

Exotics at Redmond Town Center Blog Archive for 2017

December 30, 2017

Opening Day Has Been Moved to April 7, 2018 Due To Rain!

Well, here it is, December 30 and we're already rained out for March 31st. Bummer! The good news is that it gives you seven more days to get your rig ready for the big show. We have more surprises in store for you this year. Yes, we're busy working. E@RTC never ever sleeps, not even with one eye closed.

It's the end of the year, time to put 2017 in the history books. I hope it was a good year for everyone. We all hope that 2018 is even better for all of us. You may even get that felony to drop off your record! I can't say I know how that stuff works, but at some point, they've got to take that "blowing up the outhouse" incident off your record. How were you to know Gram-Gram was using it. Petition the governor! He will sign it if he can stop laughing.

For many who show up at our season opener, it will be new cars, others will now be classics, same with your significant other by the way, but I digress. The point is, that with every new year, we see changes and it's nice to see the show continue to evolve into something even more special than the year before.

So, we wish you all a Happy New Year!

December 18, 2017

The Calendar Is Starting to Go Up

We've started to put a few dates on the calendar and the one that's still missing is Classics and Muscle Cars. We're shooting for September 8 on that one, but it means checking with a few people who were not at the meeting. If you're particularly astute, you will notice that the event names have all been changed from brands to countries of origin. Because of the mall calendar and because of our own logistics around bad weather, we're reducing the number of special event days to four, not including opening day. So, German, Italian, British, and Classic and Muscle cars as one event.

The problem is that our special events have always been woven through RTCs event calendar so if we were rained out, it meant that we had to find a date that coincided with an open date for center square and that gets complicated. This is why we pin our calendar so early and so you can start working on your yard pass. We will fill in details as we get into our new season.

You only have a week to get your Christmas shopping done so go to RTC! Buy a guitar. Oh look, Hot Yoga! We'll send the fat guys in Speedos and show them what a strained ham and eggs really looks like.

December 9, 2017

Please Shop at Redmond Town Center This Christmas! The Elves Need the Money

If you want to give us all a great Christmas present, just go to Redmond Town Center and do some Christmas shopping. We're not asking that you sit on Santa's lap or cause a scene with an elf, but we would be happy if you went in, bought something and thanked them for supporting E@RTC. It would go a long way. It's not like we're asking you for a kidney.

We can't do this without a terrific location and we are deeply appreciative of all the folks at RTC and Jessica who we pointed out before puts up with us a like a nun in an orphanage who wishes someone would just adopt one of us. She's awesome! That's an overused word, so I'll make one up. She's awsabulous. (I better check to make sure it doesn't mean something bad... Nope, we're good.)

As you probably read, malls are having a tougher time making it these days because so many prefer to shop online. Still, RTC has restaurants, things going on, food! Stuff, experiences, theaters, things that are perfect for date night without getting mugged. There are even hotels if date night goes especially great and police nearby if it doesn't. Tip, it's a bad sign if you're on a date and a helicopter circles.

The point is, go to Redmond Town Center. Even if it's the middle of the night. Say hi to security without scaring the crap out of them. Just go there, spend money. Buy socks. You need them. One of you needs a breath mint. You know who you are.

We'll start putting up the calendar dates sometime in the next two weeks.

November 29, 2017

I'm So Shocked!

Rule number one in marketing, is that you never try and please everyone. It's a recipe for failure. That, and some people's actual cooking. I won't name names but love them anyway. They need directions just to boil water without burning it, but I digress.

From our very first E@RTC, what we all loved most on a Saturday morning, wasn't just the great cars, it was the interaction with everyone and the stuff we all laughed about. We'd go home giggling about the morning and we always wanted to preserve that unique magic. It's never just

about cars, it's about our own brand of fun and people leaving knowing it was a morning well spent, and sometimes worth loaning out a body part for a yard pass.

The thing we hear most about our site is not necessarily what we write, but our attitude about keeping our fun front and center even when we're talking about rules. let's face it, nobody likes to read about rules, or that long document you have to read and check the box before the software downloads. (It's called a EULA by the way, which stands for end user license agreement, and not that thing dangling in the back of your throat which is a uvula which is not that thing...never mind.)

Yet, in looking at our traffic, people read our rules because, well, they are just kind of fun to read and with any luck make you laugh just a little. If they don't make you laugh you may need a humorlesstorectomy. It's more painful than it sounds. I knew a nun who had one that didn't take. Wow could she snap a ruler.

From time to time, we get someone who's a bit "shocked" by our sensibilities but we have no plans to change how we write because we get a lot more email from those who love it than those who hate it. Besides, if we laugh, well, that seems to help keep the event glued together. E@RTC, as long as we're all involved will be about having fun, front and center. If someone has their undies in a bunch over something we say here, then we guess you need pills. Lots of pills and we'd suggest unbunching those undies to avoid a rash.

The very core of any car community is people who like to play like kids. That's the magic so we will always write with fun in mind and go after sacred cows. It's an expression. No, we're not talking about someone or even something you dated, we're taking about the kind that get offered up to the gods when stuff won't grow. No, not a Burger King Whopper. We're talking about the whole thing, udders and all. Am I digging a hole?

We hope you get out and enjoy the Nutcracker this season. No, we don't mean the one off a diving board.

November 19, 2017

Some Of Our Unusual Email

We received a lot of emails (apparently 'email' in the singular form is incorrect) this past season and some of the themes stick out. Of course, we get a lot of spam and most of it is about people who claim to be able to increase our sales, improve our internet score and our manhood, reduce that rash, and just about everything else except world peas. Yeah, peas.

We get a lot of commercialization requests, something we don't want to do. Everyone wants to make a buck off us and some are a bit sneaky about it. Others just ask us. In our early days, we supported a lot of entrepreneurs who were in the automobile-related business who came out to E@RTC, but it became an issue so we thought it best if we just became a bit more like

Switzerland without grumpy uptight dudes making watches in little chalets. Our objective is to remain as neutral as possible so we don't end up in the middle of a fist fight over window tinting.

We want all auto-related services to do well. Why wouldn't we? We just don't want you to have to be pitched all the time and especially at E@RTC. Instead, we want the event to be about the love of cars and not the love of making money around cars. We don't allow 'for sale' signs on anything either, not just because of a mall policy, but because it would get tacky real fast. This should be a celebration about our mutual love of cars.

Most of the email is about stuff that can be found on our site rather easily. Still, we answer politely. We get a lot that's about car qualifications and we answer immediately, at least most of us do. We're going to improve that too.

We're already working on our next season. There are a lot of behind-the-scenes activities related to what we're going to do in our upcoming season, things we'd like to change and it's all about what we can do to make this all even better than 2017. While I don't get to write as much as during our season, it's not because we're kicking back. Far from it. We're still gathering input before our next thug meeting and in the meantime, we wish you all a great Thanksgiving. We're still going to keep writing. That's not going to stop. One can only tweeze so much.

November 11, 2017

Giving "Rent A Wreck" A Whole New Meaning

There was a time when "Rent a Wreck" meant you rented an existing wreck, but with exotic rentals, it's become just the opposite it seems, it's like they got it wrong and are thinking, "Rent TO Wreck," emphasis on the 'to' which I don't think conforms to the business plan. There was another this past week in Bellvue. Shocker!

"Well, our business plan is to rent cars that people can run into walls and stuff..."

Investors are sitting there wondering, "So how do we make a return on our money???"

The sound of crickets for about twenty seconds before they come back with...

"Uh, there will be insurance, and they have to pay for it...yeah, that's how it will work..."

Reality sinks in with these rental agencies and they almost always fail. Even if the other squidly is paying for it, it's a car out of inventory, and good luck defending yourself in one lawsuit after another on the liability side of the equation. We've never seen one last all that long anyway.

Years ago, when I first got into exotic cars, I noticed an unmistakable phenomenon. It seemed like all of the new exotics that were plowing fields, scraping roofs, involuntary transforming, rapidly disassembling parts, or testing trees were all caused by new owners and borrowed cars. I

started paying attention to every accident and over and over I'd see the same thing. When I hear about an exotic in a wreck, my assumption is just that, it's a new owner or a borrowed car. For those of you in Fresno, a rental is a borrowed car.

Top Gear once wrote about the Lamborghini LP640; that it was a car that wanted to kill you and it was your job to not let it happen. That sunk in when I first took delivery. I didn't need to know what it could do because that was already in the magazines and on YouTube. What a lot of people don't know is that with most exotics, you're basically driving Chucky. Chucky wants to kill you and most of all Chucky likes to surprise you when he's about to kill you. There won't be the faint screeching of tires as a warning, it will be that sudden...WALL!!!

I get it, Harley Quinn is sexy as hell, looks like fun and makes a lot of noise, but if you're going for that ride you'd better sleep with one eye open and a hand covering the huevos rancheros. Exotics are no different. Renting one with no prior ownership experience is like going on a date with Harley when she's a wee bit crabby.

Lamborghini loosely translated in Romanian means, "Let's go have some fun and then die together." This is not to say Lamborghinis are inherently dangerous cars because they are not the dangerous component. In fact, they are designed to do things other cars can't. Keyword is "cars," it says nothing about the one with their hands on the steering wheel. Lamborghinis are great fun! It's the person behind the wheel who gets the notion in their head that goes something like the last thought of a lot of dead people... "I wonder what will happen if I..." WALL!

Like finding an unexploded shell, "I wonder what happens if I tap...right... here?"

Or, "Is this wire hot?"

Or my favorite in the jungles of Africa, "Poke it and see if it's sleeping..."

Or the idiot in Alaska who said, "You just have to understand these grizzlies and we're now genuine friends..." and was later found with his camera running...and his hand far away from all the other pieces of him.

If you're thinking about renting or buying an exotic for the first time, have fun, but don't go looking for the "edge" because it's extremely sharp if you get my drift, excuse the pun. Do a rental experience on a track with an instructor first. If you're new to ownership, get to know the car over the first few thousand miles and slowly work up to idiot status. Get some training. Don't go there in the first 100 miles. Just about every exotic dealer I know has had someone total the car the day they took delivery.

I was at Symbolic Motors in La Jolla standing there when a guy in a brand new yellow Gallardo who was just handed the keys drove out the lot and right into the very high curb while taking delivery. He hadn't gone thirty feet before he peeled off the front. I stood there in amazement like I just saw a cool magic trick.

We encourage exotic ownership, but we also encourage staying alive without the need for tubes the rest of your life. Also, we don't want you damaging the reputation of exotic cars, so there is that too. So, to recap, avoid being the whole tool bag and take it easy! This is as close to a public announcement as we want to get.

November 3, 2017

We Got Our First Noise Complaint...EVER!

We knew it was going to happen. Sooner or later, someone would complain about something that may have nothing to do with us and can't at all be substantiated, proven, or quantified with anything we can do anything about. This was a first for us after nine years. Someone complained about noise outside of the event, enough to write a letter to the mayor. The MAYOR! I expected a little fat guy with a long staff and a fat mayoral collar with lots of gold and curly shoes to come over with a rolled-up proclamation.

Was the complaint from someone at RTC? Nope. Someone from Microsoft next door? Nope. Someone's grandmother who's pissed off about selling her Buick? Nope. It was some unhappy dude who was over at the Saturday market who thought the cars leaving the event were just too loud. The noise ruins the peaches.

Maybe it's just me, but it's probably the sound of people having fun. FUN! Oh, my gosh! FUN! We can't have that in Redmond.

No matter what, someone is always out to make it about them, and ruin it for everyone else in the name of, "community." I picture the Reverend Saw Moore from Footloose who says them damn kids can't dance. The world is filled with unhappy people who have nothing better to do who want to spread their misery everywhere with no regard or concern for those who enjoy and participate in E@RTC. I feel kind of sorry for them, that this is the best use of their time. Doesn't Redmond have bigger problems? Besides, the music is on our side. (Footloose lingo)

What he probably doesn't understand or contemplate is that many at the market come over from E@RTC on a nice Saturday morning. We're a huge part of their revenues. They get a direct monetary benefit from us. This guy didn't work for the market, he just was there to complain about something. As if that busy intersection is ever quiet at that time of day on a Saturday.

From my own research, he's also relatively new to the neighborhood and I'm guessing just an unhappy guy looking for something to do. I have no idea if he's a mime or not. I am suspicious. Damn mimes.

It is important to remember that not everyone is happy in the world and so we have to always be courteous, etc., even to people like this who aren't respectful to us in return. He never took the time to contact any of us. Nope, he thought his best shot was straight to the mayor. The MAYOR!

October 24, 2017

If You're Ever Sent To Lot 9... Well, It's Not Good...

If you ever show up and we direct you to Lot 9, it's not a good thing. It's in Moclips. We actually took a vote in 2011. It's about a 2.7-hour drive from Redmond, and there is nobody there. It's an abandoned high school parking lot and you will feel kind of foolish if you show up ready for a party. You will sit there and nobody will care. Except the old guy who lives next door who will shuffle on over and want to snuggle.



Beautiful Lot 9

If we sent you there, it's because you were probably acting like a giant Prickasaurus Rex in the Jurassic world of carnivorous pricklits. You scored a perfect 10.0001 on the prick-o-meter that morning. You were elected mayor of Pricksville, USA in a landslide. You're a seven-time gold medalist in the Olympricks. Frankly, you're just not a nice person and we called you out.

One of our secret ingredients is that we do on occasion, rare as it may be, kick people out for being jerks, usually with egos bigger than a typical Caribbean cruise ship could possibly hold. You know the big white ships with the crazy girls at the buffet eating all the lobster?

We needed a way to send someone out the exit without them knowing they were sent out the exit. We had Lots 1 to 8, but 9 was not at E@RTC, so we came up with a radio code, saying we were sending someone to Lot 9. Out they would go and we'd all get a good laugh. Still, we wanted a real Lot 9. We had to come up with a location that would fit the personality of E@RTC where everyone would think was funny. We thought about Lot 9 a very long time.

After a few seasons of E@RTC, the group of volunteers and their families would go to Seabrook, WA, rent a few houses and have a great time. The laughs would continue for days. While there we were out exploring the area and came across what we all agreed was the perfect Lot 9. We pulled Steve out of the back seat to inspect and carefully pondering the criteria before making the declaration.



Steve passing the decree. "Now and until this dump becomes a shopping mall with an Orange Julius, and other shitty stores, this will forever be known as Lot 9!"

We all stood around and thought about it, debated the distance, the ambience, amenities, the guy next door who wanted to snuggle and thought yup, this met all the criteria. Steve, being the analytical mind that he is, did his final check and said, "Yup, this is the spot." There were seven other yups.



The resulting celebration of our beautiful Lot 9. We danced and stuff.

We had to get out for a few group shots to make it an official documented declaration. Vic was still back at the cabin sleeping off a good hangover after streaking through Seabrook the night before. It was a hell of a show. Vic was surprisingly fast, with nothing but a giant bush to keep him warm...the other kind of bush.



After we are all tired of dancing and celebrating the discovery of our beautiful Lot 9, we held still for a picture.



"All right, now, who wants to snuggle? It's cold out this way...Son, you look like you could handle it..."

It was time to go home. Nobody wanted to snuggle.

Another E@RTC problem solved.

October 19, 2017

A Few Stats To Ponder

HellllOOOOoooo.... I'm feeling like I'm talking in a giant empty room now that the season's over... HeeeeeeelllllllooOOOOOOOOoooo..... ECHO...echo...echo...echo... Your mom's a HO-BAG..ho-bag..ho-bag..ho-bag..."yup..." What?

