

# PIONEER AUTO CLUB

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**Dec 2020**  
**Volume 12 Issue 12**

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Hello from Diana and Don

Merry Christmas to all PAC members with a hope for an enjoyable holiday. Since we had to cancel our Christmas Party, we decided that something else should be put in the party's place. On December 17, 2020, the Pioneer Auto Club will be hosting a CHRISTMAS LITES CRUISE. We have made arrangements for a tour with Nightlife Limo to take us around the town. It will be a 90 minute cruz. They are good with the PAC following the Limo.

Diana and I will take our grandkids for the Christmas Lights in the Limo. We will give everyone my cell number to let me know if any member gets lost. They call my number and the Limo driver will slow or pull over until we are all together. They have done this before and typically don't have much of a problem with it. We will meet at 6:45 pm at the Kmart parking lot. We will leave for the cruise at 7:00 pm. So we are ready.

Some of the PAC members received an early Christmas gift this year. See the article on the acquisition Patty and Dave Owens made out in Washington state. An interesting article discussing some of the rarest 50's vintage specialty cars which are now in his car hotel. Maybe a tour could be forthcoming.

We will plan for a PAC meeting January 21, 2021. It will be at the Quality Inn in our typical Party Room. Beverages available for you to purchase at the bar or bring your own. We will use COVID protocol; masks required, seating will be spaced apart and maybe for kicks we will take your temperature upon arrival. We could even judge who has the most creative mask but safe we will be. So, come on down for our first meeting of the year January 21, 2021.

Let's do something challenging between the Christmas Lites Cruise and the January meeting. Each week starting with the last week of December, we will send out Auto Trivia for you to bend your minds over. Send your answers into Laura each week. We will announce the Auto Trivia winner at the January PAC meeting. The winner will receive a fantastic prize! So, rattle those old hub caps and join in on the 2021 PAC Auto Trivia.

## MINUTES – PAC Nov 19th, 2020

Meeting was canceled



Watch for information coming on Christmas lite tour Dec 17.

No Dec meeting

Jan 21st, 2021 will be at Quality Inn more info to come

The article on the acquisition Patty and Dave Owens made out in Washington state

This story began 64 years ago on Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, 1957. The Ford plant in San Jose, CA had completed the build of a Colonial White 1958 Ford Skyliner. This one though was not like the thousands of “flip top Fords” built before it. This car had “Ford Aire Suspension”, the newest technology of riding on air, featuring 4 air bags, compressor, tank, valves, regulators. It was an engineering marvel versus the coil & leaf springs on standard Fords of the day.

The story goes that the car was sold and the buyers made sporadic payments and eventually fell behind. A while later there was an argument at a bar and the owner got into the 58, revved the engine hard and slammed it into gear. The transmission blew out in a bar lot. The keys were thrown at the bartender and the owner walked away. The car was then repossessed and towed back to Bruce Gueske Motors in Wenatchee, WA where it sat in a lot unmolested for almost 50 years.

The Ford air suspension cars were a disappointment. Ford engineered no plans to account for moisture condensation in their design. Freezing temperatures, moisture caused corrosion, leaks, etc caused Ford to recall the 200 or so air rides, including 7 of the 9 Skyliner’s built, and replaced the system with 4 coil springs. It would be decades before Ford would try air suspension again.

In 2008 the car was purchased from Bruce Gueske Motors and moved to a farm vineyard where the next stage of its life began. The new owner intended a highly original frame off restoration as this car was one of only two to survive the factory recall and remain intact as Ford had built it. After removal of the mouse eaten interior the car went through an exhaustibly detailed documentation performed by the technical director for the International Ford Retractable club. After the car was completely disassembled awaiting restoration. Then the parts of the car sat collecting dust and deteriorating for another 12 years.

Patty and I are the only folks to ever fully restore and air ride Ford and currently have the only drivable air ride in existence which many of you have seen. We were asked repeatedly to rescue the car by IFRC members and we made the decision to do so (ok I did). A deal was made over the phone. The deal included the car, boxes of used and NOS parts, and believe it or not a second air ride Skyliner (1 of only 2 shipped to Canada).

After a week and a half of travels through snow and icy mountain passes, touring orchards, driving DeLorean's & Shelby's, visiting vineyards, and sight seeing the cars now rest at our home in Bismarck. The next chapter begins.

Dave O.

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## Member Birthdays

Carroll Sather  
Dale Speckmann  
Joe LaFave  
Dave Owens  
Adam Dever

## Spouse Birthdays

Bev Goehring  
Kathy Erhardt  
Audrey Heinle  
Cindy Schatz  
Nancy Ihmels  
Holly Rudnick

## Anniversaries

Don & Diana Roloff  
Carroll & Carol Sather  
Ronald & Verdel Hopfauf  
John & Susan Boyce  
Curtis & Sandy Erickson



Dave's Cars





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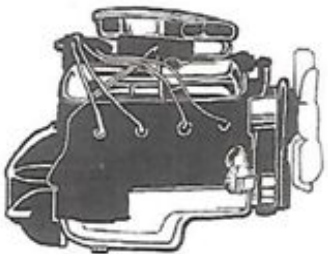


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*January - March 2019 will be donated to the United Way Emergency Homeless Shelter*



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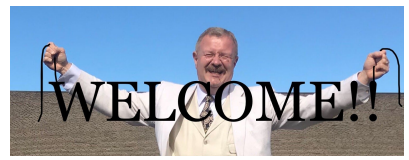
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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Cary & Connie Backstrand - '94 Chevy Cavalier  
Curtis & Sandy Erickson - '74 Chevy Nova SS  
Rollin & Barb Mehlhoff - Corvette



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



For information on car shows/events around the state of North Dakota, there's a Facebook page called 'Car Show Calendar North Dakota' ... check it out!

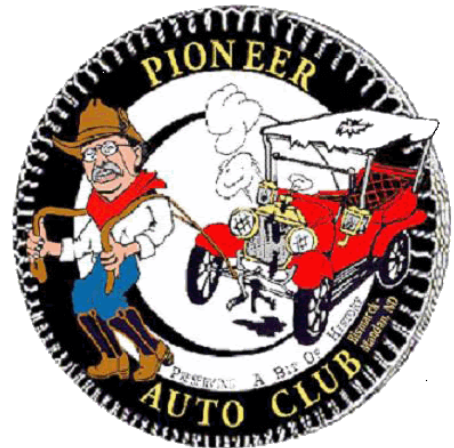
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For a complete list of events, visit [www.pioneercarclub.com](http://www.pioneercarclub.com)

## Upcoming car shows & events ...

### Upcoming events

Dec Meeting will be Christmas Lites  
Jan 21st PAC Meeting



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