



# NEWSLETTER

<http://www.route66cruisers.com>

January 2005


SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS

## 2002 BOARD MEMBERS

President: Cal Crawford	Registration: Keron Warren
Vice-President: Tully Canum	Set-up/Parking: Wes Birch
Secretary: Connie Crawford	Merchandise Director: Noreeda
Treasurer: Dick Roth	Alewelt
Sergeant at Arms: Ron Cook	Door Prizes: Linda McCarty

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Robert Katzenmaier - 8	Dick Rhoades - 28
Richard Roth - 14	Michelle Birch - 31
Eddy Grady - 19	
Tully Canum - 26	
Lorie Way - 26	

Happy Birthday 

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 New Years' Day	2 Club Meeting	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 M.L.King's Birthday	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 February Board Mtg.	31	

## President's Column

This is my first attempt at a newsletter. It *may* get better as time goes by? December's highlights include the monthly meeting on the 5th when elections were held for board members for 2003. The secretary's report has the results of the election and minutes of the meeting.

December 1 was the annual Christmas party held at the Heritage House Smorgasboard. Those who wished to brought a gift for a man or a woman for the gift exchange. In addition, most of those in attendance participated in the annual "white elephant" gift exchange. We may see some of **those** gifts return next Christmas! A nice surprise was a cash donation by our sponsors of \$250.00 to be given away to a lucky cruiser in a drawing. The prize was won by Bill Bermell! Congratulations, Bill! Michelle Birch provided a good Christmas trivia contest, and I'm sure most of us learned something we didn't know before about celebrating the holiday.

The annual Springfield Christmas Parade was held on Saturday, December 7, but our club had not received any information or invitation by meeting night. Calls to the Jaycees were not returned, so we did not participate this year. Too bad since the weather was sunny and in the 40s.

I thought I would take some space in this column to introduce myself to those members who don't know me. My wife Connie and I joined the Route 66 Cruisers late in 1993. At that time we were both still working; I at the Post Office and she at Heartland Credit Union. I had taken a part-time job with the Postal Service in 1963 at the age of 18 in order to make some money for college whenever I decided what I wanted to do with my life. Thirty-seven years later, at the end of 1999, I retired from

the Postal Service still not knowing what I wanted to be when I grew up. Connie retired from the credit union at about the same time, and since then we have been enjoying our hobbies and time with each other. In addition to playing with cars, I like to bowl and have participated in league bowling for over forty years. I am a past president of the Greater Springfield Bowling Association and am currently the computer operator for their two major annual tournaments. Connie likes flower gardening and has converted much of our back yard to flowers. I'm in favor of it because the more flowers, the less yard to mow. We like to travel and to visit our two sons, the older of which lives in Bonita Springs, Florida where he works as a medical technologist. Our younger son is married and lives in San Jose, California where he works in computer chip design. He and his wife have just presented us with our first grandchild, a girl, born August 30th. After Christmas, they will be moving to Austin, Texas where he is being transferred with his company.

We currently have five cars in our four-car garage. In addition to our two daily drivers, we have a 1959 Thunderbird hardtop in diamond blue, a 1979 Thunderbird Town Landau in red which we have owned since new, and a 2002 Thunderbird roadster in yellow. You may have noticed a pattern here. Counting Connie's 1996 Thunderbird LS in Pacific Green, we have four T-Birds. We also belong to two national Thunderbird clubs, one of which has a chapter in Jacksonville, Illinois. If you don't know us, you may have seen us with one of our cars at a cruise-in or car show.

After a number of years observing on the sidelines, I decided I would volunteer to run for a board

position with the club. I hope that we can continue into the future with our cruise-in events, and I encourage all club members to continue to participate. Perhaps we can work with the other clubs to schedule our events so they don't overlap which only results in diluting attendance. If the membership has any ideas for future activities, please come to the club meetings and let us know, or at least fill out the suggestion slip on page three and send it in. Also, don't forget to send in your annual membership dues (\$10.00). For your convenience there is another coupon on page three for this purpose. You can send any suggestions in the same envelope or bring them to the January or February meeting.

