

Nutz Letter

Fordnutz Cougar club is dedicated to the preservation of all Cougars and "Orphan" Ford and Mercury Vehicles

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Fordnutz is affiliated with the
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Please send your articles for the Nutz Letter C/O the club address.
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Feb 15th, 2004



The Fordnutz club display as part of the larger Ford Car Club Council display that took up almost one fifth of the entire Tradex centre.

2003-Fordnutz Year In Review

Story by Heather Whitaker. Photos by Heather Whitaker, Robert Nowland, Debbie Blackburn, and Judi Kidner.

January 2003 started out great with the Friesens acquisition of the Hadlands old 73 XR-7 convertible. Then things took a turn when Vera Ferguson was diagnosed in late January with cancer, just after she had stepped down from her Treasurer's position. It was also a rough start for me when my husband Brad passed away in **February**. Not only did I lose my partner of thirty years, but the club lost a very enthusiastic, productive member of its ranks. The vast number of friends and classic cars attending Brad's service was a terrific tribute to our past Membership Director. Scott

added a new vehicle to his garage in **March**, the now familiar red 89 supercharged Cougar. **April** seemed to herald the beginning of the "show season" when some of our members travelled to Port Angeles, Washington for the Mustangs and Cougars at the Courthouse show. Scott Ferguson and Jeff Bingaman won prizes for their rides and although catless, Alan Haaland and the Gehlhaars were in attendance. Later that same month, Fordnutz participated in the BC Classic & Custom Car Show at the Tradex in Abbotsford as part of the Ford Car Club Council display. Scott Ferguson, Grant Hadland, Terry Robertson and Steve Slusarenko entered vehicles which aided the Council in winning the \$500 first prize.

Scott added to his garage again in **May** when he hauled "Dad" (Don Wicklund) along to pick up a 68 XR-7-G which looks very much like his other 68 being Augusta green with a Saddle interior. Alex and Carla Bronevitch were the sole Fordnutz participants in the annual Sockeye Run at Steveston, as weather was "inclement" to put it mildly. In recognition of Ford's 100th birthday, Scott was asked by Chris Banks of Ford of Canada in Oakville, Ontario to help secure several vehicles to best represent the diverse production of the company over the past century. So in early **June**, Scott and Mark Gaz-

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Ford Centennial celebration at the Pan Pacific

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zola joined representatives from the other FCCC member clubs to put on a fantastic display at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre (Pan Pacific). The following weekend, the local Ford offices in Langley hosted a small show 'n' shine and barbecue then it was Old Car Sunday in the Park at Mission. The Friesens, Hadlands, Al Gibson, Don Wicklund, Ron Stewart and el Presidente were among the 1150 who showed their cars. The month, packed with car events, ended with the first annual FCCC Gold Rush Run. There were plenty of participants on the cruise which took in stops at Dendoff Springs, Langley's Travellers Hotel and progressed along Old Yale Road all the way to Hope. They got together for lunch, door prizes and even a Strawberry Tea Festival before the skies opened up and sent convertible owners scrambling to get the tops up. **July** was another busy month, beginning with a Canada Day celebration in Langley. The Big M show at Steveston Park followed the next weekend, then successive shows in Victoria, New Westminster, Renton

(Washington) and even a small event at Nat Bailey Stadium. The Ford dealers treated us to a ball game, BBQ lunch and even a wedding on the mound, all for simply bringing out our classic cars. The 4th annual Royal City show was again a big success with over 400 vehicles, a poker run and something for everyone. Scott Ferguson, Alan Haaland, the Bingamans, Gehlhaars, Pinkertons, Saunders and I made the trip to the Cascade Club's Prowl this year. Those of us who attended the social events prior to show day were rewarded with terrific hospitality at the Pinkertons' home in Snohomish and at the Anders' annual BBQ. All our members came home with hardware except Scott (better luck next year, big guy). While we were south of the border, the Bronevitches, Edwards, Terry Robertson and Lorne Pirson attended the CFFCC show (which I call the Falcon show, for brevity) and most won awards. On



Much of the activity was centred around the automotive shop as the Pinkertons held an open house before the Cascade Prowl show.

