



Pictured: DNR Pilot- Dave Ritchie (left) and Jeremy West, DNR Director of Wildland Fire Maintenance (right)



Skamania County Historical Society and Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center

Explorations



Current topics >>>

Special Thank You:

*Washington State Department of Natural Resources-
Wildland Fire Management Division (NASF)*

September 21st, 2022 CGICM hosted NASF for their state dinner, featuring demonstrations of its fire aviation crew. An interview with pilot Dave Ritchie and Jeremy West, Director of Maintenance, helped CGICM better understand the hard work that goes into fighting wildfires with the use of the UH1H (Huey) Helicopter Crews (not to mention the airplane crews also involved)!

Washington has 10 UH1H helicopters with 15 pilots, 7 mechanics, 40 Helitack Firefighters, 14 Drivers for refueling and supplies, and 9 bases throughout the State (Vancouver and Dallesport are closest to Columbia Gorge Fires). The UH1H pictured above has the capacity for 323 gallons of water (and can also mix with fire retardant if environmentally safe). It is also equipped with a 240-gallon water bucket for fighting fires within mountain cervices and hard to reach areas, like seen in the Gorge.

UH1H pilots, like Dave, fight fires while sitting in a 120–140-degree helicopter, no AC, while working a 12-hour shift, that is 10 hours inside a hot cockpit! All while worrying about their team and loved ones fighting below! CGICM would like to give a special thank you to the incredible men & women, and their families, involved in fighting wildfires throughout the northwest and beyond!

THANK YOU!!!

New Exhibit:

“Unfiltered Expressions”

by Gary Terry

*CGICM welcomes visitors to the new Art Exhibit:
“UNFILTERED EXPRESSIONS” featuring Columbia
Gorge Contemporary Abstract Artist Gary Terry!*



Gary Terry, originally from Klamath Falls, Oregon settled in The Gorge in 1999 using his artistic talents in his private works, as well as in the illustrator and multi-media fields. Inspired at a young age by the great works of American Artists Charles Russel, Jackson Pollack, and Helen Frankenthaler. Gary quickly moved from a young boy begging his mom for more drawing paper, to selling his art as a High School student!

His love of fine art eventually took him to both the Colorado Institute of Art and Southern Oregon University, this continued study of the fine arts helped Gary to refine his skills and find his own artistic voice in the world of abstract expressionism, as seen in CGICM’s new exhibit. Be sure to stop by today and see Gary’s creative combination of recycled paints and natural elements, it is an exquisite representation of raw emotion and talent.

“Unfiltered Expressions” officially opened on September 9th with local winery “Domaine Pouillon” founded by Alexis and Juliet Pouillon in 2005, in Lyle WA. Domaine Pouillon featured a delicious variety of wine from their vineyard, their traditional artisan winemaking added the perfect flavor to a night of talent and history-TIMELESS! CGICM would like to thank both Gary and Domaine Pouillon for a special night attended by over 40 visitors. Remember, Gary’s prints and cards are also available for purchase or ordering at CGICM.

Don’t miss out on future “The Perfect Pairing: Wine, Art & History” events as they are scheduled...watch your email and newsletter for the next featured exhibit and open house at CGICM! We look forward to hosting you and your family or friends.



CGICM Welcomes 2 New Board of Directors:



Board Pictured left to right: Tony Lawson-Treasurer, Barbara Perry- Vice President, Mark McCormick-President, Jesse Renville, April Gilbert-Secretary, Brian Riffel, Glenn Veltkamp. Missing: Tom Lannen

CGICM would like to welcome to the Board of Directors Jesse Renville and Brian Riffel, as well as thank Shelley Hays and Kevin Waters for their dedicated service and support as board members over the years- you will both be missed! The following is a brief introduction to our new directors:

Brian Riffel- drawn by the beauty of the Gorge, Brian and his wife Hilary moved to Stevenson in March 2020. Brian has years of experience and education working with nonprofit management (ex: Autzen Foundation, Hollywood Theatre, as well as a director for Bradley Angle, domestic violence provider). Currently Brian is the Executive Director of the Randall Charitable Trust in Portland, OR. Brian looks forward to bringing his nonprofit expertise to help preserve the history of his new community.

Jesse Renville- 2010 Stevenson High graduate and resident since 1994, owner of a local repair shop in Stevenson, as well as 10 years' experience with the railroad as an inspector. Jesse is an amateur historian and enjoys working on WWII era equipment. As such, he was unable to resist the opportunity to join CGICM and volunteer his experience for future historical renovations!



