



# *Cruisin' News*

February 2014

President – Clay Seachris

Vice President – Bob Schmeichel

Treasurer – Jayne DeBoer

Secretary – Marilyn Haper

Newsletter Editor – Susan Seachris

## *Oh, Warmth Where Art Thou?*

By Clay Seachris

President's message

These last couple winters have been filled with so many recurrent cold days and constant snow-packed, salt-brined roads that even thinking about a short cruise is not an option. Remember a couple years ago when we cruised on New Year's? Oh, where has that warmth gone? Why has it forsaken us? Okay, okay enough ranting.

As mentioned last month, summer cruise planning has begun and is pretty much finished. We'll host a couple Wednesday nights again. Be thinking of poker run game ideas. To alleviate planning and map making, we like to keep a similar, simple route every year where the stops located in nicely shaded areas. Seems weird to write this but because of the heat on a blacktop parking lot, we're moving the first stop to a park. We always receive compliments on the poker run. You volunteers do a great job and the participants seem to increase every year. Our other cruise night hosted is at Children's Home Society. They are looking forward to another Root Beer Float Social. Also, we are fortunate to have Koch's and Olsen's as members and they'll be hosting a couple evenings again. They each do a wonderful job of making everyone feel welcome and those nights are well attended.

Until those summer days get here, we'll continue to beat these cold winter blues and wonder, "Warmth where art thou?" We'll be doing it like we always do hot or cold, laughing with friends and having fun. I look forward to the upcoming events we have planned and working with you to make the rest of the winter and this summer as memorable as ever. The Siouxland Car Council website [siouxlandcouncil.info](http://siouxlandcouncil.info) schedule is being updated daily as car events are announced. As always, for online newsletters and lots of photos, go to our website [greatplainsstreetrodders.com](http://greatplainsstreetrodders.com).





## Five Years Start to Finish

By Bob Schmeichel

I have been into cars for 56 years, and I honestly believe it is the things that people do to their cars to set them apart from everyone else's that has kept my attention. Weather they keep a nice old car original without touching it, or restore it to better than new or radically modify it beyond all recognition, whatever the direction, has kept my blood flowing. I love seeing a car in the works of being rebuilt or changed along with trends that come into place usually making parts of the car better than it was originally. To me it is just as exciting to see a car as it is being built as it is when finished. With me building over a dozen cars and doing the majority of the work under my belt, I am always looking for new ideas to incorporate into my next car. A lot of the newer car or hot rod trends today, have evolved onto car-build TV shows so most people see only a shortened-up version of how a car evolves to its desired finished appearance and performance. There is

a ton of money and way more hours thrown at these TV show vehicles than people realize. This becomes a very misleading picture when a novice takes a vehicle to a body shop without an open check book. Weather it is a rat rod that is built for shock value, or a turbo charged muscle car running 170mph in seven seconds on the street, along with all the trends in between, they all have my attention connecting me to the people who created them. Even with all the different mind sets, it's the four wheels that connect us to a common thread and having fun in our own way.

Back in the 70s and 80s before any technology-advanced items or TV-based car-build shows, everyone in the area who did anything with cars, did it all themselves or at least the majority of the work. We would read about the trends in magazines and what we couldn't afford to buy, we made or built. The self-taught learning curve with putting mixed car parts together when building a car rightfully continues even today. I guess the challenge and determination are what keep it fun. In the middle 1980s, LeRoy Dyce, one of the better builders in the area, had finished up a black chopped top 1940 Chevy that people drooled over every time it was parked. Denny Heidebrink and myself included, were both heavily influenced by LeRoy's '40 Chevy, also. Both Denny and myself had already built Model A's as well as a couple '32 Fords. But the '40 Chevy had so much more room inside and were plentiful to find yet if you wanted to build one as well as cheaper to buy than other old cars at the time. So, eventually each of us bought one, me building mine in a more resto-rod way and Denny building his in a more radical rod looking way as LeRoy did.

Denny found his 1940 Chevy two-door sedan in Minnesota. Initially it was a complete car that had sat for 20 years. The former owner was moving to town with no place to put it, so it was for sale and Denny being at the right place at the right time bought it. After getting it home, he tore into it taking it completely apart right down to the bare frame. Denny had driven LeRoy's '40 a couple times and liked the way the front rode and steered, which led Denny to installing a similar Nova front clip. Denny wanted to improve the rear ride of the car by installing an independent rear suspension and wound up using a unit out of a early 90s T-Bird he located in Minneapolis. Next came the engine and trans. He chose a non-traditional 4.3 V-6 Chevy combined with a 4L-60-E automatic overdrive trans. His reasoning at the time for the combination was for power and gas mileage. Once he had the drive train in place, he threw the body back on the frame and proceeded to chop the roof 3.5 inches. Bob Shriever, a friend to every car guy in the area, stopped by and gave Denny some advice on how to approach cutting the top to avoid a lot of extra work. He suggested using another top or roof portion to give the added inches needed to enclose the roof. When matching the angles of the windshield area and the rear window being opposite, the roof got longer as it came down. He also suggested cutting the roof to overlap in a big "V" rather than straight across.

