

NORTHWEST CRUISERS
SPOKANE AREA PT CRUISER CLUB
June-July 2009 Newsletter



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The June Meeting

Minutes by Terry Hontz

President Donna Madej opened the June 2009 meeting of the Northwest Cruisers by passing out ice cream sandwiches to the attendees. Following, Donna introduced our newest member, Marylou Kinslow, who informed the club she became aware of our organization when one of our members left a flyer on her windshield at an Applebee's restaurant. In addition, prospective new member Molly Thorpe contacted the club via our website application link just hours before the June meeting convened. Molly has been contacted regarding upcoming events and an invitation was extended to join the Northwest Cruisers.

In member news, it was voted to donate \$50.00 to the Safe House in honor of Ron Cafaro's father, Pat Cafaro, who recently passed way. The Cafaro family suggested donations be made in Pat's honor to the donor's choice, and as our charity of choice is the Safe House, a donation will be made. Donna read a letter from Jon and Cheri Knobler regarding their inability to be active members of the Cruisers due to work commitments and their involvement with the Mustang Club. The Knoblers extended greetings

to their friends at the club, as did Tom and Catherine Eickmeyer, who are also involved extensively with the Mustang organization. Also of interest to members, it was noted there is a 10% discount on Cruiser parts at Spokane Chrysler. You must, however, inform the parts department you are a Northwest Cruiser and the discount will be taken. Also at Spokane Chrysler, they have reinstated Saturday morning service on a trial basis. Some of our members have already availed themselves to this convenient time to have their vehicles serviced.

Regarding recent events, Vice President Mike Peart reported on the Fairfield parade noting the nice weather, a good club turnout and the large amount of candy thrown to spectators. Donna noted the last event on the June calendar is the dinner being hosted by Matt and Shirley Alling at their residence on June 27, 2009. Prior to the dinner Betty Barber will be leading a short cruise in the general area of Liberty Lake and Spokane Valley, ending at the Allings. Other upcoming events were discussed as Donna passed out updated event schedules. A potential Arbor Crest winery cruise was discussed, as was the August 1, 2009 Silver Mountain gondola cruise. The Silver Mountain cruise agenda is currently available at the event schedule tab on the club website. Mike Peart updated the Inland Car Club Council (INCCC) downtown car show scheduled for July 16, 2009. He noted this years event will be better than ever and will include many Ford Thunderbirds, as that organization is holding its' annual convention in Spokane this year. We could see upwards of 50 vintage T-Birds in attendance as well as representative vehicles from most of the Spokane area car clubs. Those in attendance can expect to receive a dash plaque, a goody bag and other gifts. Also discussed were the upcoming Spokane Veteran's Wheelchair games, for which many of our members will be volunteering. Our members will be assisting serving lunch from 10am-2pm on July 18, 2009. Rico Rodriguez passed around samples of his original design for a Northwest Cruisers club logo. Rico indicated he will have additional designs available and there will be a time to send in comments. The club voted for the new Northwest Cruiser's logo. Rocky Gibbs showed a new brochure he designed, the theory being a brochure left on a windshield is more informative than a card. On the downside it was noted Kinko's charge ninety-nine cents per color copy. A suggestion was made regarding the

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possibility of e-mailing the brochure to each member and they, in turn, could use their personal printers to print brochures as needed. It was agreed this sounded plausible and will be investigated.

Thank you notes were read from the Faith and Healing Center at Sacred Heart hospital and the North Idaho College Foundation regarding recent donations made on behalf of members who lost loved ones. Debbie Crowder reported on needs of the Safe House, including those of a Chinese family who have lived at the shelter for two years and are now ready to venture out on their own. Rico invited all members to his home for an upcoming picnic in honor of Rico and Patty's upcoming birthday's and wedding anniversary.

