



AMERICA'S CAR MUSEUM®



Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum to Unveil Restored 1949 Police Car for 2019 National Police Week at America's Car Museum

The authentic Ford Washington State Patrol car underwent a 5-year frame-off restoration

Contact: PCG – Eric Pylvanainen (424) 903-3685 epylvanainen@pacificcommunicationsgroup.com
ACM – Ashley Bice (256) 506-6195 ashley.bice@aat.org

TACOMA, Wash. (May 10, 2019) – To celebrate 2019 National Police Week, the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum will take the wraps off a restored, 1949 Ford Washington State Patrol (WSP) Car at America's Car Museum (ACM) in Tacoma, Washington, on May 14, 2019.

This 1949 WSP Ford "Shoebox" sedan is considered historically significant as the vehicle is one of the very first "police package" vehicles produced by a manufacturer, coming factory-equipped with a powerful Ford "Flathead" V-8 engine, heavy-duty brakes, 16" wheels, a spotlight and a steel reinforcement plate on the roof to accommodate lights or large antennas.

A retired, 93 year-old WSP Trooper, Fred Schenk – who was issued a 1949 Ford patrol car as a rookie – will be the Police Museum's guest of honor at the unveiling, taking place at ACM. "I was hired by the Washington State Patrol in 1947 and the 1949 Ford patrol car replaced my '47 Panel Wagon," said Schenk. "It was used, but handled well and could do 106 miles an hour on the flats."

The Police Museum acquired the "Shoebox" in 2013 and the frame-off restoration began shortly thereafter with the assistance of the Police Museum's skilled volunteers, community members, businesses & organizations. "This is the most extensive restoration project the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum has ever undertaken," said Police Museum Founder and President, Seattle Police Officer Jim Ritter. "All of the Police Museum's original patrol vehicles are owned by the Police Museum and no public funding is used to restore these cars."

"It's a privilege to take part in unveiling the original 1949 Ford Washington State Patrol Car," said Washington State Patrol Chief John R. Batiste. "Our agency has been in partnership with the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum for over 20 years and we have worked actively to preserve the history of law enforcement transportation. This piece of history will be accessible for the public's education and enjoyment for decades to come."

Following its appearance at ACM, the 1949 Ford Patrol Car will be featured at the Greenwood Car Show in Seattle on June 29 and will periodically make appearances at select car shows, parades and special events.

"Since our doors opened in 2012, America's Car Museum has been a staple in the Tacoma community with educational initiatives, spectacular events and, of course, through countless memorable displays and exhibits," said ACM Curator of Collections Renee Crist. "We are elated to

display such a historic vehicle that served the local community and present it alongside the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum and Washington State Patrol.”

The unveiling ceremony will take place at ACM on May 14, 2019 at 4 p.m. During National Police Week (from May 12 to 18), members of law enforcement and first responders will be able to take advantage of a \$2 discount on regular adult Museum admission when they show their badge/credentials.

To stay updated on current happenings, follow ACM on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

About LeMay – America’s Car Museum (americascarmuseum.org)

America’s Car Museum (ACM), a member of America's Automotive Trust, is an international destination for families and auto enthusiasts to celebrate America’s love affair with the automobile and learn how it shaped our society. Based in Tacoma, Wash., the stunning 165,000-sq.-ft. facility has been recognized as one of MSN’s 10 Best Automotive Museums worldwide, USA Today’s 10 Best Museums in Seattle and KING5’s Best Museum in Western Washington. ACM serves as an educational center for students of all ages, features 12 rotating exhibits and hosts AAT’s annual Signature Events.

About America’s Automotive Trust (www.aat.org)

America’s Automotive Trust (AAT), headquartered in Tacoma, Washington, is a not-for-profit corporation that seeks to secure America’s automotive heritage and to transfer the skills and knowledge necessary for the future of collector vehicles and the enthusiast community for generations to come. AAT is made up of four founding members: LeMay – America’s Car Museum, the RPM Foundation, Club Auto and the Concours Club.

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