



THE REDMOND RECORDER

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2022 • VOL. 24 • NO. 8

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

SATURDAY SPEAKER SERIES: AEROJET ROCKETDYNE – HISTORY OF THE REDMOND SITE



From early plant development to the new age: A quiet but internationally known company, Aerojet Rocketdyne, is located on an interesting historical site in Redmond. The York site, as it was once known, has gone through some remarkable changes that stretch from a dead-beat dad's prison to active involvement with spacecraft beyond our solar system. Join us on September 10 as Program Manager **Jack Deboer** recalls the Redmond site's history. For details, see p. 4.

- President **John Oftebro** announces the return of the Saturday Speaker Series—at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse, p. 3.
- Redmond High School Class of '71 celebrates 50th reunion, p. 5.
- **Tom Hitzroth** investigates a new (old) Redmond saloon, p. 6.
- Last Call! Sign up for the September 4th Walking Tour of Redmond's historic district, p. 7.

2022

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

John Oftebro • President
Laura Lee Bennett • Senior Vice President
Ed O'Brien • Vice President Finance
Mary Horabik • Vice President Collections
Deborah Oftebro • Secretary

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Janie Bube
Paige Norman
Jo Ann Potter

ADMINISTRATIVE & COLLECTIONS MANAGER

Halee P. Turner

Our finances are public record and may be viewed at the office.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Laura Lee Bennett

COPY EDITOR

Deb Akerstrom

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Teresa Potter • Urban Dakota Creative

PROOFREADER

Tom Hitzroth

FREE NEWSLETTER

If you don't subscribe, please sign up.
Call the office at **425.885.2919** or email info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org.
State your preference of email or U.S. Mail.
The Historical Society prefers email as it's inexpensive and photos are enhanced online.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/Redmond.Historical.Society/>

THE REDMOND RECORDER

is published ten times annually.

PHONE 425.885.2919

ADDRESS 16600 NE 80th Street #122
Redmond, WA 98052

WEBSITE redmondhistoricalsociety.org

EMAIL info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org

HOURS Please contact the office to schedule an appointment

SOCIETY NEWS

FALL SPEAKER LINEUP

The following programs are scheduled for Fall 2022. Stay tuned for more info on our website!

Saturday Speaker Series, 10:30 am, Old Redmond Schoolhouse

September 10, "Aerojet Rocketdyne: Then, Now & to the Future"

October 8, "How Audio Technology Changed the World"

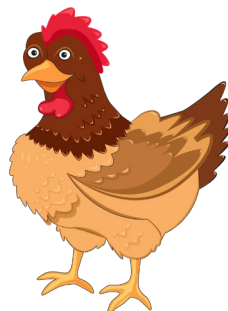
November 12, "The Razor's Edge: The Washington Razor Clam Phenomenon"

Evening Speaker Series, 6:30 pm, Redmond Library

October 12, "Redmond History 101"

MEET THE SOCIETY'S NEW MASCOT

If you visited our booth at Derby Days, you likely cast your vote to name our new mascot. Thanks to all who participated. Meet Henrietta the Chicken! Stay tuned for [family-friendly activities on our website](#) and on these pages. Click here to download a coloring sheet: <https://tinyurl.com/HelloHenrietta>





BACK TO THE SCHOOLHOUSE... WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

By John Oftebro

Our last in-person Saturday Speaker Series at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Auditorium was on February 10, 2018. That's 55 months! And on September 10, 2022, we will welcome you back to the Schoolhouse for our **Revival, Reunion, and Revisit!**

While the Schoolhouse was closed for three years, we gathered at the Senior Center until *it* closed, and then the Public Safety Building until COVID-19 struck in March 2020. Since then, many of you have joined us on Zoom to witness an array of fine speakers, and participated with thoughtful questions and your own anecdotes. We appreciate your loyal support!

Our first program back *in-person* will feature **Jack DeBoer**, Program Manager for Aerojet Rocketdyne, who will give us the history of Rocket Research that took over the York site ("dead-beat dads prison"). Now, as **Aerojet Rocketdyne**, the company is providing the rockets sending satellites—and people—into space. Learn about the Artemis I ("Back to the Moon") program and much more!

