

# PIONEER AUTO CLUB NEWSLETTER



**OCTOBER 2023**  
**Volume 15 Issue 10**

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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



September is ushering in the Fall Season of cooler days, crisp evenings, and colorful river road drives. The PAC has had a very busy summer with several improvements to the Hollyhock Gas Station, the storage garage, the sales office and the outhouse. All the buildings have been painted and updated. We have a new road sign, Pioneer Drive. Look the next time you stop by the station. A major update was completed to the PAC Out House. It was scraped and

painted. The interior was cleaned, and a comfortable bench installed. Our meetings continue to be well attended. We served burgers and hot dogs before the September meeting. There were 42 in attendance which was one of the largest meetings to date. We had some information from Buckstop Junction regarding the Hotel to be used for the Christmas Party. After discussion, it was decided to stay at the Ramada with a sit down dinner. Steve Harmon Band will be our entertainment. The Display Committee had Rick Setterlund step forward as the chair. He will organize a meeting to begin the project. And...we will have heat. Kevin built a couple of housings to hold the heaters. Mark will be wiring the heaters but during the discussion, we realized we have a half dozen electricians in our membership. So, there will be a lot of help to draw from to have heat by the next meeting. PAC purchased one heater. Capital Electric donated the other.



The Southwest Tour report indicated that the tour was a great success. An article is in this newsletter with the details. Dave Schmitz had some highlights about the Minot Cruisers Finale. There was again a Semi Truck barbeque and grill that fed everyone there. Dave Owens and myself attempted the balance contest. We had to drive up on a trailer and perfectly balance the car on the trailer. We used our Thunderbird and Dave was the copilot. His role was to move forward or back to shift the load so it would balance. We did balance the Thunderbird but lost the time to a small hot rod. We plan on trying the contest again next year and bringing another trophy home. At any rate, Minot once again did an outstanding job hosting the End of Year Finale.





## New Business

1. Greetings and Welcome 6:35pm
2. New Members
3. Secretary Report - Laura Engwicht As printed in the newsletter Pat Fricke 1st Ron Pickar 2nd
4. Treasurer's Report - Jo Ellefson
  - a. 1st Darrell Emmil 2nd Tom Freidt
5. Committee Reports
  - a. Buckstop Junction - John Des Roches and Wayne Martinson Not much happening
6. Old Business
  - a. Who has a car story? Could use one for the newsletter, send to Don, Laura, or Kathy.
  - b. Heater in garage - Mark and Kevin will chair
  - c. SW Cruise and Dakota cruisers overview
7. New Business
  - a. Christmas Party will be at the Ramada.  
Steve Harmon band will play. Steve Ellefson made a motion to have the band Ron Pickar 2nd and it passed.
  - b. Gas Station Display project - committee formed: Steve Ellefson, Joel Andres, Pat Fricke, Rick Setterlund, and Ron Pickar
  - c. PAC purchased 4 new folding tables
  - d. Elections will be held in October. If you want to run for any position let Joe LaFave or Sam Wangler know.
8. Breakfast Lunch Together October 17 meet at Buckstop 9am going to Ohms Restaurant in Mandan.
9. Dinner Cruise Oct 10th We will meet at 5:30pm at North Arby's going to Sportsman in Wilton
10. Next meeting Oct 19th 7pm at Buckstop Junction
11. Meeting adjourned 7:30 pm

# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## Member Birthdays

Joan Brosseau  
Don Davis  
Don Erhardt  
Dennis Erhardt  
Duane Jangula  
Josh Lindenberg  
Virgle Murray  
Todd Schmidt  
Rick Setterlund  
Harold Zimmerman

## Spouse Birthdays

Bonnie Andres  
Bernie Foley  
Val Harvey  
Jan Schmidt

## Anniversaries

Carl/Joann Copeland  
Don/Arlene Davis  
Micheal/Jennifer Farley  
Pat/Carol Fricke  
Dale/Pam Speckmann  
Harold/Sheila Zimmerman

## PAC NEWS

### **DINNER CRUISE NIGHT - Second Tuesday each month**

The October Dinner Cruise is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10th. We will meet at the north Arby's parking lot leaving at 5:30 p.m. We are cruising north to the Sportsman Bar and Grill in Wilton.

