

# PIONEER AUTO CLUB NEWSLETTER



## February 2026 Volume 18 Issue 2

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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thanks to Don and Diana for hosting our January meeting, and to all those who attended.

As we move into February with the up and down temperature swings, it's still time to start getting those classics buffed and ready for all the car shows and adventures that are just around the corner.

We had some updates on the America 250 Auto Show at the Capital on July 3rd, 2026. We will be asking for volunteers from the Pioneer Auto Club to help with different aspects of the event to make this show a success. More to follow as this event gets closer (see flyer in this newsletter).

During the meeting our President Dave stated he was creating a new position called "Activities Director" to our PAC leadership roles, and he appointed Mark Engwicht to fill this position. Mark accepted and the club members approved of the new appointment. This is something that Mark has been doing for a long time, and we want him to know we appreciate all that he does for the good of the club.

Dave and Linda proposed an idea to gain some club participation and possibly put some money into some lucky members' pockets. The idea was discussed and approved to have any willing members present at the monthly meetings to be part of a 50/50 drawing. The objective is that participating members would pay \$1.00 to get their name into a pot for a drawing at each meeting, with one entry per meeting. The pot will be 50% paid to the lucky members, and 50% retained and recorded by the club each month until the Christmas Party. The names of all participating members will be added to the pot each month until the Christmas Party, so the more meetings you attend the more times your name will be added to the pot for the final drawings. It was discussed and approved by the members present to have a donation of up to \$200 added to the monthly meeting pot by the PAC club for the final drawings. There will be one final chance to get your name in the pot when you sign in at the Christmas Party. You do not have to be present to win any of the final cash drawings, but you do have to attend meetings or the Christmas party and sign in and pay a \$1.00 fee to get your name in the pot.

There were 20 members who participated in the January 50/50 drawing and Jan Pickar was our first lucky member.

Thanks to all the members and advertisers who have paid for the 2026 season, and a reminder to those who have yet to sign up to be eligible to receive the newsletter.

Thanks to all and I look forward to seeing you at the Valentines supper at Jack's Steak House on February 19, 2026, starting at 5:30 pm. Thanks to Mark, our new Activities Director, Roses will be available for all the women who attend.





Greetings and Welcome 7:00pm

1. Secretary Report - Laura Engwicht As printed in the newsletter 1st Pat Fricke & 2nd Don Roloff accepted
2. Treasurer's Report - Steve Ellefson read by Dave Schmitz 1st Pat Fricke & 2nd Ron Pickar
3. Committee Reports
  - a. Buckstop Junction - Wayne & John Buckstop is trying to do some updates. Not much else happening.
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. Christmas Party discussion - ideas for 2026 All went well & lots of fun.
5. New Business
  - a. Valentine's Supper - Jack's Steakhouse Bismarck February 19, 5:30pm social hour
  - b. America 250 Car Show Update - Pat, Darrell, Dave, Wayne, Joe  
Actual car show 4pm to 8pm
  - c. Dinner Cruise - Begin in March 10th going to Rock n 50's Bismarck
  - d. Dave and Linda came up with the idea of put a \$1 and name in pot and do a 50/50 drawing. The remainder will get drawn at the Christmas Party.  
Greg Dockter made a motion to put \$200 in with the 50/50 for prize at the Christmas party. Pat Fricke 2nd and pass
6. Dinner Cruise March 10th Rock n 50s, Bismarck. Meet at 5:30pm at Arby's North.
7. BLT - March 17th at Fried's Restaurant in Mandan. Meet at Buckstop Junction at 9:00am.
8. Next Meeting March 19th will be at Wayne Martinson shop 1801 Channel Drive Bismarck Unit
9. Meeting Adjourn 8:22pm



# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## Member Birthdays

Craig DeGree  
Micheal Farley  
Tom Freidt  
Harley Kleemann  
Rollin Mehlhoff  
Jeremy Rudnick  
Arlon Voge

## Spouse Birthdays

LaDonna Bowerman  
Mary Haas  
Cindy Kleemann  
Julian Orman

## Anniversaries

Greg/Jackie Dockter  
Josh/Brittany Lindenberg  
John/Linda Ohlsen  
Gary/June Preszler



## **PAC NEWS**

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

Our dinner cruise will resume on March 10th to Rock 'n 50s, Bismarck. Meet at 5:30pm at Arby's North.

