



Newsletter

February 2009



President's Message

Wendelin Lesmeister, now there was a man! He passed away last month and – well, he was just a good guy! He attended many, many Cruisers meetings and went to every car show that was “in the local area.” He must have driven that big bus to every major city in America! He knew the roads like the back of his hand—and was never afraid to take 40 or 50 people anywhere! He was even planning a trip with the Cruisers to the Indy 500 in '09. I remember him at last summer's car show at the Minot AFB Exchange. He had his '56 Cadillac there and the Air Force Inspector General had just landed on base—and being a car guy, was looking over the cars. Lt. General Sams was standing there talking to Wendelin about his car. You could tell he was impressed with the uniqueness of the ol' girl and the fantastic job that was done on her restoration. I was proud of Wendelin and I will miss him at all of our Cruiser functions. My personal sympathy goes out to his widow Pat and the entire Lesmeister family. I know his grandsons will miss him a lot!

“Wild About Wheels” car show is coming up on the 28th of Feb and March 1st at the State Fairgrounds. I hope you can come and bring a car for display. It's always a good show. Jerry Black and I, are in charge of this event and really only ask that if you would be willing to donate one hour of your time (or two) we could use it at the Cruisers table where we sell shirts, hats, club stuff, raffle tickets etc. Its fun and a great way to meet people and—well you know how it goes. Don't be surprised if I come up to you and ask, “What time do you want!???”

Our January sponsor was “SIGNS TODAY” and Greg Olson was the winner of a show card for one of his cars. February Meeting is being sponsored by Minnesota Hot Rod Hardware, Tim Gangle. I have, in hand, a \$100 gift certificate for any hot rod parts in his

catalog, (goes with the certificate). Check out his web site at: www.hotrodhardware.com, anytime you need some street rod parts. He handles them all! Thanks Tim for the February sponsorship. Remember, to be eligible to win the \$100 certificate you must be a current paid member of the Dakota Cruisers and be present at the meeting.

We have numerous members with serious health issues and certainly need prayers from all of us. Some of us take our health for granted and I, for one, feel my age creeping up on me every day. Remember, I mentioned safety? Well long story short—I frostbit two fingers on my right hand one cold winter's day last month. It goes to show, you can never be too careful and things can happen that aren't reversible, so dress warm, carry warm emergency clothes and a survival kit if you are traveling.

Thanks to Dave Alberts and Betty Trzruc for doing a great job on the Garage Tour, Dinner and a Movie event on the 17th of Jan. They had help from Tom Carson and Linda, Mel and Kurt Smith. It was a good time and put together well. I have written an article about it for the NDSRA newsletter so see it in there, if you are a member. The Safety Team was out in full force, they did their first inspection in a ‘seminar’ type gathering for everyone on the garage tour to see what will be looked at. Thanks goes out to the Team of Tom Carson, Kurt Smith and Dave Alberts.

At the Annual Meeting of the NDSRA (North Dakota Street Rod Association) I was elected as the Director for the North Central Region. I am going to be busy writing stuff for their newsletter, so if you have any thoughts that need to come my way, feel free to bring them to me and we'll discuss.

All for now, so I will see you at the Wild About Wheels car show on the 28th and the 1st of March. NOTE: Friday the 27th of Feb is the move-in day.

George

Member Spotlight



A big Cruiser welcome for '2009 Car of the Year,' honoree's Curt & Marci Renfrow!

These high school sweethearts are still the picture of togetherness..., but, let's start at the beginning.



Curt hails from Turtle Lake, ND, and, like most boys from ND, started driving at an early age—14. His first car was a '36 DeSoto, 4 door sedan, that he shared with his brother, Frank. It was a 6 "banger" with four on the floor and rear suicide doors, (for easy access). Per Curt, "If that car could have talked—Oh, my!"

Then, along came Marci, a native of Kief, ND, who, by the way, is still as cute and feisty as ever! According to Curt, they met at a school-house pie social—and have been together ever since. Married in 1963, Curt joined the Air Force where they spent the next 8 years travelling from California, to Texas, to Viet Nam (she waited at home), and finally to Grand Forks. They settled in Minot after Marci's folks moved here.