Denny made the comment he looked at the rear window area for days before he made the cuts, which eventually made the job a snap as far as welding the roof back together body wise. Then on the other hand he couldn't believe how much work was involved with shortening down the door tops and all the inside window trim pieces. To this day, he kind of wished he hadn't cut quite so much out of the roof as it is hard to see

stop lights in town from a normal sitting position without

bending over in the car. Initially Denny installed air bags on all four corners of the car's suspension for ride as well as raising and lowering it for show, and did it with his own engineering as there wasn't anything like that available in kit form yet.

Denny did all the extensive body work and passed it off to a friend to apply the color for him, which today is one slick red paint job from any view of the car. I always say a paint job is only as good as the body work below it, which says a lot about Denny's standard. After

getting the car together

and the wiring ironed

out, Denny hired

Bill Knox to do

the upholstery

and has been

driving it for

20 years ever

since. So, if you

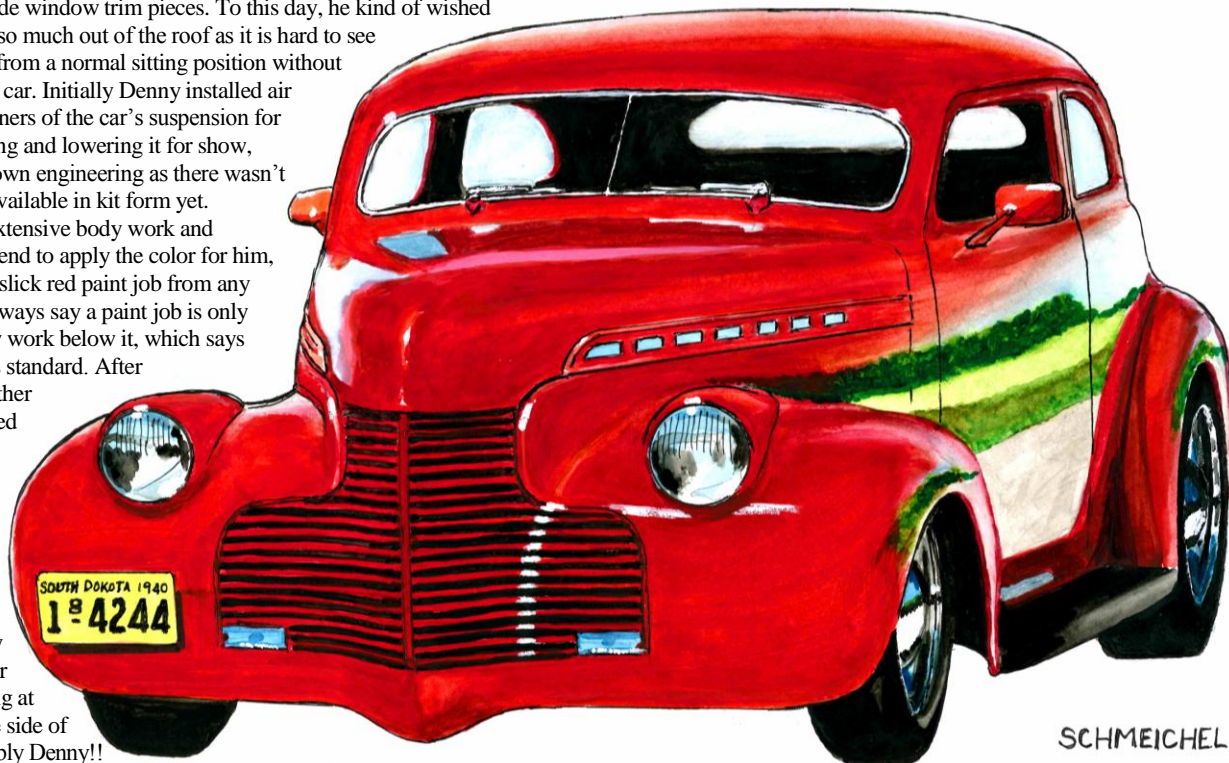
see a red '40 Chevy

with a rather sinister

attitude-look coming at

you on the opposite side of

the street, it's probably Denny!!



