



The Motor Mouth

The 2010 Concours Gold Medallion Newsletter



SUB WAY

PSEB Tours Naval Base Bangor

There we were – 20 PSEBers -- bouncing along in an old school bus; it was painted white not yellow, but in every other respect it was an old school bus. Our driver, Louie, was a lovely blonde whose name belied her gender, and our guide, Public Affairs Officer Tom Danaher, had a wealth of information built around funny and engaging patter.

Technically, we weren't even supposed to be there. And where is "there?" It was Naval Base Kitsap's Bangor submarine facility, which is closed to the public. Yet there we were on a tour reserved for recruits, and not a one of us would qualify for that.

We have president Duane Niemi, and his good friend, Lt. Cmdr. Chuck Villegas, to thank for this uncommon experience.

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September Event

Hosted by the Talbots

Join us on an "Over-Nighter" into days gone by aboard a restored antique steam train. You will enjoy

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President's Message

The Sub Base tour was great! Our guide, Tom Danaher, made it humorous and informative. The care the Navy takes in preserving nature, wildlife, the land, the environment, and its design, layout and accommodations for families was incredible. We were all impressed.

After the tour we motored to our house, for munchies, libations, good conversation and a lot of laughs, especially the ladies (something about Cougars and Cheetahs?). The guys were not privy to the conversation.

There were car garage tours, horseshoes, golf ball chipping and a search for answers to a



trivia questionnaire. . Gordon Thorne won the bottle of wine with the "Oak" Street answer (and the pink & white t-bird answer). Congratulations Gordon! We concluded with a pot luck, barbequed sausages and other "healthy" food. A good time was had by all.

It's not too early to start thinking about next year's events as our planning session will be here sooner than you think. Also, special thanks to Chuck Villegas and Cindy Fields, both from the U.S.S. Stennis, who made this tour possible; without their help it could not have been done. Thank you!

Duane Niemi

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THE MOTOR MOUTH

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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:

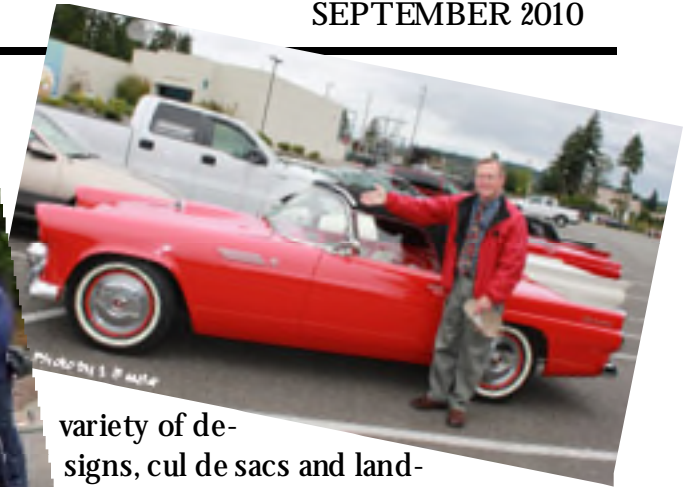
To encourage and promote the preservation, admiration, ownership, enjoyment and restoration of the 1955, 1956 and 1957 Ford Thunderbirds.

Website:

www.pugetsoundearlybirds.org



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variety of designs, cul de sacs and landscaping reminiscent of Suburbia, USA.

Bangor began life as a munitions depot in World War II, and still has the original train tracks that brought munitions to the base from as far away as Chicago. It was activated as a sub base in 1977 and today is the only Navy base to house three kinds of U.S. submarines. Bangor is considered the premier sub training facility in the country and in 2005 received the Commander in Chief's Award for Installation Excellence, making it the best base in the U.S. Navy.

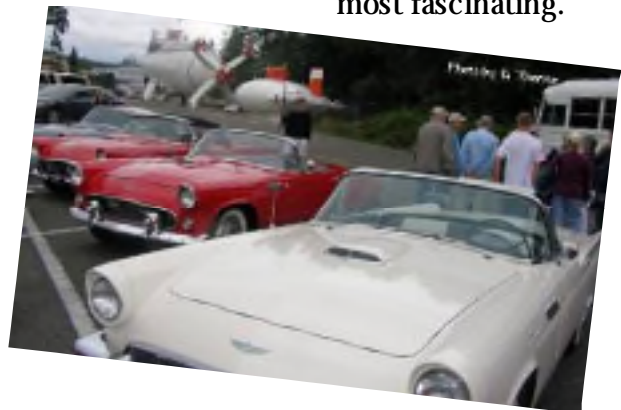
PSEBers who toured the USS Stennis last year will remember Chuck, who was our tour guide. And, because we behaved ourselves (!) onboard the aircraft carrier, Chuck contacted the base commander and vouched for us. Our tour was a one-in-a-million opportunity.