We don't know who's going to read this or when. I thought I'd share some fun stats with all of you to ponder about our season. Our nifty new website this year ended up with 40,049 unique visitors for the season, with 61,678 visits, and 124,939 page views and ZERO web optimization or ad words. Traffic is somewhat evenly divided between the website itself, the photographers and the blog. We don't believe the steamy pile of bullshit stats on Facebook, so we're not including that here. Think of any number in your head and we're fine with it. Facebook counts anyone on your friend list when you post something so the "reach" can be all the way to your dead grandmother in Winneconne. Bless her soul. It's a number that's completely meaningless to our audience. Besides, fewer and fewer people use Facebook.

We had a total of 29 possible Saturdays this season of which we were rained-out nine times, and four of those rain-outs were at the very beginning of our season. Ultimately we had nineteen actual events for the season. We did take one Saturday off in August. Some of us needed beauty sleep that morning. (IT DIDN'T WORK!)

It took a while for our website to catch on because most people were following the event on Facebook but that site got to be such a busy mess, thank's to Facebook's "improvements" that were never "improvements", sort of like collagen lips. Or that facelift that makes you look like you're breaking the sound barrier in your sleep. We got tired of Facebook so when we rebuilt our site, most of you came with it, which was nice. Facebook sucks. No seriously, Facebook completely and utterly sucks so we don't do much with it anymore other than post now and then.

Speaking of Facebook, we get a few trolls there and you'd think they would figure out that everyone sees them as trolls. When they do realize what they said as something a bit moronic, it's like waking up naked on a freeway with no way to explain what just happened.

We received over 760 event-specific emails this season. A huge chunk were clarification questions about what does and doesn't qualify. Most of the time the response is the cars are qualified to get in and we deeply appreciate the ask. We answered every email and people have been nice. (And to that dude in Nigeria, where's my money? I sent you my bank account number months ago!)

We get a lot of inquiries from local businesses who want to "partner" with us and I don't think they realize we have a lot to do already. The mall also has strict guidelines about our use of the space so we point in that direction. Our goal is to keep things fun and not bombard everyone with commercial stuff. We would love to see a food stand somewhere or something like that from the mall somehow...a good chocolate chip cookie sounds good right about NOW.

The other emails were mostly FAQs that were already on the site. We're always nice, even when they write to ask if we're a weekly event. We love that people take the interest in us and we're here to help so we don't mind the questions.

Our peak days were 550+ cars, and our low days were around 200 cars. When we get above 500 we start to turn qualified cars away, and we hope to fix that in 2018. The average turnout was in the 300+ range. No, we don't count spectator cars and we're not a "Cars and Coffee" so we don't have the usual \$2000 with a fart can to count in that total. All this time we were hearing about such impressive numbers coming from other Saturday events and it was all BS because they were counting every car anywhere near the event. They did that because they couldn't tell the difference. If we DID play that game, it would put us at around 1,500 cars on an average day. See why that doesn't work?

That totals roughly 6,000 exotic, rare and unique, cars for the season of which I'd guess that 2/3s are cars that make it more than once. Just a wild guess, I'd say we're pulling from a batch of about 1,500 exotic, rare, and unique cars that make it out at least once each season. It's just our best guess. For those of you in Fresno, we get a lot of cars.

Here is the big surprise, and a lot of people don't know this. We have some cars show up that are so expensive that we exceed \$100 million in total car values on those days! There is no other weekly car event that can come even close to those numbers. This is because of a few generous collectors who take the time to bring out the very high-value stuff and they bring these beauties on their own wheels! There is nothing like E@RTC.

We guess that spectator traffic runs at around 4 spectators and participants per participant car. It's hard to count because people are cruising between the lots and the mall, but we do our best to make a general count and get it right. That would put us averaging around 1,200 people per event, or about 24,000+ people for the season, except we'd have to double spectators on special event days, so it's safe to say close to 30,000 come out each season and of that total, the unique visitors are about a third if we had to guess, so about 10,000 unique visitors a season. We tend to be conservative with our numbers. We do very little outside promotion and we don't do any web optimization. Our goal is to match our audience with the cars so we build a strong community .

We get very few complaints each season. Less than a dozen and most of those are about entrance criteria. Hey, we do our best and we have no plans to change who we are. Sean has to deal with the bulk of it at our entrance, where he gets a lot more grief. He has about one or two who want to argue every Saturday. It's a tough job and we hate turning anyone away.

We wanted to share this info with you because we are a community event.

October 14, 2017

We're Done For The Season and I've Run Out Of Tissue Crying About It

Thank you, everyone, for making our 9th season so outstanding. Expect even more improvements for 2018. We don't know what the exact percentage of improvement will be for our new season, as we're just now making our priority list.

In closing out this season, I'd like to share some thoughts about why our website and blog are written the way they are. We will continue writing all through our offseason just to keep you up to date. We had a couple of critics this week, which is fine, we love feedback in the spirit of improvement. Still, we're not for everyone and we don't try to be. Let me explain why.

It begins with a basic rule when marketing any product, and that is that you never try and make anything for everyone. It's an instant recipe for failure. That, and chocolate chips on a nice pepperoni pizza with onions and anchovies. No great company ever tries to make their device for all people. It doesn't matter if it's Apple, Chick-fil-A or Honda.

You have to know your audience and our audience is never going to be everyone in the car world who happens to like cars. Some are going to hate everything we do no matter what we do. Those in Fresno sitting on the porch steps, with an ankle monitor, while reading this blog come to mind. So do some who don't like the fact that we have a focus on what types of cars make it into the event. E@RTC has always had its share of those who curse our name, raise their fists and spit, along with the usual critics who'd never ever lift a finger to do anything for a car community of any kind anyway. The recent posts we took down on Facebook are similar. We get it, you don't like this. Well, don't read it. Problem solved.

They aren't comments in the form of anything helpful. These aren't individuals who'd ever pitch in to help anyway, so we generally ignore them unless they come up with a great idea. Besides, most of the critics we get on Facebook and other social media are kids either living in their parent's basement, or soon to be living in their parent's basement...either way, there is a basement in the deal somewhere. Trust me.

We are there to have a great time and make each other laugh and keep things light-hearted. We don't much care if we offend someone. Being offended is not a fatal disease. I can be offended

every day if I want to look for it. I chose to never be offended. I'm offend-proof and I'm happy! Try it! It's super-easy. Take out a little pad and paper and make a note to yourself, write down, "I will no longer be offended by anything." (Don't forget to sign it) and watch how much your day improves. I promise you it will.

There is too much serious stuff out there in the world already, so we don't want to forget what we're for and that's to have a great time, see cool cars, etc. and make some friends. We don't need to write car reviews because they are everywhere. Writing, in general, has become too sterile and lacks any personality because too many writers worry about offending someone somewhere. I can assure you I don't because our core audience is also offended-proof. If you listened to our two-way radio chatter on a Saturday morning, we constantly make fun of each other but it's damn funny. That's our foundation- having a great time around cars.

The job of our blog is to keep our community together and if we make you giggle at our stupid humor, then bonus. Yes, now and then we have to deal with some drama, but that's to protect our brand, as we have done since we began. We still try and have fun with that too. So no, no plans to change the blog as we watch our traffic and people seem to read it and it's growing in popularity. Thanks to all of you who do laugh.

You see, much of E@RTC's core foundation of E@RTC is based the cross-relationships and friendships people have made at our event. We make a few people laugh and have a good time and they help us connect with others and suddenly we have a car community where genuine friendships are born, cultivate, and thrive. We love this. It's why we do all of this. We love seeing all of you have had a great time, but damn-it, we can't make everyone have fun. Some people are just unhappy no matter what and we feel bad about that. May I suggest a cool refreshing mint.

October 13, 2017

Mom Nature Gave Us A Solid For Our Last Day Of The Season

Saturday will be a beautiful nice day and the last day of our 2017 season! What a season it's been!

There will be a huge turnout this Saturday and one of our biggest of the season, based on all the web traffic we've seen.

We also had Nick's birthday this week. So please wish him a happy birthday when you come out. Next year his birthday cake requires a burn permit like the rest of us.

We can't thank you enough for being a part of E@RTC this year. It's meant a lot to us! (hugs) We look forward to seeing all of you one last time this Saturday.

Our 10th season will begin on March 31, assuming we're all still here. We can't predict the weather that far out, but it's safe to assume there is a 50/50 chance of rain with a 50% chance that will be correct. There is also a 50% chance I'm just guessing.

See you Saturday!

October 10, 2017

It's Our Final Saturday For 2017

Well, this sucks! It's our last Saturday, which is looking good so please come out! We hate to end, but our start and end dates come from experience and a lot of crying. Don't come running to us with tears in your eyes if you miss this one.

Our photographers did a stupendous job this season and it's worth checking out their stuff. They were about a third of our traffic on this site all season. So was the blog! So thank you for that. We will remain active on the blog straight through spring. I promise we have more stuff to share. Recipes, tweezing tips, manscaping without a lot of blood, AND some car stuff.

As we said before, we will be doing some meet-and-greet events on Saturday mornings down at America's Car Museum so stay tuned for that bit of tomfoolery. We've yet to decide how to make a gathering down there, and what it should look like, but we're working on it; pondering the possibilities so everyone goes home happy. Basically, we want to make sure it will work.

Earlier in the season, we wrote about the challenges of meeting up at a restaurant on a Saturday morning. The places all end up hating us because of our size and it's never a great experience and few have fun. The chefs spit at the very sound of our cars as if we we're locusts, there to eat the leaves off the trees. Okay, some are, I admit it, but not all of us. We then quietly stroll in and eventually end up looking like a high mountain plane crash reunion where everyone stares at their plate in silence remembering who they once ate, too nervous to ask for jam.

We want to start something more festive, engaging, worthy of dragging your likely hairy ass from here to Tacoma on a rainy Saturday morning... on purpose and actually stop there. It's safe to assume NOBODY who reads this lives in Tacoma already. Trivia; everyone who ever moved to Fresno likely came from Tacoma, and you know what we think of Fresno. We shouldn't disrespect Tacoma. There are some nice homes there. The ones without the bullet holes. Okay, I'll shut up now.

We want that first gathering at the museum to be fun or nobody will come back. We don't want you to curse the event and spit, so we're giving it a lot of thought so it exceeds your expectations. Our goal is to have a great time, talk cars, tell stories, show battle scars, bite marks, and missing teeth. Okay, maybe not. That's more Granite-Falls-on-a-Friday-night kind of

gathering... ours will be more along the lines of a fun Saturday party worthy of that sore jaw to gain your yard pass.

Yes, we've already ruled out a glittered Nick on a stripper pole. That got a unanimous no vote. Including a no from the pole itself. Vic surprisingly got a few votes. Wha'd I miss? Hope to see you Saturday if the weather is decent.

October 5, 2017

Threading The Needle...To The Point Where We're Rained Out!

We've been curfubulated about Saturday's weather. (There is no such word, but you mysteriously know what it means, right?) I'll make an attempt at our definition below.*

We've been watching the weather and we decided that we're OFF. (Didn't mean to yell, but that was for the back row that will show up anyway.) The rains end too late that morning and won't dry out in time, then start again too soon and the streets will all be wet. This assumes the weather folks are right and they never have it pinned down that closely so it's a needle we can't thread.

This is one of the tough ones to call and we get a few of those each season. If we are on next Saturday, I hate to break the news to you in this way, but it will be our last for the season. Because it will be our last, and we've had two weeks off, we will call it our E@RTC encore. How's that?

We don't plan to run into late October. It gets too cold in the morning, too dark and mysterious, and it doesn't have the same festive feel of a small town block party. Besides, we don't want anyone standing around grumpy and hypothermic at the same time. It's a dangerous combination. Like Jarts at a family reunion. It's also too close to hibernation for some, while others will simply stop tweezing for the year. We know a few of you will get back to crafts; scrap booking, turning gum wrappers into tiny little chains or glittering the shit out of everything not nailed down. (Nick)

Before the season officially ends, we want to thank our sponsors this season one more time. Please do us a favor and thank Ferrari, Maseratti Alfa Romeo of Seattle, as well as Lamborghini, RR, Bentley of Bellevue and especially Redmond Town Center. Especially Redmond Town Center! If you can't go there in person, please stand up and clap in their general direction.

Thank you Jessica for putting up with us, and all your time and energy from everyone at RTC. We couldn't do this without your help.

Please shop there this Christmas!!! Everything you need is right there! If it's not there you probably don't really need it. They ask so little of us so it's the least we could do for hosting us all

summer long. They have been with us from the beginning and we're super loyal to them for all they have done. Go dine there. Have some cookies! Buy some soap! Just go there and buy something! (Mama needs a new motorcycle.)

We also want to thank America's Car Museum who supported us all summer along with giving all our volunteers annual passes to the museum for the next year. That was extremely cool and will keep them from spending the entire winter on the couch wishing for our next season to begin...or worse...far worse... making chutney.

As I keep saying, our volunteers are amazing. While we know some can scare the siding off a tech building, they are still great people who do this because they want to give back. We're hopeful we're all walking upright by next spring.

Two other big groups we want to thank. First are all those who bring cars out week after week. You bring a lot of smiles to the faces of others who are seeing cars like yours for the first time. It means the world to so many who come out to see your cars. We see them wet themselves with delight as you show up.

We especially want to thank Greg and a few others such as Bruce, and Fred for bringing Jon's cars out, including Roy, who come out week after week with their cool stuff. I don't think some people have any idea how much work it is for our collectors to get cars out of their garages and over to E@RTC and we appreciate all the hard work. You inspire a lot of people!

We also want to thank all of you for participating in this event. This is where it feeds on itself. We do it for all of you and your response helps give us the motivation to keep it going. Without all of you all our volunteers would simply go home and hide.

Thank you everyone! Let's hope next Saturday is decent.

*Ker-fub-u-late: (verb) to discuss weather while manscaping without reason or intent.

October 3, 2017

We Had A Good Meeting

All of us Thugs got together on Saturday to discuss what went well, give out the latest news, and to talk about what we can improve. We're always looking for ways to make a better event. We will have fewer special event days because it's a lot of work. Also, "Thugs in Thongs" day was unanimously ruled out except for that one guy who voted for it. We question his choice of beverage.

We don't know about where you live, but mom nature eventually decided to water a little later than first planned on Saturday, but it did finally rain. By Friday's weather report, they were

predicting thunderstorms for Saturday so we were glad we were off as a safety measure. We didn't want to risk Vic's curly hair going off like a flash build in a lightning strike.

Jason had the taco truck show up to keep us all fed and the food was outstanding as usual. Sean won a trophy for being the guy who has to deal with all the folks who want to argue with him at the gate. His car knowledge runs rather deep, so you're messing with the wrong guy if you decide to argue with him about how special your ride is if it's not obvious. He can also out-nice you. He's US six-time champion of nice. He's known for his signature move of hugs without warnings. I just warned you.

Vic also got a trophy because he takes a lot of crap from the other guys in fun all season. Ask him about Ferrari runway requirements sometime, but stand back when you do. It's like lighting one of those things that spins on the ground, then pops. And Billy won a trophy; the keeper of the radios and other items because of his tenacity. He's another one of those volunteers who shows up week after week, always determined to help us put on the best show possible.

I was just happy to be a part of the group. Nobody got a wedgie this time, but maybe I wasn't looking.

We do laugh a lot when the Thugs get together. It's sort of our goal, to just make fun of each other and tell stories about this season and highlights from incidents during earlier seasons. Some stories will never ever get old. Like the time... never mind.

