

Chicagoland PT Cruiser Club

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

New Year Greetings from your new President

As we enter 2006 the Board has been busy looking at ways to improve everyone's enjoyment of the Chicagoland PT Cruiser Club. We recognize that different members have differing ideas on what is important. The one thing I'm sure we all agree on is that we want to have FUN.

As we plan the events for the coming year we hope to offer opportunities for everyone to enjoy those things that brought us together as a club. We will offer a Spring local tour, 2 competitive car shows where PT Cruisers will be welcome and eligible for trophies. We will also have 3 "Cruise Nights", one North, one West, one South. We will have a Fall colors cruise. This will give us an opportunity to participate in one event a month from May to October.

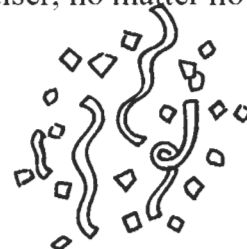
We are planning to attend one sponsored PT Cruiser event out of town. In 2005 it was "Meet Me in St. Louis". In 2006 we will seek your input on whether to return to St. Louis or try one of the other events Such as "Cleveland Rocks", The Wisconsin Dells, Kansas City, Niagara Falls or some other venue. In any case, we will decide by March and plan well ahead to make the event fun and well coordinated for the members attending.

The Club will sponsor a picnic and a Christmas party in 2006. The date for the picnic will be chosen as soon as the out of town event is decided upon. The Christmas party will be the first weekend in December and we will ask your input on Saturday vs. Sunday. By February we hope to secure a date and location so you can make your plans well in advance.

Finally, we are trying hard to keep the meetings as interesting and enjoyable as possible. The location and environment are important. We want to grow membership while meeting the expectations of our present members and possibly seeing some old friends return to active membership. The one thing that ties all our efforts together is the desire for everyone to have FUN with their PT cruiser, no matter how they define that.

We look forward to dialoging with you at the January meeting.

Sincerely,
John





CHRYSLER – THE BIRTH OF THE PT CRUISER



We all drive a Chrysler car, but how many of us know what started this great company and how did we end up with a PT Cruiser? Over the last couple months we featured an article submitted by Bob Repin. Bob and his wife Judy recently purchased a new 2005 Signature Series PT and they wanted to get some history about the company and the car. The following is the last of a series of articles . . .

Working at Maxwell Motors allowed Mr. Chrysler to again begin work on his Chrysler Six, and finally in late 1923 it appeared as a prototype. It was a truly advanced automobile with a high compression engine and four wheel hydraulic brakes. It was touted as having a top speed of seventy to seventy five miles per hour, only five miles per hour slower than the famed Packard Eights.

Mr. Chrysler was determined to see his car built. He decided to take his prototype to the 1924 New York Auto Show and display it with the Maxwell and Chalmers line to see if there was an interest for his automobile. When he arrived in New York, he discovered that the prototypes could not be shown because they were designated experimental and therefore not eligible for the show. Undaunted, he had an idea that would prove to have enormous repercussions. The headquarters for the show were at the Hotel Commodore. He rented the lobby of the hotel to show the prototypes of the Chrysler Six. Anyone leaving or entering the hotel would have to pass right by the cars. It was a giant success. Mr. Chrysler played the role of a salesman and managed to prove beyond a doubt that there was plenty of interest in his car by the hundreds of orders he had for the advanced design of the Chrysler Six. More importantly though, he had managed to secure the financing from Chase Securities to put his car into production.

In 1924 Maxell sold eighty thousand cars, thirty two thousand of them were of the Chrysler marque. Walter Chrysler went on to secure his interest in Maxwell Motors, he purchased the banker's stocks. Maxwell Motors Company underwent one last reorganization. On June 6, 1925 the Chrysler Corporation was incorporated with Walter P. Chrysler as the President and Chairman of the Board.

Jump forward to 1999, Chrysler Corporation surprised the competition by unveiling their new concept car, the PT Cruiser designed by Bryan Nesbitt. The PT Cruiser went on sale in April of 2000. It was a phenomenal success with waiting lists up to one year!

Built at the Toluca plant in Mexico, the use of innovative computer technology greatly reduced pre-production time and costs. This unique car could not have been produced without some very bold management decisions at DaimlerChrysler. But most credit must surely go to Bryan Nesbitt, who not only designed the car and it's interior concept, but also came up with the name PT Cruiser (standing for Personal Transportation). It is inexpensive, solidly made, well equipped and above all, fun to drive.

Finally the PT Cruiser has that quality very rarely found in cars nowadays – character.



Bryan Nesbitt's original sketch for the PT Cruiser