

Pan Siftings



January 1st Happy New Year
January 1st Club Dues are Due
January 8th General Mtg 7:30pm VFW 428
January 15th Board Mtg 7pm at The Moose
January 20th Pan Siftings Articles Due
January 22nd Car Show Chair Mtg 7pm VFW 428
February 12th General Mtg 7:30pm VFW 428
February 14th Happy Valentines
February 19th Board Mtg 7pm at The Moose
February 24th Pan Siftings Articles Due



JANUARY



CAR OF THE MONTH



1969 Pontiac Firebird Convertible Owner Tom Erickson

Volume 55

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Number 1

January 2026

Club Officers & Board Members

President: Ralph Anderson
Vice Pres: Dennis Arntson
Secretary: Tina Holt
Treasurer: Bob Salmonson
Car Show Chair: Paul Schmidtbauer
Sgt. At Arms: Tom Hall

Pan Committee: Keith Bauman Mark Ebnet
Dennis Arntson Dave Bentley
Bruce Theisen John Trutwin
Ed Bauer Bob Halliday
Doug Rask Ray Maciej

Directors: Tom Erickson
Mike Schmitt
Julie Anderson

Seth Manuell
Patrick Manuell

Hospitality: Cheryl Voigt Trisha Thiel
Historians: Jim Stodolka Bruce Theisen
Newsletter: Jim Zwilling jzwilling47@gmail.com
320-406-3584
Web Master: Betty Schmitt



Mission Statement:

To Preserve The History Of The Pan Automobile; To Introduce And Educate Current And Future Generations About The Collector Car Hobby; To Promote Fun And Fellowship Amongst Its Members And To Invest Time, Talent, And Capital Into Future Club Projects And Functions.



Car Of The **MONTH**

1969 Pontiac Firebird Convertible
Owner Tom Erickson



In the summer of 1983, I did basic training in the Army between my Junior and Senior years of high school. When I got back, I knew what I wanted to do with the money I had earned, I wanted to get my first car. Before I could decide on what I wanted, my dad mentioned that my cousin was selling his Firebird and was wondering if I wanted it. Images of a Smokey and the Bandit car came to mind and I said yes without even seeing it. Lo and behold, it was a 1969 Firebird, not what I expected, but I loved the car. It was carousel red hardtop with a black vinyl roof with a 350. I didn't know it at the time, but it had automatic shifting on the column, not in a center console which was standard back then. Unfortunately, in the winter of 1984 that car went off County Road 1 north of St. Stephen into the pine trees and was totaled. I always wanted another one, but I decided this next time it was going to be a convertible. At the beginning of August 2023 my desire finally came to fruition as I was able to afford one and found it down in Florida. I flew down, looked at it and picked it up. I matched it up as much as possible to the car I had in High School. Carousel red, black convertible top, column shifting and same engine size. A friend of mine named her Ginger after Ginger Grant on Gilligan's Island, stating just like the movie star, she was beautiful and high maintenance. I consider myself lucky to have Ginger in my life as in addition to being able to drive her spring, summer and fall, it was my purchase of her that prompted me to join Pan Towners where I've made lots of friends. Thank You Tom

President's Report

Greetings fellow car buffs. Another year has flown by with many memories. Our first order of business is to finalize all of our officer and board positions. We currently have all positions filled except for a second person for first year director. Please consider volunteering for this position and feel free to talk to a current director for more detailed information about the position. I want to personally thank all those who have stepped forward, without you and the general membership there would be no club. Now a days people are getting together less and less. I would like to issue a New Year's challenge to everyone able: come to a meeting or add an additional meeting to your calendar. sign up for a tour event or banquet that you haven't come to before. Invite a friend or neighbor to an event and share our love of cars. If you would like to come to a meeting or event but are unable to drive, please contact me and we will get you there! I would also like to hear from our membership for ideas to make meetings more fun and inviting! That includes our younger members! What can we do to encourage meeting participation and membership growth? We all have a lot to be thankful for! We live in a wonderful community and a great nation! God Bless us all!