Special Congratulations to visitors, Kim and Gordan Mortiboy (pic. above), true explorers from Church Stretton, England for completing their 19-year journey of all 50 states via road trip!

CGICM was pleased to have Kim and Gordan stop in at the end of a journey that started in 2003, taking them across the vast lands, culture, and history of the United States. What an amazing way to end an incredible adventure! CGICM was honored to be a part of their incredible journey.

VISITOR'S CORNER

"So well done! One of the best museums of local history we have seen."

-Canton, Ohio

"Very much enjoyed your exhibits and films, thank you!"

-Devon, United Kingdom

"Wonderful, a local jewel!"

-Vancouver, Washington

July-Sep 2022 Visitor Count: 6986

Look Back in Time:

Strawberry Island & The Hamilton Family

If you have strolled through the grasses on Strawberry Island in North Bonneville, WA, or sat on a bench to watch the sunset from the top of it, you may not have known you were surrounded not just by beauty, but a rich heritage dating back to 1805 and no doubt even centuries before! (Pic: Photo by C.E. Watkins 1867 of Strawberry/Hamilton Island with Steamboat "Cascades" at the lower landing, Hamilton farm on the left and Portage Railroad lower right.)

November 1st, 1805: "I walked through this Island which I found to be a very rich land...covered with grass interspersed with strawberry vines. I observed several places on this Island where the natives had dug for roots," wrote Meriwether Clark thus earning the island's name "Strawberry Island," as it is fondly called by locals even today.

Years later, in 1850 Samuel M. Hamilton and his wife Mary Jane took out a land claim (640 acres) which included ½ of "Strawberry Island" and what is known as Hamilton Creek today. As a result, "Strawberry Island" was later named Hamilton Island after the family (as well as Hamilton Creek and Hamilton Mountain, frequently climbed today by visitors). The Hamilton's arrived in October of 1850 after crossing the Oregon Trail from Illinois with 4 little children, their oldest son Jason being only 6 years old! Later raising all 8 of their children on the banks of "Strawberry Island," the Hamilton Family witnessed great changes to their homestead and neighborhood over the years, not to mention the vast changes in transportation from wagons to airplanes:

- 1852- Steamboat Landing and Goods Storehouse built on Island
- 1856 Military Builds Fort Cascade on the east side of Hamilton Slough
- Cascade Township is formed next to Hamilton Island (1850-1894), the 3rd town north of the Columbia River to be mapped out, and for a while, the largest in Washington Territory with 134 residents in the 1880 census (including the Hamilton Family). Also, the original county seat of Skamania (1853), as well as the location of the first school in Skamania County.
- March 1856 Cascade Massacre burned Fort Cascade, as well as the Hamilton Family homestead...both rebuilt shortly after. Samuel Hamilton also worked as the Postmaster for the town of Cascade, according to the 1871 US Register.
- 1863 Cascade Portage Railroad, spanned from the Lower Landing on Hamilton Island 6 miles east to the Upper Landing near present-day Stevenson.
- The Great Flood of 1894 destroying the Fort and town of Cascade
- 1920's early aviation landing strip on Strawberry Island.
- Hamilton children went on to touch many avenues of Skamania History from Local Government, Fishwheel Industry, Railroad, and even the Hot Spring Hotel Industry!

COUPON!!!

CGICM
Winter Gift Shop Discount
15% OFF
Pick Up Local Gifts Today: Jewelry, Art, and Much More
Valid Until January 1st, 2023



Mark Your Calendar >>>

December 3rd, 2022
"Christmas in the Gorge"
2:30-4:00 pm

Holiday refreshments, Sing Along,
Christmas Movies, and Meet Santa! FREE



Busy Summer At CGICM!

*25th Annual Show and Shine and 29th Annual Silent Auction and Dinner...
Special Thank You to all the 2022 Summer Event Sponsors!*

80's Auction Dinner a Success...

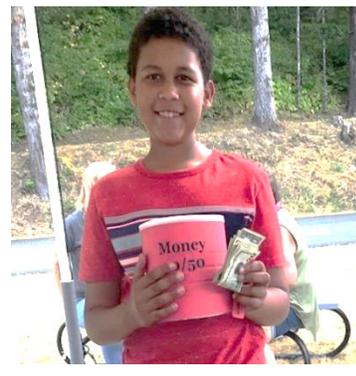
Saturday, July 16th 2022 over a hundred people joined the Museum decked out in all their 80's finest! Surrounded by 80's Tunes, Pac-Man, Slinky, and Rubik Cube this gala was a stunning success and a lot of fun! Featuring an incredible buffet by Skamania Lodge, and Trivia/Games by Stevenson's very own mayor Scott Anderson!