Curt worked for Lundeen's Body shop for a time then moved on to Bridgeman Creamery where he worked for 18 years before retiring last year. Marci worked for Kings Food Host and Minot Public Schools while raising their two sons, Wally and Wayne.

Their 'Honoree' classic is a red '40 Chevy Coupe, which Curt took from frame-off rebuild to on-the-road cruiser in 1989. They've turned heads while travelling from Washington, to Montana, to Back To The 50's in this sweet ride.



Curt & Marci's '40 Chevy Coupe looks like it's straight out of the movie "Grease."

Marci is the 'Queen of Crafts'—just visit their home and you'll know what I'm talking about. In fact, not only does she support Cruiser functions with her handy work, she once made a gift for every woman who registered for the Season Finale!

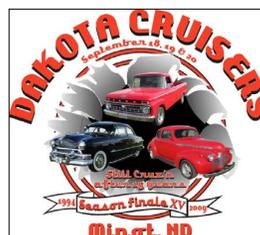
When I asked Curt about his most current project, he said it's changed from painting a '46 Chevy pickup to shoveling snow!

Their other favorite projects are son Wally, his wife Angie and grandson, Rayson—all, of course, who live in Minot. Also favorites are son, Wayne, and grandson Alex, who reside in Washington.

Curt and Marci are Lifetime Cruiser members number 4!!!

Which means they've been around for a long, long time!!!

Learn more about the Renfrows by visiting the Cruiser website and clicking on the link, 'Member's Rides.'



The Renfrow's '40 Chevy Coupe is proudly displayed in the new 2009 Cruiser logo.

**Don't miss the
up-coming
Dennis Gage
Show
'My Classic Car'
Filmed during
Devils Run 2008**



**Show times: March 8th, August 9th,
September 6th, and February 7, 2010**

In Memory



Saying goodbye is never an easy thing to do—especially when you're saying goodbye to a great guy like Wendelin Lesmeister.

Wendelin passed away from a heart attack, January 9, at Trinity hospital.

Raised and schooled in Wolford, ND, Wendelin joined the Army, serving in Korea until his discharge in 1953. His many adventures included crop dusting, driving a Minot City bus, farming, driving a school bus and driving the train in Roosevelt Park for the Railroad Museum.

In 1972 he formed Northland Bus Service, Inc., specializing in school bus contracts and charter tours. He also formed Northland Bus Sales in 1999 and operated both businesses until his death.

He was an active member of many service clubs and organizations. He and his wife, Pat, are Dakota Cruiser Lifetime members. According to Pat, Wendelin loved anything with wheels on it. In addition to restoring many classic cars and trucks, he even restored a tractor which he drove in the Mandan Treks Parade.

Wendelin had a love for the highway and was proud to have driven his bus in 49 states, only missing Hawaii.

He'll be sadly missed by his family and many friends, including all his fellow Cruisers.



Calendar of Events - February 2009

Birthstone - Amethyst

Flower - Violet

February 4	Meeting at the Vegas—7:30 p.m.
February 6	Noon lunch—call the hotline
February 11	Wednesday night cruise to Hardees South
February 13	Noon lunch—call the hotline
February 14	Valentines Day
February 18	Wednesday night cruise to Hardees South
February 20	Noon lunch—call the hotline
February 21-22	Wild About Wheels, ND State Fair Center—Contact Scott Fuchs (701) 578-2320
February 25	Wednesday night cruise to Hardees South
February 27	Noon lunch—call the hotline
February 27, 28 & March 1	10th Annual Counts Car Show, Civic Center, Rapid City, SD. Counts of Cobblestone Car Club or call (605) 348-0661

SEND UP-COMING EVENTS & DATES TO SHERIE FOR THE CALENDAR
sherie.saltveit@minotstateu.edu

Does this scene look all too familiar?



A Winter Poem

*It's winter in North Dakota
 And the gentle breezes blow
 Seventy miles an hour
 At thirty five below.*

*Oh, how I love North Dakota
 When the snow's up to your butt
 You take a breath of winter
 And your nose gets frozen shut.*

*Yes, the weather here is wonderful
 So I guess I'll hang around
 I could never leave North Dakota
 I'm frozen to the ground!*

Thanks Marlen Bratvold

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Minutes of General Meeting

January 7, 2009
Vegas Motel

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President George Masters at 7:30PM.