Prior to adjournment the raffle drawing was held. Winning the Cenex gas card was Shirley Alling. The four winners of the Sonic Drive-In combo meal gift cards were: Colleen Warn, Debbie Crowder, Lynda Schoenberg and Donna Madej. Winning the 50-50 raffle money was John Nichols who promptly donated his winnings to the Safe House fund. Congratulations to all with a special thank you to John for his charitable act.

National Veterans' Wheelchair Games



Not pictured: Rocky Gibbs, Betty Barber, Nancy Tressler, Ken and Sandy Leight

The National Veterans' Wheelchair Games Are over now and appeared to be a success. 19 of our club members came on Saturday to serve lunch to the veterans, families and volunteers. It was very hot and a big thank you goes out to all who came to help. Special thanks goes to Judy Hanson who volunteered at the games almost every

day during the week. Betty volunteered for quite a few events and Debbie Crowder and Donna did some extra shifts as well. Terry went down on Friday to support the event and I know that Nancy and Betty went to the opening ceremonies. They can all tell you how inspiring the event was.

Thank You Thank You

Many thanks to Matt and Shirley Alling for having us to their house for a wonderful dinner on June 27th. Jean Henderson provided flowers and a card from the club members to give to the Allings as a thank you. Thanks to Betty Barber for planning a fun local cruise that afternoon as well. It was a beautiful day in every way.

Thanks to Rico and Parry for inviting club members to their wonderful birthday/anniversary party. Quite a few members came and we were fed like royalty. You are good hosts.

LOGOS

Rico Rodriguez, who is a professional graphic artist, donated his time and talent to the club by creating a club logo, which the club members raved about. We are putting the logo on our website and on the new club T-shirts which most of you ordered. We are looking great now. Hopefully the t-shirts will be ready by the meeting on July 22nd.

Our Sponsors

We are advertising our sponsors, Sonic Drive-In and Cenex/Zip Trip Stations on our website and club banner. I am asking each member to patronize our sponsors as well so that we can show them that it was worth their while to sponsor us. At the May meeting I gave out sponsor logs where you can record purchases throughout the year at Sonic and Cenex. I will send these out as an attachment in an e-mail to make sure you all have one.

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THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

I was noticing the amount of service and charitable giving the club has been involved with after reading the nice thank you letters from the North Idaho College, the Faith and Healing Center and the Safe House and seeing the response to the Safe House requests and veterans wheelchair games. I am also aware of the amount of healing we offer to one another in so many ways. All of us can attribute to the way this club has opened doors, helped people through grieving periods, given people self esteem, honored each other's talents, brought laughter and fun into each others' lives. The club members are fountains of life to each other and to those who need us in many ways. Our cars are not the only ones that shine!!

DOWNTOWN CAR SHOW



Look who's car is out of line!

The Downtown car show on July 16th was another success. Things went very smoothly this year and our 16 cars fit perfectly on one side of a shady street. Michael took the day off to volunteer his time downtown as a member of the Inland Car Club Council. He is representing us so well in this group. We received great dash plaques with the Spokane red wagon on them plus other goodies. We may have picked up a new member as well – we'll see. The cars were beautiful.

USE THE WEBSITE



Rocky has spent an incredible amount of time updating the website. Unlike some websites, which are meant only for attracting new members, ours is a **WORKING WEBSITE FOR THE MEMBERS**. This means you should check it often for updates. Rocky has included the updated calendar for the year there so I will not have to send that out. He will update changes on it so you can always get the latest information there on any upcoming event. Also, he has updated the member car section. Check out the new pictures of people's cars. Be sure to enlarge them and get a good look at the photos. And of course there is always the Past Event Photo section which is updated every time we have an event. This is a fun site to share with your family and friends. I have told several of my friends from out of state to check it out to see what the club is about. The pictures speak louder than words. So, like a bath, check out your website once a week whether you need it or not!

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, JULY 22ND (BETTY'S BIRTHDAY) AT 7PM, EXIT REALTY – EXPECT CAKE!