

## Exotics at Redmond Town Center Blog Archiver for 2019

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**December 27, 2019**  
**Happy Battery Day!**

Yup, happy Battery Day! I don't know about you, but December 26 was always the day my parents would have to run to the store to buy all the batteries our toys needed on Christmas Day. We never seem to have the right batteries and back then, the box didn't say batteries were not included. Nothing was open on Christmas Day.

Remember some of the toys we'd get? Monsters that shot actual sparks? They could burn down a house! Then there was the Gilbert chemistry set, where you'd be in the basement cooking meth and not even know it. You could do some serious Walter White crap and nobody said anything. About the only thing not in that set was plutonium. You'd look at the periodic table to see what was missing and try and collect it like stamps.

Mine came in a big metal box because half the stuff was so corrosive that the box would eventually have holes in it. I had to store it in a "safe" place to keep it from eating through concrete.

Kids have it easy today. They don't get anything that will instantly turn to cyanide if you missed a sentence in the directions and kill everyone in the entire block. Kids today don't get stuff that, where dad says, "Timmy, don't blow up the house!" he kind of means it.

Remember Christmas light that burned so hot they could warm the entire house? It wasn't a matter of if you left the lights on they would burn the house down, but rather, don't leave them on or you burn the entire house down. You'd lay awake at night wondering if that tree would ignite.

Remember fruitcake? It's the only time you ever saw it. I could never tell what it was and nobody could pay me enough to eat it. It looked like a cow pooped marbles. The thing came in a box and weighed about ten pounds. We'd all look at it and wonder why the person who sent it hated us. It was one of those gifts that if you got it, it meant they didn't like you very much. Nobody ever sent it to someone they actually loved. Everyone got at least one.

Still, the thing I remember most wasn't returning gifts on the day after Christmas. It was always that rush to the store to get batteries.

It's hard to believe that we're a third of a way through our off season already. The time flies. This is when you add most of that fat that we still see in spring. The stuff you never ever take off. We

just read about RTC changing hands and we don't know if it will impact us or not yet. We love working with RTC, but you never know who's going to be running things on the mall side. Hopefully someone who's into what we built.

We get occasional offers from others to be somewhere else, but we're very loyal to Redmond Town Center. They built E@RTC along with us and we'd never move on our own. We deeply appreciate all the work they put into making our event happen. This is also the last blog entry for 2019. We're wishing you all a joyous new year in 2020. Happy New Year!

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## December 19, 2019

### That's a What? It's a G90!

For a car site, we don't write about cars very much. We know. Our whole thing is about the experience of cars, especially rare and exotic cars. There is nothing practical about what we do, really. We're all just into special cars and how we use them.

Manfred Fitzgerald was Lamborghini Brand and Design Director when we did our now famous run from Redmond Town Center to Salish Lodge shortly after we started E@RTC. Remember that day?

Manfred brought the entire senior team of Lamborghini over from Italy along with the newly-release LP670-4 SV, and a few other cars for the run. We all raced up to the hotel where we had breakfast and the Lamborghini senior team talked about the brand to the 100 or so attendees. It was great fun. If you never say the video, feast your eyes on this.

You're watching a hired motorcycle cop simultaneously point to cars in oncoming traffic to pull over while he held a video camera in the other at around 100 MPH in places.

A few years later, Manfred left Lamborghini to do other things and was out of the automotive industry entirely until he took the role as the head of the new spinoff from the Hyundai line in the form of the Genesis brand, in December 2015. He called me to talk about the offer just before he took the job, and he knew it would be a difficult challenge. Manfred likes a difficult challenge.

This was a huge undertaking for Manfred because, for one, his family was on the island of Ibiza while he was in Korea rebuilding a new brand for the first time. He also had to work within deep culture differences that made it more difficult to know how to best work in this new environment. There was the difference between a direct and indirect conversation to deal with, and if you knew Manfred, he was very direct at all times.

The Hyundai idea was simple enough, spin off Genesis that was an existing Hyundai model into what would be similar to what Lexus is to Toyota. Manfred along with some of his former

colleagues from Volkswagen Group AG, rolled up their shirtsleeves and got busy. I don't think they actually rolled them up. Some were wearing short sleeves, but I digress.

To the automotive world watching this unfold, Manfred was like David Copperfield without all the bullshit. No horse ended up in someone's kitchen. But, Manfred was doing some remarkable things in a very short time.

Manfred, like many things he's passionate about, believed that he could do the impossible, and he largely did just that. The G70 won MotorTrend's 2019 Car of the Year, and it was later named North American Car of The Year. This was a first for any Korean car company and when you think of how long Korea has been selling cars in the US, it's a big deal. He wasn't out to BS anyone. The cars they turned out had to be better.

Manfred pays close attention to detail and he's not afraid to say what he thinks about just about any subject. As I got to know him over the years, I realized that he was the real deal, someone passionate about cars and determined to bring them into the current state of tech. Still, for Manfred he was caught between a company that was hanging onto traditions, versus his deep desire to do something very bold and above all, new.



About two months ago, Manfred resigned from Genesis, just short of four years and will hopefully resurface at another brand. Meanwhile, through all of this, I was going to get a G90 from him to drive for a week, but because of schedule issues, it kept getting put off, and I didn't receive the car until Manfred was already gone. They dropped off a G90 5.0, which is kind of a

rare car around here. The nearest G90 for sale on cars.com is in California. The 5.0s seem to be that rare.

Overall, it's an extremely loaded peppy sedan that is designed with true "luxury" in mind, whatever that is these days. I can't help but see his influence when I drive it, and the more time I spent with it the more I liked it. It does everything you'd expect from a luxury car extremely well, but does it exceed them?

For the \$77k sticker, for this fully loaded version, I can't think of a better value. As I was driving it, I keep finding little surprises, small attention to detail that tells me they are committed to competing with the major luxury brands. As an example, when you move the wiper stalk, it shows the position on the center screen. Lexus doesn't do that, and neither does Mercedes. You don't have to look at the stalk to know the position. There were tiny surprises like that just about everywhere.



I loved the slanted pocket for a cell phone that all you do is drop in, and it starts charging. It was perfect! Steering was tight, the car was fast, and it was very comfortable at higher speeds.

I never got the impression the car lacked features or that they were cutting corners somewhere. Their solutions to problems were even clever, but I was expecting that from Manfred.

It's a huge car, and it's a nice looking beast and perfect as a low profile executive hauler for those who want something nice but don't think they could drive one of the big four to work and

get away with it because of misguided internal company politics or something. Someone's pissed about your big bonus and you don't want to rub it in their face, but you kind of do.

The flip side of that same point is that the car doesn't have any defining signature that stands out and makes the car memorable. This to me was the old Korean influence. Play it safe. It's almost stodgy in some respects. I kept looking at the car and I was drawing a blank, sort of like a blonde I once dated during just about every conversation we ever had. "How is water made?"

I couldn't think of a single sentence that defined the G90 or the Genesis brand. When I think of Tesla, I think of the most successful electric car today. It's cutting edge. When I think Ferrari, I think beautiful design and performance. When I think Lamborghini, I think brute performance, and when I think Mustang, I think unintentionally hitting a parked car. Yet, after spending a week with the G90, nothing came to mind, other than, nice car. But, for some, that's exactly what they want.

If you're looking for a luxury ride in that price range, I think it's a hard value to beat. I can't think of a company that offers more for the same price. If you're looking for that understated company commuter, look no further.

No matter what I buy, I'm looking for some connection and that didn't happen with the G90. I have no doubt that Manfred would get there, but I saw this car as merely a step in that direction. I only hope whoever steps in his shoes, (not real shoes) has as much talent to keep the momentum going. I'll be interested to see what Hyundai does next, but I'm far more interested in where Manfred shows up.

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**December 13, 2019**

## **Cannon Beach for That Romantic Getaway!**

Friends often ask us about the great weekend escapes around here. Like so many of us car enthusiasts, it's not about just the destination, it's also about the journey. I'll forget the pass or anything east for now unless you want to chain up. You may already know this, but must have either studded tires, or you must carry chains since it's now a requirement. Yes, even if you have a suitable SUV with big tires. I'm taking about the kind of chains you put on the tires, not the ones you wear in bed.

The usual spot where a lot of people like to go from Seattle is Cannon Beach for that whimsical weekend getaway. For those of you who have no idea where that is, it's in Oregon, about 30 minutes south of Astoria on the upper west corner of Oregon. Astoria, is about three and a half hours from RTC.

Astoria by itself is kind of an interesting town. This is where they filmed Kindergarten Cop, Short Circuit 1, and Goonies, Free Willie, (not the x-rated version) and Teenage Mutant Turtles, just to name a few. The city was named after John Jacob Astor who's grandson later went down on the Titanic. No matter how bad your day is going, it wasn't nearly as bad as his last day, so keep that in mind next time you wake up grumpy.

That whole corner of Oregon is interesting. Lots of history, including the final destination of Lewis and Clark. in 1805. If you want an interesting read, find a reprint of the original journal. They were lucky as hell to live through it.

Cannon Beach got its name because way back a ship named the USS Shark ran aground on the Columbia bar in September 1846 and to lighten the load in an unsuccessful attempt to float off the bar, the captain ordered that cannons be strapped to floating cargo. I read somewhere that the cannon just sort of floated there on its own, but that makes about as much sense as a paint chip sandwich. One of those cannons ended up washing up on shore and so the place was named accordingly. The captain got his ass chewed only a little because it's tough to cross the Columbia bar. Over 2,000 ships and small boats went down on the Columbia Bar since people first started counting, so they couldn't get all that mad at him unless he was the first one.

Cannon Beach is sort of that romantic get-away town that is charming, and kind of boring at the same time. It's where you go walk a beach, come back to your hotel room in front of a big bowl of something and just stare out the window and probably wish you were somewhere else. It's a nice beach to walk unless the big one hits. Then I hope you can run like hell.

It's packed with tourists in the summer, and it's quiet in the winter. It's got a lot of charming Inns with the usual whimsical seaside names. The ones you all expect, that lack originality, like the Inn at Cannon Beach, or the Cannon Beach Hotel, or the Lighthouse Inn, and so on. No, none called the Bearded Clam or The Waxed Dolphin, but someday.

If you're looking for a recommendation, I like the Surfsand. If you get a seaside room, you get to stare at Haystack rock, which is the big attraction in town. Yes, a big rock is the attraction. Do you have a big rock? Well, they do and they are kind of proud of their rock. Because it sits away from shore, people think it's cool. Rocks are still attached to shore but nobody cares. It's only when one is a little past the beach.

There was a time when you could climb all over Haystack rock, but now it's been limited because of "environmental concerns." It's a rock at the edge of the ocean, one that's slowly getting washed into the sea. Any "concern" will someday be gone. People like to take pictures of it, paint it, draw it, get a selfie with it. It's still a rock.

Part of the reason they stopped letting people climb on it was because tourists with no knowledge of tides would get stranded. They would be sitting there, contemplating nature and the tide would come in and before they knew what happened, someone would have to fire up the helicopter and go basket their ass off the rock or let them sit there for eight hours or so

before they could walk off the again, running for both the bathroom and a ham sandwich at the same time. Respect the rock.

Cannon Beach, like so many tourist towns have gift shops everywhere. I've never understood that. I never think of racing to the beach to go gift shopping for that special someone. Those shops go out of business about every few years and someone steps right back in and does it all over again. A few shops have lasted over the years. The candy store has been there a long time. Nothing like sugaring up the kids and sending them off on the sand to make a castle or bury granny somewhere.

I make fun of it, but it's still a nice place to go. Women love it more than men. I see men getting dragged around the gift shops looking like they crave a bullet to their own head after about the tenth gift shop. Others go just to park in front of a TV and watch sports, something they could have done at home.

Me, I go for the drive. Lots of ways to get there and all have something to offer. It's the perfect Christmas gift for that special someone who's into close destinations.

In my next blog, I'm going to write about Genesis. They dropped off a spiffy new G90 5.0 for a week and I'll have a few things to say about it. I'm still learning about what makes it special.

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**December 5, 2019**

## **Recipe For a Fun Drive to Portland, History, Banjo Music and So Much More...**

The easy way to get to Portland and not touch I-5 is to fly of course. I get it. The train is nice too, but if you want to go on a nice drive, read on.

There is a fun way to get to Portland and I'm going to make it more interesting than writing directions alone. I'm doing this because you could be thinking about a romantic drive for that weekend getaway with that special someone. Or not. It could be because you just split with that special someone who came home from the bar...and you saw that her eyes had a mist of a smoke of a distant fire...da-dum-da-dum-da-de-dum... (I'll bet you can't get that song out of your head now.)

It's only then that you knew you needed to go for a long drive to get away and think about your bad choices. If you're with that special someone, then good choices. Either way, this drive will help. Besides, it's sucks just thumping your way down that coma-inducing stretch of I-5.

I'm going to start you out at Redmond Town Center and go from there. Buy something at RTC first. You needed socks. Anything! Once you're done shopping head out east towards East Lake Sammamish Parkway and drive down the East side of the lake through Issaquah. The reason I'm

sending you down the East versus the West is because the West side of the lake has a road that sucks. Nuf said.

Continue through Issaquah on Front Street south, and that magically turns into Issaquah-Hobart Road and continue on that road and pass under Highway 18. Continue as if you never saw the overpass, and that road magically turns into 276th Avenue SE, as it heads straight south, and follow that sucker until it magically becomes Issaquah-Ravensdale Road.

After you cross the river and the road makes a curve to the right, turn left on Ladybug Road SE. Isn't ever road technically a Ladybug Road? That road magically turns into Black Diamond and Ravensdale Road. For those that don't know, "black diamond" is a fancy word for coal. They didn't think it would go over well with the tourists if the town was called Coal, WA. Bad for the tourist season.

A bit of trivia. Ravensdale is where a coal mine explosion happened in 1915 killing 31 miners, and that shut the whole thing down. Kind of a somber reminder of what the old days were like in Washington. From what I've read, all bodies were recovered. As you drive by, the row houses still remain and the mine was just on the other side of the railroad tracks. There is a creepy cemetery there behind the row of houses if you dare.

The road takes you to 169 in Black Diamond. Stop by the Black Diamond Bakery for a donut before you continue. That bakery is one of the oldest continuous bakeries in the state. It opened its doors for the first time in 1902. Food's not bad either. It's a good breakfast stop.

Follow 169 south until you get through Enumclaw. Folks in them general parts call those locals "Enumscratch" for reasons I really shouldn't write about. Let's just say the area is known for stuff that was so odd, the state legislature were squeamish about writing the laws to stop it. The average well-rounded, properly-parented-person just doesn't go there. Ever. You have no idea how many jokes are flying through my head right now, as I write this, but best I not share even one.

When you get to 410, turn right and head east towards Buckley. That's the town where Chris Farley filmed Black Sheep. It's also where they filmed Waiting for the Light with Shirley McClain and Terry Garr. They probably filmed the X-rated version of Dr. Doolittle in Enumclaw. Damn it, I said no jokes... Seriously, I'm dying here.

Then, make a left on Mundy Loss Road. Normally you could go down 165, but they are replacing the bridge. If you want to take an interesting detour, head down to Wilkeson. It's kind of an interesting old town. If you follow the road through the old coke ovens. Rather than explain everything, I added the link. You can also continue south to the Fairfax Bridge and other sites along 165, but it's a big detour and it dead ends.

Okay, given the 165 bridge is out, you have to retrace your steps if you're visiting Wilkeson, and to want to get to Mundy Loss Road off 410. Follow it south down to Pioneer Way East, or



highway 162, whichever name you prefer, and turn right and drive through South Prairie. Follow it until you get to the Baxter plant, and the intersection with Oroville Road and go left. If you ended up in Orting, you screwed up. If you live in Orting, you really screwed up. Actually, it's a nice town. I like Orting. Not every day, but it's nice.

Okay, you keep driving south on Oroville Road East until you get to an intersection in Kapowsin where you will go left which is still Oroville Road East and continue to follow that south. This is a very nice driving road without a lot of traffic. Ignore the banjo music, you'll be just fine, I promise. Kapowsin was named after the Kapowsin Lumber Company in 1901, but who knows how the lumber company got its name.

You drive by some old homesteads and other interesting sights, like Kapowsin Lake. I love this particular stretch of road. You eventually come to a T intersection with 161 where you will go left and head into Eatonville. You can take either Adler Cutoff Road or 161 to 7 then south. Either way gets you to the same point at about the same time. If your choice is 161, you're going to go left on 7. If you picked Adler Creek Road, you will also go left on 7. No matter what, you're going left on 7. This gets you into the town of Elbe where there is still a working steam locomotive if you happen to be there on the right day and time. The population of Elbe is 21, depending on who's caught up on rent.

You will continue on Highway 7 south until you get to the town of Morton. The town was known for mining cinnabar of all things. Who comes up with this stuff? I guess from that you extract mercury. From mercury you get people who walk in circles.

There isn't much in this little town, but they do have a Ford dealership. It's hard to believe a town that small can support a car dealership, but it does. You might starve to death, but you'll have a new Ford. I had to check inventory and they do have 55 new Fords waiting to find a home. Sure, most are pickups.

The town sits on the intersection of Highway 7 and Highway 12, so if you have a hankering to head to Yakima, now is your chance, because if you go left, the highway takes you through Packwood and on through to Yakistan as some folks call it. The murder rate is 13.8 per 100k people! That's six times the rate of Spocompton!

If you're looking for the scenic route to continue our fun adventure, then turn right on 508, and follow that west. I prefer driving 508 over 12 west because there is less traffic and it's a lot more scenic. You won't be disappointed. The banjo music sort of continues, but it's still scenic.

Stay on 508 and cross I-5 into Napavine where you will then head south on Old Highway 603. I have no idea why Napavine exists. I don't get the reason why some people just stop and say let's build a town here and everyone says okay, and that's it. I get the mining towns. Those make some sense, but these places are as if this is where the horse choked on an apple and died, so they couldn't go anywhere else. Someone said, I'm not moving another inch, so this is where the town started.

So, start driving south on 603 out of Napavine until you come to the end where you take a left and drive through Vader. Yup, named after Martin Vader, I'm guessing a distant relative of Darth, distant cousin to Seth. Martin fought in the Civil War, so I guess the Vaders have been fighting the force a long time. Once you drive through Vader, which takes about twenty seconds or so, you turn right on Westside Highway. It's kind of a nice rolling hill drive. This road eventually becomes 411 as you continue to go straight south.

You end up in Lexington, WA before you drive into west Kelso, then Longview. Just keep going straight. The road magically becomes 1st Avenue, then it magically becomes 3rd Avenue while making 2nd Avenue disappear entirely. It bends to the right to become 432 before you make a left on 433 and right over the bridge crossing the Columbia River. It's a tall sucker, but sturdy they say.

You're now in Oregon and the banjo music kicks in all over again for a while. Follow Highway 30 south. This is a very nice drive into Portland. You even pass under the spectacular St. Johns Suspension Bridge built in 1931 and you get to see some of the industrial side of Portland. If you've never driven this route, the scenery will surprise you and give you an entirely different view of Portland.

There are several other ways to get to Portland without touching I-5. I like the route that goes through Olympia and south along with east side of I5 and I'll write about that at some point. As for hotels, I'm partial to anything Kimpton. I think the Paramount is nice. Plenty of nice places to stay in downtown Portland, but it's turned into kind of a hell-hole in pockets because of all the same problems as downtown Seattle. I try and stay out of politics on this site.

According to Google Maps, the entire drive without stops takes about 4 hours and 58 minutes in, in no traffic, and it's a total of 224 miles. If you were to just drive the fastest route from RTC to the Paramount Hotel, it would still take you 3 hours and 15 minutes, and a total of 183 miles. It seems like the 41 miles and 1.75 hour difference, makes it worth it.

Have fun!

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## November 28, 2019

### Cyber...WTF?

I've read a lot of jokes about the new Tesla Cybertruck and how much people hate the design and call it something they could have drawn when they were kids. Sure. I didn't know what to think of it at first, and that's what delighted me. You don't want to see what I drew when I was a kid.

