

The Motor Mouth

It was a 'verry' Merry

Christmas Party filled with cheer and good fun.



Ho! Ho! Ho! The spirit of the season was alive and well at the PSEB annual Christmas party, Dec. 9, at Judy and Der Roupe's beautiful beach home in Hansville. Rains that had plagued the area and flooded roads gave way to a blessedly dry day, ensuring a stellar turnout of the membership.

With the main shipping lanes of Puget Sound as a backdrop, the Roupes' home sported a sparkling Christmas tree, festive holiday decorations, and a buffet with enough food to fill PSEB tummies twice over.

After several tours of the "groaning board" and plenty of

time to socialize and enjoy Christmas cheer, club officers for 2008 were installed (see page 4) and outgoing President Pat Howard was thanked for his two years of service in a tangible way: a Thunderbird watch that includes the CTCI logo and the image of the Howards' white 1957 Early Bird.

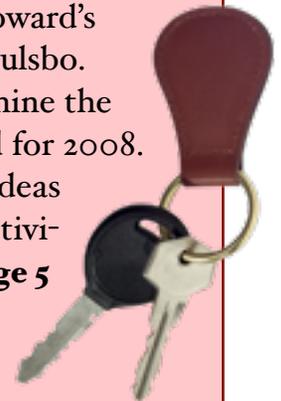
Judy Howard, the consummate hostess and president's helpmate par excellence, received a "thank you" apron emblazoned with "The Howard Café" and the PSEB logo.

With official business out of the way, the business of the traditional gift exchange began. Amid hoots and hollers -- and

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!!**

**Start 2008 right
at the PSEB
Pizza Planning**

Party, noon Sunday, January 6, at Pat and Judy Howard's home in Poulsbo. Help determine the Road Ahead for 2008. Bring your ideas for PSEB activities! **See page 5 for details.**



lots of good teasing -- participants vied for their "favorite" gift as they sought to be the third -- and final -- owner of the item.

Attendees included Pat and Beverly Cooper, Pat and Judy Howard, Mike and Sandi Talbot (intrepid travelers from Olympia), Bob and Judy Lowe, Ted

(continued on page 3)

Cruising and Musing

Hello, everyone, and welcome to a brand-new PSEB board and a brand-new year! I've spent some of the holiday time researching date-specific fun activities and events offered by cities and towns in western Washington, along with a variety of tours that we could take at any time. This list was sent to you by e-mail a few days ago in the hope you may find something you really would like to do.

The rest of the time has been spent sorting letters, memos, e-mails and past articles into folders in my own feeble attempt to at least pretend to be somewhat organized. As I now go through 15 separate file folders, plus a three-ring binder full of correspondence and minutes given to me by Pat and Judy Howard at the Christmas party, I am beginning to really realize the tremendous amount of time they both gave to organizing the club and moving it forward.

Being a proactive leader of this club took a great deal of selfless dedication and determination, and we all are the fortunate recipients of the long hours and hard work they both so willingly gave. So, a huge thank-you to Pat and to Judy for a job very, very well done.

My deepest thanks to Judy and Der Roupe for graciously opening their lovely beach house to us for the



annual Christmas party. It's a lot of work to be the host for this event, and I know I speak for everyone who attended when I say that the party was loads of fun!

I urge all of you to try to attend the January 6 fun and always-lively pizza and planning party for all the fresh-baked pizza you can eat, icy-cold beer and sodas, good red and white wine (aged at least since Thursday) and to decide which events we'll choose from a good lineup of tour and activities. Don't miss this annual opportunity to help us plan when and where we'll be going in 2008.

I'm blessed with a terrific board: VP Ray Vingo, Treasurer Duane Niemi, Secretary Nancy Niemi and Past President Pat Howard. With their help -- and especially yours -- 2008 should prove to be a great ride for all of us! So hang on, everyone, and tighten your seat belts -- the road ahead looks perfect for a classic T-Bird.

--Gordon Thorne, President.

OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

President: Gordon Thorne
253/857-0063 -- gordon.thorne@gmail.com
Vice President: Ray Vingo
360/779-4725 -- rayvingo@embarqmail.com
Secretary: Nancy Niemi
360/297-1245 -- duanenancy@centurytel.net
Treasurer: Duane Niemi
360/297-1245 -- duanenancy@centurytel.net
Immediate Past President: Pat Howard
360/394-3585 -- culver60@earthlink.net
Newsletter Editor: Judy Thorne
253/857-0063 -- judyh.thorne@gmail.com
CTCI Representative: Gordon Thorne
253/857-0063 -- gordon.thorne@gmail.com
Membership: Judy Roupe
360/638-2571 -- jroupe@centurytel.net
Amenities: Carol Weiler
360/452-3096 -- cjw@olympen.com
Special Projects/Historian: Judy Howard
360/394-3585 -- flybye63@earthlink.net
Webmaster: Position open

THE MOTOR MOUTH

Vol. 15, No. 1 -- January 2008

Official monthly 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.

Editor: Judy Thorne
13033 Pt. Richmond Beach Rd, N.W.
Gig Harbor, WA 98332
253/857-0066; fax 253/857-0064
judyh.thorne@gmail.com

Deadline: 20th of the preceding month

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

Web site:

www.orgsites.com/wa/pseb/index.html

(continued from page 1)



Thank you, Der and Judy, for making the PSEB Christmas party such a rousing success! We all had a great time!

(our own PSEB Santa) and Charline Austin, Jerry and Carol Weiler, Ed and Tanya Johnson, Ray and Margaret Vingo, Stan and Gretchen Liebenberg and Gordon and Judy Thorne. In all, the party was a great way to begin the holiday season with special friends.



PSEB Officers for 2008 are installed

During a break in the Christmas action Dec. 9, five new board officers were installed: Gordon Thorne, president; Ray Vingo, vice president; Nancy Niemi, secretary; Duane Niemi, treasurer; and Patrick Howard, immediate past president.

Installing officer Judy Howard did the honors after sharing insight into each officer's personality, and presented each with a personalized framed certificate that included a photo of the officer's Little Bird.

Retiring President Pat Howard acknowledged the outgoing officers and committee chairmen, presented them framed certificates, and thanked them for their service.

Following the official installation, Gordon introduced his committee chairmen for 2008: Judy Thorne, newsletter editor; Judy Roupe, membership; Carol Weiler, amenities; Judy Howard, special projects/historian.

To conclude the change of officers, Gordon presented Pat Howard with the traditional "retirement" watch. In addition, he presented Judy Howard a special chef's apron as a thank-you for all her fine efforts.



2008 officers, from left, Gordon Thorne, Ray Vingo, Nancy Niemi, Duane Niemi and Pat Howard, with installing officer Judy Howard, far right.



DUES ARE (over) DUE



If you are among the several members who have not yet paid your 2008 dues, please note the dues renewal form on page 6 of the Motor Mouth. Fill it out, write a check, and send to Duane Niemi, treasurer, or bring to the January pizza party.

The Road Ahead

PSEB CALENDAR OF EVENTS for 2008

The annual PSEB planning meeting (a.k.a. pizza party with salads, beer, wine, sodas and dessert) is NEXT Sunday, January 6, at Noon

PLEASE: Help us determine how much pizza, beer and wine to buy by RSVP-ing no later than January 4 to:

Judy and Gordon Thorne
253/857-0063 or 253/857-0066
or judyh.thorne@gmail.com

Be sure to be there for the important business of creating a fun schedule of events for the coming year. **Your input and creative ideas are not only requested, they are needed to ensure that we have a well-rounded schedule that will appeal to our growing membership.**

What to bring: Your ideas! Please think now about what YOU would like to do with your PSEB friends in 2008. All ideas are welcome. To get you started, PSEB President Gordon Thorne e-mailed a list of possible events for the year to everyone. Now it's your turn to give some thought to events you'd like to see on The Road Ahead for the coming year.

Where to go: The Howard Café! Pat and Judy Howard have graciously offered their Poulsbo home so this event can be at a central location. Gordon and Judy are supplying fresh-baked pizza, salads, beer, wine and sodas, and several members are bringing desserts.

