



The Motor Mouth

Fa-la-la-la Fabulous

PSEB Christmas Party is one to remember



The annual gift exchange captures the attention of partygoers. At right, the Bayler Bar is a great place to hang out.



It was more Ha! Ha! Ha! than Ho! Ho! Ho! when PSEBers laughed in the face of Mother Nature's first snowfall and braved the elements to gather at Thom and Joni Bayler's beautiful Victorian home in Kingston for the club's annual Christmas party and gift exchange.

The cold temperatures outside were no match for the warmth of friends inside celebrating the season. The Baylers decorated their home perfectly, from a snow village in the living room to the tree in the great room. Joni's spectacular home-made egg

**Start the
New Year
right!
Attend the
Annual
Planning
Meeting**

**January 11
at the Vingos'
Poulsbo
home.
Info and di-
rections
on page
6.**



nog frothed from the punch bowl, and Thom dispensed wine and soft drinks from the Bayler Bar, a.k.a. beautifully restored soda fountain. And although Joni had cooked for 30, her kitchen looked untouched, with buffet warmers at the ready. The formal dining room was set, as was the smaller breakfast nook, all in red and green for the holidays.

(continued on page 3)



Holiday Musings

I am writing this before Christmas during the middle of our “Puget Sound weather event.” We have all been coping with snowstorms, power outages and the like. I have gotten way too familiar with my snow shovel, firewood supply and wood stove! By the time you receive this, I hope we will be experiencing the great thaw!

Despite the weather, we had a great turnout for the holiday party hosted by the Baylers. Joni & Thom outdid themselves once again with both their lovely decorations and fine food. And for those who could not join us, you missed some of the most unusual “gift exchange” items. There were two five-gallon buckets of live Hood Canal oysters, harvested by Mike & Christine Perry from the snow-covered beach in front of their home. They



were in great demand!

Your new board has been busy during December working on an interesting schedule of tours and events for 2009. In a change from prior years, we hope to have a detailed schedule, drawing on the many suggestions received from members in November and December, to present to the club at the January 11 Planning Meeting. We will do the “Big Reveal” there, which should move the meeting along rapidly, so that everyone can get to the real business of eating, drinking and socializing. I hope that many of you will be able attend the meeting on the 11th at our home. And . . . don't forget to *wear your name badges* for the benefit of our newer members.

-- Ray Vingo, President

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
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
Special Projects: Judy Lowe
360/692-8105 -- jklowe3@yahoo.com
Amenities: Carol Weiler
360/452-3096 -- cjw@olypen.com
Historian: Judy Howard
360/394-3585 -- flybye63@earthlink.net
Webmaster: Bob Callard
206/932-3236 -- recallard@yahoo.com

THE MOTOR MOUTH

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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

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

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



(Christmas Party continued from page 1)

Once everyone had arrived and warmed themselves, it was time for Joni's delicious holiday feast of baked ham, turkey and gravy, scalloped potatoes, sauteed carrots, caesar salad, fresh fruit and home-baked rolls -- something to tempt everyone's appetite. It was hard to not go back for seconds, but we all had seen the spectacularly decorated desserts that Joni prepared -- beautiful pies and cakes -- so we knew what lay ahead.

Among the happy diners were Pat and Beverly Cooper, Der and Judy Roupe, Duane and Nancy Niemi, Gordon and Judy Thorne, Pat and Judy Howard, Michael and Christine Perry, Mike and Sandi Talbot (winners of the long-distance award, of course), Bob and Judy Lowe, Stan and Gretchen Liebenberg, Bill and Doris Hummel, Tom and Susan Harris, Ed and Tanya Johnson, Ted and Charline Austin, Ray and Margaret Vingo and Jerry and Carol Weiler.