I want to be surprised by the unexpected. Usually not in the middle of the night, but for stuff like this, yes.

This was something very unique, and it's not like the Tom Peters designed, Pontiac Aztec that looked like he took it to a committee. I suspect it was a dark afternoon when he drew up that baby, but I digress.

What Tesla and Elon Musk has done was daring as \*\*ck (the mystery word was heck) and we should be celebrating when companies take these giant leaps, even when they miss now and then. We complain about automotive styling becoming boring, but we all can't have it both ways. In case your bedroom is deep in an old Nike Missile silo in South Dakota, where your friends lower food on a string, you've probably noticed that Tesla now leads everyone else, not the other way around.

I kind of like the wedginess! By the way, did you know that receiving a wedgie in the office is the most under-reported HR violation there is? Sorry to skid off track.

Over many years, those who dared to be something extraordinary in automotive design were often ridiculed. You've probably all see the movie, "Tucker." No? Good movie! The Tucker 48 had a third center headlight to see around corners. It had a bunch of safety features, was rear engine and rear drive, and it was an odd looking car. Still like Tesla, it was ridiculed because it was different. Tucker is just not a good name for a car. I don't need to explain why.

These companies that do daring things are the ones that ultimately change the world. The ones that do nothing but criticize often aren't changing much of anything and eventually get left behind. A big part of growing as humans is accepting new ideas, and celebrating those who dare to be this radically different.

Remember when Chris Bangle, head of design at BMW created the layer cake rear end on the 7-Series? It was branded the "Bangle Butt" yet everyone later copied the design. You saw the layered rear end on cars for years. It was so criticized that BMW made changes, but by then everyone was following the same design language. It went from ugly to desired styling. Now floating roofs are becoming a styling theme and you see them everywhere. For those of you also living in Nike Missile silos somewhere, that's what you call it when there is a black band between the body of the vehicle and the roof, to separate the two. It's a little trivia you didn't know one minute ago.

The daring colors that Lamborghini introduced that people criticized eventually moved into mainstream automotive. Think of the Countach and how it influenced design. Scissors doors? These cars were all radical leaps that required huge risks. Risks that paid off.

Every car manufacturer in the world is working on an EV solution to catch up with Tesla. Yet, when we started E@RTC and they came out, everything they did was met with jokes and skepticism. I shared a few myself about noise complaints. Tesla still remains far ahead of most

others in automotive and you can see the auto industry trying to catch up every January at CES. It's no accident the Detroit Auto Show moved six months out to not overlap CES.

Manfred Fitzgerald recently resigned as head of Genesis. I'm proud to call him a very good friend. Manfred dared time and time again to push everything he did as far as he could. He took Genesis a very long way in his four years. Nobody else would have been as daring. He's not afraid of criticism. This is what's required if automotive is to move forward and catch up with tech.

When Manfred was Director of Design and Branding at Lamborghini, a car that would be called the Aventador didn't feel risky enough for Manfred, he killed the entire project and started over with a clean sheet of paper and the car you see today is the result. That car has now remained in production for almost ten years. Manfred had to fight hard just to take the risk. It too was met with critics, especially from the Ferrari side, but it's been the most successful \$500k car ever built.

We need to applaud when automotive companies take big risks, even when it's not what we all want. Tesla has never been the car company for everyone and they are smart enough to know their consumer.

I for one, feel like the automotive industry has fallen far behind tech and they need to do big things to catch up. I can't blame Apple for not entering the space. Mainstream consumers don't like big leaps in automotive. Yet, the companies that take these risks, often end up ahead of everyone else. It should encourage more car companies to try new ideas.

Most consumers are just not able to make the leap and that's why cars have this slow evolution while tech is driven by the state of invention. Tesla had over 250,000 deposits on the new truck after just the first three days. Yes, most of those won't turn into real orders, but I have no doubt there are just enough who believe in the daring that it will still be a huge success. Cheers to Tesla for doing the daring!

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone! Bring on the gravy!

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**November 22, 2019**

**Drive to Pt. Townsend just for Fun. No really!**

I took a drive to Pt. Townsend for pizza at Waterfront Pizza the other day. If you've not done the drive, it's worth it just for the scenery, even if you don't like pizza. Waterfront Pizza has been there since 1978 and it's still the best pizza around. Don't expect anything fancy. You will be as disappointed as you were when you bought that Fiat. It's just good pizza. It's a tiny hole in the wall. The place only holds about four pizzas.

Something happens when you jump on the ferry heading west. It's like drifting into another country except nobody is checking your passport and asking you to bend over once in a while. On the other side of the water, hair gets longer, cars get slower, and everyone seems to be heading somewhere to fix something. I see a lot of service vans running around. I'm always passing a plumbing truck going somewhere. What the heck are they eating?

I also pass a lot of old people in their Prius driving ten under. They think that's freedom. I think it's insanity...which I guess can be close to freedom if you escaped from a nursing home with the grocery car. I don't for the life of me understand why people have to drive so slow in a Prius. Do they set the speedometer ten under at the factory for better mileage? What is it? Just for fun, Google, "Prius flying down the road" and see what you get. Nothing! You get a couple of cars that flew off the road but that's no surprise to anyone. You do get returns like, "What's the most efficient way to drive a Prius?" I know the answer to that one. Park it.

In Pt. Townsend a hippie is still hippie, as it was for decades in that area. Nothing changes. They look just like they did decades ago. It's ground-zero for old hippies wising they practiced juggling with a little more finesse or something. And, they still seem to be pissed about something. I get the feeling people don't want to modernize anything in any way. None look like they are all that happy about life. The town is charming and lots of bullshit shops for tourists. You really need those decorative coasters and a twig to hold your jewelry.

I don't see a lot of joyous people running around singing and dancing like they love life in Pt. Townsend. Maybe it's another shitty flash mob that didn't flash. Yet, in spite of the tourist destination vibe, there are some surprisingly good restaurants around Pt. Townsend. Just south in Port Hadlock is the Ajax Cafe. Just take a look at the ratings! This was always a great place and I highly recommend it. You can even wear silly hats as you dine. Years ago, we'd load up the car with friends and head there for dinner. It was all so worth it.

Did you know that Pt. Townsend is older than Seattle? It was one of the first cities. The only reason it's still small is because the railroad decided not to go there and stopped in Tacoma. I had to look, but the oldest city in Washington is Stillacoom. The Native American name means, "little pink flower" according to Wikipedia. I'm suspicious the Hoh tribe had something to do with it. They probably laugh like hell every time they see the sign.

Just outside of Pt. Townsend is Ft. Warden, which was a key defense point during WWII. It's worth reading up on the history and the threat at the time. It's hard to believe that's even here and how close we came to having the war hit the continent. The fort is also where they filmed "An Officer and a Gentleman" with Richard Gere. Frank Herbert, the author of Dune also lived there at one point. It's a good town for authors. I'd be bored senseless, but that's just me.

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**November 15, 2019**

## One Road Town and Other Poop

Well the Seattle International Auto Show is underway. Go see it before everything looks like a dead cat with its eyes gouged out. What do people do with all the shift knobs and buttons they steal? I don't get it. It's not like you can sell this stuff on the street. "Hey buddy, what to buy a temp knob for a 2020 Nissan Leaf?"

I don't know why I don't enjoy these auto shows. I see some nice cars there, but then go to the dealer lot and never see something I like more and the one in the show often belongs to the factory or something. It's a pain in the butt waiting for some kid to get out of the driver's seat of just about anything.

We're just days away from winter in Eastern Washington and the prospects to go for a drive turn to either west, or north and south as it's not fun to deal with the pass. East doesn't exist until spring. I'll talk about some stuff on this side of the mountains.

### One Road Town

I've got a few interesting things to share about drives. Did you know that Ryderwood, WA is the only town in Washington that I know of that has only one way in and out? Nobody wants to go there so they only needed one road. I don't know why the town is there, but it's there. It's down near Vader, WA. A bit of trivia. Rumor is, Vader was named after Darth's far distant relative. Most people don't know this, but Seth Vader, Darth's brother, was a humble mushroom farmer. Just a bit of trivia.

They never do that in movies; where they show this extended villainous family all in ugly Christmas sweaters. Darth there by the fire or in the garage fixing something. You wonder if there has ever been a super villain that went to a family reunion or made a casserole.

### Sloshing Around

If you go out HY 6, on your way to Raymond, WA, you pass Willie Keil's grave. YOU don't know who Willie Keil is? Well, pull up a couch and I'll tell you a little story about a kid named Will. He died in Missouri of malaria at 19. Sad. They put his body in a lead-lined coffin filled with whisky and sloshed their way to Washington state where he is now buried, just east of Raymond. It's kind of funny, kind of sad. More funny than sad. It's not too soon on that to laugh a little. Paul Walker jokes are too soon. That's sort of my line. Saying, "Cook it like it rode with Paul Walker" will still get you kicked out of most fine dining.

I keep wondering what the whisky is like now. I wonder if this is something like the worm in the tequila? Here's the full story. Get ready to be shocked and amused. You can't walk right up to the grave, which is a shame. It's on a hill, but you can kind of see it. Would be nice if the state got an easement to the spot.

The funny thing is after they buried young Whisky Willie, the family decided fuck it, it's too rainy around here and moved to central Oregon. By then, nobody felt like dealing with the sloshing anymore. He's probably still pissed they left him behind to slosh in peace.

I keep thinking about "Sylvester" the beef-jerky-dead-guy propped up in the back of the Ye' Olde Curiosity Shop on the waterfront. I don't know how I feel about him standing there. It's not like anyone asked him. I doubt it was in his will. It's not something you'd say on your last dying day unless you took a hit to the head. Friends say things like, I want to be buried, cremated, ashes put in a little decorative jar, or scattered on a beach, but nobody ever says I want to be turned into beef jerky and stood naked in front of millions of tourists for the next hundred years. I just can't imagine a lot of people thinking it's a good idea. Creeps me out.

The waterfront is kind of cool now that the viaduct is gone. You can actually walk and carry on a conversation with the folks bugging you for money. Watch where you step. Still lots of poop. I can't end this blog with the word poop. I just can't.

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**November 7, 2019**

## **Love of a Good Donut...**

So, you're looking for a good donut/drive recommendation so you can get out and see the world a bit while you wait for our new season to start. There are a few shops that immediately come to mind that are well above what you'd find at Safeway.

The first is Factory Donut on the corner of 124th Avenue NE and NE144th St in Kingsgate in the strip mall. It's right next to Sno-King Ice Arena where it's rumored that Fat Guys in Speedos practice their routines. It's how we know. They are working on the lovely musical production of Hurricane Katrina on Ice.

The shop is owned by a woman who has no patience while you decide what you want. She's a bit of a donut nazi, but I have to admire a woman who put all her kids through Ivy League schools while working in a donut shop. I admire the heck out of her. It's not a thrilling drive, but still worth a stop.

A nice drive is heading out to the Sultan Bakery out in Sultan, right there on Highway 2. For fun, from there, take Mann Drive south over the bridge and out Ben Howard Road for a nice country drive while the leaves are falling. You know, Ben must have been an important guy if they named a road after him. I'd be happy if they named a ditch after me, but that's another matter. I couldn't find anything about why they named a whole road after him. They even used his first name, which makes it even more important. They couldn't just call it "Howard Road" and leave it at that. Probably too many Howard Roads out there, and besides it's both a first and last name.

Maybe Ben built the damn thing for all we know. He was probably good with a tractor, or a horse, or his wife. If someone knows the answer, let me know and I'll post it.

My favorite, if I want a donut like I could find as a kid, meaning it was real, is down at the Original House of Donuts in Lakewood. It's on Gravelly Lake Drive. They have a second store in Tacoma, but I've not been to that one to see if there is any difference. I think the one in Lakewood is the original, original. Don't be surprised if there is a long line out the door but it moves fast.

The French Bakery at Redmond Town Center gets high marks. So does the one in downtown Kirkland across the street from the Heathman. I guess they are all the same thing. No donuts, but good bakeries if you want fancy stuff. I'm not a big Top Pot Donut fan. Go where they actually make the darn things. It's otherwise like eating couch foam with frosting.

There are so many places to explore around the Northwest so get out and do some driving! Enjoy that car!

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**October 31, 2019**

**So, you own and exotic now what do I do with it?**

You finally save enough money to buy the car of your dreams after working that second job at the fertility clinic, then drive off the dealer lot, not knowing where to go. First you drive up to Salish Lodge, then over to show your car to your friends, then it's the usual ritual of giving others endless rides, including your own grandmother who has no clue where she is anyway, but Mom said you should do it.

You then spend lots of time looking at it in the garage, just sitting in it, at times, reading that obscure page in the owner's manual, and cleaning every little thing, and finally, after racing up onramps about a hundred times, through every local tunnel, and out to Alki, you go home and ask, where do I go with this thing? We all get there sooner or later.

We continue to clean it up, put it in the garage and there it sits. We don't want to get it dirty because we just spent hours cleaning it and we start looking for quality events over quantity. Suddenly to go anywhere, the drive has to reach a certain threshold or we take the daily. We think about if we can go for a drive after work because of the hassle of commuter traffic, or where to go to dinner where the car will be safe.

We soon realize that we can't just park it in any garage out of fear that it will be a target by some hater with pimples, so we look for places with good valets who will either know enough about the car to park it properly or will keep an eye on it. We soon realize we don't have a lot of good choices. The car then sits, and sooner or later, you either get involved with people who meet



somewhere, or you sell the damn thing, typically at a substantial loss with few miles on the odometer. Back to the Buick.

The thing E@RTC gave all of us was a destination of like-minded people where we could talk cars and share our enthusiasm and justification for spending that much money for a grin. It's like when we were kids and we'd bring the latest Hot Wheels to school. Some kid would pull out their Hot Wheels, and I'd pull out a snake. I win!

I went through this same routine until I gave myself a little discipline. I decided that I had to get out, rain or shine. This meant it wasn't always going to be clean, but I was going to use it. I pick my drives based on direction; north, south, east, or west. East isn't much of an option in winter unless you have a love of the involuntary luge in an exotic. Hey, that can be thrilling! I then think Freeway; no freeway? No freeway usually wins.

Did you know that it's easy to get to Portland without ever touching a freeway and it's a wonderful drive? Did you know that slugs are nature's gum? Actually, there are a bunch of ways to get to Portland without touching a freeway and all are nice drives. I recommend any Kimpton in Portland.

I'm kind of partial to Cannon Beach and prefer the Surfsand. There are lots of ways to get there so don't go thinking this has to be a freeway slog. You can go via Aberdeen, or HY 6, or 30, or 26, and all have something unique to offer. The Puget Island Ferry across the Columbia is cool if you feel the need to really slow down. You can get to Cannon Beach without ever touching a freeway. Start with the Bremerton Ferry then head out towards the coast, then south on 101. The toothless are friendly everywhere around here. Oh, they may look like tarantulas with fewer legs, but they are still kind of harmless.

You could drive out to Seabrook, which is like a charming trailer park. You see fewer bubbas scratching something they shouldn't in public, and the houses are cute, but that's about it. There isn't much to do. Cell service sucks so if you need to stay in touch, forget Seabrook!

I'll write about other destinations coming up. We miss you all already.

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**October 24, 2019**

**So now what?**

We know that it's tough to see the season end. For some of us, we just can't get enough of E@RTC. For others, it's time to get real and rake something, even if it's your own car's interior.

So, what to do on a Saturday morning? Well, the North Cascade Highway is still open, so it's a good time to get out and drive that wonderful highway before it closes for the season. Traffic

was light when I did it a few weeks ago, and the leaves hadn't turned just yet, so get out there and drive while you still can. At least you're out of the house. Way better than sitting around moping because you have nothing to do.

Winthrop is still a nice destination. You don't have to do the entire loop either as that makes for a very long day at roughly 450 miles, coming back via HY 2. Sun Mountain Lodge is still a favorite destination. The views are mesmerizing.

If you're looking for a good pizza destination, Waterfront Pizza in Pt. Townsend is very good. It's been there as far back as I can remember...which is right after that frying pan to the forehead some years ago. I've yet to find anything as good in Seattle. I know others who feel the same way.

Another favorite loop, since I'm writing about loops is to go from Seattle to Clinton, then up to Langley, then Coupeville, then Greenbank, then up over Deception Pass, then to Anacortes, around to La Conner, then back home. It's perfect if you like ice cream at every stop or don't have enough little useless things in the house. There is more than a plethora of gift shops. Extend the day by taking the Bremerton Ferry and adding in Poulsbo.

Is it just me or is Leavenworth starting to feel a skosh tacky? The whole town is starting to remind me of plastic wood. The place is like fuzzy dice in a Vega. It's still a Vega.

We ask this question at the end of each season; what do we want E@RTC to become? What limits us, like any other business, is time and money. We can only do so much with the volunteers we have who already give a lot. We have some budget constraints and we do think about how we use what resources we have. If you have ideas, let us know.

We've considered drives, but then we have insurance and big safety concerns. Some of you are not very "safety minded," if you know what we mean. We've thought about meet-ups, but some of you may be surprised by how difficult they are to put together. Most restaurants don't like big groups suddenly showing up. We're about as welcome as lice. One restaurant we liked had so many rules, buying a house was easier.

Drop us a note if you have some ideas about where we could take things. We love hearing from you.

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**October 17, 2019**  
**Winter Planning and Other Stuff**

Hey, if you've not read it yet, please read the blog from Saturday about the great people who are the core of E@RTC. We had a lot of people to thank and we made some last minute additions that we missed. They all deserve a round of applause for making E@RTC so fun this season.

Welcome to the winter series of this blog, where I plan to continue all winter. I'll keep you company until the new season starts. We're going to have our E@RTC Season Twelve planning meeting for 2020 much earlier than usual. Call it our "20-20 vision." There are going to be lots of 2020 jokes this coming year. I heard someone joke about Barbara Walters bringing in the new year, "This is 20-20," which I have to admit would be kind of funny.

We'd love to hear from you about improvements you'd like to see at E@RTC. No, we can't build a stadium or anything like that, but we can change how we do things, or push in a direction that matters to you. No, we can't lower the bar about what comes in because that opens an entirely new can of crawly things that can survive in a can. Maybe it's themes you'd like to see, or what we should do with the parking lots. Building a marina is just out of the question entirely. I'm still pushing for a blimp visit.

We tried to get RTC to paint car logos along 72nd, in front of Turn 10 but there wasn't a lot of enthusiasm about that. We wanted to have something memorialized, but we'll keep working on it. We'd like to come up with something that would sort of become sacred ground. Not in a Mecca kind of way, but you know what we mean. Someplace where you can say, "this is where the magic happens" besides that worn out couch at home.

It's hard to believe that the opener of our season is six months away. That seems like forever, but time passes very fast around here and we'll find stuff to talk about. About the time we wrap up one season, we're starting to get ready for the next once again. Time moves fast for us and for many of you, it's new cars between now and then. That was something we didn't think about much when we started, but people go through cars like fat guys through a bakery. It seems like before we know it, everyone is driving something different. I'd guess that 75% or more of the cars change every five years, but don't quote me on that. It's just a guess. I know it's a lot. We often get the same car with different owners. Come to think about it, some of your significant others were once someone else's E@RTC pain in the ass. I digress. Hey, you found love! The ex is thinking, "good luck dumbass..."

We've noticed that some of the great exotics that we all love to see have come down in price enough that more people are able to afford these things and bring them out. We love that. The more these cars stick around and get into more local hands, the better we're doing. E@RTC has never been about the price paid. It's entirely about what's rare, exotic, and we love authenticity.

I have a lot more to write about, but I'll stop here for now.

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**October 12, 2019**

**That's a wrap! We have a lot of people to talk about...**

The real reason we've called it off for the season after today is that some of our volunteers, about this time of year, every year, get stuck in a corn maze somewhere. The last time it happened, it took nearly a week to get them out, and it involved a National Guard helicopter, industrial air freshener, lots of deodorant, someone's mom, therapy, and a shovel. Everyone was mad.

