



The Cruisin' Chiefs

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

February 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:

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February Meeting Minutes

Mike Clayton welcomed all members and new Executive to 2004. Guests tonight were **Michelle** and **Mike** with a '99 Formula, new to Winnipeg from Saskatchewan. **Maria Cadieux**, new Treasurer, is getting things organized with Mike. Coordinating with the bank for signing authority. Social Chair **Maxine Clayton** has tickets available for Bingo Bowling: \$12 includes bowling, pizza and shoes. All encouraged to attend. Future social functions could include sleigh rides; also looking into a pool rental for an evening family night. Provide feedback to **Maxine**. **Murray Brown** has the new web site up, and a new forum. Members are reminded to send along any pictures and info for the site. The Newsletter will be heading out as planned. **Rick Johnson** advised that membership dues are up for renewal in May; no increase in Club dues. MAAC Rep **Terry Yurett** provided MAAC updates: **New Car Club** = **Kenora Classic Car Club**; **World of Wheels** = **Easter**

weekend Thursday April 8 – Saturday April 10; **WOW Security** – MAAC is looking after again this year c/o **Bev Dyck** – call her at 889-7822 to arrange your time; **MAAC Cooperate Sponsorship** = **Pony Corral, International Championships & in negotiations with Buffalo Bills; MAAC Committee Members** – everyone has volunteered to see on the board again; **Calendar of Events** – **Terry Wilson** of Buy 'n Sell made a presentation – they will be publishing the calendar this year, 8 ½ x 11, full color front, 28 pages, 30,000 copies printed this year – 1st release March 31 – MAAC meeting for the members to take

Important Dates

- * **February 10**
Jill Solilak Birthday
- * **February 16**
Frank Scaletta Birthday
- * **February 18**
Murray Brown Birthday
- * **February 25**
Executive Meeting
- * **February 18**
Jesse Harfield Birthday
- * **February 27**
Bingo Bowling with the Impala Club
- * **March 2**
Members' Meeting
- * **March 2**
Rick Johnson Birthday
- * **March 9**
Hope Gariepy Birthday

back to their clubs – 2nd release of 11,0000 copies at WOW on April 8th – on stands and sponsors' locations shortly there after – John Dyck reviewed summer calendar of events; **MPIC** in March will release of a video regarding High school awareness; **NAAACCC** – Looking to increase to \$3.00 per member of each car club, questions about value for fees – MAAC requested balance sheet to review income/expenses.

Mike Clayton reported that the Club would take a year off from World of Wheels due to conflicting dates on the Easter weekend and time change commitments by Chair **Wes Grycki**. Members that would like to place their cars in WOW can have the use of any of the club display items; contact **Mike**. Bev Dyck will handle security at WOW; volunteers are encouraged to contact Bev directly at 889-7822 with times available. The 2004 MAAC Calendar will be released with 30,000 being distributed. Buy & Sell will be sponsoring. The Club's "Point System" has been cancelled for 2004. The Club will fund the Windup and the Christmas Parties. Other activities will be at members' own expense. **Mike** requested all Members forward dates of Anniversaries, Birthdays, Special occasions, etc. directly to **Murray** for inclusion in the Newsletter and the Forum. **Terry Yurett** raised traveling meeting dates, cruise nights, etc. Discussion on club shirts (not T-Shirts) i.e. denim with an embroidered Club logo. **Wade Weber** has a contact and is setting up a meeting for the Executive to discuss and resolve. Executive meeting scheduled Wednesday, February 25, 7:30 at **Mike & Maxine Clayton's**. A larger General Meeting location was raised; good member support at meetings is apparent; need more "movability". Suggested using Park Pontiac lunchroom; **Mike** will check it out, with a review of "theatre-style" seating. Smitty's Restaurant on Regent was suggested; agreed that perhaps not good on a regular basis. Club sanctioned events were discussed: One show a month would be better to attend; much agreement. Dates were discussed for specific shows: Children's Charity Show August 15 -- 1st Annual Fundraiser; would like to see Club attendance. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

President's Message by Mike Clayton

A fffrosty gggreeting to all!



