

THE “BOWTIE BULLETIN” July 2005 Issue

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From “Our Pres”, Don Mende

Since I assumed the position as the President of Our club this year it seems I’ve had one thing after another keeping me from doing my Presidential duties. My Brother had to have a liver transplant, my Mother had to have emergency heart surgery, my Father-in-Law started chemo treatments, my Wife just had spinal back fusion, and my old dog had 22 teeth pulled at one time. I’ve been hammered over the last 6 months, but the good news is that all of the above are doing great and they are recovering way ahead of schedule. I can finally find a little time to get back to my third love (wife & kids #1, my company #2) my old car restoration project # 3

During all this time many of our club members have stepped in and assumed my Presidential duties. I don’t know what I would have done without Jeff & JoAnn Hopp as they not only headed up all the car show planning and execution, but constantly helped with emails I should have done, phone calls to members, etc. When I took over as President I told Keith Archambault our new Treasurer, that I would be there to help him setup a new accounting system for our club that would automate a lot of functions and make it an easier transition for the next Treasurer. I didn’t do any of that, Keith did it all on his own. You may have noticed a lot of emails from Ron Thomas over the last few months that really were my responsibility to do. Ron is like a big brother, he sits on the sidelines and when he sees something that needs to get done he jumps right in. Ron and I use to talk about these things before we would send out emails to the troops, but deep down I know Ron just doesn’t want to bother me with this stuff right now, so he just does it. Gary DiAmanti and his daughter cooked Barbara & I a full meal of Chicken Parmesan, salad, and bread, so when we came home from the hospital after Barbara’s back surgery we wouldn’t have to worry about cooking. Barbara & I have also had numerous phone calls from other PCC members and their wives wishing us well and offers to help in any way they could.

I don’t want to get too mushy here, but all of these folks have gone out of their way to help my family during these stressful times. I didn’t know any of these people before I joined our club and don’t really socialize with them on any scale other than club functions. I’ve said many times that “Car people are the best”, but I think I’m going to revise that to “ The PCCC membership is the very best of the best”.

Thank you all for everything you’ve done for my family, if any of you ever need me, I’m there.

“The Social Corner”

By: Tom Camilliere – Social Director

1. The BBQ dinner at Pullen Park was a huge success with 38 members attending. Again thanks to the many cooks that brought desserts. Shelter #5 worked out great this year and I will book this shelter again. George, the winner of the 50/50, was one happy member.
2. **FREE PARTY**, August 21, Sunday afternoon, Sanderling Beach, on the water, across from Beaver Dam on rt. 50. FREE hot dogs and hamburger social, you bring dessert and drink. Shelter # 5, on the beach, we have the shelter all day, so come early to fish, swim, boating and hiking. Don, may finally get his boat in the water this year; free boat rides to all members. Come by 2pm and eat by 4pm sharp. This is a rain or shine event. See everyone there.
3. October 29, Lasagna Cook-off this year, we still could use a few more cooks to bring their best lasagna. Everyone else bring a dessert and a drink. This is a **50's dress up party**, prizes for dress-up winners, and dance with DJ Rob spinning the tunes. Also, bring a GOOD item for the silent auction; this is the only fundraiser for your social fund. This is another FREE EVENT.
4. Poker run, this September 24, Ron may need some help so, if you can please give him a helping hand and give him a call. Prizes will be given to all Poker Run winners; 150 dollars will be divided up between all winners. That will buy some gas.
5. Social Desk sign up sheets, are working great so keep up the good work and sign up for the events you want to attend.
6. I will not be at the July meeting due to my company's yearly sales meeting in Las Vegas, see everyone at Sanderling Beach Party August 21.

Be safe and Happy Cruzin

Tom can be contacted for reservations at;

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Somebody Help Me – I’m **OUT OF CONTROL**

By: Don Mende – CCI Member # 141008

(Article I wrote for Classic Chevy Magazine that will be published in the next few months)

It’s 2:37 in the morning and the Ebay bid for a chrome 6-deuce setup for a small block Chevy ends in 18 minutes. I can hardly stay awake, but I’m determined to get this setup to replace the chrome dual quads on my 57 Chevy. I’m winning so far with a bid of \$1,755.00 and I’m going to put my final bid of \$2,100.00 in at the last minute to compete with all the last minute snipers I know that are out there to get me. Fools, they don’t know just how committed I am to this. It dawns on me that I’m a 59-year-old male that is completely **OUT OF CONTROL**. How in the world did I get like this?

It all started when my son skipped a day of High School (we’ve all done that) and he spotted a 57 Chevy sitting in a yard with a For-Sale sign on it. After he & I finished the “You’re grounded for life” conversation for skipping school, he told me about the 57. Long story short, I bought the 57 and that started my downslide into what I call car-mania.

