

# RUMBLES



DON FRIEBE  
MEMBER'S RIDES

FORDS &  
FRIENDS 2026

SWAP MEET  
JUNE 28TH

[WWW.EARLYFORDV8VICTORIA.COM](http://WWW.EARLYFORDV8VICTORIA.COM)

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# RUMBLES - THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the April 2026 edition of the Early Ford V8 Club 109 Rumbles Newsletter.

In this month's issue an update on Fords and Friends 2026. Our show is at a crucial point. The need for every member of the club to step up to help as volunteer at the show or join the committee is important.

On the front cover - Don Friebe with his 1935 Ford in his shop. Perhaps, one of the cleanest shop in town.

The Members' Ride features Club 109 member Don Friebe taking the spotlight.

A note of gratitude to Past President Chris Chown for his contributions to the past few RUMBLES. Chris provided some great pieces for this edition, as well.

We hope you continue to enjoy the Rumbles Newsletter.

The Rumbles Newsletter will only get better with your participation. If you come across a great article, tech tip, joke or video you think other members would like, please send them our way. Contributions are always welcome and sincerely appreciated.

Send submissions to Rumbles via email to [don.landels@gmail.com](mailto:don.landels@gmail.com)

Cheers,  
Don Landels & Ralf St. Clair



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# REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

## Regular Meeting Minutes - April 14th, 2026

*Next regular meeting at Berwick House 7:00PM May 12th , 2026*

Early Ford V-8 Club Regional Group 109 Vancouver Island  
Minutes of Club Meeting April 14 th, 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

**1. Opening remarks**, Lauri Stevens, Vice -President.

a. Lauri welcomed members and guest Mike Nicholson to the meeting.

### **2. Minutes**

a. The March minutes, distributed in February Rumbles, were considered approved.

### **3. Old Business**

None

### **4 .Correspondence**

a. Newsletter from RG149 received and circulated.

b. Vic High is organising a car show in honour of alumni and have invited members with a connection to the school to attend. Ralf will help organise a list for them!

### **6. Committee Reports**

a. Ford & Friends. The committee met and is moving forward on the following items:

i. Heritage Acres booked for 12 July and deposit/fees paid.

ii. Food. Organised. Island Culinary, ice cream and mini-donuts.

iii. First Aid. Booked Elite Security once more.

iv. Music. Elvis and Late Shift (the Late Elvis?)

v. Registration. \$20 at the gate.

vi. Visitors. \$5 per head/\$15 per car-load.

vii. Sponsors. In process. Co-op already agreed (thanks Don!)

viii. Requested club advice on destination for donations. Decided: WIN Transition House, Mustard Seed and Salvation Army.

ix Requested advice regarding awards (fewer, more, none, etc.). Decided: Award two, Best Flathead and Participants' Choice.



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### 7. New Business

- a. Once more, please sign up for the Swap Meet at the end of June! This is good revenue for the club and a great event.
- b. Dawson brought up the possibility of club/FNF license plates. Some discussion of cost and number. Dawson to do more scouting.

### 8. Announcements

None

### 9. Buy and Sell.

- a. Sylvie Pemberton has loads of Hot Rod magazines and posters to pass along.
- b. Mark is selling a 1955 Ford Fairlane (can be seen on Facebook). \$14000 obo.
- c. Lauri is passing along a 1947 Mercury Coupe. \$21500. Plus, a Mustang front end. \$375. Plus 2" drop spindles, price unknown.
- d. Bill is selling his immaculate 35 Fordor. Offers to \$27,500.

### 10. Call to adjourn.

50/50 Results. Blind Spot Mirror: Al. Gift bags: Lauri, Dennie. Big \$ prize: Mike.



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# MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT - BRUCE SOMERS

No report this month - Our Club President has been enjoying the Hawaiian sun this past month. Bruce will be back to his duties at the May club meeting.

Let's hope Bruce brings some chocolate covered Macadamia nuts to the next meeting!



# 109 CLUB EXECUTIVE 2026

PRESIDENT	BRUCE SOMERS	250-478-9951 BSOMERS00@HOTMAIL.COM
VICE PRESIDENT	LAURI STEVENS	250-479-7565 LAURISTEVENS@SHAW.CA
SECRETARY	RALF ST. CLAIR	250-250-2502 RALF@SELKIE.CA
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PAST PRESIDENT	HEIDI BADA	250-470-4232 HEIDIBADA@GMAIL.COM
DIRECTOR	DAWSON VALGARDSON	778-587-9150 DGUY7775@GMAIL.COM



## MEMBER'S RIDE - DON FRIEBE

Our Member's Ride features Don Friebe this month. From a battered Thames van at age fourteen to a half-century love affair with iron and chrome — Don has had a trip through automotive history.

### The First Car

It began, as so many obsessions do, with boredom. At fourteen years old, with lawn mowers already fully disassembled and offering no further intellectual reward, Don acquired his first vehicle. A 1959 Thames van a British Ford product, and set about learning everything it had to teach him. He wasn't old enough to drive it legally, but that was beside the point entirely.



