

THE “BOWTIE BULLETIN” May 2004 Issue

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From “Our Pres”, Ron Thomas

We’re turning 30!

Isn't it interesting how things happen, at times revealing something really special? A few of us were talking recently about the club and it's history. As it turns out our early years aren't well documented and there was some question about when and how the club was formed. In pursuit of some facts we discovered when and who were responsible and also discovered to our surprise two major facts. First this year is the clubs 30th anniversary and second Dick Beach is not only a founding member but has been a member of the club, non-stop, for the entire 30 years. We have opted to show our gratitude to Dick by honoring him with an Honorary Lifetime Membership. You will enjoy more of Dicks story as we honor him in this special edition of the newsletter.

I'm sure you will also enjoy the other features included in this "Special" edition, which celebrates our 30th Anniversary.

Please join me in expressing our thanks to those members of the "Bowtie Bulletin" staff who worked so hard to put this special edition together for you. They too are special, as you know.

“WELCOME NEW MEMBERS”

By: JoAnn Hopp

Johnny and Donna Ellis
Mike and Jane Worsham
Darrell and Karen Wood
Fred and Kathy DeBuhr Jr.
George and Patti Gillenwater
Michael and Suzan Prieskorn

PCCC Turns 30

By: Don Mende

Thirty years ago several guys got together and decided to start a car club and as they say in the movies “the rest is history”. Three of the founding members of The Piedmont Classic Chevy Club (PCCC) are Dick Beach, Don Watts, and Allen Dasen.

Thirty years ago, Dick Beach’s 1953 Studebaker blew it’s transmission so he had it towed to the local repair shop. Back in 1957 some of the repair shops were also new and used car lots. This particular repair shop had a 1955 Chevy convertible for sale that Dick had been “eyeballin” for some time. Dick had talked to the salesperson before about the 55, but just couldn’t justify the expense on his schoolteachers pay. Now with a blown tranny he was much easier to convince and soon Dick and the salesman came to an agreement, \$50 a month for 12 months and the old blown up Studebaker. Dick drove the Chevy home that day in 1957 and he still has it today. At the time Dick and Pat had two children and Pat drove the Chevy while Dick drove his beloved MG-TD. Sounds like a schoolteacher’s ride doesn’t it? Dick is still an active and very respected member of our club and can always be counted on for support, both personal and club related.

Now the story goes that in 1974 Don and Allen had the idea of starting a car club. Don and Allen didn’t know Dick personally, but they had heard about Dick’s 55 Chevy, so they drove over to Dick’s house in Durham to talk about cars and maybe starting up a club. Three guys standing around in Dick’s backyard was the start of our club. Kind of interesting that a blown up old Studebaker started the whole thing isn’t it?

Well here it is 2004 and a lot has changed in our club and a lot has remained the same. Our membership is over 80 families now and we’ve expanded the club from just tri-fives to 55 thru 72 Chevy’s. We have a wonderful diverse group of car lovers from retirees to a 17-year-old young lady with her own 57 Chevy. Our social meetings every other month are a huge hit and new friendships are created every time we get together. Business meetings are often very vocal and sometimes even educational. The quality of participation by our officers and club members is to be envied by any charitable organization.

All in all The Piedmont Classic Chevy Club is one heck of an organization comprised of some truly talented and unique individuals! We’ve been at this for 30 years now, and somewhere along the line we got lucky and created a winning formula that just keeps getting better and better. A big thank you to Dick, Allen and Don for starting our club and congratulations to all the PCCC members both past and present for keeping it alive and interesting.

“The Social Corner”

By: Tom Camilliere

1. **Applebee's** was a great success with 60 people attending. We gave away four \$25-dinner gift certificates. The 50-50 was \$160 with the winner getting \$80 and the social fund getting \$80. Applebee's donated 15% of the total purchase price for meals that night to the club, (approximately \$127), we will give it to our club charity. Thanks to everyone for coming out on a rainy night.
2. **Pig-Picken June 26**, Saturday night, at Pullen park, same place as last year, bring your classic, a special gift to be given away to all people that bring their classic. Eat at about 6:30 cost \$10 per person; we will have an up-graded menu. We are in for a special treat because Lois Copeland will be making one of her tasty, world famous desserts. Please let me know if you will be attending. I am planning on 75 people.
3. **CHILI cook off October 23**, yes another Saturday night. So far we have 3 cooks signed up to cook chili, Brian, John, Barbara. I am told if Brian is to be a winner he must leave out the green pepper in his chili according to Karl. We also need corn bread and desserts. Let me know what you can bring.
4. Put **August 22**, Sunday, on your calendar for a cruise to the plantation in Clarksville. More info to come.

