



The Cruisin' Chiefs

The monthly newsletter distributed by the
MANITOBA PONTIAC ASSOCIATION (incorporating Buick and Oldsmobile)

April 2004

About This Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of *The Cruisin' Chiefs*, a monthly newsletter distributed to Members of The Manitoba Pontiac Association and organizations/companies dedicated to promote the preservation, restoration and admiration of all Pontiac, Buick and Oldsmobile vehicles. The Members encourage interest in this hobby and the showing of these vehicles in tours, cruises and displays.

All material in this newsletter can be used with a notation of the source. For more information about the Manitoba Pontiac Association please contact:

Membership Chairman
Box 32, Group 540, RR5
Winnipeg, MB R2C 2Z2

Membership@ManitobaPontiac.com

Telephone (204) 222-3885

March Meeting Minutes

Vice President **Darren Kellner** called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. **Mike Clayton**, President, not in attendance.

New members were welcomed, although not in attendance: **Kirk & Nicole Ziemianski** (1965 GTO & 1969 GTX); **Chris & Peggy Orr** (1987 Olds Delta 88); **Morley & Debbie Nordal** (1962 Bonneville, 1971 LeMans; 1973 Ventura).

Secretary **Lorraine Buckmaster** read minutes from last month's meeting.

Newsletter Editor/Web Master **Murray Brown** not in attendance; Members were advised that club memberships can be paid directly on-line through the website.

Treasurer **Maria Cadieux** is now set up with the bank for signing authority. Financial Books are being brought up-to-date for 2004; **Bernard Harfield** (past Treasurer) offered to assist with any questions regarding the club treasury.

Membership Chair **Rick Johnson**, not in attendance; three new members in the past month. Annual Membership Dues are up for renewal May 1, 2004; Dues are still \$25 per family; **Be sure to re-new your membership!** Check out the website for details on paying on-line.

Social Chair **Maxine Clayton** not in attendance this evening.

New Business

Variety Club Telethon ... was held on April 3rd; **Rick Johnson** and **Darren Kellner** presented the Variety Club with \$1,545.00 for this year; **Mike Clayton** presented the actual cheque to the Variety Club on Wednesday, March 31; To date the Manitoba Pontiac Association has raised over \$30,000.00 for the Variety Club.

Sunday Night Cruising ... was discussed, with car club members being the "eyes and ears" for the Winnipeg Police; It is up to the discretion of the members is they wish to report such behavior; not mandatory

Blue Bomber Parking Lot ... for 2004 is getting underway; Volunteers are needed to work the lot for the game season; Dates of home games were supplied and also posted on the Club Forum's Calendar; First home game is June 2004.

2nd Annual Springfield Charity Car Show... **Mike Clayton** had received an e-mail inviting the MPA to attend the charity event; **Mike** responded by stating that if dates were non-conflicting with other club commitments then we would support the show; Presently we believe that the Steinbach show is scheduled for the same date; Details to follow; **Mike**

Important Dates

- * **April 14**
Ayanna Bowie Birthday
- * **April 28**
Lorraine Buckmaster Birthday
- * **May 4**
GENERAL MEETING
- * **May 13**
**André & Joanne Lemoine's
Lemans Anniversary**
- * **June 6**
Steinbach Car Show

suggested that they advertise at Buffalo Bills for this event.

Cruising Meetings ... were discussed with **Darren Kellner** suggesting a cruise to A & W Polo Park for a bit of nostalgia. **Wes Grycki** requested that the "cruising" meetings be posted on the website so members are aware and they can bring out their rides.

Club Wear ... was discussed with the first order being placed March 31, 2004; Caps have been ordered along with the "steering wheel" key fob; Members can purchase these items directly through the Club; A good selection of items and fair pricing through Team Promotions; Members who have already placed an order should receive them in approximately three (3) weeks; New orders are taken at any time, however a minimum of 12 articles must go with any one order.