You know, you don't have to own an exotic or rare car to volunteer as one of the beloved Thugs. For those working in the foreground, you do have to be personable, able to carry on a conversation, and be in firm possession of an engaging personality because it's not just about parking cars. You're also the Saturday morning party hosts. It's not a good job if you like to hide in the basement and play with your marbles, but it is fun if you like to connect people, help get cars sorted out, and just be a great ambassador to the event.

For those who volunteer in the background, well, the bar's a little, shall we say, lower. It's just a few steps up from fogging a mirror, but not by a lot. We love it when people pitch in consistently. There is always something to do. We're now going through the 501c3 approval process and getting better organized on the back end for more growth. Yeah, we're getting bigger all the time.

What matters most is finding the volunteers who care about putting on the best car show possible week after week. That's the spirit in which we all work. We want to draw those exceptional cars, and the people who love them. That's what sustains the event, along with the friendships that are made each week. We want to build the best community event anywhere in the world. The Thugs have always been a unique bunch who put their entire focus on you having a great time and we plan to sustain that.

Listen, you can't expect to make a decent living selling pictures of your feet on the internet. While I know it's tempting to try other parts, don't. Just don't. Besides, it's not what your parents

had in mind when you were shot out of the baby cannon in the back of a Greyhound. I'm talking from experience here.

Let's hope for a decent Saturday.

September 28, 2017

We Think Mom Nature Got Into The Hooch, So We're Off For Saturday.

Wow, have the weather folks been wrong a lot lately and they keep fooling around with Saturday, but we decided to call it RAINED OUT. We think the weather folks dug their cave a little deep. They were way wrong about the weather Monday night and we had to cancel our middle-of-the-night skeet shooting competition after the bars closed. I'm fine with it, because trust me, there is nothing worse than having pellets picked out of your butt by a laughing medical staff at 4 AM. It's "pull" BEFORE shoot."

We have probably three possible Saturdays left before our season ends for the year. Season nine is about to be in the record books. It was our best season ever! We may be over and not know it yet.

We were looking at our web traffic history and got a good laugh when we saw the giant spike in traffic around our April Fools prank. That was a lot of fun.

For those of you who are new, freshly out of prison, spent your summer on a rock in Nepal, or were locked in the basement by your ex, or your grandmother, in a coma, heavily sedated, or stuck in Fresno, we canceled our season opener on April 1 due to rain. Our opening day just happened to land on April Fools' Day this year. It was a gift to us from the Calendarians from thousands of years ago.

As a bunch of us Thugs were having breakfast that rainy morning anyway, we came up with the idea to still thank everyone for coming out. It was sort of a spontaneous April Fools' prank that gave us a good breakfast laugh. I raced back to my keyboard after breakfast and waited until about the time we'd normally be over then thanked everyone for coming out to our Best Opening Day Ever. We were further delighted that our loyal participants who got the joke quickly piled on and thanked us for the best opening day EVER, along with all the incredible stuff that happened on that opening day that never happened.

Those who didn't get our collective sense of humor, because they were new, freshly out of prison, spent their summer on a rock in Nepal, or were locked in a basement by their ex or their grandmother, in a coma, heavily sedated, or were stuck in Fresno, thought we were serious and it's the most hate mail we got all season; all for failing to tell them that we were still "on" that opening day. That blew up like adding nitrous to your mom's Civic without telling her. She sure got to work that busy street corner in a hurry that night. We were laughing ourselves to a point

of sudden involuntary lost bladder control. As I write this, I'm having trouble typing because I'm still giggling like a kid who made X-Lax frosting for his friends before a hike.

We're having our annual season-almost-over Thug meeting this Saturday regardless of weather. This is where we sit around a giant bonfire (likely just a candle) and reminisce about the season, what worked, what didn't, before we forget. Planning for 2018 begins in about a month as we start to think about the calendar and all the coordination that entails.

We also will be looking for more volunteers to work behind the scenes on various details, such as car procurement, some marketing stuff, administration, etc. More on that coming up. Our volunteers are an amazing group of people who and the very reason we can make this all happen. Without them our lot would be a lot less magic. Please take a moment to thank them before the season ends. It would go a very long way.

I'm taking a moment here to thank my fellow thugs for all the laughs and good times this season. I'm proud to be one of you. Except for that one guy who's just a little nuts. You know who you are. You're typing this. I'm looking forward to hanging out with you all at our meeting.

Hopefully we see you all next week!

September 26, 2017

Bruce Leven

We got word a while back that long-time local car hero Bruce Leven passed away at 79. Bruce was a fan of E@RTC and we saw him here as late as July. He was open about his condition and was aware that this would be his last season at E@RTC. Think about this for a moment. Knowing you don't have a lot of time left, yet wishing to hang out with all of you. That's a car guy. He did what he wanted to do.

Bruce was a hero of thousands because he got to live the life that so many of us wished we could have. He was so willing to share his passion, including going through a lot of trouble to get his cars to E@RTC where he'd stand around chatting it up with the rest of us on a Saturday morning.

We have these folks at E@RTC, people who have singlehandedly changed the world, yet they never seek out attention. You probably wouldn't know much about their background other than the cars they drive. This is what makes E@RTC so special. We have these people who come out whenever they can who would otherwise be impossible to access, even if for no other reason but to say thanks. They come out to just be one of us and make friends, have fun and talk about cars. We've never name-dropped, or done anything to capitalize on their notoriety because what we all want most is to just come out and be a part of something. E@RTC makes us all more human. Bruce was always one of us and he will be missed. Thank you Bruce for being a part of E@RTC and always enthusiastically sharing your passion.

September 21, 2017

Ohoooo...The 23rd Is Looking Nice!

This may be one of the last times we say "...is looking nice" unless we're talking about some hottie that just fell out of the gym, so come out and help us end the season on a rumble. It's looking like rain for Saturday the 30th... but that's a long ways off just yet. Give it a 50/50. Assuming it does rain, that takes us into October and we'll end our season sometime around mid-October. We don't want to see anyone crying when it happens. We will always have Fresno together.

We're working on our winter plan; daily drivers to the museum for some laughs, talk about the Moose we just bagged, Halloween, Turkey Day, Christmas. Fruitcake. Raise your hand if you like fruitcake. See, nobody raised their hand. Thought so.

September 19, 2017

Why We're Not Cars & Coffee...And Hate Mail From Mimes

Because of my last post, I got a nasty letter from "Mime Your Own Business" a mime school in Weyauwega, Wisconsin. You know you have a bright future ahead when you plunk your hard earned dollars down on that tuition. Anyhow, I think it's a nasty letter, but I'm not completely sure. Inside was a badly-folded blank sheet of paper which in Mime means, really bad things. I crumpled it and mailed it back. I guess the mime war is on but you probably won't hear a thing about it.

By the way Weyauwega loosely translated means, "Horse go no further."

We get email fairly often where we're someone will refer to us as "Cars and Coffee" and we've never been Cars and Coffee. The term makes that little vein in our foreheads quiver a little. That's an entirely different event. We made a choice to distance ourselves from the beginning because of a wide range of issues, including behavior associated with the brand, and our desire to build our own unique identity and set of expectations for all of you every Saturday morning. We don't just represent you, we also represent the reputation of RTC and we care about how they are perceived. Besides, if they are nice enough to give us the space for E@RTC, we sure as hell were going to do everything we could to live up to the gift.

The very term "Cars and Coffee" doesn't define anything. It doesn't tell you what to expect other than, cars and coffee. Every Starbucks parking lot meets that definition, so does every Safeway, Target, and Walmart parking lot, so does every McDonald's so does every gas station, so does every funeral home, feed store and bait shop and appliance store, not to mention just about

every parking lot in the country where there are cars in the parking lot and a pot of joe nearby. The term sets no standards, just cars...and, well, someplace within walking distance, coffee... That's it. The bar is usually so low that the biggest event in the country counted both spectator and participant cars for their total participation. Why pray tell? Because they couldn't tell the difference!

When I think of Cars and Coffee, the immediate image that comes to mind is a faded Honda Civic with a fart can that nobody wants to drive fifty miles to see. We know you love your car, we all loved our first cars, well most of us. Mine could out-rust the Titanic, but I loved it anyway. From our first day, we wanted E@RTC to be something different. We set an expectation for multiple reasons, including to cultivate higher standards of behavior, including the willingness to ban those who behave badly. So what if our volunteers got beat with the ugly stick here and there, they can still run a mean event.

We wanted E@RTC to be something special to you. We wanted it to be the motivator to get up on a Saturday morning and see what shows up. To even our own delight, we see new stuff every week and we're there every Saturday!

See you all Saturday! It's looking like it will be a nice day...at least so far.

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September 14, 2017

We're on for Saturday!

The weather is looking good for Saturday so come on out before it's too late. This could be your chance to meet that special someone to get you through the winter! It's expected to rain the following week, so this really could be your last remaining opportunity to see some great cars, have deep meaningful conversations, and a chance to build a beautiful future with all your new friends. Then again you could just stay home and clean the fridge. We're way more fun. Save

fridge cleaning day for garbage night. You don't really want your neighbors to see you throw out that 20 year old orchid from the prom.

We never had garbage night when I was growing up. My brother and I ate everything that wasn't nailed down. My mother sat us down one night and tearfully told us it was embarrassing to be the only family on the block with no garbage. We secretly borrowed the neighbors so we looked wealthier than we were.

This is when it starts to tricky when predicting our season-end. We don't have an end of the year party, we just look at the forecast and call it; that we're done for the season without any big tearful farewell like the Titanic leaving port for the first time. We just stay home like it never happened. That's when you clean the fridge. We look at each other and say, WTF just happened?

For those of you who signed up for our email. I'm still sorting it out so this comes to you automatically. We're gathering up the email addresses, and we're checking the right boxes, etc., but we're still dealing with some minor technical issues. Once we have that all sorted out, you will get this the same day we send it. To that nursing home who got all our mail, there are no bedpan races. Damn spell check.

September 12, 2017

Only About Five or Six Weeks Left...But...

We sure had a lot of fun at the America's Car Museum Summer-Ender Fender Bender. They had an extremely good turnout while it rained in Redmond. They didn't see rain until later in the afternoon as the droplets marched south like a tiny invading army.

We also had a great conversation with the folks there about all the fun stuff we're contemplating for not just the end of our season, but also what could happen this winter, such as a few gatherings at the museum just to hang around and see each other so we don't forget names, faces, or the bucks we owe someone. This way you're also reducing the chance of getting hugged warmly by that sweaty guy on opening day; desperately trying to remember names, with no clue who has you in a surprisingly awkward struggle snuggle as you softly call for help before you panic and pass out.

You know, we're not terribly excited about mimes showing up at E@RTC. We don't talk about it much, but we sure make the hand gestures. We just don't like them and wish they would mime their way over to the dumpster. Pull themselves over with an invisible rope and get in. While we all know a mime is a terrible thing to waste, we're glad there isn't a mime school within 2,000 miles. Reminds me of the lyrics to the Willy Nelson song, "...you're always on my mime..." It wouldn't surprise me one bit if there was a mime colony in Fresno.

We're going to want more feedback from you about what you'd like from E@RTC in the coming season. Cover the white but glossy hairy legs is already on the list. So is better looking Thugs. We hear that one a lot. We're going to change the exit direction of E@RTC so cars aren't causing a problem on Bear Creek.

We will have more breakfast choices at RTC in 2018, so we've covered that one as well. We're working on some theme ideas, but we'd love to hear yours. We should have announcements for 2018 sometime in November so you can schedule a good rake on other days.

Did you notice we called it right on the weather and beat Mom Nature at Mumblety- Peg for once? Meanwhile she's showing those car events in Florida what "rained out" really looks like. We're all pulling for everyone down there. Also, on a serious note, please be careful where you send your money and check out the charity before you send a dime. There are lots of so called "charities" out there that use disasters more as fund-raisers without distributing squat to those in need. Some well known charities are on that list too. So, do your homework. If you spend a buck, make sure that buck actually goes to those in need, or you just paid for someone's new office rug, bedroom rug, head rug, or possibly that slurpee machine, or even someone's dad to play Santa at the annual company Christmas party.

You may have noticed the GIANT email subscription invite at the end of each blog. We have about as much control of changing the size as we do growing our own limbs. Sorry! We're using it to keep you in the loop. It will automatically send you this blog which should then show up in your email around 6 PM. We're just working out the bugs. It's not really bugs, it's more like me not knowing what the hell I'm doing just yet. But we appreciate you subscribing. We're humbled! I promise I'll get it all figured out. If a little old lady calls you from Dubuque, screaming at you to knock it off, I may have screwed something up. Scream back!

September 8, 2017

We're Rained Out for September 9! But The Summer-Ender Fender Bender is Still On!

This is the first time we've been rained out since May 13! That's been a very long run! The party at America's Car Museum is still on because they have a giant building that can hold all of us if we get soggy. Never pass up the chance for a good car party!

See you at the party! We will all be there!

September 6, 2017

The Weather Gods are Playing Mumblety-peg With Us!

Remember the game? How many of YOU have a scar on your leg to prove it? My brother does! Okay, I'm not a good aim. Ooops! I mean, sorry! There was no X-box for us growing up. We actually bled. We lost teeth, broke bones, counted our stitches. There were no helmets, except the cheap \$1.99 football helmet we'd find at the toy store, but that was only used when going off a cliff in a wagon. There was none of that sissy stuff while sitting in the comforts of a basement. Our moms were all emergency room mechanics who could shove a bone back in our leg while doing the laundry. Pussies! Oh and most of you women could Martha Stewart the crap out of a crypt before you were ten. If you weren't the one in the wagon, you were certainly pushing it. The girls were so tough in my neighborhood that they put creepy dudes on milk cartons.

While Mom Nature is busy messing things up with hurricanes and stuff, she's was thinking about tossing a little water our way on Saturday but things are improving the hour so we're on. (I'm adding this little caveat on Thursday afternoon, that the weather is still changing so we may not call it until Friday morning.) This looks like one we should get right, but this is Washington, and at least we're not having to guess if a hurricane is going to hit us or not. That's mumblety-peg with a flaming chainsaw. We're all thinking about them.

We're now into that end of the season where we never know from one day to the next if we're going to make it to the weekend. We actually get on the phone like an old-fashioned gossip tree and debate the hell out of the weather like old men rocking on a porch swing and coordinate outfits when we're unsure what to do that day. I can assure you there is a 50/50 chance we'll get it right.

No matter what, even if we were rained out, which I don't think will happen, we'd still drive the daily drivers down to The Summer-Ender Fender-Bender that will be on rain or widespread sun. There is a 50/50 chance they will get it right too. Please come join us. This is our last chance to see Nick and Vic dance together like hippies on shrooms.

The other night we were talking about what we'd like to see happen as we grow E@RTC. Our thinking is that we'd like to draw cars from other parts of the country that you'd all want to see. We need more arms and legs as volunteers, along with a few decent heads, and so we will be looking for more people to help us on the administrative side in key areas this winter. We always want to see the event get bigger, but we don't want to lower your expectations either. We love it when we hear from you and your words matters more to us than a bus full of screaming nuns heading home from a hockey match. We love it when we hear that you value our criteria to get in and all the help refining our standards so we're always putting on a great show, worthy of your time on a Saturday morning.

