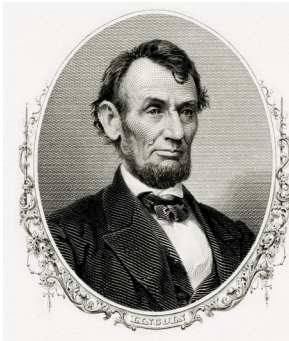


CRUZ NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026

The Official Newsletter of the
Southern Cruzers



**Abraham
Lincoln**



**THREE THINGS
TO CELEBRATE
IN FEBRUARY**

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S
BIRTHDAY, FEB. 12**

VALENTINE'S DAY, FEB. 14

**GEORGE WASHINGTON'S
BIRTHDAY, FEB. 22**

**WHO SAID THAT FEBRUARY
IS A DULL MONTH?**



Cruzer Merchandise

License Plate Plaques - \$30.00

Ron Willson 952-892-6081

Club Window Stickers

Jim Neher 952-435-3180

2026 Officers

Duane Barclay	President	952-894-3165
Steve Brehm	V. President	952-457-1333
Rose Barclay	Secretary	952-894-3165
Anne Thoresen	Treasurer	612-619-5700
Jim Neher	Membership	952-435-3180

CRUZ NEWS INFO

The Cruz News is published monthly by the Southern Cruzers Car Club of Minnesota for the distribution to its members. The views expressed are those of the editor & members supplying articles & do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Southern Cruzers Car Club as a whole. **Deadline:** The Cruz News is usually published on the website during the last week of the month for the next month. Items to be published should be received no later than the 20th of the month. Photographs may be color or black and white and must be accompanied with a description and photographer's name. Every effort will be made to return submitted photos. Photos and/or articles can be e-mailed. Note: not all articles and pictures may be used due to space limitations.

SHOW OFF YOUR CAR HOW?

If you contribute an article that is used, a small picture of your car may be published with it. If your car is not on the website, then I don't have a picture of it. (Pics will be used if room allows.)

Mail articles and photos to:

Duane Barclay
c/o Southern Cruzers
13018 Girard Ave. So.
Burnsville, MN 55337

MEETING INFO

***2026 MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE ***

January 8	July 9
February 12	August 13
March (No meeting)	September 10
April 9	October 8
May 14	November 12
June 11	December (No meeting)



**COVER IMAGES TAKEN
FROM THE INTERNET**

Southern Cruzers platinum "Summer Spectacular" sponsor



Apple Autos

It's different here.

*** CHECK OUT THE CRUZERS' WEBSITES ***

There is an Application Form on the MAIN website. If someone wants to join, they can just print it, fill it out, & mail it in with their check.

Main site: www.SouthernCruzers.com

Event Site: www.TheSummerSpectacular.com

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

LADIES' LUNCH OUT: Thursday, February 5, 11:30 a.m. at the Apple Valley Legion Post, 14521 Grenada Drive. If you have questions, contact Karen Keenan @ 952-758-9754.

CLUB MEETING: Thursday, February 12, 2026, 7 p.m. at the Apple Valley Legion Post, 14521 Grenada Drive

OTHER SHOWS AND EVENTS

TOPPERS CAR SHOW: Feb. 13 - 15, Sioux Falls Convention Center, Sioux Falls, SD, Shane @ 721-729-5712

O'REILLY AUTO PARTS CAR SHOW: Feb. 21 - 22, Monticello Berndes Center, Monticello, IA, 319-465-5119

TOPPERS CAR SHOW: Mar. 28 - 29, Veterans Arena, West Fargo, ND, Kevin @ 701-367-7762

GSTA CAR SHOW: Apr. 11 - 12, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Canterbury Pk. Expo Center, Shakopee, MN, 763-245-4334

PRIME STEEL CAR SHOW: Apr. 11&12, 9 - 5 p.m., Purpur/Gambucci Arena, Grand Forks, ND, 701-741-0220