How to get there: If you are using Hwy. 3, take the Poulsbo/Bainbridge exit. Continue on Hwy. 305 toward Poulsbo to second signal, which is Hwy. 307 (Bond Road). Turn left (right if coming from Bainbridge) and continue approximately three miles to Gunderson Road, which is signalized. Turn right on Gunderson (left if coming from Kingston/Hood Canal Bridge direction). Immediately turn right on Stottlemeyer Rd. Continue one mile to Iverson Rd. where you will turn left (only way you can turn). Continue one mile to the end of the road at the top of the hill. The Howards' house is on the left: 4241 N.E. Lookout Lane. 360/394-3585.



These folks don't know where to go -- or when -- because they didn't attend the PSEB Pizza Party and Planning Session Jan. 6 at the Howard Café. Be there!



**Puget Sound Early Birds
Membership Renewal Form 2008
(please print)**

Name _____ Birthday (month/day) _____

Spouse _____ Birthday (month/day) _____

Anniversary (month/day/year) _____

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

Phone numbers home () _____ cell () _____

E-mail address(es) _____

Thunderbirds owned:

1955 _____ Serial number(s) _____

1956 _____ Serial number(s) _____

1957 _____ Serial number(s) _____

CTCI membership number _____

Other Thunderbird club affiliations _____

Would you be willing to host or co-host an activity Yes _____ No _____

What activities or events would interest you the most? _____

Signature _____

PSEB dues for 2008 are \$25 per couple, 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 Duane Niemi, Treasurer

P.O. Box 146

Indianola, WA 98342

OR BRING YOUR CHECK TO THE JANUARY 6 PIZZA PARTY



From Pat Howard---

As my last official act as president of the Puget Sound Early Birds, I want to thank Judy and Der Roupe for hosting this year's Christmas party and gift exchange. Their hospitality was extraordinary, and a fun and festive afternoon was had by all. The Christmas party also provided an appropriate forum for the installation of our board of directors for 2008.

My thanks to Judy Howard for acting as installing officer for this ceremony. Also, this event gave me the opportunity to personally express my appreciation and gratitude to each of the 2006-07 officers and chairmen, who gave so much of their time and effort to the club during these past two years.

Lastly, my thanks to all of you for the commemorative Thunderbird watch, which will always remind me of my time as your president.

Toys for Tots 2007 Tally
Good Show, PSEB!

Ted E. Bear and I would like to thank you for your wonderful generosity! On Dec. 12, 65 toys were delivered to the Silverdale Toys R Us store, which is a local drop-off center.

A total of 120 toys and a \$25 monetary donation was given during the 2006-2007 administration. Way to go, PSEB!

Your giving spirit will make many children very happy. Ted E. and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

***-- Judy Howard,
Special Projects Chairman.***

Donation made to Olympic College

A club donation of \$100 went to the Olympic College Foundation to help support the auto-



motive technology department. Given in memory of three members who passed away in 2007 -- club founding member Dr. George Dibblee, Daryl Taylor and Bruce Jeffcoat -- the donation helps the college and also honors fellow Thunderbird aficionados and friends who are no longer with us.

January Celebrations!

Best Wishes to:

Birthdays

- 28 Tanya Johnson**
- 29 Margaret Vingo**

Anniversary

- 23 Niemis (1994)**



***And special good wishes
to
Les Parezik
on his 89th birthday
January 5, 2008***



PUGET SOUND EARLY BIRDS
Club History 1976 - 2007

By Judy Howard, Special Projects Chairman

A Look Back At 2007 . . .

The second year of the 2006-07 administration got off to an enthusiastic start in January when 25 members gathered at the Howard Café to partake in a sumptuous New Year's Breakfast Brunch, cheer on the Seahawks, and plan the monthly activities under the direction of club President Patrick Howard. A variety of ideas was submitted by members, including requested weekday outings and overnight tours.

