



The Cruisin' Chiefs

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

February 2006

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 Association please contact:

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Our Apology

We've been going through some technical difficulties and apologize for the late and very condensed issue of the February 2006 issue.

January Meeting Minutes

General Meeting held Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at Park Pontiac Buick GMC Ltd boardroom. President **Mike Clayton** called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with 16 members in attendance. **Irv Braun** brought everyone up to date with the finances in general and our commitment to the Club's charity, the Variety Club.

We had PhD student Preeti Krishnan and some of her fellow students come to our club to aid them in their research at the Asper School of Business. Those in attendance completed a survey regarding brand loyalty among car clubs. Others who were not in attendance can also complete the survey online: [http://d11927592.e152.ebizcanada.com/\[2006\]CarClub/index.php](http://d11927592.e152.ebizcanada.com/[2006]CarClub/index.php)

Annual Dues Membership dues will be raised to \$30, which will cover the added cost of \$3 per member for NAAACCC membership. All dues are to be paid by May 1st. Remember that annual dues can also be paid online through the Club's web site.

Important Dates

- * **March 2**
Rick Johnson Birthday
- * **March 7**
GENERAL MEETING
- * **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

World of Wheels Being held March 31st to April 2nd. Anyone interest to working security shifts are to call Bev Dyck at 889-7822. **Craig Winters** has committed to showing his Buick Grand National this year and **Wade Weber's** Firebird, although looking like it's a candidate for the Overhaulin' TV show, might be ready in time. But we would like an Oldsmobile and another Pontiac for the show. **Ted Bowditch** will contact **Grace Greschuk's** family to see if they would be interested in showing the 65 Custom Sport convertible.

Blue Bomber Home Schedule A copy has been given to **Murray Brown** to post on the website and to publish in the newsletter. **Mike Clayton** is getting in touch with Bob Cunningham to advise we will be doing the parking lot again this year. Any new volunteers would be appreciated.

Parking Lot Party Scheduled for August 20th at Thunder Rapids. **Darren Kellner** will be chairing this event again this year. Further info to follow.

Desk Calendars Please submit photos to **Murray Brown** so we can get these made up for the new cruising season.

Wind Up BBQ We need to come up with a new date for the BBQ as the date originally decided on is the same day as Cruisin Downtown on Aug 12th.

Club Tent **Brian** and **Amelia Humeny** have taken the tent in for repairs as per the vote by the executive.

Harborfest It was suggested that our Club try to attend this event as a group outing. It is on Aug 4 - 7th in Kenora and the show is getting bigger every year.

NAPA Discount Cards Handed out to Club members. Along with your MPA membership card these cards will provide you with a discount on parts at the 1477 Ellice Ave location.

Hemmings Motor News Has contacted us about listing our club in their Club News section. **Murray Brown** to follow up.

Floor Tiles The Corvette Club is interested in buying our floor tiles. **Mike Clayton** will be getting in touch with them to finalize it.

Irv Braun won the 50/50 draw of \$8.50 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.



Next meeting – Park Pontiac Buick GMC Ltd's Boardroom on Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m.



President's Message by **Mike Clayton**

Come on Spring!

Despite the last two weeks this has this been a GREAT winter so far. **Maxine** and I had a great time in Mexico so we missed the brunt of the cold

weather, although I understand that some snow might still fall over the next few weeks.

And then comes Spring!

Out will come the wash mitt and the waxes and tire foams ... just in time for World of Wheels! We've got 1½ cars "booked" so far ... and we still need an Oldsmobile and there wouldn't be any frowns if we had another Pontiac, too. I'm looking forward to the report back from **Ted Bowditch** about **Grace Greshuk's** classic cruiser; that car would be a real show stopper at our Club display. Remember, we're not putting in a "themed" display this year; we just want to have some of the Club's cars there, and we'd really like to have at least one Pontiac, Buick and Oldsmobile.

An item that was sent out by e-mail in the last few days was an "invitation" to attend the 2006 MS Cruisin' Manitoba on June 25th. Last year was a great time and I'm looking forward to being able to participate again this year.

The 2006 Club Dues need to be paid by May 1st so please don't wait until the last minute. The new annual fee is \$30; the slight "bump" of \$5 covers the membership in NAAACCC.

Here's looking forward to Cruisin' 2006!

Mike

Social by **Maxine Clayton**

I've got some ideas on the go:

- River Boat Cruise (we did that one other year and the response was great)
- Prairie Dog Central Railway (a Saturday or Sunday train ride and then cruisin' afterwards)
- Rumors Comedy Club (this could be a really fun evening).

Psssst ... A little birdie whispered in my ear that **Jim Beilby** and **Janice Boyse** might be thinking about finally sharing the same last name on or about June 24th ... stay tuned!

And I'm going to keep repeating this one for everybody, especially the newer (and shy) Members: Don't forget that many of us go to Tim Horton's beside Future Shop on Regent Avenue after the meetings. A time to unwind, digress, listen as the men tell white lies to each other, and enjoy a warm cup of coffee and maybe a jelly donut before heading home. See you there!

MAAC Update by Jim Beilby

MAAC's associated clubs and other newsworthy auto information can be found at www.autoclubs.ca. MAAC meeting minutes pertinent to the Club will appear in this newsletter.

MAAC Club Event Calendars will be available for distribution March 29th. They will now be charging non-members \$300 to have their show dates in the Calendar.

It was questioned as to whether the insurance through MAAC has Director's insurance and Mike advised he would look into this.

MAAC dues and insurance are due. Dues are \$1 per member and insurance is \$64. A cheque will be remitted to cover this.

