

DAKOTA CRUISERS



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

JANUARY 2014

“SHIFT’N GEARS FOR 20 YEARS”

The new slogan for the 20th Anniversary is above! Shift’n gears for 20 years is the slogan for the 20th anniversary. The contest was last summer and it is the winning slogan submitted by non-other than Jen Moe –a lifetime member of the club. Thanks Jen for the submission and winning top prize!

Thanks to Dave Alberts and Rita Webb for heading up what I would term as a “HUGE SUCCESS” of the Christmas party. We had just under 125 people in attendance and the food was good, the jokes were bad, the Chinese auction was good, and the trivia was bad! (Not really) a group of cheaters used their Smart Phones to look up some of the answers. Anyway, though it was extremely cold outside, it was warm in the banquet room and I think all in attendance had a good time. I know I surely did, and I won a very nice prize!

Keep in mind that the January meeting will be on the 8th of the month instead of the 1st. By the time you get this, it will be fresh in your minds. There will be a Board meeting just prior to this Jan 8th meeting at 6:30; AND, you will want to make sure you attend the February meeting. We will start at 6:00 at the Vegas. Pasta will be the main dish, lots of prizes and even a nice surprise is in store for all attendees. Please make it if you can!!!

On the 18th of Jan we will be having the Annual Meeting and Christmas party for the NDSRA (North Dakota Street Rod Association) in Fargo. It is the same night as a “Pink” concert at the Fargo Dome! So if the meeting and the party get too boring, I’ll just head over to the concert! Anyway, if you are members of the NDSRA and would like to have any input, suggestions or anything else brought before the Officers and Directors of that organization, please let me know and I will represent.

The NODAK Race club has set the date for the Wild About Wheels car show to be the weekend of the 15th of February at the ND State Fair center. We have agreed to support that show with as many of our cars as possible. Let’s hope weather is in our favor and that it will turn out to be a great, fun weekend!!! Volunteers will be needed for helping out at the club table at that event, so get ready to pitch in!

So as 2014 begins, the celebration of 20 years of success is resounding, and you are getting ready to enjoy one of the finest years yet. We have special Wednesday events in the making and special weekend activities also.

Well, all for now. Stay tuned, and if you are in 'town', please plan on making the Jan 8th meeting and the Feb. 5th one too. (Hello to all of our snowbirds)

George

"Shift'n Gears for 20 Years"

Announcements

**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.**

DAKOTA CRUISERS WINTER PARTY
Wed. Feb. 5th The Vegas Hotel starting at 6pm
There will be a Pasta bar for supper, door prizes, club meeting and entertainment after the meeting.



DAKOTA CRUISER MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4TH MEETING AT "The Vegas" Motel

The meeting was called to order by President Masters at 7:30 with approximately 45 members in attendance. Minutes of the previous meeting and the treasurer's report were read and accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: George announced that the Board will be handling all aspects of the 20th anniversary Season Finale in Sept. 2014.

The upcoming Christmas party has about 108 members and guests signed up so far. More to pay tonight and the price goes to \$30 per person as of 5 Dec 13. It was announced that anybody that wants to bring a gift to exchange may do so. If you do bring a gift, please mark it as either a man's or ladies gift. If you bring a gift, you may exchange a gift. (Optional)

OLD BUSINESS: The clothing from CA has not come in yet, but should be here by the Christmas party and if it does arrive, we will be selling it that night for the first time.

The Board decided to give George the authority to have North Country Sportswear design the 20th anniversary logo for the jackets. Two types of jackets will be available to pre-order and George will handle this. The LOGO will be on the order of our hat logo with the years on top and the 20th anniversary slogan on the bottom. More to follow on this.

Quilt update: Lisa Krebsbach has the quilt all laid out and ready to sew, but is waiting for one of the new shirts to finish layout and get started to quilt. George will get the shirt to Lisa when they arrive.

Christmas donation checks in the amount of \$1,000 each were presented to P.A.T.H. Director Amy Gray, and to Community Action Director Willy S.