Odeon Drive-In ... **Wes** brought up discussion about supporting the Odeon Drive-In; Was suggested we see if other clubs would get involved in support of keeping the drive-in open; The Club has gotten together with other clubs in the past for a night at the drive-in, and it was suggested that we look into this as a club activity; **Lorraine** will follow up with **Mike** and **Maxine**.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.
Next General Meeting May 4, 2004

President's Message by **Mike Clayton**



Spring has sprung?

As I write this on March 20th (a miserably cold and snowy day), I am reminded of that old "poem": The grass has riz

My front yard still has 4 feet of snow piled on it, but at least I know where my Pontiac still is. Hibernating in the garage, thankfully!

Ah, never fear, once March (the worst month for weather) is over, it usually starts improving real fast. It will soon be time to start bringing out those cleaning supplies.

A warm welcome is extended to our newest members:

* **Morley** and **Debbie Nordal** from Arborg, Manitoba. With their 1962 Bonneville, 1971

Lemans T-37 or 1973 Ventura Sprint to choose from for show 'n shine events, we look forward to seeing them as often as is possible.

* **Kirk** and **Nicole Ziemianski**, the proud owners of a 1965 GTO and a 1969 GTX. Great folks, great cars, and we're all looking forward to seeing that GTO this year!

And I also pass on my sincere and heart-felt congratulations to **Brenda Sewell** and **Larry Solilak** who were married over the winter. Congratulations, and we look forward to seeing that gorgeous 1972 Cutlass convertible again! The MAAC Calendar of Events will be distributed at World of Wheels, so we will soon know which events we will be supporting as a club. Note that the date for the 21st Annual Steinbach Lions Club is already listed in the **Important Dates** "box" on the preceding page.

If you didn't contact Edith Booth at Team Promotions by the end of March, you missed out on some FANTASTIC clothing options! At Team Promotions' display store, they had some incredible garments that will have our club logo embroidered on. I'm just itching to try on that new denim shirt, and I can hardly wait to see all of you in your new "gear"!

See you at the monthly meetings ... and get your rides shined up!

Membership Dues are Due!
by **Maria Cadieux**

Veillez envoyer l'argent!

For all Members of the Manitoba Pontiac Association, **Treasurer Maria Cadieux** reminds you that your **2004 Membership Dues** need to be in her hands **no later than the end of April**. Send a cheque or money order, or securely pay on-line within the **MEMBERSHIP** section of the Club's web site.

Don't let your membership lapse.
Don't miss out on the monthly issues of

The Cruisin' Chiefs.

Do be part of the fun and camaraderie of Manitoba's premiere family-oriented car club!

Bomb(er)s Away!

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers are playing again this year, and as in the past the Manitoba Pontiac Association collects parking fees for spectator parking.

The "work" is easy, the "banter" is fun, and the GROSS proceeds go directly to the Club's charity, the **Variety Club of Manitoba**. If you were watching your television recently you saw Vice-President **Darren Kellner** and Membership Chair **Rick Johnson** presenting the Variety Club with another cheque. The gentlemen were on the annual Variety Club Telethon.



Jot down the following dates/times in your diary right now, or refer to the *Calendar section of the Club's Forum* for a reminder. Need more information?

Contact **Mike Clayton**. Game times are:

Thursday	June 10	7:30 pm
Thursday	June 17	8:00 pm
Thursday	July 8	7:30 pm
Thursday	July 22	7:30 pm
Thursday	August 12	7:30 pm
Thursday	August 26	8:00 pm
Sunday	Sept 12	1:00 pm
Saturday	Sept 18	2:00 pm
Friday	October 8	7:00 pm
Friday	October 29	7:30 pm

Pictures ... I need pictures ...

by **Rick Johnson**

I'm trying to add to the Club's significantly large photo album. What I am seeking are any photos of club events from 1992 –1997.

These are the missing years in the album, and I would like to ensure that this half-decade era is captured for posterity.

If you don't want to part with your photos, perhaps you could scan them onto a CD-Rom and then I could print them off.

Questions? Please contact me by e-mail at Membership@ManitobaPontiac.com

MAAC Update by Terry Yurett

General Meeting March, 2004

MAAC Rep **Terry Yurett** is on vacation.

Overkill?

