

January 2026

Officers

President –
Denny Bickar
Vice-President –
Todd Wilson
Secretary –
Larry Stott
Treasurer –
Ralph Cook
Public Relations –
Tony Halekakis
Historian –
Steve Reames
Newsletter Editor –
Jim Daly

Message from the President

This was a dark and stormy night. The rain was cold and coming down with vengeance. I was running to where I thought it was safe. The year of 2025 was fading fast. 2026 was ahead of me and I felt an energy and optimism like never before.

I woke up suddenly and realized that my dream was a reality. How many of you thought that you would live this long. Think about it, 2026. If you were born in the 30`s, 40`s or 50`s 2026 was a long time out there. My, how the years have gone by. The past has defined who we are and the future can show us who we can become.

That is why I have a vision for where the Pushrods of Hoquiam can go places that are new and exciting for us.

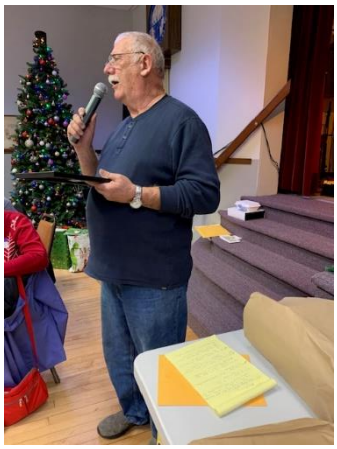
We need to acknowledge members who passed away this year. Don Hoffman, Diane DeLaCruz, Trish Halekakis, John Livingston, Walt and Barb Huffman, Darrell Bell. Fred Scott and Steve Reames have spent a lot of time going through our past records and have found past members of the Pushrods of Hoquiam and Fred has created a memorial for them. Their names and all future members, when they pass, will be remembered. Over 40 names were added to the memorial. Thank you, Fred and Steve, for taking time to do this.

The 2025 Charity auction was a huge success, headed up by Patty Rager with a lot of help from Fred Scott and others, was something we can be proud of and build on. Great Job.

Our spaghetti feed was good, but we need to reach out farther to others. It might be a great place to have a membership drive event.



Our annual Christmas meeting/party was a success. The Christmas committee did a great job putting it together. Special shout out to Melanie Sorgenfrei, Bob Bush, and Paula Thompson for helping getting things in place. Thanks everyone for the toy drive. This is a feel-good moment.



During the awards I give out, I forgot to give special recognition to Todd Wilson (vice-president), Ralph Cook (Treasurer) and Larry Stott (secretary) for being our new officers in the club. Jim Daly for taking over the cooking duties and helping with the newsletter and so much more. All are doing great work.

Our current Pushrod project is to improve the property next to the Hoquiam Elks building. We are getting a permit for fill dirt, the City of Hoquiam has the dirt for us, Quigg Bros has agreed to let us use their equipment and our Timeless machine operator Okie Thompson has agreed to help get the land in shape for use. The idea is that we can utilize the lot for our Hot Rods in Hoquiam car show.

Some exciting new developments are happening. The City of Hoquiam has approached us to combine a city celebration in conjunction with our Hot Rods in Hoquiam car show. RiverFest will be the same days as our show.

They are talking about carnival, kids' activities, activities on the river, vendors, a concert at Olympic stadium, fireworks and other things that can enhance our show. We have already booked Danny Vernon for his Elvis show and we are talking to the Elks to make them a part of everything.

This year is special because this is the 250th year of the United States of America. We are using that theme for added clout to try to get 250 cars at our show. A big dream and task, but if you don't put it out there it won`t get done. So let us go for it.

Our charity auction for 2026 will be February 15 at the Hoquiam Elks. We need all members to contribute in some way to make this another success. Auction items, manpower, solicitations, cash or whatever. This is a chance for all members of this club in a small way to make us proud to be a member. Time goes by so fast anymore and February will be here before we know it. Patty has made January 28th a deadline to get everything for the auction. Get R Done.

For 2026 Hot Rods in Hoquiam, we are changing some things up a bit. 1) This is the last year for a show T-shirt with a member's car on it. We are having the Best of Show car on next year's shirt and dash plaque. 2) We are changing up the awards categories. 3) Stickers on award winner's headlights. Maybe add a car corral, swap meet. 4) No preregisters this year. 5) Get posters out early.

I'm talking to the Hoquiam Schools about doing a club presentation to them to get some young people interested and I would like to put on a cruise-in or two at the school.

We are going to have more little get-togethers as a club at different places and have a hot dog or two. On February 27th (Friday) the Pushrods of Hoquiam are taking the Five Star van to the Quinault Lake Lodge for dinner. I have 8 spots open. If interested, let me know ASAP.

I have Pushrod Parking Only signs available. $20 See me.

I want to have all members of the PUSHRODS of HOQUIAM to be excited about 2026. Have FUN, PARTICIPATE. ENJOY WHAT WE HAVE and ENJOY the TIME WE HAVE LEFT.

Denny

Calendar

Jan 7th, 6:30pm - Business Meeting, Hoquiam Elks
Jan 13, Noon -- Welcome Inn, Hoquiam
Jan21, Noon -- Gil's Shop
Jan 23, 6pm -- Dinner, Oriental Palace, Aberdeen
February 27th (Friday) Dinner at the Quinault Lake Lodge -- More details to come.

Christmas Meeting/Party



Figure 1: Good looking prizes.











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