As for some other stuff, we are debating changing the exits of E@RTC to reduce problems along Bear Creek with some that just don't have the genetic capability to think of others. When gene therapy is something you can get at a 7-11, then maybe these individuals can comprehend how to best behave. We're also going to now river-dance over to the sidewalk and talk to those who encourage bad behavior. They too are a problem and ruin it for all of us so if you see it

happening, please tell them to knock it off in the nicest of ways. You don't have to be super nice, but don't throw anything. RTC is already low on rocks. I read it in a memo.

We begin our calendar planning sometime in early November for 2018 so that we can get all the date conflicts worked out before everyone shows up in the same outfit. Some want more center circle events while some want less. There are drawbacks and benefits to both so if you have ideas, we'd love to smell what you're cook'n.

We're also contemplating a better organized and bigger drive down to Monterey next year that would leave immediately after E@RTC and arrive in Monterey on Wednesday, then blast home on Monday after the Pebble Beach event. We will need volunteers to work on that project too. Just because our season ends, don't think the Thugs just get put in the shed for the winter like those patio chairs. No, we have lots of poop to get done so we have a decent season opener. Hard to believe that next year will be our 10th season.

September 2, 2017

Thank You America's Car Museum! AND Join us for ACM's End of the Season Fender Bender Party!!! ...And Other Stuff

A giant thanks to America's Car Museum for donating season's passes for our dedicated, and outstanding, yet not particularly handsome Thugs who worked so hard this season. We're extremely grateful for this generous show of support from the museum and we look forward to driving down after E@RTC September 9 for their second annual Summer-ender Fender-Bender!

This doesn't mean we're done for the season, oh no-no, but it sure is a lot better to have a party now than wait until it's soggy when we're all standing in the rain wishing we were somewhere else, (except Fresno of course). It's nice to have this party while it's warm and the food isn't all wet. Potato chips just don't crunch in the rain.

Our plan for the Summer-ender Fender-Bender, sponsored by Fender Guitar, with live music and food, is to head down to Tacoma after E@RTC and all vehicles are welcome, however exotics, rare and unique cars will have special parking like they did last year. The party will go on much of the afternoon and the weather should be great! Please come and have some fun and enjoy the grounds, the view and the museum!

For those of you who don't know, this is the largest car museum in the US and the exhibits and cars on display keep changing. There is always something new! The old fire wagon in the lobby is especially cool. It looks like a camp stove with chrome intestines.

And Now For A Serious Note

Once again we had two cars behave badly on exit and neither one is welcome back to E@RTC. We had a dark red Ferrari 430 go flying out of E@RTC and we have it on film and so does Redmond PD along with their plate number and description. There is plenty of video of these two acting like like ass-hats! Good luck with your next drive through Redmond. These two ruin it for everyone, but I'm sure they don't care, because it's all about them. Who cares about you or the volunteers who work so hard to sustain the event. They are both really stupid! Oh, and when they do get arrested, we supply the spectator popcorn for the hearing.

The other car was a flat gray 240Z that did something similar. Yup, you guessed it, both cars were asked to behave as they left the event, but when you're dealing with attention-seeking, self-absorbed, narcissistic children, they tend to not listen anyway, because of course, they are attention-seeking, self-absorbed, narcissistic children in the first place. Both of these idiots now have video of their behavior shared with Redmond PD and likely to be on YouTube for others to see. Now everyone in the car community also knows they are attention seeking, self-absorbed, narcissistic children. Even your significant other (if you have one at all) will now have evidence to support her belief that you're an attention-seeking, self-absorbed narcissistic child. I should just skip writing as it would be a lot to expect these two to think of anyone other than themselves, because again, they are attention-seeking, self-absorbed, narcissistic children to begin with.

For those of you who wish personal success in your life, it's hard to ever get there and achieve greatness at anything when you're an attention-seeking, self-absorbed narcissistic child in the first place. Greatness, in case you never learned, comes from what you do for others, not what you take away. It's never too late to straighten up. Where is Willy Wonka when you need him.

Oh, for those of you who like this blog, you can now subscribe below! Just think, you will always feel like you're in the know! Come on, it will be fun.

August 26, 2017

Just A Few Weeks Left In Our Season So Come Make New Friends!

This has been the longest stretch of nice Saturdays since we began E@RTC on that cold February morning in 2009. It was so cold everyone was peeing slush. I don't think I've been that cold since.

We've had a lot of fun this year and we don't want it to end. For those of you who have thought about coming out to spectate or participate in E@RTC but haven't yet, you need to come out and make some new friends before winter sets in and you're stuck with the old ones who tell you the same stories over and over again, probably fifty-three times by spring. I know you secretly want to super-glue their lips in their sleep. Instead, just come to E@RTC, say hello to some new people and improve your life! It costs almost nothing, and according to the app we use called, "Stay the Fu*k Away From Me!" very few of our participants and spectators have active restraining orders! They are generally extremely nice people. Yes, there are is an

occasional sea urchin that will show up now and then, but don't step on them and you're fine. I think I dated a sea urchin once, I don't remember.

Stop for a moment and ponder the thought of another winter hearing your friend tell you about that time at work that they spilled soup. You know the story word for word. Wouldn't you want to actually say your busy and have it be absolutely true? We only have about seven or eight weeks left in our season and a couple of those Saturdays will be rained out, so who knows. You could meet your next ex-wife or business partner with the million-dollar idea. We could be done in a couple of weeks too and you'll miss the chance like the other nights lottery! We just don't know. We could ask a DeLorean owner when our season ends.

September 9 is the America's Car Museum's end of the year Fender Bender as sponsored by Fender Guitar and it's a party. Get it? Fender-Bender? I know I'll get lots of email about this because so many don't read our site and get badly confused. After E@RTC on September 9, at 11 AM we drive down to join the party at America's Car Museum down in Tacoma and have a good time. If you've not been to the museum before, it's the largest car museum in the US! (food's good too) It will be a party all afternoon! It's not the end of our season, just sort of their fall party, so don't write us asking if we're done for the season. We're not until the rain gods hose us down.

GOOD QUESTION, when DO we call it? When the forecast tells us it's not just going to rain on Saturday, but that we should round up two of every animal and build an ark. Even on clear days it's just too damn cold to be standing outside. We know better. The sudden ending of our season happens sometime towards the end of October, but almost always before Halloween.

August 22, 2017

We're Baaaack...! And Some Talk About Marketing

We had an outstanding time in Monterey and Nick and I caught the eclipse on the way home. We don't know if you heard about it but it was kind of a big deal. We thought it was very cool, but from Newport, Oregon, on the beach, the sky never went completely black. It was more like that moment at night when you're parents would scream at you to get your butt inside before you end up on a milk carton.

It took us over fifteen hours to get home in the sea of refugees heading north from war-torn Oregon, or so it felt. A guy in a sack race holding scalding coffee could beat us. We kept seeing the same kid on a skateboard the entire way. I've pushed cars faster.

We did have one issue that came up that I'll explain here before we get some email about it. No, it's not a candid talk about garden gnomes but that too is something we try and avoid. We have a rule for the Thugs, no "garden gnoming" at the event. Think about it for just a second...
OooOoohh...

We had a text message go out last Saturday inviting people someplace that was a bit of a misunderstanding. It should not have gone out and we apologize. They have no connection to us and are in fact, now competing!

We don't promote other companies who are not involved in E@RTC and we never have. We stopped doing drives to events that were not sponsors and hardcore supporters a long time ago when it became a problem in our first or second year. I know others have asked for permission to do the same thing and it's not something we can do for a variety of reasons. If you start a business, best not to rely on E@RTC for your marketing funnel. We'd love to see a healthy car community but all too often it's at the expense of something we worked hard to build ourselves and doesn't contribute to E@RTC's success.

We're trying to not make this a bigger deal than it is, and wanted to set the policy straight so you don't come back to us and remind us that we did "it" before. There was merely a miscommunication about the approval or it never would have happened. E@RTC is about you coming and having a good time at E@RTC and not about marketing to you as a focal point. We won't let that happen again, especially with our participants getting hit up for some other venture. We know our participants don't show up on a Saturday morning to be sold anything. We're there to have fun and see some great cars and make friends. We're also working to attract some very cool stuff, but that means the right audience and spectators have to be there. It's that chicken and egg problem again.

We do want to figure out a way to get more stuff into E@RTC that benefits you for participating, but that's still in the works as we want to do it right. We have some ideas but we're still pondering them carefully as we have a lot of interests to consider. We have a lot to do yet to keep building E@RTC so that you're delighted every Saturday.

We have about eight more weeks of decent weather before the rains hit and already we're working on our 10th season. There is a lot going on behind the scenes as we keep working to improve E@RTC. We're on the map in a big way and we're going to use that leverage to bring more cool stuff to our event.

The weather is looking good for Saturday and we don't think that will change. Everyone is back this week with stories to tell, pictures to show and bandages to remove so it should be a good Saturday! See you then!

August 18, 2017

No Exotics at Redmond Town Center on August 19! We Really, Really, Mean It!

This is just a reminder that E@RTC is not happening tomorrow. We don't want to get email from you about some crappy Prius that got in and nobody cared. That wasn't us. We have the day off.

Tomorrow is a parking lot just like the one at Safeway, only with bushes and stuff. A lot of us are down at Monterey looking at much of same stuff we see at E@RTC only with different colors and people driving them that we just don't know. I can report, we're having a lot of fun.

We have the big fender-bender coming up on September 9 right after E@RTC that day, and before you get your undies in a bunch we're not talking about a real fender or a real bender. We're not going to smack into each other on the way out. This is the event at America's Car Museum to kind of wrap up their end of summer, but we're not done. Oh-no, we run straight until about mid October when the weather turns to crap and we all look at each other and agree we've had our fill until spring.

August 13, 2017

We're Taking the Weekend Off! and Bad Exits

Yes, that's correct. You read it right, there will not be any E@RTC this coming Saturday, August 19 because of car week in Monterey. A lot of our regular attendees and volunteers make the annual migration down to Monterey for Car Week. Besides, most of the volunteers have been working for thirteen weeks straight without a Saturday off and need to moisturize.

As a bit of trivia, a few of our volunteers actually go work the Concorso event in Monterey as if they can't get enough of E@RTC. So, if you're heading down, no you didn't take a hit to the head with a frying pan from your special someone in the middle of the night, or eat the wrong mushrooms, those are actual E@RTC Parking Thugs working those event too, only with different shirts! Some of the Thugs can't get enough of car shows so they have to do it or they grow hair where it shouldn't grow at all...ever.

Bad Exits

Once again, we had a few self-absorbed individuals lacking in maturity and self-control do burnout and behave badly when leaving the event. These individuals don't care one bit about our sustaining the event or you. They just want some attention they didn't apparently get from mom. We know who they are and are not welcome back. They ruin it for everyone. We ask you all to help us remind these poop waffles that the sustaining of these events requires good behavior. We go way past a zero tolerance policy, we go all the way to a minus 13 tolerance policy, which means banning you and thirteen people who look like you. Please exit like you're in a hospital zone. Remember those? DON'T RUIN IT FOR EVERYONE POOP WAFFEL!

August 10, 2017

Lamborghini Day! And... We Just Might See Rain...Guess not!

Redmond Town Center figured out a way to accommodate us for the center circle by moving the stage to the other side so we're back again in Center Circle for Lamborghini Day. Sunday is their FitFest event which some of us should attend...well all of us really. When I first read this, I thought they were talking about squeezing us fat guys with beach (ball) bodies into stuff half our size just for some laughs, but no, it's about fitness. It sounds like a fun event, even if snoozing on your couch is your favorite exercise.

Our Lamborghini population in the Northwest is not massive, but they are always impressive cars and there is nothing better than the sound of them all running at the same time. That hum is glorious! We want to also thank Lamborghini of Bellevue for their sponsorship and for helping us round up the cars. We do expect a good turnout.

The chink in the armor, bug in the soup, wrench in the gears, etc., is that there is a small chance Saturday will have some rain early in the morning so we're watching the weather closely, even though we're on. It's one of those weather systems where no matter how we call it, someone is going to complain if it does rain, but right now E@RTC is between the higher chances of rain. We're doing our best to get it right.

We also have a lot of people starting to head down for Monterey after E@RTC for the annual car week where you get to see a lot of what we already see and do every Saturday morning! If you've never attended the car events at Monterey, it's well worth the experience. It's everything from auctions to shows, car parades, to parties, etc., all in a single week. Some are flying, others are driving, nobody to my knowledge is walking or crawling. If they were, they should have left a few weeks ago. Some of us Thugs are heading down on Sunday, some Monday, others Tuesday...

I'm driving down and it's always a wonderful road trip and one of my all-time favorites. We have the best coast drive in the world and it's surprising how few people have done this spectacular drive. It's so worth it so just get in your damn car and go! Seriously! You will have fun.

August 2, 2017

Today I'm Covering Shaved Legs, Combustibles, and Zombies

Saturday is going to be our best weather ever. It will be a day so perfect, people will write about it for centuries. Even the zombies in the great zombie apocalypse will sit around burning piles of trash, arranging protruding bones, reminiscing about this spectacular day. With a day-time high predicted to be in the upper 80s, we're going to see a very nice morning and probably a big turnout of cool stuff, especially with topless cars and guys in shorts.

Ten bucks to Vic if he shaves his legs! Twenty if he shaves only one! Anyone willing to up the bet? Hey, it's something to do! It's way better than looking out for snow.

We're still getting people who want to argue with Sean about what gets through the gate. Sean is the resident guru gate-master who does such a wonderful job of managing expectations on both sides. It's a much harder job than it looks and he deserves a very special thanks for his work without tazing anyone this season. Seriously, if nuns had tazers when I was in high school, I would have spent my entire four years wiggling on the floor.

Nick will be back from Watershed and far less combustible than last weekend. Rumor is he had a very nice time, reminiscent of a spiritual retreat into the high mountain wilderness when he was a small boy. I say 'small' in relative terms. Some of our other Thugs will also be back after a badly needed weekend off. Some were also off in the woods finding themselves. I shant say more.

See you all on Saturday!

July 29, 2017

Excuse Me While I Gush A Bit

I'd like to gush a bit about our amazing car community! I'll start with the volunteers who get up early every Saturday morning, SHOWER, get dressed and drive to RTC, plan the lots, stage the flow for the day's anticipated traffic, and get the space ready for the day's show. It's like poetry in motion, synchronized swimming fat guys in Speedos, formation flyers with no planes, ball room dancers with radios; all working together, having each other's back to make the event run smoothly every Saturday as they do. We were down a lot of volunteers today because of badly needed time off for some, and yet, the others picked up the slack with no problem, all with a smile. What a team! I can't think of a greater bunch of people to spend time with on a Saturday morning.

Then we have our participants who bring out their stupendous machines for everyone to enjoy and today it was the Classic Car Club with their extraordinary group of cars that they painstakingly manage to keep running and in complete show-room condition. We had some of the finest examples of classic cars you will ever see along with their outstanding owners who were all a complete delight to host. Thank you all for coming out! The trouble a lot of you go through to bring your cars is not trivial and we can never thank you enough. The pictures from today will hardly tell the story.

Then we have our spectators who help this event remain as marvelous as it is, and are so respectful of the cars. These spectators often tell us to thank the participants who bring them out each week. Many spectators are seeing these cars for the very first time and have only otherwise seen them in pictures. Even those of you who are from Fresno who I pick on for no

reason, other than, well, you're from Fresno and you can't explain why. You too play an important role.