Board members present: George Masters, Jerry Black, Larry Haug, Dave Smith, Randy Hysjulien, Kurt Smith, Ray Webb, Jerry Lawson and Betty Trzpuc.

New members and guests were welcomed.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

II. Committee Reports

New Board Members - Welcome was given to the new board members, Kurt Smith, Ray Webb and Betty Trzpuc, secretary.

Christmas Party - Thanks to Keryl Lesmann and Jerry Lawson for the good job they did. Only comment was to have better weather next year! The Christmas party for next year will be the first weekend in December at the International Inn.

Raffle Tickets- George will get the permit from the city on Friday. Mike Padgett will handle sales of the tickets.

III. Old Business

Dinner And A Movie - Update from Dave Alberts given. It will be January 17th at the Sleep Inn with the garage tour starting at 2:30 PM. Sign up if attending. George stated 2009 is "The year of Safety" for the club and the first NSRA safety inspection will occur at one of the garages. Kurt Smith and Tom Carson will head up this program. Dave Alberts will also help out. One inspection a month can be expected.

New Shirts - New sweatshirts and T-shirts with the 2009 'Cars of the Year' are available for sale.

Members with health issues - People to keep in our prayers: Colin St. Croix, Bob Olson, Byron Bertsch, Leon Turner, Kym Leonard, and Stacey Law.

IV. New Business

New committee leaders for 2009:

Wild about Wheels - George Masters and Jerry Black [February 28-March 1]

North Dakota State Fair-Dave Smith and Betty Trzpuc

Motor Magic- Larry Haug and Kurt Smith First meeting is January 13 at 5:30PM.

Season Finale- Randy Hysjulien and Ray Webb

Christmas Party- Jerry Lawson and Ray Webb

Dinner and Movie- Kurt Smith and Betty Trzpuc

V. Membership Dues

Yearly membership renewals have been mailed out. Please pay your 2009 dues to Jerry Lawson.

VII. Announcements

NDSRA Christmas Party - The party and meetings will be January 10th at the Comfort Inn in Bismarck. Don Ladner's '57 Chevy is one of the picks to vote on. Please mail-in your ballots if not attending. We'll attempt to get Don Ladner nominated and elected as a North Central Director.

Winter Wheels Car Show in Jamestown - January 24th

Mandan City Wide Cabin Fever Car Show - January 30th and 31st

My Classic Car - Stan Orness notified George that the Dennis Gage show, filmed during the Devil's Run 2008, will be aired March 8, August 9, September 6 and February 7, 2010.

Next Meeting - February 4, 2009

Story - told by Tom Uleberg

Drawing - A \$75 gift certificate was won by Greg Olson. The certificate, donated by Craig from Signs Today, can be used toward a classic car show sign.

Jerry Black won his choice of a t-shirt or cap.

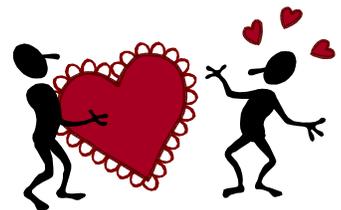
Dave Smith has three cruises lined up for 2009. He's also taking suggestions for bands with a 50/60's theme that we might want to hear at the State Fair Classic Car Show.

Wild about Wheels - Move-in day is February 27th. A sign-up sheet is available to help out during this event.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Trzpuc, Secretary



CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: 350 Old's engine with transmission. Still runs good. 70k original miles. \$500 takes both. Call Vern Miller (701) 720-8408

FOR SALE: New—Edelbrock, Torker 2, in-take for Chevy small block. Never been on a motor. \$50. Call Vern Miller (701) 720-8408

DO ITEMS ADVERTISED IN THE NEWSLETTER SELL? YOU BETCHA! JUST ASK VERN MILLER WHO SOLD A 1968 327 ENGINE IN JANUARY'S NEWSLETTER!!!