I learn that what I now owned is called a “Driver”. Got that from some old Classic Chevy International Magazines I found in the trunk of the 57 when I got her home. Classic Chevy International looked like a neat club, so I joined and the financial revolving door started to swing, slowly at first, but now 3 years later and at 2:37 in the morning it’s going full tilt. I also joined the local Piedmont Classic Chevy Car Club and quickly decided to participate in my first Classic Car Show a 100 miles away in Greensboro, NC. At the show I backed my rust bucket driver into its designated slot between two 57 Chevy trailer queens and I was immediately embarrassed. I quickly got out of my car and got lost in the crowd so no one would know that I owned that ugly duckling sitting between those two beautiful swans. The judges came by and didn’t even stop at my car; after all they had 20 other swans to look at and no time for ugly ducklings. Fortunately it was dark by the time I got home to Raleigh, NC so nobody could see just how bad a car I really owned. I told my wife that I will never be embarrassed like that again, the 57 has to have some new chrome pieces, it won’t cost much and I’ll have it done in two weeks. Then we’ll go back and show everybody that we also own a swan. Yea, lots of luck, ladies have you heard this one before?

The 57 has been down now for the better part of 3 years. In the process of becoming a swan, she has become a dependent. This dependent eats money like there is no tomorrow and I’ve become the evil scientist that feeds it with little regard for the consequences. I could have done something smart with our money like investing in some real estate for my old age, but oh no, I’m neck deep in car-mania and completely and totally **OUT OF CONTROL**. The offshoot of all this is that I now have a 100% satisfaction rating on Ebay because I’ve bought and paid for over 260 items for the 57, I am completely **OUT OF CONTROL**, but I apparently pay good, woopee.

Well the end of this story is my swan is close to being done and I'm proud of the work we've done and look forward to showing her off. She sports damn near every option you can put on a 57 Chevy from a new 383 Stroker motor with those chrome 6 deuces (of course I won the bid) to a tubbed rear and a new custom built 3:73 posi. Sandwiched between that is a rock crusher 4 speed turning over some massive Radial TA's on new 10 inch chrome Cragger SS Rims. Almost everything is chrome (my new favorite color) including the powder-coated frame. All the instrumentation is digital and she is painted Viper Red with Gold Pearl highlights. The entire engine bay is chrome as well as the dash and interior pieces. Every piece of chrome and stainless has been re-done or replaced. There is not a screw, bolt or piece of wire that hasn't been taken off and re-done or replaced. I'm embarrassed to tell you all the other stuff I've bought like the raingear wipers, tubular front end, rack & pinion steering, custom chrome headers, Ididit tilt steering column, Lokar pedals, Hydraulic Clutch, a \$2,000 chrome radiator, etc. Yes, I'm ***OUT OF CONTROL***, but fortunately I'm starting to see an end to my insanity.

I'm telling you my little story because I'm sure there are thousands of fellow car-mania nuts out there that have done or are currently doing the exact same thing I've done. It's like being bitten by a vampire, once you're bitten there is no turning back. But isn't it good to know that you're not alone in your insanity?

You know when we first got our little Classic Car and we were still "Un-educated" about the swan thing, my wife and I would drive around town in the old rust bucket and people would honk and give us the thumbs-up sign and we enjoyed it immensely. We would go to the local hamburger drive-thru joints on Saturdays and had a ball talking to other classic car owners. No one stuck up their nose at our car; they all thought our car was pretty neat.

I've said it a million times, "Car people are the very best group of people that you will ever meet". We got plenty of encouragement and made many lifetime friendships as we tooted around in our ugly duckling. So my message is, if you have an ugly duckling enjoy it, damn the judges, drive that puppy around with pride, have fun.

Now that I've invested a huge chunk of our retirement money in my swan, I know I'm going to be petrified to drive her on the road, guess I'm creating a trailer queen, I've even gone as far as buying her a new tilt bed trailer in advance. But now I'm The President of our car club and I had to have something to drive, so I bought a 75 Chevy Shortbed Stepside truck. I love my little truck, wife hates it, trucks on it's way out. Hey, anybody got a 57 Chevy ugly duckling they want to trade for a neat 75 truck? I've got lots of parts left over to fix up another 57.

Guess I've come full circle; I'm still completely ***OUT OF CONTROL***, I'm hopeless, but maybe you can save yourself, good luck.

Ya'll stay safe

PCCC Mentoring Program

By Don Mende

My Father was a pilot in the USAF when I was born, so traveling was part of the gig for my Mother and I. When I was about 5 years old he got out of the Air Force to start his own aerial photography business doing high altitude terrain photography for Uncle Sam. Man we really started traveling then as Dad's business depended on the weather being good, no clouds, or he didn't work. So we traveled not only from state to state but from coast to coast chasing the weather patterns. At first it was just me and my Mom on the road as Dad would fly on ahead to wherever the next job was, and Mom and I would follow in the station wagon pulling a small mobile home. Now my Mom will confirm that she is one of the worst drivers in the world and you absolutely never got behind her because she backed up with her eyes closed. I can't tell you how many metal trash cans and bumpers we had to buy as Mom and I traveled around the good old USA. I was in 48 states two times around by the time I was 12, never saw snow until I was 14. Mom finally told Dad that he could pick anywhere in the country to use as his home base but her and the now three kids had traveled their last mile. Dad picked Roanoke, VA because he liked the airport and we settled in. By now I was in the 9th grade, but my Mom could only physically produce my 6th grade papers as she registered me in the Roanoke High School. The rest of my records were behind us somewhere in the US Postal system tracking us from place to place for years. I learned at a very young age that if I wanted to have any kind of life at all, I had to make friends in a matter of minutes not days, as we sometimes were only in one place for a couple of days. Believe it or not this little story brings me to the subject of Mentoring.

