



Cruisin' News

Mt. Rainier Cruisers Club
P.O. Box 277
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Mt. Rainier Cruisers

May 2009

North to Alaska!

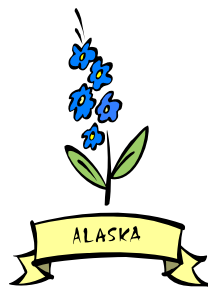
There's only a week and a half left before some of our members sail off on the Inland Passage cruise. It seems like the planning just got started but it was actually a year ago. I have a history of queasiness at sea so I plan to have motion sickness medicine, crackers, ginger ale, and those wrist bands available. I have also heard that eating a green apple helps...hopefully they won't be needed!



For many of us, this is our first cruise and we're all pretty excited. It's nice that it leaves and returns right from our own backyard. A report on all the fun and games at sea will appear here next month.

YakiVegas Car Show Winners!

- Best Stock Car: 2nd Jason & Nancy Johnson, 3rd Leslie Hagen
- Best Vanity Plate: YTDRGN - Scott & Donna Evans
- Best Convertible: John Mann
- Best Theme: Jon & Caren Thibodeau
- Best Theme: Jon & Caren Thibodeau (whatever!)
- Best Graphics/Paint: Joanne Way
- Best Trunk Display: 3rd Jon & Caren Thibodeau, special mention - Scott Evans
- Most Club Participation: MRC with 12 cars!



Upcoming Events

- | | |
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| May 12 | Lady Cruisers: 6:30 pm at Noels Restaurant, Edgewood |
| May 17-24 | MRC Cruise to Alaska on the Norwegian Pearl! |
| Jun 6 | 2nd Annual Cruise to Charlton Glassworks and Tootsie's "The Eatery" Restaurant |
| Jun 13 | 2nd Annual NW PT Cruisers Rendezvous/Barbecue |
| Jun 20 | PSC Seventh Annual PT Cruiser Rendezvous |

Check out our upcoming calendar online, too...there's a busy summer ahead!

Member of the Month – Ben Keller



I was born and raised in Tacoma and Lakewood, attended Clover Park schools from Kindergarten on, graduating from Clover Park High School in 1968. I admired my grandmother who was a teacher for nearly 50 years, so it was natural that the interest in that profession was sparked. I sang in the Clover Park HS choral program and knew that I wanted to be a choral director as a result. I first heard the Lakes Concert Choir when they came to Hudtloff Junior High in my 9th grade year and although I remember that concert well, I had no idea then that 22 years later I would be directing that choir and, 22 more years later, would still be doing it!

After graduating from CPHS, I moved on to PLU where I sang in the renowned Choir of the West for four years under my mentor Maurice Skones. Then it was time to get a teaching job, so with my B.A. in Music Education in hand, I returned to Clover Park SD and taught elementary and junior high vocal music for three years. I then returned to PLU to become the first person to receive a Master of Music degree from there and moved to Oregon, teaching at Reynolds High School in Troutdale, a suburb of Portland.

After 4 successful years there, I received a call from Dr. Skones, who was leaving PLU and moving on to the University of Arizona. I accepted his generous offer to be his teaching assistant and began my doctoral studies. After studying and working part-time

at various jobs (shoe salesman, photo lab outlet manager, and church choir director) I finished my degree and came to Lakes in the fall of 1987 where I have been ever since. Lakes' choirs have won the National Invitational Choral Festival of Gold in both 2005 and 2007 and have finished second at the same event five times. We have performed concerts in such venues as the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., the Orchestra Hall in Chicago, the Davies War Memorial Symphony Hall, St. Ignatius Church and St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco, the Libby Gardner and Maurice Abravanel Halls in Salt Lake City, Meany Hall in Seattle, the Pantages Theater and Lagerquist Halls in Tacoma, and the Cathedral of the Holy Rosary in Vancouver, B.C.






I have had a life-long love affair with cars, starting with my Dad's '49 and '56 Nashes. My first car was a 1960 Ford Falcon coupe. I was so impressed with the high-tech rear radio speaker complete with fader control! I have had several Mopar products including a 1966 Dodge Dart GT, 1973 Plymouth Valiant 4-door sedan, and SOFTTOPs one through four: 1984 Chrysler LeBaron Mark Cross Edition turbo, 1993 Dodge Shadow GT 3.0 V-6, 1996 Chrysler Sebring JX (now owned by Sam Bates), and a 2002 Sebring LXi. SOFTTOP #5 is my 2005 PT GT turbo which is my pride and joy.

Besides God, family, choirs, and Cruisers, my other passion is R/C hydroplaning. I needed a "boat hauler" to save wear and tear on my convertible, so I bought a high-mileage 2002 PT sedan, repainted it in the colors of the boat, and just last week totaled my pink Hawaii Ka'i Edition PT. The seat belt saved my life, and folks, if you're sleepy, GET OFF THE ROAD!

However, I have already replaced it with Hawaii Ka'i Edition 2: a beautiful 2003 PT GT sedan with only 31,600 miles and not a mark on it inside or out. This one is Stone White but the finish is just too good to repaint pink. Too soon to get a picture, though!



I absolutely love the Mt. Rainier Cruisers and treasure the friendships I have made. I hope to do as much cruising as possible with all of you. I'm trying to arrange an R/C exhibition for our Fort Borst barbecue. Stay tuned!

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
	➔ Jeff Hogan 5/6		➔ Gary & Tess Aldinger 5/18
	➔ Theresa Hogan 5/9		➔ Butch & Lin Gumm 5/27
	➔ Christine Paige 5/13		
	➔ Bryan Ashcraft 5/14		