Due to auction bids, not to mention the incredible donation of 51 auction items from local businesses, The Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum raised over \$12,000 dollars dedicated to the preservation of our local history! This night would not have been possible without the support of Skamania County citizens and business owners. Thank You for your unending support, and we look forward to next year!

We would like to give a special shout out to our Table Sponsors:

Edward Jones
Angel Heights
Whiskey Flatts
Seekins/McGrews Family
Lannen Family
Lawson Family
Hollis Family
Eagles #1744
Skyline Health

*And a SPECIAL THANK YOU to CGICM's Store Manager **Jessica Chamberlin** for her amazing hard work on the Auction...as well as 21 volunteers that made both events a success by their generous hard work!! Never to forget the dedicated support of the rest of the CGICM team: Georgia, Dan, Jim, Andrea, and Rob!!*

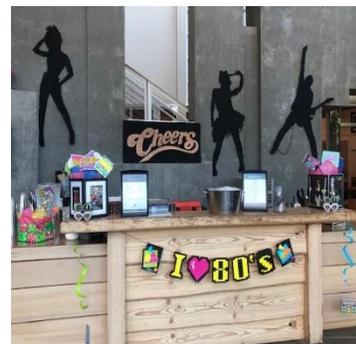


25th Anniversary of CGICM's Show N' Shine...

Saturday, September 3rd 2022, the parking lot at CGICM was covered in antique cars and trucks from the past 100 years! Over 1200 people enjoyed the FREE event featuring 126 beautiful and unique auto entrees, fantastic classic tunes from BadMotorScooter 7.0 sponsored by Riverview Bank (and featuring CGICM's Board member Glenn Veltkamp), and amazing raffle items thanks to local businesses!

The Show N' Shine raised over \$8,000 dollars to support the maintenance of our award-winning Interpretive Center Museum, an integral part of Skamania County, as it welcomes over 21,000 visitors each year including 1,000's from out of state and even out of country! CGICM thanks everyone involved with the 25th Anniversary Show N' Shine, including the many faithful volunteers, and look forward to many more to come! Keep on the watch for next year's new t-shirt and poster design!

"What a cool and relaxed show. This only made me more appreciative of "small town," stated Roger Billings from Portland, Oregon. "I had such an enjoyable day and left recharged to face problems in Portland." Roger won this year's "Judges Choice: Best in Show" for his top-notch entry of a 1956 Ford F-100. See back page of newsletter for a list of this year's trophy winners and sponsors!



These events were also sponsored in part by Stevenson and Skamania County Lodging Taxes...thank you for your continued support!

2022 Show N' Shine Trophy Sponsors & Winners

MOPAR (Big River Grill):

'73 Plymouth, Duster – Dale McCombs

GM (Scoopy's Social Club):

'57 Chevy – Chuck Kessinger

FoMoCo (Skamania County Skates):

'39 Ford, COE – Steve Albert

Under Construction (Gorge Napa):

'53 Chevy Suburban - Stuart Vanrys

Old School Rod (Carson General Store):

'17 Ford, Model T - Clyde Taylor

Orphaned (Skamania County Skates):

'67 Rambler, American- Dan Casswell

Sports Car (Main Street Store):

2006 Ford, GT 40 – Jerry Heckman

Import (Skamania Chamber of Commerce):

'92 Mazda AutoZam, AZ1 - Mondo Diek

20's (Rock Cove Assisted Living):

'29 Hudson, Sedan - Brent & Teresa Jordan

30's (Wind Mt. Plumbing):

'32 Ford, Roadster – Ted Johnson

40's (McCaskell Construction):

'40 Ford, Standard Coupe- Linda & Larry Hurst

50's (Scoopy's Social Club):

'56 Chevy, Corvette – Larry Parker

60's (Crazy Ray's Fireworks):

'61 Facel Vega, HK500 - Bill Miller

70's (Arrowhead Accounting):

'71 Chevy Chevelle – Jasen Tennison

80's (BigFoot Coffee Roasters):

'81 Cadillac, Coffin Hearse - Coffingur

Best Club Participation (Big River Grill):

Mid-Columbia Car Club (7 entries)

Judge's Choice: Best of Show (CGICM):

'56 Ford, F-100 – Roger Billings (pictured)



**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU
TO ALL OUR SPONSORS!**

*Including Riverview Bank for Sponsoring our
band **BadMotorScooter 7.0**
and Skamania/Stevenson Lodging Taxes!!*



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***Sponsored in part by the City of Stevenson and Skamania County Lodging Taxes**