

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: MEET THE CCOA BOARD AND REGIONAL CLUB MEMBERS

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Robert Nowland's
1969 RML Mercury Cougar XR-7



High Desert Cougar Club of Oregon

By Conan Tigard (CCOA #9870)

It has been a slow three months here with the High Desert Cougar Club of Oregon, since we are in the middle of winter and there isn't a car show to be had. But even with the lack of shows, the HDCC continues to grow. Last term, we only had one member join us. But this term, we had a whole bunch. At the end of January, the car club here in Oregon is now comprised of 48 members, some with multiple classic Cougars. This club seems to be going global as we now have members in Australia, the United Kingdom, and Canada, although most of the members are in Oregon and other states.

Time to meet our newest members:

Ronnie Simpson of Powell Butte, Oregon with his 1970 Standard Convertible

Doug Shearer of Great Falls, Montana with his 1970 XR-7 Hardtop

Robert Eley of Pendleton, Oregon with his 1970 Standard Hardtop Eliminator Clone and his 1972 XR-7 Hardtop

Larry "Bear" Criteser of Eugene, Oregon with his 1968 Standard Hardtop

Josh Brinson of Martinsville, Indiana with his 1971 XR-7 Convertible

Jared Quaroni of Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada with his 1967 XR-7 Hardtop

Tom Wood of Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada with his 1969 XR-7 Hardtop and 1969 Standard Convertible, both of which are 428 Cobra Jets.

Kyle Edberg of Kennewick, Washington with his 1967 Standard Hardtop

Rod Fobert of Milwaukie, Oregon with his 1967 XR-7 Hardtop

Ken & Dalene Schram of Veneta, Oregon with their 1968 Standard Hardtop

Brad Killip of Salem, Oregon with his 1967 Standard Hardtop

Michael Banks of Portland, Oregon with his 1970 Eliminator

Rock Ace Woodward of Pleasant Grove, Utah with his 1969 XR-7 Convertible and 1967 Standard Hardtop

Jim Davis of Englewood, Colorado with his 1967 Standard Hardtop

Christina Flynn of Salem, Oregon with her 1967 XR-7 Hardtop

David Flynn of Salem, Oregon with his 1968 XR-7 Hardtop

Rodney Beaty of Bakersfield, California with his 1968 XR-7 Hardtop

Roger & Thomas Morrison of Snohomish, Washington with their 1967 Standard Hardtop

Rob Bruce of Dunstable, Bedfordshire, United Kingdom with his 1968 Standard Hardtop

Teb & Barb Cragulets of Mentor, Ohio with their 1969 XR-7 Convertible

I am happy that this is the year to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the 1969 Mercury Cougar. My first car was a 1969 Cougar Standard Hardtop that I bought in 1982 in Santa Barbara, California. I had it for five years and carried me safely back and forth between Santa Barbara, California and Houston, Texas multiple times. I even added a trailer

hitch and hauled a small U-Haul trailer behind me. Those drives were long in the '80s when the speed limit was still 55 mph. Those drives in my '69 Cougar are forever etched into my memory. The desert was hot and dry and I had to run my heater to avoid overheating. Man, that was HOT! One time, I looked to my left and saw a wall of sand moving my way. Realizing it was a massive sandstorm, I punched it and outran it (thank you 351 Windsor). On one of my trips, the dash lights were out and I fell asleep at 2 am . . . driving. Luckily, the highway was empty and my alignment was good, so I stayed rolling down the highway fairly straight. I was halfway off the highway on the right going about 30 mph when a car came up behind me and beeped at me. Boy, that was scary. That '69 Cougar sure left an impression on me and I missed it for almost 30 years until I bought my 1970 Houndstooth Cougar. To me, the Cougar is the best darned car in the world and I am happy to declare my love for this wonderful car. 🐾

– **Conan Tigard**

High Desert Cougar Club

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*Ted & Barb Cragulets' 1969
Mercury Cougar XR-7
Convertible*



*Juli Oatham's 1969 Mercury Cougar XR-7
Convertible*



*Ben & Kathy Hasson's 1969 Mercury Cougar
XR-7 Convertible*



*Tom Wood's 1969 Mercury
Cougar Convertible*



*Julie Oatham's 1969 Mercury
Cougar XR-7 Convertible*



*Robert Cummings' Dark Aqua 1969 Mercury
Cougar XR-7 Convertible*



Robert Cummings' 1969 Mercury Cougar



Tom Wood's 1969 Mercury Cougar XR-7



Conan Tigard's 1969 Mercury Cougar