There being no other Old Business, the New Business as follows:

It was announced that the NODAK Race Club show Wild About Wheels will be held as 14 Feb the Friday move-in and the 15th and 16th as the show dates. Club agreed to support any date that that club had chosen for its show.

2013 Season Finale shirts went for sale at a "2 for 1" rate of \$5.00 for t-shirts and \$10.00 for sweats. T-shirts sold out and any remaining sweat shirts will be given away at the Christmas party on the 14th.

George announced that there will be a 1 day car show in Jamestown on Feb 8th at the Civic Center. We said a hearty Fare Well to Randy Hysjulien and Tom Carson as departing Board members and thanked them for their time and efforts on the Board. We also welcomed new Board members Roger Lee and Ron Penfold to their new positions.

Reigning Board Member Dave Alberts continues to serve and be extremely active. Thanks to all.

A beautiful sculptured 'wine holder' was presented to the club by member Rich Solberg that will be used as a gift at the Christmas party.

It was announced that both the Board meeting and monthly meeting will be on Jan 8th at the Vegas at 6:30 and 7:30 respectively.

Again, the Feb 5th General meeting will be "Gangbuster". You won't want to miss it!

A door prize drawing was held at the end with numerous members as winners.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

George Masters, President

BEGINNING OF THE END: "BIG DADDY'S" INFAMOUS SWAMP RAT 13

By [Andrew Wolf](#), posted on Dec 3, 2011 in [New Products](#)

Many of our readers and millions of other drag racing fans of all ages know this car well, while many others don't, but what you're looking at is the car that, for all intents and purposes, signaled the beginning of the end of the front-engined, slingshot dragster era and forever changed the face of the sport of drag racing.

In 1969, after damage incurred to Swamp Rat 12-B during a match race, "Big Daddy" Don Garlits and his longtime sidekick TC Lemons hightailed it back to their shop in Seffner, Fla. to throw a new car together in time for the NHRA Springnationals in Dallas. With the legendary Connie Swingle tending to other matters, Garlits and Lemons undertook the project themselves, thus resulting in Swamp Rat 13.

"Big" won the '69 Smokers US Fuel and Gas Championship at New York National Speedway, at which point he and Lemons decided to try a two-speed transmission. Garlits and Lemons won a number of races with the new combination, but no one – not even Garlits – could foretell what was soon to come.

At 5:25 PM on March 8, 1970, at the 1970 AHRA Grand American at the Lions Dragstrip in Long Beach, Calif., Garlits and Swamp Rat 13 were lined up alongside Richard Tharpe in the final round of Top Fuel Eliminator, with thousands of fans on their feet, crowded closely around the pair of cars preparing to blast down the famous quarter mile.

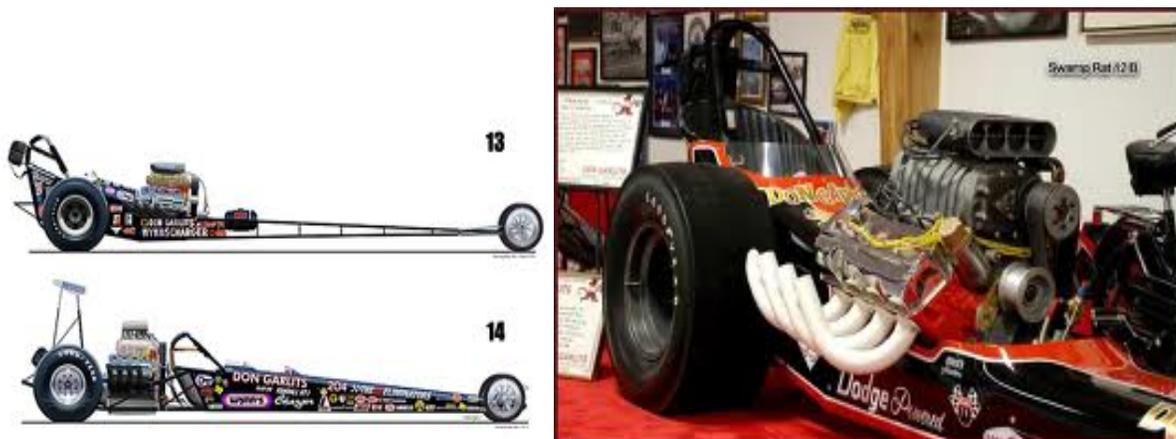
As the Christmas tree flashed green, the transmission in Swamp Rat 13 exploded in a horrifying scene that will live infamy through the film and photographs of the sport's early journalists. In an instant, the famed 'Wynnscharger' slingshot sheared off right aft of the motor, splitting the car in two and severing a portion of "Big's" foot as the drivers compartment folded over forward and broke apart from the forward half of the chassis.

