



NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE December 2013



Well, this time, I'm visiting brothers in PA and it's about 60 degrees here, and I understand it was 8 below zero today and -20 predicted tomorrow. Something else! While you all were worried about shoveling snow, I helped Brother Donald rake, blow, and mulch leaves. Tomorrow I leave Bethlehem, PA for Hilton Head, SC for a reunion with guys that I went into the service with 43 years ago! WOW, how time flies!

Anyway, life is good. I went and looked at a 75 Buick convertible yesterday and, if you can believe it, I did not buy it. I thought about it, but turned it down. I must be getting old.

I have written an article about my 56 Continental Mark II, and if there is room here, it will be in this newsletter. I have also forwarded it to "Old Cars Weekly" where it (the article and my car) could be their "Feature Car Of The Week". We'll see on that.

Christmas party---You, it is coming up soon. December 4th meeting at the Vegas will be the last opportunity to get you tickets for that event for only \$20.00 a person. After that night, it goes up to \$30 per person. We MUST have accurate numbers for the Grand Hotel to have all of our dinners and amount of food prepared. Anybody can come and as usual, it will be a Barn-Burner of an evening!!!

All for now. Short, sweet, and to the point is what we like. Congratulations to two new Board members—Roger Lee and Ron Penfold are new members and Dave Alberts is re-elected.

George

Announcements

Please contact Dave Alberts @ 838-4309 or Rita Webb @ 839-3929 or on a Wednesday night or at the December 4th meeting if you are planning to attend the annual Christmas Party. The cost is \$20 per person if paid in advanced then goes to \$30. Mark your calendars for December 14th at the Grand International.

I believe everything happens for a reason.
People change so you can learn to let go.
You believe lies so that you eventually
Learn to trust no one but yourself.
Things go wrong so that you appreciate
Them when they're right.
And sometimes good things fall apart
So better things can fall together.

Marilyn Monroe



**FOR SALE: Late 50's gas pump. Use as yard art or restore.
Glass is broken on one side.
\$350.00 OBO
Call Dave Alberts 838-4309 or see me at Wed nights.**

Minutes of the Dakota Cruisers General Meeting November 6, 2013 Vegas Motel

Call to Order:

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

Board members present were George Masters, Jerry Black, Dave Alberts, Rita Webb, Tom Carson, Randy Hysjulien, Doug Frazier, Joanne Larson, and Lynn Amundson.

Fifty seven people were present.

Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

Committee Reports

- Season Finale 2014. Board members are chairing the event.

- Christmas Party (Dave Alberts and Rita Webb) December 14 at the Grand Hotel. Cost is \$20 per person until December 4th. After December 4th \$30 per person.

Raffle Ticket for 2014 – Dave Alberts will head up the raffle ticket sales for 2014. The permit will be applied for in March.

Old Business

- Season Finale 2014 t-shirts have been ordered and we hope to have them by the Christmas party.
- The 20th anniversary jackets are in the planning stages. These jackets will be presold only and the club will not carry an inventory. The membership was polled regarding their preference of having the same jacket we had for the 15th anniversary, which is a lighter weight jacket, or offering a completely different style of jacket that would be a heavier weight. There were an equal number of members favoring each style. It was suggested that because the jackets are presold two styles could be offered.
- Quilt Update – (Lisa Krebsbach) Lisa has a projected completion date of the end of January.

New Business

- The annual Christmas donations will be presented at the December 4th general meeting. This year's recipients each receiving \$1000 are Path and Minot Community Action.
 - Wild About Wheels-Nodak Race Club is contemplating scheduling this event back to February. Dakota Cruisers will support the event for whatever dates are selected.
 - The 2013 Season Finale clothing is now on sale at a reduced price.
 - Ryan's contacted George Masters looking for a 1973 Chevrolet to be displayed for their Grand Re-Opening.
 - The GM crate motor was auctioned off with a starting bid of \$1000 and was sold to Dave Alberts for the highest bid of \$1300.
 - Updates were presented on previous scholarship recipients. The 2008 winner, Mr. Adams from Fortuna ND, is now working for Gate Way Chevrolet in Fargo. He recently participated in a motor building contest and an article about his team and the event will appear in the December issue of Popular Hot Rodding magazine. Another previous scholarship winner Mr. Burckhardt has opened his own automotive repair business in Surrey ND. Mr. Arnott a recipient in 2005 is currently employed at the GM store here in Minot.
 - Nominations for 2014 officers and board members:
 - George Masters for President – Motion that nominations cease was made by Jerry Black seconded by Joanne Larson. Motion to cast a unanimous ballot was made by Tom Uleberg.
 - Jerry Black for Vice President – Motion that nominations cease was made by Marlan St Croix seconded by Tom Carson. Motion to cast a unanimous ballot was made by Tom Uleberg.
 - Lynn Amundson for Secretary – Motion that nominations cease was made by Jerry Black seconded by Tom Carson. Motion to cast a unanimous ballot was made by Tom Uleberg.
 - Joanne Larson For Treasurer – Motion that nominations cease was made by Tom Carson seconded by Dave Alberts. Motion to cast a unanimous ballot was made by Tom Uleberg.
 - Tammy Kloehn declined her previous nomination to the board.
 - Motion to nominate Ron Penfold as a board member was made by Ray Webb seconded by Marlin Schiele.
 - Motion to nominate Dave Smith as a board member was made by Cathy Smith seconded by Tom Carson.
 - Motion to nominate Roger Lee as a board member was made by Marlin Schiele seconded by Tom Carson.
 - Dave Alberts was nominated as a board member at the previous meeting.
 - Written ballots were cast and the board members elected to a two year term are, Ron Penfold, Roger Lee, and Dave Alberts.
 - December 4th Board Meeting – To be held prior to the General Meeting
 - December 4th General Meeting
 - December 14th Christmas Party
 - January 8th, 2014 General Meeting – Note change because of New Year's Day
- Check website for other updates and events.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Amundson, Secretary