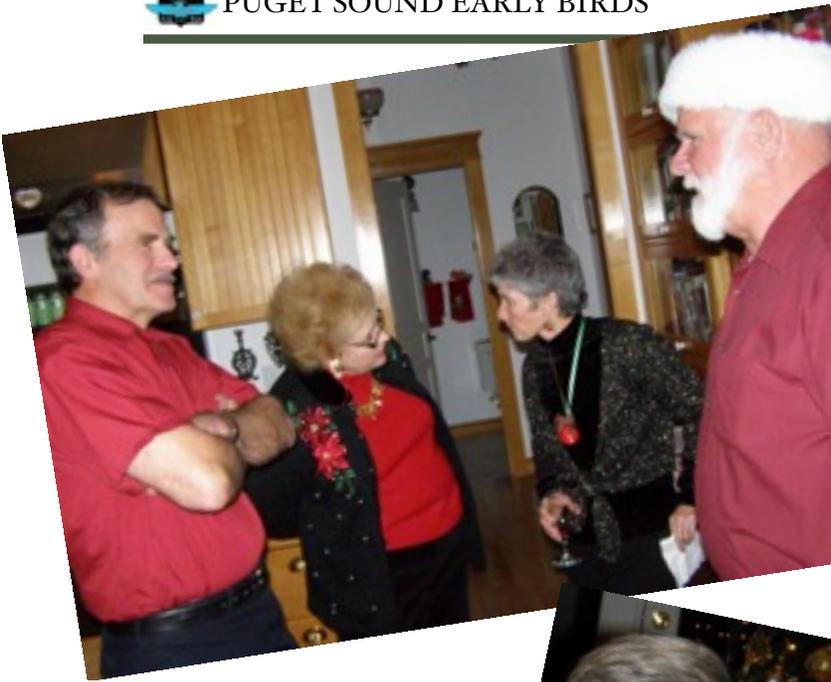
Following dinner -- and while we let our dinners "set," we indulged ourselves in a meeting. Gordon Thorne, outgoing president, honored the members who hosted a 2008 event by presenting each a framed photo of themselves taken at the event. In turn, Ray Vingo, incoming president, commemorated Gordon's service as president with an engraved plaque bearing the PSEB logo and denoting his year as president.

Installing Officer Judy Howard cleverly installed the new board. Likening each officer position to a



PSEBers socialize before dinner. At right, Pat Cooper makes his bid for the bucket of oysters.





car part, she described the duties of the office and presented the officers with a can of "motor oil," specially labeled for the occasion. (See page 9 for details.)

Soon it was time to indulge in dessert -- and then get underway with the gift exchange. Thanks to the Perrys, there were two in-demand gifts -- one a "his" and one a "hers" -- that it's pretty safe to assume have never been included in a PSEB gift exchange: five-gallon buckets of fresh, unshucked oysters. And lest anyone think these might be passed over for a wrapped gift, think again. There was a lot of jockeying for position -- and possession -- of these desirable delicacies.

The evening set the pace for the holidays to come -- as always with PSEB, it was good friends, good food, good fun -- even without our great cars!

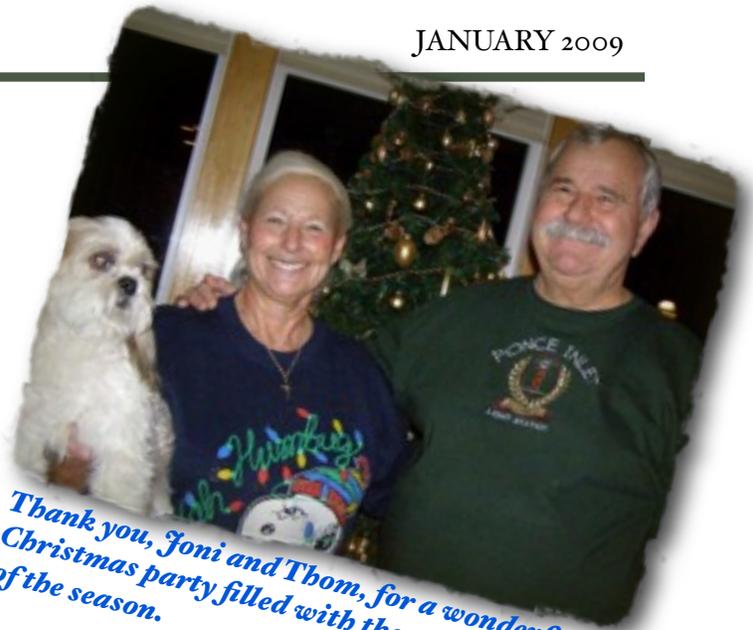




Happy New Year!

May 2009 bring each one of us many good times together, sharing our friendships and our love of classic Little Birds.

Here's to a great year with PSEB!



Thank you, Joni and Thom, for a wonderful Christmas party filled with the spirit and joy of the season.



Sponsored by the United States Marine Corps Reserves

PSEB COMMUNITY SERVICE
Projects to help others are a success

Because of your wonderful generosity, Patrick and I were able to deliver **56 toys** and a **monetary donation of \$165** to the Marines for their annual Toys for Tots program. I am most grateful to each of you who contributed and also wish to thank you for your support of all the special projects the club has had these past three years: Les Parizek Day, PSEB 30th Birthday Party, North Kitsap Fishline Food Bank, PSEB Cookbook, Toys for Tots, Clearbrook Inn car shows/barbecues and the Olympic College Foundation/Automotive Technology Department donations totaling \$300.

