

Have a Saab tale, event experience, or photos to share? Please submit articles and photos via e-mail to Calye or Dan.

Seeking Contributions/next issue:

Freewheeln'



The Northwest SAAB Owners Club Newsletter

December 2010

NWSOC MEMBER PROFILE:

"SAAB NUTS" DARREN MERTZ AND JEREMY WEKELL

by Darren Mertz

I am 38 and a pharmacist/tinkerer. I love to take things apart and...hopefully put them back together.

It was January 2005. I had finished remodeling my bathroom and the rest of the house was in pretty good order. I didn't see any other projects on the near horizon and I had always wanted a collector car. I had the mindset of wanting something different. I always had a soft spot for the unusual or the 'underdog'. In 1993, I really hated to get rid of my first car, a 1981 Chevrolet Chevette and that was the general direction I wanted to go.

I started looking on this really big new thing – eBay! How wonderful that all these far flung people could get together with their items and find a match between two like – minded people. I started searching brands that I only heard of in passing; things like Renault, Citroen, and....SAAB! What with a name that wasn't really a word, their cars must be interesting. I started with the models I knew, 900, 9000 and, what's this... 96? I never heard of a SAAB 96. Yes, maybe 1996 but WOW! Look at that shape! Unit body construction, front wheel drive and 4 speed transmission with column shift! How fun! I thought '4 on the tree' went out with the 50's. Let the games begin!

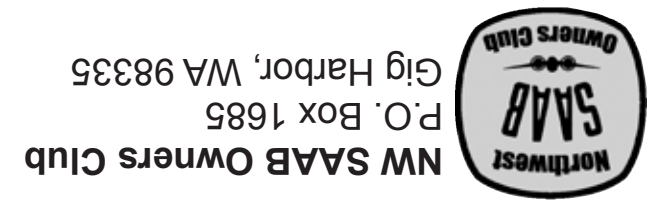


Three days later, I was on my way to Portland OR to inspect my potential purchase. It ran. It stopped. It didn't seem to leak anything. One week later, I was on my way back to Portland to pick up my new prize! It was so exciting. My new blue 1973 96 drove home fairly well but I found out most of the dash lights didn't work so I just followed traffic since I couldn't tell exactly how fast I was going.

I got the car home and started to closely examine things. I started with the radiator and heater hoses. When I pulled the wheels and found out I only had front brakes. I was pleasantly surprised that NAPA could get most of the mechanical parts I needed. Now I had a fairly safe, reliable car. I pulled the carpet back and found a small rust spot near a floor plug. I started to work at it with a drill and wire brush. Twenty minutes later, I had a hole the size of a pie pan. Hum, unit body cars don't

like to have major structural panels weakened like that. Since I don't have metal working tools or skills, I started on my search to find a body shop who could work on my old SAAB. Two years later, I had a fully refurbished car including: reupholstered seats and head liner, new paint, new motor mounts, valve job (I drove back from Portland, OR with only 3 cylinders firing). I still have some work to do, but I love driving it and appreciating all the engineering touches the folks from Trollhättan thought to put into the car. Each year, we try to make it to the Lemay open house and the Norwegian festival at the Puyallup Fairgrounds.

Since the 96, we bought a 1992 900 at the 2009 SOC in Colorado which has become my daily driver. There are lots of thoughtful touches in that car too: A-pillars canted to present the thinnest aspect to the driver's eye, door openings cut into the floor so no wide sill to drag your pant leg against getting in and out etc. We are looking forward to what neat things the new SAAB comes up with in the future.



