

# PIONEER AUTO CLUB NEWSLETTER



## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It was a perfect day for a car cruise. We met at North Arby's and headed to SD by traveling on the scenic Highway 1804. It was a beautiful drive with six cars, four of which were convertibles ...see article in the newsletter!

Now, down to business! We have a number of events to attend during the month of August. PAC Capital A'Fair show on August 2nd, please enter on 4<sup>th</sup> street west parking lot entrance. Registration begins at 9:30 am. The show concludes at 3:00 pm. Cash prizes will be selected at 2:30 pm. There are 65 parking spaces available. Come early to get a good spot. Also, Wayne Martineson is handing out to all registrants the book "AUTOMOBILE HISTORY DAY BY DAY" By local author Doug Wick.

A motion was made and accepted to have our annual Steak Fry on September 9th. Tom and Cheri will host the event at the GetAway from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Come early with your contribution to the meal. Tom will have the PAC Grill at the GetAway. Volunteers will fry up the steaks. Please RSVP to Jolene and Steve for a count for the steaks. If you have not been to the GetAway, it will be an enjoyable experience. It is literally a museum. Note that the cost of the meal will once again be \$15.00. Pay at the GetAway. Enjoy!

Acres of Iron Car show in conjunction with Buckstop Junction's Hootenanny will be held on August 16th. Registration opens at 9:00 am. Valve cover Race Track set up 8:30 am. Race for PAC members will be at 11:00 am. Open races will begin at 1:00 pm. Cash prizes will be selected at 2:30 pm to car show registrants. Come early to get a good parking spot. All PAC members are asked to wear their PAC t-shirts during the show. This is the first year that the PAC is required to have a temporary food license. We have obtained the license and it will be posted in the food court in public view. Also, bring all rummage items early on Saturday. Tables will be set up for you to display your items. Jennifer Farley and Linda Olsen will be available to help with the sale of the items. Thanks for your help. Wayne will have Doug Wicks books available for all show registrants.

August 19<sup>th</sup> we will be doing a Shop Stop at Riverwood RV.. Meet at Buckstop at 9:00 am and head to Mandan. We will have breakfast at Ohms in west Mandan after the tour.

Put this event on your calendar, dinner cruise to Fort Rice Waterhole on August 12, 2025. We will once again meet at Arby's North at 5:30 pm and head to Fort Rice for some Caribbean cuisine. Thanks to Bill for setting this up!

### AUGUST 2025 Volume 17 Issue 8

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Pioneer Auto Club  
[www.pioneerclub.com](http://www.pioneerclub.com)

# MINUTES - July 17, 2025



Greetings and Welcome 7:00pm

1. Secretary Report - Laura Engwicht As printed in the newsletter 1st Joe LaFave & 2nd Tom Freidt accepted
2. Treasurer's Report - Steve Ellefson
3. Committee Reports
  - a. Buckstop Junction - Wayne & John
4. Old Business
  - a. Who has a car story? Could use one for the newsletter, send to Don, Laura, or Kathy.
  - b. Virtual Car Show - find the perfect site this summer to take a pic of your classic car to be added to the VCS.
  - c. Gas Station labels for equipment are made. Need to put labels on.
5. New Business
  - a. Capitol Affair Car Show Aug 2nd in the northwest parking lot of the state capital building. Use the 4<sup>th</sup> street entrance south of Divide Ave. Registration begins at 9:00AM with the show officially starting at 11:00AM and going until 3:00PM. The first 50 cars registered will receive a dash plaque and all cars registered will be eligible for three cash drawings (totaling \$100) at 2:45PM. All cars and Clubs are welcome. Pat Fricke Chair
  - b. Acres of Iron Car Show Aug 16th 11am to 3pm enter through the north gate.
    1. Motion by Tom Freidt for \$100 cash prize. 2nd by Kevin Schatz, pass.
    - ii. Need temporary food license \$75 fee. Don received this now.
    - iii. Food bought by Engwicht's
      1. Please bring a bag of ice
      2. Need help all day long. You don't have to be there all day.
    - iv. Valve Cover Race Track needs to be setup 8am
    - v. Rummage sale will be by Diana Roloff. Please bring items on Saturday morning.
  - c. Trip to Mobridge SD for Drive in Theatre. July 26th Stay at Grand River Casino. Leaving North Arby's at 11am. Let Mark Engwicht know if you are interested.
  - d. Steak Fry Sept 9th 5:30pm at The Hideaway (Cheri & Tom Freidt's) 1372 14th St SE Mandan for the Dinner Cruise. Please RSVP to PAC PO Box 3163, Bismarck, ND 58502. \$15 for each steak. Please bring a side to share.
  - e. Elections are coming in Oct. We will be electing all officers. Please let Joe LaFave know if you would like to run.
6. Dinner Cruise - Tuesday Aug 12th We will go to The Water Hole in Fort Rice. Leaving Arby's at 5:30pm.
7. Breakfast Lunch Together - Aug 19th at Ohm's Cafe in Mandan. Meet at Buckstop Junction at 9:00am.
  - a. Breakfast Cruise Shop Stop, Aug 19th, Riverwood RV.
8. Meeting Aug 21st will be at Buckstop Junction Gas Station 7pm - meeting adjourned 8pm

# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## Member Birthdays

Steven Boyle  
Darrell Emmil  
Blaine Engelstad  
Curt Gietzen  
Curt Goehring  
jim Hopfauf  
Mark Makelky  
Pius Roehrich  
Grace S  
Dave Schmitz

## Spouse Birthdays

Carla Engelstad  
Jan Hetletved  
Brittany Klemisch  
June Preszler  
Diana Roloff  
Elaine Schilla  
Alvina Schwehr  
Judy Wangler

## Anniversaries

Bob/LaDonna Bowerman  
Kelly/Brittany Klemisch  
Mark/Joanne Makelky  
Rollin/Barb Mehlhoff  
Steve/Juliann Orman  
Ron/Jan Pickar  
Pius/Esther Roehrich  
Rick/Kathy Setterlund  
Sam/Judy Wangler



## PAC NEWS

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

Tuesday, August 12th we will go to head to the Watering Hole in Fort Rice. Leaving Arby's at 5:30 pm.

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

We continue to invite members to the Breakfast and Dinner cruises. The next BLT will be Tuesday, August 19th. Meet at Buckstop Junction at 9:00 am. We will tour Riverwood RV, then breakfast at Ohm's in Mandan.

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

The next Pioneer Auto Club meeting will be held Thursday, August 21st at 7:00 pm. at Buckstop Junction.

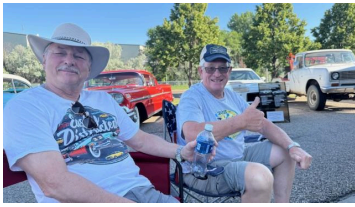


### **PIONEER AUTO CLUB WEBSITE!!**

Visit our website at [www.pioneerautoclub.com](http://www.pioneerautoclub.com). Check out the Newsletters, Pictures, Car Stories and Events!

Reminder that we continually look for you to show off your car using the Virtual Car Show. You can find the VCS on our website. Keep taking a few great pics of your car this summer and send them to me. We will take a pic of you and your vehicle if needed!

There was a great turnout for the Edgewood Vista car show held July 8th. Over 20 cars were on display for the residents to enjoy along with food, ice cream and entertainment! Dolly Parton even made an appearance and sang a few well known "Dolly" songs!



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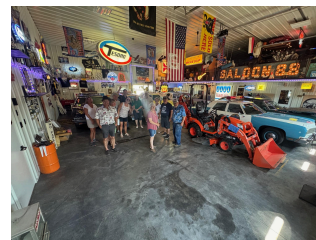
Six couples from the Pioneer Auto Club hit the road on Saturday, July 26, for a scenic and fun-filled drive to Mobridge, South Dakota.

The day began with a lunch stop at Grumpy's in Pollock, where we enjoyed good food and good company. From there, we headed out for a garage tour, exploring some unique items and collectibles.

Next, we continued on to Mobridge, where we checked into the Grand Casino. After settling in, we met in the lobby for a nice visit and then some of us tried our luck at the slots before everyone gathered for dinner at the casino restaurant.

Our evening wrapped up under the stars at the Pheasant Drive-In, where we caught a showing of Superman. We were treated to a light show thanks to mother nature but fortunately, no really bad weather bothered us!

A big thank you to Mark and Laura Engwicht for organizing such a fun and memorable road trip!



# UPCOMING CAR SHOWS & OTHER FUN EVENTS



## PIONEER AUTO CLUB

Bismarck Art & Galleries Association  
Capital A'Fair

## ★ SHOW & SHINE ★

**Saturday**

**August 2, 2025**

- Open to all classic cars
- Free Registration!
- Limited Space Available
- Dash Plaques & Prizes

*Bismarck Capital Grounds  
West Parking Lot  
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Registration 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.*



The Capital A'Fair Car Show is Saturday, Aug. 2, 2025 in the northwest parking lot of the state capital building. Use the 4<sup>th</sup> street entrance south of Divide Ave. Registration begins at 9:00AM with the show officially starting at 11:00AM and going until 3:00PM.