All proposals were discussed, couples offered to host events, and the calendar for 2007 was voted on by those present. Each month provided something different. In addition to getting our Little Birds out on the road, we had great fun, enjoyed one another's company, gained new friendships along the way, and continued our greatest tradition of enjoying food at every activity! We have many fond memories and thank those members who planned the events and those who supported the hosts and activities during 2007.

February: Keyport Undersea Warfare Museum/tailgate chili lunch, Bremerton Naval Museum, dinner at Anthony's Restaurant. *Hosts:* Cooks

March: Brunch at the Tacoma Yacht Club, Tacoma Grand Prix Racing/awards. *Hosts:* Liebenbergs/Thornes

April: Hood Canal Loop Tour with stops at Hoodspout Winery, lunch at Brinnon, Whitney Gardens, ice cream in Quilcene. *Hosts:* Roupes

May: Port Townsend Rhody Festival. Canceled. Thanks to the Vingos for planning the day.

June: Hurricane Ridge tour and picnic lunch. *Hosts:* Howards
July: Cruise the Narrows Car Show, barbecue at Thorne's beach home. *Hosts:* Thornes/ Liebenbergs
August: Bloedel Reserve, Bainbridge/Indianola backroads, barbe-



cue at Niemis'. *Hosts:* Niemis
September: "First Ever" three-day, two-night tour of the Olympic Peninsula Loop. Overnight at Lake Crescent Lodge and Lake Quinault Lodge. Guests from OCTC, Rose City T-Birds/Portland, and Totem Club/British Columbia. *Hosts:* Weilers/Thornes

October: '50s Party including live music, dancing and dinner at the fabulous Johnson Garage. *Hosts:* Johnsons

November: Great Chefs of the Northwest/general meeting/election of officers, T4T toy collection. *Hosts:* Austins

December: Annual Christmas party/gift exchange. President's recognition of new members, outgoing officers and chairmen. "First ever" installation of officers for 2008 board of directors, T4T Toy collection. *Hosts:* Roupes

Judy Thorne accepted the position of newsletter editor for 2007. The Motor Mouth was sent to

members via e-mail, and won a Gold Award at the 2007 CTCI Convention. Lea Cook and Gordon Thorne acted as club photographers. Special Projects Chairman Judy Howard researched and compiled the club history from 1976-2007 and published the "first" PSEB Cookbook.

Once again, PSEB supported the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program and contributed 65 toys topping last year's donation of 55 toys/\$25 check. For the second year, a monetary donation of \$100 was sent to the Olympic College Foundation for the automotive technology department. The 2007 donation was in memory of Dr. George Dibblee, founding member; and Bruce Jeffcoat and Daryl Taylor, members who passed away during the year.

Our main objective is enjoying our T-Birds and one another, but at the same time we can truly make an impact by reaching out to those who are less fortunate or are in need of aid to further their education or technical skills. The community has become aware of PSEB and we have made a difference!

Last but certainly not least . . . new members are vital and important to any organization as they bring in innovative ideas, energy and enthusiasm! Sixteen new members joined during this administration and include: Niemis, Hasards, Perrys, Maloneys, Talbots, Callards, Matthews, and Hummels. The Puget Sound Early Birds is pleased to add them to our membership roster and look forward to many years of fun and friendship!



48
in
08

Classic Thunderbird Tour of 48 state capitals in 2008

July 25 to September 22

A tour for people who enjoy driving their classic Thunderbirds and want to see the good ol' U.S.A.

Who: Doc Dockter and Lucy Clark, T-Birders in California, are organizing the tour. They are not professional tour operators, so this is just a group of T-Birders flocking together to see some of our beautiful country.

What: Drive your classic Thunderbird to some or all lower 48 state capitals. While having a good time, the objective is to increase awareness of McPherson College in Kansas, the only four-year accredited college in the country to offer a degree in automotive restoration, and to spotlight our classic Thunderbird hobby.

When: The 48 in 08 tour begins in Sacramento, Calif., on July 25, includes six days at the CTCI international convention in Portland, Ore., (July 28-Aug. 3), and will end in Phoenix, Ariz., on or about Sept. 22. It will cover approximately 14,000 miles and is expected to take about 60 days.