NW SAAB Owners Club
P.O. Box 1685
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

GOOD BUYS

For Sale: 2008 Saab 9-3 Turbo-X AWD 38,000kms. Never winter driven. Black on Black. Loaded 6 Speed Manual. Only 600 in NA. All maintenance records. No accidents. A must see! All Warranties good until 2013 by any GM dealership \$27,000 firm. Need truck for hobbies, must sell. Located in Van. BC.
Contact meatmann22@hotmail.com

For Sale: Parting out: 1974 Sonett: Running V-4 engine and other parts. 1974 Sonett: I have owned for 15+ years. Runs and drives, solid rockers and floors, less some rust in trunk floor under the battery.
1979 900 EMS, automatic and power steering, runs and drives.
Contact Dan Morley: 253-858-1615 or blue69sonett@yahoo.com

For Sale: 1974 Sonett, yellow with tan interior. 120,000 actual miles. Stored indoors for many years after engine burned a rod bearing. Comes with a good used engine and a rare Weber 2-bbl. intake manifold. I have also purchased new hydraulic rebuild kits for all of the cylinders in the car (clutch and brake). Body is good with the exception of a poorly repaired LF fender area. Solid floors, Some rust under battery. Nice interior, seats and carpets. Rare factory A/C; compressor and mounting bracket are missing. Asking \$1200. or make offer. Bill of sale only. Contact: Kenny 425-351-2627



Northwest SAAB Owners Club Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President: Dan Morley
Vice President: Ray Kopczynski
Secretary: Pat Kopczynski
Treasurer: Jon Kjaerulff

DIRECTORS:

Sean Tennis
Jesse Parkerton Phil Lacefield Jr.

Freewheel'n

is the newsletter for the paid Northwest SAAB Owners Club members, and is mailed about 4 times a year.

Membership in the Northwest SAAB Owners club is open to all, even those not fortunate enough to currently own a SAAB.

Dues are \$10 per year (May to May), and can be made by PayPal or check to:

NW SAAB Owners Club
P.O. Box 1685
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Questions?
Dan Morley
NWSOC President
(253) 858-1615 or president@nwsoc.org

Website: www.nwsoc.org
WebMaster: Ray Kopczynski
Email/PayPal:
webmaster@nwsoc.org

Newsletter: Calye Lacefield
email: chainmailgirl@gmail.com

DAN'S NOTEPAD

by Dan Morley

I just received some good news, Saab will be the featured marque at next years Maryhill Museum car show on Oct 1, 2011. We have had a consistent showing of six to eight cars for several years now and that was one of the reasons we were selected. I am hoping for 16 to 18 cars to display and will be contacting several of you personally to see if you can make the show. I believe there were 19 Studebakers last year and 26 Sunbeams this year, so we have our target set high. See our web site (www.nwsoc.org) for pictures from this years show. Also this year there were three Saab 96s that ran the hill climb race on Sunday!

NWSOC CONTRIBUTES TO CAR AND MOTORCYCLE MUSEUM

July 31st several of us attended the car show at the Great Oregon Steam-up held at Antique Powerland in Brooks, Oregon. The Northwest Car and Motorcycle Museum held their grand opening during the event. It was the first time we were able to view the club paver brick we bought last year. We were also pleased to see a Saab 96 displayed in the museum. There is a large concrete slab between the paver bricks and the museum building for the next phase of construction which will be an old time car dealership showroom building. This will serve as the museum entry and provide more display space. If you would be interested in displaying your vintage Saab in the museum, they ask you to first join the museum, then inquire about displaying.

We had 6 vintage Saabs displayed on the museum's grass show field during the car show. After the show we did another scenic drive to John Collins place for a barbecue dinner.



photo by Dan Morley

NWSOC EVENTS

February 2011

February 20th, 10am-3pm. "Swedish Cruise-In". Volvo and Saab Clubs will meet for the 5th annual "Swedish Car Cruise-In" at the 1930 original Pacific Northwest XXX Root Beer Drive-in, Issaquah, Washington, Let's get more Saabs out there this year! This event is great for vintage and new Saabs alike. This weekend is notorious for good weather! Directions: I-90 east to the Front Street Exit 17 toward E Lake Sammamish Parkway SE. Take the Front Street ramp toward City Center, stay straight to go onto Front St N. Turn left onto NE Dogwood St. Turn left onto NE Gilman Blvd. 98 NE Gilman Blvd. <http://www.triplexrootbeer.com/>

Check future newsletters and www.nwsoc.org or any updates or changes to the schedule.