We don't like to continue past this time of year anyway. There is a point where it's just not fun anymore and none of us like each other that much. Oh, we like each other, but not in a hypothermic, let's-snuggle-to-stay-alive kind of way. It's not like we're going to stand around holding each other while talking cars.

The blog will continue all winter, we promise. We'll count down the days to next season together.

### **A Giant Thank You!**

We have a lot of people to thank, and we'd like you to take a moment, stand on a chair facing Redmond Town Center and clap as you read this.

First, let's thank Redmond Town Center for being there for us from the start. Jessica Morgan has been the best to us and we love her! She's the one who did all those cool feather flags and is always there to work with us and make it the best event ever. What a great human! Thank you Jessica!!!! Oh, and she's also a babe! Seriously! Thanks to the security staff and all the support from those who work at RTC who help us set up in the early morning hours.

We also want to thank Redmond PD for helping us out and keeping the peace. We have a few who want to ruin things, and we're glad they are there to keep us all safe and do it in good cheer. A huge thanks to all of them! What a great city police department.



## A Giant Thank You to our Volunteers!

We have our amazing volunteers to thank for making the world a better place. They are the heroes of the show who's dedication and attention to detail is what makes us like nothing else in the US.

With an all-volunteer organization that supports itself, we try and keep the time commitments for everyone to what they can spare. We've been in divide and conquer mode, where we all do different things, ever since we got big. I mean big as an organization, so here they are in alphabetical order, rather than who weighs the most.

**Matt Berry** for helping us out this season and doing all you can for us. We're all very grateful for your help.

**Nicholas Bergeron** who has been with us about nine of our eleven seasons as I recall, and is our event day manager on most days. Nick has always brought his great humor and sort of serves as the human most willing to dish out crap to all of us. We dish right back. Thanks Nick for all the dedication and support over the years!

**Jason Bourriague** is owed a huge thanks as he not only managed the volunteers this season along with recruiting and overall coordination of everyone, he also did a fabulous job wrangling

everyone to help divide and conquer all the little things that go with the event, even at times when he was stuck on a toilet in London after a taco that, well, wasn't...he was still texting away. We're sending you a case of Imodium AD for your next trip.

**Joe Chason** for all his help this season. He's one of our new guys and we're happy to have him join us. We all appreciate what you do for us Joe.

**Andre Cunningham** for not only helping us, but also managing those nifty text messages that go out if we're on or off. Think of Andre if you need the same service and ping us for contact info. He's also our resident Porsche guy. Thanks Andre for being with us all these years!

**Ashley Eades** for adding all that she does to the mix, making it fun and inviting for everyone. Jared and Ashley have become an important part of who we are and for helping us build a sense of community that's been so important to who we are. Best couple volunteers ever!

**Jared Eades**, sometimes known as the, "Silver Fox" who's helped shape the personality of the event and for keeping it fun. Thank you Jared for being such a great brand ambassador for us and adding so much to the fun.

**Billy Goings** for managing the radios and doing it with a smile. He's been with us for a while now and is a huge help! Billy, a special thanks from all of us who you help out each week by keeping the radios charged and ready to go..

**Ian Goralnick** for his help this season. We thank you for being there and the time you dedicate to us.

**Spencer Leamer** is one of our newer volunteers but jumped in to do a lot of the behind the scenes work, such as helping us with the significant amount of questions we sometimes get. He put in a lot of extra time this season, so thanks Spencer!

**Sean McDonough** for managing the entrance all season long. He's the tip of the spear folks and he has to put up with a lot of crap, so give him a special round of applause! Sean also knows his stuff about cars so little gets by him. He's done an outstanding job of managing the sorting hat and life would be tough without him. Thanks Sean!

**Rob Miles** for also helping us out when he could. Thanks for all your help this season.

**Davis Mock**, who's other ride costs more, and produces a hell of a lot more power than everything we have in the lot on any given day. Davis flies an MD11 for FedEx when he's not helping us. Thank you Davis for all you do!

**John Morley**, the newbie as we like to call him. Thanks John for all your help this season and for being there so many times.

**Tom Nault** would probably do a lot more, if it wasn't for his love of pastries. Tom largely runs the business side of things, and has from the very beginning, and so he doesn't make it out as much as he'd like, but he's there, keeping things bouncing along, like a frog crossing a freeway. If you don't like what we say, blame him.

**Dave Prevedel** and his son Lincoln get a special shout out for driving the furthest of anyone as volunteers to show up on a Saturday morning. We really appreciate their hard work all season and for holding things down no matter what. You guys are amazing! If we could give you "dad of the year," we probably would.

**Lincoln Prevedel** who is our smallest volunteer stepped it up a lot this season and from the counts, parked a lot more cars than Vic! Way to go Lincoln! You've earned the respect of everyone for all you do.

**Alex Ragusa** Thank you Alex for all your help too. It was much appreciated this season!

**Gaurav Rajasekar** for all your help this season. It too is much appreciated.

**Robert Roppo**, who Jason described as Jared's bitch was a huge help as well. Thanks for all the help this season and for helping us keep it fun.

**Dan Putnam** is our criteria manager this year and did all the updates on the entrance criteria page. It's kind of a tough job and it requires a lot of thought. Thanks Dan for helping us. He's also involved in helping us define that fine line of what should make it in and why. Dan also did all those nifty videos of the parking lot while talking about the cars. Dan, thanks for all your help both at the events and behind the scenes.

**John Rodrigues** for helping when he can. We appreciate all your help with E@RTC.

**Todd Sanders** for all your help too. We appreciate the time you were able to offer.

**Matthew Shimon** for coming out and pitching in when he can. We appreciate the help! Thank you!

**Vic Tiscareno** who co-founded this thing with Tom, who's become our resident event ambassador and knows just about everyone now. Vic's always been there with a good cheer unless someone says a bad word about Apple, then it's shirt-off, and a throw down in downtown. Thanks Vic for eleven seasons of good cheer!

**Chad Townes** who I understand won the award for nicest guy on the planet. Thanks Chad for all your work this season. You were a huge help to all of us!

**Brendan Volk**, also known as, "Lunch Box" is like our Swiss Army knife. Not only can he park cars, he can lift them and toss them around if necessary. Once in a while, he'll drag a car into place for

a nice photo. Brendan's also a resident nice guy who's been with us a few seasons now. Thanks Brendan!



*"Swipe left..., no that should have been a right"*





What's Nick looking at?



*Most of us this season...*



*Honey Badger comes to pay us a visit. We sure miss you!*



*"Level with me, did I get my text message right? Are we really on or is it just the two of us?"*



*Tom and Vic... still liking each other after eleven seasons as co-founders!*



*About to kick off Season Eleven on a cold morning...*



*When family comes to check your work...*



“...okay, again, no kicking anyone...”





*"You get a radio, and YOU get a radio..."*



*ZZ Top longingly admiring Jason from behind... "He's got legs..."*



*Lincoln thinking about all the cars he'll own someday...and the butts he'll kick...*



*Dan squishing Amanda...again, as she empties her last coffee on his shoe...*



*"I wonder what SJ would do...? I don't know why I can't hear those guys..."*



*"I shouldn't have let that guy in..."*



*"Then when you have him like this, give him a good shot in the bean bag..."*



"Tacos where?"



*Roy refusing to roll down his window again...*



*"I don't care if you have red shoes...you're still not walking in..."*





*"You know that guy could park if you'd just move..."*



*Jason must have done a funny...*

## Our Great Photographers!

We have a big shoutout to two of our most prolific photographers. First Jason Tang has been with us from the very beginning and has continuously provided great photography over the year. Not only is he a great photographer, he's also an avid participant. Thanks Jason!

We also want to thank Karl Noakes for his amazing contributions all season. He's taken some of the best people shots of the event that capture the true spirit of who we are. Thanks so much Karl!



*Jason and Karl doing their great work!*

We have a lot of other great photographers on our photos page, so please take a look at their work and thank them for putting up such great shots. Thanks you guys for making our website special.

**The Archer Hotel** for being such a great partner hotel. We're thrilled that they give us such a great rate and for all their support this season. What we love about them was right from the start, they were asking how they could help and we very much appreciate them. Thank you Archer!

**America's Car Museum and Kristen Wells** for all their support all year. We love the museum and do all we can to support their efforts. Please get down to the museum when you can. They are doing important work. Join the museum! Get involved!

Also, a special thanks to **Chris Roberts** and the others up at **Salish Lodge** who always take such great care of us when we come up. They are the best valets in the biz. You're all outstanding and we love having you as a destination after E@RTC.

### **We Also Have to Thank All our Participants!**

Those are the folks who bring out their cars every week! We're guessing we pull from a pool of about 4-5,000 cars around the Northwest and we can't thank you all enough for bringing out your spectacular machines and sharing them with the world. It means a lot to the others when you show up in force. For us volunteers, seeing your role in every Saturday makes it all worth it for us.

We also have our big car collectors to thank. Some don't want their names here so we'll just go with some initials. We have Greg W, Bruce W, John A, David S, Peter G, Roy C, and there are many others who go through a lot of trouble to bring your cars. Thank you Kevin Beech for driving down from Bellingham so many Saturday mornings! Thanks to all of you for bringing your fantastic cars!

We'd also like to thank the dealers who come out and brought cars this season. Ferrari of Seattle, Maserati of Seattle, Lamborghini of Bellevue, Rolls Royce of Bellevue, McLaren of Bellevue, Cats Exotics, Park Place, and a few of the others who came out with a special car now and then.

### **Let's Not Forget our Spectators!**

E@RTC can't happen without people coming out to see the cars. Without your enthusiasm, some of the collectors don't want to go through the trouble of getting a car out and trailered down to E@RTC. It's your huge enthusiasm that helps drive participants and we can't do it without you, so thank you for coming out!

### **Some Numbers You Might Like to Know**

It's hard to believe we've done this eleven seasons in a row, which works out to about 250 events. Not bad!

We thought we'd share some stats so you know how we're doing. We estimate that about 18,000-24,000 people attended our events this season. We figure this out by counting people during the event, then multiplying it by the number of events, and making some adjustments for special days and lightly attended days.

We'd guess, and it's only a guess that about a third are unique visitors. We have no way of knowing for sure, but spectator turnout almost doubles participants as they cycle through. We have no idea how long the average person stays while at the event.

We have more specific information from our website stats. We're glad to share that too. We had 45,600 unique visitors to our website so far this year from over eighty countries. That's up 17.3% over last year, so thank you for coming here. We had 148,000 page views! That too is up 18.6% over last year, thanks to all of you. Our blog had 34,000 visitors this year. (That's a lot of potential Cease and Desist signatures.) That's way up from about 9,000 last year. We're glad people show up here for info and a laugh. I'm sure a few snap a pencil after reading, but so what. Pencils are cheap.

I had a pet grub once. It died.

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**October 10, 2019**

**This is it everyone...**

...the last Saturday of our season, so come out and say your goodbyes. We are on for the last time this year! Go ahead, do your little happy dance, the one you do when you just got lucky.

We know this Saturday will be a huge turnout, but I will warn you it will be a little cold so dress for it. Nothing more annoying than trying to talk to you when you're shaking like a dog pooping a hammer.

Fire up those electric undies. Bring the hand warmers, and I'm talking about what in your pockets right now. Wear winter stuff, even though the morning low is expected to be in the high 40s. Stand around enough and it's still cold. Warm up at one of Redmond Town Center's finest restaurants or do some shopping! It's not too early to start that Christmas Shopping.

For most of us, this will be the last time we will see each other this thin. By next spring, we show up just a little bit more on the chunky side then deny it. Bring a scale to show your season ending weight before you begin your winter grazing. We all know how this will go. Yeah, some of you will get stuck overnight in a corn maze somewhere and almost starve, but for most of us, it's chips and salsa all winter.

We have a lot of people to thank and I'm working on that separate blog which I hope to have finished soon, so come back here and read that one. It's important! We have a lot of people who have done so much for us this season and we want to be sure and thank them.

Meanwhile, we'll see you all on Saturday!

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**October 6, 2019**

**Weather is trending nicely for our...**

...last event of the season. If the weather forecast holds, Saturday will be our last E@RTC for this year. We'll post if we're on or off on Thursday, same as we usually do. If we're on, we're expecting a lot of cars so show up early. Bring Kleenex and business cards so you can say goodbye to that special someone. Also dress warm that morning. It's probably going to be cold too. We don't want you going hypothermic on our last day.

We have a big diesel outdoor heater somewhere. We named it, "Sir Heats a Lot." We've not used it in many years. Not since our season started in February, which we realized was a bad idea. We started that early because we were afraid everyone would forget about each other and not remember ever meeting before. That too wasn't the case.

After this Saturday, we will continue to blog, and we will resume again on April 4, assuming it's a nice Saturday. In reality, it will be more like May, but we could get lucky. Nice things happen to other people, so why not us too?

Stay tuned for our Thursday post!

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**October 3, 2019**

**We're rained out...but...**

...we're still trying to decide if we're going to be willing to give it one more try next week. We will watch the next few days then either will risk it or call it for the season. We have a lot of people to thank, and we'll get to that in our next blog. It's in draft form. Check back for that!

This was a crazy week. First, I was sure we'd be off, so I started to draft a blog as if we were, so then the weather started to improve, so I wrote one about our having a workable Saturday. Then just as it was improving, and I kept writing, the weather turned on us again, and now we're off.

I'm up at Sun Mountain as I write this, and if you get a chance, the leaves are just about to turn colors everyone likes, so get out and do the Cascade Loop while you can. There was snow on the sides of the roads for about the last few miles, but pass conditions were perfect and I strongly suggest getting in that last big drive before your yard pass is revoked. No ice anywhere either! It's too warm.

I stopped at Diablo Dam just as they were opening a spillway and that was fun to watch. I'm sure the lazy dudes in floaters were not too happy to be swept out to Fish Town. They probably had to call friends to get them back to their pickups. You know we have an actual town called Fish Town? I could have been a world class floater if it wasn't for my love of pastries.

It's a matter of weeks before the HY 20 closes for the season and Winthrop sort of dries up until the pass opens again. Sure, some locals come through, but it turns into a hike. All the stores were getting ready for winter and they know it all kind of sucks. You can then drive through Leavenworth and get shit-faced for Oktoberfest, dance around a pole, barf in a trash can, and have your buddies get you home. Sounds like fun!

I was surprised by how little traffic there was. I think people were expecting the pass to be bad.

Get out there and drive! You have all winter to clean the car!

We will be posting our plans sometime soon, I promise.

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**September 26, 2019**

**We're Rained Out... and this could be it.**

We're rained out for Saturday so don't bother cleaning the car. It was a close call, like the time you almost ordered the sushi at Denny's. This leave just one or two possible Saturdays to go, then we're done for the season. We all then run to Costco and stock up on snacks to get us through the winter. Some of you will watch football. Others will go paint something, or take something apart. You have all winter to figure out how to put it back together.

We hope to get in one more E@RTC before we're done, but if we're rained out next week, that will be the end of it for the season. We still have volunteer work to get done, even after the last event. We'll want to dive on our calendar planning as soon as possible or it turns into a big mess.

On another note, I don't know if you've thought about it, but in January, CES (Consumer Electronics Show) takes place in Las Vegas and it's becoming more and more of an automotive thing. Detroit moved their car show to Summer to get out of the shadow of what's become the biggest tech show in the world and now you will see a lot more automotive innovation than ever before. I'm guessing all things automotive is going to play a huge part of this year's show given the lack of interference with Detroit. Come to CES and see your real future, rather than the one you thought when saw that special someone at the bar who then later hit you with that unexpected restraining order. Or the one you saw after you banged your head on that rock.

Vic and I, along with a lot of other regulars at E@RTC have been going every year for years. I think Vic's been going since Edison did the keynote. Some from E@RTC have been in attendance every year since E@RTC started! The standards for registration are low, but the hotel cost can be high, so if you are going, book now or you will be snuggling with something unpleasant.

We hope next week is decent. If we're on bring Kleenex.

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September 19, 2019

## We're on for Saturday and Other Stuff...

We're on for Saturday! This could be it! The chances of rained out Saturdays are increasing so we may only get this shot some come out and give each other a hug goodbye or something. Just come out!

I've written about this topic before, but I can't help but think about it as the season slowly comes to a close. I recently saw some photos posted on Facebook that showed friends who met at E@RTC together for a wedding. It made me think once again about all the friendships that began at E@RTC and how something as simple as cars gathering in a parking lot has changed the course of so many lives.

I have to admit, prior to starting E@RTC with Vic, I never thought much about community in this sense, of how we're all better off for having one. I mostly thought about the life I could have had as a world class professional high diver, had I not loved pastries so much, combined with a shortage of deep pools.

Our success with E@RTC is because of all of you and the time you take to participate in such a great thing. It doesn't matter if you're a participant or spectator, you just showing up, makes it all a success. Your contribution to the community is significant, and you too helped improve other people's lives. Thank you!

I wanted to start a car gathering because I saw this vibrant car community in Orange County, CA and there was nothing like it in the Seattle area. I kept my LP640 there for about seven months and in that time I met hundreds of car enthusiasts, all at various events, yet I didn't know anyone in the car community in Seattle and yet it looked like fun.

I was reluctant to bring the car home because I was afraid there would be no real sense of community here and I'd get bored, or a left lane Prius driver would throw a full diaper at the car. Worse, a diaper from some old fat guy who's mad because, well, he's in a Prius.

It wasn't long after Vic and I started E@RTC, that we realized that we were onto something much bigger than ourselves. People wanted to volunteer and participate and get involved and more than anything, it brought people together who go out of their way to help each other, both personally and professionally. After a while, it became less about the cars, for me and more about the spirit of the event, which is why I write this blog in the direction I do and why we're so fussy about our mission.

Besides all this, who it is that wakes up in the morning and doesn't want to have a good laugh? We've all woken up to something that more closely resembles a tarantula, but I'm not talking



about that mistake we all make in life at one point or another. Since when does somberness make us want to participate in any car event? We wanted to have a good time and that still remains our core focal point in everything we do.

Our best memories of E@RTC aren't just about the cool cars that showed up, but the laughs we had talking about our life experiences, good and bad and the sense of connection to something we all love. We connected with each other, bonded, and made some now life-long friends who will remain in our lives forever. Okay, unless some of you get drunk some night and end up in a fist fight out in a street.

This sense of community helping each other has been the best reward of them all for all of us who put in the hours to make this all work. That's the one thing we want to preserve most and it's our ongoing pledge to you to continue, until we're kicked out or something, because we didn't kick someone out of something.

See you Saturday!

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## **September 14, 2019**

### **It's Definitely Looking like Fall!**

I'll bet you can't wait to rake! You get to bring out the leaf blower, the one garden tool that reminds you of your ex.

This is the time of year when our job calling it each Saturday gets a lot harder as the weather changes so fast. Right now it's looking like we will be rained out next week, but like we said, they rarely get it right this far out. Counting this coming Saturday, that leaves just four possible Saturdays remaining in our season and chances are good that at least two of those four will be rained out, so come out while you can!

Oh, then you get to start Christmas shopping and stuff. I'll bet you can't wait for that. Redmond Town Center is a good place to shop because they at least have parking. Going to Bel-Square between November 1 and January 15 is complete hell as each driver waits for that spot that's just one car width closer to the entrance. I'd rather have pink eye. I'll find stuff at RTC and skip the whole mess. I don't know about you, but I see someone with pink eye, my mind starts to race.

We're going to start planning our 2020 calendar a lot sooner than we did this year and we'll get it posted sooner too. We all get together in a room and start comparing calendars. It's like a giant game of Fish. It's kind of fun. We eat cookies. We waited a little too long at the beginning of this season and that kind of hurt us a little as we never got a date for Classics on the books. They had a lot going on and we ran into too many schedule conflicts. We didn't know it would be so complicated pinning down dates.