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### **PAC BLT (Breakfast Lunch Together) - Third Tuesday each month**

The October BLT cruise will be Tuesday, October 17th. We will meet at Buckstop Junction at 9:00 a.m. and cruise to Ohms Restaurant in Mandan. Enjoy a fall breakfast cruise with the Model A's or any classic car!!

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### **PAC MEETING- Third Thursday each month**

The next Pioneer Auto Club meeting will be held October 19th at Buckstop Junction at 7:00 p.m. We plan to have some new heaters in the Hollyhock Gas Station! Bring a chair and hopefully it will be toasty warm inside!

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### **UPDATED PIONEER AUTO CLUB WEBSITE!!**

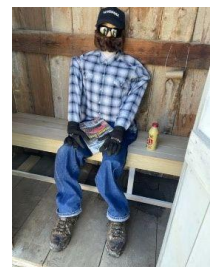
It's here!! Our website has a whole new look and it looks fabulous!! Kari Zimmerman and Jolene Ellefson have worked very hard to get the website up and running so go take a peek at [www.pioneerautoclub.com](http://www.pioneerautoclub.com). Check out the Newsletters, Pictures, Car Stories and Events! **A NEW Route 66 section has been added under the Gallery link. Submit any Route 66 photos to Jolene if you would like them added!**

#### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!**



Lee Ritter- Bismarck - '32 IHC Truck/Bus & '76 Jeep J10 Pickup

We have a new member who likes cars but doesn't own one himself. His name is Hank. He wants to help the PAC by volunteering for something. We decided he should be the Keeper of the Outhouse where he resides reading his Hemmings magazine and drinking a few Coors Banquets, welcome Hank!!



## CRUISE NIGHT - WATERING HOLE

Many PAC members drove out to the Watering Hole in Ft. Rice where Pauline and crew were ready to serve us! BBQ Ribs or Shrimp Boil were our choices along with Apple Crisp or Pecan Pie for dessert!! Both meals were delicious and I'm pretty sure we will be back. Thank you again to Bill and Alvina Schwehr for organizing this Cruise Night!!



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## DAKOTA CRUISERS FINALE TOUR - September 15-17

The Minot cruise was another success. There were nine vehicles and 17 members from the PAC club that made the trip. We joined the Dakota Cruisers at Garrison Dam for a cool (literally) photo opportunity with just under 50 total vehicles. The crew went on a cruise through the park at Pick City before stopping for lunch in Riverdale, followed by a garage tour in Garrison and continuing on to the Moose Park in Minot to enjoy food and beverages to close out day one. Saturday started with a show n shine at Moose Park with just under 200 cars registered, followed by a poker run with 4 garage tours. After the garage tours our PAC club stopped in a nice pub to watch the Bison game and wet our whistles before heading to the banquet and awards ceremony where around 270 people were served a fantastic meal. The evenings were spent in the hotel conference room playing cards and dice games to test our skills, and enjoy a nightcap. Sunday morning some of the crew went to George Masters shop for breakfast before heading back to Bismarck. Darrell Emmil and Don Roloff both did the balance trailer with Dave Owens as their co-pilot. John Ohlsen also did the balance trailer with his pickup. We were fortunate to all return safe and sound. *Check out more photos and videos on the PAC website or Dakota Cruisers Car Club FaceBook page.*



## SOUTHWEST TOUR



Each year the Pioneer Auto Club organizes a three-day travel event to showcase various sites throughout the great state of North Dakota. This year we selected towns and sites in the southwest part of the state. The first stop was in Mott at the Pedal Tractor Museum. Diane was very gracious in showing the three hundred plus peddle tractors that her grandfather had collected over the years. He also had a passion for collecting 1/18<sup>th</sup> scale tractors. Derek, Diane's son, built a museum to house his one thousand models. Every make and model were on display in the Miniature Tractor Museum. A surprise garage find was included in the Mott stop. We were informed that family members had a garage near the

museum that contained six 1929 Model A's of various models. The models included runabouts, pickups, Tudors, four door sedans and several additional models. All were in relatively good condition. Fun to see at any rate.