It has been fun and very rewarding serving in

this chairmanship. My best to Judy Lowe who will be taking this position for 2009!

We have also received a thank you card from the board and staff of the Olympic College Foundation for our generous support this year. As you will recall, we sent them a donation of \$100 for the Automotive Technology Department in memory of long-time members Marge Harris and Leona Schlie, who passed away this year. Thank you, PSEB!

--- Judy Howard
Special Projects Chairman
2006-2008



Thank you from the Howards

Dear PSEB Friends,

Your words of comfort and acts of kindness shown during the passing of our Mother is greatly appreciated.



Thank you for always caring and expressing your concern for her these past five years.

*Affectionately,
Judy and Pat Howard*

*Find out where the
PSEB Road Ahead
will lead in
2009*

**PSEB PLANNING
MEETING
Sunday, January 11
noon**

*Pizza,
salads,
wine, beer,
soft drinks*



*Hosted by
the Vingos*

*RSVP by
January 8*

vingoray1@gmail.com or 360/779-4725

DIRECTIONS: From the north: South on Hwy. 3 to exit "305 Poulsbo-Bainbridge." Turn left at signal "To 305." Take first right at signal on Viking Way. Go to next signal and turn right up Finn Hill. Proceed .7 mile and turn left at the "Y" onto Rude Rd. to end. [See **Finish** below.] **From the south:** North on Hwy. 3 to exit "Finn Hill Rd.-Poulsbo." Turn left at stop sign and proceed west up Finn Hill. Turn left at the "Y" on to Rude Rd. to end. **Finish:** Turn left on Clear Creek. Go .2 mile (5 telephone poles) to first left onto Back Forty. Go one block and turn right on Ammon to end. Turn **left** on Dove Glen (gravel portion) to second driveway on left. Go past red barn to house.

**2408 Dove Glen Lane
360/779-4725**

January Celebrations

Birthdays

- 5 -- Les Parizek
- 28 -- Tanya Johnson
- 29 -- Margaret Vingo



Anniversaries

- 1 -- Maloneys
- 23 -- Niemis



What Drives American Presidents?

Traverse City, Mich. (September 25, 2008) – During a presidential campaign, the candidates’ lives become an open book, with every detail of their personal lives thrust into the public spotlight. Being “car guys,” Hagerty Insurance researched the automotive preferences of eight notable past presidents — along with the two current candidates — to compile a list of the most interesting cars owned by presidents over the last century.

William Taft (1909-1913): Baker Electric. Taft was the first president to own and drive cars during his presidency. One of the most interesting cars he owned was, ironically enough, “green” — a Baker Electric — that was especially popular with women, as it did not require any cranking and was virtually maintenance-free.

Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933-1945): 1939 Packard 12 – In the 1920s and ’30s, Packard produced some of the most beautiful and innovative cars of the era. Packard’s V-12 engine was especially smooth and provided exceptional performance in its time.

Harry S. Truman (1945-1953): 1945 Ford Super DeLuxe Tudor Sedan – All automakers shut down their production during World War II and did not return to making passenger cars until 1946. The very first car assembled after World War II was a white Super DeLuxe Tudor Sedan assembled on July 3, 1945, and it went to President Harry Truman.

Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961): 1956 Chrysler Imperial – The 1956 Chrysler was updated with the new 1956 “forward look” styling. This particular model was frequently used by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and became known as “The Detroit Car.”



John F. Kennedy (1960-1963): 1961 T-Bird Convertible -- This was the first year for the much sleeker “bullet bird” styling. The Thunderbird was 1961’s Indianapolis 500 pace car and was featured prominently in President Kennedy’s inaugural parade. (This was probably helped along by the appointment of Ford executive Robert McNamara as secretary of defense.)

Richard Nixon (1969-1974): 1950 Oldsmobile – This particular car owned by Nixon is of historic impact because it was referred to during his infamous “Checkers” speech that was said to save his candidacy for vice-president, when his honesty and loyalty were in question.

Ronald Reagan (1981-1989): 1952 Army Jeep, Model M-38A1 – This was a gift to President Ronald Reagan from his wife, Nancy,

and was considered highly collectible by the time he received it in the late 1970s.

Bill Clinton (1993-2001): 1967 Mustang Convertible – Clinton owned this Mustang as a collector car prior to and during his presidency. He has been quoted as saying that this car was the hardest thing for him to leave behind when he moved to the White House.

John McCain: First car: 1958 Corvette – This is considered a highly coveted collector car and was the first year for the dual front headlights, which gave the car a much more aggressive look than any earlier Corvette.