I can't begin to express how rewarding it is for us volunteers to see so many people having such a great time each Saturday morning and how many enthusiasts there are for just about every car imaginable. I'm sure there are Ford Pinto enthusiasts group somewhere. I'm not sure I'd want to meet them, but we know they exist. Yeah, probably in Fresno.

I can't forget our photographers, better known as the "drive-by shooters" who do such an amazing job of getting their work posted. The quality of their work is on par with the best automotive magazines and if you look at how they do it, how they show up early, set up, etc., carefully plan their shots, you see how much thought goes into it. Can you imagine if what we typically know as drive-by shooters were using cameras instead of bullets? "Hey man, got a shot of you in your crib in your jam-jams..."

Then there is Redmond Town Center who has been behind us from the day we started and fully understands the meaning of community. They do a lot for us and are always there to help us improve the event somehow. There are a lot of people who come a long way to see what we all built and so I'm sitting here typing this while beaming with pride over what an outstanding event this has all become thanks to each and every one of you.

Thank you! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Yes, gushing with pride!

July 22, 2017

Classic Car Day and Our Mini-Parade

July 29 is Classic Car Day and you won't want to miss this one. Not only is it Classic Car Day, but we're going to do something fun and different. We're going to gather up the Classic cars over by Bed Bath and Beyond and bring them into RTC through our normal entrance by BJ's Restaurant then up 164th Avenue NE, and into the center circle at the mall where we will get them all parked in a row.

The reason we're doing this is because it's one thing to see Classic cars, it's another to experience them as they roll by. It's like watching Nick jog. We know it's possible, but we still want to see it with our own eyes. Then again, maybe not.

This is really a special day for us and it means a lot to us to have the Classic Car Club of America join us. They are a very well run, active organization and we we'd love to see more of our participants and spectators become a member of this worthwhile club. Some of the history of these cars is fascinating and it's well worth your time to ask questions and learn about these beauties. See you all on Saturday!

For those of you showing Classics, come meet us over at Bed Bath and Beyond at 8 AM.

It's Great to Be Free!

July 20, 2017

I'm surprised by the number of people who email us asking how much it is to get into the show. I always want to say five hundred bucks for our last row ticket for 2019. When I tell them that it's free, sometimes they just don't believe me, even though I'd bet my dog on it. She's looking at me right now as she ponders the odds. We're free, we've never charged anything except for two events- one was our spectacular breakfast drive to the falls for the Lamborghini event and the other was our Carz party. In both of those events, they were still subsidized by us, but we all had a great time. We make it up in volume. (old software joke)

We in our regular lot this week followed by Classic Car Day next Saturday which will also be an outstanding day for us. We also have Lamborghini day coming up in August so be sure and come out for that one. It's all on our events page. We've always loved the feel of the regular lots because we get to talk to more people and it has the look and feel of a flash mob that can't dance.

We've been having our best season ever and we can't thank everyone enough for helping us make this happen every week. A big shout-out to Redmond Town Center, our sponsors on the sponsor page, our participants who bring out their amazing cars and our fabulous spectators who generate the enthusiasm to draw the cars. Thank you all for being a part of this. Thank you to the nice person who reads this blog. I'll slip you a few bucks when I see you. Everyone plays a part making this happen, which is why it's as free as a naked guy on a beach on a hot sunny day. See you all Saturday.

July 9, 2017

Saturday July 15 is Car Collector Day!

We have some amazing car collectors in the Northwest so we should see some very special stuff this Saturday. When we're learning how to collect anything we all kind of work up to cars. In college the only thing I could afford to collect was dust. By the time you can afford to collect cars, well you've made it.

Think back for a moment. All of us are collectors in some way. We have those voluntary collections and involuntary collections. As an example, stamps, baseball cards, and unique beer cans are likely voluntary. Mismatched socks, broken electronics, ill-fitting clothes, bills, arrest warrants, restraining orders, are probably involuntary. The cars that likely show up at E@RTC- definitely voluntary.

Oh, a dating tip for you ladies; guys who collect cars-good. Guys who collect fingers-bad. BIG difference! Cars, good. Fingers, bad. Repeat twelve times before that next Tinder date. We don't want you to show up at E@RTC looking like a land crab explaining how he seemed so nice. We've heard that one before.

Is my car exotic enough (10PM the night before the event)?

While we're always happy to answer the question, we get a surprising number of late night emails from people who want to know if their car is exotic enough who plan to be there early the next morning. It's not a good time to ask the question. We're not Walmart so we're not open all night. Some of us need our beauty sleep and if you saw us, you can see we're not getting enough. We do our best to get you a response, but please, ping us a couple of days before in case we need time among us to decide if it's on the fence. Not literally on the fence, but you know what we mean.

Improvement

We always want to know how we can best improve E@RTC and while we've heard the suggestion to put bags over our heads, we're hoping for something that will be a little less...Oh, I don't know, obvious. Yeah, we've heard get Vic a stool numerous times. We love feedback, so keep the email and blog posts coming!

July 4, 2017

Happy 4th! Back To Our Regular Lot On Saturday!

Happy 4th of July everyone! We hope this is a perfect holiday for everyone and that you don't burn the burgers and buns, not to mention -you-.

We're now back to our regularly scheduled events this coming Saturday and we expect to have more surprises as the season continues. I'm talking about in the form of cars, versus the other, "Honey I'm pregnant!" kind. We wouldn't be a reliable predictor of that one.

We're getting a lot more email from much further away from people who plan to bring their show-quality rides from all over the Pacific Northwest and make a vacation out of it. We're humbled when they make the effort to come from far and wide to participate in our great event. It means a lot to us. Someone from Fresno is bound to show up one of these days, either to chew me out for making fun of their town, or to tell me they are out of soup.

We typically get a lot of out-of-town spectators this weekend who are here on vacation so it's always nice to show off what we do so well. Many have never seen an exotic before and are thrilled to see what you bring.

I don't know if you noticed but we've added a few more photographers to the list on our photo page. We've lovingly called them the "drive by shooters" since we began. They are doing an outstanding job of uploading their work so please thank them for the effort. A lot of them are real pros with poster-quality stuff. Yeah, we wish we could do blocks of photos on the individual pages, but we're not that sophisticated managing this site. Someday, we'll get that customized. Those photos as they are go everywhere and it's a big part of why our website continues to grow traffic. Thank you all for your efforts! (I'm typing with my thumbs up.)

After a lot of rained out Saturdays in a row, I believe this was the first time we were not rained out even once in June! For that reason, we ask that you thank a volunteer when you see them for their dedication and good cheer. They only get a day off when it rains. It also means that they gave up every Saturday morning in June. It's a lot to ask of anyone and we're deeply appreciative of the work. They have to get there long before the event starts to make sure everything is in place and to decide what's going to go where. Then there are all the little details, radios, shirts, signs, etc., so we're forever grateful that they come out.

We still have our criteria list of cars to post and it's going to stir up some stuff, so we're hesitant but we're just trying to make it easier for people to figure out where we have the line drawn this season. We hate having to draw the line in the first place, but we don't have any good choices on the matter and we hope people understand and don't start mailing us poop.

With regard to our last post about clubs behaving badly, we sure got a lot of great feedback. We didn't just get comments on the page, we also received email on the subject and as always we love to hear from you. Most understand the spirit of why we do what we do and the importance of having fun. It's just a parking lot. Nothing magic happens when you stand on it. Believe me, we've checked. Nick may have even licked it once to see if it was different. Nope, tasted just like all the others, he said.

Thanks again to all of you for participating and we look forward to seeing you on Saturday.

July 1, 2017

When Clubs Don't Behave

First, a bit of history. When we first started E@RTC, one of our biggest problems to solve was the fights among brand fans. We had each group of enthusiast fighting the stereotype of the other to the point where we were unsure we'd ever get everyone to play nice in a parking lot on a Saturday morning. Some said building a new space shuttle would be easier.

Our beginning was a little bit bumpy with some factions of the car community, so we decided to mix the lots up each week to prevent one piece of asphalt from having a different status from another. It's just a parking lot. We've changed up the locations of cars every week since we

began for that very reason, so some brand fan doesn't tweak and have a wiggling schism in front of everyone over parking.

Outside of the brand circles, each brand has their own community reputation and some tend to run on the negative side. We knew that going in and wanted to fix it to grow the community. Who wants to buy a car if a negative reputation is one of the standard features? Still, a handful feel a sense of entitlement with their cars in public and have earned a bad reputation at some restaurants and resorts for basically being jerks. We were never ever going to let that behavior be a part of E@RTC. In fact, we do our best to destroy that very image every chance we get. I wish it was as simple as fire hosing them to the curb. Our success is predicated on the standards by which we operate and good manners is right up at the top.

We wanted to change that negative image of exotic owners, especially self-entitled near-exotic owners, and we've worked hard to be great citizens at E@RTC. Our mission is to bring spectators and participants all into one big happy family with great stories, fun memories and we've succeeded for the most part or we wouldn't be growing. We rarely get complaints about jerks as we tend to spray them with a squirt bottle and yell "bad owner!" the second they give us a problem. We have a very low tolerance for the self-entitled and we've been like that from the day we started. This is a great community event and we're fierce protectors of that reputation.

We started doing themes from our very first seasons; first with Minis as our first group, and it sort of grew from there. We wanted to show some love to a broader car community, and again it worked very well over the years with just four theme days. We've grown those themes but it may be time to cut it back a bit. The British car folks set a high bar on how to behave and they are such a joy to work with. They set the example for everyone to follow.

We only have one group that consistently has a block of members who didn't get the important memo about manners and just standards behavior in general. These members give us problems and somehow have a continued rolling sense of self-importance and entitlement on the very day where we invite them as a club as our guests. Our guests! Key words, "OUR GUESTS." We apologize to those who had to deal with these narcissistic self-absorbed individuals. They ruin it for everyone and frankly they are embarrassing to all of us who love cars.

They don't "run" our event. It's not their day to, "take over," as one put it, they are invited guests who behave very badly and frankly, they can go play somewhere else so we can get back to having fun. Somehow they think because they are a part of a large group, there is some entitlement that comes with it. Nope. We could flood the lot with other brands if that was our only goal. We're an exotic car community event and behaving nicely should go without saying anything.

We also want to protect our volunteers who give up their free time to help out. When these club members act like jerks to our volunteers, it burns up their enthusiasm too. Of course, these spoiled brats don't think that far outside themselves. It's all about them. Our apologies to our

volunteers who had to put up with the crap. You don't deserve it either, and we have each other's back on this one.

We're not going to mention the brand because it furthers the stereotype. We know it's a handful of people who ruin it for everyone else, but we have a reputation and a brand image of our event that we will uphold, and well, when they don't have manners, we just don't invite them back. While the individual cars and decent owners are welcome anytime, we're not so sure about the club anymore.

June 29, 2017

Saturday, July 1 is Porsche Day And A Shout-out To Our Photographers!

This Saturday, July 1st, is Porsche Day, one of the biggest events of our season. We get more P-cars than any other event day and once again it's a chance to talk in a foreign accent, either German or ambiguous European. Given that so far the forecast looks like perfect weather and another warm Saturday morning, so expect to see a lot of really wonderful cars and not just Porsche, but like I said, there will be a lot of them. We do have to limit what gets in and that's always a challenge.

We now have 35 contributing photographers on our photo page and they all do magnificent work. If you've not scrolled through those photos, you're missing some very cool stuff. You may even find a photo of you! (assuming you're a regular attendee) You may see a photo of an old friend you've not seen since that time you spent in a Turkish prison who owes you a few bucks and some soap. You may also spot your dream car, girl, guy, dog or hoagie. We're not judging, so check out the photo page and if you know who they are thank them for contributing to our page. We're very grateful for their support and contributions to the site. See you all on Saturday!

June 23, 2017

The 2017 AMBR Winner will be at E@RTC tomorrow!

This is a really special car and something you won't want to miss! Seriously. This is right up there with forgetting it's prom night. This car took years to build and is truly a very special car and probably won't make it out very often so please come out. You won't be disappointed!

June 22, 2017

We're On For June 24 And They Will be Going Topless!

This is going to be the first warm Saturday morning of our season. We all know what that means. The topless come out! You read that right! I'm talking about cars without tops. Some of these nifty open-top exotics have no heater so they only come and play on days like this. It's a great

morning to come out and see the unusual, the fun, the oddly exotic, more hairy legs, and some legs that should be seen and others, well...bring dark sun glasses. You will thank me later.

We are very close to putting up a list of cars that help define what does and doesn't get into E@RTC to help those who have questions. It's taken a while to put it together and it's required a lot of thought. We're still gathering comments from some experts and as soon as we have it nailed down, it will be added as a new page to the site.

There will always be some special exceptions to the list for specific "story cars" so it's never going to be a binary matter (tech lingo)... more like fuzzy logic (more tech lingo). Fuzzy logic isn't just a matter of computational method, it's also how dogs think. If your doorbell rings, your dog runs to the door. It doesn't matter which side of the door the dog is on, it still runs to the other side; in or out. Try it if you don't believe me. I dated someone who did the same thing. Moving on.

We love your feedback so let us know how we're doing and what we can do to make the event even better. As always, we deeply appreciate your support.

June 15, 2017

We are ON for Saturday June 17 and Why We Do What We Do

For starters, Ferrari Day was another big success! Not as big as Amazon taking over downtown Seattle, but big in the world of exotic cars. Having 85 Ferraris show up anywhere is kind of a big deal. Having one of the most valuable Ferraris in the world show up is also a very big deal. Having two LaFerraris show up is also a very-very big deal. You don't see that every day unless you work at the factory, then you definitely see it every day unless you work in accounting, down in the basement where they keep the toilet paper and stuff.

I thought I'd write a bit about why we do what we do. If you notice our site, there is nothing on there about "us" as a focal point. It's all about the event. We will put up a volunteer page so you know who's who in the primate zoo, but we've been careful to make all of this about the incredible people that contribute by bringing out their magnificent rolling machines and the spectators that come out to see them. We're super-greatful for our volunteers and the hard work required to get that many cars sorted and landed in such a short time.

Still, our mission is to keep all this all about you; keeping us independent of anyone who wants to have influence over us, and completely in the best interests of everyone who makes this event happen. There is no monetary gain, no glory of any kind really, other than the satisfaction of smiling faces on as many people as possible. We intend to keep it that way as long as RTC will have us and everyone wants to see the event continue to grow. We do this because it's just great fun and we get to make a lot of friends. We never see the same stuff week after week. We're just as surprised as you are when something unique rolls up and it happens every Saturday! We

never knew some of these cars even existed! It's not like we keep them in a basement somewhere.

The point is, you never want to miss a Saturday while we're in season. The summer months roll by and then everyone is bummed when the season is over with. So, while it's nice, come out and see the cool stuff that shows up. You will have a great time!

BTW- Note to candy marketing people out there. There is absolutely nothing fun about a "fun size" anything, ever! "Fun size" would be a MilkyWay bigger than Nick's head. Period!

June 8, 2017

Ferrari Day is On!!! (I can actually see your happy dance from here.)

Are you doing "the noodle" with the news? I can't believe it, but it's true! The weather turned our way! Therefore Ferrari Day is on and we're going see a lot of really cool cars this Saturday. This is the event that draws the most cars and spectators not to mention the glorious sound as the cars roll in.

This event is in the center of the mall and wraps around the building into our primary lots. It's a very fun day and one you don't want to miss. Ever. Ever-ever. This is one of the best days to bring in friends from out of town to see something you don't normally see. Of course, there will be the most coveted Ferrari there is, the fabulous 250 GTO along with some other really special cars to get all excited about.