THE FULL STORY OF GEORGE AND THE 1956 CONTINENTAL MARK II

Way back when, a long time ago, my dad and I were talking, and he said: “Hop in, I want to go look at a car”! That’s when it began. It was a June afternoon in Hecktown, PA, 1964. I was a wopp’n 14 years old! What are we going to see this time? -I said to myself. We wound up at “Continental Motors” the Lincoln-Mercury dealer in Easton, PA—right on the West end of Northampton Street. We walked into the showroom, and there was a ‘light blue’ (the official color) 1956 Continental Mark II. It was drop-dead-gorgeous. I thought it was special. I had never seen one before, and I knew nothing about it. I remember the price was \$2,995. Dad was talking with a salesman and I had no idea what was in store for the family here! We went home and talked about the Continental. Low and behold, two days later, it was sitting in our driveway. I’ll never forget that car. It was long, lean, heavy and sharp as a tack! Me being 14 years old, living in the country and not having a whole lot to do with spare time, I got to know this car really well. My dad liked to go to car shows, so we would get the car all waxed up and off to shows like Hershey, Macungie and others around our small area of PA. I still have some of the window registration cards from those shows and some original dash plaques from Macungie. Both of those shows have grown to massive proportions.

Anyway, prep’n for a show was something else. Back in those days, no detailers were around; you just used wax and did a lot of rubbing. I can remember taking parts off of the engine and cleaning them. I would take the valance panel off in front of the radiator, paint it light blue with a spray can, cleaning the bolts with a wire brush, and polishing what I could under the hood. Then it came to the hub caps. Forty fins were individually bolted to each cap. They were stainless, and they, of course, would get dirty. I’d polish each one and cleaned behind the black area of the cap, then re-install the fins. (Four caps equal 160 fins) Then one time, I can remember taking off all of the fins and dad took the 4 caps to a body shop and had the black background repainted a shiny black. That was the last time I ever took the fins off of the caps. From then on, they looked beautiful!

Now, I’m getting anxious about getting my driver’s license and I asked dad if I could take the Mark II for my test. No problem. I think he let me do this because I took a special interest in the car. We thought the trooper would really be wowed by the car, but he never reacted one way or another. I passed the test and then the driving began. I didn’t drive it on any regular basis. I remember mom taking it to church some days, but other than that, we just had it around. Now comes 1968, time to graduate and time for the Senior Prom. “Yes, you can” were the words when I asked. Well, I was in high heaven taking this car to prom. Went to pick up my girlfriend and “BAM” she banged her knee on the pillar when she got into the car for that evening. That sure ruined things from that moment on. She wasn’t in a good mood after that!

Dad is getting older, and the Mark II became part of a “Do we really need this car” syndrome. I had joined the United States Air Force, and was stationed at Griffiss AFB in Rome, NY. I would come home quite frequently

and ask about the Mark. It was basically just sitting around, not being driven and that's when I decided to ask to purchase it from my dad. I was getting ready to re-enlist in the Air Force, and with that came a nice bonus, so that's where I decided to "invest my money". I think I paid him \$5,000 for the car. At that time, that was a lot of money and I just wanted that car.

Being a young airman in my life, living in NY and having the car in PA, it still just sat. I stored it in a few barns in Bethlehem and Lehigh, PA until I thought the time was right to get it to Rome. Eventually I got a garage and took it there. I used it a bit, but nothing of any major significance. Then I got orders to Minot, AFB in North Dakota. WOW, where is Minot? Well, I quickly found out. In the winter of 1971 I moved my wife and all of our belongings from Rome to Minot. That was in December, and the car went back into storage.

Somehow, and I don't remember how, I got the Mark II to Minot. I had a single car garage and it went into that small thing (somehow). I loved the Mark II and what a great history, but I was starting to get interested in Corvettes. I had bought my first Corvette when I was on temporary duty in Rantoul, IL. I brought that to Minot and now have my 55 Chevy (another story), the Mark and a 64 Corvette roadster which I wound up trading for a 1963 split window coupe. The coupe didn't run, but my 64 did, so the trade was good for both of us. I fixed the split window Corvette and got it running nicely. The Mark II was in need of some rust repair, and the Corvette was needed full restoration and I just couldn't do both. I ran an ad in the newspaper and sold the Mark II to a man in Forest River, ND. I can remember borrowing a van and a trailer and hauling it to its new home, never again to be seen by me. I did, however, keep all of the literature that was accumulated from and about our car. Who knows –someday I might just have another one!