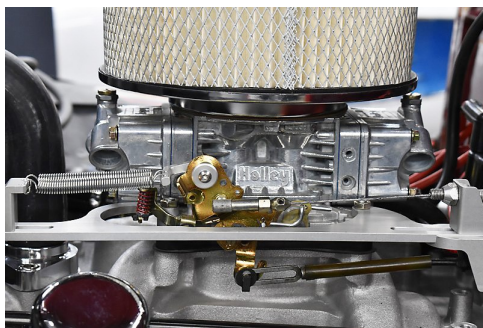
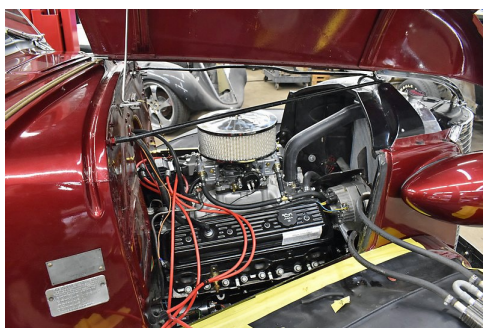
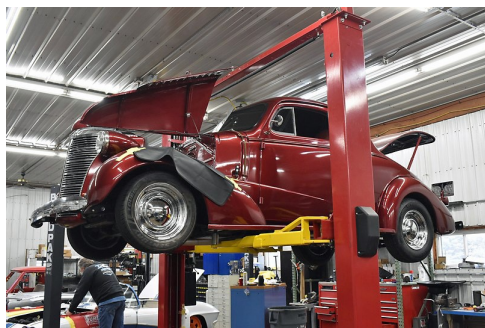
MSRA RUN TO THE HILL: Wed., Apr. 29, Breakfast at Joseph's Grill, 140 Wabasha, St. Paul, 651-452-4528

BACK TO THE 50'S WEEKEND: June 19 - 21, MN State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

EDITOR'S NOTE: Just a reminder: This listing is in no way a complete one. I just list the events closer to home that may be of interest to our readers, or are favorites with our members. For a more comprehensive list, go to Events with Cars.com, or find the latest issue of the MSRA Linechaser.

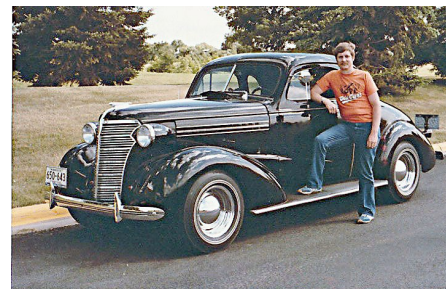
GARAGE SCENE - PROGRESS REPORT ON LIL DARLIN'S TRANSPLANT

If you have followed me on these pages over the last year, you know that my '38 coupe, Lil Darlin', didn't have a good time, last year. Engine problems plagued us the whole season. After trying many solutions and doing many tests, I decided to have a new crate motor put in to replace the one that I built 40 years ago. Now, looking back, I must have done something right to have it last that long! I chose Charlie Hyatt and his crew from Innovative Rod & Custom in Prior Lake to do the job. I am writing this on the same day that I would like to send this issue out (January 29), and Charlie will be bringing Lil Darlin' back to our house, this afternoon! Thanks guys for all the work you did to get her back on the street! (Fast forward a few hours. Lil Darlin' is back in the garage after being trailered over by Charlie & Tom. I drove it back to the garage where it will sit until it warms up quite a bit, and the streets are free of salt.) Photos by the editor





DUANE'S WORLD



Cold enough for you? I sort of forgot what it was like to remain below zero for the whole day. Thank goodness for fuel injection motors! Remember, 50 years ago when it stayed real cold for weeks at a time. You had a procedure for starting your car on a frigid morning. For my 396 Chevelle, I remember turning on the ignition and then turning on the radio to get the neutrons or whatever they were in the battery excited and moving again. After that, I pushed the gas to the floor, once to set the choke, and then pushed the gas halfway down to get some fuel moving. I stood a chance of flooding it if I pushed it to the floor twice. If all the planets were in alignment, the darn thing might start, and off I would go. I also remember a few times going out in the middle of the night to start it up and get it a little warm to make sure it would start. As I said before, "Thank goodness for fuel injection!"