The chance of rain has dropped to just 8% that morning so apparently Mom Nature just isn't feelin it and wants to go do something other than water the Northwest. I have no idea what she does in her spare time, but it's looking more and more like she's going to leave us alone.

We all remember last year and we waited to call it as long as we could and the weather folk got it wrong. This time, we think we're going to get a nice break, so let the festivities begin!

June 6, 2017

Ferrari Day!!!!...Isn't Looking So Good...

Hi Everyone! Well, shucks! (Does anyone say that anymore?) Right now, the weather isn't looking so good for Ferrari Day this coming Saturday June 10. We're not going to call it until after the 3:00 PM weather report on Thursday, but it's looking very doubtful. We don't want to 'dampen' what is normally one of our biggest days of our entire season, excuse the really bad pun.

The good news is we already have an alternate date picked out and we'll announce that on Thursday so we're not flooded with emails from people who are confused about the date. For

right now, we're sticking with the 10th unless Mom Nature says nope, it's her watering day and she has other stuff to do. Mom Nature always kind of does her own thing you know.

Yes, we had Ferrari Day in the rain last year by accident when the weather folks said the rain would clear out much earlier than it did and the rain just hung over Redmond like a friend who won't go home. Some collectors went through a lot of trouble to bring cars, then had to spend hours getting them cleaned up again after the event, so we're wishing to be kind to everyone. Giving us grief about our rain policy isn't kind to everyone. Shucks.

June 1, 2017

We're on for Saturday, June 3 and Other Fun Stuff

It's looking like we're on again for another beautiful Saturday morning. The weather is only going to get better with more surprises as we roll through the season.

We're getting a lot of email with questions about what cars are qualified to get it. We're glad people are asking if they don't know. We really hate to turn anyone away at the entrance and we're happy to take the time to answer your email. Right now, Dan is working on a chart that shows each brand and what does and doesn't make the cut this season. No matter what, there will be adjustments and it will continue to be a living document. Again, even though we say it everywhere, for those who get upset with us because they don't make the cut, we're just trying to put on the best show possible and we cover the topic to death.

We see the pride when people pull up and it kills us to have to say no sometimes. Some people have spent hours and hours getting their ride ready to go only to get turned away. When Sean turns them away, nice as he is, it can still feel as if he just dragged them out of their car through the little side window, kicked them in the huevos rancheros and stuffed them back through the same window upside down and sent them on their way. We genuinely hate doing it.

Through all this, it made me think about the first car I even owned. It would be fun if others would write about the same thing in the comment section. I never could have imagined what automotive would someday become. We couldn't comprehend WiFi, Bluetooth, GPS, self-driving, night vision, and all the other stuff that's now on the market.

My first car was a 1968 Fiat 850 Spider Hard Top. It was safety-cone orange for a reason and often just as useful. While other cars could go from 0-60 faster than me, I could out rust all of them. It had all the structural integrity of Jiffy-Pop and was about as safe as driving a grenade. Coolant was my cologne as it would continually drip from somewhere under the dash. It was a clown car of two because everywhere I went, people would fall over laughing.

It was fun to drive and easy to push. I remember how I felt about my car and to me it was a Ferrari. When I looked at it, I saw 'fast,' yet to everyone else, they saw something that could barely compete with a wheelchair. Slugs beat me to school. It had a shockingly powerful 47hp

motor that could do 0-60 in under two days. I saw one on the road the other day and I actually cheered. Not because it was so rare, but because nobody was pushing it. Someone said to me, FIAT stood for "Fix It Again Tony" and everywhere I went took about as long as it did to walk because I'd have to pull over somewhere, walk back, pick up something off the road that fell off and then place it in the trunk unless it was something I needed to go...or stop. It was like one of those parade floats that throws candy only in this case it was parts.

We've all shared our stories about our first car and we'd love to hear more from you.

We do answer each and every email that same day when you inquire. Issues surrounding that standard are the biggest single area of contention, but that bar is also what sustains the integrity of the event so we have no plans to lower the bar.

We love your feedback!

May 28, 2017

Thug me This...and That

We're starting to get more offers from people to become one of the beloved Parking Thugs. We are extremely grateful for the support. We think it's wonderful, but before anyone gets excited about joining the Thugs, you need to know what you're in for. It's a bit like dating Harley Quinn. Sure she looks crazy-fun but you know it's going to hurt somehow, and you're thinking, yeah, it would still be worth the stitches. We definitely need volunteers, however we're looking for long-term help and it's a special kind of person who becomes a Thug.

We do our best to make it a good time for the volunteers who are affectionally known as the Parking Thugs. Among the Thugs, there is lots of joking, lots of kidding around with each other and the radio chatter is on the complete opposite end of PC. We are never going to change that to accommodate someone's sensitivities. It's why we wear ear pieces, but it's funny stuff.

This is an all-volunteer group from top to bottom. Nobody is paid to be here so if we're not having fun, there are no Thugs. Without the Thugs, there is no event, so we place very high value on the role and the fun we have together. We go out of our way to make each other laugh and have a good time while there is a lot of racing around the lots at the same time. It's like running a marathon with comedians while holding feral cats. You're also running while sometimes dodging people, objects, and most of all, really, really, bad jokes. If you can dodge a wrench you can dodge a Thug.

The Thugs are a culture by themselves and we don't want it to ever change. It's the very foundation of E@RTC and that energy is what keeps it fun every week. If you suffer from a restricted sense of humor, by order of your doctor, this is definitely not the place to volunteer.

Not any one of us would ever be allowed to visit someone in a burn unit. Personality matters a lot to us.

Here is what the role requires. First, you have to know something about cars and know what car should go where and why. This means dragging your butt out of bed very early on a Saturday morning for a meeting before we start. Not just one or two Saturdays, but every Saturday that weather permits. Sure some need vacation here and there, but if you can't show up because you don't feel 'it' that morning, you're not what we're looking for.

We don't just park cars, we sort them in a way to make them appealing to photos so you have to think fast when 400 cars show up that all have to go to the right spot in the right order and get set up so they all look nice. You have to deal with a lot of people and there are a few with issues who aren't all that nice sometimes. Most are great people, but we have a few with a sense of entitlement that require constraint as we won't let them ruin it for the others. Now and then we kick someone out if they get out of hand as we have zero tolerance for rude people at the event. We send them to a parking lot in Moclips, commonly known as "Lot 9." We also give them their no-money back for showing up. We've been like this since Harry Truman was a volunteer. This is where the whole "buck stops here" thing started, except there was never a buck. We think he meant Buick.

You have to be willing to engage with people, remember their names, what other cars they bring or even what cars spectators came to see and make them feel welcome. It's not just participants who we do our best to make feel welcome, we also remember spectators who come out every week and thank them too for their participation and support.

This is really important. You can't just stand there and not make the effort to engage with people. If you're not outgoing and capable of carrying on a conversation, this is not the right thing for you. This however, is a great chance to make friends for life, and someone you meet could change it forever, and most likely for the better. Think of the role as kind of a party host in a parking lot where you help land cars in the right spot for the best possible viewing just for fun. We don't "park" cars, and we're definitely not, nor will we ever be a valet service or parking lot attendants. We're ambassadors. The Thugs are our core and the image means something to us.

The role requires a lot of running or very fast walking, often backwards at times, and so you're worn out when the event is over. You definitely burn off a few calories and will be exhausted by the time you get home. We're looking for people who are reliable who we can count on each Saturday morning during our season. The continuity matters to those who come to see us so we try and make sure the same faces are there to help out. You also pay "rent" for your E@RTC shirt so we can keep them maintained and in supply. We also supply the radios, and headsets and cheap laughs. We can't afford good ones. Good cheer is a must.

We get a lot of people from out of town who have a lot of great questions and so having the ability to talk about local activities or help with directions, etc., is very important. Some drive all night to get here so they need to be pointed towards coffee. Some fly in just for our event and we want it to always be well worth the journey.

We could also use some help behind the scenes. There is always plenty to do. Just answering questions on our website takes hours each week, in spite of all the answers that are all right there on our site. We'd love to see more written content so we welcome contributors.

If we've not scared you into a corner of your basement, drop us a note and Jason will get back to you. Thank you for your interest as it means a lot to us, (excuse the painful pun).

May 25, 2017

We're on for Saturday, May 27! (and Other Amusing Stuff)

This, in a way is our opening of our regular lot, so it's sort of a mini celebration of opening day, so come out and happy-dance your way around some cars! The weather will be spectacular! We're expecting somewhere between 300-400 cars so it should be a good time. It's easier to manage and see all the cars when they are together in the main lot. So, if you walk into center circle expecting to see cars, don't be broken-hearted, we're just over by BJs where we normally are each season. We know the new NSX will be there and there are some cool cars not yet seen are expected to show up from some private collections. We have a lot going on this season and every Saturday will be something special.

Amusing Stuff- Sort Of

We're also starting to get some trolls on our website in response to our blog. We find some entertainment value in it, but not a ton. It's a little like watching someone slip holding soup. We started out allowing anonymous posts, but when they started to spoof other names we switched to verification-required and that was like nailing their foot to the floor. We left a few posts up because we thought it would be good if people knew what we deal with sometimes.

What's so mystifying to us is, this is a free event! We make it up in volume. (old joke) What happens when they don't get the right juice box? I can't even imagine the tantrum! E@RTC costs them nothing! Yet, they make demands on us like Nick said, "They are yelling at there moms from the basement for more lasagna." We do have some sympathy because we couldn't possibly know their situation. It could be something no more complicated than they can't bring that special someone home to meet mom until the ankle monitor comes off. Maybe they ran out of prune juice. Or they could just be really unhappy people who need everyone else to be just as unhappy and miserable as they are. Who knows. It's what good therapists and pills are for...and a Happy Meal.

We'd love real feedback, the kind with a real name and email address and stuff. We always want to improve. Yet, we still have to deal with issues like this now and then, so we post about it. When we post something about someone trying to mischaracterize us and we fight back, we're doing so because we think it's our job to preserve the event; not get bogged down in drama,

while still taking care of business. Imagine how quickly we'd collapse under our own weight if we never did anything to protect E@RTC, or refine our work and even defend it at times. Having a car event is one thing, sustaining it is another.

Some forget that E@RTC is all done with thoughtful, courageous, and occasionally handsome volunteers, (there are a few of us who look better under a hot towel). We couldn't do it without all of you wonderful people who take the time to participate, both as participants and spectators. We're all extremely grateful, humbled even, to have your trust, and that's our focus, living up to your expectations and not get too wrapped up in this stuff, especially when people hide their identities. Besides, it's usually a clue they are on the wrong side of an issue. Sure we have the power to delete and block everyone from commenting on the site, but it's important for you to know these people are out there.

On the subject, we've long thought about how to best share what we've learned about building these events. So many think there isn't a lot that goes on to make this happen, but there is. What, you think Cirque du Soleil is just a bunch of people dancing and swinging around on meth? There is real work required to twist like that. It takes more than a car accident. They spend thousands of hours working to be that bendy so they can eat a grape off their own butts to music.

The number of car show failures is probably 100X the success stories. We'd love to see others out there be equal successful and we've spent the time sharing what we've learned to those who want to follow our unique recipe. We've even visited their events to offer tips. Most don't follow it, then flop, then blame the audience of all things, which is again like blaming mom when you live in the basement.

The point is, the trolls try to rile us up when we're doing our job, but all they do is give us some behind the scenes entertainment. We know who they are, we don't want to say how we know, but we know, even when they post with a different name. :) Yup, we know.

Diver Dave came across this great article that we thought we'd share with you that's worth passing along to others. It's about car show etiquette and it's called How Not To Be A Jerk: The 10 Commandments of Car Show Etiquette. We're going to add it to our site somewhere. We have remarkably few problems, but once in a while, like our blog, we get a true narcissist who makes everyone's life miserable and it's our job to keep them from ruining a great thing.

See you all Saturday!

May 23, 2017

Oh-Oh! Someone Stepped in It!

We all know the term. That and check your shoe, something stinks. Well, someone did just that. Except they may not be smart enough to know it yet and they are tracking it all over their house.

One of the most important things we do as volunteers is work to preserve our brand. We spend far more hours on our brand than what you see us do on the days of our event. That work goes on year-around. This means pulling all the elements that work together to create a specific image in your head when you think of us. Hopefully it's positive stuff and not something you see a therapist about that requires pills. Having a strong brand is in part what causes the right elements to come together to make our event so special, week after week. If we screw up our brand, the event could go away, so we're meticulous about it, maniacal even! Little things, such as how we write on this site is all done with both fun and purpose in mind. (I know that's hard to believe.)

It was brought to our attention through a call on the super-secret red phone that someone out there decided to make a name for themselves by creating a Facebook name close enough to ours that it rubbed a lot of people the wrong way, like sand in the massage oil. When our fans alert us to bad stuff, they tend to be right and we sure listen up.

These self-absorbed and whimsically short-sighted individuals who piggyback off our brand don't think or even care about what we built for you or the thousands of hours of volunteer time to make a great community event. Instead, they selfishly want to tear off a piece of our brand to make it about them. We know it happens with every great brand- someone comes along to try and create just enough Web or Facebook search confusion for their own personal gain. There are hundreds of millions spent on lawyers every year in such matters and the defenders of these brands most often win.

"Brand-bumming" (a term we coined ourselves) creates parasitic drag on everything we do at the ultimate expense of you in the car community. Now we have to spend even more of our own money to protect our brand, dollars and time that could be spent on improving the event for the benefit of everyone. The point is, this doesn't just hurt us as an organization, it hurts you too.

We've kindly asked this individual to change their page name, sort of as the first question on the intelligence test. We'll see if they pass or not so stay tuned for those results.

May 21, 2017

British Car Day & Moving Your Car When the Event Ends!

Pick Up Your Toys!

Do you remember when your mom would tell you to pick up your toys and you wouldn't do it? She'd tell you in her sweet voice five or six times before she'd run over to the local large equipment rental shop and come back with a giant Caterpillar CCS9 Combination Asphalt

Compactor and neatly lay out all your toys in the driveway, including that Gilbert chemistry set with the 106 deadliest chemicals known to man, "Breaking Bad in a Box" then spend her one hour rental time with a cigar hanging out the corner of her mouth flattening your toys into tiny slivers then sprinkle them on your bed with a snow shovel. Remember? That wasn't very nice of mom, but she only had to do that three times before we got the message. We grew up learning to pick up our toys!

We're all grown up now and when 11:00 AM hits at Redmond Town Center, we too have to pick up our toys and if we don't they will do the same thing our moms did. Only this time RTC will send the roller equipment rental charge back to you, along with your Lamborghini in six beautifully wrapped boxes from RTC. All of this can easily be avoided if you simply move your car into a parking stall somewhere at the mall like everyone else. I know I'd hate come home to a bed covered in pulverized Lamborghini dust, especially if it wasn't my car.

Simple rule, when the event ends, move your car into a nice stall so shoppers don't think you're extra special. They much appreciate it.

(You don't want to know what mom did if we didn't pick up our clothes.)

British Car Day

We had another marvelous turnout on British Car Day and some astounding cars were there in center court. We had everything from three wheel Morgans to some nice McLarens. The weather was perfect and we were again close to full. It was a perfect day at E@RTC!

Once again, the British car owners were extremely polite and gracious. They are the easiest group to manage and make it a joy for the volunteers to get situated with a minimum of hassles. As always, thanks to our stupendous volunteers who make it all happen and the amazing spectators who always have our back. We can't thank you enough!

