

WEBERS WANDERINGS

HANGIN' OUT WITH THE SPEECH IMPAIRED



Since my laryngectomy I've been spending quite a bit of time just like always with my good VVV buddy Joe Jones. He has the ability to understand my electronic voice machine better than many people. Maybe it's because we usually talk car talk, our own language.

In case some of you are unaware, back around the end of July Joe had some major surgery to repair wear and tear on his neck-bones. The medical mechanics put in some seven plates and nearly two dozen assorted nuts, bolts, washers, etc. Not a lot of fun (for Joe).

Then, he was only home for a few days and had to go back in for a re-torque or something because things were coming back apart. I told him to insist on them using SAE nuts and bolts since at our age we weren't built originally with metric.

One problem he has had since the operation has been his voice. There was some bruising to his vocal chords, so he can only speak in a whisper. At least we understand each other.

So we make quite a pair. Joe whispering and me speaking with an electrolarynx.

For more than 20 years I've been known for my love of Edsels and their "horse collar" grilles. Joe has been stuck in his own "horse collar" to keep him from moving his neck! (He may have it off before the end of September).

Since before his surgery Joe had been playing with an approximately 100 year old hit-and-miss motor he got as a box full of pieces.

Since Joe is tougher than a 20 year old turkey, he has been making a remarkable recovery. It is difficult to keep him down, so he's been playing with making the old motor run better.

One of his problems is that he is restricted from exerting more than two pounds of effort with his arms. So since the old motor requires a hefty pull on a starter rope, I've spent some time as his "starter puller".

It's really something. The two of us olde pharts who have spent decades trying to make our car engines idle as smoothly as possible getting excited about an old motor that only fires intermittently, and with its vibrations would walk down to the corner bar if it wasn't restrained!

Gary Weber