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

We continue to invite members to the Breakfast and Dinner cruises. Next BLT will resume March 17th at Fried's Restaurant in Mandan. Meet at Buckstop Junction at 9:00am to drive over as a group.

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

The next Pioneer Auto Club meeting will be held Thursday, March 19th at Wayne Martinson's shop. The address is 1801 Channel Drive Bismarck Unit 4. There will not be a formal PAC Meeting in February due to the Valentine's Day Party at Jack's Steakhouse February 19th with social to start at 5:30 p.m.

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



Pioneer Auto Club [www.poneercarclub.com](http://www.poneercarclub.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!

## CAR STORY - My First Car by Michael Horan

When my older sister needed a car to use for college, the folks purchased a rather dilapidated 1952 Chevrolet Deluxe, 4 door sedan. She used it primarily to go between home (central MN) and Mankato State College, Mankato, MN. Once in Mankato, she used it to get between the two campus locations, which were "connected" by a very steep and winding street. As I remember, her brakes failed going down that steep hill one day, was scared to death, and did not want anything more to do with that car. I do not remember the details of how the car got back to our farm, but it basically sat there, once parked.

I had already started college at the time, and so when I returned home for the summer months and started a job in the adjoining town, my folks told me I might just as well take the old Chevy and use it to go to and from my summer job.

Because the car bounced like a bronco and trying to keep it going down the road in a controlled manner was a real challenge, I crawled under it and found that the front shocks had pulled through the bottom mounts. After checking to be sure the shocks actually had some usable life, I pulled them down and by using some large, heavy duty washers, I re-anchored them. The top anchors were fine. So the ride and control were greatly improved!

Because the rocker panels were very badly rusted, virtually non-existent (remember, I grew up in Minnesota), I went out to our machine shed and pulled together some rough 1" x 6" boards to make a trough. Once the trough was done, I filled it with used motor oil and placed some rough cut 2" x 4"s into that oil to soak.

Then I stopped by a local junk yard and found some chrome rocker panel trim pieces off an early 50's Chrysler or DeSoto that turned out to be about 3.5 or 4 inches wide and pretty darned close to the length of the Chevy rocker panels.

So with the Chrysler or DeSoto pieces in hand, I went home and pulled the soaked boards out of the oil. I let them drip for a couple of days and then, using some stainless steel stove bolts and washers, I attached the boards to the underside of what was left of the very rusted rocker panels. Once properly attached, I drilled some holes through the acquired trim pieces and attached them to those oil soaked boards using stainless steel wood screws. So, all of a sudden, I went from a really rusty car that one might be embarrassed to drive or be seen in, to something much better (still not a show car...it was still an old '52 Chevy 4 door sedan).

I drove that car until, because of major injuries from an auto accident, I was no longer able to drive a car with a clutch. It was sold at my parent's auction sale several years later, but it caused a lot of chuckles and comments because of the way the shocks and the rust problems were handled.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Morgan Harvey, Mandan

*Hey new (and current) members ... We would love to hear about your first car, your favorite classic car or an interesting car story!! Please consider submitting your story for our next newsletter!*



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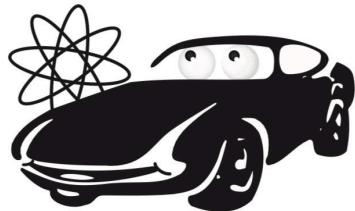
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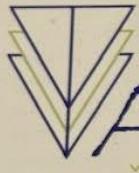
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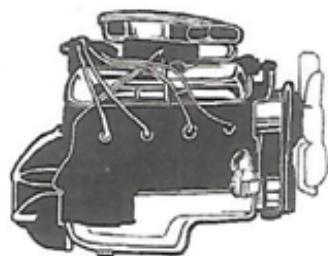
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PAC Newsletter

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

### Upcoming events

Feb 19th Valentine Supper

March 10th Dinner Cruise Rock n 50's

March 17th BLT Fried's Mandan

March 19th Wayne's Shop



### 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