



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

February 2019

“SHIFT’N GEARS FOR OVER 20 YEARS”

Good Day to All,

Things coming up as I know and can remember them are a few car shows. The first one here in Minot is the (what was called the Wild About Wheels Car Show) new and improved and enlarged: The Magic City Car and Trade Show. Sponsored by the NODAK Race Club and Magic City International Dragway Assoc. It is the weekend of Feb 9 & 10 with the move in on the Friday, the 8th. They are expanding this show and would like as many of our Cruiser cars as possible. Can show up anytime in the morning and all afternoon of the 8th. The committee has agreed to ‘first come–first served’.

As we move into Spring, the Toppers Show is in Fargo in April, the Majestics show in Regina, and also the Valley Vintage car show is also in April. There is no longer a “Prime Steel” car show in Grand Forks because, as I was told: “It no longer became cost effective.”

Closer to home, the 25th Anniversary year is upon us. We have set up with Soltis Business Forms, two web sites for placing an order for the special clothing. We tried to have a good variety of clothing for both men and women. I think you’ll like the options you will have. Check them out and let’s get your order in. We will be ordering periodically throughout the time with the first order being processed about mid-February. It will be the first, so let’s see where this goes. Neat ladies items this year!!!

Please get your orders in so we can place the first order. If you do not have Credit Card availability, call me for options at 240-6771

Remember the date of May 18th for our Presidents Spring Cruise to Ray for the beautiful collection of Darroll Myers. Food will be provided, but if you’d like to bring a pot luck desert, that would be great!! Also that weekend, in Minot, there might be an

indoor car show at the mall with concerts of GREAT bands coming in. That program is still in the works, and more info will follow.

Don't wait till it's too late for the Canadian "SUPER RUN" in Brandon on the 2nd and third of August. Passports may be required, so check your dates on them so yours does not expire! Remember, after your registration is paid, we will be reimbursing the entry fee for all Dakota Cruiser members! Should be fun!

It has not been totally decided yet, but we may have a swap meet at the Moose March meeting. Small items on tables around the ball room, and larger items with pictures. Each person polices their own items. We've done this in the past and it was successful and fun!!

Welcome our new newsletter editor, Kym Leonard. She has done this many years ago, so she is seasoned and we look forward to a new look. Thanks, Kym in advance.

George

### February 2019 Events

February 1	Noon lunch TBA
February 6	Monthly meeting at the Moose, come at 5:30 p.m. if you would like to order off the limited menu - 7:30 p.m. - Board meeting at 6:00 p.m.
February 8	noon lunch TBA
February 9-10	Wild About Wheels, ND State Fair Center, Minot
February 13	informal gathering at Hardees South - 6:30 p.m.
February 15	Noon lunch at Bones
February 15-17	<a href="#">17th Annual Counts Car Show</a> , Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD
February 20	informal gathering at Hardees South - 6:30 p.m.
February 22	Noon lunch at Badlands
February 27	Wednesday supper TBA - 6:30 p.m. RSVP to Bill at 240-5803

## The History of Hot Rods

A lot has been written about the history of hot rods. But the origin of hot rods can be pointed to just before the end of World War II. In fact, the craze for custom cars began even further back, to before World War I. Customizing cars was much popular with the well-heeled in the U.S. and Europe.

The period between the end of the war in 1945 and the beginning of the 1950s saw a number of factors which came together, mainly in one place, southern California, which created a unique environment for the hot rod and its culture to be borne. In the hot rods history, the term “hot rods” seems to have first appeared in the late 1930s in southern California. People would love to race their modified cars on the vast, empty dry lake beds northeast of Los Angeles under the rules of the Southern California Timing Association. The activity rose in popularity after World War II.

The original hot rods were old cars, most often Fords, which were modified to reduce weight and improve aerodynamics. Some of the typical modifications were to strip off all nonessential part like convertible tops, hood, bumpers, windshields and lowering the chassis. The engine was modified by tuning and/or replacing with a more powerful type. These modifications were considered to improve the appearance as well, leading to car shows in the 1960s. Eventually coupes and sedans joined the ranks. But these heavier models underwent drastic surgery to chop their tops lower and slope their windshields backward.

History of hot rods shows how with the rising interest in the hot rods, “Speed contests” were occurring with greater frequency and direr consequences. With more casualties occurring, Hot rods were branded as a social menace requiring greater control or, even elimination too. They ran unmonitored and multiple casualties were on the rise.

It was time someone took control of the situation. In 1937, the Southern California Timing Association was formed, which developed more sophisticated timing systems. This in turn helped a lot in making hot rodding safer and more organized. In 1941, a monthly publication called Throttle Magazine was designed with a purpose to track racing results, featuring some of the better cars, and also reporting on new safety and speed issues.

But in 1941, with the U.S. getting involved in World War II, hot rodding would have to wait. Hot rods history shows that at the end of the World War II, many small military airports throughout the country were either abandoned or rarely used. These airports allowed Hot Rodders across the country to race on marked courses. With the hot rodding gaining popularity, many magazines and associations catering to Hot Rodders started along with a need for an organization to promote the images of Hot Rodders.

But soon the major automakers were offering automobiles with improved performance. As these cars outperformed just about any Hot Rod, with more passenger room minus the effort of tuning the car, the lure of Hot Rods began to wane. However, the 1973 Oil Crisis called on automakers to offer safety and fuel efficiency over performance. This obviously led to the revival of the interest in hot rods again.

There was a great desire to have a standout automobile among the moneyed elite which was filtering down to the not so wealthy but had just as much desire to drive unique cars. With some modifications, these relatively common cars took on a unique, expensive, custom look. Origin of hot rods is very interesting indeed.

<http://oldtimer-hotrod.com/history-hot-rods>

Next Monthly Installment: The Golden Era of Hot Rods

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25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Clothing is now available

Embroidered items---jackets and hats.

<https://squareup.com/store/dakcruisersemb>

Silk Screened Items --- ladies 'T's' or sweat shirts etc

<https://squareup.com/store/dakotacruisers>