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Meet the President of the High Desert Cougar Club

“Celebrating 1967-1973 Mercury Cougars”

A Brief History of the Club

After purchasing his third classic Mercury Cougar in the last 35 years, Conan Tigard realized that the closest Cougar club was a six-hour drive up to Tacoma, Washington. Wanting to hang out with other classic Cougar enthusiasts, Conan decided to start a new Cougar club in the heart of Oregon. The club website and Facebook pages were created in November of 2017 and soon after the club began to grow. Almost two years later, the club currently boasts over 50 members. In August of 2019, the club will be having their first official club gatherings in two local cars shows, one in the Willamette Valley and one in Central Oregon. Currently, Conan is the President and there are not any other officers yet. There is not a Board of Directors either.



Conan Tigard, HDCC #1, CCOA #9870

President of High Desert Cougar Club

Q: What first attracted you to the Mercury Cougar and what excites you the most about the car?

A: Back in 1982, in the summer before my senior year of high school, my mother took me around to look at a few cars for me. There was a 1963 Ranchero. Nope. Then there was my grandfather's 1976 Dodge Dart. No way! One day, after looking through the Santa Barbara News Press classifieds, my mom asked me if I want to go see a 1969 Mercury Cougar that was for sale. “What’s a Cougar?” I asked. When I first saw it, I knew that this was the one true car for me. I was a standard coupe, white exterior, black vinyl top, and white interior. I fell in love right then and there. I kept it for five years. After I sold it in 1987, something I still regret to this day, I didn’t have another Cougar for almost 30 years. Being a single parent and raising my daughter on my own for 11 years definitely took precedent. For two years now, I have had a car that I absolutely love... a 1970 Houndstooth Cougar in Deep Gold Metallic. I love the look of the car, the beauty of her form, and the way she rides down the road. I have always thought that the hidden headlights and sequential taillights made this car stand out from all others. I am proud to say that I am a classic Cougar owner and in my mind, nothing else compares.

Q: How long have you been a member of High Desert Cougar Club of Oregon? The CCOA?

A: I joined the CCOA in 2017. And, I founded the HDCC in 2017.

Q: If you could order a Mercury Cougar from the dealership, describe your dream Cougar.

A: I love so many of the Cougars, but I would have to stick with the second generation Cougar as my favorite. If I could, I would order a 1970 Competition Orange Eliminator with a 428 Cobra Jet.

Q: Who has made the biggest impact on your car hobby?

A: That is a tough question to answer. I am going to have to roll with Television and Movies. I watched many shows with cool cars in it and loved all of them. Some of these shows were Herbie the Love Bug movies, The Dukes of Hazzard, Starsky and Hutch, Knight Rider, Speed Buggy, Wacky Racers, The Munsters, Batman, Speed Racer, Smokey and the Bandit, all James Bond movies, The Saint, Grease, The Road Warrior, The Italian Job, Harold & Maude, and so many more. All of the cars in these movies and television shows kept me glued to the screen and played a major influence on me as I grew up. 🐾

– Conan Tigard (CCOA #9870)