### The Beaumont Years

Sometime in 1978, he found the car he had always wanted without quite knowing he was looking for it: a 1967 Beaumont, photographed proudly on the front lawn of his home. The honeymoon was brief. Not long after that photograph was taken, the clear coat began peeling with the enthusiasm of a bad sunburn, rendering the car, in his own estimation, "too ugly to drive." There was only one honourable response: take it completely apart.



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## MEMBER'S RIDE - DON FRIEBE

A full body-off restoration was commenced with conviction. Then fate, as it tends to do, intervened in the form of a certain five-window Ford. The Beaumont was relocated to the basement, where it has remained ever since – not abandoned, never abandoned, but waiting with the particular patience of unfinished things.



### **A Summer That Changed Everything**

The summer of 1979 proved to be a pivotal season. Don went to work for a man named Andrew Timmis, spending those warm months building 1934 Ford roadsters. It was the kind of education no classroom provides. The experience lodged itself permanently. For years afterward he dreamed of building a 1934 Tudor street rod of his own. He has, even now, a rough body shell waiting for its moment.

In the professional world, he spent 33 years as a Honda technician – a career built on precision, diagnostics, and an encyclopaedic understanding of how engines think. It is the kind of work that teaches patience, a quality that would serve him well when, in early 2017, a 1935 Ford five-window coupe entered his life.



## MEMBER'S RIDE - DON FRIEBE

### The '35 Ford: A Work in Progress

He is candid about the car's provenance: its history before he found it is largely a mystery. What Don does know is that it arrived carrying some substandard restoration components — parts he believes to have originated in Argentina, that required replacing. The hunt for correct pieces has occupied the years since. A fine original grille was eventually sourced. The running boards were found to be in good structural shape but stubbornly refuse to fit, requiring sheet metal surgery before the new rubber covers he's located can be properly installed.

He has been accumulating parts patiently. At present, he is elbow-deep in the electrical system.



Somewhere in the basement, the Beaumont waits. Somewhere in a corner, a rough 1934 Tudor shell dreams of becoming a street rod. And in the garage, a 1935 Ford five-window coupe is, wire by wire, being brought back to life by a man who has never once stopped asking what the next challenge might be.

## 45 Years Strong!

This year's Ford and Friends is shaping up to be a terrific event. We're back at Heritage Acres again on Sunday 12th July. Many things are the same as recent years, though there are a couple of changes, which I'll come back to later.

Setting up the show is getting easier each year. Quite often the people who are part of the event every year—Heritage Acres and Elite Security for First Aid, for example—get in touch with us early in the year to confirm the date and the show's needs. This is much appreciated and makes things easier.

We also have a great roster of regular sponsors who make a huge difference to the viability of the show. It remains to be seen what is possible in these difficult economic times, but their generosity makes it possible to rent the space and take care of issues like insurance. They are welcome to come along and set up a vendor booth, as several sponsors have done over the years.

The music this year will come from a supergroup! Elvis and Late Shift together at last! This is going to be quite an event and loads of fun, so hopefully people will get a real kick out of it. I'm looking forward to it a great deal.

That brings us to this year's differences. The first is that we are going back to registration on the gate. Last year we tried out an electronic registration tool. It worked very well, but it was quite a lot of extra labour for all involved and required people to go online to register. This year people will be expected to turn up with \$20 in their hot little hands and be registered (and get a gate package) right away.

The second change is for spectators. We've been asking for donations for the last few years, with mixed results. We have been able to pass along a significant sum of money, but perhaps less than it could be.

This year we'll be implementing a fixed price of \$5 per person/\$15 a carload. The money will still be donated to Mustard Seed, Salvation Army and WIN Transition House, but hopefully the sum can be a little higher.

# FORDS & FRIENDS 2026



## 45 Years Strong!

The third changes is parking. This is the hardest area to get volunteers for, with Bruce, a Lauri, Sylvie, Amy and myself having spent MANY hours out on the field.

This year we'll be paying a volunteer group to take care of it, which is an extra cost but deals simply with a convenience and safety concern.

So there we are! Please volunteer if you can. This is the 45th year of Ford and Friends (though not the 45th show) so let's make it a great day to remember!

The next Fords and Friends committee meeting will follow the May monthly meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Please plan on staying and join the meeting if you are interested in contributing in anyway.

Ralph



# CLUB NEWS

## SWAP MEET 2026

The Automotive Social Event of the year is Sunday, June 28th at Saanich Fairgrounds 1528 Stelly's Cross Road. Gates open for the public at 8:00 a.m.

The swap meet is a collaboration of the Victoria Vintage Car Club, Torque Masters and the Early Ford V8 Club 109.

