



Thunderbird Flyer

Newsletter of the Northwest Vintage Thunderbird Club

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 4

APRIL, 2018



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Monthly meeting for April is on Saturday the 7th! Details on page 8!**

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No One Likes A Wise Guy

Longtime readers of this newsletter may know that I usually include some sort of article that has an April Fool element to it. I'll admit that I'm the sort of person that will expend some time and effort to make a practical joke work well and appreciate the effort when I am on the receiving end of one. Well, over the last year, I've been collecting articles that had a sort of "you've got to be kidding" element to them. Heck, I even found items for the "Car Apps" and Old Portland sections that contained a practical joke element. I hope you'll find some enjoyable surprises in the pages of this month's newsletter.

Let me share with you some of the practical jokes I have done behind the wheel. Well, maybe not directly behind the wheel.

The first automotive practical joke was soon after I obtained my drivers license. My mom looked to me as a free cab driver for my younger siblings. Having to cart them around to after school jobs and sports became a necessary evil to have access to a car. But that didn't mean that it had to be boring. I soon realized that our Chevy Chevette was compact enough to allow me to drive from the passenger seat. I practiced this on the country roads that we lived on. Then I convinced my younger brother Steve that I could drive with him in the driver seat. After all, the guy that delivered our mail did it every day. He innocently, but excitedly (he was twelve by the way), got behind the wheel as I sat in the passenger seat steering and manipulating the pedals from the right side of the car.

My mom told us that she would always know what her kids were doing. Although we doubted that (how were we to know that every other mom in the neighborhood would rat us out!) she did find out about my "going postal" with the car and that ended that fun.

Another practical joke occurred on a road trip from Twenty-nine Palms, CA to Los Angeles. Since I was the only one with a car, I was always the one driving everywhere. An hour or so into the drive was enough to put everyone in the back to sleep. I quietly told my front seat passenger that I was going to slam on the brakes and we should scream at the same time.

I waited till the traffic was kind of cleared out around us and motioned to my passenger. I stomped on the brakes and swerved as we both shouted out loud. Although I was looking ahead, I had the rear view mirror pointed down somewhat to provide a clear view of their faces. The sudden deceleration and screams woke up all three back seaters with panic screams and startled looks.

Yep, good times....

Then there is the classic prank when your passenger is attempting to drink from an open cup or mug. When they tip the cup to drink you slightly slow down so the liquid runs to the front of the cup causing them to tilt it up more. When they make that movement, you then accelerate making the liquid rush towards them, sloshing all over their face, shirt and pants.

Come to think of it, maybe this is why no one wants to ride with me anymore.

Happy Pranking!

Tom



Exhaust Pipes that Sing

Well-known aftermarket exhaust purveyor Borla is applying an ancient technology to its new product and I am tentatively intrigued. Its new "Polyphonic" ex-

hausts use a series of different-sized pipes to make multiple notes simultaneously just like a pipe organ.

Of course, the shape and length of pipes has forever and always been one of the main factors in tuning an exhaust note for sound. But I want to believe that this is somehow taking that to another level.

According to the press release Borla's PR agency sent me, company Sales And Marketing VP David Borla "applied his knowledge of music theory to combine specific notes, which are proven to work together in natural harmony."

Sounds cool to me, actually. Why the sales and marketing guy is working on practical product development makes a little less sense, but when your name's on the building I guess you can pretty much do whatever.

It seems natural to apply music theory to tuning exhaust notes, but this is the first time I've heard of a

company actually doing it. If it ends up sounding good, the first logical rebuttal will be "yeah, but does it make more horsepower?" If it does sound good, I mean, really good, I might be willing to sacrifice a

few HP. But I guess we'll have to wait a few more days to hear.

Despite my pleas, Borla is reserving the actual auditory demonstration for the SEMA show next week (which would have been November 2017 when this article was written, Editor).