In the ensuing melee, one young fan on the opposite side of the track in the spectator area suffered life-threatening injuries from an errant drum that first struck a pole in front of starter Larry Sutton before skipping into the grandstands, while countless others near the starting line were sprayed with fluids and other small pieces of debris. Interestingly, Tharpe had foul started, but parts exploding away from the Swamp Rat contacted the timing system components on the starting line and deactivated the red light.

It was at this point that Garlits began formulating and drawing up his plans for what would change drag racing forever – the successful rear engine Swamp Rat 14 – while recuperating in the Pacific Hospital in California.

Garlits sold the remains of the Swamp Rat 13 to Lemons and Swingle, who repaired it back to racing shape. Then, in June of 1970, at the AHRA Spring Nationals at the Bristol Dragway, Tennessee, Garlits, stil on crutches and wearing a cast, rejoined his posse and stepped behind the wheel of the car that nearly cost him his life once again. As it had before the crash, Swamp Rat 13 set top speed and low ET in Bristol, and Garlits continued to drive the car for the rest of the 1970 season. Behind closed doors back in Florida, however, a revolution in drag racing was being created.

During the fall of 1970, Lemons sold the car to Art Malone, which was later sold to a bracket racer. Garlits tracked the car down a number of years later, purchased it back, and set about restoring it (with Lemons help, of course) to its exact condition the day of the accident at Lions in 1970, which is what you see on display here at the PRI Show and can be seen in Garlits' Museum of Drag Racing in Ocala, Fla. year-round.



			1	2	3 Noon luncheon call the hotline for location	4
5	6	7	8 Monthly meeting at the Vegas 7:30	9	10 Noon luncheon call the hotline for location	11
12		14	15 Cruise to Hardee's South 6:30	16	17 Noon luncheon call the hotline for location	18 NDSRA Meeting and Christmas Party in Fargo
19	20	21	22 Cruise to Hardee's South 6:30	23	24 Noon luncheon call the hotline for location	25
26	27	28	29 Cruise to Hardee's South 6:30	30	31 Noon luncheon call the hotline for location	Notes: 

WHEELS OF OUR LIVES



LEARN FROM YESTERDAY,
LIVE FOR TODAY,
HOPE FOR TOMORROW.

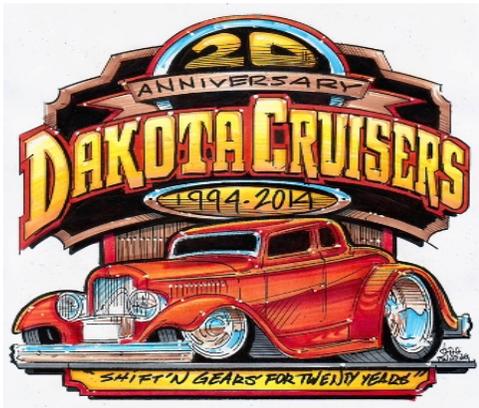
OFFICER/BOARD DIRECTORY

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ADDRESS CORRECTION
SERVICES



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Next General Meetings at the
Vegas:
Jan 8 & Feb 5 2013