The first 50 cars registered will receive a dash plaque and all cars registered will be eligible for three cash drawings (totaling \$100) at 2:45 PM.

All cars and Clubs are welcome.

### TOUCHMARK CAR SHOW - AUGUST 14TH

Join us for classic cars, food trucks, live music, an open house of our campus, and community spirit. Whether you're a vintage enthusiast or simply looking for a fun way to spend a summer evening, this event has something for everyone. Free-will donations benefiting the Alzheimer's Association gratefully accepted.



**PIONEER AUTO CLUB**

## ACRES OF IRON CAR SHOW

**SATURDAY AUGUST 16TH  
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

**BUCKSTOP JUNCTION  
HOLLYHOCK GAS STATION**

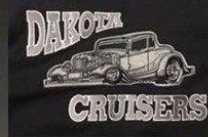
THE ACRES OF IRON CAR SHOW WILL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BUCKSTOP JUNCTION HOOTENANNY LOCATED EAST BISMARCK ON OLD HIGHWAY 10



REGISTER THE DAY OF THE EVENT. YOU WILL RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY DRINK TICKET WITH PURCHASE OF A HOT DOG OR HAMBURGER DURING THE CAR SHOW. TWO (2) PEOPLE AND KIDS 9 & UNDER WILL HAVE FREE ENTRANCE WITH CAR AT THE NORTH GATE

FOR MORE INFO VISIT OUR WEBSITE PIONEER AUTO CLUB [HTTPS://PIONEERCLUB.COM/](https://pioneerclub.com/)

Show and Shine



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# CAR STORY - The Long Ride Home by Bruce Rittel

*Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous. ~Albert Einstein*



The journey started with my purchase of a 1987 Nissan Pulsar T-top, the perfect sexy car except for one thing -- the powder-blue body. Easy to fix, right? Paint it black. But what began as a simple paint job soon developed into a new friendship and a discovery beyond my imagination.

My quest to turn this little car into a sleek, black, speed machine led me to Archie, a local mechanic and body man. Unlike me, Archie breathed, smelled, and dreamed about cars; all cars - - fast, old, muscle. His passion for life and easy smile were contagious, and many afternoons I looked forward to just shooting the breeze with him. We'd talk about everything from family to sports to politics.

One day, while we were chatting away in his shop, Archie shared his excitement about a fast, old car he found online. Moments later, he pulled up the site, and before I knew it, the two of us were having an intelligent talk about -- of all things -- muscle cars. Internally, I laughed at the picture of me -- a fifty-two-year-old widower and longtime federal office employee -- sitting in a hot, stuffy garage discussing muscle cars with a fifty-something man who was as excited as a kid with a new Christmas toy!

I mentioned that Archie's smile was contagious, but his excitement must have been too. Perhaps that's why, two nights later when my favorite show turned out to be a re-run, I sat down at my computer and pulled up Archie's online site. Eight o'clock on a Thursday night, and I was looking at muscle cars for sale!

The site listed twenty-six pages. By the time I reached page six, I was bored and ready to call it quits when a blue '65 Mustang caught my eye. My younger brother-in-law, Scott, once owned a car just like it. Out of the blue, only weeks earlier I had thought about that car. I even contacted Scott's dad to see if it still sat in his barn, only to discover Scott sold it several years earlier. Though he loved the car, Scott never found the time to fix it up. So, when I saw that Mustang and read that the car sat for nearly thirty years in a barn, I was curious. Could this be Scott's old car?

Of course, I called the number listed in the ad. And after a few questions, I was certain it was my brother-in-law's old car. Chills ran down my spine. Okay, so what's the likelihood that I'd recently thought of that car and then accidentally found it online? The car price sounded reasonable; the car just needed some body work, but, hey, I knew Archie. The only real glitch was another potential buyer planning to purchase the car in two days.

I needed to make a quick decision, but my intentions that night hadn't included buying another car. To be sure I had the right vehicle, I contacted Scott's sister, Tammy, in Montana. Minutes later, after questioning her, I was convinced.

I called the seller back and bought the car. What a great surprise this would make for my brother-in-law, now confined to a nursing home. Scott suffered a work-related accident two years earlier that resulted in a coma and rendered him paralyzed with little hope for recovery.

With excitement I called my sister-in-law again and explained my plan. Dead silence. After a moment she said, "Bruce, the first owner of that car was not Scott. It was a hand-me-down. Dad bought that car for Tracy, and she learned how to drive on that Mustang."

My head started spinning. Tracy, my wife, died five years ago.