Cost: There is no entry fee, however everyone will have to pay their own expenses, including gas, lodging, vehicle maintenance, food, tolls, CTCI international convention and souvenirs.

Oil changes: Oil and filter changes will be performed at these locations so tour participants are on the same service interval: Portland, Linton, N.D., Wisconsin/Chicago area and Atlanta.

Participation: It isn't likely that everyone who is interested in the tour will be able to do the entire 60-day tour. Therefore, T-Birders interested in driving their classic Birds for part of the tour are encouraged to do so. We welcome the opportunity to meet new people and see other T-Birds along the way.

Media: McPherson College, which we'll visit, will contact the media in all 48 capitals to announce the tour for press coverage.

Extras: Among other sights scheduled, in addition to the state capitals, are Mount Rushmore or Crazy Horse Memorial, overnight in Dearborn, Mich., full day of sightseeing in Boston, full-day tour of the Texas Hill Country, and some stops along Route 66.

For PSEBers who'd like to take in a day or two of the schedule, here are the dates in our neck of the woods:

July 27 -- Salem, Ore.

July 28-Aug. 3 -- CTCI convention, Portland.

Aug. 3 -- Olympia

Aug. 4 -- Spokane

Aug. 5 -- Helena, Mont.

Aug. 7 -- Boise, Idaho

For additional information and proposed schedule: <http://www.home.earthlink.net/~48ino8> or Google "48 in 08 tour." E-mail 48ino8@earthlink.net. By phone: Lucy Clark, 714/630-4066 or Doc Dockter, 650/759-4302.

A BIG PSEB WELCOME to our newest members **Bill and Doris Hummel** of Everett

The Hummels own two Little Birds: A blue 1955 and a custom metallic medium-blue 1956. Longtime members of Olympic Classic T-Bird Club, they have joined our happy band too! Bill and Doris were lots of fun to be with on our three-day, two-night tour of the Olympic Peninsula in September.

We look forward to more good times with them in the months to come.

T-Bird Tech Tips

What's Missing From Your Oil May Be Destroying Your Engine

from CASCO's ThunderEnlightening newsletter

What is ZDDP? There seems to be a problem with the oil you are probably using in your T-bird. An oil additive known as ZDDP (zinc dialkyl dithio phosphate) has been gradually removed from commercially available engine oils.

There are two main reasons for the diminishing use of ZDDP in our oils: First, the EPA has required new-car auto makers to guarantee that catalytic converters will last 100,000 miles. The use of ZDDP is hard on catalytic converters. Second, cars that have roller rocker assemblies do not need ZDDP.

What does ZDDP do for our engines? ZDDP is a surface modifier. It modifies bearing to journal surface characteristics to prevent metal-to-metal contact. Under the right conditions of heat and pressure, it plates over the contact surface and pro-



vides a sacrificial coating. As it breaks down, it dissipates into the oil where it remains in suspension until the right conditions are again met and the process starts over. This cycle reduces the possibility of scuffing and galling.

We have spoken to our cam supplier and they agree that currently available oils are different, and they would suggest using an additive that replaces the missing ZDDP.

We have reviewed the available products and have settled on a product called ZDDPlus, a concentrated four-ounce bottle that you simply add at every oil change. It is recommended for all engines built before 1988 that have flat tappet setups. We have added this to our product offering as Part No. Z4, which sells for \$10.85 for a four-ounce bottle. For information: www.classictbird.com.

Is Your T-Bird Really Locked?

Try this one on your Little Bird: Lock your door from the outside and then push hard a number of times on the outside door-handle button. Many of you will find that by doing this, your door-lock button will slowly work its way upward until the door is no longer locked.

All T-Birders should know that it is very easy to over-tighten the lock buttons and to do so may allow the situation described above. This is not a

problem of inaccurate reproduction parts. Our Birds came from the factory this way. The problem is that when the lock button is screwed onto the shaft too far, it limits the available downward travel of the shaft. The result is that the lock mechanism inside the door-latch assembly is not able to fully engage.

The good news is the fix is simple. Just unscrew the lock button a few turns to allow the shaft a bit more travel.
--CASCO *ThunderEnlightening*