Covering an amazing 8,000 beautifully wooded acres, the Bangor submarine base is a virtual city – a bank, commissary, exchange, health clinic, ballroom, pool, gym, theater – all the basics of life. Family housing is re-unlike



markably what one would expect – no dreary apartments or slab-

Situated on the east shore of Hood Canal, the base is the third-largest Navy base behind San Diego and Norfolk, Va. And while we enjoyed the upland acres of the base, it was the shoreside installations that were most fascinating.



Marked duplexes a la World War II. Nope – we toured winding streets with craftsman-style homes in a

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Because we were taking a "windshield" tour, one where we were not allowed to leave the bus except once for a group picture, we drove slowly along the road to view the delta dock from two angles. We saw the black "sails" of a number of submarines, saw the

it with their noses, then grab ankle cuffs to snap on the intruder's leg. Some of our more skeptical members thought this was one of Tom's jokes, but no, he swears it's true.



Once back at the Naval Museum, where our Birds were parked, we realized we'd had a rare opportunity to tour one of the coun-

coun-



to the dock

heavy security at the entrance

area, and were able to get fairly close to the boats used to patrol the area. Tom told us that trained sea lions also patrol the area. If a swimmer tries to enter the roped-off area, the mammals sound an alarm by pushing

try's most important military facilities. We saddled up and toured to our next stop, the Niemis' spectacular woodland home for a backyard barbecue. Driving in their Birds were Michael and Christine Perry, Joni Bayler (Thom joined



us later), Ray and Darleen Rohwein, Ed Schlie and Carolyn

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Photo by G. Thorne

Zimmerman, Les White, Duane and Nancy Niemi, and Der and Judy Roue in their retro Bird. Driving

Once at the Niemis', PSE-Bers plunged into their trunks to bring out a variety of side dishes, hors d'oeuvres and desserts; our hosts roasted succulent sausages



Photo by G. Thorne

and hot dogs on the outdoor grill. There was plenty of soda, coffee, wine and beer, plus a quick quiz about items found around the Niemis' property. By then, the sun came out, and we enjoyed a warm afternoon.



Photo by E. Callard

Brand Xs were Bob and Martha Callard, Jim



Photo by G. Thorne

to many thanks the Niemis for their warm and generous hospitality - it's always a delight to visit their home, and this time was no exception. In all, it was another example of PSEB's motto - good friends, good times, great cars!



Photo by E. Callard

Stott and Darlene McCallum, and Gordon and Judy Thorne.

Story by Judy Thorne



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some breathtaking views on the way to Elbe which lies at the foot of picturesque Mt. Rainer. The top down views on the way will be spectacular.

Following our train ride it will be “Toddy Time” at the Nisqually Lodge, which is nestled in the valley of old and second growth fir and pine. Dinner is a few miles away, the Copper Creek Inn in Ashford (pop: 267). The last stop on the weekend tour is a journey to the experience called Northwest Trek which contains some 715 acres and 200 + types of animals roaming open ranges. Fear Not! We will be in a tour bus not the T-Birds.



Meeting location: Take Hwy #5 south from Seattle, turn east on Ste. Rte. 512 toward Puyallup. Drive east until you reach Ste Rte. #7 on your right. There is a McDonald restaurant at this corner where we will meet between 10:15 and 10:30 AM. We will leave at 10:30 AM for Eatonville.

Who Was That Masked Man?

Did you know that Clayton Moore (The Lone Ranger) was terribly afraid of horses and he was on the horse only if it was walking or standing still? When the horse was rearing up or running, a stunt double was riding. Did you know that John Wayne wore an eye patch in the movie “True Grit” because his double was mugged before filming and lost an eye? Did you know that George “Gabby” Hayes wore a suit and tie to work each day then changed into his costume and took out his dentures before reporting to the set? How could you know these things unless you were there? One of our members was a part of that world for 30 years as a TV and motion picture stunt man.