We had lunch at the Bowman Lodge in the Grazers Burgers and Beers before we headed to our second scheduled stop of the Van Horn Western and Antique Auto Museum. This museum is a gem on the prairie. JD Van Horn began collecting cars at a very young age and made it his life long passion. The museum has approximately 100 antique automobiles, a miniature car collection, an arrowhead collection, historic photos, baseball card collection, western buggies and wagons.



A fourth building is under construction to house additional models. A special feature at the end of the tour is choosing from a selection of Blue Bunny ice cream. It doesn't get much better than that.



We had an evening dinner at the Pastime Club and Steakhouse. Several of us toured the Mystic Theatre. The theater was built in 1914 and is the oldest standing structure that was built for use as a theater. It has been rebuilt and is actively used within the community. We did have a tragic incident on the way back to Bowman from Marmarth. Bill and Alvina Schwehr unfortunately hit a deer. The front of Bill's 1966 Plymouth was severely damaged and wasn't able to continue to drive. Joe LaFave was called to haul Bill and Alvina's car to Bowman. It was a great relief to know that no one was hurt in the accident. A big thanks to Joe for being the tour back up by having his trailer ready if needed.

The next day we headed toward Medora for a presentation from the Medora Foundation and the Theodore Roosevelt Library. This two hour presentation was very interesting and provided insight into the future projects of the Foundation and the cooperation between the Library and the Foundation. The afternoon was open to members to visit local eateries, take in the Cowboy Hall of Fame, The Schafer Museum, etc. and of course, shopping opportunities.

Several of us found a NDSU Bison football game at a local establishment that had brews and big screen rounding out a great day. Four of us were scheduled to participate in a Balloon Festival ride on Sunday morning. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate so the balloons did not fly. We are however on the list for next year. A number of us took in the Gospel Brunch which was an outstanding event.

The final event on the tour was attending the Taylor Car Show. There were approximately 60 cars at the show, many of which we hadn't seen before. Rick Setterlund's 1930 Chevy was a great addition to the show. We had an opportunity to visit with the event chair. He invited the PAC to the next year's show. Check out more pics on our website!

During the September PAC meeting, Carol Fricke presented a THANK YOU gift to Joe LaFave from PAC members who participated in the Southwest Tour. Joe is always there with his truck and trailer to help with car mishaps along the way!



Joe was a BIG help to Alvina and Bill Schwehr during the Southwest Tour. After a delicious supper in Marthmarth, while heading back to Bowman, a deer and the Schwehr vehicle had an unfortunate collision. PAC members helped the Schwehr's load their car on Joe's trailer.



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## ROMANCE ON THE ROAD



It happened at the Minot Cruisers Finale Show and Shine. The PAC parked their cars next to each other on the show field early. We cleaned our gems and made final touches for people to enjoy our entries. We pulled out our chairs and formed a circle behind our cars. As usual, discussions occurred, laughter happened, and a few Stevie jokes were in the air. A number of us broke from the circle to take a final look at the cars so we had an informed idea of which one we would vote for. The group gathered back at the circle discussing our choices.

Several of us had found some snacks and were munching away when it happened. Steve Ellefson was rummaging through his bag of potato chips. He stopped, picked out one chip and leaned over toward Jolene and said, "look, I found a heart for you". He handed the heart shaped chip to Jo, who took it lovingly. Pictures were taken of the romantic happening.

The moral of the story is, if you are snacking on a bag of chips, keep it away from Steve because he will rummage through any bag of chips to find another heart shaped chip.

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## ANNUAL CUSTOMER AND MILITARY APPRECIATION CAR SHOW

It was chilly and overcast the morning of September 9, but Rick Setterlund decided to load up his 1932 Chevy 5 Window Coupe and head to the 17th Annual Customer and Military Appreciation Event at Chevrolet of Mandan. After visiting with other car enthusiasts, listening to some live music and enjoying sunshine in the afternoon, the awards were presented. Rick's '32 took third place! Also in attendance from Pioneer Auto Club was Dennis Naasz. Dennis' 1964 Chevy Impala SS Convertible took 5th. Congratulations PAC members!



