

Pair-A-Dice Cruisers Car Club is still cruising after 20 years

By Jen Bakken
Staff Writer

By sketching a logo on a napkin in a Rockford bar back in 1988, two couples founded Pair-A-Dice Cruisers Car Club.

Twenty years later, Dar and Mary Lou Koecher of Rockford, along with Ed and Mary Larson of Loretto, are proud to say their club has grown to nearly 50 members.

This group appreciates all types of cars, from classic to new. Whether they are polishing their cars, showing them, buying them, or just cruising in them, they are obviously dedicated car enthusiasts.

On the second Tuesday of each month, the group conducts a meeting at the Choo-Choo Bar in Loretto at 7 p.m. But during the summer months, sometimes they meet elsewhere as they can't keep themselves from taking a cruise in their beloved vehicles.

The Delano City Park was the destination for the club's 20th anniversary car show. There were 267 cars on display this year, making it their largest event to date.

"We started by having the car show in Rockford but it grew too large for that space," said Mary Larson. "For the past 10 years, it's been at the Delano City Park, and it grows every year."

This year, there were 60 people's choice awards presented at the car show, as well as 11 special awards and \$2,000 worth of cash and merchandise given away in a drawing for paid participants.

The entry fee for show cars was



Submitted photo

The co-founders of Pair-A-Dice Cruisers Car Club, Dar Koecher, Mary Lou Koecher, Mary Larson and Ed Larson, originally sketched the club's logo on a napkin 20 years ago in a Rockford bar.

\$10, and the event was free to spectators. Beginning with registration at 8 a.m., the car show included entertainment by Pure Platinum, a pancake breakfast, lunch, homemade desserts, and a raffle, and concluded with award announcements at 3 p.m.

In June, as they do each year, Pair-A-Dice Cruisers Car Club met at the Delano Health Care Center to display their cars and host a picnic with residents and visitors.

"They bring their cars, assist in

grilling hamburgers and hotdogs, and give each resident a tour of their cars," said Kara Reiser, activities director for Golden Living Center. "They just love it."

There are many other events and activities the group hosts or takes part in, and they have also adopted a stretch of highway on Hennepin County Road 19 to collect trash during the spring and summer months.

"We always have fun," said Larson. "It's a social club, and we aren't just car lovers – we are friends."

Pair-A-Dice Cruisers always welcomes new members. Members are required to purchase a club jacket and pay a \$12 yearly membership fee.

For more information, visit the club's web site, www.pairadicecruisers.org or e-mail padcruisers@aol.com.

See photos from this year's car show on page 9A of this week's Delano Herald Journal.



Photo by Jen Bakken

Gordon Walker of Plymouth entered his shiny red 1933 Chevy hot rod in the Pair-A-Dice Cruisers car show.



Submitted photo

Annually, Pair-A-Dice Cruisers Car Club members bring their cars to show the residents of Golden Living Center-Delano and take part in a picnic.



Photo by Jen Bakken

Dave and Lori Goodwin from Dayton displayed their 1970 Plymouth Road Runner at the Pair-A-Dice Cruisers car show Aug. 9 at the Delano City Park.



Photo by Jen Bakken

Many car enthusiasts lined up for the largest ever Pair-A-Dice Cruisers car show at the Delano City Park Aug. 9. There were 20 gold awards, 20 silver awards, 20 bronze awards given, as well as many special awards, and \$2,000 in drawings for paid participants of the show.



Submitted photo

Donna and Darryl Goskey's twin grandchildren, Ella and Coltan Demars dressed up for the event.