



The Motor Mouth

A Rallye to Remember

T-Birders take to beautiful back roads



Phil and Cheryl McCurdy cross the finish line at PSEB's October fun Rallye.

A huge turnout -- the largest of the year so far -- marked the Oct. 4 Rallye as PSEBers ignored the storm clouds, gusty winds and intermittent raindrops to begin the day with Sluys Bakery donuts and hot coffee at the Waterfront Park in Old Town Silverdale.

Planned by hosts Duane and Nancy Niemi, with assistance from Gordon Thorne, the rallye drew all manner of vehicles -- the McCurdys' 1955 T-Bird, the Lowes' concept Bird, the Austins' 1928 ("hey, we needed a speedometer that works!") Packard, and a sprinkling of Brand Xs.

Nearly half the membership turned out for the event, with eight cars running the rallye. Among the attendees were Bob and Judy Lowe, Ted and Charline Austin, Tom and Susan Harris, Ed and Tanya Johnson, Bill and Doris Hummel, Phil and

Cheryl McCurdy, Bob and Martha Callard, Ray and Margaret Vingo and Gordon and Judy Thorne.

Der Roupe dropped by to say "Hi," sans Judy, who was on a cruise. Mike and Sandi Talbot joined us for lunch, and Michael and Christine Perry dropped by later in the afternoon.

A surprise visit by honorary member Lez Parizek, who drove his Caddy to the park to present us some vintage club photos, gave old and new members alike a chance to say "Hello" to the man who helped found Puget Sound Early Birds 32 years ago.

**Great Chefs
of the
Northwest**
*Sunday, Nov. 2,
3:30 p.m. at the
Dock St. Garage*
See page 6 for details.

*Dues are Due
Jan. 1, 2009.
See page 9 for
renewal form.*

**No Bah
Humbug for
PSEB!**
*Annual Christmas
Party is Dec. 14
at the Baylers'
home. See
page 6 for
details.*



(continued on page 3)



AS THE TIRES TURN

Holy huge turnout, Batman! The Oct. 4 rallye, golf driving, pot-lucking, eating and drinking event saw a fabulous turnout of the PSEB faithful. We welcomed eight couples who accepted the challenge of trying to find their way back to hosts Duane & Nancy Niemi's home in the woods hideaway -- exactly on time with the perfect mileage -- plus four more who met us later.

Despite a few early raindrops, which failed to dampen the enthusiasm or the wonderful Sluys Bakery pastries, PSEBers lined up in a row, led by Phil and Cheryl McCurdy's Little Bird. The Lowes brought a concept Bird to run the course, and not to be outdone, the Austins showed up in a green 1928 "Packard" Bird. The rest were a sprinkling of Brand X cars.

Prizes were awarded to the couple who had the fewest penalty points, the couple who got the highest playing card at the Indianola Store, and to the person who chipped a golf ball closest to the pin on the Niemi's Country Club private two-hole ultra-short golf course.

Armed with participants' rallye sheets, pen, calculator and copious quantities of fermented grape, yer olde prez scored the entries. It's obvious you all are way too good at following directions -- three tied for third with just four penalty points, one had just three penalty points, and Bob and Martha Callard came in first with just two penalty points. Doris Hummel won the golf chipping contest.



This was so much fun, I'd like to do it again, and it seems that was unanimous -- but whoever puts on the next one is going to have to be more devious and make it harder -- you guys are too good for the easy stuff!

Now, it's the men's turn to step up to the plate -- dinner plate, that is -- and to provide a culinary dish extraordinary for the Nov. 2 Great Chefs of the Northwest soiree at Ed and Tanya Johnson's. Based upon last year's event, I think we're in for some fine eating. You owe it to yourself to be there.

--Gordon Thorne, President.

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THE MOTOR MOUTH

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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.

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



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Once everyone had full tummies, participants drew numbers to determine departure order. Duane and Gordon logged out each car at three minute intervals using a large chart. First out were the McCurdys; last out were the Callards.

With a list of directions and questions to answer, the rally participants set out to wend their way to the Niemis'. Following regular rallye rules of "first opportunity," "main road rule" and "dead ends," the navigators had to read the instructions as well as help look for answers to questions such as "the address with a chicken," "what Bennie's Jet sells," the name of the "hay and feed store" and more. Their one stop was six minutes at the Indianola Country Store, where they drew a playing card from the counter.