Fast forward to Summer in Minot, 2013. I got a wild hair to look for my Mark II. I knew where it went, but after tracking through Mark II forums, I lost track of it when it went to Florida and that owner has never registered it to the point of tracking. So that leads me to look on line for any that might be for sale. I found one in Morgan Hill, CA. It belonged to an individual with some health issues, and he was trying to sell it. We "visited" many times over the phone about the car. It was exactly like my original one, but it had air conditioning, whereas mine did not. Air conditioning along with front bumper guards, and tinted windows, were the only options for these cars. They made around 3000 in 1956 and 1957. Their cost new in 1956 was \$10,000. The power plant was a balanced 368 cubic inch engine. They put 1000 miles on the 3 speed transmission prior to installation in each Mark II. They were assembled in primer, fitted, then disassembled, painted with 14 coats of nitrocellulose lacquer, then final assembly took place and off to the new owners in protective bags. Such owners as Liz Taylor, Elvis and Frank Sinatra were among the first to have these wonderful cars. I got off on a tangent here...

Anyway, in Sept 2013, I decided to wire-transfer some money to purchase the Mark! Prior to its delivery, I was really excited to have one back. The owner had described this car to a tee. He was honest. As a matter of fact, he told me more that was negative about the car, than was positive. He originally stated that this one had not been restored...thus a survivor! He did have the bumpers re-chromed, had new exhaust system installed, had the brakes done and the carb re-built. Other than that, it is original---right down to the insulation pad under the hood, the leather cover over the spare tire, the original jack in its own leather case, and everything else. It is absolutely 100% complete. He had a few spare parts such as hood hinges, a new hood ornament and some miscellaneous other parts. He had a can of touch paint and a nice car cover in the trunk with the car. He also

had literature on the car, all of the receipts, and a history of the man that bought this car new. He was an oil baron in Beverly Hills and he was a good friend of Ronald Reagan. This would have been when he was an actor, not a politician! So, it is safe to presume, that Mr. & Mrs. Reagan rode in my car.

I have driven the car about 140 miles or so, and now it is away for the winter—(storage again), but next spring and summer, I hope to put a lot of miles on the 'Ol Girl.

So here we are in November, 2013, and I have a beautiful survivor 1956 Continental Mark II! Notice I have called it a Continental Mark II and not a Lincoln Continental Mark II? That's because when they developed the Mark II, Continental was a division of Ford Motor Co. and it wasn't until 1958 they became the "Lincoln Continental" (Mark III).

I hope to have many happy miles behind the wheel of this car. It will be fun re-living the story I have told here and though not everyone will care, it will be fun driving around these vast open spaces in North Dakota to the different car shows.

I am fortunate to have the means and a loving wife who supports this wonderful hobby that I have. She thinks I am 'ill' (I said ill, because saying that she thinks I am sick, just didn't sound right!), but then again, many of us are "ILL"!!!

George Masters

Minot, North Dakota



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2	3	4 Meeting at the Vegas 7:30pm-Last day for discount to attend Christmas Party	5	6 Noon luncheon call the hotline for location	7
8	9	10	11 Cruise to Hardee's South 6:30	12	13 Noon luncheon call the hotline for location	14 Dakota Cruiser annual Christmas Party
15 	16	17	18 Cruise to Hardee's South 6:30	19	20 Noon luncheon call the hotline for location	21
22	23	24 	25 Merry Christmas 	26	27 Noon luncheon call the hotline for location	28
29	30	31 New Year Eve Please drink responsibly 	Notes: 			

OFFICER/BOARD DIRECTORY

POSITION	NAME	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL
President	George Masters	852-5010	gem@min.midco.net
Vice President	Jerry Black	838-8318	jlblack@min.midco.net
Secretary	Lynn Amundson		amundsonlynn@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Joanne Larson	240-9604	jolarson@midco.com
Newsletter Editor	Tammy Kloehn	839-6502	badss@aol.com
Board Member	Dave Alberts	838-4309	mde@srt.com
Board Member	Randy Hysjulien	838-2638	hysh@srt.com
Board Member	Tom Carson	838-1626	tc49@min.midco.net
Board Member	Doug "Spanky" Frazier	721-7203	badss@aol.com
Board Member	Rita Webb	839-3929	rwebb@min.midco.net
Webmistress	Sherie Saltveit		sherie.saltveit@minotstateu.edu

WEBSITE ADDRESS: www.dakotacruiser.com

~~(701) 852 - KARS~~

ADDRESS CORRECTION
SERVICES



800 31st Ave. S.E., Lot 900, Minot, ND 58701

Next General Meetings at the
Vegas:
Dec 4 & Jan 8 2013