

Fall Edition 2021

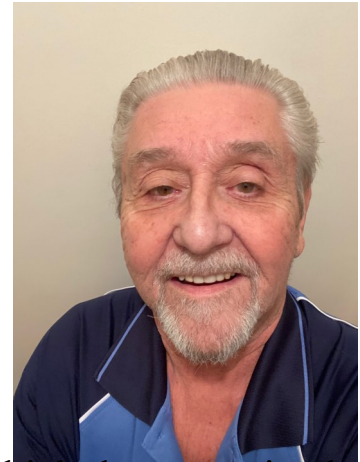
the Oily Rag

The Newsletter of the Vintage Sports Car Club of Calgary



Editor's Comments

I am once again able to continue my unconnected thoughts and musings in this Forum. My recent health problems have been thankfully resolved and I am ready to return to some semblance of regularity regarding publishing the Oily Rag. Thanks to everyone for your forbearance and patience during this period.



As I have been absent from many of the club functions which the executive has arranged over the summer, I am hoping that all our members and their families have remained healthy during the Pandemic and most were able to take part in some or all of the driving tours in lieu of our regular meetings.

It is getting closer to that time when we must regrettably park our collectable vehicles and let them slumber for several months. As most of us are as old, or older, as our cars, all of us are familiar with the preparation of putting our cherished cars away so I will not list the procedures that we should follow as I am sure all of us have done these in the past.

The fall has always been one of my favorite times of year despite the sense of loss as our cars are put to bed. Perhaps my preference for this change of the seasons has to do with the beautiful colours of the trees and the beginning of the annual hunting season. It has only been the last few years when my spouse and I have travelled to Arizona for a couple of months when the days of January become dark and cold. When I was much younger, I spend a few years working in the High Arctic near Resolute Bay during the winter when the sun never rises. When I flew out for breaks, I found the winter temperatures and the sunlight in Calgary to be very temperate and a pleasure. But I was younger than and now look forward to the southern latitudes rather than those north of Sixty!

Please stay healthy and hopefully 2022 will be a better year and the usual meetings, dinners and car shows can return.

Best regards, Larry

The Prez Sez



Hallo Everyone!

As I'm sure you are aware we are once again coming to the end of another driving season. It has been a surprisingly good one with many drives being well attended. The fall colors run was perfect. We ended up at the Little New York Bistro in Longview. The owner had reserved the whole place for us and we filled it. The food and atmosphere was good and thanks to Chris Gorrie and the weather the event was a great success. Thanks Chris.

Other events were to the Nanton Bomber Museum where we were shown around by museum members which was very interesting.

The Highway Cleanup near Longview went well but wasn't very well attended.

Due to the current Covid problem many events were cancelled including the ECCM.

As I'm sure you are all aware our membership fees have increased to \$50.

I know some of you find this difficult to understand but without our usual revenue generators we do not have the income we had pre Covid.

The Club still has many expenses including insurances and memberships to other organizations which we have to have in order to operate.

Our fees are still one of the lowest Club memberships anywhere. Our Treasurer tries to maintain a healthy account balance in order for us to subsidize certain Club events like the Presidents dinner and Christmas Party as well as money for any unforeseen issues that may pop up.

We haven't decided yet if the Christmas Party is a go. With the changing covid regulations we will have to see but will give everyone as much notice as we can on date and time etc.

Personally I hope we can have the Christmas party as its one of the nicest events of the year when we all get together in a great atmosphere.

As a wind up note the weather has been amazing lately and its difficult to know when to put the cars away for the winter but if the weather keeps up and anyone would like to organize a trip be my guest.

I hope this Prez Sez finds you all happy and healthy.

Sincerely

Chris

Your 2020 Executive

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**The Board Executive Meets
Monthly On The Last Wednesday**

Scale model cast iron cars!

By Editor

If you can't afford or find a place to store your favorite classic, why not purchase a cast iron scale model to sit on your shelf? As Chris mentions in his article, somewhere along the line a car enthusiast is always asked the question: "So how many cars do you have and how many have you owned?" After pondering the second part of the query, I wrote down as many as I could remember. Then I came up with the idea that, since I couldn't buy them all back and couldn't store them if I could, I would try and purchase a scale model of every car I owned over the years!