SCHMEICHEL 2014

## Sympathy Offered

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sarah and Derrick Stokes and their family. Sarah's father, Michael D. Schuldt passed away January 26.

The club sent a memorial on behalf of all Sarah and Derrick's fellow Great Plains Street Rodders.

## Weekend in Lincoln

March 1 is our annual trip to Lincoln, Nebraska, to tour Speedy Bill's Museum of American Speed, attend the Rocky Manginelli Swap Meet and do some shopping. We're taking over the Super 8 Motel again, (402-467-4488) under a group rate. Meet at Marlins, Tea Exit #73, and leave from there at 7:00 a.m. to travel with a caravan. The museum tour (\$5 special) starts at 12 p.m. this year and is open until 3 p.m. We'll try to take a group photo just after we get inside the museum. See ya there. ☺



## Thanks for Hosting

The Ice-Breaker Party at Mike and Lori's was a blast as usual. There were around 80 people there with room to spare and food to eat. The amazing thing is even though there were that many people, it still felt like a quaint, small gathering of close friends. The Bib Contest was fun and there were many different styles and interpretations. Thank you to Mike and Lori Paulson for hosting this winter blues beater.

## Local History '54 to 64

You're invited to a Sioux Falls Historical Society Car Club History meeting. Thursday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Old Courthouse Museum, 2nd floor ballroom.

Fellow Great Plains Street Rodder and lifetime Igniter Bill Kullander will be sharing a short presentation on former hot rod clubs that existed in Sioux Falls from 1954 through 1964. It will be 30 to 45 minutes with plaques and some magazine photos and articles on display. Feel free to bring items you may want to share with the group, also. The social club history and hot rod hobby is strong in this area. We work towards its continuation for another generation. Thanks, Clay Seachris, President, Great Plains Street Rodders



## Spencer Garage Tours

Old Iron Company is hosting their 12th Annual Garage Tour on February 15. This year's garages are in Spencer, Dickens, Ruthven, Everly and West Okoboji. It starts at 8:00 a.m. at Oneota Park Lodge (425 - 10th Ave. SE).

There may be a group of Great Plains Street Rodders going together. There'll be an email for more information.



## February Birthdays

(2nd half)

Morris Fick	17
Ken Buchanan	18
Ron Roe	23
Joyce Gough	23
John Matthius	23
Art Umland	25
Don Hood	26

## March Birthdays

(1st half)

Randy DeBoer	2
Kevin Kappenman	4
Vern Brown	5
Ken Bagley	7
Ken Levene	8
Lynn Hammerschmidt	8
Lisa Frock	13
Grant Geister	14
Les Ramstad	14
Don Jensen	15

## February Anniversaries

(2nd half)

Bob and Ellen Van Noort	18
John and Dianne Moore	19
Buck and Virgene Schrader	23
Rich and Melania Barnes	26
Ron and Maritta Husman	26

## March Anniversaries

(1st half)

Bill and Candy Sarris-Nelson	9
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## Dates Are Mid-Monthly

The two-month birthday and anniversary schedule is listed from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.





# Summer Snapshot Memories



Rick and Betsy Petersen's '55 Chevy and Butch and Debbie Yesda's '28 Ford staging for a cruise to Brookings.



Susan and Clay Seachris cruising Canton in their '65 Cobra.



Cheryl VanNoort cruising in her '56 Nash Metropolitan



Bunny Brady, Faye Gallagher, Lori Paulson, Debbie Yesda, Betty Jones, Susan Seachris, Candi Hanson and Dianne Boatright



# Great Plains Street Rodders at Winterfest



Terry Koch's '91 Ford Probe – 2013 Top ET Champion, Thunder Valley



Ken & Vicky Levene's '59 Ford Ranchero



Ron & Karen Roe's '56 Chevy Bel Air Nomad



Ken & Vicky Levene's '66 Cadillac Eldorado



Rich & Melania Barnes' '13 Ford Mustang GT California Special



Faye Gallagher's '66 Chevy Impala



Ken & Vicky Levene's '59 Edsel Villager



Mike & Deb DeBoer's '55 Chevy 3100 Pickup



Tom & Joyce Olsen's '63 Chevy Bel Air



Gary Ebright's 1963 Ford Falcon



Paige Stokes and cousin, Meredith, enjoying their time with Disney Star, Peyton List





## *Photographs and Memories* by Tom Olsen

I'm a car guy and veteran Great Plains Street Rodder from Sioux Falls who developed an interest in cars in the early 1960s, and that passion has been with me all these years. Each month I'll share a picture or two in the newsletter and will offer a short narrative on each for your enjoyment. While I'm primarily a Chevy guy, I'll do my best to mix things up a bit so everyone sees something they might enjoy.



