



MEETINGS

Club Meeting 12/3

7:00 PM – All Welcome

Pietro's Pizza in Salem

6:00 PM dinner and conversation.

Officer Meeting: Dec. Off

6:00 PM – Members only

All Good Things Café -Aumsville

President's Message

As we approach the new year, we take a moment to reflect on the highlights and challenges of the past twelve months while eagerly anticipating what lies ahead. This year, our hot rod family faced the loss of monumental members whose impact and presence will forever be cherished in our hearts. They were an integral part of what makes this club so special, and their legacy continues to inspire us.

Amid the losses, we also shared incredible moments together. From fellowship at our club meetings to garage and shop tours, social activities, and hosting the Carousel Cruise to raise funds for our chosen charitable organizations, WVSR continues to build a sense of community around a shared love of cars. The WVSR Carousel Cruise has become one of the premier car shows in the area, a true testament to the dedication and hard work of our members. We should all take pride in that accomplishment.

At a time when many car clubs are struggling with declining membership and participation, WVSR is thriving. This is thanks to our officers, committee members, and the enthusiasm of every member who has contributed to our club's success. To all past and present members who have stepped up to keep this club vibrant and exciting, thank you for your hard work and commitment.

As we look to the future, the only way to keep this incredible ride going is for more members to step forward, bringing fresh ideas and energy to drive us onward. Together, we can ensure WVSR remains a thriving hub for hot rod enthusiasts for years to come. Here's to another fantastic year with the Willamette Valley Street Rods! Get ready, because here we come, let's have a great 2025!

Sincerely - 2024 President - Russ Stohmeyer



DECEMBER COOKIE SUPPLIERS

Russ Strohmeier, Jay Miller, Matt Reed & Cindy Smith

Please consider signing up to bring 2 dozen cookies to the monthly meeting.



<i>DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS</i>		
4	<i>Chuck Sekafetz</i>	
5	<i>Jim Walz</i>	
6	<i>Butch Ramsdell</i>	
7	<i>Glen Bond</i>	<i>Troy Skinner</i>
8	<i>Kelly Smothers</i>	
11	<i>Russ Strohmeier</i>	
13	<i>Joanna Montgomery</i>	
16	<i>Rhonda Taylor</i>	
19	<i>Terry Fristad</i>	
21	<i>Renny Otjen</i>	
22	<i>Gary Stafford</i>	
23	<i>Dee Kesselring</i>	<i>Paul Pfinister</i>
25	<i>Matt Reed</i>	
29	<i>Cynthia Barthuly</i>	<i>Dee Farrier</i>
29	<i>Dale Moreau</i>	

2024 CAROUSEL CRUISE MAKING A DIFFERENCE



At the November Club Meeting we had representatives from Family Building Blocks and Honoring Heroes join us. WVSR works hard to host the Carousel Cruise just so we can help others help the community.

Family Building Blocks mission is to: “Keep Children Safe and Families Together”

Honoring Heroes is dedicated to US Veterans, active-duty military and their families.

Both of these organizations take the time to set up a booth at the Carousel Cruise each year to inform participants and spectators about their organizations, how they help the community, and how anyone can volunteer or donate to make a difference.



Remember to bring unwrapped educational toys or books, warm pj's, or winter coats for kids up to age 5 to the December club meeting. It's the last chance to do so before the donation drive to present our gifts to FBB.

Honoring Heroes has an Amazon [wish list page](#) of needs for our local veterans, Its surprising how everyday basic items, like toiletries, underwear, blankets, and towels are needed. Please consider lending each organization a little extra helping hand if you are able.

WVSR.ORG

What's old is new again! Our familiar old face is what you'll see once again when you visit the website. It will be updated as time allows. Currently you can visit the Club Info page to renew your dues online if you so desire. Anyone wishing to assist by taking over the newsletter for 2025 or wanting to learn how to post items – its super simple – email [Garry Pullen](#) with questions or to offer help.

BUY MY CHROME!



WVSR and our generous club sponsor, US Crane and Hoist, are holding the last \$500 "Buy My Chrome" 50/50 drawing for 2024. Both halves of the cash collected for the 50/50 will go to Marion-Polk Food Share and Toys 4 Joy. The only catch to winning is the money must be used for car parts, repairs, upgrades, or chrome goodies. The winner will share what was done to their car at the next club meeting. This is US Crane & Hoists way of giving back and saying thank you to all the club members who make this club because “No members = no club!!”

Starting in January 2025, there will be a quarterly \$500 Buy My Chrome drawing. Save the tickets you purchase during any club meeting. A winner will be drawn every three months with the same conditions as 2024. The 50/50 monthly meeting drawing will continue as always as a separate drawing from the Buy My Chrome drawing.

U.S. Crane & Hoist.

A Look Back with Founding Father John Stanton

I took some time to chat with one of our founding fathers, John Stanton, to explore how this club came to be.

John arrived in the valley fresh from the University of Idaho in 1968 and crossed paths with Tony Mills, Gary Juran, Jerry Keppinger, John Woods, and other hot rod car enthusiasts. By late 1969, their informal gatherings began to take shape, and by January 1970, established official dues, a roster, and rules limiting membership vehicles 1948 and older. Dale Wheeler became the club's first president, and their first major event, the 1971 Silver Creek Falls Rod Run, set the tone for decades of gatherings.