Current car: 2006 Cadillac CTS – The CTS is Cadillac’s entry-luxury sport sedan, designed to compete with the best European sport sedans. This is a mid-sized luxury car that gets respectable fuel mileage — up to 27 MPG.

10. Barack Obama: First car: Ford Granada – This was reportedly Obama’s grandfather’s car and the car he learned to drive in. To quote Obama directly: “It may be the worst car that Detroit ever built. . . . This thing was a tin can. [Detroit was] trying to compete with the Japanese. They wanted to keep the cars big, so they made them out of tin foil. . . . You basically couldn’t go over 80 [miles per hour] without the thing getting out of control.”

Current car: Ford Escape Hybrid – Nearly 100 years after William Taft drove an electric vehicle, Obama traded in his Chrysler 300C for a more fuel-efficient Ford Escape Hybrid.



PUGET SOUND EARLY BIRDS

Club History 1976 - 2008

Historian: Judy Howard

A Look Back At 2008...

The Puget Sound Early Birds completed a very successful year filled with interesting events, tours, parties and community service under the direction of President Gordon Thorne. The remaining board of directors were Vice President Ray Vingo, Secretary Nancy Niemi, Treasurer Duane Niemi and Immediate Past President Patrick Howard.

CLUB-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

January: Pizza Party and Planning Meeting at the Howard Café. Hosts: Howards and Thornes

February: Red Wine and Chocolate Tour Port Angeles/Sequim area. Hosts: Gilchrists

March: Mini Concourse and potluck. Hosts: McCurdys

April: PACCAR open house at Mount Vernon. Hosts: Callards

May: Oyster Shuck 'n Jive Harvest and oyster feed. Hosts: Perrys

June: Port Gamble Civil War Reenactment and barbecue. Hosts: Harrises

July: Vashon Island Strawberry Festival. Hosts: Gordon Thorne and Stan Leibenberg

August: All T-Bird Picnic at Eatonville, a joint event with OCTC. Hosts: Austins

September: First-ever four-day/three-night tour of the North Cascades Loop. Guests were from OCTC, Totem Classic T-Bird Club, Vancouver Island Vintage Thunderbirds and Rose City Thunderbirds. Hosts: Thornes

October: Silverdale to Indianola Auto Rallye and Barbecue. Hosts: Niemis and Thornes

November: Great Chefs of the Northwest, general meeting/election of officers, Toys for Tots collection. Hosts: Johnsons

December: Annual Christmas party/gift exchange. Outgoing president's recognition of 2008 hosts, installation of officers for 2009, Toys For Tots collection. Hosts: Baylers

NON-CLUB-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES ATTENDED BY PSEB

- OVAC Annual Pizza Run to Port Hadlock
- OVAC West Sound Tech Skills Car Show for automotive tech students
- Kelowna, B.C., Show 'n Shine, Okanagan T-Bird Club
- Father's Day Car Show and Barbecue, Clearbrook Inn, Silverdale
- Gordon Thorne's 70th birthday party, Gig Harbor
- CTCI International Convention -- Portland, Ore. Designed polo shirts for members to wear at convention and club events. Award Recipients were Brown Maloney, Phil McCurdy and Judy Thorne.
- 48 in 08 Tour -- The Thornes led the way from Portland to the state capital in Olympia, Wash., after the CTCI Convention.

OTHER

CTCI Chairman Gordon Thorne submitted articles and photos on club events to the CTCI Early Bird magazine.

The Motor Mouth Newsletter Editor Judy Thorne won the Gold Medallion Award at the 2008 CTCI Convention.

Membership/Amenities Chairman was held by two members. Judy Roupe compiled a new membership roster, designed club introduction cards, and sold antenna flags. New members joining the club this year were Les and Jo White. Carol Weiler conducted the amenities duties.

Historian Judy Howard continued to research and compile the club history from 1976 - 2008.

Webmaster Bob Callard designed a new club Web site.

Special Projects Chairman Judy Howard -- For the third year PSEB supported the Marine's Toys for Tots program, contributing 56 toys/\$165; a monetary donation of \$100 was sent to the Olympic College Foundation for the Automotive Technology Department in memory of Marge Harris and Leona Schlie, long-time members who passed away during 2008. Members attended the third annual Father's Day Car Show and Barbecue at Clearbrook Inn.