You will also have a chance to visit our new Office/Museum in the Schoolhouse. Since moving back into larger space in March 2021, Administrative Manager **Halee Turner**, the Collections team, and other volunteers have turned the Home Economics classroom into a rich and



Full moon over Artemis I.
Image: nasa.gov

unique display of Redmond's past. Check out Redmond's settlement timeline since 1871, wall hangings, paintings, artifacts from early homes and businesses, and exhibits of Redmond's economic history and culture—including recognition of indigenous peoples, who were here long before the pioneers.

We will also be offering a Zoom webinar connection for those of you electing that choice, but we hope to see most of you *in person* to help us **Revive** our dynamic programming, have a **Reunion** with our Society friends, and **Revisit** the Old Redmond Schoolhouse and our Museum.

Welcome back!

ROCKETEERS IN REDMOND: HISTORY OF THE AEROJET ROCKETDYNE SITE

Note: This is a HYBRID program. Join us online or at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse at 16600 NE 80th St., Redmond, WA 98052. If you do join us in person, masking is recommended but not required.

Date and Time: Saturday, September 10, 2022
10:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Registration is required for Zoom component.

To register for this free online presentation:

<https://tinyurl.com/RHSAerojetRocketdyne>



Jack DeBoer

Join us on Saturday, September 10 as **Jack DeBoer**, Program Manager at Aerojet Rocketdyne, recalls the Redmond site's history, starting with the York plat in 1889 to the King County Stockade in the 1920s, transitioning to site development in the late 1960s, finally to what the company does today.

"Rocketeers have been on the Redmond site since 1968," notes DeBoer. "Back then it was known as Rocket Research company. We became part of the larger propulsion community through the acquisition by Aerojet in 2001."

Aerojet Rocketdyne is a world-recognized aerospace and defense leader, providing propulsion and power for space, missile defense,

and strategic systems. Aerojet was called the "General Motors of United States Rocketry" by *Time* magazine in 1958. Five years later, the company employed 34,000 people working on missiles such as the Polaris, Minuteman, Trident, and Titan.

Eastside resident Jack DeBoer is a Program Manager at Aerojet-Rocketdyne who leads teams that develop and support the fabrication of propulsion systems and rocket engines for launch and space vehicles. He holds an MS in Program Management, an MS in Engineering, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. Jack has been involved with rocket engines for 38 years in the space industry.

REDMOND HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF '71 CELEBRATES 50TH (+1) REUNION

By Paige Norman

Fifty-five graduates, along with friends, spouses, and guests attended a 50-year reunion for the Redmond High School Class of 1971 on Saturday, July 16, 2022.

The weekend began with a no-host celebration at Sam's Tavern in Redmond on Friday night, continuing Saturday night with a catered meal at the Redmond Ridge Community Center.

Deb Olson presented memories including first jobs, first cars, and a walk down memory lane on an overhead screen, while Ken Miner provided hours of music from the 1960s through the '80s. Lyle Hendrickson and Dean Sander guided attendees through more class memories and events, while

a "memory table" displayed school newspapers, yearbooks, photos, cheer and gym uniforms, and other class memorabilia.

Congratulations to the Redmond High School Class of 1971 for 51 years!



Redmond High School Class of '71: Friday night pre-reunion get-together at Sam's Tavern, Redmond. Photo by Paige Norman



Jan (Allen) Speed models a gym uniform from RHS circa 1971. Photo by Colleen S (Colvin) Kemp



Memory Table from Redmond High School Class of '71 50th Reunion. Photo by Paige Norman

IDENTIFYING A NEW (OLD) SALOON

By Tom Hitzroth

Last month, **Dean Jowers** wrote a nice [article on the Redmond Saloon](#) and how it had taken 50 years to get an answer to Mr. Sheldon's question. Dean sent me the 1972 Redmond Saloon article to establish where the saloon was located. As I looked at the article, I felt sure I knew where it was located, but prudence still required that I follow the process I always use in making such a distinction.