I decided that all the models should be the same scale and, since I already owned a couple in 1/18 scale, that would be the scale I would collect. It turned out to be much more difficult, (and expensive!), to find a copy of the cars I remembered. Finding a colour matching car was out of the question so I settled on whatever shade of the vehicle I was looking for. Also, the exact year was turning out to be very difficult so I settled on a model that was little changed from the exact year I had driven.

The models I collected so far are arranged in the chronological order in which I owned them. Since I am still a car nut at heart, I couldn't resist adding a few models of automobiles I have always loved even though I doubt I will ever own them. The captions below each model describes the car I actually owned and may not be model depicted. I am still on the lookout for the other 30 some odd cars I owned but have not found a model of.

Scale model cast iron cars!

By Editor



My first car! 1949 Mercury Monarch! (mine was not chopped!)



1955 Volkswagon Bug



1966 Oldsmobile Tornado



1943 Willys Jeep



1968 Chevrolet Camaro



1949 MGTC



1960 Austin Healey 3000



2004 Jaguar XK8



1971 Jaguar Series 3 Etype



1996 Grande Cherokee Orvis Edition

These are the cars I wished I had owned!



Jaguar XK120



Jaguar XJ220

A b o u t t h e V S C C C

The motto of the VSCCC is "***Dedicated to the preservation of vintage motoring***" and the main purpose is bringing like-minded enthusiasts together for the mutual enjoyment of our automobiles.

Membership is open to all those owning, and having a keen interest in, traditional (vintage) sports cars. Our current membership owns mostly British roadsters and coupes dating from 1935 to 1980; however all vehicles are welcome. Dues are \$40.00 per year.

General Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the second Wednesday of each month at the Austrian Canadian Cultural Centre (3112 11 Street NE, Calgary).

The VSCCC is a member of the Specialty Vehicle Association of Alberta.

Personal information is gathered from club members solely for the purposes of distributing club related information to the membership. Our membership list will not be sold or exchanged with other clubs or commercial interests.

The membership list (including members name, phone number, email and cars owned) may occasionally be distributed to club members. Distribution is intended so that members with similar vehicles can contact each other for help and advice. If you do not wish your name to appear on this list please contact the membership secretary. Please refrain from distributing the membership list to non-VSCCC members, using it for mass email or for other purposes that have not been sanctioned by the VSCCC executive.

t h e O i l y R a g

The Oily Rag is the newsletter of the Vintage Sports Car Club of Calgary (VSCCC) which is a registered society in the Province of Alberta (Number 50229498). ***The Oily Rag*** is published electronically six times a year (January, March, May, July, September and November).

Editorial Policy: Articles and letters, are welcome and may be edited subject to space. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect VSCCC policy. Publication of submissions may be delayed due to space and time requirements. Deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month prior to publication (e.g. June 20 for the July issue).

Send submissions to: VSCCC, 215 Dalcastle Court N.W., Calgary, Ab, T3A 2A7 or via Email.

Authors and advertisers note: The "house style" of *the Oily Rag* is to set text in either Arial or Times New Roman. If using other typefaces (fonts) please check with the Editor as you may have to supply a font file to support the desired effect.

Copies of the Oily Rag are distributed via electronic means



CONFESSIONS OF A CAR ADDICT!

BY CHRIS GORRIE

WHY DO PEOPLE DO THIS?

For some strange reason, I was sitting around thinking about old cars (like I always do) and I thought that maybe I should write something about them. I have always thought that writing might be an interesting thing to do, mainly because I really enjoy reading good writing done by those who seem to know what they're doing. Peter Egan, who wrote 'Side Glances', a regular column in Road and Track was one of the best. As a teenager, I read a great book written by a journalist from New York who wrote 30 short stories about vintage cars that he had bought over the years and the stories about how he got them, the people he met and the places he travelled to. This inspired me. But what should I write about? Since I think about old cars a lot, it seemed natural to write about that but then I wondered, who would I write it to? Would anyone be interested? Would it be fun to read? What would I say? Can I do it? I spent some time worrying about this and then I came to the conclusion that it would probably just be fun for me to write what I know about the subject and if anyone else wanted to read it, great. So here it is.

I began this adventure by carrying around a piece of paper in my pocket each day over a few weeks and whenever a thought would come to mind, I would write it down. It is amazing how often a car guy like me thinks about cars. I have six pages of scrawled notes (I'm having a little trouble deciphering some of them) but I'm surprised at how well this worked. I think I have most of what I want to say in those six pages. It has been interesting for me to think about how I got involved in this hobby and what really makes me (and other old car enthusiasts) tick.