See everyone at the car show May 22nd , Be safe and Happy Cruising

Just for Fun - Acceleration

By: Don Mende

You are driving the average \$140,000 Lingenfelter "twin-turbo" powered Corvette Z06. Over a mile up the road a Top Fuel dragster is staged and ready to launch down the quarter mile strip as you pass.

You have the advantage of a flying start. You run the 'Vette hard up through the gears and blast across the starting line and past the dragster at an honest 200mph. The 'tree' goes green for both of you at that moment. The dragster launches and starts after you. You keep your foot down hard, but you hear an incredibly brutal whine that sears your eardrums and within 3 seconds the dragster catches and passes you. He beats you to the finish line, a quarter mile away from where you just passed him.

Think about it, from a standing start, the dragster spotted you 200mph and not only caught, but nearly blasted you off the road when he passed you within a mere 1320 foot long race course.

That Folks, is ACCELERATION.

Meet the Membership – Dick Beach

By: Becky Beach (not related)

Dick Beach is one of the three founding members of what has become the Piedmont Classic Chevy Club. Dick has lived in the Triangle area since 1954, when he married Pat, his childhood sweetheart and they moved to Clayton. Dick took a job as a teacher in Johnston County. In the late '50s, Clayton was still a little country town and Dick was the district's first band director, molding musical talent at the high schools in Clayton, Princeton and Pine Level.

In 1962, Dick left teaching and took a job as a traveling salesman for the National Gypsum Company. For 30 years, with an 11-county territory, Dick wore a car out every two years. He says his favorite company car was a black 1963 Impala hardtop, which he drove until the company switched to buying Fords for their salesmen.

By 1984, Dick and Pat were living in Durham, raising a family, while Dick's old 1955 Bel Air convertible moldered in the back yard. Purchased in 1957 with 15,000 miles on it, Dick drove it until 1964, when somehow it ended up in the yard, forlorn and weedy. Dick recalls standing in the back yard, looking at his car, wondering how 20 years had gone by, when someone hailed him from the street. Two guys in a Chevrolet asked him if he'd be interested in getting together with a bunch of other guys to talk about cars. And the PCCC was born.

Don Watts and Alan Dasen, the other two founding members, had spied Dick watching his car rust away and decided that he would be a fine addition to their group. "Don and Alan just liked cars and wanted to get a bunch of guys together who were interested in cars," says Dick. "They drove by when I was out back looking at my car and just called out to me." Don and Alan knew a car guy when they saw one and pushed Dick to start restoring the convertible. Pat and their three children started a Chevy fund for Dick's potential restoration project, so he wouldn't have lack of funding as an excuse. "Every time I got a present at gift-giving time, I'd get something for the Chevy fund," says Dick, "and my mother, who was about 80, said she wanted to ride in it one more time. She said, "you fix it, I'll help pay for it". "I wouldn't be driving the car today if it weren't for my family." Dick figures it took about four-and-a-half years to restore the Bel Air. He remembers that Billy Williamson of Oldie Goldie Body Shop in Elm City did the bodywork and Dwayne Wright in Henderson did the finish work. "I got the car back just before Christmas in 1989," says Dick, "and my mother got her ride."

Today, Dick's daily driver is a Lincoln, his tenth. He considers himself a Lincoln man and is proud of the fact that he's never paid more than \$4,000 for a car (Dick, you're coming with me the next time I buy a car!). The Beaches are blessed with three children - Mary Helen, Kim and Rick Jr. - all living close by. Granddaughter, Jessica, 14, comes by every day and Dick and Pat are active in Jessica's life. Dick is active in the Lowe's Grove Baptist Church, is a volunteer firefighter with the Parkwood Fire Department and is going on 35 years as a Red Cross volunteer. He keeps music in his life with more than 42 years as a drum major with the National Guard Band. Dick says he met Pat when she was 13 and he was 15. He says that when he got old enough to drive, if she wanted to hang around, she had to get under the hood. "I've got a picture of her detailing the motor, " he chuckles. Pat and Dick will celebrate 50 years of dirty fingernails together on September 11, 2004.