There was a time when I would have told you the only aftermarket exhaust worth having is the largest diameter your car can physically fit, but have since grown to appreciate a subtler style. That said, I still love when a car sounds right. And while some machines have a perfect purr from the factory, there are some vehicles that can really come to life with the right set of pipes on it.



Although organs and exhaust systems are made of pipes, comparing the two is quite a stretch

Words by Andrew P. Collins

Pictures courtesy of the Borla Exhaust website

Borla tuned exhaust systems for select vehicles run from \$1200 to \$3400.

The NWVTC is putting the details together for a great celebration of the second annual Thunderbird Appreciation Day on May 20th! We will be joined by the members of the Rose City, Rainier South and VTCI-Northwest Thunderbird Clubs at the LeMay Automotive Museum in Tacoma. There will be more details at the next meeting! Please plan to join us as we show off our T-birds right in front of the entrance to the museum while we tour this spectacular treasury of automotive history.



Baby Bed by Ford

Who was the first parent that thought that an automobile would be better than a bassinet for their baby to sleep in? But it is known today that some babies won't sleep without a cruise around the neighborhood. That's what makes this Ford backed creation simply genius. The baby bed simulates a vehicle motion, sound and lighting allowing the baby to sleep...and you also!

Small motors in the bed allow the cushioned bed to move slightly. There are built-in speakers as well as an LED light bar. A proprietary app placed on your phone is started as you drive your vehicle. The app captures the sounds and movement of your drive. At home, your phone pairs with the bed and starts to replay the



recorded sounds and movement of your drive. The light bar emits a coursing, yellow-hued glow which mimics passing street lights.

First announced in April of 2017, Max Motor Dreams, as this crib was called was projected to cost \$1,500. Now a year later, there still only appears to be the one example.



A video of the crib can be seen [here](#). The video does make the crib very appealing. After you watch the video scroll down to the comments. My favorite is from *itrpower* asking "does it simulate a mustang hitting a crowd of people leaving a car meet?"

Photos courtesy of techcrunch.com

Words by Tom Przedwojewski



Dude, Your Car! is an app that allows you to do all sorts of bad things to the vehicles of your foes and friends. Snap a picture of the target vehicle in all its glory and add any kind of mayhem or carnage that you want; broken glass, dents, police car boot, even fire and smoke. After you have done your "artistic" damage to the vehicle, send the photo with your "concerned" message to the owner.



I'm sure that after their blood pressure increases, they'll be laughing right along with you and everyone else that was in on the gag!

This app is in both the Apple Store for iOS platforms and Google Play Store for Android . It currently runs at 99 cents for the ad free version. The effects will easily show when enlarged but when inserted into a text or email attachment they can look pretty convincing!



Some of the things you can add to the picture of your friends T-bird. The wheel boot (left), police officer with do not cross tape (right) and , of course, fire (far right).



Ford AV Study

Today, a simple head nod or hand wave from a driver is usually enough to indicate it's okay for a pedestrian to cross the street, but in an autonomous vehicle future, how will a self-driving car with no human driver communicate with pedestrians, cyclists or humans operating other cars on the road?

Looking to prepare for this eventual reality, Ford Motor Company partnered with Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, to conduct a user experience study to test out a method for communicating a vehicle's intent by soliciting real-world reactions to a self-driving car on public roads.

"Understanding how self-driving vehicles impact the world as we know it today is critical to ensuring we're creating the right experience for tomorrow," said John Shutko, Ford's human factors technical specialist. "We need to solve for the challenges presented by not having a human driver, so designing a way to replace the head nod or hand wave is fundamental to ensuring safe and efficient operation of self-driving vehicles in our communities."

As part of Ford's efforts to ensure autonomous vehicles can safely share the road with humans, the joint research project set out to investigate the most effective means for the vehicle to communicate. The team considered using displayed text, but that would require people all understand the same language. The use of symbols was rejected because symbols historically have low recognition among consumers.