If you ask him, he’ll tell you why he wore nylon stockings, high heels, a white dress and a blonde wig. He’ll tell you about being the

stunt driver in the original “Gone In 60 Seconds” movie where he drove “Eleanor”. The setup was changed at the last minute and the stunt when dangerously wrong but he won an award for best stunt driving of all time in a motion picture. Then, there was the time he played dead for 30 minutes while lying in the frigid waters off Ocean Shores before returning to wardrobe for dry clothes and repeating the torture through four more “takes.” Funny now, but not at the time. In the same category was a stunt that called for driving a motorcycle off an aircraft carrier into the bay at San Francisco. His rescue team played a joke on him when they changed their location and sent him into a panic as he was free falling into the bay thinking they weren’t there!

So...have you figured out who this character is? He’s a PSEB’er!!



Benefits of Being A Member of CTCI

An Interview with Cathy Stubbs Past CTCI Regional Director

Gordon Thorne, our membership director, has been very successful in finding and recruiting new members to PSEB, but all members of PSEB may not be members of Classic Thunderbird Club International [CTCI]. So, with this in mind, I queried Cathy Stubbs, our past Region 3 director and long time member of CTCI, not to mention an extremely knowledgeable individual on Classic Birds. Cathy provided wonderful insight into the benefits of the International Club.

Her comments, which follow, are spot on!

Bob: Cathy, thank you for taking the time answer some questions. What would PSEB's members expect to receive from joining CTCI?"

Cathy: "First of all as you know the big benefit of CTCI is receiving the Early Bird Magazine on a bi-monthly basis. It's full of tech info and info about the hobby, other members cars, CTCI chapters and events. With membership also comes the Roster, which lists most of our over 6000 members and includes names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, if the member is willing to share phone and e-mail."

Bob: "Why is the Roster so important?"

Cathy: "It's a 'hidden gem'! Many of the CTCI members that travel carry this roster with them in case they experience problems on the road where there is limited access to repair shops and parts. Often local people can make recommendations. Some members even like to look-up members when they overnight on the road, just to say hello. I know many people who were 'saved' with information provided by a local member on a long road trip."

Bob: "You are absolutely right. I never thought of that. What else, other than the merchandise you can purchase at the

CTCI store?"

Cathy: "Besides the normal apparel etc., there are shop manuals, how to manuals, the Restoration Manual, and Thunderbird books, most of which can only be found at the store, and other items of interest to Thunderbird owners. There is an index on the website that allows a member to search by topic for technical articles that have appeared in all of the past *Early Birds*."

Bob: "Yes, I've purchased a few and found them useful. How does CTCI assist individual chapters?"

Cathy: "Through our Early Bird Magazine and the new web site, we try to promote our chapter clubs every chance we get. We offer the chapters their own page(s) on the web site where they can link to their own chapter web site, which aids the local chapters in obtaining new members. On the "Events" link, our chapter clubs can advertise a special gathering that they are having - say, for instance, an annual picnic where you want to attract other Thunderbird owners in the area. As you know, PSEB has had numerous stories and pictures of their events published and keep them coming.



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August Birthdays

Sara Maloney — September 19
Judy Roupe — September 23
Brown Maloney — September 91



Special Anniversary

Bill and Doris Hummel
65th Wedding Anniversary
September 23rd



Congratulations from all the PSEB'ers

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Bob: "Being an 'insurance guy,' didn't you mention CTCI has event coverage?"

Cathy: "Yes, absolutely correct. What many Chapter members do not realize is that CTCI provides your Chapter with liability insurance at no cost to your Chapter. Of course, there are stipulations to this insurance. CTCI stipulates in their By-Laws that a Chapter club must either be incorporated in the state they are located in, or else have 100% membership in CTCI by chapter members.

"For those chapter members who do not belong to CTCI, there is a gray area as to whether or not CTCI's insurance would cover a member if they were involved in a liability issue pertaining to a club function/outing."

Bob: "How about some concluding comments?"

Cathy: "Other than the fact that being a member of CTCI means that you are a member of the biggest and best Thunderbird Club in the world, on a personal

note, our membership got us active attending local and then national events back in the early to mid 70's. Through this organization we have established lifelong friendships with Thunderbird people from all over the US and Canada. They are like one big family. When we travel, we are invited to visit and stay with our T-Bird friends, and we reciprocate the hospitality when they are in town here. For us, it has given us a reason to travel to many places in North America that we would probably have not seen, if it were not for our involvement in CTCI. Also, attending the CTCI events exposes members to more technical aspects of the cars by volunteering to become a judge or attending technical seminars, and just plain viewing, photographing and talking to the other car owners."