Have an idea for a club event? Submit your idea to Dan: president@nwsoc.org

SAAB ART

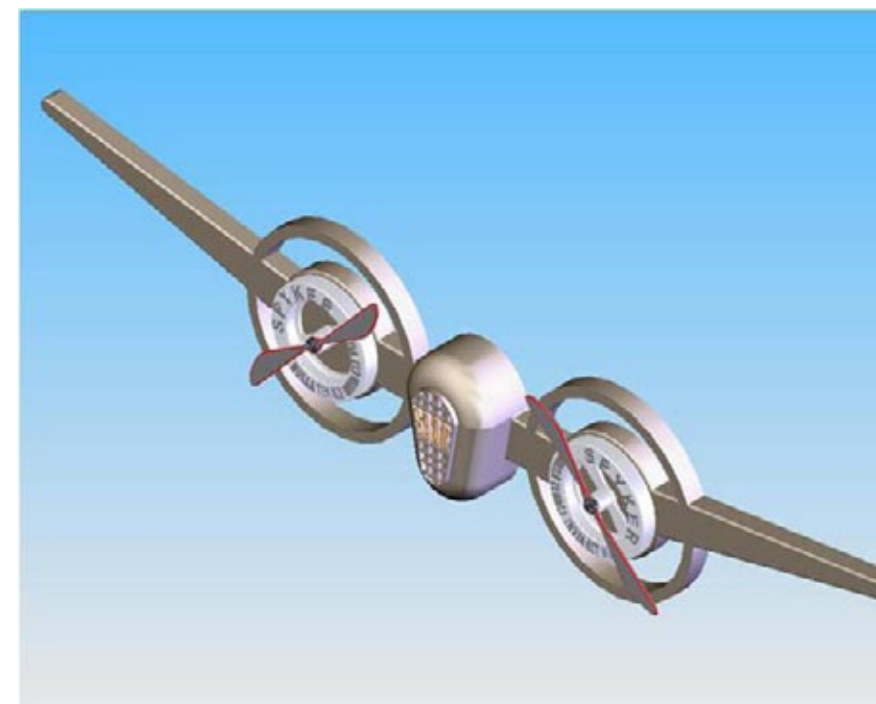
by Calye Lacefield

Club Member, Andy Peterson, is taking classes in photography and art. This lead him to a fascinating project: Saab logo design. One of his designs is pictured here (left). It combines classic elements such as the airplane and the grill with a few new updates and the Spyker name.

"I'm working on a Multimedia program at Portland Community College, trying to learn things to enhance my photography interests. I need to learn more about lighting and I'll also learn video in this course," states Andy.

This project was the designed for a class in the history of graphic arts, and I was casting about for something I could do. Unsatisfied with other fan-based Saab logo art, Andy decided to try his own!

"I didn't like some of the stuff I was seeing on the web that other people had created, and wanted to get away from the Griffin," Andy explains. "It's a holdover from the Scania days, although I read somewhere that the reason for retaining it had to do with its association with a region in SW Sweden. I'm not sure that it's got anything to do with Trollhattan."



EDITORS LOG:

by Calye Lacefield

I hope you enjoy this new feature to Freewheelin'. Editors Log will be a short collection of Saab tidbits related to both the both NWSOC and the Saab community at large. If you have any interesting tidbits, please share them with me: chainmailgirl@gmail.com.

- NWSOC members: Mary Kay Morley and Kaylan O'Connor, Calye Lacefield, and Phil Lacefield Jr. tried out for six coveted spots on a future reality show. This show will feature six two man teams driving a Ford focus across America using the teams social network contacts to decipher clues along the way. Yes, we know it means deterring from our love of Saabs, but for this kind of fun rally, sacrifices could be made.
- The Saab Club of America has announced the date and location of the next Saab Owners Convention: August 18-21, 2011 in Parsippany, New Jersey. See www.saabconvention.com or www.saabclub.com for more details.
- Several people have asked where I got my nifty "Retro Saab" t-shirt. That can be found at: <http://saabdesign.spreadshirt.com>. It's a little pricey, but mine has lasted forever.
- Wayne Carini, from HD Theatre's Chasing Classic Cars, showcased a barn find 96 during a recent episode.