Redmond Town Center also has a lot going on these days, so we have to coordinate with their fun-filled events too. Except for the running events. Why can't they have a fat guy run for cake? A lot more of us would show up. So what if I show up last, I still get cake. Unless there isn't enough, then someone won't be happy.

By the way, we had an excellent season of cooperation with people via email. This was the best year yet, where people didn't argue with us so much about their cars getting in. It made it a lot easier on the volunteers who are just trying to put on a good show. Sean did an outstanding job running the entrance all season. Please give him a huge thanks along with all the other volunteers who do such great things for the community. Let them know how much you appreciate them.

Hope to see you all next week, and we'll post again on Thursday and let you know if we're on or not. Start thinking of your excuses now for that first day of fall.

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**September 13, 2019**

**We are On for British Car Day!**

Sorry it took us so long to post, but we wanted to make sure we had the best possible forecast for Saturday. We didn't want to be wrong. Hey, who as a kid didn't eat a Milk Dud, that wasn't a Milk Dud? Some of us remember those things for life. So what if we're a little cautious.

British Car Day one of our very favorite theme days and the last of the theme days for the season. It doesn't mean we're over. We still have a few weeks left in our season before we all go home and start thinking about winterizing something. It's hard to believe that we're this close to freezing temperatures and black ice surprises. Where did the summer go? I swear they put less summer in the bag every year.

If you own a car, they claimed came from another nation, still come out, for you, it's business as usual. For those with British cars, you get to park near the center of the mall, but we get so many cars, that they wrap around Redmond Town Center, down the west side street, and into the main parking lot, so don't be ashamed if your car isn't British. You should only be ashamed if you think a Yaris is a thing of beauty.

We had a very big turnout two Saturdays ago and it was wonderful to see this late in the season, and we're expecting the same thing on Saturday, even though we may see some clouds all morning. We're all comfortable with clouds. That lightning last week was a little sketchy. I had two bolts hit so close to the house, I checked for damage the next morning. I was expecting to find some dude with his fly welded shut walking in circles. Luckily there was no report of anyone getting a surprise roasting.

I do see a lot of rain in the forecast beyond Saturday, so we won't even know when our season will end. We've had seasons where we see nothing but rain in the forecast and just call it. Hopefully we will know when it's our final Saturday so we can all say our proper goodbyes. Meanwhile, we see you all Saturday and we look forward to it!

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**September 7, 2019**

## **The British are coming!!!!**

Saturday September 14 is British Car day, one of my personal favorites unless it rains. Then it's not my favorite anymore. It's not looking so good a week out, but they don't usually get it right this far in advance. If they can't predict a hurricane a few hours out, they definitely can't tell us the weather at Redmond Town Center next Saturday. They didn't even get it right today!

I'd love a job where I'd only have to be somewhat right about what I did. Think of the airplanes we could make that only fly about 60% of the time. Or, how about if Excel only got you close to the right answer. It's as if you asked if two plus two equals four. The National Weather Service would say, well it all depends on what time you ask us and what we had for dinner last night. It's four, give or take, but we'll go have some beers and let you know.

You'd think with all the cool gear, they would know more than they do. They always blame the climate models. That's like someone saying, well, the plane was supposed to fly, but our engineering models don't always agree. We're sorry, we'll come help you fill that hole. Their excuse is that there are too many variables. Haven't they ever dated a blonde?

British Car Day brings out the most polite people in the car community. These are all the people your mom wanted you to be more like when you were growing up. They are a classy bunch. We get a lot of Aston Martins and McLaren's. Speaking of Aston Martin, if you've not met their Americas President, Laura Schwab, she's a wonderful human and she thinks deeply about her brand. I like her a lot!

After next week, we only have a few Saturdays left before our season ends. This went fast! Did it seem like that to you? It did me.

Hey, if you like this blog and want to keep reading all winter, drop us a note, or hit the heart at the bottom. We never ask for likes, but we'd love to know what you think. If you want me to just shut the hell up for the winter, let me know that too.

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**September 5, 2019**

## **We're on for Saturday...**

You can do your happy dance now. We don't want to see it, but you can do it.

We're in the final countdown to the end of our season and so it's important that you come out while you can. Rain is in the forecast for Saturday night, and who knows when it will stop. We're at that time of year where we make that sudden change, then BAM it's winter all over again and everyone gets bummed. This could be your last chance to tell big fibs about cars, or ask that special someone out for a drive.

We all love the fall, but it's always difficult to say goodbye for the season. We wish we could do this year-around, but those winter mornings, even when it's not raining are very miserable. That cold air goes right through you like you're standing naked on the roof of your car while racing down the freeway. I can't exactly say I've had that experience, but I can imagine what it would be like.

Don't forget, Saturday night is the big Wheels and Heels Gala at America's Car Museum so if you want to go with some E@RTCers, let us know, just write us here and we'll get back to you on it, or contact them. It's kind of a big deal and everyone always has a great time.

See you all on Saturday!

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**September 5, 2019**

**We're Waiting for a Weather Update...**

It's looking like we're going to be on for Saturday, but we want to wait a bit to call it. It's going to rain on Saturday, but it's looking like it won't start until that night... but they never get it exactly right until it's within hours. We just follow what they report. We will post something either later today or first thing in the morning, but if I'm a betting man, I'd have all kinds of problems...never mind. Anyhow, just check back. We're probably going to be fine. I'll bet the guy who bought the first Yugo probably said the same thing.

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**August 30, 2019**

**We're rained out on our last day of August... I'm bummed.**

We're rained out for Saturday and it's the last day in August and the holiday weekend so I was looking forward to tourists. We know these weekends matter, but we waited overnight to see if the chance of rain would change. It didn't. Most of the reports agree on rain. They disagree on the time it will begin, so there was that. We'll call it our micro tropical storm.

We also begin the countdown to the end of our season, which will be about six weeks away, give or take. We go until it looks like endless rain or we're sick of each other's jokes, which ever comes first. I'm betting on the jokes. We then all go hibernate for another winter, only to show up fatter the following spring while complaining about something that hurts somewhere. We never admit we're fatter either, even though it's obvious as hell. We're all thinking you need to

lay off the Jamba Juice. Yeah, we're getting older and we're dealing with that too. Kids who once showed up on beat-up BMX bikes are now rolling in with McLarens. Staying in school was a real thing.

This has been kind of an unusual summer don't you think, or is it just me? It's been a little cooler than usual, or so it seems. We now drift into those weeks where the choice is to either come to E@RTC or stay home and rake. They just repaved the street in front of my house which is on a hill, so this winter's involuntary luge will be especially sporting. Gram-gram up the street should see much bigger air than usual. I'm looking forward to that event. Brakes do absolutely nothing when you lawn dart across an entire city block. She will majestically fly by like Eddie the Eagle on the big hill.

Don't forget the Wheels and Heels Gala at America's Car Museum next weekend. Write us if you want to be at and E@RTC table and have some fun. Our own Sir Mix-A-Lot will be the honorary Chairman of the event so come out and help preserve some cars.

Don't forget we have our wonderful hotel neighbor and I've not written about the Archer Hotel in a while. If you're coming to Redmond and you see this, go to our accommodations page and click the link for a discount. They have been great to us all season so please think of them when you're in the area. We can't forget Redmond Town Center for all their support all summer. Without them we'd be standing in some dirt somewhere wishing for a mall.

See you all next Saturday!

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**August 29, 2019**

**We don't know if we're on or off yet...**

We will check with NOAA overnight and post if we're on or off early tomorrow morning. It's likely going to rain Saturday, but we don't know when it will start. We'll see what the updated reports have to say.

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**August 27, 2019**

**We had a fun Saturday... and what's up next...**

Wow what a great turnout on Saturday! Everyone was extremely well behaved and a giant thanks to PACCAR for bringing out the giant W990s! They were a huge hit! We also saw lots of spectators and cars we've not seen before.

A big part of it was now everyone was back from Monterey with stories to tell of harrowing drives, nice resorts, great shows, dramatic auctions, while others not from here, who were not so well behaved told their moms at the bail hearing about the upset of getting hogtied and

arrested, along with their cars impounded for, “just having fun.” Thankfully none related to anyone in Seattle. We hope they learn jail tunes. We’ll send them a harmonica.

We had a significant spectator turnout on Saturday and we’re expecting even more from out of town this weekend because, well it’s a holiday and the end of summer and kids return to school on Tuesday in some places. Parents rejoice everywhere. I remember when I was excited about returning to school until that first dump truck full of homework backed up to my desk, and I had to drag it all home.

We get a lot of people in town from other parts of the country who are here on vacation and after flying in, want to see cool cars, especially, after visiting the Space Needle, waterfront and market, decide they want to get away from Garbage City and all the other needles they saw.

It means a lot to these folk to see your cars, many seeing these models for the very first time, so please do us a favor and get the word out to bring out that rare stuff for them to enjoy. The weather soon starts to turn ugly, so who knows how many nice Saturdays are left. We have about seven possible nice Saturdays, but we never make it to all seven. The forecast after Saturday is showing increasing chance of rain, so this could be the last nice Saturday for a while.

I again want to thank our wonderful Parking Thugs for their dedication all summer. Be sure to thank them for all they do for us. Without the Thugs, we’d not have this wonderful event. We have some extraordinary volunteers! Thank you all!!!

Don’t forget the Wheels and Heels Gala is coming up so be sure to let us know if you’re interested in going as a part of an E@RTC table. Just write us on this website and we’ll get back to you right away.

I’ll write again on Thursday as usual.

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**August 22, 2019**

**We're on for Saturday and a lot of news... PACCAR for one...Monterey... Wheels and Heels...**

Here goes! We’re on for Saturday and after two weeks off, we’re expecting a bigger than usual turnout. The weather is expected to be decent too! We love this time of year especially after Monterey... speaking of which...

**Monterey**

It was a heck of a car week. Just about every car journalist born in the last hundred years was there to cover it, so you can look at any car site and read something about Car Week. If you’ve never been and want to go, start planning now. Quail is the hardest to attend so write them for

tickets as it's sold out in seconds. It was spectacular this year and truly a very special event where we saw cars that will be difficult to ever see again. Tickets to Quail extremely expensive so start e-baying your former significant other's stuff right now.

You also can't miss the Pebble Beach Concourse as the main event. You do those two things and you see the best of the best. Hotels are very expensive so reserve early, or start to hunt for that perfect cardboard box to tuck under a freeway somewhere. We see a lot of folk there from E@RTC and that always adds more fun to the week. We watch out for each other in case one of us has to arrange bail.

Monterey, like every car event, had a lot of problems with tuners along with bad behavior from a few exotics. The police had their handcuffs full and it takes just a few to ruin a good thing. Revving engines is annoying as crap to 99.7% of all humans and they have no idea how bad of an impression they make on not just themselves, but the very brands they drive. The Mustangs and Camaros were especially obnoxious and not welcome most places for that reason. The police were dying to tase the crap out of every one of them until they involuntary wet themselves. You can find lots of videos on YouTube.

## **PACCAR**

We have PACCAR bringing two big massive Kenworth W990 trucks for you to ponder and crawl around on Saturday. It's a great time to bring the kids to see these two beauties up close and personal. The cabs are roomy and comfortable and inviting for that big road trip. They are bigger than my first apartment where I could reach just about everything from the toilet. Think of all the cars you could haul with that beast. Give the term "crushed it" real meaning! Think of the ex-now-far-less-than-significant-other you could move in one shot!

## **Wheels and Heels Gala!**

We'd like to put together a table of E@RTC-ers at the upcoming Wheels and Heels Gala at America's Car Museum in Tacoma on Saturday, September 7. Write us at [info@exoticsat.com](mailto:info@exoticsat.com) if you're interested in being a part of our table. Also if you're at E@RTC this Saturday, let one of us know you'd like to go. It should be a good time. Sir Mix-a-Lot will be there as the Honorary Chair of the Gala so lets all show him some big love! Kristen Wells will hopefully make it out to E@RTC before that event in a few weeks, so feel free to bug her about it too. She would love nothing more than to see E@RTC all scrubbed up and looking dapper.

The last two weeks flew by, but we're now eager to get back into our usual pace. We look forward to seeing you all on Saturday!

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**August 8, 2019**

**A Few Worthwhile Things...**

America's Car Museum has their upcoming Wheels and Heels Annual Gala coming up on September 7 and we'd love to put together a table of E@RTC participants & spectators. Tickets for non-members are \$275.00 and tickets for museum members are \$250. If you're interested in going and joining us at a table, please write us via our contact page. There are eight places per table and we can get more tables if you like. Write us if you're interested. You can expect lots of laughs.

Well, it looks like even if we had E@RTC it would have rained this weekend anyway. A group of our volunteers are heading down to Monterey on Saturday, and another group is going to start the drive on Sunday. It's always been a fun drive and I'm looking forward to it this year.

After the 24th, we have about eight more possible weeks of E@RTC, but the weather starts to turn on us so realistically, we have fewer than eight to go so when we resume on the 24th come out! Meet everyone, have some fun before you go hibernate all winter. Let us see you before you fatten up.

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**August 4, 2019**

**We're Off Until August 24!**

As you read from our prior blog post, we're off until August 24. Look at it this way, we get rained on and we're forced into taking time off, sometimes weeks in a row and we all live through it. Just pretend it's raining. It will be somewhere. Better yet, drag your butt down to Monterey for the week and have some fun! Bring a tent! Rooms are hard to get so pile four of your best friends in a room if it's too expensive and you're in to that kind of thing. Four fat guys snuggling like a package of hotdog buns.

We had an excellent turnout yesterday with lots of visitors from out of town who have heard of E@RTC before. It's become a real thing around the world, thanks to all of you. We can't emphasize this enough. None of this would be possible without all of your help and the incredible volunteers we have each weekend. They do amazing things for us! If people are into cars, chances are they know about the event, which is nice. It's a heck of an honor for us and we never want to let you down.

We will have Kenworth coming out on the 24th and that will be cool. Every time I sit at the wheel of one of those rigs I dream of all the Prius I could crush in the left lane while sipping juice. That's the video game I want someone to create. The only goal is to crush a left-lane Prius. We should crowd-fund that.

We will see you all in two weeks. We'll post here before then, just to make you feel connected. The two weeks will fly by before you know it. We continue E@RTC until October sometime,



depending on when we see that first long stretch of rain. Then everyone hibernates for the winter again.

See you all soon! Write us now and then. We love to get the mail.

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**August 1, 2019**

**We Will See You All Saturday...then we have two weeks off**

Hi Everyone! Miss us writing? We were having some technical difficulties. For some reason, we could not get the log-in page to load. It didn't matter what browser we used, so we're late posting. They finally got it fixed. Yeah, we're on for Saturday, but then we're off for two weeks because Redmond Town Center needs their mall back for a day. We've been hogging it all summer. They have the big 5K Enforcer run around the mall. It's like shopping, only a lot faster. Doesn't that sound like fun?

My days running we're about like most people. I'm out there running, and I'm running, and I'm running then one day, I thought to myself, this sucks, and I stopped. The end.

If they really wanted to make it exciting, they could start a new tradition and call it Running of the Cheetahs where they unleash a hungry pack and watch people run from the safety of the stores. We're really see who's the fastest. Let those Spaniards think we're the crazy ones for once! You'd see some really fast runners for a change, and not those tubby guys who hit the nearest dumpster at the first sight of a bull coming their way. You know these runners would be flying by long before those cheetahs ever showed up.

Oh, then next week, on the 17th, we're off too because we won't have enough volunteers to help out because of car week in Monterey. They migrate south for that. If you need to see cars or you get that nervous tick above your left eye, you could come down and take in a few car shows. We return to our normal program the following week. If you've never come to Monterey, it's a real thing to see.

We also have British Car Day coming up in September. We're guessing we have about seven more decent Saturdays before we end our season when the rain starts. Still plenty of time to come out. But, do come out this Saturday while you can because a lot of people from out of town would love to see your ride and talk to you about your car. It means a lot to them.

See you all Saturday!

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**July 25, 2019**

**We are RAINED OUT... or so we think...**

We never know if the weather folk will get it right. Here is how they score Saturday like Russian figure skate judges holding up white cards for the US team... Weather.com gave Saturday a 40%, KING 5 10% so I'm guessing someone slipped them a few bucks. Weather Underground- 40%, KOMO 40%, KCPQ 40%, KIRO 0%...what the hell happened there? Either they will be gloating or someone got to them. And finally NOAA has Saturday at 40%. It could come down to just two people who everyone else follows for all we know. The good side of all this is that our volunteers get a badly-needed day off. Thanks for all they do for us!

We will be back next Saturday, assuming it doesn't rain or snow or some other weird thing. It's been a strange summer. Sort of like that date you had that seemed normal until they ate that one thing then things got a little weird. Don't you ever wonder who ate the first oyster? Was it a bet for a beaver pelt or something?

Kenworth is planning to come out on August 10 we think. It all depends on the weather and the scheduling of that beast. It's cool when they come out. It's fun to get up in the cab of these things and look around and think about life on the open road, flattening rodents as you listen to country tunes.

Oh, don't forget, we're taking Saturday, August 17 off because of Monterey Car Week that ends that Sunday. Most of us will already be down there getting an overload of rare and special cars and possibly a little too much sun. For those of you who are pondering going down, get your butts in gear now or you're sleeping in a dumpster somewhere like when you were in college. Different groups are driving down different days, some flying in, but most like to head down in their own rig of some kind. Check on Facebook if you're looking to meet up with someone somewhere.

Hope to see you all next week...or the week after...

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**July 18, 2019**

**As for Saturday, July 20, YES!**

This Saturday the weather folk are reporting a nice 78 degrees for a high and no rain. We may see some clouds in the morning but that's not a big deal. You've woken up next to much worse.

It's so hard to believe we're in the second half of our season. I also think this is a new record for consecutive Saturdays without rain. What we've not had this season are those extremely warm mornings just yet, but we expect them to show up before the season ends.

We have Kenworth coming out soon. They are going to bring out the new massive W990. Sounds like a tax form, but I assure you, it's not. It's the latest creation from PACCAR and we love to help them any way we can. We're proud of them building these things right in our back yard. Well,

not exactly in our back yard. That would be a mess, but you know what we mean. You can come see these things and take a look inside. It won't be this Saturday, but it's coming up either next week, or the one after that, if Ms Nature decides to be nice to us. You never know with her.

Thank you to all the participants who bring out their fabulous machines every Saturday. The spectators are grateful and let us know it. It means a lot to those people who never get to see exotic and rare cars up close. See you all Saturday!

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**July 11, 2019**

**We on for Saturday, July 13...**

Which is roughly the first day of summer...usually. I don't get the weather this summer. It's been great for keeping the fire danger down, but not so good for raising the number of typical sunburns we see by this time each year. You know that friend who's back you're dying to slap!

It's hard to believe we're already half way through our season. It's amazing how fast the time flies. We got through the 4th of July week with no reports of missing fingers or eyes, or a loss of hearing, so we're all damn happy about that.

We have a month before Monterey and we have a big surprise coming one of these upcoming weekends. No, I'm not going to tell you what it is until we're closer. It's something cool and something you don't want to miss so come out every Saturday just to make sure you don't miss it.

I also want to give a special shout out to all our volunteers once again who made Italian Car Day so special. They did an incredible job as usual. We did get one complaint about one person who behaved badly while entering by making lots of demands. Hopefully they read this. We are going to have a nice sit-down because we don't allow our volunteers to be mistreated, ever. He tried to be a bully, but hey, we're called the thugs for a reason and we yell right back. We may not even smell good that day, so never push it. It's the only report of anyone getting a little uppity. We can deal with that. There are plenty of dumpsters nearby that could use a visitor.

We also have Redmond PD as a regular part of our event, so please come over and say hello. We're extremely happy they are giving up their time to be a part of our great event. Thank them for all of us. It goes a long way.

Hope to see you all Saturday!