Let Me In!

As usual, we had a couple of people come to the entrance to make the case of why their car was exotic and should get in after we turned them down. Again, for the one-thousand-six-hundred and twentieth time, ask us BEFORE you arrive because we don't want to turn you down any more than you want to be turned down. Here is a hint, if you have to make the case that your car is exotic enough, it's probably not exotic enough. Don't make it bad for both of us. It gives us flashbacks to those awful blind dates we had to squirm through. I once went on a blind date with someone who looked like Uncle Fester and I'm a dude. Never again!

If you have to tell us the story about what makes your car rare and special and it's not obvious to us, it's probably not going to get in. Don't then park, act like you're being nice and friendly then come over and argue with us about it with a smile on your face. It should be obvious. As usual, the argument then turns to, "well that POS got in..." which is never going to go well. Sean, our

greeter knows a thing or two about cars and is one of the nicest people you'd ever meet, so don't ruin his day. Just email us, we always get back to you the same day and we're nice guys. We just want the best show possible without getting overrun with cars our spectators don't want to see.

May 16, 2017

We are On for May 20th, British Car Day! See You Chaps Then!

Well it looks like very old Mrs. Nature is going to let us have a play day on Saturday. We have our traditions ya know.

We love seeing these cars, the variety, the complexity, the occasional screwdriver, and all things British. Some of the most memorable cars to ever come to E@RTC are a part of this group so this is an event you don't want to miss. Besides, nine guys ruptured their spleens making this day perfect and we wish them a speedy recovery.

This is a chance to try on your best fake British accent and go out for some bangers and mash after E@RTC. BTW, there is a very good British restaurant right there in Redmond if you want the same thing inside you as you have on the outside. I'm not sure that came out right, but you know what I meant.

Before you get toooo spoiled, these event days are special occasions and not our normal parking lot. We use the center circle of the mall for our special events, and our normal Saturdays are in the large lots between BJs and Ducati. Assuming it's a nice day on the 27th as well, we will go back to our normal routine.

It's been a very unusual kickoff to our season, not because of the rain but because this will be the only two times in our history were our first two days happened to be event days and we haven't seen Nick in a silly suit yet, but oh, it's coming so protect your eyes, it's going to be bright! Go Nick, go Nick, go Nick!

May 11, 2017

We are Rained Out for Saturday, May 13!

The only things happy about the rain this Saturday are the slugs. They will be dancing with glee however they do it very-very slowly and without any music. You try dancing at one beat per minute. By the way, did you know that slugs are nature's gum?

I just read that we've not gone more than four days without rain since January. That must mean something to someone, but for us, it just means we're rained out more than usual. At some point summer will win. It could be in August 2019, but it will win...eventually...someday.

YES, WE'RE A WEEKLY EVENT!

Some people are really confused and think we only have E@RTC on "event" days. Nay-Nay! We have E@RTC every Saturday that Mum Nature allows through late October when we're all sick of seeing each other and would rather be home micro-tweezing and storing food for winter. For those new to E@RTC, we have special events that are sort of the day when we super-size E@RTC with a theme. We try and do one theme a month, but because of all the rainy days (see above) we're kind of getting backed up. Think of event days as us turning up the volume to 11.

BRITISH CAR DAY

Speaking of which our next theme is British Car Day. This is one of my personal favorites, right up there with Nutter-Butters dipped in Nutella. (Sounds good doesn't it?) We hear it's what athletes and scientists eat.

The British Car folks are the without a doubt the nicest bunch of people we get all season and the cars are wonderful. It's a polite-fest which is kind of refreshing. They thank us and everything! You otherwise can't believe the stuff people call us sometimes. Some of it is stuff we've not been called in oh, I don't know, three, maybe four hours? I digress, as I often do, however this really is a very nice event with some very special cars, so please come out May 20th to join us for this unique day. It's well worth it!

May 8, 2017

Sliding Into Our Regular Weekly Season

Wow, did the weather folks ever get it wrong last Saturday. Then again, if they were good at predicting the future none of them would be divorced. We did our best to call it right and looked at every forecast we could find except for one of the Thug's "Magic Eight-Ball" that he uses to buy stocks, which as we can now see, may explain why he's still renting a basement by the day from a relative. In the past we tried desperately to send Thugs into the future to check the weather, but the only place they went was a Burn Unit, so we got out of the future business entirely.

It actually was raining in blotches here and there, but not where any of us were standing on Saturday and nothing came within miles of RTC. We love it when they get the weather right and hate it when they are wrong just like you do, so don't bother yelling at us because we will yell back and a couple of us yell really loud.

This week will be our normal show space which is the lots between Ducati and BJs restaurant and over to the hotel construction site. This is where we normally do things until we have big

event days. We don't yet have a new day for Lamborghini day, but it will be posted soon enough. Getting the event days on the calendar always takes a while to sort out.

We continue to wrestle with the problem about how to best manage the threshold of what does and doesn't get into the show and as we've said since we began, we have no plans to ever lower our standards, regardless of how we dress. The issue is always about the other direction because we get overrun with cars that while okay in small quantities, can't take up the whole show or we'd hear from spectators who are not that interested in those cars. A badge doesn't make a car interesting to look at.

I think what surprises us most is the smattering of people, somewhat like a dripping faucet, who still think this show is about them rather than the bigger considerations about what we think our spectators love most. Arguing that the criteria is relationship-based doesn't work with us and we get that a lot. Telling us "I'm friends with _____" doesn't work because that's been a running joke since we began. The same with the argument that someone has attended from the beginning. That doesn't give anyone, including ourselves, a special pass.

Many of us already own daily drivers that are rare and far more expensive than those arguing to get in, which is kind of funny, yet we hold the same standards for ourselves and don't make it about us. It's why we give you that puzzled look when we see that some of you, even after seeing the show all these years, still remain oblivious to our objectives. We want it to be worth the drive from Fresno, even though just about anything is worth the drive from Fresno.

Our goal is to always attract the best examples of exotic and rare cars that can be found in the Northwest. That's what our spectators and participants demand. That's how we manage our brand.

We will be forced to limit sub-brands such as AMG, M and various models of other brands to arrive at a reasonable ratio of what we think best reflects a good show. Again for those new to our event, we always balance the expectations of our spectators and participants with the highest quality show in mind.

Our general rule of thumb is we ask ourselves when a car comes in if someone would drive fifty miles to come see that particular car. If you could find an example just driving one parking lot at QFC, it's probably not going to make the grade. This isn't to say that some examples wouldn't be welcome, but not every AMG or M car fits our standards. So if you can't get in, just pop-N-lock on over with your best moves and still have a good time with the rest of us.

May 4, 2017

We are rained out for May 6, Lamborghini Day

I'm sorry to report that we are rained out for this coming Saturday. Lamborghini Day will be rescheduled. You may be asking why we called it rained out when some are showing only a 10% chance of rain. It's a wonderful question and right up there with, why are the Kardashians famous?

We noticed big conflicts between the various weather forecasters and decided to hold off on our decision until after the 9 PM National Weather Service update. Even after we got the update, they said things like "the models don't agree" and we're thinking what? The only thing models ever agree about is that food is bad for you, but we digress. They didn't even want to talk about Saturday at all which was unusual other than they said rain would taper off sometime Saturday. We imagine they were inside their basement high-fiving each other like they just pulled one on all of us. We then looked at other sources who take their data and add their own take, and all but one were showing a 30% or greater chance of rain, so we decided to call it off.

For those of you who get a nervous tick in your eye if you don't see an exotic within a few days, America's Car Museum in Tacoma is kicking off their Exotics static display that begins at noon on Saturday. We're getting a lot of questions about their use of our name. No, we are not connected in any way other than we support the museum when we can. We do hope you go down and have a good time and enjoy the museum.

Sorry everyone, we hope to see you all again on May 13!

May 4, 2017

We're Delaying our Weather Call for May 6. Stay Tuned

We're delaying our weather call until later today. According to NOAA, "The models are not in agreement." I don't know about you but I'm thinking hipsters in a nightclub parking lot taking swings at each other. We will call it as soon as we can. Right now we're thinking we'd be 90% wrong either way, so give us a bit to sort it out.

April 30, 2017

E@RTC Sets a New Attendance Record!

First off, we'd like to begin with a giant thank you to everyone who participated and volunteered in our opening day! We couldn't do this without your incredible support! We'd also like to thank our amazing volunteers who managed that many cars with just thirteen people. Notice the snazzy shirts?

And now for the numbers. We did our first count at 9:30 AM with a total of exactly 470 cars. We double check our numbers in each section, but cars were still coming in the main entrance and we'd yet to add some additional cars by Cold Stone. We also had cars still coming into the Center

Circle area. By 10 AM we knew we were slightly over 500 cars and had to soft close the entrance and we turned away at least 50+ cars!

As for spectators, we normally estimate three people to every car, but we guessed it was closer to six based on headcount by section. Therefore we estimate around 3,000 people. We could especially tell when it was time to leave and traffic around Redmond was backed up in all directions like they were fleeing a Justin Bieber flash concert.

What do we mean "soft close," is it made out of special foam? Is it fairy dust of some kind?

No, Exotics at Redmond Town Center is like the name says, Exotics. We therefore limit our cars that fall into the broadest sense of the term so we have room for those truly exotic and rare cars that sometimes have issues starting, or transporting due to age, etc., or are limited by route. Consequently, once we're close to full we can't take any more of the cars people are not as excited about seeing, and focus on those who our spectators love the most. There is no point in arguing with us about your car because YOU think it's somehow more special. Just park in the spectator lot like all of us and just come in and enjoy the cars.

And now a word about gripes. Yup, Gripes. Gripes I tell you!

Every E@RTC, we get gripes about something from someone. I'd guess that 74.63%, and we never measured exactly, have to do with who has a "right" to get in and who doesn't. Keep in mind this isn't practice for the Pearly Gates, there is no place to argue your case and nothing bad happens if you don't get in. Still, there is always some judgmental _____ (I left enough space so you can fill in the blank) who somehow thinks their car is better than everyone else and they should get in or someone else shouldn't. It's annoying. They argue that their car cost more, or that or theirs is faster, or (we try not to laugh when they say it) but they have better exhaust and brakes, which we absolutely don't care about. Nobody cares. In our ninth season, we've never ever once had someone show up and excitedly ask us if they see the _____ with the carbon-ceramic brakes! That only happens on shows like the Smurfs.

Please, do our volunteers a giant favor and knock off the politics; if you don't get in, trust their better judgement and just enjoy the show. Don't make it all about YOU. Before you complain about anything, ask what you are doing to help us make a great event. Pitch in! Do something other than gripe! Don't be a _____ .(I left a much longer space to unleash your insult creativity.) Help us make a better show.

April 27, 2017

We are ON! You read that correctly, O-N! Yup, completely ON!

Exotics at Redmond Town Center is finally having our spectacular Opening Day, Saturday, April 29! Only this time it's for real!

Let me say it again, WE'RE FINALLY HAVING OUR OPENING DAY!

We also have a GIANT surprise. Two of the most coveted cars in the world will be seen together for the very first time in North America. As far as we know they have never been photographed together in the US, so just getting your photos on social media could make you very popular! Just think of the parties!

Did you just tear up a little reading this? I know I did just trying to write the news. I could barely get through it!

(If you guess what it is, you could win a ticket to Fresno. Second prize is two tickets!)

It's not expected to rain until after we're done for the day, so we're diving on Opening Day like a Parking Thug on a pizza!

One other thing- For those of you showing your special car, please wash it and have it show ready. We do turn away cars that are not cleaned up for the show. We don't mind if you roll in extremely early and do some last minute clean-up nearby, but please, this is a special event and people came a long way to see these amazing cars so make it worth it for them to be there!

Speaking of which, the Parking Thugs will all be in nice new shirts; a nice bright green making them easy to spot and all our moms very proud. All our Thugs have cleaned themselves up, had their shots, carefully studied ballet, and are ready to greet you with open arms and a magical place to slide in and park that cool car.

April 20, 2017

Rained out AGAIN! We hope to see you April 29!

Mom Nature said, "Not this Saturday children, I have some watering to do," so we're all screwed. We will try again on the 29th. We do have a big surprise in store as we get closer to that day. You will be pleased. At least most of you will be. There is always that one guy who preferred a pony. And now a word for our Sponsors!

Please come and shop at Redmond Town Center whenever possible! RTC does a lot for us and we are always grateful for their terrific support. We also picked up sponsorship from Ferrari of Seattle and Bentley, Lamborghini, Rolls Royce of Bellevue. That money just covers the cost of our shirts for the season, the ones that try not to make us look fat, which are surprisingly expensive.

Those shirts are important to us because it makes it a lot easier for us to see each other and get cars in the entrance and parked, especially on those days when over four-hundred of you show up and we're running around like tots on a jungle gym trying to get everyone in the right place. The shirts also make us look snappy, like we're a real thing, like we know what we're doing. It's

our attempt at beautifying the thugs. We know we could scare paint into a different shade, so this is our attempt to fix things.

This year we have Ducati of Redmond in the old space once occupied by Borders and we welcome them. They are nice people, so when you're done looking at cars, go buy another bike! We will do our best to be the perfect neighbor. We're glad you're here!

Also new this year, the Original Pancake House will be opening at RTC sometime soon. I don't know what's exactly, "original" given there are so many of these places, but we'll go with it. It's probably a bit like First Savings Bank of which there are probably thousands. Trust me, the toasted coconut pancakes are worthy of public embarrassment. They are that good! We hit the one here in Kirkland rather often and if we're standing sideways you can tell. They will open at 6 AM so this will become popular for us early Saturday morning folk who are too excited to sleep or were home early tweezing the night before. I can never finish the mountain of food they serve up and they suggested I order the senior plate next time. Ouch! Really, Ouch!

Sorry to put our opening off another week. We know it sucks. We're just as eager to get the season started, but this is Washington. We still love it here 51% of the time.

April 9, 2017

The Peanut Gallery

We love the fact that so many people are actively coming to our website. It gives us chills, but that could be the broken thermostat, or the onset of the flu, possibly hoof and mouth... Anyhow, with all this great traffic comes a lot of criticism in two key areas, one is about getting their car in the show, and the other is about all the weather forecasters in our beloved car community.

First, lets talk about the easy one; the weather. We're not the National Weather Service. None of us have degrees in meteorology and I think it's safe to say that we don't even own thermometers. Most of us were traumatized by those damn things as kids, so we ban them in our houses. We rely on others who know a lot more than we do to tell us what's up. They have all the cool gear and we just have our thumbs. If they say it's a 30% chance of rain or higher, we just go with it and cancel. There is no point in arguing with us and we'd be happy to put you in touch with them if you think you can do a better job. We go with 30% because there is a 70% chance they are right, and we're 50/50 on that 70% so far.

The other time-burner is with regard to "exotics." This isn't Burger King, where they are not king, or Camping World, where they are not camping or a world, or Pizza Hut where there is no hut in sight, or Target where you're not allowed to shoot anything. We're Exotics at Redmond Town Center and we kind of mean it. The only tricky part is where and what that is. We write extensively about it on our FAQ page. We have no intention of becoming a "Cars and Coffee"

because those events are not sustainable simply because while they draw some cool cars, they also draw some of the worst behavior. They always get shut down because of some self-absorbed, narcissistic, attention-seeking moron who ruins it for everyone. We don't want that to ever happen so we stand for something and our participants let us know it when they think we lowered the bar too much, so there is that too. We're happy to help you figure out if your car should be at E@RTC, so write us if something is unclear.