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BY CHRIS GORRIE

There are common bonds among old car people. I'm never sure what to call us (them): collectors, restorers, enthusiasts, hobbyists, nuts, addicts or something else. We are really all of those things. When we get together, there seems to be an instant understanding among us. We all appreciate the aesthetics of car design. We share stories about our cars and ask others about their experiences. We talk about the good and bad features of our cars. We ask each other repair advice and we learn how to do things we've never done before. Our toolboxes get bigger. Someone is always selling a car or looking to buy a different one. We sometimes go along with someone who is looking to buy a car, to offer advice (or to consider buying another car for ourselves!). New purchases often appear at our club events. Some people keep the same cars forever, while others buy and sell their cars more frequently. Some club members have several cars. You get to see some unusual cars up close. You meet some pretty interesting and sometimes quirky people who come from all walks of life. Some of them become good friends. The social aspect of old car ownership and club membership makes the hobby what it is.

Lately, I've been paying a bit more attention to my thoughts about the old car hobby, probably because I want to write about it and I recently bought an old Jaguar XJ6 and I've been keeping track of the steps of ownership that I've been going through. I realize that I've done this many times before and this is what just about everyone goes through when they buy an old car. First, there's the 'idea' phase where there is a lot of daydreaming about what kind of car you might want. Maybe it's something you always wanted or had before and enjoyed a lot (this was the case with my current XJ6- I had owned one almost new in the 1980s and really loved that car). Or maybe something you saw when you were younger but couldn't afford (I saw my first E-Type at age 16 and wanted one ever since).

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BY CHRIS GORRIE

Or something your mom or dad owned or a neighbor had (My grade 12 English teacher had a beautiful little MGA roadster I often thought about). It could be a car you read about it in a car magazine way back when. Or you heard the sound of the exhaust note as it blasted by you on the road. Maybe the shape of the body, the gleaming chrome or the beautiful color. I have my own stories and I've heard some good ones from some of our club members. Whatever the reason, you eventually settle in on the type of car you want (this time). I say 'this time' as I recall that our kids recently asked me how many cars I have owned over the years. I felt a bit self conscious as they forced me to create a list. Twenty - six! I might even be forgetting a few. Even I was surprised at that number. It sounded a bit pathologic, but I smiled to myself as I realized that I have been privileged to own such a great array of cars and they have been mostly joyful to own. There are only a few of them I've been happy to get rid of. I am really pleased with my latest purchase, but it is strange to think that a car I once owned new is now considered an antique. This is one of those moments when you start to realize your age. Then it struck me- one of the reasons we own these cars is so that we can relive an earlier time when these cars were new and we were much younger.

The next phase in old car ownership is what some call 'the chase'. Finding that perfect model and color, with lots of options. A low mileage, rust free, one owner car that is every enthusiasts dream. You can spend hours pouring over ads on Autotrader, Hemmings, Bring a Trailer, Kijiji, car club classifieds and a whole bunch of other sites. Sometimes the car you want is really close to home. Maybe a club member has one you've been drooling over or it's sitting in a garage a short drive from your house and you don't know it yet!

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BY CHRIS GORRIE

Maybe somebody bought it new and it sat forever under a car cover and they hardly ever drove it. Now it has low mileage, no rust, and it is in perfect condition with all of its original documentation. The person who owned it can no longer drive and the family just wants to get rid of it! For a very low price! And it runs perfectly! And the original tires still hold air! Suuurrre! This is exciting (and a bit imaginary) stuff. The reality is usually not quite so great. Sometimes you have to look far away to find what you want and it might not be exactly the one you wanted or in the condition you hoped for. This can be fun too (or a major headache), especially with coordinating the purchase and figuring out how you will get the car to your home. No matter what car you finally buy, you will almost always find a better one for less about a week after you buy yours. Maybe its best to stop looking after you buy. Just enjoy the one you have. It is probably better than ninety percent of the ones out there.

