



# *The Cruisin' Chiefs*

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

March 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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## ***March Meeting Minutes***

**President Mike Clayton** called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm bringing us all up-to-date on new developments. Happy Birthday to **Rick Johnson**! Secretary **Lorraine Buckmaster** read last month's meeting minutes. Treasurer **Maria Cadieux** had no update; **Mike Clayton** has set up signing authority. Newsletter Editor-Webmaster **Murray Brown** was not present; relayed through **Mike** that there were no new developments with the website and the newsletter is reaching all that it should. Membership Chair **Rick Johnson** brought everyone up-to-date with membership and requesting that mailing addresses be confirmed; no new members. Social Chair **Maxine Clayton** updated members with Bingo Bowling with the Impala Club; it was a great success, enjoyed by all who attended. There was general discussion regarding booking the riverboat for an evening trip together as a club; presently a promotion is being offered to groups and clubs. Maxine indicated there had been no feedback for booking a pool and having a swimming party, and the same for sleigh rides; **Maxine** will have confirmed information for riverboat cruises available for the next meeting. MAAC Rep **Terry Yurett** apprised all of the most

recent meeting (details are outlined later in this Newsletter).

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- \* The Club Wind-up date is set for August 14, and **John** and **Sophie Kondracki** will be hosting this year; Thank you **John** and **Sophie**.
- \* Edith Booth from Team Promotions give a presentation on sport shirts, jackets, caps, etc.; **Mike** handed the meeting over to Edith, welcoming her to the Club's General Meeting.
- \* Ms Booth had a variety of samples that **Mike** and **Maxine** had picked out for members to review, ex-

## **Important Dates**

- \* **March 2**  
**GENERAL MEETING**  
**Rick Johnson Birthday**
- \* **March 9**  
**Hope Gariepy Birthday**
- \* **March 12**  
**James Walker Birthday**
- \* **March 18**  
**Dave Anderson Birthday**
- \* **March 20**  
**Tyler Dawson Birthday**  
**Leona Brown Birthday**
- \* **March 28**  
**Darren Kellner Birthday**
- \* **March 30**  
**Emile Gariepy Birthday**
- \* **April 6**  
**GENERAL MEETING**
- \* **April 14**  
**Ayanna Bowie Birthday**

plaining the embroidery process and cost. Denim shirts are available (light colored) for \$19.99 plus embroidery fee of \$3.75 plus taxes; other prices vary according to the article chosen.

Various golf shirts were displayed and members were encouraged to pick some new club wear. A decision was made on using the Club logo, in full color. Children's sizes are available in T-shirts and jackets; a variety of key chains were shown - the club logo or the member's emblem can be printed and added to the "steering wheel" key chain; also shown were travel cups.

**Terry Yurret** made a motion to accept the proposal from Team Promotions, which was seconded by **Jim Bielby**. A decision was made on club caps, with a vote taken for a black and white checkered cap with the Club logo; Agreed to by all in attendance. The cost of each cap is \$15.60 including embroidery and taxes; these can be purchased directly from the Club; 36 have been ordered.

The cut-off date for the initial order into Team Promotions is **MARCH 31, 2004**. Members **MUST CONTACT MS BOOTH DIRECTLY** to order; she is in her office 9-3 pm Monday to Friday, and she will make appointments for evenings and weekends if required.

The Meeting was adjourned 8:42 pm.

**50/50 DRAW Winner**  
**BRIAN LIPSKY**

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### *President's Message* by *Mike Clayton*



#### **Hello everyone!**

It sure is nice to see the weather warming up (for now!) The cruising season is definitely getting closer.

I would like to encourage everyone to check the membership list to make sure that all the

information is correct, particularly your e-mail address. This is the best way to make sure you don't miss out on any information regarding upcoming events, etc.

We all have a chance to look over and order new clothing items with our club logo on them. A presentation will be made at the next General Meeting (March 2<sup>nd</sup>) and I'm hoping to see a lot of interest in this.

There are still some spots left for working at World of Wheels and I would encourage those that can assist to contact myself or, for those that know him, Bob Chubala.

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

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### *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.**

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### *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 second of a two-part series, Wade describes the Club's early formative years. The entire history is now available on the Club's web site in the HISTORY section.*

Year three brought us our first Parking Lot Party, August 1993, held at Park Pontiac Buick GMC. Once again, we set a standard for all others to follow, and I believe that it was done in a good way, and not a sarcastic or arrogant way. We also saw all the other clubs start to be more relaxed with the old ways and were actually speaking to other clubs in any and all events. Our Car Pull event was a first and to this day, I still hear what a great event it was.

The following years had more members join and some leave. The Club's events and functions to this day are all based on what was developed in the initial three to four years. It wasn't until we were able to relax our members' minds and invite Buick and Oldsmobile owners into our organization in 1997 that subtle changes in our club were noticed. Most noticeable was the signing up of new members. **Rick and Debbie Johnson** were the first.

Unfortunately, as new members came, some went. There are some members that decided that the “club scene” was not for them, and we have not seen them since. In 1993, after many years of personal problems, **Gil Desautels** had taken his own life. He was once again hoping that his action would stop others from having to go through what he had to. Some members have re-joined, and sadly, there are some that were taken away from us much too early.

