



The Motor Mouth

Exceptional Eating Experience

Great Chefs hits gastronomical heights



New member Jim Stott's peach pie is inscribed with the name of our favorite mid-'50s car.

It was Coastal Living magazine meets Bon Appetit as the Puget Sound Epicurean Birds (PSEB) gathered at the beach-front home of Judy and Der Roupe in record numbers to eat, drink and be merry. And, after several glasses of grog, nog and other wondrous healing waters, the merriment level kept rising.

This was the men's chance to show off their culinary skills while the ladies socialized over glasses of wine and nibbled appetizers prepared by the hard-working men.

Several of those pre-dinner delights appeared on a sideboard and on the dining table, and those of us who hadn't eaten in minutes dove in. But before we could become too focused on food, Prez/Chef Ray Vingo blew an aogah horn several time to begin the required meeting portion of the event. Membership Chairman Judy Roupe introduced several of PSEB's newer members,

including Forest and Sharon Stoner of Bremerton, Barry and Linda Birch of Edmonds-soon-to-be of Port Townsend and our very newest members, Jim Stott and Darlene McCallum of Gig Harbor.

Then it was bravely onto the core of the meeting -- the announcement of next year's slate of officers: Duane Niemi, president; Bob Callard, vice president; Martha Callard, secretary; and Mike Talbot, treasurer. The vote was taken by acclamation; the gavel will be passed and officer notebooks exchanged at the January meeting.

In her last official act as retiring secretary, Nancy Niemi passed out information about the Dec. 13 Christmas party. Duane passed around the 2010 event idea signup sheets.

Soon the long kitchen counter was filled with a plethora of pretty pots, beautiful bowls, plate after plate of pasta, meats, rice, salads, breads and other side dishes. On the stove sat two simmering pots of soup --

Christmas Party and Gift Exchange
Sunday, Dec. 13
See page 7 for details.

2010 Planning Party
Jan. 9
Save the Date!

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GREAT CHEFS

We had a record gathering of chefs and their significant others hosted by Judy and Der Roupe at their home on Nov. 15. The culinary expertise displayed was awesome, including some mouth-watering desserts. We also managed to do a little business during the event, and held the election of officers for next year. Nominated and elected were: President Duane Niemi, Vice President Bob Callard, Secretary Martha Callard and Treasurer Mike Talbot. Congratulations to all and thanks for agreeing to serve the club. And thank you, Judy and Der, for allowing us to invade your kitchen and home!



Bay overnight, fall colors tour, and, of course, our traditional Great Chefs and the upcoming Christmas party. And the board will meet this month to begin planning events for 2010.

WITH APPRECIATION

It's the participation of our members that makes the club go. And we have had a great group including all our officers & the committee chairmen listed on the masthead. But members who volunteer to host a monthly event are critical, and I thank all of you, as well, for your help in 2009. And the glue that keeps us connected and informed is this publication, the Motor Mouth. I want to acknowledge the outstanding work of Newsletter Editor Judy Thorne (and her staff photographer, Gordon), for producing one of the finest Thunderbird newsletters in the country. Quite an accomplishment for our little club!

--Ray Vingo, President.

A LOOK BACK

We had a wide variety of events this past year . . . the Boeing Everett plant, LeMay Car Museum, wine tasting, state capitol tour, Grand Coulee Dam overnight with OCTC, Brown Maloney auto collection and Lavender Festival, Paul Allen Heritage Aviation Museum, Neah

OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

- President:** Ray Vingo
360/779-4725 -- vingorayr@gmail.com
- Vice President:** Duane Niemi
360/297-1245 -- duanenancy@centurytel.net
- Secretary:** Nancy Niemi
360/297-1245 -- duanenancy@centurytel.net
- Treasurer:** Bob Callard
206/932-3236 -- recallard@yahoo.com
- Immediate Past Pres.:** Gordon Thorne
253/857-0063 -- gordon.thorne@gmail.com
- Newsletter Editor:** Judy Thorne
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- CTCI Representative:** Gordon Thorne
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- Membership:** Judy Roupe
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- Amenities:** Carol Weiler
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- Historian:** Judy Howard
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- Webmaster:** Bob Callard
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THE MOTOR MOUTH

Vol. 16, No. 12 -- December 2009

Gold Medallion-winning publication of the Puget Sound Early Birds, chapter 81 of Classic Thunderbird Club International.

