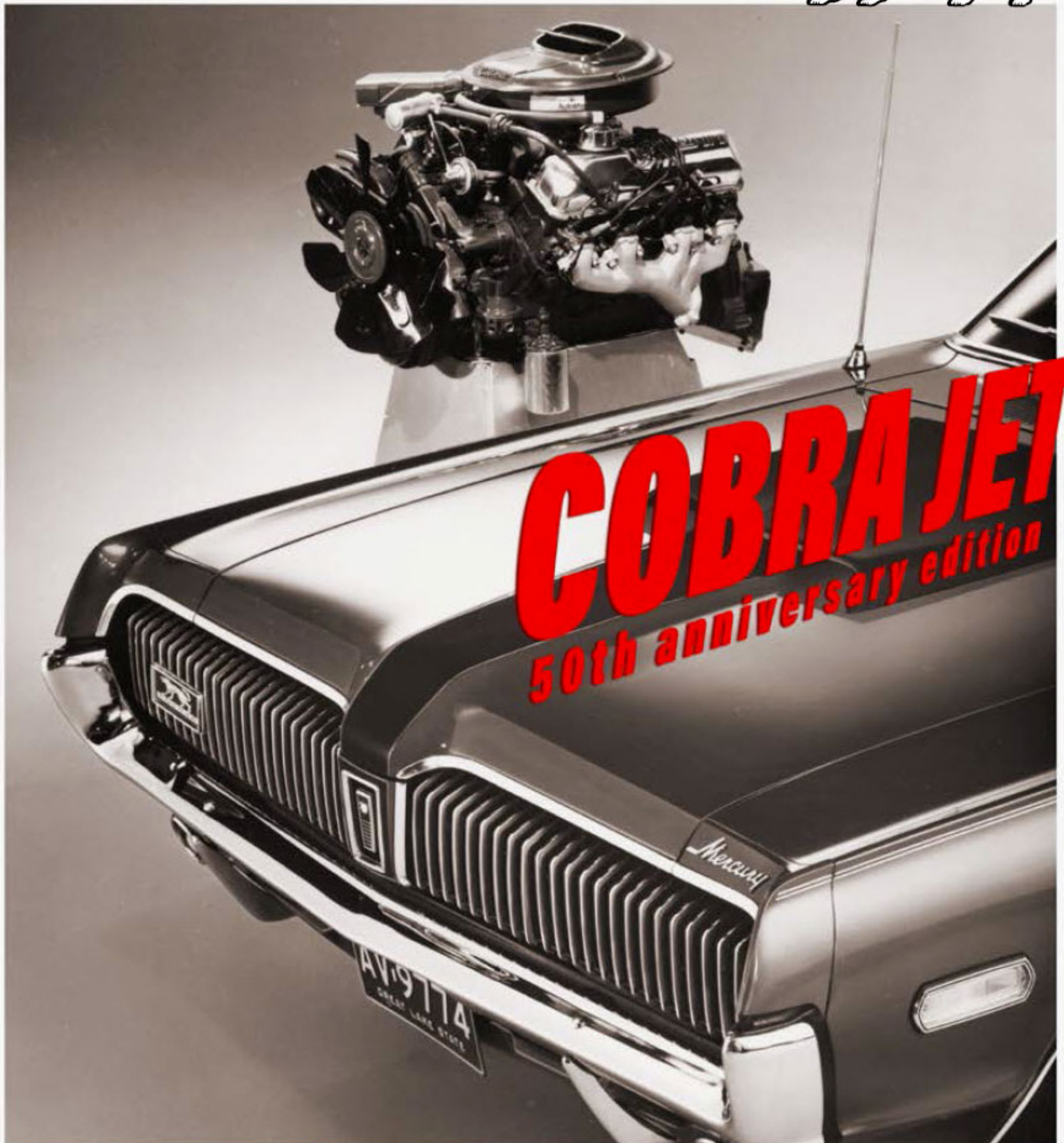


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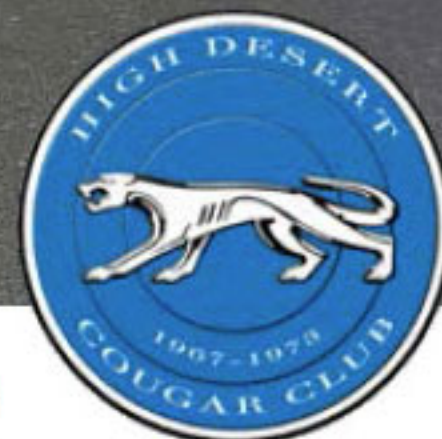
FALL 2018





High Desert Cougar Club of Oregon

By Conan Tigard (CCOA #9870)



It has been a busy three months here with the High Desert Cougar Club of Oregon. Even though the club is still in its infancy, only nine months old, it continues to grow and prosper. At the end of May, the club had just 14 members. As of the end of August, the HDCC has grown to 27 members. Most of the members are located in Oregon, but we also have a smattering of members in Washington, California, Idaho, Colorado, and even Australia.