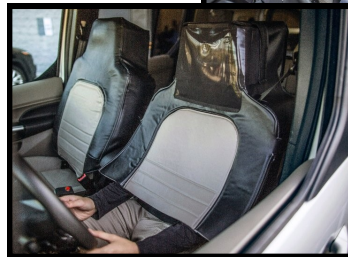
In the end, the researchers decided lighting signals are the most effective means for creating a visual communications protocol for self-driving vehicles. As light signals for turning and braking indication are already standardized and widely understood, they determined the use of lighting signals is best to communicate whether the vehicle is in autonomous drive mode, beginning to yield, or about to accelerate from a stop.

So Ford outfitted a Transit Connect van with a light bar placed on the windshield. To simulate a fully self-driving experience without using an actual autonomous vehicle, the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute team developed a way to conceal the driver with a "seat suit."

The suit creates the illusion of a fully autonomous vehicle, which is necessary to test and evaluate real-world encounters and behaviors. The researchers then went to work experimenting with three light signals to test the communication of the vehicle's intent:

Yield: Two white lights that move side to side, indicating vehicle is about to yield to a full stop
Active autonomous driving mode: Solid white light to indicate vehicle is driving autonomously
Start to go: Rapidly blinking white light to indicate vehicle is beginning to accelerate from a stop

The suit creates the illusion of a fully autonomous vehicle...



Since the project did not require an actual autonomous vehicle, a human driver was "hidden" in the vehicle.

The simulated autonomous Transit Connect was driven on public roads in northern Virginia – home to a density of traffic and pedestrians – throughout August, with researchers capturing video and logs of pedestrian reactions. More than 150 hours of data over approximately 1,800 miles of driving was collected in an urban environment, including encounters with pedestrians, bicyclists and other drivers. External signals were activated more than 1,650 times at various locations around Arlington, Va., including at intersections, parking lots, garages, airport roadways, and various other locations.

Numerous high-definition cameras mounted in the study vehicle provided a 360-degree view of surrounding areas and captured the behavior of other road users. This data will be valuable to understanding if other road users change their behaviors in response to self-driving vehicles and the signals they employ.

"This work is of value not only to vehicle users and manufacturers, but also to anyone who walks, rides or drives alongside autonomous vehicles in the future," said Andy Schaudt, project director, Center for Automated Vehicle Systems, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. "We are proud to support Ford in developing this important research."

Watch a video of the autonomous Ford vehicle used in this study [here](#).

Pictures and words from Ford Media Center website

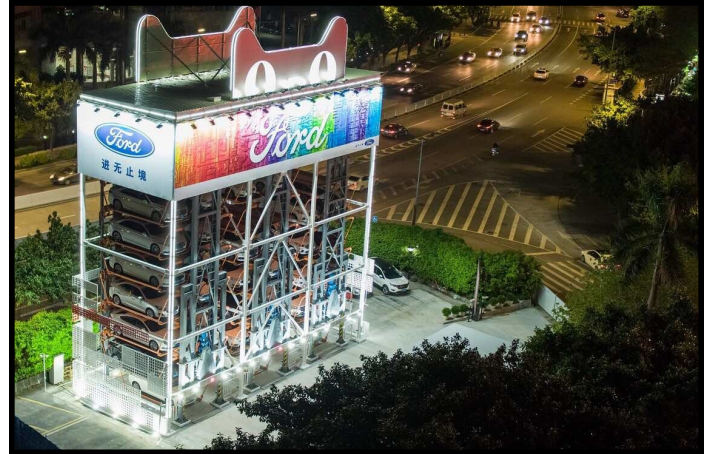
Vend-A-Ford

It is no longer enough simply to test-drive a vehicle by riding around the block while a salesperson gives you their well-rehearsed patter. Now, there needs to be some sort of theater around the purchase, or else how will you trick yourself into thinking that buying a car is fun? It's why Ford and Alibaba leapt into bed together to build a vending machine for cars that you can try before you buy.

The Super Test-Drive Center in Guangzhou was announced at the tail-end of 2017, although the real thing doesn't look as nice as the original renders. The job it does is the same, however, with the vending machine, which has a capacity of 42 cars, spitting out rides for prospective buyers. All they need to do is pay the necessary fees using Alibaba's Tmall app and share a selfie to get their hands on the vehicle.