At one of last summer's car shows, a short discussion ensued amongst a group of the Club's members about Pontiac's 8-lug wheels. One member said, "It was just a bit of overkill, wasn't it?" This condensed article, repro-

duced from the September 2003 issue of *Smoke Signals*, might disprove that thought.

George Zink became General Manager of General Motors' Fabricast Division in early 1952. The most significant item produced by the division was the "bucket" for jet engines produced by another GM division, Allison.

In the early to mid-50s cars were becoming bigger, heavier and more powerful. Their brakes had not changed, and heat buildup in the brake drums was a problem. Brake overheating, resulting in drum expansion and brake fade, was most problematic in very hilly or mountainous terrain, where the newly popular automatic transmissions did not provide engine braking.

With excellent heat transfer properties, Zink investigated the use of aluminum. The first design incorporated a row of fins, each about 1/2 inch long, around the inboard portion of the drum. The first problem, however, was the poor machinability of aluminum castings. Iron linings in the aluminum drum were the result.

Buick, the only GM division interested in the new product, had numerous test cars outfitted with accelerometers and other equipment. Initial tests revealed that after a series of severe tests, the cars developed an annoying rattle. The transfer of the extreme heat shrunk a plastic wheel cover piece, with the plastic eventually shrinking and rattling. Buick eventually made the aluminum front brakes standard equipment in the mid-50s and continued them as standard equipment for many years.

Zink continued his work, determined to make the whole wheel aluminum, in conjunction with the aluminum brakes. Testing of the early aluminum wheel-drum combinations revealed a problem; the aluminum wheel rim transferred too much heat to the tire, re-



sulting in decreased reliability of the tire. A trip down memory lane resulted in Zink using a Ford Model T concept; "demountable rims"; rims that could be unbolted from the rest of the wheel. Zink took this concept and mounted steel rims on an aluminum wheels with a series of lugs located around the periphery of the wheel, solving the problem of excessive heating of the tires.



Bunkie Knudsen at Pontiac "bought" the idea for production, GM Styling finished with the wheel design, and Pontiac ended up with a superb looking finned-

aluminum wheel/brake drum combination with steel rims attached with eight lugs.

The only issue was finding a shop that could balance them, resulting in a special hub for the balancing machine to account for the fact that there was no regular center on the wheel.

On March 21, 1961, the U.S. Patent Office issued Patent No. 2,976,083 for "Integrally Cast Vehicle Wheel and Brake Drum with Heat Sink" to George A. Zink and Walter E. Taylor. Disc brakes, in later years, rendered the entire exercise moot.

Social by Maxine Clayton

We are planning on a Paddlewheel Cruise sometime in the late summer or early fall – this will be on the agenda at the next general meeting. Another event that is being worked on is a drag racing/beach day in conjunction with the **Mopar Club** and potentially **Canadian SuperShop**, one of our major club discount providers.

Do you have some ideas? Please send them to me by e-mail at Social@ManitobaPontiac.com Before we know it, Summer is going to be here and everybody will be looking for ways to show off their cars and have some Summer Fun!

What ideas do you have for incorporating some fun with a show 'n shine?

Hey! Keep the Noise Down!

by Darren Kellner

On the evening of March 9th, a "Town Hall" meeting was held. The purpose of the meeting was to hear both sides to the infamous ongoing debate about summer "cruising" that occurs along Portage Avenue. Hosted by a City Councilor and a Provincial MLA, the meeting had a huge turnout, from car owners to residents, and with representatives from all the media.

For the most part, it was kept fairly organized with a few exceptions near the end. It was great to hear that in general, the majority of Wolseley area residents are not accusing or pointing fingers at the car clubs or the individual muscle car owners for the most part. It would seem that the residents are targeting the younger generation. Bob Chubala, from MAAC, spoke at the end, addressing the ratio of classic cars to regular cars during observations three Sundays in a row last year. Bob brought up the issue of educating the younger generation. The main concerns expressed by the Wolseley residents are the high traffic volumes, squealing tires, excessive speed down side streets and litter.

People, we all have to get together and help figure things out. Let's keep the tradition of thirty years going, but at the same time watching out and trying to educate for the future.