First, I enlarged the photograph to get more clarity. I made a grid over the photo and then reviewed the photograph with a magnifying glass from right to left, square by square, making notes of *everything* I saw. I studied the signage, construction materials, construction characteristics, position of surrounding buildings, and character of the road and grading. I noticed there was a building on the right margin, located partially behind the saloon. I had seen this building before. I had also seen the

building on the left margin. After an hour, I had made 17 notes on my observations.

Dean was also able to work up an image with improved clarity, so I repeated the entire process. Seeing more definition gave me more points to examine, compare, and note. I then compared a ca. 1897 photograph of **Theodore Youngerman's** store and a ca. 1901 photograph of **Theodore Westby's** store located on the same lot. Comparing those characteristics to the Redmond Saloon photo confirmed that the saloon in the article was on that lot, earlier than Youngerman's ca 1897 store. I was then able to identify on the survey in the Redmond Mapping Project (see image below) where the saloon had been located.

I am now rethinking the timeline of the early growth of Redmond, as it developed from a village into a town.

Unlocking the mystery:
Author's notes showing
the site of the Redmond
Saloon if it were there today.



SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 2022 WALKING TOURS

Since 2003, Tom Hitzroth has led walking tours of Redmond's historic district. Over the years, the tour has evolved from one hour to two, with the script changing as new information is discovered. This year, the tour will incorporate the site of a newly discovered hotel and the site of a 1905 homicide.

A lifelong Eastside resident, Hitzroth continues to work at identifying details of Redmond's development from its earliest time into the 1930s. He is currently investigating the historic site of the settlement of Melrose that preceded Redmond, the land claim area of Redmond, and the historic development of the downtown.



Tom Hitzroth in front
of Justice White House/
Hotel Redmond.
Photo: John Oftebro



2022 Walking Tour Schedule

Sunday September 4, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tours meet as scheduled and begin across the street from the Justice White House/Hotel Redmond (Jensen/Fey Architects) at 7730 NE 76th St. Tours will not be conducted in the rain.

Please be advised that proof of vaccination or a negative test result is not required for this outdoor tour, but masks are encouraged. These events also include a significant amount of walking or standing, with limited opportunities for resting. We recommend wearing comfortable shoes, weather-appropriate clothing, and bringing a water bottle.

Tickets are available for \$10 per person on the Events page at [RedmondHistoricalSociety.org](https://www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org). Registration is required by the Wednesday prior to the tour, and tours are limited to 10 participants. To ensure the group maximum is not exceeded, please make sure your registration includes every member of your party. For further questions, please call our office at 425-885-2919.

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Alexi Girsh	September 14
Cecilia Bordenet	September 14
James Wilhoit	September 22
Joy Blake	September 25
John Bordenet	September 27

If you'd like us to recognize your birthday in upcoming newsletters, please complete the information on your renewal form or email: membership@redmondhistoricalsociety.org.

OUR SOCIETY LIFETIME MEMBERS

Sharon Freeman, Ballisty
Louise Graep Barnes
Laura Lee Bennett
David Best
John and Jay Cogan
Marjorie Costello
John Couch
Cory de Jong
Sally Jo Eberhardt
Betty L. Emmanuel
Tony Emmanuel
Elaine Sween Etzler
Don and Mary Fowler
Frank Garbarino
Peggy Garbarino
Madeleine Roberts Hagen
Mary Hanson
Jerry Hardy
Chris Himes
Duane Isackson
Rosemarie Ives
Patricia Weiss Jovag

Barbara Weiss Joyce
Allen Lang
Judy Aries Lang
Judith M. Lankford
Miguel Angel Llanos
*Cheryl Strong Magnuson
*Gene Magnuson
Jon M. Magnussen
Dorothy Matsui
Diana Morelli
Panfilo Morelli
Allison Reed Morris
Jackie Norris
Thaddeus Norris
Edward O'Brien
Deborah Oftebro
John Oftebro
LeRoy Olson
Dale Potter
Jo Ann Potter
Bobbie Graep Rettig
Dave Rockenbeck

Laurie M. Rockenbeck
Margy U. Rockenbeck
William Rockenbeck
Doris Bauer Schaible
Dick Shinstrom
Karen Snapp
Frederick Springsteel
Beryl Standley
John C. Stilin
Sherry B. Stilin
Fred Stray
Larry O. Sundholm
Subhadra Terhanian
Doris Townsend
Joe Townsend
Patricia Trepanier
Roger Trepanier
Sue-Lynn Walsh
Patti Simpson Ward
Donald Glennister Watts
Joanne Westlund
James Windle