Before I end this column, I would like to thank the outgoing board members and volunteers, especially President Michelle Birch, who have guided the club the past two years through the numerous cruise-ins, parades, festivals and parties, and who have worked so hard to make our summers enjoyable. Those of us who attend the events, listen to the music, visit with our fellow cruisers and leave when we feel like it often forget how much work was involved by a few people to provide a pleasant experience for the rest of us. I would also like to thank Angela Weiss for volunteering to do the secretarial duties when that position became vacant and her husband Duane for helping at the events and meetings. Thanks, also to Gregg Benshoof for his help in the past with the newsletter, the website and dash plaques. I'm not up to speed yet on who has done what, so I apologize if I've left anyone out.

Future columns by me hopefully won't ramble on so. If you are still reading, thanks for your patience.

## Secretary's Column

Minutes of the December 5th mtg:  
-/-

President Michelle Birch called the meeting to order. Minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Old Business: The Christmas party got us all in a holiday mood with festive table decorations and unique ornaments made by Angela Weiss. Michelle's fun Christmas trivia, holiday music, good food and conversation made for an enjoyable evening. Thank you Michelle, Angela and any others who put the party together.

There will be no mystery cruise in

December.

No information this year on the Christmas parade.

Election Results:

President: Cal Crawford

Secretary: Connie Crawford

Treasurer: Dick Roth

Merch. Dir: Noreeda Alewelt

Set-up Dir: Wes Birch

Sergeant at Arms: Ron Cook

Michelle will mail Corporation registration with new board members listed.

New Business: Johnny Joyce's mother needs our prayers. We lost a member, Frank Squires, and there was a moment of silence in memory of Frank. Correspondence

was read including a quote from "Old Timer's Thoughts", which was very good. Michelle sent e-mail to Greg Benshoof who asked for an update.

Women's trivia was won by Noreeda Alewelt. Men's trivia was won by Duane Weiss. 50/50 was won by Angela Weiss.

Comments: Board meeting will be December 30, 7 pm at Godfathers. Next membership meeting will be January 02, 2003. Dues are to be paid by the February meeting. Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.



## The Buried Belvedere - Suddenly It's 1957

(reprinted from Vintange Cars Weekly)

In the year 2007, someone is going to win a brand-new Plymouth Belvedere. With the last Plymouth rolling off the assembly line on June 28, 2001, and the last Belvedere in 1970, how is this possible?

On June 15, 1957, a brand-new Plymouth Belvedere V-8 Sport Coupe was lowered into a time capsule on the southeast corner of the Tulsa County Courthouse lawn. "Suddenly It's 2007," banners waved during Tulsa's Golden Jubilee Week, known then as Tulsarama. The Tulsarama committee wanted a way to show the citizens of the twenty-first century what life was like in 1957. The Plymouth Belvedere was selected for this honor, according to committee chairman Lewis Roberts Jr., because it was "an advanced product of American industrial ingenuity with the kind of lasting appeal that will still be in style 50 years from now."

As part of the 1957 Tulsarama festivities, citizens of Tulsa were asked to guess what the population of Tulsa would be in the year 2007. The

guesses were then recorded on microfilm and sealed in a steel container buried with the car. The car will remain underground until 2007, when the person (or heirs) whose guess is closest to the exact population of Tulsa in 2007 will win the car.

The car was supplied in cooperation with the Plymouth Division of Chrysler and several Tulsa Plymouth dealers. "Suddenly, It's 1960!", was the slogan for Plymouth in 1957. "Three full years ahead...the only car that dares to break the time barrier!" The Belvedere has remained buried since June 15, 1957.

The white and gold car was mounted on steel skids and wrapped in a cosmoline-like substance to help preserve it. It is reported the car had a full tank of gas which may or may not prove to be a good thing. Included with the Belvedere is an extra five-gallon can of gasoline, a jar of Oklahoma crude oil, and in the glove box, 14 bobby pins, a ladies compact, a plastic rain cap, several combs, a tube of lipstick, gum, facial tissues, \$2.73 in bills and coins, a

pack of cigarettes with matches, an unpaid parking ticket, and a bottle of tranquilizers. These are items that might have been found in a woman's purse in 1957. In addition to the Belvedere, the winner will also receive a \$100 trust fund that will have accrued 50 years' worth of interest.