We want you to just come in and enjoy the show. Make some friends, have some laughs and good conversation. All that said, you could save us a ton of volunteer time if you didn't argue with us about the weather or getting in. We'd rather put those hours to better use.

April 6, 2017

Rained Out For The Next TWO Weeks! See You April 22!

We're rained out for April 8! We're two for two on the rainout odds. We are also OFF next week because of Redmond Town Center's "Eggstravaganza" on the 15th where you can come and pet some bunnies and goats without looking weird. It's unclear if you can pet the bunnies in the bounce house at the same time, or bounce around in there with a few goats. They are turning our parking lot into a bunny ranch and petting zoo for the day. It does say, "Goats and chicks petting zoo!" so I'm kind of thinking about that one. It looks like fun and you can get sprinkled with glitter and your face painted too. Bring the kids, have some fun! They support us, so let's support them! Get sprinkled! Find some eggs!

Our next possible opening day is April 22, 2017. I put the year down just in case some of you are time traveling with the kids that week.

We do have a BIG surprise showing up on the 22nd. We will say what it is as we get closer to the 22nd. You won't want to miss what shows up that day. It's cool. I'm not kidding.

The 22nd is also Earth Day, so here's my letter to Mrs. Earth.

Dear Mrs. Earth,

I hope this letter finds you well. I just wanted to say that without you, I'd be nothing. No, seriously, nothing. I mean it! Nothing! Not even a neutrino passing through on its way to somewhere, only to splat on some far giant, very dense mass or get sucked into a black hole to then continue on its journey after that wild ride. So small that nothing would ever notice...or care.

I feel lucky to firmly stand on you as you rip around the sun at 67,000 miles an hour without me or the fat guy sitting next to me lifting off and floating around this cafe like cheap Safeway balloons. I admit, I have a love-hate relationship with your gravity having felt your wrath throughout my life, especially the time I rode my bike off the ramp and forgot to stand up, but without you, where would I be?

With the sun moving along within our galaxy at 514,000 miles an hour, and our galaxy zinging through space at 2,237,000 miles an hour, it makes that crappy Prius rather pointless on the very day we celebrate, you. We're glad you're here. Don't go changing. Oh, and please don't hit something, and thanks for letting us go along for the ride until you do.

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We also made some minor changes to our website because we're getting a lot of people asking if their car is qualified to get into E@RTC. We direct your attention to the FAQ tab where we do our best to help you sort it out. If not, please ask and we will gladly help you.

We also broke out the rules into a new tab because we get a lot of questions, that are also in the FAQ section, which is how we created our FAQ section in the first place. After all, they are FAQs. We look forward to seeing you all very soon! We're already getting complaints like we had something to do with the weather. Oh, we wish. Think of the money we'd make and the friends we'd have.

April 3, 2017

Our Next Possible Opening Day

We had fun with our April Fools prank. It looked like some people were ready to come over and burn down our houses for not letting them know we were on that day. I think what we loved the most was the number of people who are regulars who get our sense of humor who helped drive the joke much further than we could on our own. We bow to you all. Thanks to each of you! What a great car community!

For those of you who were fooled after reading our blog, we need to talk. Come on! The touring dead bodies of Enzo Ferrari and Ferruccio Lamborghini posing with Ronald McDonald didn't give you a clue? Really??? Little Sisters of the Turbo Encabulation didn't ring even a tiny little bell in your head? Not even a faint ding? No?

Okay, so here is what's up, and this is for real, the weather isn't looking great for April 8, but we won't call it until after 3 PM on Thursday. Still, we always get some kid who wants to argue with us about our calling it that soon. Even if it's 100% chance of rain and there is 100% chance they will be right, we're still not officially calling it until Thursday afternoon. You can then blame NOAA and the National Weather Service if they get it wrong, not us. None of us are standing on our roofs with our thumbs out. We all have jobs and stuff.

This is the important part... we will be off on the 15th no matter what because Redmond Town Center is hosting their Easter "eggstravangza". They need our parking lot for a bounce house. I lived in one in college. I didn't need furniture. I repeat, there will be NO E@RTC ON APRIL 15. Besides, some of us need to bury our accountants.

They will even have a bunny petting zoo. Can you imagine if Australia had a petting zoo? With all the deadly stuff they have down there, nobody would survive, so consider yourself really lucky. Show up with your kids! Find some eggs!

April 1, 2017

Wow! Our Biggest Opening Day Ever! (Our Best April Fools Prank to Date)

Wow what a day it was! We had well over 500 cars show up and easily 2,000 spectators. We can't thank Starbucks enough for finally stepping up for the first time in our nine years! It was about time you actually cared after all we've done for you. That was the biggest surprise of them all.

We'd like to thank Pagani for bringing not one but two Huayras! The new Koenigsegg Regera was breathtaking. We'd also like to thank the Italian government for the touring bodies of Enzo Ferrari and Ferruccio Lamborghini. We're all amazed by how well preserved they looked.

There was only one person who got out of hand and we got to see a taser work in mildly wet conditions. We had no idea they sparked that much and it was kind of cool. We will be talking about this day forever!

Thanks Anthony for the free concert. It was great to see you live. I can't believe we had that many people and the Navy Seals parachuting in was a real highlight given the low clouds and the lack of places to land. I had no idea a Prius roof would cave in like that, but still, it was cool.

I had no idea there were that many nuns in Redmond or that the little Sisters of the Turbo Encapsulation could bake that many cookies! They monkey-stomped the Girl Scouts in one morning. Ronald McDonald was there too and that wasn't at all as creepy as we were expecting. It was fun seeing the photos taken of Ronald laying next to both Enzo and Ferruccio. It was like they were all napping except a little wrinkly, we have to admit.

What an opener!

March 31, 2017

We've Been Invited to Prom!

Well, not really, but that's what it feels like. I'll explain.

Every year we get pitched by local businesses who want to "partner" with us in some way. We never do it. Years ago, we fired up a campfire on the top of Rainier where we could casually clear our minds as we roasted marshmallows over a giant fire and told humorous limericks from our

youth. We discussed the whole idea of sponsorship for the event and decided that the less we did, the better.

We take on just enough sponsors to pay for the basics and even then we shore up the difference out of our own pockets. We do this in the spirit of E@RTC. Outside of that, unless we think it makes for a greater show, we don't do it.

E@RTC is meant to be a community event. Our entire goal is to make people as happy and cheerful as Mr. Rogers did when you were staying home from work and watching him in your jammies with your feet wrapped around a gallon of ice cream. We decided that heavy sponsorships and "partnerships" would probably not allow us to remain the community event we are today, so we avoid it like a toothless date for corn on the cob.

It's perfectly okay to bring cars, but we don't allow signs or hanging out leaflets or samples or anything like that, and besides, it's also a rule at RTC. We don't allow window stickers, or anything that makes the event look like people are there to promote their business. Now if the M&M truck shows up handing out one pound bags of peanut M&Ms, screw it. They are getting in. We're otherwise going to pass.

What you can do is get involved. Volunteer! Give back to the car community. That's why we're there. We don't make this about us. This is all about having fun in the first place. Even if we do get those occasional anonymous emails from self-absorbed, narcissists, if not complete sociopaths, who want to make this all about them by calling us names because we don't do what they want. (We simply call them diaper babies... shhhhh!)

It's perfectly fine to do an open house after E@RTC as a destination and post something on our Facebook page as we do love helping the car community, but that's about as far as we go. We're deeply flattered that you'd love to partner with us and we hope you understand.

March 30, 2017

Oh Schnikes! We're rained out for our opening day!

Seriously, we really are. Only tell people we're there if you want to play an April Fools joke, otherwise there will be nobody there to laugh and point. We're sorry but we've seen this all before... we get all excited, disassemble our cars, scrub every part with a tooth brush, then put the thing back together and hope to God it never rains again. Well, we're thinking of all of you when we cancel due to rain. (We're nice that way.)

This also marks the first official day off for the Thugs, something they don't get once we roll into the real summer months...er weeks...er days. Let's hope it's a great summer and by fall you're all sick of us for another year. Until then, let's hope for great weather next week!

So, how did we call it? We read the post that the National Weather Service puts out on the Thursday after 3:00 PM. If they say rain, and it's 30% or above, it's a no-go. It's that simple. We hope to see you all on the 8th... unless it rains again, then I have to write something clever all over again. Pray for me.

March 14, 2017

What to Expect on Opening Day!

Every year, our opening day is one of the biggest events of our season. This is the day when some of us drive out of our caves after a long winter of hibernation having eaten nothing but cocktail weenies all winter. Some pull the dusty car cover off of the gems that have been hiding for the past six months. Some also find that nasty half a ham sandwich still left on the seat from November and now need a whole new interior. Off come the battery tenders, in goes the air in the tires, on goes the Show Shine, (whoops that's for horses, sorry wrong stuff...) on goes the Griots (not on the horse please) and you're ready to show up!

The kickoff is always weather-dependent, meaning the chance of rain has to be 30% or less in Redmond, and if we see conflicts from various weather sources, and it still averages 30% we will call it off. We sometimes wonder how the weather sources can be so wrong when they have all this really cool gear to play with. Which of us has our own Doppler radar? Hmmm? Yes, Albrecht, Filton, Burke and all the others who hide in your little weather cave, we read your stuff. You'd think with all the latest technology that by now you'd be at least 80% correct 100% of the time. It seems like when they tell us 30%, there is only a 10% chance they have the 30% right and even then that 10% chance is right only 50% of the time.

Now we ALL know this is April Fool's Day and we fully expect some of you youngsters to attempt to fool us into thinking your Prius is somehow exotic enough, like we've never ever heard that one before. Unless it was shot over a canyon and survived on all four wheels, and you have the video with all the screaming to prove it, it's still not going to make the grade. Please see our Frequently Asked FAQs that are asked most frequently about what is and isn't exotic and if you have questions just shoot us a note ahead of time. Anything that either looks like a unicorn or is painted with a unicorn on the side will be given special parking in Lot 9. For those of you who are unfamiliar with Lot 9, it's located in Moclips, Washington, near the corner of Forwood Avenue and Northern Way.

This is always a glorious day, with hugs, high-fives, fist bumps, palm slaps, a middle finger here or there from that, somewhat "less-than-significant" other who was left at home...as old friends come to see each other for the first time since we ended Season 8 last fall. It's like the glorious day you moved out of your parent's basement. Unless they kicked you out, then that day kind of sucked because then it meant staying on Grandma's couch where she does nothing but cry watching Ellen or talk about corn.

We want our opening day to be so big and fantastic, you tell your grand kids about it and someone someday makes a movie about that special day. They don't make just any movie, but one that sweeps the Academy Awards and stars good looking people who haven't even been born yet.

Opening day is always special for us and we deeply appreciate you all showing up. It always brings some amazing stuff we've never seen before and helps us set the high standards for the entire season. This is also one of our biggest spectator days where we see a lot of new faces that become a regular part of our season. Some of you come a very long way both as spectator and participant and we can't thank you enough. We're excited about this new season because we're better organized than ever before with even more prep work for the new season, thanks to our extremely handsome and talented volunteers, especially the guy who writes this stuff who's a real beaut.

Thanks again for being a part of E@RTC and we'll see you on April 1...unless it rains... then read this all over again...

See you opening day!

February 9, 2017

Where's my Quiche???

And why did they get served first?

One of the things people ask is where we all go after E@RTC, and if there was a destination restaurant. The simple answer is no. Nope! Nada. We have a bunch of challenges when we decide to have E@RTC go someplace for food. We're like locusts. Few restaurants can manage large groups without lots of advanced planning. Many restaurateurs develop a nervous tick over one eye when you suggest a table of more than eight people. We've tried to call ahead at some places and they freak out.

Here are the challenges from their point of view. First, they can't maintain the flow in the kitchen and consequently people end up waiting a long time to get served. It's like the internet, cramming too much data in the pipe. The more you cram, the slower it gets. Kitchens are no different. When it gets too slow, people get grumpy and start throwing stuff.

Then you have the issue of separate checks. In a normal four-top environment, most wait staff have to deal with one or two checks. When you have eight, they are stuck standing by the service station sorting out who wanted the extra cheese and what they look like. They freak if it's twenty separate checks. More nervous ticks.

Sure, we could go to a casino and suck down the buffet like cattle, but have you been to the casino buffets around here? They are liked dressed up prison food. Not that I've actually tried prison food, but I did watch Orange is the New Black and it seems strangely familiar.

Then we have the issue of parking cars and that by itself is a challenge. Some places we even end up dealing with some drunk standing on a hood. So what if it's her own car. We thought about doing a private dining room somewhere, but that's expensive and we can't rely on people to be there on time. Burger places have an easier time handling us. The irony, cattle eating cattle.

We've thought of places that could manage large groups, deal with parking, etc., but again, it goes back to planning. If we could find a place that could work for both sides, we'd be there. We have found some good places that can manage small groups, but we keep it quiet so they don't turn into large groups and kill it for everyone. We recommend groups no larger than eight people when you do go somewhere and that you be nice to the staff. After all you're still repretin'.

We did Salish, the food is good, but Nick getting dragged out the window of an LFA like a whale giving birth by a local cop having a bad day still haunts us at night. Again, you have to make advanced reservations and it's a serious challenge. We're always welcome to ideas. We'd love to have a place where we could meet. Standing around at Dick's doesn't cut it.

Pizza is a lot easier unless everyone happens to order an individual pizza. Then there is parking issues. Most can't handle large groups of cars. We'd love to find someplace that can manage us, but so far, we've not had great luck.

If you come across something, please let us know. We're always hungry.

February 7, 2017

Oh, Just You Wait!

One of the things we didn't have on our old website was a blog that was easy to manage. Here we can write to you in real time. We will write stuff that's going on, tell you the latest about E@RTC and do a better job of keeping you informed. You can also comment back which is helpful and where we love feedback.

Some of what's gone on since the fall: We started to form a better relationship with America's Car Museum in Tacoma after they reached out to us last summer. We were never on their radar prior to that first meeting and they were not on ours. We were just doing our own thing. They asked for our help and our goal is to support the greater car community. From that meeting, we kicked around some ideas to help the museum and we want them to bring cars from the collection when possible. You can imagine the logistics issues involved in that.

We also met with the Classic Car Club a few times to get them more involved in E@RTC. Those cars are amazing and are a popular when they come out. A few of us joined the Classic Car Club and will be seeing them more often. We're looking forward to that.

We had a long event planning meeting to nail down who what and where. This wasn't easy to figure out because there are so many considerations. We have to wade through other show conflicts, work around Monterey and RTCs own schedule of events. We got it sorted out and we have our events nailed down in record time. This isn't all we have going on. We're working on drawing some specific cars on various days so you always see something unique and special.

We're now at a size where we have to divide and conquer with our volunteers. We need more behind the scenes help as well as more Thugs for our 2017 season who actively engage with the participants who show up. We're working on that now, not to mention nailing down a new look for the Thugs.

We think we have something really special here in the Northwest and a show that rivals the best weekly gatherings in the nation. We want to keep it special and especially fun so you feel like that morning was well worth the cost of a yard pass to attend.

We'll keep writing, keeping you more up to date. It's not practical to write this stuff on Facebook and while Facebook serves some purpose, this is where you're going to find out the inside scoop. We will be writing more about our volunteers and who does what. They should get the credit they deserve. Keep in mind, we try not to make this thing about us. It's always about the participants and spectators and we can't thank you enough for your contribution to our success.