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**July 9, 2019**

**A Few Odds and Ends...**

We had a fantastic Italian Car Day and we hope you all had a wonderful 4th of July. We hear about all the pets who are freaked out because of all the explosions. What I think about most are all those bomb sniffing dogs who think they screwed up.

We had no reports of any bad behavior at Redmond Town Center this week so thanks to all of you for that. I doesn't hurt that the Redmond Police Department is now a part of our event. We're thrilled to have them there and we hope you all take a moment to thank them for their service. It's dangerous work. Redmond is kind of a sleepy town, but it does have some serious moments when the police have a lot on their hands so we want them to know that us car folk have their back at all times.

At the moment, it looks like we're still on for Saturday, but we will post that decision on Thursday afternoon as usual. I don't know if you've noticed, but it's been an odd summer so far. It hasn't been the warm, sunny summer we typically have, nor has it been all that wet. It's a little odd.

As for special events, we only have one more this season and that's British Car Day. We could only squeeze in three special events this season. We do have Kenworth coming out one Saturday morning and that's always fun. We've not done that in a while, but you don't want to miss the latest products from such a great company.

We're also now in the Monterey Car Week countdown for those of you who are going. If you want to head down, get what tickets you can right now. Hotels are the big problem. If you only have just one day, I'd strongly recommend the car parade on Thursday morning in Carmel By The Sea. That's the actual town name. What other city needs to point out where they are? Sounds like it was named by really old people. "Ohhh, that one!"

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**July 4, 2019**

## **Italian Car Day and Police Emphasis Patrols!**

We're on for this Saturday, July 6, for those who missed it in the giant red banner, is Italian Car Day, and one of our biggest days all season. This is a day when we dial it up for all exotic and rare cars made in Italy, but still welcome all other nationalities as long as they meet the usual criteria. We're expecting some very special stuff to show up as we get every year.

We will be taking the whole center section of the mall, wrapping around to the primary lots near BJs Restaurant. Don't forget, you can also stay at the Archer with a wonderful discount on our accommodations page.

## **Emphasis Patrols**

We had a great conversation this past week with the Redmond PD. We've asked their assistance in helping us keep the event safe and to help us stamp out bad behavior. This isn't just about E@RTC. Redmond Police also pointed out the large number of pedestrians around Redmond and they don't want anyone to get hurt by some idiot racing through town.

Listen up! We're cheering them on if they write you the fattest ticket you've ever seen in your whole life for behaving badly. We are firmly on their side. We hope they go so far as to impound you if they have to get the point across. Please tell your friends if you want to get around Redmond and save yourself a surprise expenditure.

They also plan to bring a patrol car to the show and we welcome them back. Police cars are always a huge hit when they show up. Please thank them for the service they provide to the community and Redmond PD has been an outstanding supporter since the day we started. Thank them for helping us keep E@RTC a world-class event.

We're also expecting more Washington State Patrol emphasis along 405 and 520 to get those morons who decide to race into or out of Redmond. You know, the ones who try and do a fly-by along 520 before they have to go home to mom's basement. We hope those folks get hog-tied and impounded for sure!

#### **A Little 4th of July Public Service Announcement**

Today is also the 4th of July and as we pointed out last year, someone out there will have less than ten fingers after tonight. So if you plan to have a few beers and play with explosives on this beautiful important day, take a look at your hands before you venture out, because it may be the last time you see them in the current unmodified configuration. It's just a little reminder that the boom you hear, may be the sound of an involuntary but sudden hand disassembly. Think of how long it took you to grow that hand in the first place! You won't have a way to grow another. Stay safe!

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**June 30, 2019**

#### **This Saturday is Italian Car Day! (Oh, and we had some behave badly this week...)**

One of our biggest days of the season is this coming Saturday for Italian Car Day. As always, other car nationalities are still welcome, but this is when we put those Italian beauties front and center and take over the center of the mall. We typically draw almost 500 cars this day and more spectators than at any other time, so come out. This is one you don't want to miss!

Why are the most expensive cars in the world from Italy? Why not Greece? What, they have no imagination? Even Japan! Japan makes great cars! Yet, Italy and everyone's heart skips a beat.

You buy a Japanese car and it breaks, the engineers all get together to find out what went wrong. They go through this whole process to discover who screwed up on the assembly line. They fire them, their entire family, shame their ancestors, and erase all trace they ever lived.

An Italian car breaks down, and the engineers get together and respond, "Well, it was a beautiful night for you to walk home."

## **Bad Behavior**

For those of you who are sensitive to me flaming people for bad behavior, stop reading now... Just so you sensitive Sallys know, I'm about to pull out the blow torch once again.

Apparently, a few of you have not learned your lessons about how to behave in and around Redmond and word got back to us. There is that asshole with the green Huracan that's not welcome back. He's been a problem before but somehow got back in, even though I suspect it was the same dude who was banned. We have those diaper babies in the Audis who the police finally nailed and you're definitely going to get kicked out by security. If you know who they are, let them know they are not welcome to ever come back.

We're asking the police to do some emphasis patrols in and around Redmond to nail these self-absorbed narcissistic morons who only think they matter. We know it's just a few who want to ruin things for everyone else and the police will be out to generate some decent revenue from your nonsense. We're cheering them on when they hogtie your ass and throw you in jail and impound your cars. Cha-Chig on that bill. We're not kidding even a little. We've had ten years of success and we're not going to let a few immature toddlers ruin it for the whole community. You give the entire car community a bad name and we care about sustaining this event. You give your own mom a bad name. Whoops, no, she did that herself having you! She did that other thing, but I'm being polite.

Flame thrower is now off...

Sorry for the PSA everyone. It's sucks to write that stuff, but as long as there is bad behavior, we have to call it out. This isn't Seattle. See you Saturday!

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**June 28, 2019**

## **We're On for Saturday... and other stuff**

It's looking like we're on for Saturday, but barely, and the trend is improving. The weather folks go on vacation so who knows how hard they try this time of year, but it's all we have to go on. My knees won't tell us anything. It's not like a have a magic wart that acts up when it's going to rain. We'll trust them for now.

Thanks to all those who came out for German Car Day. It was a huge success and we had zero reports of bad behavior, which is what we love to experience. Thank you all for making it a wonderful event and for helping us keep everyone so well-behaved. It means a lot to us. It's a very big deal when we have these events and no problems with people doing bad stuff.

Next weekend, July 6 will be Italian Car Day, so don't forget that extra-special day. It's one of our favorites all year. It's also one of our most heavily attended events all season. We don't have another special day after that until British Car Day, which is also a terrific day for us. So come out for those as well. Then go have a pizza!

This Saturday we expect a lot of out-of-town visitors and those who've managed to escape from other places so bring out your cars. Seriously, some of these out-of-town guests have never seen these cars in person before so it's a huge deal when you come out. Give them a thrill! Come show off your stuff. No, not that stuff. The car.

Tourists are here to see our beautiful city and have a nice vacation. Wait until they get a load of Seattle and the sewer that place has become. Don't mean to interject politics, but wow, what a sad situation! Don't let our Eastside politicians make the same mistakes. This isn't about party, this is about garbage. Lots of it! We try and stay out of politics. We do get mad about garbage.

It's everywhere.

Don't forget to make your plans for Monterey if you are thinking about going. It's hard to believe it's only about eight weeks away, depending on what day you're heading down. If you plan to drive, we'll see you along 101. Come pat Babe the Blue Ox nut sack! We will post our details as we get closer.

See you Saturday!

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**June 23, 2019**

**Italian Car Day will be here soon and so will Monterey... read on**

We had another fantastic German Car Day this year. Nobody got arrested, everyone behaved. Gold star to everyone! Shocker!

This marked the first of our three theme days this season. Thong day was not going to happen. We can only afford to pay for so much therapy and the bill would have been huge. Besides, we want to stick with cars.

We have Italian Car Day on July 6 as our next event when we turn up the volume to 11 again. That's our biggest day of the season, next to opening day. Meanwhile, we don't want to get a lot

of email about if we're still meeting on Saturdays. Yes, we are, unless it rains. Next Saturday is looking so-so right now as I write this. Anything could happen. Destiny awaits. So does laundry.

For those of you thinking about Monterey this year, it's late for hotels, but it's still something to consider if you've never gone before. It's way better than a crafts fair. Anything is better than a crafts fair. I'd rather go in for a chest waxing. I'd rather pull a nail out of my foot.

We're traditionally off the weekend of August 17 because, well most of our volunteers are in Monterey. It's like the big E@RTC migration south. This year we're heading out the prior Sunday morning nice and early and heading down the coast, something we do about every other year, with night stops in Newport, OR, followed by Eureka, CA, then Monterey. It splits the drive into three six hour segments, so lots of time to play coastal tourist and eat stuff we'd never otherwise touch. As I sit here, I could have been a world class trapeze artist if it wasn't for my love of pastries.

By the time we reach Trees of Mystery on Monday, we always find people we know at that stop. It's kind of dumb, but fun at the same time. It's like the power line where all the birds land. If we don't already know you, we may see you there. If you're thinking about driving down, don't wait to make your reservations. Do it now or you're sleeping in your car or under a dumpster somewhere. Don't wake up with gravel stuck to your face.

We are still getting lots of email about qualifying cars and all of it helps us fine tune our list. Don't email us late Friday and expect an answer before E@RTC. It's our only tweezing time. Some of us have other stuff we have to get done and my not answer until the weekend. We do our best, but we're all volunteers here.

See you this coming Saturday unless it rains. It could. You never know around here.

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**June 20, 2019**

## **German Car Day... and Brats**

Saturday is German Car Day! It's one of our biggest events all year for those who love German cars. Every year we get some surprises and stuff shows up that we've not seen before so come out! Yes, other car nationalities are still welcome. We just dial it up for Germany.

The weather is looking decent for Saturday but then after that it looks like a long stretch of rain or almost rain. That stretch right now runs into the following Saturday so this could be the last decent Saturday for a couple of weeks, so this would be a good one to try and make. Fill out those yard pass forms early. Do something around the house. Make a nice quiche, then come to E@RTC!



You could go have a brat somewhere. Nothing like a good brat. Buy the ones from Wisconsin. They say so on the package. Johnsonville are close. There would be a Johnson in the name. Makes it kind of easy to remember. That's where all the good brats are grown. The ones grown here are significantly closer to lawn sausage. Don't make me explain that. No, don't taste test.

Be sure to cook them well on the grill. You don't want to get trichinosis. No, that's not when you suck at magic. It's a real thing. Read about it. Just cook your brats.

You could stay at the Archer! Get all snockered on good German beer and just sleep it off at the hotel and not drive anywhere. So many possibilities! It's way better than trimming a hedge. See you all Saturday!

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**June 17, 2019**

## **June 22 is German Car Day... Others Still Welcome!**

Next week is German Car Day, and those enthusiasts come out in force! They will be all around the mall, down the center, the sides of the mall and just about everywhere. We also still get lots of other nationalities, but it's the one day of our season when we turn it up a notch for those built in Germany. Yes, we get a lot of Porsche. We get a lot of everything so you won't be disappointed if you still want to see something else. It's like we have a big menu and German Cars are on the chef's daily special sheet.

We do get some extraordinary cars so come out! We get stuff you didn't know was around here, and some of these beauties come from a long way away so don't forget our accommodations page so you can overnight here at the Archer and get 20% off. It's way better than sleeping in your car like those crazy kids from Montana who drive all night to make it to E@RTC. Glen, I'm talking to you...yeah, you.

Where I'm going here, is we get bombarded with email asking if their Italian or British car is still welcome and the answer is yes. We don't lower the bar either so your Diesel Rabbit still isn't getting in and probably won't until we've colonized another galaxy somewhere.

Last year the group was great and we didn't have any problems. We've noticed that when we made it about countries rather than brands, that some of the ego stuff was dialed back considerably, so we're happy with the change. It makes it a lot easier on us too. Lines of cars to get in will be long so get there early. We'll move you through as fast as we can. There is plenty of spectator parking around the mall so that's never an issue.

We'll see you all on Saturday!

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**June 13, 2019**

## **We're On For Saturday!**

We're completely on for Saturday. As if you didn't know that already. We didn't see even a little threat of rain all week. Next week looks a little wobbly, but this Saturday should be a nice morning to come out and hang with your peeps.

Hey, don't forget the Archer Hotel is doing brunch so river-dance on over and give it a try and let us know what you think. We're glad they are all finally open after watching that thing get built over the last two seasons. It looks nice. Redmond has come a long way.

That south section of RTC turned out to be kind of the nasty food corner for a long time. Desert Fire went under. They had some good food, but the restaurant design was odd and the food slowly turned into something that made you want to run away. The place that followed would cause you to pull 6 Gs on the toilet on any given day.

Remember Claim Jumper? They sure started out strong when they first opened. They had meals bigger than you, and it attracted some of the largest humans I've ever seen on two feet. They needed those double doors. But, over time, the place just kind of got weird. Yeah, weird. The food was just so-so, and they couldn't attract flies. It was a real shame too. That place was built like it was there for the single goal to fatten you up. That may have been its demise.

BJs... well we try. Nuf said. So, we're hopeful that the Archer hits a home run and it looks like they are off to a good start. Lunchbox Lab is good. Massive and good. I also think the Fuji Steak House is very good too. Just don't wear anything remotely flammable. It's a cook-at-your-table-style restaurant, where knives move fast and where I'm guessing they have a decent amount of Band-Aids stashed somewhere.

Redmond Town Center does a lot for us so we want to support them as much as possible. You help us all tremendously when you shop or dine there. It's turning into an experience center, so you can go there and experience stuff, like hot yoga with other hot sweaty people. Go see some of your friends sort of look like a goat from behind. Something to do. Buy a phone. Eat a cookie. There is so much there.

See you all Saturday!

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**June 10, 2019**

## **Looking Like Sunshine Forever...**

I checked the weather, and it doesn't look like rain is in the forecast anytime soon so we're probably on for Saturday. This gives you ample time to negotiate that yard pass. I think we've

already set a record for more nice Saturdays than not for this time of year. As always, we'll post our final call on Thursday in case the weather folk are just messing with us and expect a deluge.

I found out that the Archer also has a breakfast buffet on Saturday. Mosey on over to our Accommodations page if you want to spend the night and arrive in grand style. Get to the buffet before Nick. That's all I'm saying. This is great because you can see some cars, grab a quick bite and get back out to walk it off. We're thrilled that the hotel is right there in the parking lot given how many of you come from a long way just to see these cars. We're grateful for your effort to come see us and we don't want to ever disappoint.

Also check our special events page to see what's coming up. We don't always post when we're getting some surprises in town. You never know what will show up so come out and see for yourself so we don't have to excitedly wave our arms so much.

I try and post something on the blog every Sunday and Thursday, but sometimes I have stuff to do too, but I do my best to get something here. It's nice to see we get a lot of readers according to our stats, but our mail goal is to just make this whole thing a lot of fun and not take ourselves too seriously. It's not like we're all showing up for kidney surgery or anything. See you Saturday!

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**June 6, 2019**

### **Looks Like We're On Again... After Some Lightning and Stuff...**

This looked like a crazy weather week. It's like admiring that beauty from afar who's acting just a we bit bat-poop crazy, and you're not sure if you like it or not. That's how the weather looked all week, but glad to see we're now on, after what looks at this point, like Friday from hell. We may even see lightning on Friday. Not the best day to foil your hair on that wide-open roof deck.

We don't get those spectacular crackling thunderstorms like we did in the Midwest. You weren't living unless you saw lightning hit something important. You always knew that odd kid who got struck once or twice and every time they would tell the story you'd fight off laughing like hell as they would talk about the experience of blasting across the yard like a cheap lawn dart. You'd grit your teeth and try to act sympathetic. There would be that one eye sort of wondering off as you tried to reason with the kid about the dangers. A tip; next time there is lightning, don't decide to go play with that old golf set from gramps.

Oh, don't forget we have German Car Day coming up on the 22nd. That's always a big day. That one is rain or shine as we move it into the garage if it's raining. It's the only event we do that's rain or shine so it's kind of interesting when it does rain. Either way, come on out!

Also don't forget, that's two things not to forget, we now have our accommodations page for your additional comfort and enjoyment while staying at the Archer Hotel. For those of you

coming from out of town, it's a great place to stay and wake up to fun cars rolling in the next morning.

You know Redmond Town Center has a lot more places to eat than ever before. Good places! Places you will actually like and not the prison quality stuff you'd find at other malls. Redmond itself is more interesting than the old days when all you could buy was some feed and bag balm for the herd. Don't know what that is? Look it up. :)

You didn't know that? Redmond was a cow town. Really! Where you see apartments once stood grain elevators, and places to scrape the poop off your shoes. I'm not kidding.

Thank you for all your support and for reading this blog this far. We try and keep it fun. That's what E@RTC is all about; cars you'd love to see and fun.

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**June 2, 2019**

## **We Have an Accommodations Page!**

As you can see, we now have an accommodations page on our website to better accommodate you. It's our hotel page linking to our nifty discount at the Archer Hotel where you can savor 20% off while staying there for an E@RTC event! This means that refugees from Fresno have a place to go. The hotel is right in the parking lot so you can do the worm from your room all the way over to our lot without burning through your shirt!

I got a report of some Audi pilots not connected to our event still behaving badly around the mall and we need all of you to help us get that under control. Your help in policing this matter is much appreciated as we don't want to ban all Audis, but we will do something if this keeps up. I don't know how well village idiot jobs pay these days, but these guys may want to consider applying somewhere. The right town might be willing to pay a lot for a good one.

We're still getting lots of emails about car qualifications and again, we're always happy to get a response out to you just as fast as we can. Do us a favor and don't email us the night before and expect an answer by morning before the event. Some of us need our beauty sleep. You don't want us to show up all crabby and stuff.

E@RTC is becoming an internationally known event and it's all because of you and the cars you bring. We're extremely appreciative of all of your support and all the fans that come out to see your machines. The whole thing is wonderful.

Oh one reminder, we never allow mimes. They annoy the hell out of everyone. Feel free to drag any you see out of the event with their invisible rope. Annoying AF!

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**May 30, 2019**

## **The Archer is now Open! You Get 20% Off! Darrin Got Married too!**

We're on for Saturday! We know you'd rather come out than steam clean that ugly rug or have to go plant something, like a long-lost dead relative somewhere. Sorry. Okay, that was dark.

We're thrilled to announce that Archer Redmond, the new hotel is now open! They did a terrific job on the design and they welcomed us with open arms as they got closer to opening. We will do all we can to help them be super-successful in Redmond.

They gave all of us from E@RTC this nifty portal for 20% off! What's cool is that they have their own internal parking making it safe for all those cars that come from Vancouver, BC, or Portland, or Chesaw. Yup, Chesaw. There are people there. I've seen them before. No, Chesaw is probably not a good vacation spot unless you like wild random shrubbery.

Oh, the hotel serves breakfast as well! Think about how fun to drive in, spend the night and not have to go anywhere, then roll out of bed, scratch yourself, then walk out to enjoy E@RTC! You can then go to BJ's for lunch. It's a bit awkward to put that name with a hotel, I admit. I had to edit it a few times so it wouldn't come up in the wrong search. I'm not the one who gave that food establishment such a terrible name!

Still, I can't think of a more fun weekend event. We're glad they are finally open after two years of painstaking construction. It's a nice looking building too. Thank you Archer for your support!

We should see a nice turnout this weekend after last Saturday's rainout. It was just starting to rain as I drove through Redmond that morning. It was nice that the weather folks got it right. So far they are doing better this year than last. We got flamed a lot over the weather calls, which we don't make.

A big shout-out to Darrin Wong, who just got married on Monday. Darrin has been a supporter of E@RTC all the way back to our very first weekend. We wish he and Suki the best. Congratulations to you both! Darrin has been a great friend to all of us all these years and we're very happy for him. Darrin was a big part of the car community long before we founded E@RTC.

As we were at the wedding, it made a bunch of us think about all the relationships and friendships that began with E@RTC. Some got married, others divorced, some became business partners and almost all helped each other in some way. It's what community is all about. Yeah, a few got in arguments, but as far as we know, nobody got punched. It's a beautiful thing. See you Saturday!