## DAKOTA NICE ... by Jackie Dockter



Kool Deadwood Nites and a flat tire in the middle of nowhere - should only cause a "slight delay", right? Well, not quite!

Day before our Wednesday departure, 66DREAM, due to a broken convertible top latch, decided it didn't want to make the annual trip, sooo MINTPTY to the rescue!

About 30 miles north of Isabel SD, in 94 degrees, muggy, and no shade, we had a flat tire! Greg had no problem removing 4 of 5 lug nuts, but the 5th remained frozen, and excessive force resulted in a broken stud! No problem, Greg figured four would hold

the spare well enough to get to the Hills. The first lug nut spun on without a problem, but the other three seized halfway on - BIG PROBLEM now!

All the while, several cars drove by, including a sheriff who didn't even touch his brakes, but soon "Dakota Nice" started in: A Good Samaritan from Rapid City stopped and asked if we needed help. The young man also tried to get the lug nuts to budge, was unable to do so, but assured us he "wouldn't leave us stranded"! He drove us to Isabel SD, only to find out that no one had towing capabilities there! But, they advised that Biegler's in Timber Lake SD did! Things were looking up!

By the time Biegler's picked us up in Isabel, drove back to poor MINTPTY, loaded it on a flatbed and Timber Lake shop arrival, it was too late to order the parts needed. However, they had already arranged overnight lodging for us at a local cabin (thankfully with cool A/C!). Greg asked the owner of the cabin if, since we didn't know when the repairs would be done, we could leave our luggage in the cabin the next morning. He was told "no problem, we are Mayberry RFD around here!

On Thursday morning we were advised that the studs were available in Mobridge and Mr. Biegler would loan us his wife's car so that we could do a "parts run". However, a short time later it was found Biegler's didn't have the correct lug nuts nor a correct tire for MINTPTY!

So, since some of the parts were now coming from as far as Billings and Laurel, MT and wouldn't arrive until Friday morning, we had a whole day to spend in Timber Lake. Mr. Biegler advised us to check out the local museum. To our amazement, we found it to be a very worthy, first-class small town museum with extensive paleontology, Native American, and local art displays, all extremely well documented and displayed. After the museum closed for the day, Mr. Biegler handed us the keys to his truck and gave us directions to a little gem of a park along the Moreau River so that we could do a little hiking and play Pétanque. Only downside to that idea was that the mosquitoes were rather hungry that evening! After our return, and after Mr. and Mrs. Biegler attended a local game they had previously committed to, they became our taxi and drove us to Isabel for a late supper together there (Timber Lake, at the time, didn't have evening dining options). Friday morning, when Greg went to a local coffee shop, a total stranger picked up the cost of his coffee! By now word had gotten around that we were the "stranded people in town"! Even the local paper took a picture of us and MINTPTY and ran an article the next day about our misadventures!

By Friday afternoon we were back on the road again and we got to KDN just in time for the main feature and the rest of KDN's entertainment.

Lesson we learned from this little adventure: It appears that mid-year 2003 and 2004 retro models have "special" studs, different from the other retro years!! Therefore, five spare studs and lug nuts have now joined the spark plug & COP assembly in the trunk! Oh, the joys of driving a special interest car!!

But more importantly, what with the constant negativity and anger one is being subjected to nowadays, it was absolutely refreshing to be treated so very kindly and graciously by all the people we met, and who helped us out in those couple of days. "Dakota Nice" is still alive and well, especially in the small towns! We all should remember and focus more on that.....

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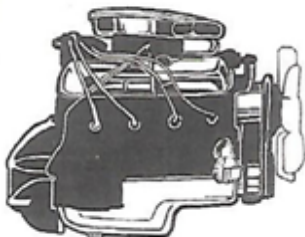
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## Upcoming car shows & events **For a complete list of events, visit [www.pioneercarclub.com](http://www.pioneercarclub.com)**

### **Upcoming events**

October 10 - PAC Dinner Cruise - Sportsman Bar & Grill, Wilton

October 17 - BLT - Ohm's Cafe, Mandan

October 19 - PAC Monthly Meeting - Hollyhock Gas Station, Buckstop Junction



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Check out [Car Show Calendar North Dakota](#) Facebook page for up to date car shows and cruise events