"We were just a small group of car lovers," John recalls. "We used a phone tree to organize cruises—often to the coast for lunch—and meetings were usually at someone's house or shop since it was just a small group of us".



The early rod runs were more like weekend getaways, complete with tents, trailers, BBQs, and plenty of beer and dancing. Bob's OK Tire Store was our sponsor in the early days and we'd thank him by occasionally parking our hot rods front and center at the store to get attention and bring people in. Annual events like the Sandblast Run down on

the coast and the Boise Spud Run became favorites.

As the years passed, the club evolved. In the early 80's came change, we became the Willamette Valley Street Rods and Kustoms, and shifted the the annual rod run-The Canyon Kaper- to a Boy Scout Camp up in the canyon. During that time we even collaborated with the National Street Rod Association as the host club for a huge event in Salem.

By the 90s, membership had dipped, but the club adapted by opening to newer cars and hosting gatherings at the A&W in Monmouth and later in Independence at the Park by the river. Despite changes, the heart of the club remained rooted in friendships and a shared passion for cars that brought it together over half a century ago.

For John Stanton and the other founding members, it wasn't just about the cars. "It was about the people," he says. "The cars brought us together, but the friendships are what kept us going."

As we reflect on those early days, it's clear the legacy of the Willamette Valley Street Rods runs deeper than chrome and horsepower—it's about community.



Bonus content from Garry –

My dad, Dan Pullen, joined a couple of years after this all started, when I was about 7, and for my brother and I it was a blast. We weren't necessarily into cars we just got to spend the weekend camping out, hiking to the falls, running around in the woods, and playing with all the other kids. I can specifically remember my dad had to build a custom back seat for the 40 Chev Business Coupe so we had seats in the car, small butts didn't need much space and it was better than cramming the 4 of us up front. I also remember hunting crawfish in the creek at Silver Falls with John's daughters and you can't believe Mel if he tries to tell you we got caught trying to sneak a beer during a Saturday night BBQ and dance, us kids were angels and a delight to be around!



Keep Ron Sowerby in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers.

In the meantime Michele Coffey will be our interim Treasurer and Matt Reed will fill in for Michele as Secretary.

Family Building Blocks Donations and Drive

The December club meeting on Dec. 3rd is the last chance to bring donations for Family Building Blocks that will be delivered the next Day. For those that want to join in on the delivery, meet in the parking lot at the closed Big Lots on Lancaster and Sunnyview at 10:30 am to drive across the parking lot to FBB. Once the gifts are delivered those that want will head over to the Original House of Pancakes for brunch.

FBB donation needs:

\$30 gift cards from Walmart or Winco

Toys for Children 0-5: Play kitchen food or dishes, toy trucks/cars, Baby Dolls of all ethnicities, play tool sets, Teething toys, Wrist rattle, Shape Sorter, Soft Blocks, Legos, Musical instruments. (Please no battery-operated toys), Board Books (bilingual), or coats, gloves, and hats for newborn-6T sized kids.

Don't Forget to
Renew Dues by
January 1st

**1 YEAR
MEMBERSHIP**

\$25

**WVSR Christmas Party
Dec. 14th @ 5:30PM
Roth's West Salem
Turkey Dinner @ \$21.00
Prime Rib Dinner @ \$29.00
Ornament Contest
Best Dressed
Collecting payments at
club meeting, exact cash
or check separate from
club dues. See you soon!**

**Save the Date
Winter Rod & Speed
Show
January 17-18**



**Merry
Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**





You're Invited to
the 34th Annual



Santa Cruise

Cruise-In & Breakfast

*****Public is welcome...**
...breakfast, Toys for Joy
donations & view the cars.



Stayton Fire

Station

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Rain, Shine or Snow Bring your  
Cruiser or Everyday Driver

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**Sat.
Dec. 7th
2024**

◆ **Registration Opens 8:00 AM**

*****Public Welcome**

Dash Plaque-Tree Ornament (FREE with Toy Donation - 1st 220)

50-50 Drawing and Raffle

◆ **Car Entry Fee: New Unwrapped Toy**

◆ **Breakfast 8:00-11:00 am Adults \$10.00...Ages 6-12 & Seniors \$8.00...5 & Younger Free**

◆ **Awards 11:30am**

1st, 2nd & 3rd Place for.....Car ~~ Truck ~~ Vehicle Decorated ~~ Club Participation



2024 Contact Information (Officers in bold)

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Secretary	Michele Coffey	541-990-8256	tiggermichele@gmail.com
Communications Director	Vicki Champ	503-910-5952	vchamp@comcast.net
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Baxter **AUTO PARTS**



US

CRANE & HOIST



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Tires LES SCHWAB



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CLEAN. RESTORE. PROTECT.



Salem's Riverfront Carousel



Lawrence's NAPA Auto Parts



MYERS LANDSCAPING SVCS.

THE WATSON FAMILY

THE CHAMP FAMILY

Editor's Note:

The goal is to have the newsletter out by Sunday prior to the club monthly membership meeting. Please submit any articles or photos to wvsrhq@gmail.com by the Friday prior to that Sunday distribution. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions as needed for length, fit, and content.

Thank You!