(Editor's Note: Rallyes can sometimes test the strength of a marriage because while the driver has command of the car, the navigator is responsible for telling the driver where to go. This often appeals greatly to navigators who don't always have a lot of opportunity to do so. We are happy to report that although a few comments indicated that emotions ran high on the road, we heard no reports of imminent separations. We did note, however, that post-rallye, the navigators gathered apart from the drivers and appeared to be quite happy.)

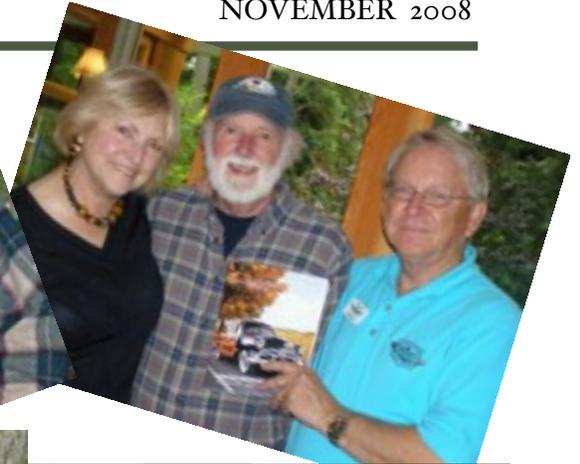
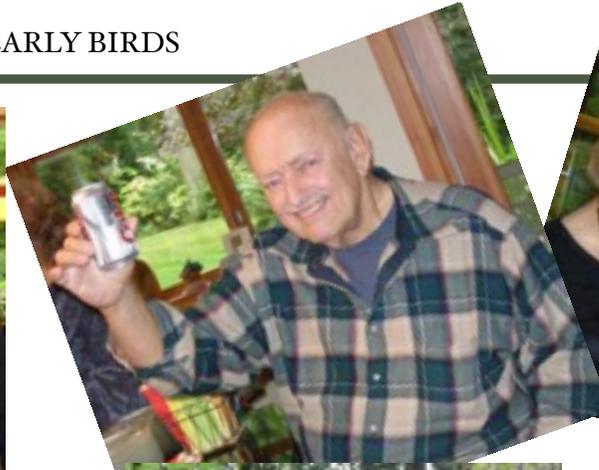
At last PSEBers arrived, one by one, at the Niemis' forest retreat, ready to share experiences, consume much-deserved libations, drive golf balls, and savor the smells of barbecue and luscious potluck dishes.

President Gordon Thorne tallied the score sheets and just prior to dinner announced the winners: first place, Callards; second place, McCurdys; third place three-way tie, Lowes, Hummels, Johnsons. Callards also won with the highest playing card drawn at the store, and Doris Hummel won the prize for golf ball closest to the cup. Finally we sat down to enjoy another great PSEB meal -- always some of the best eats around.

Our thanks to Duane and Nancy Niemi, our outstanding hosts, for a rallye to remember and a day of good fellowship and fun.



*Thank you,
Duane and Nancy,
for a spectacular
day that tested our
skills and treated
our taste buds.*





THE ROAD AHEAD 2008



Oooops -- looks like we're nearly to the end of the road. Time to plan for the road ahead for 2009. See below and get involved! We need your ideas!

Date	Event	Hosts
<i>Nov. 2</i>	<i>Great Chefs of the Northwest</i>	<i>Ed and Tanya Johnson</i>
<i>Dec. 14</i>	<i>Christmas Party/Gift Exchange</i>	<i>Thom and Joni Bayler</i>

THE ROAD AHEAD 2009

Suggested event and locale:

Specific date? Time of year?

Would you host this event? Co-host? yes no

Submitted by:

Send your ideas to any of the board of directors as soon as possible, or bring this form and discuss your ideas with a board member at Great Chefs of the Northwest, Nov. 2. Include as many details as possible, including the date if it's an annual event. Tours, picnics, car shows, special events and festivals -- are all good.



Reminder:

**Great Chefs of the Northwest is on
Sunday, November 2
starting at 3:30 p.m.
at the**

Johnsons' Dock St. Garage

**RSVP by Oct. 30 to 360/598-4262 or
tjohnson@geiger.com**

**A-G, dessert; H-L, main dish; M-Z
side dish (salad, soup, potatoes, veggie).
The Johnsons will furnish beer, wine and
soft drinks and fabulous '50s cars.**



Directions: The Johnsons' Dock Street Garage is near the Agate Pass bridge in Poulsbo.