a sadder note, Vera Ferguson's health took a downturn and she went into hospital where she rallied and kept nurses and visitors entertained almost daily. By **August**, we felt we had the weather gods on our side as evidenced by the hot, sunny day of the Totem T-Bird show. Al & Joan Gibson brought out their new acquisition, a 64 T-Bird convertible and Alex Bronevitch brought the 91 Cougar rather than "Big Red", but as I remain totally infatuated with my 69 XR-7 convertible, "Old Yeller" and I will continue to be a couple. The annual BC Day Hallmark Ford show was again filled to capacity. Several members braved the summer heat to attend and came away with trophies and lots of door prizes. Our noble leader suffered the indignities of a surprise 40th birthday party to begin Claw-In weekend. Then, in direct contravention of his edict that the event is to always be sunny and warm, the weather gods visited rain and chilly temperatures upon us. The Saturday cruise turned into a "car-pooling" event, but it was a great outing which progressed into a car detailing party in the hotel's underground parking then dinner at the ABC Restaurant and a swimming "frolic" at the hotel's indoor pool. The Sunday show began cool and overcast,



Several Fordnutz members discuss the weather at the Fordnutz Claw In in August.



The Great A&W Root Bear poses in front of Heather's convertible at the Galaxie show.

but the day warmed up by the time of the awards. It was a day filled with special events. Vera Ferguson was able to attend the show for a short time visiting with her many friends from all over the Pacific Northwest, the Gehlhaars were presented with a gift for their wedding anniversary and I awarded Jeff Bingaman the first annual Fordnutz Memorial Award in honour of Brad. On Sunday, August 17th, the A&W Root Bear suffered under a scorching sun to provide some PR for the Galaxie Club's show at the Port Coquitlam restaurant. The Bronevitches, Slusarenkos, Gazzolas, Terry Robertson and I brought our

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cars, and other members swung by just to schmooze and offer support for this first annual (we hope) show. One of the North American premier events took place the first weekend in **September**. The Langley Good Times Cruise-in began on Friday night with a cruise and private party at the Hillcrest Drive-in. There was a terrific collection of rods and classics on site to woo the masses before they settled into their lawn chairs to



Fordnutz members enjoy the sunset before the movie at the Langley Cruise In Drive In night.



Bill, from the Shelby club, hugging up a storm.

watch the movie and fill up with junk food in good '60's fashion. The actual show on Saturday boasted over 2000 vehicles and countless thousands of onlookers who thoroughly enjoyed the day until thunder, lightning and heavy rains began to chase everyone home. Sunday, most of our crew abandoned the valley for the beach at Spanish Banks where the GVMA All Pony Roundup was held. Again, the day began with showers and cool temperatures, but hugs and kisses from one Shelby club member in particular, warded off the discomfort until the sun



Sun, food, and fun was enjoyed by all at the annual Fordnutz BBQ.

came out. One of the last events of the year was our Indian Summer Fun Run on the 14th. Most of the 22 participants abandoned their classic vehicles in favour of their daily drivers to tour the Fraser Valley in pursuit of the perfect poker hand. Following the awards, a number of feisty Fordnutz were off to the Hadlands in White Rock for a potluck dinner where Kim Friesen presided over the BBQ and everyone overindulged with great enthusiasm. Unfortunately, on the 25th we lost our dear friend Vera Ferguson. She has left our club quite a legacy in her volumes of notes

and instructions which those of us on the front lines find indispensable for planning our various events. **October** and **November** were nearly devoid of events in our area, but the planning has already started for 2004, which incidentally is the 100th anniversary for Ford of Canada. November 22nd was Fordnutz annual Christmas party which this year was held at the Giggle Dam Dinner Theatre in Port Coquitlam. This was a terrific departure from the usual dinner/dance and the entertainment was totally "off the wall". Because the entertainers interact with the guests, Kim Friesen and Scott Ferguson were put on the spot, under the spotlight to "perform" providing hilarious insight into their particular talents. **December** saw Scott giving himself an early Christmas present in the form of a 95 Ford Ranger Pickup. As parking spots are beginning to become an issue



The Christmas party at the Giggle Dam was Dam funny. Kim participated in a skit involving quarters and Scott later portrayed a snow flake.

at his residence, perhaps there's someone out there who'd love to take the 89 S/C Cougar and/or the 68 XR-7 off his hands (for a reasonable price, of course). So now, as you read this, the Festive Season is behind us and it's time to begin sprucing up those steel beauties for the new show season and start all over again. Hope to get those familiar faces out this year as well as perhaps some new ones. See you soon!