

PIONEER AUTO CLUB

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Jan 2021
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 **pioneerclub**
www.pioneerclub.com

New Year Greetings from Diana and Don,

We wish everyone a Happy New Year with the hope that 2021 will be more of a "normal" year. You, know, cruising to destinations, meetings at the Holly Hock Gas Station, Buggies-N-Blues, Corn Feed, working on Model A's and many other great times.

The PAC Christmas Lights Cruise was a grand event. I was told we had at least twenty cars in the Light Cruise. There were several light exhibits that were spectacular. One in particular got a laugh as Santa came out and went back into a CHRISTMAS OUTHOUSE. Our Grandkids had a fun time in the limo including a snack break and lots of oohs and aahs.

Now it is time to shift gears! We have all experienced food comas and maybe a few to many bottles of wine were emptied. The PAC is coming to the rescue with a stimulating car club mind exercise with an Auto Trivia. Each week starting with the last week in December, we will be sending out five car questions for you to answer. Send your answers to Laura. The answers to the questions will be given at the January 21, 2021 PAC meeting. Come to the meeting to see if you are the winner.

We will plan for a PAC meeting January 21, 2021, 7:00 pm. It will be at the Quality Inn in our typical Party Room. Pizza will be served at 6:15pm if you want to come early. Beverages available at the bar or water in the room. 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.



MINUTES – PAC Dec 17th, 2020

Meeting was canceled, but had lots of fun looking at Christmas lights.



We will plan for a PAC meeting January 21, 2021, 7:00 pm. It will be at the Quality Inn in our typical Party Room, right outside the bar. Call 400-4103 if you get there and are not sure where to go. Pizza will be served at 6:15pm if you want to come early. Beverages available at the bar or water in the room.

Remember to renew your yearly PAC dues!! \$20/yr

Name: _____

Send to: Pioneer Auto Club

PO Box 3163

Bismarck, ND 58502-3163

(checks payable to Pioneer Auto Club)

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Member Birthdays

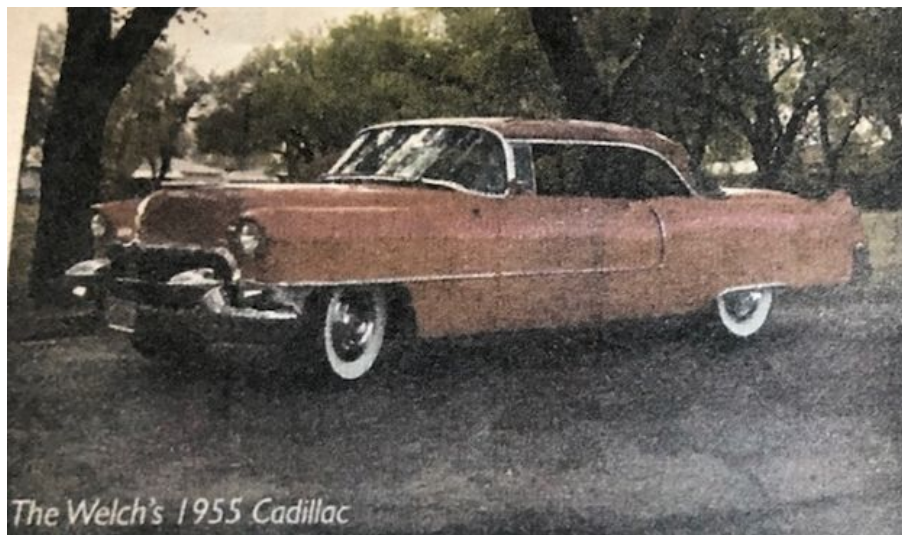
Pat Fricke
Russ Haas
Jerome Zimmerman
Bill Schwehr
Gary Grueneich

Spouse Birthdays

Doreen Quist
Kari Zimmerman
Valerie Harvey

Anniversaries

Jay & Linda Buringrud
Gene & Dianne Taix



Mike Lalonde had written an article in the WE DRIVE section of the City Magazine referencing the Welch 1955 Cadillac. He had written the article sometime after Ken Welch had obtained the car and restored it into driving condition.