On March 31, 1997, we had **Cheryl Bodner** taken from us. Later the same year, on August 31, we had our founding member **Rena Stieben** taken from us.

**Cheryl's** was a quiet funeral and it was very cold that day. The Club was there for **Ron** in his time of need. The funeral for **Rena**, although much warmer, was also a somber occasion. **Ted Bowditch** and myself were honored when **Danny Stieben** asked us to be pallbearers. I thought that we should send off **Rena** in a fashion we were in control of.

I contacted **Danny** and asked him if it was okay if I picked him up for the ride to Starbuck, Manitoba (where the funeral was to take place). He was very happy that I would ask such a thing, and agreed. I then told him what I had planned. Many of the members were going to attend the funeral, and I could not think of a more meaningful way to say good-bye to our Club founder. I arranged to have a procession of Pontiac cars and members cruise to Starbuck. **Danny** was obviously in a state of loss, but he was the first to mention how happy this would

have made **Rena**. I cannot say what it meant to me to be able to lead the funeral procession to the cemetery.

You might be asking yourself “Why I am telling you about this stuff?” Well, I was asked to tell all of you how this Club was formed and what kind of people were in it. This simply states that this is a car club, but it is the people that make it the association that it is, not the cars. I am so proud to say that I am a member of *The Manitoba Pontiac Association incorporating Buick and Oldsmobile*. The people in this Club are like family in many cases. A lot of the

members you will hear say, “I am comfortable leaving my kids with anyone in this organization.” Some people will not say that of their own families. In this organization, you will see people come together when it is least expected. What an excellent feeling it is to be part of something like that.

Today, we see many new people checking out this Club and joining. New members bring new ideas and friendships.

Providing you with this little bit of nostalgia for me has brought back many memories. I cannot emphasize enough what it means to be a part of this Club.

For all the new members, and even the old ones, if you have any questions or concerns, my phone number is always available to you. Please come on out to the Club events. Meet the members. Create friendships. Ask questions. Make comments.

By participating you are creating memories you will be proud of later.

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### *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 general meeting. I still haven't received any feedback about renting the City pool for a Family Night – **what are YOUR thoughts?** Another event that will be on the agenda at the next meeting is a day at that Dark Zone.

Please send me your thoughts and ideas by e-mail at [Social@ManitobaPontiac.com](mailto: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!**

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### *MAAC Update by Terry Yurett*

#### **General Meeting February 24, 2004**

**World Of Wheels:** Security schedule was reviewed; clubs have previous emails; Bob Chubala is looking for 8 volunteers to help with 'RAMP' security/Organizers for seeing that the exiting of show is done in a timely and orderly fashion – call Bob if you can help; MAAC booth volunteers also required for T-Shirt sales, schedule handouts and providing general information – Pontiac's Club's time slot is Saturday from 1-3 pm – 2 people required; Murdock Mackay students have a school project – make a documentary video of World of Wheels event, from start up to tear down; shooting every vehicle that will be coming in, interviewing people, etc – they will be renting equipment and are asking for sponsorship/support – documentary DVD's will be for sale after some editing has been completed; World of Wheels T-shirts will be available to purchase at MAAC booth – children's sizes are available this year; Ron Lechman announced 'extra' awards – \$300 for "Best Manitoban" sponsored by Walker Automotive, "Muscle Car" by Start Sporting Goods, and "Tuner" by Motion Performance; Ron is still looking for sponsorship in the way of free draws for participants; entrant applications must be submitted very soon; Star Sporting Goods offered a 'Jacket deal' to MAAC to raffle for a charity.

**MAAC Updates:** Mary Ann Mahychuk contacted Bob about doing a street festival/car show in her area – had chosen the same weekend as Fab '50's so they are changing it and will keep MAAC posted; Bob Chubala reported that the Insurance program has a cost increase of \$4 to total \$61 for each club participating – increase is mostly administrative – cost of insurance is quite minimal compared to other options if each club was going to look at it on an individual level – the \$4 will be collected next year.

**NAAACCC Updates:** Still no financial statements.

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### *Old Friends by André Lemoine*

While visiting Calgary on business, I looked in the local 'phone book and found **Geoff** and **Corinne Sandhurst's** number. For newer club members, **Geoff** and **Corinne** were founding members of the MPA, and very active until they moved to Vancouver. Since then, they have moved to Chilliwack, and now to Calgary.

I had the opportunity to visit with the Sandhurst family, and we had supper together at their house.

**Corinne** and **Geoff** now have two children: **Caelin** is 7 and little **Kierra** is about a year and a half.

**Corinne** is getting back into the workforce since the arrival of their little girl; she has a home-based bookkeeping job on the go. **Geoff** now has the opportunity to pursue his art full time as he is working at the studio of metal smith Jeff deBoer, learning more about his craft while creating various pieces of art.

**Geoff** and **Corinne** still have their two 67's (GTO and Grand Prix), as well as a mid 70's Cutlass. They are members of a club in Calgary, but it sounds like they truly miss the MPA, and all the friends they made. Of course, all of us in the MPA who knew them miss them and wish them the best in their pursuits in Alberta.