Our club is responsible to provide volunteers for a variety of duties on June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. **Please talk to Dawson to sign up for a shift.**

Automobiles, Trucks, Parts, Literature, Tools & Collectibles

General Admission: \$5.00 per person, INCLUDING VENDORS

Open to the Public

Free Parking

Learn More [SwapMeet2026](#)



Sponsored by:



Rumbles Apr. 2026

# ODDS & ENDS FROM CLUB MEMBERS & OTHERS

From the desk of Past Club President, Chris Chown

## A Monster Winther Snowblower Perfect for Oak Bay. B.C.



We are in the middle of an old fashioned New England blizzard this morning with snow coming down at the rate of two inches an hour. This lead me to thinking about photos with snow, but then I remembered these incredible photos of Winther rotary snow plows as they called them at the time. This one is quite a machine with a huge six-cylinder engine that powers the blower and a second smaller one to power the truck. This blower engine appears to be Wisconsin t-head of about 1000 cubic inch judging by the size.

Martin P. Winther incorporated Winther Motor and Truck Company in December 1916, initially manufacturing a rear-drive Winther truck. Shortly after, the factory manufactured the 4-wheel-drive Winther truck, and the Winther passenger car 1920-23. The truck cabs were open and fitted with low doors. Initial capacities were 2, 3, 4 and 6 tons and were priced from \$2,750 to \$4,600. Later vehicles extended the line and included trucks in the 1 to 7 ton range.

As early as 1919 the company claimed that the Winthers vehicles were the dominating truck in the U.S. Navy.



## ODDS & ENDS FROM CLUB MEMBERS & OTHERS

The smaller (1-2 ton) trucks were aimed at the agricultural market, while the heavier models were intended for use in the logging, fire fighting, and snowplowing industries. The latter made early use of rotary plows; one of the largest used two engines, the rear one over the rear axle to drive the truck and the front one for the plow, with the fully-enclosed cab between.

In the 1920s, electric starters were added to most vehicles. In 1926, the company produced five vehicle styles ranging from 1 1/2 to 5/7 tons. In its last year the products were renamed Winther-Kenosha, and in the summer of 1927 the plant was sold to H.P. Olsen. Text and photos courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society.



# MARKETPLACE

Sylvie Pemberton has loads of Hot Rod magazines and posters to pass along.

Mark is selling a 1955 Ford Fairlane (can be seen on Facebook). \$14000 obo.

Lauri is passing along a 1947 Mercury Coupe. \$21500. Plus, a Mustang front end. \$375. Plus 2" drop spindles, price unknown.

Bill is selling his immaculate 35 Fordor. Offers to \$27,500.

## Found on the web.

This month's Rumbles is being sent from our son's home in North Carolina, so I grabbed a vehicle from just down the road. Maybe I should buy it and drive back to Victoria!

EACH MONTH WE'LL FEATURE A CLASSIC FOUND ON THE INTERNET FOR SALE. THIS MONTH'S CAR IS A [1940 FORD DELUXE TUDOR SEDAN](#) FROM CONCORD, NC AND IT'S YOURS FOR \$39,500 USD.



## A little chuckle

### How NOT to go on Vacation

Billy Bob and Dale were talking one afternoon when Billy Bob tells Dale, "Yaw know, I reckon I'm 'bout ready for a vacation. Only this year I'm gonna do it differently. The last few years, I took your advice about where to go. Three years ago, you said to go to Hawaii. I went to Hawaii and Earlene got pregnant. Then two years ago, you told me to go to Mexico, and Earlene got pregnant again. Last year you suggested Bahamas and darned if Earlene didn't get pregnant again."

Dale asks Billy Bob, "So, what you gonna do this year that's different?" "I'm taking Earlene with me."



# THIS MONTH IN FORD HISTORY

This April, Ford history is dominated by the iconic Mustang, which debuted on April 17, 1964, at the New York World's Fair, selling over 22,000 units on its first day. Other key April milestones include the 1927 end of Model T production and various manufacturing advances that defined Ford's legacy of mass production.

Other historical Ford Motor Co. events in April:

- **April 17, 1964:** The Ford Mustang is unveiled at the New York World's Fair, becoming an instant pop-culture icon.
- **April 1965:** Just one year after its debut, over 400,000 Mustangs were sold.
- **April 1927:** Production of the Model T began winding down, with the last one rolling off the line shortly after on May 26, 1927.
- **March 2026** (Recent History): Ford celebrated Women's History Month by highlighting women's contributions to automotive innovation, including a "Men's Only" Explorer campaign to highlight missing features.

Check it out here: [Men's Only" Explorer](#)



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# RUMBLES- APRIL 2026

This newsletter is provided to EFV8 109 members and associates of the Early Ford V8 Club R.G.109.

Should you wish to contribute an item or offer comments please contact Don Landels at [don.landels@gmail.com](mailto:don.landels@gmail.com) or Ralf St. Clair at [ralf@selkie.ca](mailto:ralf@selkie.ca)

All previous editions of the Rumbles Newsletter are available on the 109-club website. Please visit [www.earlyfordv8victoria.com](http://www.earlyfordv8victoria.com)

Your feedback and comments are always appreciated. Input is used to improve the quality and diversify. Don't be shy.

Thank you all for your support and participation.