Don Watts is now living in Youngsville, NC and Alan Dasen lives in Southern Pines, NC.

“2004 PCCC Car Show News”

By: Jeff Hopp

The Piedmont Classic Chevy Club's 15th annual “Made in the USA” car show is upon us. As you all know, our car club was started back in 1974...gas prices were below **50 cents/gal**...The 1974 Chevrolet Impala Coupe listed for **\$4,229**... "Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie and **Chevrolet**" was the advertising slogan. It would be several years before PCCC's first official display in 1980. We had a display inside the Cary Village Mall, known now as the Cary Town Center. The folks at the Cary Village Mall asked that all of our cars have full tanks of gas to prevent gas vapors escaping and filling the mall with fumes. A couple of cars had some tanks that leaked slightly. The aroma of 93 Octane filled the area. We must have made them nervous but it all worked out and we didn't burn the place down. Numerous other displays followed during the 80's. 18-20 years ago, members of the PCCC helped to start the Carolina Collector Autofest. Our club displayed about 20, 1955-1957 Chevy's at that gathering. We have been displaying cars there ever since. In October of 1990, our club held its first official “Made in the USA” Car show...we made a profit of **\$56** and we asked for a **\$10** entry fee. We had it at the Sir Walter Chevrolet dealership in the center of Raleigh. There were about 75 cars that arrived at our show plus 24 club cars. Cars from other clubs came to our show from Danville, VA and Greensboro, NC regularly. We started out in the fall and switched to dates in the spring where we hoped for a better turnout. After a few years the club moved the show to the Six Forks Station Shopping Center at Six Forks and Strickland Roads. We had one of our biggest turnouts during that time of approximately 120 cars, including club cars. The show was held at the Plantation Inn on Capital Boulevard for 3 years before moving to the current location at The Raleigh Elks Lodge on Millbrook Road three years ago.

Thanks to Ron Thomas, Robert Copeland and Floyd Barnes for contributing some of the historic info about the origins of our show.

In less than a week our show will be at the Raleigh Elks Lodge. The word has been spread...flyers have been handed out at many shows and cruises over the last several weeks. Many folks have inquired about our show and could be coming from great distances. We'll have numerous activities, music and great food. Best of all, we'll be having one of the greatest collection of cars on display in the Raleigh area in a long time. We're encouraging members to bring their cars to the show. **Donations for the door prizes are needed! Please bring something to the upcoming meeting or just bring it to the show on Saturday, May 22.** I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the Elks Lodge. Thanks to all who contributed the time and energy preparing for our 15th show.

PCCC Members Car Show Attendance & Awards

By: Linwood Johnson & David Mathews

April 10 Seymour Johnson AFB

Don Cooper = 1st Place Trophy
Robert Copeland = 1st Place Trophy
Linwood Johnson = 1st Place Trophy

April 17 Selma Car Classic / 8 car clubs / 128 cars

PCCC Members in attendance

Brian Anzak, Karl and Joan Neal, Tom Camilliere, David Mathews,
Tony Ray, Dan and Nan Mangrum, Frank Wells, Don Hudson,
Mike and Justice Mansour, James Schreiber, Don and Dot Cooper,
Ron and Jan Thomas, Robert and Lois Copeland, Charles Pearce,
Denny Oestreich, Gerald and Cynthia Besco, John and Luke
Louthan, George and Sarah Bliss, Linwood and
Mavis Johnson and New members Mike and Jane
Worsham, George and Patti Gillenwater, and Johnny and Donna Ellis,

April 24 Mt. Olive Pickle Festival
Don Cooper
Robert Copeland
Linwood Johnson

April 24 Dogwood Festival Fayetteville
Robert Copeland
Linwood Johnson

April 24 Tar River Cruisers/1st Annual Spring Fling
David Mathews
Charlie Kaleel

May 1 Oakview AACA Raleigh
Don Cooper = 1st Place Trophy
Floyd Barnes = 1st Place Trophy
Linwood Johnson = 1st Place Trophy
Denny Oestreich = 1st Place Trophy

May 1 Bethel Baptist Church / Car & Truck Show
David Mathews
Robert Copeland
Luke Louthan.