There is nothing quite so heady as the thrill of negotiating a great price on your new- found prize, then bringing it home. The haggling over price is always an interesting challenge and depending on the seller, can be kind of fun or a bit tense. You might be afraid that someone else will find your amazing car and snap it up for the price the seller is asking, leaving you feeling rather stupid, arguing over a few dollars that probably didn't matter. On the other hand, sellers often inflate their price by at least 10% or more than what they expect to get so that there is a bit of room for haggling. If it is a great car, just buy it. I tell people all the time, get the best, most original, low mileage, rust free, documented car that you can afford. You will rarely be disappointed, it will be easier and less expensive to restore and maintain, and it will hold its value. The hard part is that they are often hard to find and many of us often cannot afford to buy them, so we settle on something that needs a bit more work. This can be a reasonable choice or it can be fraught with all sorts of unanticipated difficulties and costs.

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BY CHRIS GORRIE

There is a ‘honeymoon phase’ that occurs when you finally drive your new vintage car into your garage. You sit and admire the beauty of it all for a long time. You wash and polish it and begin to make a few short trips with it. You soak up the smell and sound of it and marvel at its design. You show it to your friends and relatives and maybe a few car club members. You take some pictures and sit for hours reading the Owner’s manual and servicing instructions. This is great fun, but it doesn’t last too long. Maybe a few weeks at most. Now you enter the ‘reality’ phase when you start to notice some flaws. Little things that don’t work or don’t function quite the way you think they should. Some scuffs and paint chips, a squeaky door hinge, a burned- out bulb, worn out wiper blades or a missing trim piece. Things you can easily repair that are mainly cosmetic. As you get to know the car a bit better and drive it a bit more, you begin to notice a few more things that may actually be symptoms of more major issues (hopefully not too major!). This can vary from fluid leaks, a rough running engine, gas smells, overheating, strange rattling noises, gauges that aren’t working, a slipping clutch, loose steering, poor brakes, non-functioning electrical components and long list of other maladies. Scary things that might cost a lot and make the car unsafe to drive or cause you to break down somewhere.

This ‘reality phase’ can be a bit disheartening. You might be a bit overwhelmed at what needs to be done and terrified about the cost of repairs and begin to wonder why you did this. You need to talk to yourself (and some other car club members that we call ‘enablers’) and realize that once you sort out the issues with the car, it will be lots of fun.

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BY CHRIS GORRIE

This is often a long term relationship. Don't get discouraged! We've all been there. Once you survive this little temporary depression, you are ready to make a list of all of the things that need to be done, then prioritize them and figure out which ones need to be done now, which ones you can do yourself and which ones will require the help of a professional mechanic. The costs can often be spread out over time. The challenge of figuring out the issues, solving them and then enjoying something that you have made happen, keeps all car enthusiasts going. The stories about finding hard to get parts are fun too. There is really something special about the desire to bring the car back to the way it was when it was new. We want to see it exactly as it was and experience what it was like back then. We also want to show it to others so that they can share in our experience of a piece of history, recreated perfectly. These cars are rolling museums and works of art. We are their curators and custodians.

More to come as Chris's musings continue....ED



V i n t a g e S p o r t s C a r C l u b O f C a l g a r y

Our members share a strong interest in their vintage sports cars and the friendship of like minded individuals. They share in the joy of a hands on restoration completed

VSCCC Regalia

Chris Gorrie, our Director of Regalia, would be happy to fill your order for any of the following::

- • • • **Club Jackets**— Stock on hand includes 9 Large, 7 Med, 2 XLarge Red with the club logo and fleece lining, each \$50.00 (actual cost is more- this is subsidized by the club) Order yours before the heat wave passes.
- • • • **Club Logo Patches** - 47 in stock
- • • • **Golf Shirts**—members cost is \$25-47 in stock
- • • • **Grill Badges** — \$15 - 29 new style, 7 Old style
- • • • **Window Decals** — two free to each member
- • • • **Can Koozies**—\$2
- • • • **Pens** - 217 on stock
- • **Mugs** - lots in stock

Classified Ads

Classifieds in *the Oily Rag* will be available as space permits.
Ads will be included for two issues unless cancelled or renewed.
All classified ads, including email links and photos are available by visiting
www.vsgcc.ca

NOTES: The VSGCC accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions of posted items or for the quality, quantity or condition of any item advertised.
Watch out for scams and for potential purchasers using this list to contact vendors with any conditions.

Classified ads will now appear on the VSGCC website. Please send all submissions to the VSGCC Webmaster.