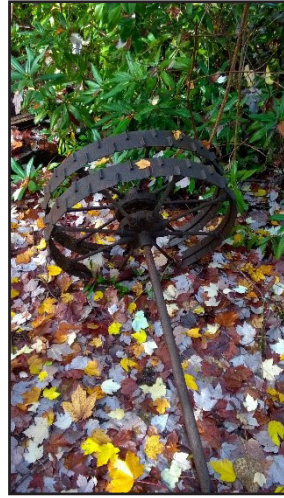
An asterisk (*) indicates Family Lifetime members. A full listing of Lifetime Members, both current and in memoriam, is available at redmondhistoricalsociety.org.

MEMBERSHIP MOMENTS

By Paige Norman, Membership Chair

As summer comes to a close and the days begin to cool, we begin to focus on other changes: the beginning of school, trees changing color and dropping their leaves, plans for holidays, and time with family and friends.

We at the Society are looking forward to some old favorites like the return of our Saturday Speaker Series, and, in case you haven't heard by now, our Museum space is open for visits by appointment. Please contact Halee Turner at 425-885-2919, or email info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org to set up a time to go through our collections and take a look around! You can also book a meeting [online](#).



Leaves changing color at Keep It Simple farm on Avondale.
Photo: Paige Norman

It's also time to start thinking about renewing your membership in the Redmond Historical Society! We've got an exciting gift for everyone who joins or renews for the 2023 membership year. Consider purchasing a membership for a friend or family member or showing your support by becoming a **Lifetime** or **Family Lifetime** member. Check page 11 of this newsletter, or renew through our [website](#).

We're so thankful for all of our volunteers, members, donors, sponsors, and our community! I'm looking forward to seeing you soon!

Editor's Note: Want to know more about Society members and their family histories? Check out the Lifetime Membership profiles on our blog: www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org/blog

253 HOURS VOLUNTEERED!

Just a heads up about this Fall...



Our first Saturday Speakers Series will be in the Old Redmond Schoolhouse on September 10th. This means we will need two volunteers to be our “Hospitality” people to make coffee and tea and set the table. I will get you all the details if you are willing to do this. And ***you will be so appreciated*** by all those coffee and tea drinkers on a chilly autumn Saturday.

Next, we need volunteers to help staff our booth at the Redmond Saturday Market on October 22nd. Market hours are 9-2, and we’re asking people to sign up for a hour or longer per shift. Please let us know if you can join us!

Contact:

volunteercoordinator@redmondhistoricalsociety.com



Volunteer Deborah Oftebro at Society booth, July 2022.
Photo: John Oftebro

VOLUNTEER VOICE

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time—
they have the heart. – Elizabeth Andrew



REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2022 MEMBERSHIP

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP (Check one only)

Trailblazer/Student (1 member)	\$5	_____
Pioneer/Individual (1 member)	\$25	_____
Homesteader/Family (2 members)	\$40	_____
Visionary/Business	\$250	_____
History Maker/Lifetime (1 member)	\$1,000	_____
Legacy/Family Lifetime (2 members)	\$2,000	_____

☐ I'd like to be a Sustaining Partner through annual donations in addition to my membership.

Membership Names: 1) _____ 2) _____

Address: _____ Unit# _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Birthdate Member 1 _____ mm/dd/yy (optional)

Birthdate Member 1 _____ mm/dd/yy (optional)

- ☐ Address Change
 ☐ New Member
 ☐ Renewal
 ☐ Gift membership
☐ New to Redmond
 ☐ I am interested in being a volunteer

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

16600 NE 80th Street • Redmond, WA 98052

You may also renew or purchase a membership through our website at
<http://www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org>

The Redmond Recorder is available via email and viewable on our website. You may request a paper copy by contacting our office at info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org.



REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Old Redmond Schoolhouse
16600 NE 80th Street
Room 122
Redmond, WA 98052

MAJOR SPONSORS



CULTURE



Happy Valley
Grange #322