As I write this, and with the weather equaling what is a norm for Tuktoyuktuk, it's hard to think about cruising. But have faith -- it can't last much longer than forever.

This would have to be the coldest winter because Maxine and I are not going on a holiday. Next year for three weeks in February, Winnipeg will experience an unusual warm spell. With the change in dates for this year's World of Wheels (Thursday to Saturday of the Easter long weekend) and the unavoidable scheduling burden levied on our Chairperson, the Executive voted unanimously to not enter a club display this year. If any of the members who volunteered their rides for the show still want to participate, they will have access to any Club items to include with their display. I think it will be a nice break to take a year off. I still encourage club participation with security and the MAAC booth.

See you at the meetings ... and stay warm and keep 'em covered!

Ready, Set, SPEAK UP!

Have you visited the *Canadian Pontiac Forum* yet? Sponsored by your Club, the Forum provides an opportunity for everybody to share in questions, answers, tips and tricks. Check it out at <http://forumer.com/manitobapontiac>

And if you want to know what's coming up, be sure to look at the Calendar of Events. Social events, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Show 'n Shines – the dates are there so you can't forget!

Send your important dates -- Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc. – to the Newsletter Editor and they can be posted on the Forum.

The Formation of the Manitoba Pontiac Association

by Wade Weber

*Editor's Note: Past President **Wade Weber** has been around the Club since just about the very beginning. In this, the first of a two-part series, Wade describes the Club's early formative years. Once concluded, the entire history will be available on the Club's web site.*

I was informed of the possibility of a Pontiac Club starting up by John Dyck (Corvette Club of Manitoba) in the summer of 1991.

I was picking up some Liquid Glass (a small "plug" for John) and he informed me that some people were getting together at the K-Mart shopping mall lot on Portage Avenue West one Sunday night. That is where we all used to meet back then.

John informed me that I should call Rena Stieben, a mutual friend of John and Bev Dyck, to see what was happening. I called Rena and **Danny Stieben** and in the conversation I found out that they had a 1974 Formula 455. I wanted to go just to see this car. It turned out that Rena and a couple of other people were key in the original formation/meeting on this particular Sunday.



I hope I don't miss anyone, but I recall these people being the key persons: Rena and Danny Stieben, Corinne and Geoff Sandhurst, and Gil Desautels.

Gale (my girlfriend at the time) and I met these people that night. A couple of "gear heads", friends of Gil, were also there: Larry and Barb Clement. It was a great meeting for me. My car (1976 Firebird) was relatively as you see it today but the paint was only two years old. You can imagine how it looked back then.

Gil immediately jumped out of his car and rushed over to see mine. What a feeling. That had never happened before. I had to be a part of people like that. Gil had a jet black 1972 GTO 455 H.O. What a beast! The only problem for him that night was that he had no reverse! Gil had numerous problems with his car from the get go. That is why he wanted to start a club, so no one else had to go through what he did, from wrong body men, to bad painters and choice of paint. Then the engine parts and sourcing of parts. Gil had it rough for a couple of years but what a car it was once completed.

Later that Sunday night we all agreed that we should meet up next week, cruise for a while, and start this club on its way. We met at the McDonald's on Grant Avenue the next week. At that time we cruised, and in general discussions Larry Clement offered to be the President, Geoff Sandhurst Vice President, Rena Stieben Secretary, Barb Clement Treasurer and Corinne Sandhurst was Newsletter Editor. Gale and myself waited a little while to get seriously involved. It didn't take too long before a couple of key members talked me into Vice President in year two and the President in year three. Looking back it seemed to be a lifetime, until key members **André Lemoine**, **Tom Groot**, and **Rick Johnson** joined to relieve me of my position for some rest and relaxation. In all, I believe I was in and out of the executive for 10 of our 13 years.

