

2020 – The Year That Wasn't

2021 – The Year That Is

the return of our rally and the resumption of our unique and joyous friendships. From the board members of Shifting Gears, we hope you have come through the last year in good health for you and your family and we welcome you back to the Shifting Gears Rally.

We are sad to start on the serious note that one of our members will have to be with us vicariously as he follows our progress from home. Our good and dear friend, Dave Devlin is fighting through a difficult cancer situation, which is why he is not on the rally with us. Nowhere has the proverb, "Silent waters run deep" been truer than for the calm thoughtful contributions Dave Devlin has made to Shifting Gears and to all of us as a friend. Dave is a champion of positive spirit as he works through this challenge and he sends you all his best wishes and reminds us when on a rally to always, Keep the Rubber Side Down!

A lot has happened for Shifting Gears since seeing you at the 2019 rally. We launched our Car Appreciation and Preservation Program in the Marin County High Schools. For two semesters we were able to run, before Covid, and had classes of 26 and 22 students enrolled. Unlike the typical Auto Shop with students filling time and space, our groups were eager young folks, actively engaged with us, our instructor, and the opportunity to learn about the accomplishment and pleasure of working with cars. We had wonderful community and auto industry cooperation with the donation of money, six complete sets of tools, 6 rolling toolboxes, engine stands, engines, transmissions and clutch assemblies, suspensions, brakes and a shipping container to house them. The Superintendent of Schools and the senior administration were impressed and very pleased with the level of success we achieved in such a short time. With the support of the Shifting Gear board, Charlie Goodman, Ken Gosliner and Tom O'Neill were the architects of this creative new program. Finally, we are anticipating a new class starting up with the next fall semester.

Also big on the list of accomplishments in 2020 was the formal regeneration of Shifting Gears as a functioning 501c3 non-profit organization. Thanks to the

tireless work of Gary Spratling, we have a new IRS and State of California recognized organization with by-laws, policies and procedures, properly seated officers and orderly scheduled board meetings that produce results. The board officers are Charlie Goodman-Chairman, Gary Spratling – Vice Chairman, Geoff Smith – Treasure, and Mark Eastman – Secretary. Complimenting these developments, with the knowledge and diligent work, Michael Mackintosh has researched and found excellent insurance coverage for the organization and for our individual activities.

This next one is BIG. After a sabbatical of a couple of years, Sue Counselman has realized that neither she nor we can live without each other. Sue has returned as our Administrator and Chief Go To Get It Done person!

Other big news is that Gary Philips and Ken Gosliner got new Corvette Z-51's. They have been through the Chevrolet High Performance Driving School, so thinking that they are now race drivers, the roads of Marin are smoldering and may never recover!

That motoring news leads us to our 2021 Rally! This cannot be discussed without a huge recognition of the trials, tribulations and hard work provided by the Three G's. That would be Gary Spratling, Gary Philips and Gary Cohen; The Rally Committee. The loss of last year's rally created a quagmire of communications, negotiating committed contracts, deposits, and refunds. At the same time, the plans for the hoped for 2021 rally were developed. Throw in the uncertainties of how State Covid restrictions would play out with our schedule, the reluctance of many of our venue operators to commit to service and the Three G's have had their hearts and minds in a spin trying to get it all sorted.

Boy oh Boy, though, have they got it worked like a Swiss stopwatch at a road rally! Starting from Auburn, like emigrants up the Mormon Trail, we run up the stunning Sierra roads and over Carson Pass, meandering down to Lake Tahoe and on to Squaw Valley where we will ensconce at the fantastic Resort at Squaw Creek for two nights. A sumptuous dinner at the highly regarded Plumpjack Café will set us up for the delightfully challenging Day 2.

Day 2 will take us up to an over the infamous Donner Pass where we will visit the museum that shows the results of a party who did not plan as well as our 3 G's have. The highlight of Day 2 will be another running of The Great Race like we

enjoyed so much in 2019. The rest of the day will see us cruise North up the Sierra ridge line along scenic CA-89 for a stop at the Golden West Saloon in “The Loneliness Town in America”. Bring your cowboy boots, Stetson and six-gun so we don’t embarrass ourselves as we sashay into the Golden West! The day ends with another terrific dinner at the well-known Lake Tahoe eatery, Gar Woods Grill & Pier at Carnelian Bay.

For Day 3, put your cowboy gear in the barn and bring your PFD (Personal Flotation Device) because we are going on a cruise on Lake Tahoe, to and around the spectacular Emerald Bay. Leaving the resort in the morning, we cruise down the picturesque West shore of Lake Tahoe, ending up at Zephyr Cove to board our boat. After the cruise we’ll tour the East side of the lake to our lunch stop in Kings Beach. Returning to the resort we have the rest of the day to play, hike, bike, chill, or a glass of wine to swill.

It is so good to be back on the road again with such a great group of friends and fine people! Thanks for your support.

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