As I talked to Tammy, another idea popped into my head. Instead of simply showing Scott the car, I would put that Mustang into top condition and then give Tracy's first car to her dad. With Christmas just months away, that would make a great present.

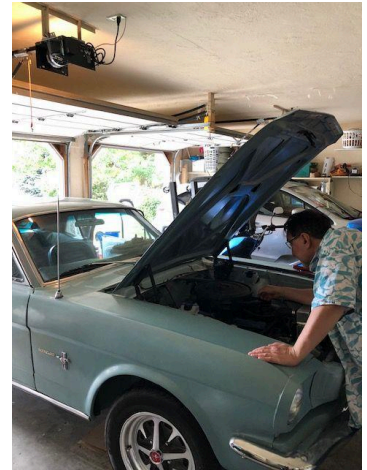
## CAR STORY - The Long Ride Home by Bruce Rittel (Cont.)

Then I had yet another thought. To add to my gift presentation to Tracy's dad, I would place the Mustang key in a special ornament box -- one that Tracy gave him. When she was alive, each Christmas for ten years, Tracy bought her dad a Hallmark car ornament. The year she died, the Hallmark series abruptly stopped. Two weeks before that Christmas, I remembered Tracy's tradition, and decided I would complete her dad's collection since she was gone. I scouted the whole state until I found that year's ornament.

For this Christmas, we'd wheel Scott to the nursing home parking lot to see the car, and we'd hand Tracy's father his last gift to open -- the Hallmark ornament box with the car key inside. To Tracy's mother, we'd present a scrapbook that contained pictures of the car's progressive makeover as well as a picture of sixteen-year-old Tracy standing in front of her first vehicle.

My heart overflowed with warm thoughts, and I was awed as I acknowledged that only God, full of power and mystery, could possibly bring such details together over many years and miles.

Now, I just needed to pick up the car, located in Riverdale more than eighty miles away, and get it to Archie. I called the seller to make arrangements. He just "happened" to be driving to Bismarck the next day, and since he owned a trailer, he agreed to haul the car to the body shop. Surprisingly, he still had the original title to the car -- the one with my father-in-law's name.



I chuckled over how all the pieces were falling into place and couldn't help but see God's hand in the connections.

But one more surprise remained for me. Out of curiosity, I asked the seller how he found the Mustang, especially since Riverdale was over seventy miles from Flasher, where Scott lived. He explained that he hounded Scott for two years after he saw the car in an old barn. He'd made the original trip to the barn because he received an out-of-the blue call about a different antique car -- a 1946 Chrysler Windsor. When he was looking at the Chrysler, he saw the Mustang also parked there.

My ears perked up. Eight years earlier, I convinced my father-in-law to sell an old car he inherited when he bought his farm. I had made dozens of phone calls to antique car dealers in order to sell the vehicle. The car? A 1946 Chrysler Windsor. Yes, I was the man who contacted the seller, who now owned the Mustang. Now years later, I bought it back in memory of my deceased wife, to cheer my disabled brother-in-law, and as a present for my father-in-law.

Yes, my journey began with me purchasing the wrong color Nissan Pulsar. But the adventure continued until one very special blue '65 Mustang concluded its long ride home.

Frankly, it took me years to get that done. I've been ripped off by three body shops, so I wound up doing it pretty much in my garage with a friend but we're just not great electrical guys so hard to that point. Yeah, it's not the best paint job, but it's better than what the body shops. They stole thousands of money from me and never did a thing.





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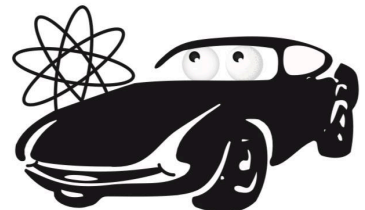
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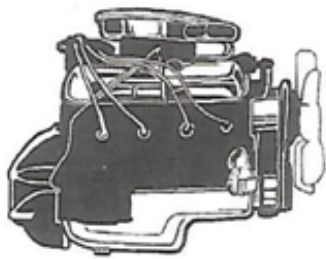
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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!**



PAC Newsletter  
PO Box 3163  
Bismarck, ND 58502

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

### **Upcoming events**

Aug 2nd Capitol Affair Car Show  
Aug 12th Dinner Cruise Water Hole Fort Rice  
Aug 16th Acres of Iron Car Show  
Aug 16th Rods n Rock Car Show Carson  
Aug 19th BLT Ohm's Cafe Mandan  
Sept 7th Rebel Custom Car Show in Taylor



### **Like our PIONEER AUTO CLUB Facebook Page!**

Check out **Car Show Calendar North Dakota** Facebook page for up to date car shows and cruise events