

**NORTHWEST CRUISERS**  
**SPOKANE AREA PT CRUISER CLUB**  
*May 2009 Newsletter*



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## The April Meeting

Minutes by Terry Hontz

President Donna Madej opened the April meeting of the Northwest Cruisers at the Timber Creek Grill Buffet by noting two of our members are proud owners of new PT Cruisers. John Nichols purchased a 2009 Cruiser for the remarkable price of \$11,700 while Ken and Sandy Leight are enjoying their 2009 black and white Dream Cruiser. During her opening remarks Donna noted due to health issues involving her parents, Mary Jane Weis-Hengher would be unable to assist with the afternoon group staffing the April 25 Guild School Penny Drive. In her absence Terry and Debbie Hontz volunteered to assist as needed. Those volunteering were asked to park their cars in front of the Wheatland Bank, our location for the penny drive, to ensure maximum visibility.

A discussion regarding the May 1-3, 2009 Yaki-Vegas cruise was next on the agenda. Final details of the event were discussed.

Vice President Mike Peart gave a car talk on the advisability of checking and cleaning alloy wheels as winter weather and road chemicals can lead to rusting and deterioration which can eventually lead to wheel failure. Mike also passed around copies of "Cruising rules" which are also available on our www.

northwestcruisers.org website and are a reprint of rules posted by the Mt. Rainier Cruisers club.

Next was a presentation of our scheduled Silver Mountain cruise. Terry Hontz briefed the membership on costs of riding the gondola, \$11 ages 62 and up, \$16 for others, dining options including Noah's at the base of the gondola and the Mountain Haus grill at the top, and other activities available. It was noted May 23 is opening day for the summer season at Silver Mountain and because of that the additional chair lift at the end of the gondola ride is unavailable until winter snows have melted, and the hiking trail will most likely be muddy and not conducive to hiking this early in the season. It was decided to postpone this event until later in the year when conditions on the mountain have improved.

Matt Alling discussed the August 29-31, 2009 anniversary cruise to Glacier Park near Kalispell, MT. It was noted we would be staying at the Best Western Rocky Mountain Lodge in Whitefish, Mt. Matt has secured rooms for the group ranging from approximately \$96 to \$121 per day. The \$96 rooms are already reserved by members and it was suggested those planning on attending do not delay securing rooms at the \$121 rate as the hotel is filling fast. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-862-2569. Currently, we are planning on having dinner Friday evening at MacKenzie River Pizza. Undecided for Saturday is whether to take the Glacier Park jammer buses as a group narrated tour, or touring the park in our vehicles. Jammer bus tours range from \$50 and up, depending on the length of tour chosen. Also undecided is which of several dining options will be on Sunday evening's agenda. Monday morning return will be on your own.

Donna noted we have secured a new club sponsor, Sonic Drive-In. Sonic has agreed to furnish combo meals for our monthly meeting raffle drawings and we will schedule an evening at Sonic, as a group, in return. In addition our club banner will be changed to reflect Sonic as our new sponsor. Mike noted there are still Show-No-Shine CD's available for \$4.00. Rocky Gibbs, in charge of our club website, has requested additional pictures of member's cars. What we are looking for are pictures of our cars doing things and going places. If you are on vacation or traveling a picture of you and your car, or just your car would make a notable addition to our website.

At the conclusion of the meeting raffle winners of our initial Sonic Drive-In combo meals included John Nichols, Debbie Hontz, Sandy Leight and Mike Peart. Gladys Cottle won a donated PT Cruiser ball cap and Donna Madej was the winner of the raffle money.

**NORTHWEST CRUISERS  
SPOKANE AREA PT CRUISER CLUB  
May 2009 Newsletter**

## April 25th Penny Drive

Thank you, Judy Hansen for again organizing our participation in the Guild Penny Drive. So many members came to help that day. We numbered 22 members who came to help collect. Be sure to see the pictures of the morning crew on the website.