### **Arnie's '68 Firebird**

Arnie Tofteland was General Manager and VP at Schoon Motors, in Luverne, MN, before his untimely death in 1989. He was killed in a plane crash with three other prominent area businessmen en route to the Indy 500 that year. Arnie was a serious Pontiac drag racer and was extremely competitive with his Pontiacs for many years. This is Arnie's 1968 Firebird at Thunder Valley Dragways in 1968 or '69. This car had the 400 ci engine and 4-speed trans. (Horsepower was 335 for the Ram Air or 340 for the mid-year Ram Air II.) Arnie's son, Troy, tells me the car was special ordered with all insulation and sound deadener deleted to keep the car as light as possible. Being in the business, I'm sure Arnie specified many other performance features on the car as well. The car ran 12.40's on the day of this picture; I don't see a class specified but it was probably around C/Stock. Arnie drove several other dominant Pontiacs over the years and enjoyed success at many national events. He was always a treat to watch race, unless you were in the other lane...

## *Meet-n-Eat Schedule*

Every October, Great Plains Street Rodders transition to a supper social club. Hot rods optional. Please join us. Many of these gatherings have special group rates. Guests are welcome. We are a family-oriented club, we encourage the next generation, so children are also always welcome to all our events.

### **Feb. 12 – Valentine's Party**

Royal Fork, Private Room

### **Feb. 19 – Hy-Vee Deli - Sycamore**

1601 S. Sycamore, SF

### **Feb. 26 – Roll'n Pin Restaurant**

3015 W. Russell Street, SF

### **Mar. 5 – The Other Place**

901 W. 41<sup>st</sup> Street, SF

### **Mar. 12 – Buffalo Wild Wings**

2601 S. Louise Ave., SF

### **Mar. 19 – Pizza Ranch East 10<sup>th</sup>**

3809 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, SF

### **Mar. 26 – VFW**

3601 S. Minnesota Ave., SF

### **Apr. 2 – Crack'd Pot**

1430 N. Minnesota Ave., SF

### **Apr. 9 – Denny's at Flying J**

Exit 83, I-29, SF

### **Apr. 16 – Acoustic**

196 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, SF

### **Apr. 23 – Hibachi Supreme Buffet**

1100 West 41<sup>st</sup> Street, SF,

### **Apr. 30 – Harris Burgers**

106 E. Willow St., Harrisburg

### **May 7 – Dareo's**

2929 S. Minnesota Ave., SF

### **May 14 – Pizza Ranch East 10<sup>th</sup>**

3809 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, SF

### **May 21 – 212 the Boiling Point**

323 S. Splitrock Blvd., Brandon

### **May 28 – Lower Sherman Park**

805 S. Kiwanis Ave., SF (*Potluck*)

### **Jun. 4 – Terry Koch's Race Shop**

26846 - 469<sup>th</sup> Ave., SF

### **Jun. 11 – J&L Harley Davidson**

2601 W. 60<sup>th</sup> St., SF

## Classified Ads

(FREE to All Members)



**FOR SALE – 1947 Blue Ford Club Coupe**, 302 Ford balanced motor with a B&M 144, Pro-Charger, AOD Ford transmission, Ford 9" rear-end with Richmond 3:55gears, A/C and heat, P.S., louvered and flamed hood, painless wiring, stance is right, fast, reliable, tight Coupe. \$32,500. Contact Bill Kullander 605-366-1158 kullbill@sio.midco.net



**FOR SALE – 1970 Buick GS 350 Skylark**, Rebuilt 350, auto, posi. Bench seat and interior very good shape. Very straight body, small rust through lower right front fender and trunk. Needs headliner and heater core with box. Drives very well with super rubber and correct Buick wheels, trim and bumpers excellent. \$6,750 Eric Anderson, Spirit Lake, Iowa 712-380-4969



**FOR SALE – 1957 Cushman Eagle**, Restored to original. 8 HP, If interested call Keith Schmuck 507-227-1430.

**FOR SALE – Four New Tires** 600 x 16 wide white FORD script Don Hood, 605-261-4655

## Recipe

### Asian Pasta Salad

*From the kitchen of Judge Shannon (from the Ice-Breaker Party)*

- |                                      |                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 lb. angel hair pasta (cooked)      | ½ to 1 cup green onions   |
| 1 tsp red paper flakes (only used ½) | ¼ cup parsley, chopped    |
| 2 Tbsp vegetable oil                 | ¼ cup cilantro, chopped   |
| 4 Tbsp sesame seed oil               | 1 cup dry roasted peanuts |
| 1/3 cup soy sauce                    | ½ cup sunflower seeds     |
| ½ cup honey                          | 2 to 3 cups chicken*      |

Cook pasta and set aside. Heat both oils and red pepper flakes until hot, do not burn. Add honey and soy sauce. Mix and pour over noodles. Refrigerate overnight. Before serving, add cooked chicken, onions, parsley, cilantro and nuts.