Users will have the pick of 10 different models, running from the Mondeo through to the Explorer and even an imported Mustang. They can then spend the next three days tooling around town before returning it to the machine for someone else to have a go. Users with specific Tmall profiles can even be offered discounts based on their shopping profiles as a way to get 'em to buy.

Unfortunately, the stunt is a limited-time deal, and according to Gasgoo, will only run between now and April 23rd. It'll be interesting to see if the issue of avoiding salespeople and the neat vending machine will spark more purchases. Or, maybe, there are other things stopping us from all running out and snagging a brand new Mustang.



Words by Daniel Cooper

OLD PORTLAND

Portlandia is a sculpture by Raymond Kaskey located above the entrance of the Portland Building, in downtown Portland. It is the second-largest copper repoussé statue in the United States, after the Statue of Liberty. Commissioned with funds from Portland's Public Art Program and individual contributions, Portlandia is based on the woman shown on the city seal. She was placed on the building on 1985.

Less than a year later, on April 1, 1986, pranksters hung a giant yo-yo from Portlandia's open hand.

The round disc read, "Portland Yo-Yo, Co."

The Oregonian reported that the stunt was "perpetrated at 3:20 a.m. by three young men with a ladder." A maintenance mechanic apparently pulled the 40-pound yo-yo from the statue before sunrise.



Still, a photo of the stunt landed on the front page.

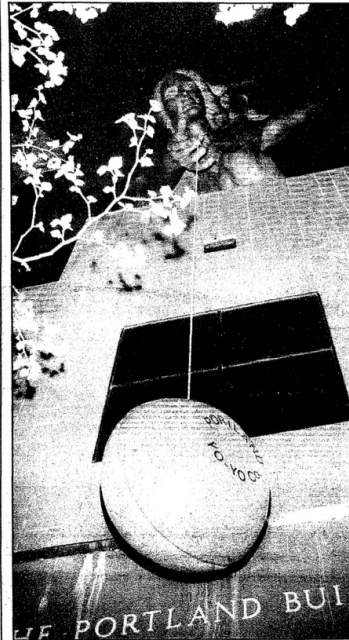
Thirty years later, folks are still trying to keep Portland weird.

The Oregonian

Forecast: improving; high, 58; low, 39; report on Page A2

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April Fool



"Portlandia" dangles a giant yo-yo from a finger early Tuesday in an April Fool's Day stunt that was perpetrated at 3:20 a.m. by three young men with a ladder. Brian Grier, Portland Building maintenance mechanic, later pulled the yo-yo, which measured an estimated 2 feet in diameter and weighed 30 to 40 pounds, to the ledge on which the statue kneels.

Harrington says she gave details to businessman

By LESLIE L. ZATZ, Staff Writer
But the chief confirmed Tuesday that...
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...The reports said the man, identified as John Winston Tate, 26, a temporary resident of the Royal Palm Hotel, 310 N.W. Flamingo St., was shot in the right eye, the abdomen and the thigh but survived. Police found a plastic toy gun at the shooting scene. Tate told police from his hospital bed that he had a "personal association with Lee."
See HARRINGTON Page A 4

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Tom Przedwojewski, Eric Johansson, Matt Truax, Griff Truax, Shelly Roberts, Blake Boyles, Judson Potter, Al Menashe, Mike Connor, Steve Johnson, Lyle Daugherty, Dave Coles, Art

The club welcomed new member Al Menashe. Al joins the club with a 1966 Convertible.

Old Business: The preparations for the 2018 Sizzlin' Summer Hot Rod & car Show are continuing. Flyers are being placed at shows and meets that occur before our show. Tom is working with Make-A-Wish on a possible celebrity judge for the show. Tom and Blake will be attending a North Plains City Council meeting to endorse the show soon.