Bulletin Board



Hillary Will became the fastest female driver in the history of NHRA drag racing, with the fifth fastest (tie) lap, down the quarter-mile for any gender with an amazing speed of 334.65 mph. She most recently claimed the Scott Kalitta Memorial Trophy by winning the Shannons U.S.A. versus Australia Top Fuel Show Downs, December 28, 2008.

Let's put all that acceleration into perspective:

- One dragster's 500 cubic-inch Hemi makes more horsepower (8,000 HP) than the first 4 rows at NASCAR's Daytona 500.
- Under full throttle, a dragster engine consumes 11.2 gallons of nitro methane per second; a fully loaded Boeing 747 consumes jet fuel at the same rate but with 25% less energy being produced.
- A Top Fuel dragster accelerates quicker than any land vehicle on earth—quicker than a jet fighter plane; quicker than the space shuttle; and quicker than snapping your fingers!
- The nitro-methane used to power the engines of Top Fuel dragsters costs about \$30 per gallon.
- Top Fuel dragsters leave the starting line with a force nearly 5 times that of gravity, the same force of the space shuttle when it leaves the launching pad.
- Nitro methane burns yellow. The spectacular white flame seen above the stacks at night is raw burning hydrogen, dissociated from atmospheric water vapor by the searing exhaust gases.
- Dual magnetos supply 44 amps to each sparkplug, which is typically the output of an electric arc welder in each cylinder.
- Just one of the dragsters 8 cylinders produces 750 HP, equaling the entire horsepower output of a NASCAR engine
- Half-way through the run, the engine is 'dieseling' from compression—plus the glow of exhaust valves at 1400 degrees F. The engine can only be shut down by cutting the fuel flow.
- If spark momentarily fails early in the run, unburned nitro builds up in the affected cylinders and then explodes with a force sufficient enough to blow the cylinder heads off the block in pieces or split the block in half!

- Top fuel dragsters will reach over 300 mph+ before you can complete reading this sentence.
- To exceed 300 mph in 4.5 seconds, dragsters must accelerate at an average of over 4 G's. But, in reaching 200 mph well before half-track, launch acceleration is closer to 8 G's.
- Top Fuel engines ONLY turn 540 revolutions from light to light!
- Including the burnout, the engine must only survive 9,000 revolutions under load.
- The redline is actually quite high at 9,500 rpm.
- If all the equipment is paid off, the pit crew is working for free, and, for once, NOTHING BLOWS UP, each run costs about \$1,000 per second.
- 0 to 100 mph in .8 seconds - first 60 feet of the run.
- 0 to 100 mph in 2.2 seconds - first 350 feet of the run.
- Can exceed 280 mph in just 660 feet.
- 6 g-forces at starting line - nothing accelerates faster on land.
- 6 negative g-forces upon deployment of twin 'chutes at 300 mph.
- The 17" rear tires wear out after 4 to 5 runs, or about 2 miles—some brands of passenger tires are guaranteed for 80,000 miles!
- It takes just 15/100ths of a second for all 8,000 HP of a Top Fuel dragster engine to reach the rear wheels.
- It's desirable for a Top Fuel dragster to race with its front wheels inches off the ground for about the first 200 feet of the run. This ensures proper weight transfer to the rear wheels, a crucial part of a good launch and quick run.
- Top Fuel dragsters travel the length of more than 4 football fields in less than 5 seconds.
- The fuel pump delivers 65 gallons of fuel per minute, equivalent to 8 bathroom showers running at the same time.
- So, in summary, let's put this all into perspective:
The current Top Fuel dragster's elapsed time record is 4.477 seconds for the quarter-mile. This means you could be coming across the starting line in your average Lingenfelter powered "twin-turbo" Corvette at 200 mph, (on a FLYING START), and the dragster would BEAT you to the finish line, FROM A DEAD STOP, in a quarter-mile distance. Think about it—from a standing start, the dragster spotted you 200 mph, then nearly blasted you off the planet when it passed you in a mere 1,320 foot-long race!

Now that, my friends, is acceleration!!!

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Next Meeting Wed. Feb. 4th
7:30 p.m. the Vegas Motel

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