Members are encouraged to submit articles written by themselves or others. All submissions are subject to editing and space available.

Deadline: 20th of the preceding month

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Our Mission: To encourage and promote the preservation, admiration, ownership, enjoyment and restoration of the 1955, 1956 and 1957 Ford Thunderbirds.

Web site:

www.pugetsoundearlybirds.org



(Continued from page 1)

Chef Mike Talbot's spicy sausage soup, and a New England clam chowder, lovingly tended and stirred by Chef Ed Johnson, who personally ladled up bowls to those passing by.

And while we watched with fading interest as the Seahawks faded once more against Arizona, the lineup of dinner began, with Birders sitting here, there and everywhere throughout the living/dining room and adjacent den. Almost everyone practiced their buffetmanship, allowing just so many square inches on the plate to each delectable offering, some taking two plates, others coming back a second time.

Before we knew it, dessert time had arrived and somehow most of the Birders found room for one or more, including an Amish apple cake, Chef Jim Stott's inscribed homemade peach pies, and a birthday cake for Chef Johnson. At this point, Chef Michael Perry led one and all in a rousing version of Happy Birthday. (Marilyn Monroe's sultry "Happy Birthday" sung to President Kennedy is still safe from serious competition!)

Filling the Roupes' nest were the Austins, Baylers, Birches, Callards, Daughtertys, Johnsons, McCurdys, Niemis, Perrys, Stoners, Stott/McCallum, Talbots, Thornes, Vingos and Weilers.

Once again PSEB's Great Chefs of the Northwest annual event did not disappoint. As in years past, it was a gastronomic event enjoyed by friends who share a love of one spectacular classic car, and also care about one another. -- **Gordon Thorne**





Jim Stott Photo



Thank you Der and Judy Roupe for an outstanding Great Chefs of the Northwest event!

New PSEB Names and Faces



**Jim Stott and Darlene McCallum
Gig Harbor**



**Barry and Linda Birch
Edmonds and Port Townsend**



THE ROAD AHEAD 2010

It won't be a question mark much longer! Be sure to come to the Annual Planning Party, Jan. 9, at the Indianola home of new President Duane Niemi. Details to come in the January Motor Mouth.



Marilyn Monroe's T-Bird Fact or Fiction?

Many people believe that Marilyn Monroe at one time owned a 1957 T-Bird, because of photos of her and the Pink Dream car.

What Marilyn actually owned was a 1955 T-Bird that was originally Coral Pink, but was later repainted to Raven Black. It is thought the car was given to Marilyn by the photographer Milton H. Green.

Marilyn drove the 1955 T-Bird from Hollywood to New York City in 1956 where she married Arthur Miller prior to moving to London, England. There is a famous photo of Miller, pipe in mouth, behind the wheel of the T-Bird with Marilyn wearing sun



glasses waving at the camera. Marilyn later gave the car to John Strasberg, her acting coach's son.

But Marilyn never owned or even drove a 1957 Thunderbird. The fabled 1957 Pink Dream was rented by Ben Stern for the infamous "nude photo" session at the Bel Air Hotel in Los Angeles. The car was used to transport to the hotel a case of champagne, which was then spiked with vodka. This two-day photo session for Vogue magazine in Suite 261 at the Bel-Air Hotel created the last known photos ever taken of Marilyn Monroe before her death.

Marilyn was registered at birth as Norma Jeane Mortenson, named after one of her mother's favorite actresses, Norma Talmadge. Mortenson was possibly her father. But she was baptized Norma Jean Baker, using her mother's surname. She changed her name to Marilyn Monroe in 1946; the name was created from the first name of actress Marilyn Miller and her mother Gladys' maiden name of Monroe.