May 8 Chris Leith Chevrolet / 7th Annual Corvettes International
(Fun in the Sun) Charity Car Show
David Mathews
Josh Hensley
Keith Archambault

And of course big congrats to Don Cooper for being featured in The News & Observer on May 10, 2004 riding around in his 57 Chevy Convertible and his other convertible called a Volks something or other. What the "Bowtie Bulletin" wants to know is where was Dot when all the pictures were taken, the 57's her car isn't it?

“Web Sites of Interest”

By: Don Mende

If you know of a web site that would be of interest to our membership let Don know so we can add it to this section.

www.wakeforestclassiccars.com

Scott Brown PCCC member - Consignment sales of classic cars

www.spencersclassicchevys.com

Local NC parts supplier – parts out lots of old Chevy cars

www.hotrodhotline.com

Neat web site, lots of links, check it out, free email newsletter

“Upcoming Events, Shows and Cruises”

By: David Mathews

PCCC Car Show

May 22, 2004

Raleigh Elks Lodge

David is the coordinating editor of this column so if you know of an upcoming show or if you need any information on any of these shows call David Mathews at 919-469-9653

For more information go to www.usamotorevents.com

Also www.dalearnhardtinc.com for their events schedule

“CLASSIFIEDS”

Classifieds are free of charge with members given preference as space permits
Send your ad via email to don@nexgenimaging.com with your input

CARS & TRUCKS FOR SALE

58 Apache truck with a 1973 Nova Front Clip and a 57 Fiberglass Tilt Front end "New".
No engine or tranny though..I have the brakes off of my 1971 Chevelle that can fit right on
this. \$2,500.00 call Josh @ 919-369-2315

1959 Chevy El Camino 283 auto complete car . have rust free doors & hood from Nev.
good title - needs complete resto - contact Don Spencer AT
www.spencersclassicchevys.com

1957 CHEVY 2DR POST – 210 MODEL. OWNER SUFFERED BACK INJURY AND
CANNOT FINISH BODYWORK/INTERIOR. CAR HAS MANY NEW PARTS INCLUDING A
PAT MUSI BUILT 406" SBC WITH WORLD HEADS, BRAND NEW TCI TURBO 400
TRANSMISSION, TCI STREETFIGHTER CONVERTER,TCI COOLER WITH BRAIDED
LINES AND WINTERS SHIFTER. ENTIRE VEHICLE HAS BEEN REWIRED WITH
PAINLESS HARNESS AND DAKOTA DIGITAL DASH WITH GORGEOUS TEAL GAUGES.
IGNITION IS ALL MSD, DIST. 6AL BOX, BLASTER2 COIL, AND WIRES. COMPLETELY
REBUILT FRONT-END WITH POLYGRAPHITE BUSHINGS, ALL NEW SUSPENSION
PARTS AND SPRINGS,2" DROP SPINDLES,POWER DISC BRAKES, AND MCGAUGHY
POWER STEERING CONVERSION. OTHER PARTS, HOLLEY CARB AND FUEL PUMP,
HOOKER SUPER COMP HEADERS, MOROSO ALUMINUM VALVE COVERS, WILWOOD
PROPORTIONING VALVE, K&N FILTER, OPTIMA BATTERY, EDELBROCK INTAKE,
GRANT WHEEL. CAR HAS AT LEAST \$14,000 WORTH OF NEW PARTS INSTALLED.
NEEDS FINISHING. \$9,000 FIRM ! CAR IS LOCATED IN NEW JERSEY. ASK JOHN IN
SHOPABOUT CAR OR CONTACT OWNER @ 908-722-5227

PARTS FOR SALE

Do you want power disk brakes on the front of your Tri Five, I've got the whole setup
minus power booster for sale. Calipers, rotors, spindles, brackets, lines, etc. very few
miles on the setup just needs to be cleaned up and installed. \$100 for it all, the brackets
cost more than that.

Call Don Mende home 919-676-6329 work 919-544-9693 cell 919-423-7456

I have a 4 barel quadrajet carb and intake for a small block chevy for \$75. I took it off my
car last year. Call Doug @ 919-781-1021