The spring cruise is being planned to occur on Thunderbird Appreciation Day which is May 20th this year. Special rates and tour guides are being worked on for the club as well as parking our T-birds in the entranceway to the museum while we are there. Other Thunderbird clubs will be joining us to make this a large assembly of T-birds.

Membership cards are not done because the roster is still being worked on. They may be done by next month.

New Business: The Western Antique Aeroplane & Automotive Museum is hosting an L-birds and T-birds event on May 12th. The Rose City Thunderbird Club is attending and our members have been invited to join them. Tom will provide more details to the membership but Rose City has requested a head count by May 7th.

The April meeting may be combined with a hands on detailing demonstration at Sidedraught City. Tom will coordinate the dates with Neil.

Portland Roadster Show is coming up and Tom asked if and when people were planning to go to attempt to meet there.

Treasures Report: Vicky was not able to attend but provided an overview of the club's finances from November through February.

Next meeting date and location to be announced.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55.



Calendar of Events

Club Meetings

- **April 7th (Sat)** Regular club meeting and detailing demonstration at Sidedraught City. Info on page 8.
- **May 20th (Sun)** Cruise to LeMay Automobile Museum, Tacoma, WA

VTCI Events

<http://vintagethunderbirdclub.net/events.htm>

- **June 7th-10th (Thur-Sun)** VTCI North Central Regional, Shoreview, MN

ITC Events

<http://www.intl-thunderbirdclub.com/index.html>

- **August 7th-12th (Tue-Sun)** ITC Silver Anniversary Convention, Buffalo, NY

Car Shows and Events

- **Every Saturday throughout the year**, Portland Cars & Coffee, Wilsonville, OR
Further information at portlandcarsandcoffee.com
- **April 5th-7th (Thur- Sat)** PIR Auto swap Meet, Portland, OR
Further information at www.portlandraceway.com
- **April 6th-9th (Fri-Sun)** Portland Auto Swap Meet, Portland, OR
Further information at www.portlandswapmeet.com
- **April 7th (Sat)** South Albany High School Car Show, Albany, OR
Further information at www.albany.k12.OR.us
- **April 14th (Sat)** Pacific Northwest Model Car Fest, Milwaukie, OR
Further information at www.sabanw.com
- **April 22nd (Sun)** Corvallis Auto Swap Meet, Corvallis, OR
Further information at www.corvallishistoricautoclub.com
- **April 28th (Sat)** Mt. Tahoma High School Car Show, Tacoma, WA (High school mascot is the Thunderbird so they have a special Thunderbird category and trophy)
Further information at jholmes@tacoma.k12.wa.us

These are not all the events in the area. If I have missed any that you think the club members would like to know about send in the information and I'll put it in the list! If you attend an event snap a picture or two and write up something for the newsletter. Each event has a certain flavor and we all like to find a fun and interesting event.





2018 Executive Board

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64skibird@gmail.com

VP Eric Johansson
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Secretary Mark Haworth

Treasurer Vicky Wimsatt

Web site/
Newsletter Tom Przedwojewski



Find us on the web at

www.nwtbirds.org



For your entire club apparel needs; hats, shirts, jackets or even backpacks, go to Stitch-n-Embroidery. Order on-line, over the phone or in person. Delivery to the next club meeting is available. Tell them you want the NW Vintage Thunderbird Club logo!



stitchnembroidery.com/index.html



Club Meeting Times

ATTENTION!

Change to meeting date and location

The next club meeting will be held at Sidedraught City, 9125 SE 64th Ave #1, Portland, OR 97206 on Saturday April 7th, 2018 from 10am to 12pm!

We will be meeting owner and detailer Neil d'Autrement for a hands-on car detailing session. Bring your questions and get answers on making your car shine!

Passing Lane

Call an auto parts store and tell them you need a water pump gasket for a 1997 Toyota Tacoma. Tell the that you were in another store earlier and were given the wrong one and you want to be sure they have the right one. Ask them to describe it to you. You'll never get a bad answer!

fun and funny stuff from the road