MEMORABLE “CADDY”

For auto enthusiasts, the early 1950's were exciting times. Following World War II, car-hungry American buyers enjoyed innovative choices in design and technology. The “Big Three” – General Motors, Ford and Chrysler-offered advanced styling, new powertrains and flamboyant color choices.

One of the best known auto stylists of the day was GM's Harley Earl, whose designs were influenced by World War II aircraft. Earl applied his talent to the Cadillac, billed in advertising as the “Standard of the World”.

The Cadillac's styling cues included wrapping around windshield and backlight glass, rear fins and bold, pointed front bumper guards-all a salute to the Lockheed P-38 fighter plane. Cadillacs of the fifties were among the most desirable cars of the day, making a statement that their owners had “arrived”. One such couple was Chuck and Frances Welch, members of the local plumbing contractor family.

On July 30, 1955, the Welch's paid \$4,500 at Fleck Motors in Bismarck for a new Cadillac Coupe De Ville in Pacific Coral hue with a Coco-colored top. For price comparison, in 1955 Chevy' and Ford's were selling for \$2,500 and the average American worker was making around \$3,600 per year.

The Welch's drove the Caddy sparingly over the years, mostly on vacation trips. In 1972, when they parked the car for good, they had racked up a grand total of 28,600 miles. Enter Ken Welch, Chuck and Frances's nephew, who with wife Gail, acquired the Welch home on West Avenue F a few years ago. Along with the home came the Cadillac, which hadn't been started in three decades.

“It was in the garage, with a lot of material stacked on top of it” said Ken. “the tires were flat and the car was covered in dust”. My uncle and aunt had numerous cats, and they did a number on the chrome bumpers and hubcaps, which needed rechroming. At least there were no mice in the car”.

Ken has completely refurbished the vehicle, including all components original. Parts that needed repair, such as the water pump, were replaced. Remarkably, the paint required a light wet-sanding and buffing to bring out its original luster.

“All the interior needed was a good vacuuming”, Ken told City Magazine. “Parts for the car are readily available. Some are a bit pricey, but easy to find”.

That summer the Welch's drove the car to Medora for the annual Badlands Car Show, where the work paid off. The Caddy took the first place trophy in the original unrestored category. The following year the car will be displayed in the Medora Community Building during the show weekend.

For road manners, Ken says the car will drive effortlessly all day at an impressive 17 mile-per-gallon. Not bad for a 53 year old, 331 cubic-inch V-8 engine weighing nearly two tons. On a side note, I was a car-crazy kid of 13 a few doors down from the Welches when they bought the car. I remember it well, thought it was gorgeous then, and still think it's one of the most beautiful cars made. Mike Lalonde.

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Refer a friend and we will donate \$20 to local charities!
January - March 2019 will be donated to the United Way Emergency Homeless Shelter

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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!

PAC Newsletter
PO Box 3163
Bismarck, ND 58502

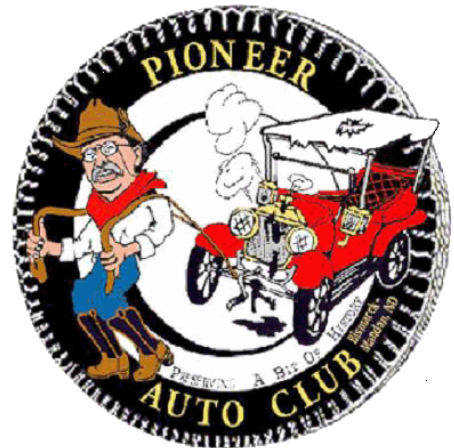
For a complete list of events, visit www.pioneercarclub.com

Upcoming car shows & events ...

Upcoming events

Jan 21st PAC Meeting

Feb 18th PAC Valentine Supper



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