



Cruisin' News

December 2013

President – Clay Seachris

Vice President – Bob Schmeichel

Treasurer – Jayne DeBoer

Secretary – Marilyn Haper

Newsletter Editor – Susan Seachris

Surrounded by Friends

By Clay Seachris

President's message

We visit about the friendships we make and have within our group all the time. Obviously, as a car club, we bond on summer highway cruises, rod-run weekends together, car shows and at simple evening cruise gatherings. Then again the neat thing about this group is that we experience our friendships all winter long, too. Saturday in below zero weather, Susan and I spent the day surrounded by friends. The charitable morning began with Mike's and Lori's welcoming smiles at Driveline Service. We all compiled our charitable items there and enjoyed a morning cup of coffee and rolls. It was a quick hour of laughing and enjoying the company that was made even better when Santa Claus showed up. Then we went on to Children's Inn with the Santa. Terry Jellis always does a great job – he's so loving and inviting to everyone. I give him a hard time as he's in Susan's and my "Santa's-lap-photo" Christmas card every year. The time at Children's Inn was made even more special with Sandy Jones sharing details, orientation and a tour of the facility.

The Christmas Party began with socializing before we ate the delicious meal prepared by SD Achieve. After dinner the real fun started with the gift exchange game. As always, gifts were stolen, but friendships endured.

As a close group we are always looking for things to do together. Do you have another hobby or something you enjoy doing that we may all like doing together? Please share your activity ideas with me or others club officers. We have done many things through the years and are always looking for new ideas.

As always for online newsletters, go to our website greatplainsstreetrodders.com. ☺



Going Back to 1966

By Bob Schmeichel

I remember the mid 60s like they were yesterday. Anyone who was into cars then had a need for speed found in quarter-mile drag racing to see who was faster. For me that was big stuff and hanging around older guys who did that all the time gave me the bug early in life. I rode along a lot of times and if they couldn't wait to race in Sioux City, or the newly opened Thunder Valley Drag Strip, quick trips were made out into the country or even onto the interstate on the south side of Sioux Falls between Western Avenue and Minnesota Avenue. It was short and sweet and either gave you feel-good bragging rights or not. Anyone street racing in town found out it wasn't too smart and getting caught would yield a ticket that added points against your driving record. Having too many points could cause your driver's license to be suspended for six months to a year. So most who street raced went out into the country, did the deed quickly and left the scene to not draw attention. Most of the hot cars I noticed then were two-door sedan cars (all makes) with 4 speeds and 250 to 425 horsepower. At least that was what they claimed. The two-door sedan body style was popular among racers because it was lighter and stronger than a two-door hardtop car enabling it to take the twisting torque of some engines without cracking the body someplace.