Anyways, back to the beginning. The Club's first official meeting was on July 27, 1991, and it was a little rocky. Some members wanted the Club to be a meet and greet with no direction. Some just wanted to meet, talk about their cars and race on the streets. Some wanted no membership fees to be a member, and some did. After some heated discussions, it was quickly addressed by some of the older members and it was decided that the Club was to be called *The Manitoba Pontiac Association*.

Our club was to be run with clear guidelines and have purpose and

not be a club to be mocked at or said that we were a bunch of people you did not want to be associated with. Rick Penko was able to draw up our first Constitution, which is still the one we use today. We used that Constitution to derive what we see today. An executive assembly was developed, with guidelines and rules to help guide us in the right directions.

We were then holding our meeting at Birchwood Motors at the corner of Portage and Moray. When I became Vice President, I addressed the Club with a suggestion to move our meeting place. Birchwood was not willing to do some of the things we would have liked to do as a Club, so I approached Ron Dveris of Park Pontiac Buick GMC. He was so excited that I had contacted him, he not only accepted the Club but also stated that they would be our official home and sponsor. He then took Larry and myself for a wild ride in his Trans Am Indy Pace Car. WOW!!! I believe we have now been associated with Park Pontiac for 12 years.

Year two was our "Let all know what The Manitoba Pontiac Association is all about" launch. We hit the World of Wheels in April of 1992 with our new club jackets, four quality cars and a sweep in the winning of Best Display. We have not looked back since and have always been the Club to chase. This was the time when key people joined the Club to make it what it is today. I hope I do not forget anyone, but if I do, please do not take it personally; my memory is going with my hairline.

Brian and Amelia Humeny, John and Verna Rohde, Ted and Marilyn Bowditch, Ed and Grace Greschuck, Bill and Sylvia Uskoski, to mention a few you might recognize, and the original people who started the Club, all had a major impact on what our Club is today. No matter how big or small a club is there is always only a handful of people that are willing to do the work. These people are not in it for the glory or acclamations. They are people who want what is best for their club, and will not complain that some members are doing more or less than others. Things need to be done in order for this Club to succeed, and some people are willing to do the work needed for all to enjoy this fantastic organization.

Social by Maxine Clayton

For those that registered, don't forget **Bingo Bowling** with the Impala Club on **February 27th**.

How about a family night of splashing in the pool and swimming? The Club can rent one of the City's swimming pools for our **EXCLUSIVE** use! And what do you think about a sleigh ride before the Winter comes to a close?

Please send me your thoughts and ideas by e-mail at Social@ManitobaPontiac.com or leave a voice message at 488-0080.

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?

Get YOUR imagination working and send me those e-mails right away!

What's wrong with this picture?

Probably nothing, other than Members **Mike and Janine Bowie** have one of these 1951 Buicks and the Club's web site doesn't have a

photo or write-up about the car! Are you like Mike and Janine? No photo or write-up of your car(s) on the Club's web site?



Get in touch with the Webmaster at ManitobaPontiac.com and get your photos and text on the Internet today. Need some photos taken? No problem. Contact **Darren Kellner** or **Rick Johnson**. Both have digital cameras that they're itching to try out. The fee? Probably a nice cup of coffee.

Classifieds

The fine print: Advertisements are free to current Members. No commercial advertising will be permitted. All advertising copy MUST include the item(s) and price(s) for sale, the Member's Name and Telephone Number and, if applicable, e-mail address. All ads will be run for one issue only. If an advertisement is to be run more than once, the Member MUST advise the Newsletter Editor by e-mail at Newsletter@ManitobaPontiac.com or telephone (204) 668-0154 before the next newsletter is published. Copy received AFTER the publishing of the Newsletter will be inserted in the next issue. The MANITOBA PONTIAC ASSOCIATION and/or the Newsletter Editor are not responsible for typographical errors or omissions.

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