new electric racing car, eerily back-lit in blue.



The month of January was mostly spent in Seattle, where I worked out of the Mitsubishi office in Georgetown while waiting for the paperwork to be done. Laura took a quick trip to Dayton, Ohio for her mother's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday party. She is doing well in her new residence, located a few blocks from Laura's sister Karen's home.

Before leaving for Japan last summer, I had ordered a new Alfa Romeo Giulia to be built to my specifications at the splendid and highly automated Alfa factory in Cassino, Italy. It was supposed to be delivered in late February but showed up early while we were in Seattle. So, I got to commute to work for a while in my fun new car. It is now slumbering peacefully in the garage awaiting my return.

Soon after returning to Japan at the end of January, a three-day weekend proved to be the perfect excuse to go visit Nara, the ancient capital of Japan. The seat of government was here before moving to Kyoto and then much later to Tokyo. The area is surrounded by large shrines and ceremonial buildings, one of which contains an enormous Buddha cast from bronze and standing (sitting) 45 feet tall. One of the ceremonial temples is a UNESCO world heritage site, and the image of it appears on the Japanese 10 yen coin. Nara park is famous for its herds of tame deer, protected for thousands of years as sacred animals. The hordes of tourists were busy feeding them "animal crackers" that kiosks throughout the park sell. I will admit I took great pleasure in feeding Bambi.



Nara is also the site of what may be the world's most elegant Starbucks, tucked into a corner near the Buddha shrine and featuring its own little Zen garden.

On most weekends, we take a short trip via the excellent train system to tour in the environs of Nagoya. One recent visit was to the town of Handa, known both for its sake brewing and vinegar.

The Mizkan company has clearly been a big success, as they constructed a magnificent museum dedicated to the history of brewing vinegar from what remains (the lees) after sake is made. It is also home to the brewery where my favorite sake is brewed, so we had to go to the source. The photo shows Ma and Pa Friend the sake farmers brewing up a new batch....

The Mizkan company



Our travels in Japan will come to an end soon, as my consulting contract runs out at the end of March. I was asked to consider staying for another two years, but there is too much fun to be had elsewhere. I may continue to work part time for Mitsubishi, but it is too soon to tell at the moment.

See ya soon!

(Editor's note: the post next to Mike says Port Townsend ...)





## No speed limit? That could become a reality for two California highways

A California lawmaker has introduced a bill that would make the state part of an exclusive club: The state would become one of the rare places in the world with highways with no speed limit.

State Sen. John Moorlach, ... introduced Senate Bill 319, which would add two lanes each to the north- and south-bound lanes of I-5 and Highway 99 — those lanes would have no upper speed limit. Moorlach argued in the bill language that “traffic congestion increases the emissions of greenhouse gases as it causes automobiles to idle longer while on roadways.”

Read more here: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article226582279.html#storylink=cpy>

The article in the SacBee goes on to cite Germany’s famous Autobahn as an example of what California could provide to drivers — the freedom to explore the upper limits of their cars and presumably their driving skills. I say hold on!

Comparing German drivers on their unlimited speed highways with Californians (or Washington drivers) having the same freedoms on sections of I-5 is not something I would approach lightly. Imagine BMWs, Porsches, and assorted super cars doing their thing on I-5 along with the horde of F150 trucks and Prius drivers. Consider how easy it is to get a driver’s license in the US and how little maintenance most cars get. Also consider tire speed ratings — the T, H, V, W and Z notices on your side wall. European manufacturers do save lots of dollars by fitting tires with speed ratings “de-rated” for delivery in the US. As a result, you may find yourself driving with an as-delivered H-rated (130 mph max) tire despite that BMW or Audi logo on the back. Using an H-rated tire for any extended higher speed can be seriously dangerous in conditions where a W-rated (168 mph max) is best. It is not possible to predict what California may have to do to implement new laws regarding the use of speed rated tires on the unlimited speed highway.

Next, California has to become confident the “nut behind the wheel” can safely do this. Who is driving and how are their driving skills? It is just too easy to get an operators license in the US. I got my driver’s license in 1963 and I don’t recall much instruction or difficult testing procedures. Despite my father being a Pennsylvania State Trooper, I think he just assumed I would be driving at age 16 — so I did.

Those Germans on the Autobahn are different because they made an investment to obtain a driving license. I think that fact contributes to making them better drivers — or at least Germans will tell you they are. Your Editor has a fair amount of experience driving in Germany. Experience which includes many of the no tempo-limit segments of the Autobahn. Typical Germans take driving very seriously, an understandable observation given that a German driver’s license (Führerschein) takes some trouble to get and can cost over 2000 Euros (over \$2300) and require 20 to 40 hours of instruction at a private driving school (Fahrschule). Once successful with your Führerschein that document is good for life — or until the new European (EU) driver’s license rules come into force.

Before California can adopt unlimited speed for segments of the highway, there is a lot to consider. The least of these will be to facilitate drivers to adopt the Rules of the German Autobahn. Which are:

**Rule 0:** No alcohol drinking/driving, strict 0.05% (0.00% for less than two years driving experience and under 21 years) — don’t do it!

**Rule 1:** No passing on the right.

**Rule 2:** Double check your side-view mirror before moving into the left lane.

**Rule 3:** Slower traffic stays to the right.

**Rule 4:** Always use your blinkers (turning signals).

**Rule 5:** Obey the speed limit — there is a “suggested” 80 mph limit on the Autobahn.

**Rule 6:** Take a break every two hours — rest areas are common.

**Rule 7:** Go with the flow — expect aggressive drivers.

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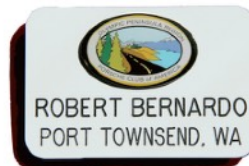


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