President Ralph Anderson
Email: ralph.anderson8186@gmail.com



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Car Of The Month

Because I didn't receive any "Car Of The Month" articles, I have decided to run this announcement. I have attached a list of the calendar car winners for 2026. If you would like an article to accompany your "Car Of The Month" photo in The Pan Siftings, please get those articles to me as soon as possible. I will file them and attach the article to your photo the month it is in The Pan Siftings. If you have any question please give me a call. My contact info is on page 2.

Thanks Jim Z.

January - Tom Erickson (done)
February- Adam Nabours
March - Merlin & Connie Leitheiser
April - Pat & Barb Manuell
May - Lily Prince
June - Jim Thell

July - Todd & Peg Whitney
August - Wendy Theisen
September - Dan Brady
October - Jim & Carolee Stodolka
November - Vince & Trisha Thiel
December - Roger & Colleen Burton

Vice President's Report

As I write this column Christmas is almost here, I hope that everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year spending quality time with family and friends. Although I am not officially Vice President yet, I was asked to write an article for the January Siftings (if the elections go without a hitch, I guess I'm in). I appreciate this club and all its members that make this club one of the best. One of the duties of VP is to coordinate getting members to run for a position on the board. With that said, if anyone is even slightly interested in any of these positions, I would recommend coming to a board meeting or two throughout the year as an observer. This would be a great way to get a little understanding on how the club works and maybe give you a higher level of confidence. In my own experience, I really didn't understand much about the club until I was on the board. Second benefit is getting to know club members I wouldn't have otherwise. Looking forward to spring (the days are now getting longer) and posting upcoming car shows, parades and other events that will help get the word out about our club. If anyone has a car that they want to get into a parade, or a magnetic sign to put on their car for parades, come see me or anyone on the board and maybe we can get an order put together. Lastly, as many of you may know, I have been tracking how many come to our monthly general meetings. On average we are between 55 and 65 per month. I mention this because when I tell people outside of our club about our monthly attendance, many are amazed about how strong our club is.....another way to get the word out. Thanks! And remember to Enjoy the Ride!

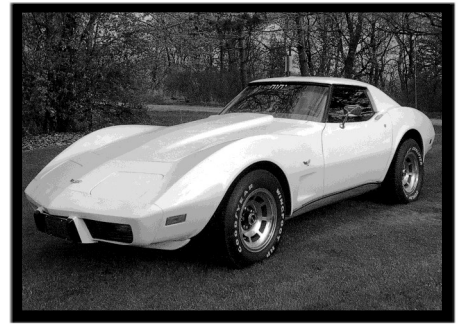


(Soon to be) Vice President Dennis Arntson
Email: arntson@jetup.net

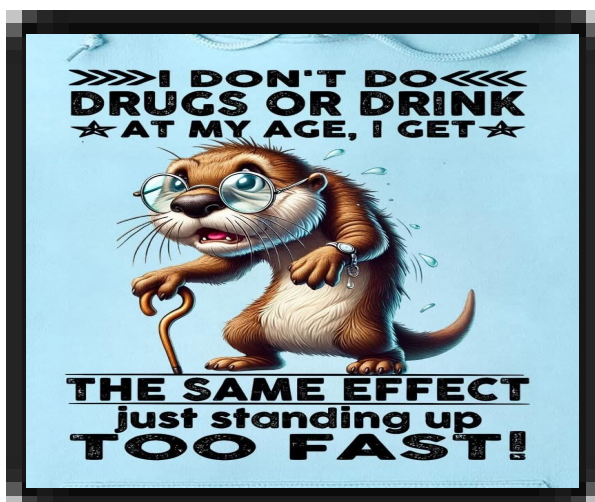


Car Show Chairman Report

Hello Everybody!! Hope your Christmas was joyful and you have received great blessings! Well Car Show Chairman. I will try to do a great show this year but only with your help. We will have a Car Show Meeting at the VFW where we meet regularly on January 22 2026 at 7pm.. Please attend and bring ideas, plans and suggestions. Thank You! As always look for how God has blessed each of us! Stay safe and peace be with you! Paul



Car Show Chair Paul Schmidtbauer
Email: paulschmidtbauer@gmail.com



Membership Meeting Minutes

December 11th 2025

Call to Order: Ken Pflipsen led the pledge of allegiance at the VFW #428. Paul Schmidtbauer called the meeting to order.