After a very pleasant two weeks in the Bay area, we made it home in the wee hours of the morning after our flight was delayed 2 1/2 hours. That was before our cold spell set. We drove from the airport park & ride in freezing rain. (Welcome back to Minnesota, weary travelers!) See my article below to read about one of the highlights of our trip. Also, check out page 3 for my first "Garage Scene" article of the season.

It won't be long before we can start thinking about another fun season with cars. If all this new work pans out with Lil Darlin', we should have a lot more fun than we did last year. Stay warm & safe, and we'll see you out there somewhere. DB

MY VISIT TO THE USS HORNET - JANUARY 3, 2026

Hornet, Wasp, they're the same except for hull numbers. If you have known me for any length of time, you probably know that I was stationed on the USS Wasp aircraft carrier back in the 60's. Well, the Wasp was cut up into razor blades many years ago and is just a memory. Thankfully, the Hornet was saved and is now a museum ship at the old Alameda Navy base across the bay from San Francisco. I was privileged to be invited to come aboard as a special guest along with my family and spent an enjoyable afternoon crawling around the ship and telling a lot of sea stories to my family, who were quite impressed! (At least they said they were!) I think they came away with a better understanding of what Dad went through when he was just a 19 year old pup. Since our granddaughter who just turned 4 was too small to go aboard, she stayed home with Grandma Rose and had a wonderful time. Rose says that if you have seen one ship, you have seen them all. That's Frisco in the background taken on the flight deck with Rebecca, Marc, & me. In the left photo, that's little old me standing on the pier showing how big the Hornet is. Photos by the editor





MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – Thursday, January 8, 2026 - Submitted by Rose Barclay

President: Duane Barclay called the membership meeting of the Southern Cruisers to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Pat Gansmoe and seconded by Ron Willson to accept the minutes of the November 13, 2025, meeting as printed in the December Cruz News. The motion passed.

Vice President's Report: Steve Brehm reported that he sent out 2 hard copies of the last Cruz News.

Treasurer's Report: Anne Thoreson read the Treasurer's report. Ron Anderson made a motion to approve the report, and it was seconded by Keith Biers. The motion passed. A call for bills was made. Steve Brehm presented a bill for the mailing of the Cruz News. Ron Willson made a motion to pay the bill. It was seconded by Craig Duntley, and the motion passed. New income was given to Anne from Jim Neher for membership renewals.

Membership Chairperson: Jim Neher reported Club membership is 79 (135 total). He had up to date Club rosters.

Activities: Ron Willson reported that he'll be setting up the monthly Culvers get togethers.

Events: Rose Barclay reported that the next Ladies Get Together is Thursday, February 5, at 11:30 a.m. at the Apple Valley American Legion.

Announcements: Duane Barclay reminded members that Club plaques are available from Ron Willson for \$30. Judy Kemper reported that Terry Stade was hospitalized and is now at Good Samaritan in Maple Grove.

Old Business: Mark Peterson sent information to Duane Barclay that visits to our two websites were up in 2025 from 2024.

New Business: (1) Duane Barclay will contact DCTC about bringing the Club's charitable donation. (2) Tim Gardner again will do a video presentation for 2026. (3) Craig Duntley reported that the blue Club jacket is no longer available. (4) Ray Valdovinos brought up the idea of doing an 18 month Club calendar. (5) Jerry Baldwin spoke about the gatherings at Applebees in Eagan on Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and encouraged Club members to attend.