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**May 27, 2019**

## **Memorial Day Thanks And More About Criteria...**

It's Memorial Day and our moment to think about all those who gave their lives for this country and for all those who served. It's because of you that we have the freedom to clown around in a parking lot on a Saturday morning. Who knows what this country would be like without all you did. We all deeply appreciate your sacrifice. Thank you.

It's still five days away as I write this, but Saturday is starting to look like it will be nice! This means we will have a good turnout. It's always the situation when we have a good Saturday after a rain-out. It's like people need their car fix and get that twitch above their left eye if they don't see cool cars.

Apply for that yard pass early. Paint something, anything to get that pass. Paint always works, except on animals. That never works.

Someone asked why we've never commercialized E@RTC. It's simple. We wanted to build a real community event and make the focus about you and not us. We have some sponsors, but it doesn't cover our costs. We get support from Redmond Town Center and the rest is picked up by us to keep it independent, and about all of you. The goal remains to bring car enthusiasts together to see both exotic and rare cars for all our mutual enjoyment while having a good time. It's like a weekly block party without beer throwing, fistfights or anyone getting hogtied and tossed in a police van. College was fun.

We're still getting lots of questions about what cars make it into the event and what doesn't. It's on our criteria page. If you can't find it there, just drop us a note and someone will get back to you within a day or two. Dan does a good job of maintaining that section. We all have other jobs so we get to email as fast as we can. Just don't play the "worthy" card with us. It misses the entire point of the event. We think about what people will drive a long way to come see up close. It's about as simple as that. Not, really, but close.

We love it when you write us and give us feedback. Even when you have to vent about your sister. We're completely understanding, especially the sister part. We'll take a letter about your brother too. We're always up for a good laugh.

We'll post our usual weather update on Thursday; if we're on or off or if a submarine is coming by chance. We've not had one of those either.

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**May 23, 2019**

## **We're Rained Out... And the Answer is No!**

We're rained out for Saturday. Looks like you will now have time to organize your sock drawer or go make chili. We'll try again next week. We soon hit that stretch of consistent nice Saturdays, but I guess it's not happening yet. Typical.

When I sit down to write this, usually a day or two before we post, I don't have any idea if we're on or off, but the preceding paragraph will say just that. Right now it's anybody's guess. Well, not anybody. There are a few out there who's guess I could do without. I'll start with anyone who ever said, "hold my beer" and ended up in the hospital, in a bed with tubes everywhere.

I do have some good news to report. There were no problems this past weekend with people on exit, we were still receiving complaints about someone from the week before, complete with photos, so we're dealing with that behind the scenes since we got names and addresses and lists of music they hate. We'll send them an embarrassing garden gnome just to show we mean business.

One of the most often asked questions we get, outside of car qualifications is if someone can have a booth or card table to sell or promote some business at E@RTC. The answer is no. Not just a little no, it's a very big NO. It's RTC policy ratified in their sacred mall constitution and signed into law in 1861. It can't be changed without a vote of the one person who invented the modern shopping mall and he's dead, so there is no possibility to change it. Them's the rules.

We do occasionally allow nonprofits such as America's Car Museum or some car clubs to do something, but that's usually in response to their participation and support in our event. When was the last time you went to the museum? It's cool. Tell them we sent you.

Let's be real for a moment. About the last thing you all want is to be sold that beer juicer thingy while you're participating in E@RTC. We don't care how good your fudge is either. The farmer's market is right around the corner and you can sell it there. They have some good chutney to take home to Gram-Gram.

Oh, one question just came up, do we ever have a revving competition? The answer is F-no! (Don't need to explain the F.) Rhymes with duck. Revving is never allowed. Ever-ever. We have offices around us. People who we need to get along with and stuff. It would not end well. Sorry. To most people, it may surprise you, but it's annoying AF. I think an event recently got shut down because of revving. That would do it. It's like accordion music, or bagpipes, that would get us shut down too.

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**May 18, 2019**

**Why We Fire Up The Flame Thrower Now And Then...**

We got a comment from someone complaining about our flaming some bad behavior on the blog. I didn't want to post the comment because it brings out the trolls, but here is our thoughtful response.

Our number-one job as Thugs is to protect and sustain the event. This means us thinking about safety issues, event sustainability, (not to be confused with that, "sustain issue" that requires pills). We protect the event sometimes in a manner that seems, well, harsh.

Let's walk down the little parade of decision points people have in front of them to stop, ponder, and absorb rules we ask people to follow, and the resulting consequence of ignoring our mini parade floats of what we think are good ideas.

We first post our rules all over our site and we write them with good humor so people read the darn things. We track how many read our rules just to make sure.

We hand out friendly etiquette cards when cars come in. We've handed out thousands so far. We post reminders here on the blog...again and again...and well, again.

We stand at the corners and the median telling people to not go out hot, and we've directed traffic to other exits. The median can be a bit terrifying, especially when someone lets your mom out.

We've asked Redmond PD to assist us and they do, when they are not on a call. But, some still ignore all that and don't get the message that we really do mean it.

We individually ban cars when we know who they are and have their contact info. Those are the ones you don't see. If we know someone who knows the individual, we do it that way.

As a consequence, we also drive by their house playing Barry Manilow really loud.

People are surprised by how swiftly we act, and sometimes consider that, "harsh." We're rather error on harsh and have someone mad at us, over someone thinking we'll get over it, and physically harm a spectator on exit. It only takes one. I encourage you to Googlify all the other events around the US and how they eventually shut down because of bad behavior. Yes, they just move the event elsewhere sometimes because they were kicked out, but unless you're on this stuff, the same bad behavior follows you to the next location, each one a little worse than the last. Sort of like dates in college.

So you don't like the blog...but did you die? Did, you, die? The answer is no, so continue...

We have a couple of choices, given we're all volunteers. We can kill the whole event entirely. After all, none of us are paid to do this. We could ignore the problem of a few, in which case someone could get hurt, or get enough complaints that the mall decides it's not worth the



hassle. All of those things kill it for everyone. We tried being nice; see steps 1 through 7 again. Okay, step 1 through 6. Skip 7.

Rather than complain about our flaming a few, help us keep the bad behavior from happening in the first place. You're otherwise just virtue signaling and not helping us solve the bad behavior of a few. It's not like we're asking you for a kidney. Pitch in!

We're the beloved parking Thugs for a reason and we're here to make the best event possible but we've been tough on rattle-waving diaper babies from the week we began. It's how we got our lovely name. If you don't like how harsh we are to some people, then do us a giant favor, and you do the work and find your own way to monkey-stomp those who behave badly, and we won't have to flame them, then we're all good. We'd much rather talk about cars, or our love of pastries, or even share mildly embarrassing stories about each other.

Let's look at it from an entirely different point of view for a moment. Let's say we do nothing, say nothing, be "nice" about it. Do you honestly think we'll get results? It's not worked in the past. We tried! Again, read steps 1 through, okay 6, yeah 7 is admittedly mean. What then if something bad happens? Won't you be thinking, "Gee, we wish they would have been a little more serious about this and flamed those booger boys when they could..." (Tears streaming as you sob against a tree.)

We love that people write us differences of opinion. That's a great thing. We welcome the feedback and we will respond as lovingly as possible.

Here, think of it this way. Dealing with this bad behavior is like getting poop on our shoe. This is just us scraping it off.

Don't forget, we're not here for commercial purposes. None of us make a buck off this directly or indirectly so we don't try to appeal to everyone. It's never been our mission to be all things to all people. We started as a small event, and if people wanted to go elsewhere because they didn't like the tone, good luck trying this type of event somewhere else, then sustaining it. Meanwhile, we'll keep the flame thrower ready to go as long as the behavior persists. It's our way of protecting you...

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**May 16, 2019**

## **We Need a Blimp Visit!**

It's looking like we're ON for Saturday. It's hard to believe, but it was going to happen sooner or later where there would be significant weather suckage on Friday and Sunday, but skip Saturday during our event. If you've been here a while, you know that our normal pattern has been the complete opposite where the only day with weather suckage has been on a Saturday... with nice

days on Friday and Sunday. So, we look forward to seeing you! The folks on the news were saying we're due for a "wet pattern" whatever that means, but assume it means lots of days of rain for a while, so come out while you can!

We hope this week everyone behaves and that I can write about other things besides rattle-waving diaper babies driving fast cars... that probably shouldn't. Flaming bad behavior is not our favorite. We'd rather write about fun stuff, but we're serious about protecting the event for everyone. We want this to be something your kids enjoy...even the ones you don't know about.

You know, it occurred to me, we've never had a blimp at E@RTC. I just hit me like a ton of heavy objects. No blimp. We're car people! Cars and blimps kind of go together. We've never had one even fly over and say hello. I'm feeling a little dissed, aren't you? I should send a letter to Goodyear and see what they say.

*"Dear Goodyear,  
Please, please, please bring your new shiny blimp to E@RTC. You will get the best parking. You qualify under our rare car category and we have enough volunteers to walk you in. Yes, we're aware that you're 196' long, but we'll make room, we promise. It just has to be clean and in show condition.*

*There is a Starbucks nearby for you and your crew and we have enough people to hold the ropes, as long as it's not that windy. I can't guarantee they will hang on, but we'll give it a try. We think it would be good for your brand and ours and you will all have fun, we promise, and you may even sell a few tires, or just some rubber. We all need a little rubber. Just to be clear, we're not talking about those shitty 159s, mind you, we're talking about the other tires you sell. We're in the lot next to BJs, but it's probably not work-safe to Google the name. Original Pancake House may be better. We look forward to your visit.*

*Sincerely,*

*The Thugs"*

You know, they never teach you in school that blimps aren't the most practical things to own. It's one of those things you set your heart on, only to find out later they require lots of care. You learn those lessons the hard way. It's not like you just let one bounce around the yard until it's time to go flying. They require a bus load of people to help land. Then after a lot of yelling and screaming they all sit around and ask, "Why?"

It may rain in spots overnight, but probably not our spot, so still show up. We'll save you from having to go eat casserole somewhere.

39 years ago this Saturday, Mt. Saint Helens erupted! Hard to believe it was that long ago. Most of you were not even born and know nothing about having a mountain chase you. Not fun!

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**May 12, 2019**

## **We Had Some Bad Behavior Again...**

Two fabulous weeks in a row! This is better than skipping Fresno!

We were just sent a link to a great video from last week by Sara M, one of our participants. It's well done and gives you a sense of the excitement and grander we all felt the last two Saturdays.

A little tip for those who post videos: On YouTube, use both "E@RTC" and "Exotics at Redmond Town Center" if you want people to find your stuff. Don't do, "Redmond Cars and Coffee" as it's not our name and you end up looking like your socks don't match.

We also had to turn cars away today and we hate to do that so come early if you want to get in. Don't go rolling up at 9 and expect us to get you in. Hey, just because the ferry leaves at 9 doesn't mean you show up then, right? Same-same. You can do this! It's not hard.

As we write this, the weather isn't looking so good for next Saturday, so we could go back to winter... until around July. We never know. We average around 20 events a season and it varies every year by just one or two. Thank you all very much for supporting us. It was an extraordinary day. Yet, with that we still had some bad behavior that we have to write about to nip in the sack if you know what we mean.

## **Exotic Car Rentals Banned!**

To the careless drivers of a certain car rental place who went flying out of E@RTC, you are now permanently banned from E@RTC. Go take your behavior somewhere else. What you fail to recognize is that these events require the well-mannered and mature behavior of everyone who participates if they are to continue, and you're clearly not at that level. Don't bother apologizing either. We've had enough. Here is a company consistently giving all exotics owners a bad name. We see a car pulling up with your crap on it, we're turning it away. Go live in Fresno.

And to the pack of Audi Twits...

We also had a problem with a group of equally jejune Audi owners parked at the west end of the south lot who then showed their own lack of sensibility by driving around the mall followed by racing down Bear Creek. Go meet at one of your mom's houses and take the bus so you don't hurt someone. Talk about the girlfriends you wish you had.

We've notified RTC security and if we have to ban an entire class of Audis to make the point, we will. Let you deal with your brand-brothers and sisters who do respect the event. BTW, as for your post, we're not, "Cars and Coffee" either.

What you asphalt-shaming nose-pickers fail to understand is that you tarnish the very brand you covet. This is like packin' up the camp gear and headin' into the woods to go huntin' for your own foot, then blowing it off the second it moves. It's that moronic! Friends, I'm afraid your stupidity rivals cheese! I just received a 25 pound bag of peanuts to feed the squirrels and every one of those peanuts is smarter than you.

Seriously, do you really think racing down Bear Creek impresses anyone not in a stroller? What...you have a toddler waiting for you... cheering you on because you see a rattle wave? You're like kids on a swing set. Grow up!

Did it ever occur to you that there is an actual reason in addition to the class of cars that you're not allowed in? As you're sitting in your mom's basement contemplating your life over a bowl of Rice Krispies, while waiting for her to give you gas money, ponder the cause and effect of what you just did. People often ask why we ban certain car models, and modded cars. The answer is you- because certain cars and bad behaviors go together. This is why. It's right here in full demonstration along with all you rattler-waving toddlers who race down Bear Creek. Weeee! Impressive!

For you loyalists who know these kids, please try and reason with them...if that's even possible. I know, it's like talking to a radish. For God sake, please go park somewhere else, like Memphis. Well, we can only wish, right?

We are going to ask Redmond PD to keep an eye on your ass as we have photo with your license plates, just to simplify the paperwork for the city. It's jerks like you who ruin what we do, so we're not letting up.

I'd much rather write about more pleasant things than the lack of proper upbringing that goes with car events, but it's the territory we're in. Shaming them here for the most part gets the point across.

We fully intend to protect the event, and we will kick anyone out who doesn't treat the whole thing with the respect it deserves. People come from a very long way to participate in E@RTC and thousands of hours of volunteer time go into making it work and we're not going to let a few diaper babies ruin it for all of us.

We will post again on Thursday afternoon, after we get the weather reports unless it's obvious that we're on or off. The reports come in around 3:30-3:45 and we make our decision shortly after, unless there are weather report conflicts, then we go watch them fight it out in a parking lot somewhere.

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**May 9, 2019**

## We're On And It's...Topless Day!

Yes, we're on, and it's going in the 80s on Saturday! Right after our season opener too! That's never happened before. Two nice events in a row! This is like that hot prom date who says she'd go out with you again! How rare was that? Especially after what you did!

It's expected to rain the following week, so this may be it for a while, so don't miss this Saturday or you will regret it until you're at least 70. If you're already 70, you probably don't remember last week so it doesn't matter.

With a day this warm, we know what that means...the tops come off. No, not on Nick. We've already warned him. This means all the open top, open cars, cars with no doors, sides, roofs, come out in force. This is when we see the Ariel Adams of the world and those cars that have no heater. You can tell by the hypothermic driver who shows up with lockjaw and is shaking like they accidentally Tased themselves on Bear Creek Parkway. Even after they park, they are twitching around the lot for a good hour.

On those really cold mornings when they venture out, they can't get their fingers off the steering wheel until they warm up a little. They just sort of sit there and shake with a frozen grin. You see the tears of regret.

These warm mornings are when people bring some of the old and unusual stuff. It's a bit more festive when it's this warm for some reason. But, I have to warn you, as I've said before, those white hairy legs can scare you into therapy, so bring sun glasses. The men are even worse! Wear a big floppy hat. It makes you look sophisticated.

Even if you came out last week, you'd be surprised by the number of different cars that will show up this weekend. The true number of exotics in the Pacific Northwest is extraordinary and more come out every year. You'd never know it just driving around. There are a lot of things you never know just driving around, now that I think about it. It's also driving around when I realized that a pastry was screaming my name much louder than the ballet studio...which softly said, "Reste à l'écart gros garçon!"

Hey, a giant thank you to Jessica from Redmond Town Center for making us those extremely cool feather-flags for opening day. We love them more than our own pets! Thanks Jessica for all you do for us. You can all help us immensely by shopping at Redmond Town Center while you're there. Starbucks isn't the only place! Buy some drums for that late night drum circle on the beach! When was the last time you had a good harmonica?

Then there is BJ's Restaurant right there. It's become a popular spot with spectators. Sorry, I can't help it... of all 676 two-letter combinations in the alphabet, they decide those two letters in that order are the best choice. Really? Okay. Wouldn't you like to see some Bangkok back-alley

rub-rub joint getting into a trademark fight? I'd buy the popcorn for that. I can't imagine trademark confusion. "...ah, am I in the wrong place?"

The Archer should be opening soon and we can't wait for that. They will be serving breakfast too! The photos are now up on their website so you can see what the rooms look like. Seems like a nice place. For those driving from far away, think about staying there the night before. We will be getting an E@RTC rate and will post that here on the blog.

Hope to see you all this Saturday!

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**May 5, 2019**

## **Our Best Opening Day Ever...Ever! No, Really, Ever!**

It was so great to see all of you on our opening day. We had an official count inside of about 480, but had a second backup row that we couldn't fill, so we'd have maxed out at 500 or so. I'm guessing we had another 100 cars show up that we couldn't get in because they hit that snooze button one too many times or couldn't pick out that right pair of jeans that morning. You know, it's not like you had to get up and rake or anything.

We had cars backed up in two rows, around the Microsoft building and down Bear Creek Parkway, yet we moved as fast as we could, and can only get you sorted as fast as your ability to back at an angle. Once we were full, that's when we saw a bit of chaos as people were waved off in groups. It was like a botched carrier landing with flailing arms to get you to abort from three directions.

Spectators were in the thousands, and I can only guess at around 3-4,000 based on my counting a small section then extrapolating. Besides, nobody holds still. To get a real accurate count, we'd have to superglue everyone in place, then count who's wiggling.

The volunteers did an extraordinary job and we had many that started this year. Thank you all! Jason did a lot of foundational work behind the scenes to get our new volunteers ready and we can't thank them all enough for their contribution. They were outstanding. We welcome all of them to the family and we know all of you will make them feel right at home.

This event requires the help of a lot of volunteers and we're now large enough that we have experts in key areas to make the whole thing happen. We all play our respective roles well and it's fun to be a part of this group. Sean is extremely good at sorting cars and remains our resident expert. He is our sorting hat.

We had only a tiny number who showed up a little grumpy because they had to wait in line, but we were landing 500 cars as fast as we could, most in less than an hour in all in the right spots,

so there. Some of you can't park your car on your own at Safeway, so give it a rest! You know who you are! Don't fib. You could just stay home and cook a nice piece of fish.

What I loved most was all the good humor and fun as cars arrived. The excitement is seeing so many people eager to get in and say hello to old friends while thinking about the additional chubbessence added over the winter. We know you think it. I could have been a fine gymnast if it wasn't for my love of pastries.

Oh, we did have a small group of narcissistic self-absorbed BMW M-car owners go out hot in a row in spite of being reminded to slow down, not to mention our highly-collectable behavior card we freely give out upon your arrival. There they were, in spite of our warnings, scooting down Beak Creek like a toddler with a binky. Yeah, you did get a card. You know who you are, and we will further restrict certain cars if it continues. We still debate banning all M-cars for this reason. Some groups are just worse than others and have no problem ruining and event for everyone.

Opening day always brings those few, so we call them out. As I ponder this, I fondly recall that I took biology in both high school and college. It was a class I loved. I took it seriously. I never thought it was even remotely possible for a blow-up doll to give birth and raise offspring, but as you flew out, there you were.

On the flip side, most were very good about their entrance and exit and we can't thank you enough. It means everything to us and it shows a high level of respect to all of those volunteers, spectators and participants who contribute to preserving E@RTC. You were brought up well. I saw a lot of faces of those who were with us from the very beginning who have been loyal to us for the last ten years. That a very big deal to all of us. Thank you!

Overall, it was the best opening day we've ever had and we now look forward to lots of Saturdays, so fill out those yard pass forms early. Limber that jaw. Paint the house if you have to! Do that thing they like.

