

# CAPITAL CARRIAGES NEWS LETTER



March 2022 News letter

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Classic Times and Club newsletter, Paul Christofferson.

March Calendar (We actually have one!):

Meet and Eat:

March 14 (Monday) – Perkins 2:00 PM.

March 28 (Monday) – Grub Steak 4:00 PM.

Friday Coffee:

This is cancelled for now. We will discuss continuing these in our March meeting.

Monthly Meeting

We will meet Sunday, March 6 – Jorgies at 12:30 PM. You will note that this is the first Sunday of the month rather than the second so we can meet prior to the St Patrick's Day parade (March 12<sup>th</sup>).

I have been working with Rose Cain of the Bozeman club to set up the annual get together with the Bozeman and Butte clubs. She suggested we meet at the Alder Steak House on April 30<sup>th</sup>. I countered with the 23<sup>rd</sup> since the swap meet in Great Falls continues through the 30<sup>th</sup>. So, if the Steak House will have us the plan is to drive there on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. For those who have never been to Alder it is located two miles south of Sheridan Montana (not Wyoming – that would be quite a trip!). The Steak House serves steaks (of course) and seafood. The downside to meeting in Alder is the distance from Helena, 110 miles when driving through Boulder and Whitehall. The trip through Butte and over Pipestone Pass would add about 15 more miles. The two lane highway between Boulder and Whitehall is much improved and has very light traffic so I recommend cutting out the extra miles and driving that route. We can discuss this further at the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting at Jorgenson's. A side note relating to the Alder trip, this is not a short trip for anyone. Bozeman and Butte members will drive 83 and 59 miles

respectively. I am also glad to learn that the Steak House is still open since it has been around 40 years since I last ate there.

I am still not positive what is planned for St Patrick's Day 2022 in Helena. I searched on-line and found a lively times reference to a parade at 11:00 AM on March 16<sup>th</sup> followed by an Irish soda bread contest at Bert and Ernie's. I hope there is more firm information by our meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Jerry and Sharon are our experts on all things Irish so they should answers for us by then! We don't want to all show up for a parade that is not happening like we did last year.

As noted in the last newsletter I have been trying to decide if we could pull off a car show with our limited membership. If this is not possible I hope we can join together and attend some of the other local car shows as a group. Something to discuss further in our March meeting!

Now for my monthly shop update. I replaced the ring gear on the flywheel in my 65 GTO, had the flywheel resurfaced and mounted it, and the new clutch and pressure plate on the engine. The very dirty bellhousing is now clean and ready to go. I can't mount this until after I get the engine off the stand. Now the big holdup is cleaning the engine bay in preparation for painting. Since this is an air conditioned car there are a slew of rubber seals mounted around the engine bay and radiator to force maximum airflow through the AC system. Of course these must be removed (to clean and paint) and replaced (of course they were on back order). I did receive the new seals but removing these and cleaning the very greasy, dirty, engine bay continues. The recent sub-zero weather did not help in the process! I hope to complete the cleaning process this week with the easy part, painting to follow. It is very hard to resist the temptation to tear it all down at this point because I can see that the whole front end needs to cleaning and painting. That, I think, will wait until next fall when the center part of my shop, and my painting room become available. I now understand how families end up with a car frame, detached body and a pile of parts for sale as a project for someone else to complete! I hope not to leave this type of mess for my wife and children to contend with. My goal is to leave them with vehicles that while not necessarily restored, are all in running and driving condition, other than the one I may be currently working on. A very lofty goal at this point!

I hope to see everyone in March!