Time to meet our newest members:

- Dan Quackenbush of Creswell, Oregon with his 1967 Standard Hardtop
- Dan Smith of Redmond, Oregon with his 1971 Standard Convertible
- John & Melissa Adkisson of Klamath Falls, Oregon with their 1970 Standard Hardtop and their 1968 XR-7 Hardtop
- Peter & Mary Hedren of Sisters, Oregon with their 1968 Standard Hardtop
- Larry & Susan Moore of Boring, Oregon with their 1967 XR-7 Hardtop
- Dave & SuAnn Harty of Thorton, Colorado with their 1969 XR-7 Convertible
- Ken & Ruth Hogenkamp of Tigard, Oregon with their 1967 Standard GT Hardtop
- Wade & Janie Anderson of Elma, Washington with their 1967 Standard Hardtop "Nellie"
- Terry & Leigh Viertel of Vancouver, Washington with their 1968 Standard Hardtop
- William Keck of Prineville, Oregon with his 1967 Standard Hardtop
- Kenneth Stern of Cave Junction, Oregon with his 1967 Standard GT Hardtop
- Steve Sheppard of Bend, Oregon with his 1969 Eliminator Convertible

I was lucky enough to receive an invitation to attend the CCOA and Mercury Stray Cats Western Regional Event in

Oakley, California on June 30th. I did not have a way of getting my Houndstooth Cougar down there, so my wife and I went Cougarless. This awesome event was hosted by Gavin Schlesinger of CCOA, Rob Crowder, and members of the Mercury Stray Cats. Fifty-two Cougars made their way to Crowder's unbelievable property and lined up in the gravel to the right of the house. With two amazing ponds, a swimming pool, tennis courts, and lush vegetation all on five acres, it was the perfect setting for this event. I was ecstatic to find two of the HDCC members at this event. Robert Cumming and Kirk Moore, along with their wonderful wives, drove all the way from Idaho to be there. It was great meeting some of the members of the HDCC for the first time. All of the Cougars were beautiful, and it was an impressive spectacle to behold. The only thing that disappointed me was that only one Cougar from the 1971-73 Class made an appearance. The icing on the cake were the six 1968 GT-E's that were parked on the cement in front of the garage doors. That is something I will never forget. Oh, and let's not forget the heat at this event. During the peak of the day, the temperature hit a sweltering 98 degrees in the shade. How hot was it? It was so hot that while I walking beside the Cougars, I noticed dead flies on all of the cars. The flies were landing on the hoods and instantly getting fried. Now that is HOT!

The second big event I attended was the West Coast Classic Cougar Open House. Cleve Helm worked tirelessly putting this fantastic two-day event together at Don Rush's WCCC place of





business in Salem, Oregon. Over 40 classic Mercury Cougars showed up, including the owner of Cougar 1, the very first Mercury Cougar (no, the car didn't make the trip). The first day was spent looking over the Cougars on the front lawn and the back field. The folks at WCCC provided both lunch and dinner, while the shop was open for business selling parts to hungry Cougar owners. That day ended with a nice cruise out to Willamette Valley Fruit Company for some pie and ice cream. The second day started off at WCCC for a couple of hours. Then we all hopped in our Cougars and headed out to Silverton for lunch. Driving with that many Cougars in a row was a spectacle to behold. In Silverton, we all split up to eat at different restaurants. Returning to the cars, we took off on a wonderful trip along a winding road through the hills up to Silver Falls State Park. After parking, a number of folks took the hike along a meandering trail that goes behind Silver Falls. Yes, I said behind, and actually underneath! Eventually, we all hopped back in our Cougars and headed over to Brian Aust's house for an evening BBQ. The setting was perfect with Cougars randomly parked all over the grassy field. As the sun began to set over the grain-filled fields, many took the opportunity to have a professional picture of their car taken by Andrew Chenovick of Flying A Photography. It was the perfect ending to a spectacular two-day event.

I have attended a lot of car shows in Central Oregon looking for other Cougar owners. I had my Cougar at the Indian Head Casino Car Show in Warm Springs, Rally on the Runway in Sisters, Elks Lodge Classic Car Show in Bend, Cruise to the Center of Oregon in Prineville, Flashback Cruise in Bend, and Drifters Harvest Run in Redmond. Not once did I run into another Cougar. Finally, at the Terrebonne Cruz-In, Dan Smith and I brought two Cougars to the show. Then, I saw another Cougar entering the show and sent him down our way. It was a surprise seeing Hondo at the show with his 1970 Cougar, and I was extremely happy to have three Cougars at the same show.

I am always hoping to find new members for the club. I am constantly posting on the HDCC Facebook Group. It has grown to 379 members from all over the world in a short time. I am starting to think about some of the things we will do as a car club in the next year. I plan on having a meet up at two car shows, one in Central Oregon and the other over the mountains in the Willamette Valley. I'm hoping to meet more of the members of the High Desert Cougar Club of Oregon.

As always, if you are interested in joining, please send a HDCC application to me. The application can be found on the Membership page on the website listed below. Best of all, it is free to join. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Conan Tigard
High Desert Cougar Club
highdesertcougarclub@gmail.com
www.highdesertcougarclub.com