Ron Thomas and Jeff Hopp were talking about how to acclimate new members into our club faster and more efficiently, and they came up with the Mentoring concept. We all have friends in our club and some relationships have naturally become very close. While we probably don't see it ourselves, but there are clicks within our club, groups that always hang together at functions, and that's fine as these folks are comfortable with each other and have found common denominators between them over the years. The only bad thing about clicks is that it makes it hard for new members to get into the mix. Because of my background as a kid I was forced to become a pretty good chameleon and can get along with just about anybody pretty quickly. My wife and son on the other hand, are those shy people that have to be forced into that first conversation and then their fine. They need a Mentor.

The Mentoring program will partner up a new member with a volunteer existing member (the Mentor). The Mentor will make sure that the new member is introduced to everyone. The Mentor will for the lack of a better term, adopt the new member for their first year. The Mentor will call the new member reminding them of upcoming events or meetings, make sure they understand when and where we're going to meet for cruises, sit with them at functions, etc. The Mentor will personally meet the new members family and introduce them around at every opportunity.

The Mentoring program will hopefully allow our new members and their families to get comfortable in our group very quickly. Not everyone is a good chameleon, so when the Mentor comes around to your little group to introduce someone, make that special effort to make them feel welcome, remember at one time you were that new person.

Each PCCC Member will hopefully volunteer to be the next Mentor, that way we can all take turns and not burn out just a few members. Thoughts anyone, and oh yea, a big thank you to Ron and Jeff, great idea.

UPCOMING CAR SHOWS AND CRUISES

By: David Matthews

Cruising for Christ Car show/Open show Hemmings	7/23/2005 8:00 a.m.	7/23/2005 3:00 p.m.	Open car show & Barbecue Sale, Person Senior High school, Top 20, Reg. \$20.00. Roxboro, NC, The show is from 8.00am to 3.00pm, take 501N to Roxboro, Turn left at Burnett Ford (Carver street) Car show is on the Right at High school. contact: Keith at 919-773-6102.
2nd Annual car and truck show/Apex, NC	7/30/2005 9:00 a.m.	7/30/2005 3:00 p.m.	The United Van Club is hosting this car and truck show July 30, 2005 in Apex at the corner of sunset & stephenson Rd. Reg: \$20.00 Food and drinks avail. 9.00am to 3.00pm
CMNs 1st Annual car/bike show- Shelby, NC CMNs car show	7/30/2005 9:00 a.m.	7/30/2005 4:00 p.m.	Crest High school, Shelby, NC. , Best of everything show awards, \$20.00, live DJ, food and drinks avail. www.cmncarshow.com Michael Blake-blak4950@bellsouth.net
5th Annual Car, Truck, and Motorcycle show/ Oxford, NC	8/6/2005 10:00 a.m.	8/6/2005 4:00 p.m.	Sponsored by the city of Oxford Recreation Dept. Top 50 open show, all vendors welcome, located on East Spring street in Oxford, NC. 10am to 4pm, \$10.00 day of show.
Extreme Rides Car Show/Henderson, NC kerr-lake	8/20/2005 9:00 a.m.	8/20/2005 4:30 p.m.	Vance County NC Tourism Depart. is holding this show at Vance- Granville Community College, I-85 & exit 209 Henderson, NC. Top 50 and other specialty awards. Food and drinks avail. Reg. \$20.00
ROD & CUSTOM SHOW/ Littleton, NC	9/3/2005 8:00 a.m.	9/3/2005 3:00 p.m.	Presented by the Stray cats car club is Hosting this top 50 show. Day of show \$20.00. they will have Door prizes, Goodie bags and food and drinks avail. Contact: James Hockaday at 252-586-6048
Bobby Murray "Cruisin the Blvd" Car Show	10/1/2005 08:00 a.m.	10/1/2005 04:00 p.m.	This show is the show previously sponsored by the Tarheel Region Vintage Chevrolet Club. The show is open to all GM makes and models and will be held at the Bobby Murray Dealership. See the show flyer by going to our home page and click on the Bobby Murray Car Show Icon

Monthly Cruise-Ins

2nd Saturday / Cruise-In at Pelican Ice Cream in Apex

4th Saturday / Cruise-In at Highbeams Bar & Grill, 1506 Hwy 70 West Garner after 5PM

Cars For Sale

If you need help selling your classic car or need to buy one, call Charlie Kaleel at 919-607-5827 or email: doowopbelair@yahoo.com. Wake Forest Classic Cars, we take cars on consignment also.

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Michael Mansour (919) 367-9658
(1967 Camaro RS)

Contact Don Mende for rate information on advertising here and in our Members Guide or on our WEB site. We now have Banner ad space for sale on our web site that is killer, call me.

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