## National Veteran's Wheelchair Games

We have 27 members signed up to volunteer at the games in July. Our club will be volunteering as a group to serve the veterans lunch on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of July for around 10am to 2pm. If you did not turn in your volunteer registration yet, please do so at [www.wheelchairgames.va.gov](http://www.wheelchairgames.va.gov). There are still some folks who did not register.

## The Safe House

Besides the monetary contributions raised by the members at our monthly meetings, Deb Crowder reports that several individuals in the club have been donating things like clothes, pillows, journals and other needed items. It seems as if the needs of the Safe House are foremost in the minds of our members due to Deb's work bringing those needs to the fore. Thank you to all and especially to those who are making extra trips to bring things to Deb.



## New Members?????

Good work everyone, on continuing to work on membership. We got a call when we were in Yaki Vegas from a woman who found a card on her car at the Rosauers on Second. She then ran into the Ramirez' at another store and I called her the day after that. She may come to our next meeting.

Also, we actually had someone fill out our new on-line application but due to technical difficulty the process did not work. I have been leaving messages and hope this couple will join us. At any rate, our efforts to gain new members through the cards and website seem to be bearing fruit.

## Plan Ahead

We still need volunteers to plan the cruise to St. Regis in June and the Tom's Turkey Drive/Car Show in November so don't be shy. We will discuss these at the next meeting to see if people really want to do them.



Keep checking the website. There are new pictures on there all the time as well as updates on past and upcoming activities. We have a new sponsor page too. Thank you to the members who are starting to send pictures to Rocky for inclusion on the site.

## Speaking of Sponsors

Oh we are so happy to announce that Cenex has agreed to sponsor us for the rest of this year. They are donating a \$25.00 gas card each month (roughly equivalent to 10 gallons of gas) for our monthly raffles. I am hoping to show our sponsors that their

**NORTHWEST CRUISERS  
SPOKANE AREA PT CRUISER CLUB  
May 2009 Newsletter**

donations come back to them in business from the club so please make note each time you buy at Sonic Drive-In or at a Cenex station. If we can show these sponsors that we are bringing them business, they may re-up for next year. Thanks again to Dave and Joanna Brown who work at Cenex for suggesting that we ask them to be our sponsor.

## **We Are The Champions**

The Yaki Vegas Wine Cruise in Prosser, May 1-2, was a big event for us. It is always fun to mix and mingle with the members of the five other Washington PT Cruiser clubs. Friday night was lovely for the parade and light show. Saturday the car display got rained on and so that was hard. But Saturday afternoon the skies cleared and many went out for the non-wine tour. This year only two cars signed up for the winery tour! Then we had fun with a dinner and entertainment Saturday night before the awards. **AND DID WE GET AWARDS!!!!** Our club actually took the top prizes in most every category:  
BEST IN SHOW: Lynda and Joe Schoenberg  
BEST TRUNK SHOW: Lynda and Joe Schoenberg  
BEST STOCK: Sandy and Ken Leight  
BEST WHEELS: Richard and Joan Ramirez  
BEST GRAPHICS: Rico Ramirez  
BEST PIN STRIPING: Judy Flemmer  
THIRD PLACE TRUNK SHOW: Richard and Joan Ramirez  
VINTNER'S AWARD: Joe and Lynda Schoenberg

Thank you to everyone who showed up and represented our club. Winners, be sure to bring your trophies to the next meeting for all to see.

Some of the clubs are asking to come to Spokane for an event. We've been talking about this for a couple years so maybe we should spend some time discussing this at our next meeting and just plan it for next year.

## **Upcoming Events**

**Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4:30 PM – Sonic Drive-in Sponsor Night and Bowling Party.** Meet at Riverside and Division in the old lot by the warehouse to caravan.

**Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM – Monthly Meeting at Exit Realty.** Discuss summer plans. See the winners trophies from Yaki Vegas. Find the Zip Trip Contest. Bigger and better raffle prizes from our sponsors. Discuss clothing and PT Calendars. See your friends. Meet new ones.

**Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>- Fairfield Parade, Time TBA (Morning)** Details to follow.