Information reprinted from www.tbirduk.com





PSEB DUES ARE DUE – renew your annual dues today by sending this form and a check for \$25 (made out to PSEB) to Membership Chairman Gordon Thorne, or bring your check and renewal form (below) to the Christmas Party Dec. 13

**2010
Puget Sound Early Birds
Membership Renewal
(please print)**

Name _____ Birthday (month/day) _____

Spouse _____ Birthday (month/day) _____

Anniversary (month/day/year) _____

Mailing address _____
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Phone numbers: home () _____ cells() _____

E-mail address(es) _____

Thunderbirds owned:
1955 _____ Serial number(s) _____
1956 _____ Serial number(s) _____
1957 _____ Serial number(s) _____

CTCI membership number _____ Other T-Bird clubs affiliations? _____

Would you be willing to suggest and/or host a monthly event? Yes _____ No _____

If so, what month/event? _____

What activities, events or committees interest you the most?

Signature _____

PSEB dues are \$25 per couple per year, payable on or before Jan. 1.

Please send this form, plus your check for \$25 made out to Puget Sound Early Birds, to:

**PSEB
c/o Gordon Thorne
13033 Pt. Richmond Beach Rd NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98332**

(c)



PSEB Annual Christmas Party and Gift Exchange December 13 3:30 p.m.

Come, let us gather together to celebrate the joys of the season, the gift of good friends and the blessings of a tasty meal -- all with our special PSEB buddies.

Indianola Clubhouse, 20446 Indianola Rd.

Check with Nancy Niemi about what to bring if you haven't already RSVP'd: 360.297.1245.

Bring with you:

- Your assigned dinner contribution and personal beverage of choice if other than provided wine, beer, soda, coffee, tea.
- A gift from each attendee to exchange (about \$15 each) labeled man or woman.
- An unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots, or cash/check (Santa Margaret will shop for you.)
- Holiday Spirit.

Directions from South: Hwy. 3 to Hwy. 305 (Poulsbo exit). Turn right at bottom of hill, then left at

Bond Rd. (second light). Turn right at next light (Gunderson Rd). Go left at next light, Miller Bay Rd. Take the very next right onto Indianola Rd. The clubhouse is near the end of the road on the left. Park in spaces just before the clubhouse or on the road.

Directions from North and West: Go to intersection of Hwy. 104 and Miller Bay/Hansville Rd. where Rite Aid and Albertson's are on opposite corners. Take Miller Bay Rd. (Rite Aid corner), a right turn if coming from bridge. Turn left at second light onto Indianola Rd. See directions above.

Questions? duanenancy@centurytel.net



PUGET SOUND EARLY BIRDS

A look back at 2009 . . .

By Judy Howard, Historian

Club members met at the Vingo residence in **January** to enjoy a delicious pizza and salad luncheon prepared by the hosts and to plan another club year. Leading the club for 2009 were the officers installed at the December Christmas party: Ray Vingo, president; Duane Niemi, vice president; Nancy Niemi, secretary; Bob Callard, treasurer; and Gordon Thorne, immediate past president.

Appointed chairmen for the year were Gordon Thorne, CTCI; Judy Thorne, newsletter editor; Judy Roupe, membership; Carol Weiler, amenities; Judy Howard, historian; and Bob Callard, PSEB Webmaster.