Today, the only reminder of the Belvedere burial is a bronze plaque on the courthouse lawn. Since the car's entombment, the vault's integrity has been questioned as to whether or not moisture can enter it. If moisture has found its way inside, the once showroom specimen could now be a rusty restoration project. Not until the car is unearthed in 2007, will the new owner know the true value of their prize.

<b>Value Today:</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
	<b>Good</b>	<b>\$4,600</b>
	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>\$6,500</b>
	<b>Show</b>	<b>\$8,500</b>
<b>Preserved for 50 years</b>		<b>?????</b>

USE THIS HANDY FORM TO SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2003



(Borrowed from Gregg Benschopf)

Send to: Dick Roth, Treasurer  
1924 North 23rd Street  
Springfield IL 62702

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
e-Mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

(or bring to the next meeting)

Suggestion Form

Use this space to tell us your ideas and suggestions for the future.

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**If you receive this newsletter** and you are no longer a member of the Route 66 Cruisers, please consider rejoining. We would like to have you back if you are still interested in cruising. Our club has had a couple of rough years due to lack of volunteers, health problems, etc., but this year we have a full slate of board members, and we hope to get the club firing on all 8 cylinders again.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could return to Rock 'N' Roll Hardees this year, at least

for some cruises? Rock 'N' Roll has an excellent setup for cruising with it's stage and large parking lot. Another hope is to get the word spread regarding our cruise schedule so cruisers would be aware of where and when and could plan accordingly.

Use this insert page to rejoin the club and to make your thoughts and ideas known to the new board. Membership dues are still only \$10.00 for the family for a whole year. Plan to come to the

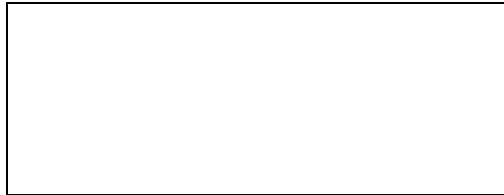
monthly meetings, have a pizza at Godfather's and stay for the proceedings. If the club can make some changes to make cruise-ins more fun, let us know.





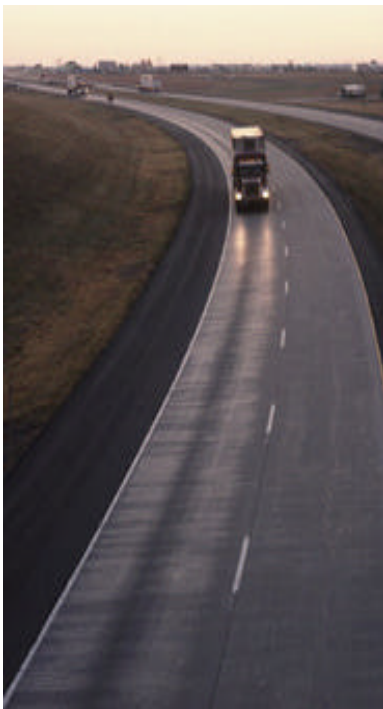
2412 E. Griffiths Ave.  
Springfield IL 62702-1957

SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS



Route 66 Cruisers

## DOWN THE ROAD



The classified section will return as soon as we find out where we are. The recipe directions (Cruiser's Cuisine) will return too, but we will need voluntary submissions.

Pictures of members and their cars will start to reappear when we get organized.

Cruise related articles may appear, and schedules of other clubs' activities will return. Also, other events and shows will be listed.

(I hope I can learn to do all this stuff)

The agenda for the January meeting hasn't been decided upon yet. We hope to list upcoming agendas in the future so things won't always be a surprise at the

meeting.

In January we will probably be working out our summer schedule, checking out possible sponsors, possibly coordinating with other clubs to avoid duplication, if possible.

I think we should publicize our cruises as much as possible. Perhaps local automotive business would post our schedule and pass out our flyers? Volunteers could pass out flyers at other cruises and car shows.

Support your club. Club merchandise is available. Caps, jackets, t-shirts, sweatshirts,