From the north on Hwy. 3/ Bainbridge Island (ferry), go about 1/2 mile past the stop light at the bridge/casino and turn left on Sandy Hook Rd. (If you get to the Shell station, you've gone too far.) Go exactly 1/2 mile on Sandy Hook and turn left on Dock St. They are at the end, about 100 yards. From the south on Hwy. 3, go toward the bridge and when you pass the Shell station on your right, take the next right at the bottom of the hill, which is Sandy Hook Rd. Go 1/2 mile and turn left on Dock St. and go to the end.

***PSEB Christmas Party
and Gift Exchange
Sunday, December 14
4 p.m.
at the Baylers'***



Bring a (\$10-15 each) wrapped gift for someone of your own gender, marked for man or woman, and prepare to enjoy a fabulous dinner and fun-filled evening of holiday spirit. The Baylers will provide their famous homemade Egg Nog, beer, wine and soft drinks.

Also on tap: Installation of officers for 2009 and collection of Toys for Tots. More details -- plus directions -- in the December Motor Mouth.



2009 PSEB BOARD SLATE OF OFFICERS NAMED

The Nominating Committee presents a slate of officers for the 2009 board of directors.* The following members are standing for election:

President: Ray Vingo
Vice President: Duane Niemi
Secretary: Nancy Niemi
Treasurer: Bob Callard

Per the club bylaws, the slate will be officially introduced at the November meeting during the Great Chefs of the Northwest event. At that time, nominations may be made from the floor, and elections will follow.

*Outgoing President Gordon Thorne automatically remains on the board as immediate past president.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

15 Ed Johnson

22 Mike Talbot

29 Martha Callard



Happy Thanksgiving

In spite of the uncertainty of our economy, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the threats of terrorism, let us give thanks for what we have -- loving families, good friends, warm homes and hope for the future.





Sponsored by the United States Marine Corps Reserves

PSEB COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT 2008

It's that time of year once again! Your donations will be collected at both the November and December events. Toys must be new and unwrapped. I will purchase toys with monetary contributions received (cash and/or checks made payable to PSEB, tax deductible). Delivery will be made in December.

You were extremely generous the past two years -- let's do the same for 2008! Thank you for caring, sharing and making a child happy!

---Judy Howard, Special Projects Chairman

Wipe Out! The history of the windshield wiper

Oct. 2, 2008 -- Greg Kinnear hit the talk show circuit promoting his new movie "[Flash of Genius](#)" where he plays Robert Kearns, a professor who invented the intermittent windshield wipers.

The movie is based on a true story of Kearns's claims that Detroit automakers stole his idea and sued them in a long, drawn-out battle. So we started wondering who invented the first windshield wiper and were very surprised where our research lead us.

During the winter of 1903, before Henry Ford's Model A was being manufactured, a woman named [Mary Anderson](#) was touring New York in a streetcar. She watched how the

shivering driver had to get out constantly and wipe the snow and sleet from his windshield. It is reported that later that day, Mary Anderson scribbled a drawing of what would become the first successful windshield wiper system.

Her device let the driver stay inside the streetcar to clean the windshield by using a lever from the inside to manually activate "a swinging arm that mechanically swept off the ice and snow," according to the Inventors Museum, Mary never sold her idea, but the mechanical wipers became standard features on American cars, including Ford's Model T, by 1913.

Another female automotive pioneer, Charlotte Bridgwood, president of the Bridgwood Manufacturing Company of New York, patented her electric

roller-based windshield wiper called the "Storm Windshield Cleaner" in 1917. However, her product was not a commercial success.

According to our colleagues who write about [inventors at About.com](#), the automobile gave women ample opportunity for invention: "In 1923, of the 345 inventions listed under "Transportation" in the Women's Bureau Bulletin No.28, about half were related to automobiles and another 25 concerned traffic signals and turn indicators. Among these inventions - a carburetor, a clutch mechanism, an electric engine starter, and a starting mechanism."

Now that's what we call girl power!

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**Puget Sound Early Birds
Membership Renewal Form 2009
(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 Thunderbird club affiliations _____

Would you be willing to serve on a committee? Yes _____ No _____

What activities or committees would interest you the most? _____

Signature _____

PSEB dues are \$25 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 Judy Roupe
8932 Point No Point Rd. N.E.
Hansville, WA 98340**