Bob Chubala and Gord Forman have been meeting with the Motor Vehicle Department and MPI. Bob wants to have the vehicle inspection show again this year on either May 28th or June 11th.

Blue Bomber Home Games 2006

Here's the 2006 schedule for the Blue Bombers. Mark these dates down on your calendar, and save Mike Clayton from getting gray hairs by calling him NOW with the dates that you can assist with the parking lot.

| | | | |
|-----|---------|----------|---------|
| SUN | May 28 | Edmonton | 2:00 pm |
| FRI | Jun 30 | Montreal | 7:00 pm |
| FRI | Jun 30 | Hamilton | 6:30 pm |
| SAT | July 15 | Calgary | 6:00 pm |
| FRI | Aug 4 | Edmonton | 6:30 pm |
| THU | Aug 10 | Toronto | 7:00 pm |
| FRI | Aug 25 | Ottawa | 7:00 pm |
| SUN | Sep 10 | Sask | 1:00 pm |
| FRI | Sep 29 | B C | 7:00 pm |
| SAT | Oct 21 | Sask | 6:00 pm |

Your commitment of one hour is a small way of helping out with the Club's charity, the Variety Club.

**For Sale - Corvette Tail Lights -
Hardly Used - Cheap!**



2006 Meeting Dates

Jot down these dates for the 2006 meetings! An easy way to remember the date is to remember the **first Tuesday** of each month.

Almost all will occur at Park Pontiac Buick GMC Ltd., located at 1459 Regent Avenue West. Except in the cruisin' months, the meetings occur in the Boardroom on the 2nd floor. Cruisin' months sometimes ... but not always ... have a "meeting" at Park Pontiac and then go for some ridin'. Do be certain to keep your eye on the Newsletters and e-mails with changes to the locations.

- March 7
- April 4
- May 2
- June 6
- July 4
- August 1
- September 5
- October 3
- November 7

December is always "reserved" for the Annual Meeting and Christmas Party. A specific date is always arranged, but for 2006 pencil in two Sundays -- December 3 and 10 -- for now.

Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild

Editor's note: This is a condensed version of notes from The Automotive Chronicles, as a book review: <http://www.automotivechronicles.com/articles/2005/oct/02/index.php>

The odds are that when you were a teenager you were dreaming of owning a special car. Not just an

everyday mode of transportation, but something different that projected your personality. Buying popular magazines and visiting auto dealerships and car shows, you viewed the latest offerings and picked up the sales brochures. Great as the new cars were, the concepts or experimental cars were better. Longer, lower and sleeker, they were magic. They set your mind in motion as to possibilities for the future.

Prior to the Chrysler Airflows and Cord 810/812, most makes differed little other than grille shapes and chrome ornamentation. Suddenly, in the mid-1930s, the influence of aerodynamics was seized from the sleek monoplanes and incorporated into the styling of auto bodywork. The public was enthusiastic and we were all style conscious. Boys were sketching designs in their school notebooks and at home they decorated their bedroom walls with colorful drawings. Designs got wilder in the 1950s with fins and lots of chrome and sculpturing.

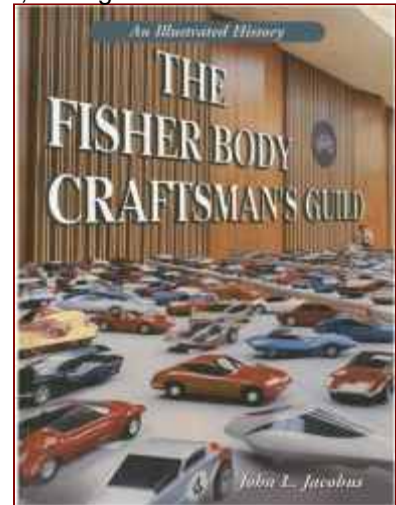


The Fisher Body Division of General Motors began in 1930 to encourage teenagers to compete for college scholarships by building Napoleonic coach models. The coach was their trademark and the contest concentrated on following precise instructions that tested the competitors' construction skills. In 1937 the Fisher Body Guild contest unlocked the dreams of potential designers so they could display what they believed future cars should look like.

In his book, The Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild, John Jacobus quotes from the placard in the Guild exhibit case at the Smithsonian Institution, "From 1930 to 1968 millions of boys fascinated by cars joined the Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild. About 600,000 members enrolled each year in the 1950s making the Guild second in size only to the Boy Scouts of America for young men."

John L. Jacobus previously worked as a Design Engineer for the Fisher Body Division, General Motors

Corporation in Warren, Michigan. John studied Industrial Design at the Art Center College of Design in California and at Wayne State University in Detroit. As a youth, he participated in the Craftsman's Guild from 1961 to 1966. His hobby and passion for the past 40 years has been automobiles, automotive history and automotive design history.



During the past 20 years, John has focused on auto stylists and designers and the collecting of Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild memorabilia. He was also instrumental in a Craftsman's Guild exhibit and collection at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History.

Neither a textbook nor a dry history, The Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild is more like a collection of short stories. The stories of the competitors draw your interest and by the time the book is ended one wonders, "Why did the competition end?" Apparently no one knows.

At www.FisherGuild.com you will find a more comprehensive review of the book's contents. In brief, if you are interested in auto design, Guild history or model making, you will enjoy reading this book. Even if you did not compete in the Guild, or have never heard about the Guild, as an automotive enthusiast the odds are you will find this book fascinating.

To learn more about the history of Fisher Body Divisions, GMC and the famous Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild (1930-1968) public relations program see:

<http://www.geocities.com/sponcom26/index.html>

