

Colonial Region 50th Charter Anniversary

The story of the Colonial Region of the Plymouth Owners Club.

The *Plymouth Club* was founded in 1957, under the name ; Plymouth 4 cylinder Owners Club. The earliest Plymouth rolled off the production floor July 1928 as a Model U. Our club has one of the earliest Plymouth 1930U rumble seat coupes owned by Steve Varhol. It's beautiful, in excellent condition, and is the recipient of numerous first place Trophies. It will celebrate it's 100th birthday in 2030. Check it out.

With the improvement of engines, in 1958/1959 , the club changed it's name to the Plymouth 4 & 6 cylinder Owners Club, then in 1989 to the 4,6,and 8 cylinder owners club , before the eventual name became the Plymouth Owners Club , Inc. in 1990. Plymouth car production was discontinued in 2002 , with the Prowler as the final model in the US. The Neon was a close second.

There was no regional club in the Northeast area at that time , only national Plymouth owners/members.

In 1974, Ed Bock, from Ashley falls, sent a letter to several 4 and 6 cylinder Plymouth car owners to see if there was any interest in either a Northeast or New England Region . Several owners were excited and all were interested. So they had a meeting in July and began to organize a club. It was called the Colonial Region 4 and 6 cylinder Plymouth Club . They chose the first officers.

Andy Weiman was elected to President.

Ed Bock , Vice President

Dominic Russo , Treasurer

Eleanor Bock , secretary

The new club applied to the National POC for a Charter. The Charter was accepted and became official in November of 1974.

The club did well until 1976 when Andy Weiman was elected to the National Board of Directors. Things gradually fell apart and the club floundered for a few years.

Then in 1981, Warren Richardson decided to reorganize the club and he became the club's second president. The club expanded and membership grew from MA, NY, NJ, CT ,ME,NH, VT. and RI. The club updated the name and became the Colonial Region Plymouth Owners Club. No new charter was officially needed.

Due to health reasons in 1990, Warren gave up the presidency and Betty Kibbe was elected the third president of the Colonial Region in 1991. The club was very active during Betty's tenure and enjoyed many National and regional events , hosting 3 National Meets.

After 20 yrs, Betty was ready to turn in her gavel and Judy Whitman took over as President in 2011.

Since 1981, the club has organized 4 National Meets and 1 National Club tour, plus several overnight tours. Then Covid hit and all meetings came to a standstill, although we tried to do several outdoor meetings.

Judy has been trying to hold the club together before this era of Plymouths fades away just like the Franklin, Packard, and other older car club. Plymouth still has newer production cars of interest, especially the muscle cars, but the original and older Plymouths have lost favor with the younger generations, except for hot rods.

The National POC encouraged regions to organize up to 3 meets a year. Since the national club was so spread out there would be a spring, summer, and fall meet in different regions. Each region was encouraged to host a National meet once every 5 years.

The first club National Meet was in August 1989 in Sturbridge, MA under Warren Richardson's presidency.

This was the club's first attempt and was memorable. All went well until a hurricane came through and dumped 8 inches of rain on the area, flooding the parking lot and causing havoc. The water was up to the doors and several cars experienced water over the door sills. Our '57 Plymouth Fury had bubbles in the paint. Judging was a challenge but car owners are determined, and persevered.

The club acquired several new members at that meet.

The second National Meet was in August 1993 in Plymouth, MA under Betty Kibbee and was memorable because one of our members had his '41 Plymouth sedan run into by a motorcycle when leaving the parking lot at the John Carver Hotel. Ed Bock received the Hard Luck Trophy. We toured the Plymouth Plantation, Plymouth Rock, The Heritage Plantation on Cape Cod and other historical landmarks.

The third National Meet was in July 1999 in Hancock, MA. at Jiminy Peak Resort during Betty's presidency. There was a serious breakdown among one of the out of state members but Don Whitman came to the rescue and opened his shop for repairs, leaving one very happy attendee. We toured Hemmings Motor News main office and display area, Hancock Shaker Village, and Mount Greylock State Reservation, the highest peak in Mass. Don even managed to transport his restored Plymouth gas pump to the hospitality room. That took several strong members and was a big hit.

The fourth National Meet in August 2005 in Killington, VT was a unique experience since right up the road from the hotel was the ski area and it was still covered with snow. Since the hotel was halfway up a mountain, we were forced to do several tours by bus. That wasn't a big problem because one of our members, Jim Blakeman, was a tour bus driver by trade. He arranged bus trips to Ben & Jerrys, The Teddy Bear factory, and Vermont Flannel.

The judging was done in the hotel parking lot among the many trees after rain overnight. That was Betty's last meet as president because of her health.

The club has done many overnight tours : Rhinback Aerodome , which included biplane rides , a Hudson River cruise, St. Johnsbury, VT area, The Catskill State Park, Cape Cod , Burlington, VT., which was very memorable to several attendees who decided to take a quick side trip to Ben & Jerrys. Unbeknownst to them, the road was under construction and they were forced to go to a carwash before coming back to the hotel. We also toured Conway NH , including Mt. Washington and Yarmouth, ME, where we hunted everywhere for Corey to get directions to the lobster shack. We never did find Corey !

We've had lots of picnics that ended in hysterics because of accidents. How many times can you tip over the same picnic table at a picnic ? Turns out 3 !

And National Meets to other regions ? Always something memorable. We've learned it's better to go in a group and make sure someone in the group is a good mechanic . And with older cars ?, take spare parts.

And in case you haven't noticed ----- we always seem to include a stop for ice cream.

This history was compiled with the help of Don Palmer , Andy Weiman , Lanny Knudson, And the information in many Plymouth Bulletins.

Judy Whitman, President
Colonial Region POC 2024