Approval of The Minutes: Todd Whitney made a motion to accept the minutes as written, and Dennis Klug seconded the motion. Discussion and motion was carried.

President: Paul Schmidtbauer has nothing at this time.

Vice President: Ralph Anderson was absent. Ralph asked Paul to pass along that we still need a nomination for 1st Year Director and possible Treasurer.

Treasurer: Bob Halliday gave the treasurer report for Bob Salmonson. Tom Erickson made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as given and Dennis Klug 2nd the motion. Discussion and motion was carried.

Secretary: Tina Holt talked about needing membership dues by January 31st or the members will be removed from the roster. Also, the club received a Christmas card from Stearns County Historical Society.

Car Show Chairman: Randy Marchand has nothing at this time.

1st Year Directors: Patrick & Seth Manuell have nothing at this time.

2nd Year Directors: Tom Erickson & Mike Schmitt has nothing at this time.

3rd Year Directors: Gary Anderson and Todd Whitney have nothing at this time.

Pan Car Committee: The Pan Cars are sleeping for the rest of the year.

Old Business: nothing at this time

New Business: Randy Marchand talked about needing someone to take over the selling of calendars or the possibility of not selling the calendars anymore. Keith Bauman and Roger Holt donated pop tops.

Card/Badge Drawings: Card drawing winners: Jerry Kreise, Lily Prince, Tim Goodner, Seth Manuell, Paul Schmidtbauer, and Gary Anderson. The badge drawing winner was Nikki Norenberg who was not present so the amount for January will be \$60.

Adjournment: Tim Goodner made a motion to adjourn, and Randy Marchand seconded. All were in favor, and the motion was carried. Time: 8:05pm

Secretary Tina Holt



Happy New Year!



Board meeting was cancelled due to bad weather



Secretary Tina Holt

A Few Precautions will Prevent Winter Breakdowns

In addition to annual maintenance, here are some tips to winterize your car:

- ☒ Test your battery; battery power drops as the temperature drops
- ☒ Make sure the cooling system is in good working order
- ☒ Have winter tires with a deeper, more flexible tread put on your car
- ☒ If using all-season tires, check the tread and replace if less than 2/32 of an inch
- ☒ Check the [tire pressure](#), which drops as the temperature drops
- ☒ Check your wiper blades and replace if needed
- ☒ Add wiper fluid rated for -30 degrees Fahrenheit
- ☒ Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze

Before You Start Out

- ☒ Clean your car's external camera lenses and side mirrors
- ☒ Remove dirt, ice and snow from sensors to allow the assistive-driving features, like automatic emergency braking, to work
- ☒ In frigid weather, you may want to warm up the car before you drive
- ☒ To prevent [carbon monoxide poisoning](#), never leave a vehicle running in your garage – even with the garage door up
- ☒ If the forecast looks iffy, wait out the storm; if you must travel, share your travel plans and route with someone before you leave

How to Avoid a Crash

- ☒ Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions
- ☒ Steer in the direction of a skid, so when your wheels regain traction, you don't have to over-correct to stay in your lane
- ☒ Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- ☒ Increase following distance to 8 to 10 seconds
- ☒ If possible, don't stop when going uphill

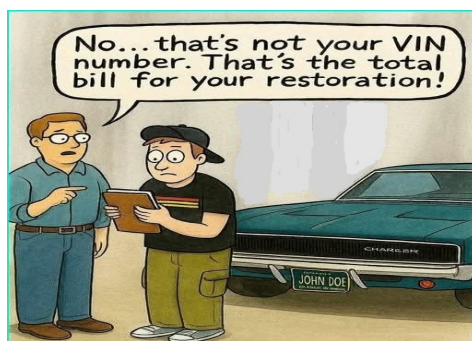
If visibility is severely limited due to a whiteout, pull off the road to a safe place and do not drive until conditions improve. Avoid pulling off onto the shoulder unless it is an absolute emergency. Limited visibility means other vehicles can't see yours on the shoulder.