I met a few who were there for the first time, and people such as Ibrahim who drove down with his mother from Vancouver, BC, just to take in the show. That's dedication! I'm surprised how far people will drive just to attend and support the event. It's why we do this. Thanks to all of you.

Last, a shout out to Vic who started this thing with me ten years ago. We've been through a lot getting this launched and up and running to this point and there were many out there continually betting on our failure. We've had a lot of laughs over the years and Vic remains one of the best event ambassadors we have. Vic is the calmest person I know, yet when I hear Vic got mad at anything, I take it seriously. Thanks for being a great partner from the beginning. Ten years!!!

The event belongs to all of us, yeah, some a little more than others, but we all work together to make it about having fun. Thank you!

Also, write us! We love hearing what you have to say. Let us know how we can make things even better!

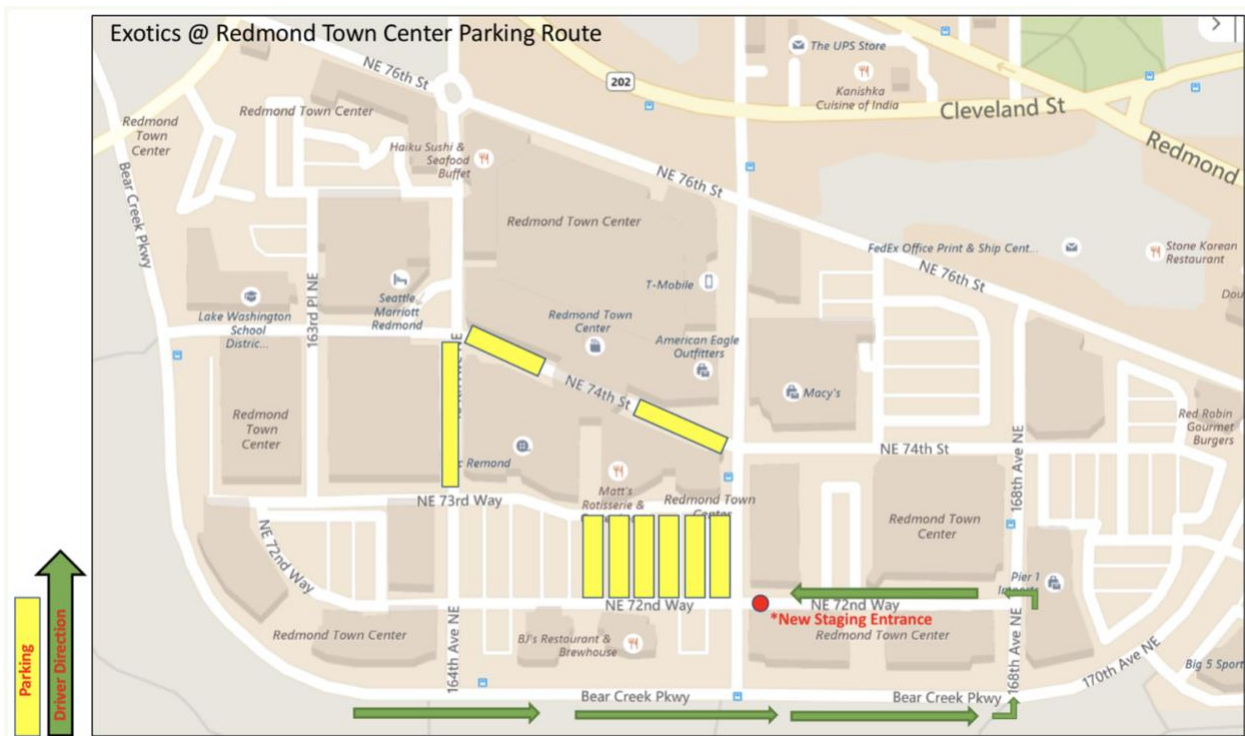
See you next week!

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## May 1, 2019 We Are On For Saturday...But Read On...

Wow, it's finally happening! We're on for our opening day, this Saturday, May 4! We nearly wet ourselves with excitement. We wouldn't really admit it if we did!

Do us a giant favor and please read the entrance directions and follow the arrows to get in. Do not come in the old way as you will be waved off and embarrassed in front of your mother... well if not your mother, at least someone's mom. Here is the map that shows the route in green, and the yellow is where we park the cars that attend. The arrows mean the direction you drive, in case you're from Fresno.





We anticipate upwards of 600 cars of which only around 500 will get in some come early. Don't show up late and throw a toy-isle tantrum in front of thousands of people if you don't get in. Come early, get in line and just have fun. We will get you landed as fast as we can.

As for spectators, park in the north parking structure and walk on over. It's easier to get in and out that way without much in the way of traffic. Don't forget to buy something at the mall. How about some summer undies?

For those of you who arrive late and don't get in, you snooze you cruise. Set the alarm, get there early. Go have breakfast and just kick back and talk to people. We're going to see upwards of three thousand spectators, or more so it's the place to be for sure. This is way better then sitting at home tweezing for that one pesky hair.

If you're new, just leave it up to us when you arrive. We will get you settled in. Introduce yourself and we will do all we can to make you feel right at home. For those who like to test our rules opening day, FYI, there are plain clothes police, cameras everywhere, and a fresh set of handcuffs just waiting for you. That smokey burnout you ponder will have more evidence in court than OJ. Redmond has been hanging people for burnouts since the mid 1800s. Reckless driving will be an expensive ticket, not to mention that drop from your insurance, so just don't do it. Be smart for once. Hide your narcissism for just one morning. It won't kill you.

For the rest of you, welcome to our tenth anniversary!

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**April 28, 2019**

**Where We Go For...**

Right about now, I'm starting to feel like the guy killing time tap-dancing on stage, waiting for the next act to come up, who's running late... Let's hope we're on for this Saturday because I can only dance so much.

I've been watching the forecast for May 4 since we posted on Thursday and the weather is moving in the right direction. We may be setting a trend of always a month late, exactly like the water bill in college. Thanks for your patience with all of this. We've had surprisingly little hate mail about it this season's weather delays which is nice for once. I always fear the verbal wedgie.

**Where we go...**

A lot of you ask where to go after E@RTC, and where to drive. Some stay at the mall where there are some new food choices that are very good. Don't forget to move your car to a normal spot after 11. This is important otherwise you kind of look like a football-headed douche-canoe taking up two spots. Park in the South-east corner and you're fine if you're worried about door dings.

Most just go home... the yard pass was only good for a few hours and staying out is... just too costly. Besides, some don't want the miles on their cars.

Some go up to Salish Lodge where you will be pampered rather nicely. If you're unfamiliar, it's the exterior of the lodge from the famous show Twin Peaks; not to be confused with that other "twin peaks" you once dated. She was lovely. She excelled at T-shirt.

If you're heading up to Salish, please call the valet stand in advance 425-831-6539. Again, as a reminder, they do not let you park your own car because they are crazy-busy on weekends and can't take the time to give you special treatment. They are the very best valets in the Northwest so treat them well. I stayed there recently and the newly-remodeled rooms are very nice! The food is fabulous. A huge shout-out to Chris and the other valets for always making us feel welcome.

If you want to do something super-cool at the lodge, get a group together and do the "Chef's Studio" dinner with about a dozen of your closest friends. It's where Chef Benjamin Riggs hosts a small dining room downstairs and comes out and explains what you're eating. Surprise! I could not have been more impressed by his work and we all had a great time. He takes what he does very seriously and you will learn a lot. Thanks again Ben for an extra-special dinner.

A lot of people head down to America's Car Museum in Tacoma to see more cars. This is the thing to do when you have people in from out of town. The museum is constantly changing their rotation of cars and it's always improving. The food in the cafe is surprisingly good. It's far superior to the prison-quality food served in most museums.

We have a lot of hidden spots we like to visit without a lot of fanfare. Some want to be seen in their cars while others don't, and just want to meet up with a few friends, have some laughs, and call it a day. The trick is always about parking when considering your choices. You don't want some dude standing on your car taking a selfie while you're at lunch.

In case you're wondering, yes, there was a time when we went to Barking Frog, but in spite of all our efforts to work out a great continuous relationship, they treated us like a nuisance as a group, so we stopped going. It was once our favorite spot until a different manager took over and reservations became tedious. We miss the late James Simkins a lot. We just avoid the place. There are too many other great choices.

Kirkland is full of them. Park in the library garage and nobody will bother your car. Trellis closed, at the Heathman, but a new place is about to open called the Hearth which should be good. It's a great place to walk around. It's kind of festive, but parking in Kirkland is otherwise a real PITA.

If you want to put on some miles, it's fun to drive to Leavenworth. It's about two hours each way and it's a beautiful drive. If you're thinking about the Cascade Loop, plan on about twelve hours from start to finish. It's eight hours of solid driving and four hours of stops. It's a lot of miles. It's

also fun to stay at Sun Mountain and do the wagon ride down for a ranch dinner. The views are unmatched. In Leavenworth, the hotel of choice is The Post Hotel.

I like the Whidbey Island loop, where we cross from Mukilteo to Clinton, then head to Langley, then up to Coupeville, then Deception Pass, then the Anacortes Lookout, then down to La Conner, then home via the back ways, of which there are a few. It doesn't take all day either and it's scenic with lots of great places to eat.

Some go to the lovely town of Snohomish, but parking is not always easy either. A few like Palasades, but it's kind of known as the poser palace, meaning you're not there for the food, you're there for the entrance, which is too bad. They have lots of parking. The food is good too. We otherwise stay out of Seattle.

If you're looking for really good food, Cunio's in Clearview is outstanding, but not at all fancy. It's in a tiny strip mall at a gas station. There is plenty of parking, and it's damn good food. Take a look at the menu if you don't believe me. Filet Mignon Sliders! Yes that's right, F-I-L-E-T M-I-G-N-O-N S-L-I-D-E-R-S! Hey, not far away is the Maltby Cafe... but it's a grave lot and the lines can be long. The cinnamon rolls are bigger than those twin peaks I was talking about.

I kind of like Buzz Inn Steakhouse at the Snohomish airport on a nice sunny day. It's fun to have a cheap steak and watch terrified newbies jump out of planes followed by that massive grass slide at the end...speaking of wedgies. You can hear the screams of terror on a nice sunny day. It's something different. No, not the best food, but it's cheap and it's novel.

Just remember one thing, when you go places in an exotic or rare car, be nice. Never ever treat the valets or wait staff badly. Word gets around and we learn who the jerks are who are rude and don't tip and generally are not nice to wait staff. Yes, we get the calls sometimes when someone is especially bad.

One exotic owner got mad at hotel because the valet moved the seat. It was as if the earth just ended! Yes, we heard about that stuff. Well, it was a different driver retrieving the car who would have zero idea where the seat position was to begin with and the original driver could only guess where it was. Getting upset about that makes you look like an entire tool bag to just about everyone. Even a complete douche would call you a douche. Just be nice. It's not that hard and you will feel better, I promise. It only takes a few to create a reputation none of us want. It's why we have a zero-tolerance policy for the results of bad parenting at E@RTC. We're not going to let a few ruin it for everyone.

Oh, and those of you who are nice. We hear about that too! Someone will tell me, hey such and such was super nice to us! We think it's wonderful and you're great ambassadors for exotic and rare cars everywhere. We do all we can to make everyone feel welcome at E@RTC even if you're not an exotic or rare car owner. While we have to draw the show line somewhere, our goal is to always make both spectator and participant feel welcome and a part of the family. We're all about community and with that comes a few standards of conduct, but not a lot.

Okay, the next time you hear from us is on Thursday afternoon when we make our weather call. We do it around 3:45 PM, right after the weather update for Saturday is posted. We've made it this far, a few more days won't kill us. Well, it shouldn't anyway.

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**April 25, 2019**

## **Aww, Crap! We're Rained Out Again...**

Ms. Nature is fastidious this spring and appears to be picking Saturday as her watering day. We're rained-out... again! I know, bummer! Spend your time cleaning. Melt cheese on something. We'll give it a shot again next week. We have plenty of Saturdays left.

Hey, we thought we'd share something interesting with you all about putting on these events. As far as we know, we're the largest and oldest weekly gathering of exotic and rare cars in the US. It gives us goosebumps. Whoops, sorry, I guess it's a rash.

Did you know I could have been a world-class poll vaulter if it wasn't for my love of pastries?

Yes, some car gatherings are larger, but they are only monthly, not weekly, and not devoted to exotic and rare cars. Doing this every week is an entirely different species. We continually share what we know about building a successful event, yet so many have their own ideas and ultimately face-plant their event in the freshly-laid cow pie of life.

When we began, we used a technique called "inversion thinking" not to be confused with what is a common criticism of rectal-cranial inversion which while it may be a cousin, isn't what we're thinking. Inversion thinking is starting with the premise of what can go wrong then trying to solve every conceivable problem before it becomes a problem. We also thought about what would make the best possible experience from the moment you arrive. Nick will even lick the parking lot if we'd let him.

The event was built around solutions to problems we were thinking about. (BTW, don't you wish you applied that before you got "involved" with that now-not-so-special someone? Hmmm?) The remaining event is the result of inversion thinking. This is also a little tip; it's a great way to build a business for those of you with an entrepreneurial bug. Better to deal with that bug than the one you got at that truck stop bathroom in Mexico. You know the one.

You can see how such an event can devolve into problems such as the ones they are having at the Scottsdale Motorsports Gathering, which you can read [here](#). We see this happen often if you don't try and solve problems before they happen. We worry about it happening to us. It's why we always need plenty of volunteers. We wish them success with their relaunch, and we're willing to share anything we know as we'd love to see more events around the US thrive. If the organizers get in touch with us, we will share everything we know. Still, once the problems start,

it's hard to get that pissed-off cat back under control. What's helped us build a successful event is all of you participating in the policing of E@RTC. It's because of your support and good manners that we are still here and we're very appreciative of your contribution.

We're about pulling a car community together for mutual fun and we know there are always going to be those self-absorbed who want to ruin it for everyone. Our job, with your help, is to not let them.

Let's ponder sunshine for next week.

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**April 21, 2019**

## **We're in 93 Countries and Other Interesting Stuff...**

Well, lookie at what happened. It was a suitable Saturday, but no, we were off. Bunnies, you owe us. We may be rained out again this Saturday looking ahead to next week. The forecast right now isn't looking so good, but you never know what's going to change in a week. Some people fall in love in less time. Or break up. Nothing like a frying pan to the forehead while you're in the shower to say it's over.

It kills us to not get our season started, but we always manage to get in about twenty nice Saturdays so don't get too stressed over this. It will happen. Besides, it gives you more time to slim down. That Ferrari jacket you love was making you look a little balloon-animal-ish if we're being honest. I know, I love the pastries too.

We've had a lot of pictures sent to us of cars that are not on our list. We keep refining the list as questions come up so it's a never-ending work of art. What it tells us is there are a lot of surprises waiting to come out to E@RTC. This is what makes it so fun, that we never know what we're going to see. It also makes us realize that there are far more interesting cars hidden around than we could have ever imagined.

Some ask us who's writing our blog. I write it... (I'm being intentionally vague.) I don't sign it because it's from all of us. It's never been about me, and instead it's about all of you so we just write what we think makes you laugh a little. We don't write for everyone. We piss off a few and I'm continuously banned from Fresno. I know there is a nun somewhere who breaks out in a sweat praying for us every night in the desperate hope that I'll stop writing. Others want to find out so they can yell at me about something or give me the finger in person... or take one of mine. For those who don't like our blog, either don't read it or carefully wrap yourself in high-quality bubblewrap and ship yourself somewhere that makes you happy. This way we both win.

Did you know that people from 93 countries visited our website in the last year??? I didn't either until I counted. Shout out to the two people in Kenya. They must love cars! Or they were looking

for a real Impala. One never knows. We will post if we're on or off on Thursday afternoon after the weather report comes out.

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**April 18, 2019**

## **We're Canceled Because of Bunny Hunter Congestion**

Don't forget we're off this weekend, O-F-F, no matter what the weather looks like on Saturday...which is looking kind of nice... Aw, shucks. (It's not what I really said...but kids read this.) Apparently the bunnies need the parking lot for Easter. Repeat, NO E@RTC FOR SATURDAY APRIL 20! (I hate yelling.)

This Saturday, RTC is having their Easter Eggstravaganza where they don't just hide eggs, they also collect and hide your car keys and wish you luck finding them. Some cars have been there since last year.

I guess thousands of sugared-up kids show up to raise hell all jacked on marshmallow eggs, and chocolate bunnies so it sounds like a great time if you're into knee-level tornados! Bring your kids! Bring some you don't even know, but get permission. We don't want that flaming letter in our inbox.

Wouldn't you know it, it would have been a decent Saturday too. The chance of rain is around 5%, well within our typical safe range! Damn you bunnies! Don't fret, this has been a typical opening month. We rarely have our opening day on opening day. It's why we don't invite the press or people we like. We should call it our non-opening day and still celebrate in some bar somewhere.

We will try again next week. We still expect a much bigger opening day whenever it happens. Traffic on our site is up substantially; roughly 37% over last year. It's amazing how many people read this blog and from all over the world too. We can't thank you enough for that. We could thank you enough I guess, now that I think about it, but the point is, it's a lot of thanks.

We have some new volunteers joining us this season so please be tender. It's much appreciated. We don't want anyone to be scared into therapy on the first day. It's a small favor. We don't want them going home and hiding, thinking, "what the hell was that?"

Meanwhile, we'll keep you up to date on the latest. We have some America's Car Museum updates to add so you could drive down there and show them some love too. They are in Tacoma if you're new around here. Yeah, Tacoma... We didn't put it there!

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**April 14, 2019**

## From Pooh Bear to Pool Noodles, We Cover It All...

We're sorry it's going to be a while before our next chance at another good Saturday. Look at the bright side. Never mind, I couldn't think of one. The 27th will be here before you know it. No matter what the weather, we're off on the 20th because it's the annual Redmond Town Center Easter Hunt and Bunny Shoot. ...I'm just kidding about the bunny part... I could just see the hate mail from that one. Not to mention all those who'd show up from Fresno and start blasting away at the little fur balls.

The new hotel is opening up soon! It's called the Archer. It's the one right there in the parking lot that we've watched go up over the last two years. They already got in touch with us to see how they can become involved. We want to be great neighbors and support them any way we can. They also serve breakfast! We welcome them to the hood and will be there for them. Be kind and don't go parking in their garage either unless you plan to spend the night. We have plenty of parking anyway.

They are going to give us a special weekend rate and we will post it here on the blog as soon as we receive it. Think of how fun that will be to show up the night before and wake up already at the event! Watch the cars roll in from the safety of your own room. Stand on your deck and like a warlord summoning your worshipers, all while in full Pooh Bear. (That means you only have a shirt on.) Oh stop, you Pooh Bear when you work-Skype from home. Don't tell me you don't. Redmond Town Center has a lot going on these days and so it's worth spending some time checking out the place. Did you know there is a place for kids to learn to swim? Really! It's called Goldfish Swim School. I wonder if they teach kids float upside down. We didn't have anything like that growing up. No, for us as kids, it was just tossing us out of the boat! The only instructions we got were, "See-ya at home!" There was no music and dancing in shallow water. We didn't have swim noodles and water wings. We were handed big giant rocks and told to hang on. Yet here we are! Well, most of us. Kids have it so easy today.

Just so you know, we try to get the blog out every Sunday and Thursday with the weather announcement. This is where we post the latest happenings and occasional gossip. Write us if you have comments. We love mail.

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**April 11, 2019**

### **We're Rained-Out Again...But We're Here Just to Have Fun!**

Sorry we're rained out...again... Ms. Nature feels the need to hose us down one more time. We will try to have our opening day again in two weeks... assuming she's done watering. We wouldn't start next week, the 20th because of the Easter Egg Hunt, so our next possible opener is the 27th. We will get there, I promise. It may take a few weeks, but eventually we get our first nice Saturday and the whole world will be perfect. Just remain calm. Find a squeeze ball, or a puppy. Have some pancakes! They fix everything!