New PSEB officers are installed

Puget Sound Early Birds welcomed new officers at the Christmas Party when Judy Howard

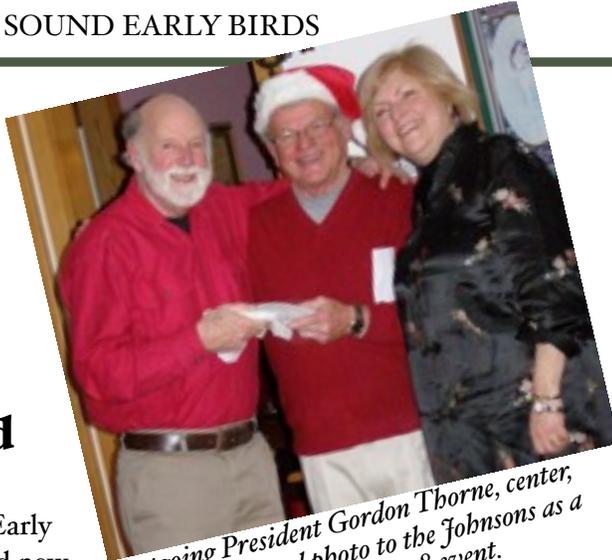
installed the board elected at the November general meeting. But she didn't just pronounce them "installed" -- instead she compared the officers to parts of a car in helping to describe their duties. Donning a PSEB jacket and visor, Judy invited each officer forward for her "car tour."

Here are her designations: **Rear-view mirror** -- Gordon Thorne, immediate past president; **distributor** -- Bob Callard, treasurer; **timing mechanism** -- Nancy Niemi, secretary; **alternator** -- Duane Niemi, vice president; and **steering mechanism** -- Ray Vingo, president.

In addition, Judy gifted each officer with a car club manual, which includes contact information for the 2009 officers and chairmen, a calendar and the constitution and bylaws to help guide club leaders for the coming year.

But wait! There was more! Each officer received a special can of Vintage #2009 Premium Motor Oil as a reminder of the importance of working together to keep the club running smoothly and efficiently in the coming year.

Chairmen for 2009 are Judy Thorne, newsletter editor; Gordon Thorne, CTCI representative; Judy Roupe, membership; Judy Lowe, special projects; Carol Weiler, amenities; Judy Howard, historian; and Bob Callard, webmaster.



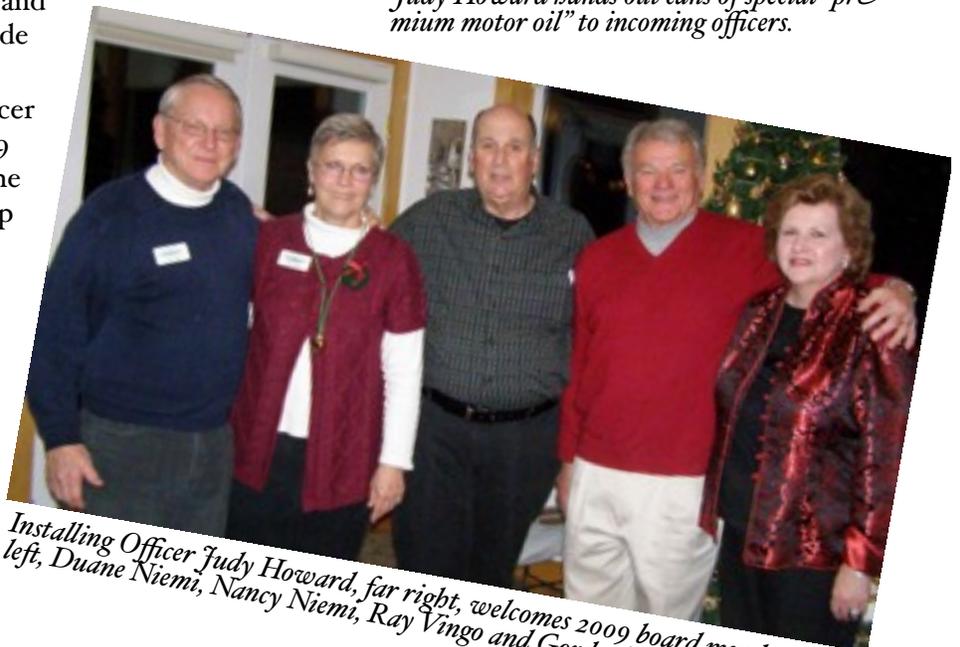
Outgoing President Gordon Thorne, center, presents a framed photo to the Johnsons as a thank you for hosting a 2008 event.



Incoming President Ray Vingo, right, presents a plaque to Gordon in recognition of his services as 2008 club president.



Judy Howard hands out cans of special "premium motor oil" to incoming officers.



Installing Officer Judy Howard, far right, welcomes 2009 board members, from left, Duane Niemi, Nancy Niemi, Ray Vingo and Gordon Thorne.