\*Judge Shannon used precooked mesquite grilled chicken from Sam's, cut into chunks.

**FOR SALE – 1967 Buick Riviera GS.** Good running 430, console auto and posi. Floors good, as is trim and bumpers. Headlights even rotate. Body very straight, interior buckets vinyl cracked and brittle. Missing drivers door panel. No room, no time. \$950 Eric Anderson, Spirit Lake, Iowa 712-380-4969



**FOR SALE – 1933 Plymouth** Beautiful California Originated Hotrod, 350/350, Light Tan Leather Interior, Mustang Front Suspension, Street Ready, Call Eric Anderson (712) 380-4969



**FOR SALE – Chevy 350 ci Goodwrench Engine** only about 20,000 miles \$500 Call Doug 605-351-5599

**FOR SALE – 1981 Rolls Royce Silver Spur**, 79K mi, Lt. Blue color with Navy interior. Well-kept and maintained, always garaged and covered. Neat and clean. Never driven on snow. Looks and drives great. No accidents. Non-smoker. \$18,000, Candy N. 605-376-6252

**FOR SALE – 1989 Buick Reatta**, 3800 with auto, 106,000 miles on this good runner- just drove it from Princeton, MN (240 miles) with no problems. Good rubber, trunk looks like new, interior a wee bit faded. Headliner needs to be reglued (sagging) and needs a muffler. Right wiper arm bent. No room for winter. \$1,500 Eric Anderson, 712-380-4969



**FOR SALE – Shop Equipment**, Parts Washer, Sioux Valve Grinding Machine, Sioux Valve Seat Grinder, R12 AC Reclaimer, R134 Air-conditioning Reclaimer, A.C. Manifold Gauges, A.C. Vacuum Pump, Baer Wheel Balancer (spin on car), Metal Shaper, Niehoff Cabinets, Sunnen Rod Reconditioning Machine, Auto Repair Manuals. 351-5599



**FOR SALE – 1998 Corvette Coupe**, White, Firethorn Red Interior, LS1 motor, Automatic transmission, Z06 Chrome Wheels, Michelin Pilot run-flat tires (4,000 miles), ceramic brake pads (4,000 miles), new battery last month, transmission fluid & filter just changed, Transparent roof, Fully loaded, window sticker was \$43,769 new. Have build sheet, window sticker & dealer info packet. This vehicle has won many Corvette Shows in its class. Babied & pampered, very tight & reliable Corvette. At highway speeds 26 to 30 mpg. \$19,500, OBO Contact: Bill Kullander 605 366-1158 or [kullbill@sio.midco.net](mailto:kullbill@sio.midco.net)



**FOR SALE – 1951 8BA Flathead** with a Fordomatic transmission runs very nice. Call me, thanks Don Hood 605-261-4655.

**FOR SALE – 1947 Chevy 2-Door Sedan**, All original, Stored inside for years, Very Solid hotrod project. Glenn Walker 336-7070

**FOR SALE – 4L60E Transmission** 1994 Chevy, Completely rebuilt, \$650, Call Doug 351-5599

**FOR SALE – Five 14 x 5 GM Steel Wheels**, 4 3/4" bolt pattern. Clean, driver quality wheels off a garaged, original Chevy survivor that had little to no winter driving. \$50, OBO. John: (605) 334-2558



**WANTED – Old Carter WCFB Carburetor** (4-barrell) as used on many Chevrolets from 1955 into the 1960's. I'm trying to get a few gathered up so I can get 2 good ones built from 3 or 4 "parts" carbs. I'm not hung up on any numbers matching on these, so please contact me with what you may have laying around. Tom Olsen 759-6567

**WANTED –Water Pump Pulley** double groove for an F E block. Ken Levene 366-1698

**STORAGE SPACE RENTAL** 12' x 21' wide, 12' high inside, with one or two 10' x 12' upper decks, electricity, insulated, fire-proof, insulated floors. Also large 50' x 36' spaces available. Outside storage available. Surrounded by Security fence. Call Dale Aurit 334-5005 or 212-5949



## Ice-Breaker Party Highlights