## Why We're Here

We built this ship for one reason only and that's to have fun with cars on a Saturday morning. We're not out to sell anything, or promote ourselves personally; nope, just a bunch of people wanting to have a good time on a Saturday morning without involuntary handcuffs, bruises, or protruding bones followed by screams. (I don't know about you, but I never want to say hello to my own bones.) None of us are in the car business either, so there is no indirect beni in all this. We do what we do because we love cars. We love watching interesting exotic and rare cars roll in, then talking about cars while standing around giving each other a badly-needed hard time. We do this for no other reason than to have fun on a Saturday morning. This is a chance to come out and be a kid again and not get yelled at, assuming you were properly granted that yard pass and did all your chores.

It seems like everything in the world has become so PC lately, hasn't it? What ever happened to sling shots, chemistry sets, and lawn darts? Oooooohhhh, that...okay, never mind. You can't do anything fun anymore. Remember when we didn't have to wear helmets for anything? Sure a few of us could only eat soft foods for a while, but we had fun, didn't we? E@RTC is like all those good old times but without the helmets. If you really want, you can come to E@RTC and wear a helmet, but you will sort of stick out a little bit and people may talk to you real slow, but we will still welcome you.

I just realized I could have been in the ballet if it wasn't for my love of pastries.

Meanwhile, when you read our blog, you see us continually assail those who sometimes unknowingly try and take our fun away from us. It's our visceral reaction to preserving the very spirit of E@RTC. Don't worry, we won't let them do it. Besides, we can dish out more insults than Don Rickles with his foot nailed to a board. We've been insulting each other for years and we've perfected the art of a good diss. We do it, because well, it's funny, and too often someone is in need of a good tongue flogging. It also preserves the fun, so there is that. We'll try again in two weeks...but it's not looking so good either. That happened last year and we all lived.

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**April 7, 2019**

### **What to Expect if You're New**

We got through the postponement of our opening day with no complaints this time. That's a first. I'm guessing whoever caused all the ruckus finally got another basement job somewhere. We post if we're on or off every Thursday afternoon and usually have the post up before 4 PM. This gives you ample time in most relationships to complete your chores and necessary paperwork for a Saturday morning yard pass.



We're getting a lot of email about car qualifications; probably five per day on average. We're answering every one so if you sent something and we missed it, send it again. I'll wake everyone up around here if they aren't answering. Nothing like calling a fellow Thug in the middle of the night all jacked up on Redbull.

We hate to turn cars away. It's bothered us from the day we began. We know that to you it feels like we're an unwelcome toot in a crowded elevator. We badly want to deny it's even an issue. But it is. We hear you, but we're out to put on the best event possible, and we're glad your understanding the situation.

### **So you're new...**

If you're completely new to E@RTC, here is what to expect. Think of E@RTC as one big flash mob with super-crappy dancers and no music anyway. We show up, have fun, then we're gone like it never happened.

Take a look at the map then follow the signs and come in one block east of the parking lot. Nothing screams "newbie" louder than coming in the wrong way, unless you have an actual sign on your car that says, "NEWBIE," or you're in a stroller.

I just realized I could have been an Olympic swimmer if it wasn't for my love of pastries. You will be greeted by Sean, the great wizard who is kind of our sorting hat. He will either let you in or politely tell you the car doesn't meet the broad definition of rare, exotic, etc., all stuff we cover on our website here, and point out a good spectator lot. He's an extraordinarily nice guy. He also knows a lot about cars so don't try to BS him either. He probably knows more about your car than you do. Complaint forms can be found [here](#).

Sean radios what's coming through the gate to the other Thugs and one of our marvelous Thugs radios back where we're going to park you, usually with a few insults tossed around between Thugs, but you never hear that part because they are wearing ear mics. It's a big part of our fun. Us Parking Thugs live to make fun of each other. And, as we've said before, we've never let fine breeding, a proper upbringing, respectability, good manners, honor, character, or even moral decency, ever get in the way of a good joke. So there is that. If you don't like to laugh and have a good time, just stay in the basement and look for leaks or carve something meaningful out of soap, or search the freezer for something with freezer burn and think of a good way to make it taste good.

Once you're waved through the intersection and into the lot, someone will walk you over to your parking area and help you get positioned. The marvelous and highly-dedicated Thugs know what they are doing and how to make your car look its best. Keep your window rolled down as you enter. This is very important. If you have no window, you're one step ahead of us.

When you're parked, let us know you're new, even though we probably know already. We tend to remember people very well. We'd be happy to introduce you to a few folks so you get to

make some new friends. You will find the whole thing very welcoming and people will remember you when you come back the next week. You don't even need to wear the same stuff to get recognized!

We frown on those who arrive with a sense of entitlement who don't think the rules apply to them. We frequently send them to Lot 9, (shhhh, it's in Moclips). Here is Lisa on an actual Lot 9 inspection.



*Lisa certifying to the general suckiness of Lot 9. Avoid us sending you to Lot 9. Lot 9 is for bad people.*

## Redmond Town Center

7525 166th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

➤ **Get on WA-520 W from Leary Way**

4 min (1.0 mi)

➤ **Take I-405 S, I-5 S, WA-8 W and US-12 W to E Wishkah St in Aberdeen**

1 h 57 min (117 mi)

➤ **Take US-101 N and Ocean Beach Rd to Otis Ave in Moclips**

43 min (30.3 mi)

## Moclips

Washington

*Should we send you to Lot 9, here is how to get there. It's just a mere 2 hours and 37 contemplative minutes to get there where you can stand with the other A-holes.*

If you're a new spectator, we'd suggest parking in the north parking structure and walking across the mall. It's easier to leave when you're sick of the whole thing and just want to go home and crawl into your jam-jams. This way you can conveniently hit all the food places before you head over; Starbucks, Original Pancake House, French Bakery, etc., bathrooms... if you're "cleansing."

The car owners are always there to talk about their love of cars and are more than happy to answer questions. Just don't ask to sit in someone's car. It's bad form. It's cringeworthy bad form. They love to talk about what they brought and look at other cars. Make yourself at home. Spectators and participants are all alike and can't be told apart until they drive off, so stereotyping attendees won't work.

Let's hope this Saturday works out and if not, we try again next week. Oh, and give a thug a hug while you're there. Don't if you have ebola.

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**April 4, 2019**

## **About Our First Rain-Out of the Season and the Resulting Tantrums**

Well, sorry to say it's our first rain out of the season, but there will be more Saturdays, and more rain-outs so don't fret. We will try again next week. Have some fruit. Netflix and chill? No?

Before you go full postal and threaten a professional hit, let's explain our thinking as we kick off the new season. We cancel every time the chance of rain is 30% or higher. There is no point in arguing with us. We've all dated gingers at one point in our lives and are completely immune to irrational threats of bodily harm.

Before you send us a screenshot of your magic phone showing a less than 30% chance of rain, all while you monkey-stomp your feet in protest, we want to point out that we draw our data from more than one source. We get it from NOAA, Wunderground.com, all four local TV networks, Weather.com, and the weird dude under my porch eating all the peanuts I put out for the squirrels. That guy was eating 25 pounds a month before I even noticed!

If all of this weather forecasting stuff conflicts, we average it, sometimes we debate it, sometimes we even delay our call until the next report in our attempt to get it right, but once we make the call, your magic phone's weather app doesn't count for squat. It never did count for squat, so stop framing those screen shots and mailing them to me. I've got p-l-e-n-t-y.

Once in a while the weather folk all get it wrong and are not that great at forecasting. It's why so many weather nerds are divorced, so ponder that little factoid.

So why do we call it on a Thursday after 3 PM? Well, that's when the weather reports come out and that also gives people time to cancel their plans and do other things besides stand in the rain on a Saturday morning; later writing to us, just to let us know how much it sucked. It also gives our volunteers some time off. They do need time off or they get cranky, and that's no fun either. It also gives those who made hotel reservations a chance to get their hotel deposit back, not get on that flight to Seattle, or cancel that date.

Why do we cancel at all when it's raining? Well in spite of what you say, nobody likes to stand in the rain and talk about cars. If they do, something is curiously wrong and they probably need to get off the roids or reduce their Redbull intake a skosh. In spite of that mushy letter you once wrote about your love of walks in the rain just to nail that snappy date, I'll bet you can't prove you really do. You think we're a bunch of wimps? Drive your freshly polished car over to Green

Lake and count the number of people standing out in the rain walking in little circles and report back. I'll bet the ones you count have no idea they are even there.

The point is, each season, we get the kids who are all upset when we call it off due to rain. They make the most noise, sort of like bagpipes, accordions and a didgeridoo all blended together into sweet, yet painful music. We suggest they go back to their parents basement and take it out on the game console. Go play with some packing peanuts. We'll try again next week...or possibly the week after...or the week after...and so on and so on...until one day, sun and opening day!

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**March 31, 2019**

## **Why We Enforce Our Rules**

We all know it sucks to have rules. As a toddler, you only had to pull the TV down on your head just once to know there was a reason dad said don't touch, right? And it kind of hurt, didn't it? Rules are for a reason, and sometimes it's to protect ourselves or others. We don't make rules unless we have to. Guess what, we have to. I'd have been an Olympic runner if it wasn't for my love of pastries, so there is that.

We don't charge you to get in, and all of us volunteer our time, so it doesn't seem like a lot to ask when we want people to just follow the rules. It's all so we can keep the event going so just play along. This isn't hard stuff. All of the wonderful people involved in E@RTC have spent thousands of hours on this event and none of them want it to end badly. Put another way, if we're to sustain this glorious beast for another ten years, we have to abide by some rules or we're toast.

Some rules have zero tolerance. You're not likely to hurt someone if you wear that terrible combination of plaids and stripes, but if you did a long smokey burnout, you could harm someone so there is a huge difference. For that reason, if you break a rule and you were banned, well, you're still banned. It doesn't matter if your bad behavior was last season or not. We have a better recollection than that neighbor who remembers that moment you pooped on their lawn after that party you don't remember. We have the awesome power of a collective memory, and keep in mind it's not just the thugs who remember and want the rules enforced. It's also our participants who care about the event too!

The only reason we create rules is because a few don't have the common sense God gave a radish and things have to be explained in great detail. They are the ones who didn't just pull that TV down on their head just once either. For some, it's a life theme. We just wish they would not participate.

We're sorry we have to hammer this each season, but opening day is often when we seem to get the "maturity-challenged" at the event. For everyone else, we look forward to seeing your shining faces!

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**March 22, 2019**

## **Two weeks to go! That and Knives and Flames... Read on!**

We're just two weeks away from our big season opener! Before you do the happy dance where your neighbors can see you, keep in mind we get rained out on opening day most years, so remain tuned to what's happening by checking the blog. This is when we play rain-roulette with Mom Nature and she's not always the most cooperative.

Last night we ate at Fuji Steak House right there in Redmond Town Center, directly above the lot where we will all be mulling around looking at cars and noticing each other's added fat... and the food was really good. It's sort of like Benihana except it was...well, really good. We were sitting at the bar but could hear the knives and see the flames, but as far as we know, nobody got singed or filleted, with zero evidence of arterial spray anywhere. It will be a fun spot after E@RTC along with all the other great places to eat at RTC. I wouldn't recommend FSH if you're combustible, but for the rest of us, it was very nice.

Thank you Jessica for the nice time and the good food. Redmond Town Center is awesome so please, please, please, (I said it three times) come and visit the mall! Don't you need socks? We were there to discuss our big party plans for July 6. We're going to not say much about it, but put a big "x" on your calendar for that day and preserve it like you did that orchid from the prom, or that finger you lost and accidentally cooked at Benihana.

We are getting lots of email about our updated criteria for this year and so far, most of it has been swimmingly positive. We had a couple of negative comments, but that's normal this time of season. Hey my day isn't perfect without a negative comment from someone. I was raised by nuns so bring it on! There is always that one kid who thinks they are special. Wait until they get forced out of the basement and have to look for a real job.

Some have asked why we have such a weird questionnaire for our volunteers. Well, the short answer is because it's funny. The long answer is that we're trying to get a sense of who you are and if you'd fit the volunteer culture. We'd want you to have as much fun as we do and if you don't see the humor in all of this, well, I feel bad for starters, and the alternative is you could get a "customer experience" job at Comcast. We all know they are fun. If you're not having fun, you're not going to keep volunteering, and so that sucks too.

We like to have a good time and we care if those who show up have fun. That's very important to us! No really! This should be a good time for everyone except for city politicians and

sociopaths. We prefer they remain at home. Yet, judging from the volume of email and the traffic on our site, this should be another great season of good times!

We still don't have a date for classics, muscle and collector cars so as soon as we get one from someone, we'll post it. If your name is Mark, [click here](#).

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**March 16, 2019**

## **Changes to our Entrance Criteria... Here Come the Flame Throwers!**

Okay, well, here we are, once again with the dreaded list of changes to this year's entrance criteria page found [here](#). Before you down the muscle relaxers to relieve that involuntary, yet sometimes-embarrassing quiver in your forehead, please understand our reasoning. We get too many cars that people don't get all that excited about, and our spectators complain! That's right, we get it both directions.

As we say so often, we're not out to be Cars and Coffee either, because too often both suck. We think that's a recipe for failure and everyone that ever starts one of those eventually collapses under the weight of immature yahoos that ruin it for everyone. We've spent ten years explaining what we do and why, and it's all over our website, so please chill. "Moosaaa..." Feel better??? No??? Try again, "Moosaaa...." More moo this time. Try some grapes.

Our goal is exotic, rare, and special classic cars. We're not a modded show or a Safeway parking lot either.

Dan updated our list with help from Sean who works the front entrance and has to put up with the arguments over the years. He raised a daughter so he knows a thing or two about empty, pointless, un-win-able arguments. So, if you try and push that they only made 10,000 in your color, it won't do you much good.

Here are the changes to the entrance criteria page this year.

**Audi:** RS4+ Models, S8 (D4+ Chassis ONLY), All R8s, No other S-line models besides the S8, No RS3s.

**BMW:** LIMITED PRODUCTION M2/3/4 MODELS ONLY - due to the large number of M cars, only the rarer examples will be allowed and in limited quantity (1M, GTS, CSL, etc, no standard M2s/3s/4s), M5, Alpina Models, 850, I8, Z8. No SUVs (including X5M, etc), Select Vintage (starting at E30 and earlier for M3s cars)

**Chevrolet:** C7+ only Corvette Z06, C6/C7 ZR1, 6th+ Generation Camaro ZL1 1LE (Not SS-1LE, not base ZL1), Select Vintage

**Maserati:** Gran Turismo, Quattroporte, select vintage. No Ghiblis or SUVs.

**Mercedes:** AMG models - Latest generation or very limited production AMG Models only such as Evo and Black Series cars only, E63 wagons, all SLS models, Select SL Models\*, Mercedes McLaren SLR, G series 4x4<sup>2</sup> series (no normal G series), Select Vintage

**Porsche:** All 911 S+ models (no base 911s), all air cooled models, 918, Carrera GT, All GT Trim models (Cayman GT4, GT3RS, GT2, etc), All R Models, Panamera Turbo trims (no non-turbo models), Vintage and rare. No: Boxster, Cayman, Cayenne, Macan, etc, except R and GT# trims (GT2/3/4, not GTS).

**Ms/AMGs/911s/Teslas/Ghiblis:** Due to the overwhelming number of cars we get and the regularity of 911s, M, and AMG cars we see, we are now limiting the number and focusing on special production vehicles.

**Offroad Vehicles:** We love some good 4x4s, but they need to be really special. Often these fall into our vintage category or are considered specialty cars. A Hellcat swapped Jeep works, so does a trophy truck or Dakar rally vehicle. 100k in Overland mods into your FJ Cruiser or Wrangler is probably amazingly capable, but also not exotic. Ask us; these can be quite a crowd pleaser and we welcome the more extreme.

Still come out and enjoy the event. Your friends won't think any less of you if your car doesn't get in either as it's no measure of who you are as a person. Nobody will laugh and point, I promise... unless you try and sneak in then all bets are off.

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## March 14, 2019

### We Need Your Help

No, we're not going to ask you for a few bucks to fix someone's lower lip. We're looking for more volunteers for our 2019 season. We don't want to burn out the dedicated and beloved Thugs we have now. So, if we've put up this nifty attention-grabbing notice on Facebook to see if some of you colorful folk want to join us for more laughs.





Lower your expectations

Are you looking for Friends? Fame? Unlimited Fortune? Well so are we so if you hear of any please do let us know, but if you aren't looking for any of those things in the near future (or really ever) and want to join the hardworking, super serious Exotics at Redmond Town Center "THUG" Volunteer Team, then you **HAVE** come to the right place.

Click [HERE](#) to APPLY NOW!

*No seriously, click here!*

I've been one of the beloved Thugs for ten years and I've made life-long friends who made my life better. Well, most of them did. There is one or two who probably shouldn't ever be seen in daylight, but that's a different problem. This is a chance to do the same thing with your life, and make some new friends. This is a chance to give back to the community and do something that makes you and everyone else around you feel good!

This is our tenth anniversary so there will be more festive moments than ever before. One day we may even count wrinkles or stand on a scale! Who knows! Hey, we're all aging at the same speed... unless you're in the hooch every night, then you're going down hill like a runaway freight train on fire. It's just a matter of time before that liver wants out and you know it. Where was I going? You probably shouldn't volunteer, but for all of you others, come join us. You likely won't regret it. I can't guarantee for sure, but chances are, you won't.

Meanwhile, we will see you all very soon! We're on the home stretch before Mom Nature starts messing with us. April 6, unless she decides she can't hold her water that day. Depends.

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**March 10, 2019**

## **Less Than A Month To Go!**

We're working behind the scenes...well, not really behind the scenes. It's not like we're sneaking around at night or anything, but we are working to get ready for our eleventh season! We're not finished adding events to our, "special events" calendar just yet so don't get your undies in a bunch if you don't see the Classic, Collector and Muscle car date posted. We will have it as soon as we hear what will work. We will give you plenty of time to get your yard pass paperwork in order with your significant other. For some it's as complicated as TSA Pre Check.

We recently updated the site to make it current so if you see something that's out of date that we may have missed, besides someone's dated haircut, please let us know. We already know about the haircut.

Dan's going to update the entrance criteria while Nick practices his squats to get his figure ready for Speedo season. Jason is working on our "volunteer enhancement" strategy and it's all moving along nicely.

We anticipate another big year for E@RTC as the event draws more and more people and cars from further away. We're working on addressing issues such as trailer parking, added foreign language lineage and more people with clipboards to stand and look important. We shall give them whistles.

We are still looking for more volunteers for this upcoming season. It's a great way to make some friends and have some fun with some of the best people I know along with one or two who are just a little scary. They can't walk into a hospital without someone throwing them on a stretcher, but I digress.

It will be good to see all of you again this season. Judging by all the email, it looks like it will be a great start to the new season. People are already asking about where to park the trailers, and how to best negotiate a pass from their significant other.

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**February 2, 2019**

## **It's our Tenth Year and We Could Use Some Additional Help...**

This is our tenth anniversary. In fact, as I write this, it was about ten years ago this coming Saturday that we stood out there and froze our naughty bits in the damp cold air. What a day that was!

We want to celebrate with a party this year, but to do that, we're going to need your help. We need more volunteers. While we still have the same robust core as usual, we need more people, not just to help us on Saturday mornings, but we'd love to find a group who knows how to throw a great party sometime later in the season. We're thinking early July so we have the very best chance of a nice day around here.

We have our first volunteer meeting on February 17 and you can attend that, or we'll have another soon after just for the new folks who are looking for something to do this summer. It's a great way to make friends, have some laughs, and have a good excuse to get out of the house with less paperwork.

We're behind the scenes here working on the website, getting it all looking fresh for the new season as there is a lot to do between now and opening day on April 6. Of course, this depends on the weather. Last year we were a month behind. Sort of like rent in college.  
See you all soon!