The club budget was discussed and activities were proposed and voted on by those in attendance. Monthly events and hosts for 2009 were:

February: Future of Flight Aviation Center/ Boeing Tour - Niemi

March: LeMay Car Museum Tour - White and Thorne

April: Private wine tasting at E.B. Foote Winery and barbecue - Callard

May: Brunch, state capitol tour and Olympia Farmers' Market - Talbot

June: Grand Coulee Dam overnight with Olympic Classic T-Bird Club and back-roads tour - OCTC and Thorne

July: Lunch and Maloney's auto/motorcycle collection tour; Sequim Lavender Festival - Maloney and Vingo

August: Paul Allen Heritage Aviation Museum and barbecue - Hummel

September: Overnight tour to Hobuck Beach and Neah Bay - Weiler

October: Fall colors tour and lunch at Timber House in Quilcene - Gilchrist

November: Great Chefs of the NW, general meeting, and elections - Roupe

December: Christmas party/gift exchange at Indianola Clubhouse - Niemi

Members also attended nonsponsored events including Clearbrook Inn Car Show and barbecue, Silverdale; OVAC Pizza Run to Port Hadlock; Annual Classic Car Show at West Sound Tech; Show 'n Shine, Kelowna, B.C./Okanogan T-Bird Club; Shop and Shine Car Show Breast Cancer Benefit, Gig Harbor; CTCI Region 3 Convention in Vancouver, B.C.

Awards received at the convention were: McCurdys - First place Expanded Touring Class for their 1957 T-Bird; Niemis - Third place Touring Division; and for the third year, a Gold Award to Judy Thorne, newsletter editor.

Charitable contributions this year included \$100 to the Olympic College Foundation/Automotive Technology Department in memory of founding and honorary member, Les Parizek, who passed away at age 90. New toys and money were collected in November and December and donated to the Marine's Toys for Tots program. Margaret Vingo coordinated the collection.

Gordon Thorne, CTCI chairman, wrote articles on our events for the CTCI Early Bird magazine, which were published with his color photos.

New members joining us this year include Forrest and Sharon Stoner, Barry and Linda Birch, and Jim Stott and Darlene McCallum. Welcome!

After four years of research, the club history was completed by Judy Howard, historian. The story of PSEB is now recorded and in a binder with photos, letters, and a lot of special memorabilia. Many thanks to those members who donated items and helped in making this project a great success!



Happy 33rd Birthday, PSEB!



Congratulations to all

Birthday:

Dec. 11 Gretchen Liebenberg

Anniversaries:

Dec. 7 Pat and Judy Howard

Dec. 27 Stan and Gretchen Liebenberg

Dec. 28 Tom and Susan Harris

'The Chevron Vendetta'

The side chevrons on this Starmist Blue 1957 at the right belong to a person who shall be identified only as "B.C." They are placed in the same, old, boring, dreary, cliché-ridden way. This is so ho-hum, so dull, so lacking in imagination. It's so last-century. "B.C." needs to get with it!



Now . . .

Check out the clever chevron placement on the Raven Black '57 (at right) and custom red '57 (below). Such artistry shows elegance, flair, style, elan, panache. It's so "now" -- pure out-of-the-box thinking. These T-Bird owners, known as "M.P." and "G. T.," are far ahead of the pack. These are the chevrons of the future!





A Quandary: Collector Car Theft Deterrents

By **Tony and Michele Hamer,**
About.com

As classic car owners, one question we get asked frequently is, "Aren't you worried someone will steal your car?" Of course the answer is yes. The good news is that most car thieves target late-model cars that can be disassembled easily and sell the parts quickly. Classic cars tend to be harder to resell, and the parts are more difficult to market. Still, we don't leave any of our cars unlocked or unattended for very long when outside of our garage.

The bad news is that many of the anti-theft devices that could stop would-be thieves will create visible changes that may not be acceptable if you intend to enter your car in judged contests. Certain clubs make originality concessions when it comes to safety features, such as seat belts or turn signals, but usually only allow battery cut-off switches for theft prevention.

Etching the vehicle's VIN into the window or applying theft-deterrent decals are good options

for modern cars, but not for winning concours events.

Some of the inexpensive solutions you could consider to deter a thief that won't leave a lasting impression on your car are:

- **Locks**

[Steering Wheel/Brake Pedal Locks](#)

- **Removing distributor cap or ignition rotor**

- **Removing fuel pump fuse**

- **Battery cut-off switch**

[Remote Battery Cut Off Switch DataDots](#)

- **Vehicle Tracking System** -- If you don't mind spending a little more money on your investment, you could install a vehicle-tracking system such as [Lo Jack](#), which is monitored by the police in 22 states and costs about \$600 to install, or an immobilizer like the [Ravelco Anti-Theft](#) device which costs about \$500 depending on your vehicle.