Bob: "Cathy, thank you for your time. My CTCI membership is more of bargain than I ever knew. Our club strives for 100% membership in CTCI.



Installing Cruise Control

During my first year as a PSEB'er, we received word on a 'Show 'n Shine' in Kelowna, BC. It was hosted by the Okanagan Classic Thunderbird Club over Memorial Weekend and we decided to go. It was to be our first long, actually, really long trip in 'Blue.' We buffed her up to look pretty, gave her hi-test 'go juice' and off we went. We had two items on the agenda, first was to chart a route and check on hotels in Winthrop and second to explore the Okanagan Valley. We stopped in Winthrop for the night at the flea bag hotel that was supposed to be great, but turned out it hadn't been renovated since about the time the first 'bullet birds' were built. Let's just say we've stayed in nicer places in 'such as Big Timber MT.

The second day was the longest, about 5 1/2 hours. We arrived at the hotel and there were about 8 couples from the Olympic Classic Thunderbird Club, including Frank and Cathy Stubbs. As I got out of the car limping, I said "Thank goodness for cruise control." Frank and Cathy, who both knew the car, looked at each other and simultaneously said, "Your car

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View from the Passenger's Seat

[Do you have a story to tell? Email it to your newsletter editor](#)

Each of us has some particular talent that is useful. Mine happens to be deciphering words from little clues. "What is she talking about?", you may ask! Why, interpreting vanity license plates, of course, and I'm not so bad at Wheel of Fortune, either!



When we purchased our Blue Bird, like all of us, we attached the standard license plate that came with the registration, uninteresting as it was. The vintage plates so many of us have are fun and certainly "go" with our 'Birds but we decided we'd figure out a vanity plate for our little beauty.

We made up a long list of possibilities during a family get-together, none of which come to mind right now. When we hit upon IMS-MILN it summed up our delight with our

newly acquired '57. We went through the application process with IMSMILN as our first choice, and with considerably less enthusiasm listed the required second and third choices. No profanity, no druggie messages, etc.

When the plate arrived we learned our first

choice was the winner and hastened to put it on the car. Our first outing sporting the new plate was pretty mundane, a trip to the Post Office. As we stopped to drop our letter into the slot, a passerby looked, grinned, and said "I'd be smilin' too if I had that car!" And I'll just bet, except for those rare occasions when you are a candidate for the Hard Luck Trophy, that in your 'Bird, you are "smilin'" too!

Martha Callard



The Road Ahead 2010



Mark your calendar for the great PSEB events throughout the year

Date	Event	Hosts
September 11-12	Eatonville train ride, Northwest Trek Wildlife and overnight	Talbots
October 9 or 10	Port Angeles Dungeness Crab and Seafood Festival	Weilers
November 14	Great Chefs of the Northwest	Johnsons
December TBD	Christmas Party Gift Exchange	Austins

Last Train to Eatonville

Leaves on September 11





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doesn't have cruise control!" To that I responded, "All early birds have cruise control! After 20 minutes your leg and foot are asleep and you can't move them." We all laughed and we were offered some refreshments after the long drive.

Well, that got us to thinking (that's scary). We're going on a really long drive this fall and cruise control would be nice. So, I checked around but found only one place that actually still sells one that will work on an Early Bird, Dakota Digital.

I called them and they answered all my questions and I ordered one. It arrived and I looked at it and the directions. Immediately Martha



said, "There is no way you're putting that on the car yourself!" "Why?", I asked. Then like a knife to the chest she said, "Remember the Tach?" [editor's note: see last month's 'View' for specifics on the 'tach'] Then she pointed to all the pretty colored wires, the 30 pages of directions in 10 point type and reminded me I would be working with the carburetor and possibly a gas line. Then she smiled.

Ouch! I'm now bleeding. So, I called Frank Stubbs and he agreed to put it in. It works great, but Martha was correct, there was no way that I could have figured all that out, particularly the magnets on the drive shaft.

So, now we're ready for our long drive with cruise control.

Bob Callard



Tanya Johnson, CAS

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