TSS Business: Ray Valdovinos reported: (1) Buck Hill is charging \$600 for the TSS. Ron Willson made a motion to pay Buck Hill the \$600. Ed Mueller seconded the motion, and it passed. (2) Paulie and Spitz will be the same DJ's. They are charging \$1200 and will need half for a deposit. Tim Gardner made a motion to pay the \$600 deposit. Craig Duntley seconded the motion, and it passed. NOTE: The sound system will be upgraded. (3) The date for the TSS (The Summer Spectacular) is Sunday, August 23, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (4) There was a discussion about raising the price for car admittance. Ray Valdovinos made a motion to charge \$15 for prepaying and \$20 at the gate. Dave Ritchie seconded the motion, and it passed. (6) Ray will be checking on the trophies. (7) A suggestion was made to have Club volunteers sign up for a shift rather than the whole day. (8) If anyone is thinking that he/she would like to co-chair the TSS in the future, it would be a good idea to shadow/team with Ray and Dave this year. This would help to make a seamless transition.

The next meeting will be at the Apple Valley American Legion Post 1776, on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Ron Willson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Ray Valdovinos, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.



SOUTHERN CRUZERS CURRENTLY IN THE HOSPITAL, OR CONVALESCING AT HOME



Terry Stade is recuperating.

There may be members we don't know of who have been hospitalized or ill. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Judy Kemper is the club "Sunshine Lady." Please let her know of any member in the hospital, or suffering the loss of an immediate family member. Judy's phone number is: 952-322-5819.



BIRTHDAYS



February 2, Joy Evans (Aus)
 February 2, Jimmie Jansma
 February 2, Aimee Dagen
 February 3, Laurie Anderson
 February 5, Craig Duntley
 February 10, Carl Weiberg
 February 12, Patrick Gansmoe
 February 12, Kerri Lockwood
 February 15, Elaine Anderson

February 16, Ron Willson
 February 16, Susan Opp
 February 19, Ron Anderson



ANNIVERSARIES



Jack & Karen Keenan, February 3, 1967, 59 years
 Steven & Trudy Hegge, February 6, 1982, 44 years

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL ON
 YOUR SPECIAL DAY!**

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

There are 79 (135) paid members so far this year.

Just a reminder that Jim Neher has up to date rosters and Club window stickers.

GARAGE SCENE ARTICLES NEEDED

If you read my garage scene article on page 3, I am looking to do similar articles on a car project you may have in the works. If you do, let me know and we can do something that would be of interest to our readers. If you are unsure of your photography skills, I would gladly come over with my camera to get some photos and a story. Speaking of cameras, I finally decided to trade in my old Box Brownie camera that I have bragged about for so many years and replaced it with a Kodak Instamatic camera with a rotating flash cube that will take 4 shots before reloading. It's a beauty!

I'll be waiting to hear from you!

**I'M BORED.
 I THINK I'LL GO TO THE MALL,
 FIND A GREAT PARKING SPOT
 AND SIT IN MY CAR WITH THE
 REVERSE LIGHTS ON.**



CHECK OUT APPLE AUTO'S WEBSITE TO FIND THE LATEST SPECIALS, OR ACCESS THEIR SITE FROM THE SOUTHERN CRUZER WEBSITE. REMEMBER, IF YOU BUY A CAR, TIRES, PARTS, OR HAVE SERVICING DONE, DON'T FORGET TO TELL THEM YOU ARE A SOUTHERN CRUZER.



Cruzer Calendar, February, 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 GROUNDHOG DAY	3 Cuss out the groundhog like you do every year!	4	5 LADIES' LUNCH OUT 11:30 A.M. (SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS)	6	7
8	9	10 MSRA BOARD MEETING 7 p.m. Hampton Inn I-694 & Lexington Shoreview, MN	11	12 CLUB MEETING 7 p.m. Apple Valley Legion Post 1776 ABE LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY
15	16 PRESIDENTS' DAY	17	18 ASH WEDNESDAY	19	20	21
22 GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY	23	24	25	26	27	28

CLUB EVENTS

CONTACT PEOPLE

Karen Keenan (Ladies' Night Out) 952-758-9754
 Judy Kemper (Sunshine Lady) 952-322-5819
 Ron Willson (Savage Culver's information) 952-892-6081

OTHER EVENTS

CRUISE NIGHTS