If a thief really wants your car, sometimes there's nothing you can do to stop them. As a precaution, always make sure you have your license plate number, VIN or chassis number, engine number and all relevant identifying infor-



mation handy to assist the police.

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<http://classiccars.about.com/od/owningaclassic/a/cartheft.htm>

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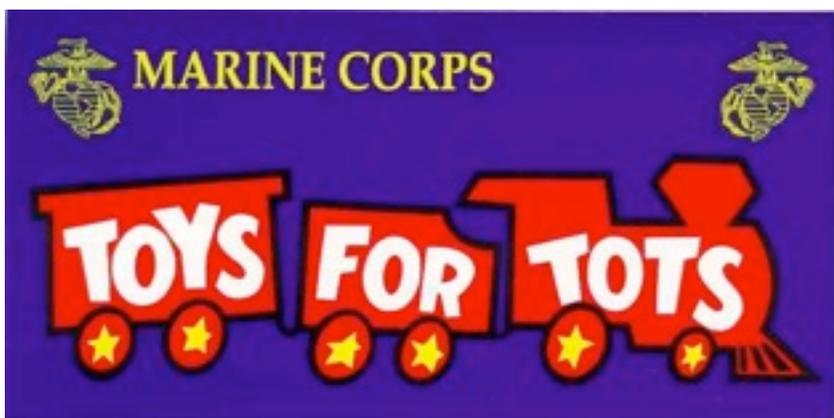
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<http://www.datadotusa.com/index.htm>



Put a toy in the hands of a needy child this year

Bring your unwrapped new toys to the Christmas Party, and they will be delivered to a Marine Corps Toys for Tots location next week. If you'd rather make a monetary donation, Mrs. Claus (a.k.a. Margaret Vingo) will shop for you. Help PSEB continue this annual fundraising project.



Cool Stocking Stuffers for Classic Car Owners

Christmas is just days away and if your family is looking for some last minute goodies to stuff in your "car crazy" stocking, we've got some ideas you can pass on to them.

Coffee Cup Gadget Charger – This very innovative charger is shaped like a coffee cup -- it sits in your cup holder and plugs it into your cigarette lighter. It converts the DC power from your vehicle into two 120-volt AC outlets and a USB port.

Gliptone Liquid Leather Scuff Master Kit - Many older vintage and classic cars have leather seats or trim that will age and need to be freshened or restored. We use to this leather touch-up dye to cover unsightly marks and worn spots.

Recovery Straps & Tow Straps - Hopefully your classic will never have to be towed, but this might be a helpful product to have the day your fellow classic car owner fails to start his engine.

Adam's Detail Spray - There aren't a shortage of good detailing sprays on the market that can be

used as a waterless car wash, a clay bar lubricant, or to enhance the depth and clarity of paint, chrome, plastic, aluminum and glass. We just happen to like the Adam's product line.

Meguiars Hot Rims Mag and Aluminum Polish - We were given a tin of Meguiar's Hot Rims Mag and Aluminum Polish by Barry Meguiar to review. He said that we would like the product and he was right. We find the product works well on all our autos' bright work, as well as our copper and brass bits around the house.

Microfiber Cleaning Cloths – If you own a classic car, you can never have enough cleaning cloths. Microfiber is a great cleaning material that can be used without using detergents on your car's surface.

Digital Tire Gauge - Properly inflated tires can help save gas and ensure better handling from your automobile. Check-

ing tire air pressure is especially important for your classic that may not be driven on a daily basis.

Happy Shopping! www.about.com/classiccars



Mark Your NEW 2010 Calendar Now!

**PSEB Annual Planning Meeting
Saturday, January 9
Duane and Nancy Niemi's home
in Indianola**

Details in January Motor Mouth