For Sale:

- 1935 Pontiac 2 dr suicide doors, clear title. Rod or restore. 1989 E-Z Go 3 wheel meter maid. Cab. Box. 1984 Honda TRX 200. 1985 Honda Big Red. Kawasaki 3 wheeler for parts. Bruce 320-253-3589
- Like new, 20 Ford books, manuals and albums from 1903 to 2013. 763-639-5251 or 763-354-8523
- 4.0 amp, 5/8 hp 4 1/2 inch disc grinder new still in the box. Incl some accessory wheels. Bob Salmonson 320-393-4123
- 2004 Mercedes 500 Cik top does not go down -fix of for sale. \$ 5500 Matt 763-568-5640
- 1976 Honda Goldwing Mike Pelzer 320-249-5319
- Restored 1953 Plymouth Belvedere 2 dr ht and 1985 Buick Riviera, Les 320-393-2741
- 5 1/4 inch Mustang steel wheels and set of 4 full wheel covers . 320-290-0504
- 4 wheel scooter used at car show. Batteries 1 year old , red 2 mirrors, charger, arm rests, manuals. 320-630-4219 Paul
- 1928 Oakland Pontiac 4 dr sedan. 100 % complete. Flathead 6 and stuck, original dark blue patinaed. Needs one wheel wood spoke repair. Very straight, rust free \$7500 obo. Mike 507-829-3565

If you can't make the general meeting and want something listed before I send The Siftings to print (due date listed on front page) email me with your listing jzwilling47@gmail.com. I will continue your listing for 3 months or until you let me know it was sold or you want it renewed or removed. Thanks Jim Z.





Membership Form-St Cloud Antique Auto Club

Send to: P.O. Box 704 St. Cloud, MN 56302-0704 Dues are \$20 per fiscal year January 1st and includes the monthly Siftings newsletter (which can be mailed or emailed,) 1 Roster and 1 calendar. Mailing roster to you is an additional \$3.00. Mailing a calendar is an additional \$3.00 **Please Circle: NEW RENEWAL, LIFE MEMBER, CHANGE ADDRESS OR VEHICLES**

Please do not list my personal information in the club roster

☐

Names _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

For new members cars you own and for renewals mark any changes with a + or - sign before the car. Please include year, make, model, body-style and special features.

1. _____

2. _____



Pan Towners Spring Banquet 2026



Saturday March 28th, 2026 the Pan Towners spring banquet will be held at the Eagles Club, 730 41st Ave N., St. Cloud, MN. Social hour begins at 5:00 P.M. followed by dinner **at 6:00.** Registration must be received by Friday March 20th, 2026.

Make checks payable to: "St Cloud Antique Auto Club"
Mail to: Tom Erickson, 1151 15th Ave S., St. Cloud, MN 56301

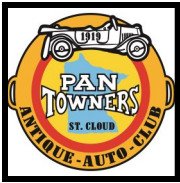
Name(s) _____

Worked at the car show _____ X \$10.00= _____

Area(s) Worked _____

Did not work at the car show _____ X \$16.00= _____

Any questions call Tom Erickson at 320-250-3206



St. Cloud Antique Auto Club
PO Box 704
St. Cloud, MN 56302-0704

FIRST CLASS
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Address Service Requested

The Pantowners would like to thank the following local businesses for supporting the collector car hobby

- **Minnesota Computer Systems Inc.**
- **Auto Value**
- **Napa—Central MN**
- **Dijital Majik Computers**
- **Miller Buick & GMC**
&
- **POS Professional Office Services, Inc**



Membership Application

St. Cloud Antique Auto Club, Inc

To apply for membership or to get information about our Club, check out our website:

www.pantowners.org

-Or-

send an email request and we will forward an application form to you

pansiftings@yahoo.com

Pantowners Media Email:

pmedia@pantowners.org

Facebook: "Pantowners-St. Cloud

Antique Auto Club"

Twitter: @PantownersSC