In 1966, Tom Olsen bought a 1963 Chevy Bel Air two-door sedan from Stacey Snetsinger. It had a 300-horse 327 with a 4-speed trans. It was a pretty basic car at the time, but Tom was bound and determined to have fun with it. As Tom was telling me the story about the '63, he mentioned he was the seventh owner of the 3-year-old car. I said, "What was up with that?" He replied with apparently people didn't keep cars very long then, to which I thought was kind of strange. Tom admitted to street racing the '63 almost nightly but not without a cost. During the nine months that Tom had the car, he said he knocked out 18 rear ends, which has always seemed to be a weak area on 1958 to 1964 Chevy's. In order to maximize the 300 horsepower the engine had, Tom played around with different rear end gear ratios (4.11 to 5.38) along with adding slicks and always seemed to end up with the same results. The rear end would sometimes break and he would wind up fixing it alongside the road. When Tom wasn't out cruising around looking for a race, he and Joyce were at the Barrell Drive Inn having a snack, visiting with all the other car people in town, and looking like a scene out of the *American Graffiti* movie. Then in February of 1967, Tom decided to join the Army in a specialized field, so he sold the '63 Chevy. Tom and Joyce got married in July of 1969 and Tom was done with the Army in February of 1970. After that, life began as a family with having children and moving forward in life. Then in 1982, Tom and Joyce decided they would like to have the '63 back to have fun with again. After searching for the car through later owners, they found out that it was totaled out near Watertown years ago. So not being discouraged, the search was on to recreate a car that they had 15 years earlier. As a surprise, Joyce found and bought 1963 Biscayne that came from around Lake Poinsett. After getting it home, they saw that it had a little more rust than they wanted to deal with. Then only a couple days after that, Bob Thoen spotted a '63 Bel Air in St. Peter, Minnesota, with a for sale sign on it and told Tom about it. The next day Tom raced to St. Peter, saw the car and bought it. Although it was not the correct outside color, it had the correct inside interior color and the main body was in good shape. So for the next year, Tom and Joyce thrashed on their project parting out three other cars for the desired pieces to finish their new car to match the way they remembered their earlier '63. Tom put together a correct 300-horse 327 with a Muncie 4-speed trans, installed the combination then off to get it painted. As of August of last year, the car was 30 years old and still looks new today. Tom said he has driven the '63 to the Super Chevy Show in Indy 14 times over the years and winning Best in his class the seventh time out in 1990. Out of all the cars that Tom and Joyce have owned over the years, even with their 1969 SS 396 Chevelle, the '63 Bel Air seems to get more attention and remains a favorite piece of their past. Getting old doesn't mean we have to feel old even though our bodies are telling us different. Wanna race!!



Thanks Given

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, visits, food and gifts during Buck's illness.

Also a huge thank you for the great parade of cars at Buck's funeral procession. I am sure Buck was smiling. It means so much to have such great friends. The articles in the November newsletter were wonderful and means a lot to me. Thanks so much to Bob and Clay for those. It was greatly appreciated. What an honor to Buck's memory that he will be honored during the 2014 Siouxland Car Council Cruise Season. Buck Schrader Family

Sympathy Offered

We extend our heartfelt sympathy, thoughts and prayers to Clay Seachris and his family. His father, Marvin Seachris, of rural Oral went home to be with his Savior on November 16.

Thanks Given

My dad, Marvin Seachris, was laid to rest in a small country cemetery on a hill overlooking the prairie near his ranch in Oral, SD. The Black Hills are also in the background. Thank you everyone who shared condolences. Dad met many of you and knew, as Susan and I know; we are blessed with very wonderful friends. Clay and Susan Seachris

Feature Car Recipients

Thank you for bringing your feature car painting to the Christmas Party.



Sharing Other Interests

The recent day of antique and collectable shopping, wine tasting orientation and dinner was a big hit again this year. This day is great because you can meet with the group to do just portions of the fun or spend the whole day together.

There were quite a few that began the day shopping. Even more joined the crowd at Calico Skies Winery for a free wine tasting orientation. Later, even more joined in at Market Place Grill for a wonderful dinner buffet. Thank you Gary and Audrey Jorgenson and Terry and Sandy Peterson for coordinating this event and all those that attended.



Our Annual Party

We had 90 Great Plains Street Rodders at our Christmas Party this year. Garage art and signs were the hot gift items for the men. The popular gifts for the women ranged from crock pots to purses. It was great to see some young enthusiasts enjoying the evening. Our group is family centered and it is a joy to see more children participating.

Things that made the evening special were the Christmas music provided by John Matthius, photo ID processing by Mark Bowers, audio and video set up by LaDell and Don Mertons, decorating by Maritta and Ron Husman, Judy and Gale Horan, Ron and Karen Roe, and Jayne DeBoer. Thank you to the Christmas committee and everyone who attended and made this year's party a blast.

December Birthdays

(2nd half)

Paul Rollinger (<i>Happy Belated</i>)	1
Barb Schriever	17
Terri Reilly	19
Helen Jensen	21
Marie Rogers	21
Dustin Gronseth	22
Josephine "Josie" Bowers	24
Roger Corkill	24
Craig Nussbaum	28
Ellen Van Noort	30
Chris Johnson	31

January Birthdays

(1st half)

Tyler Swanger	1
Larry Gannon	3
Shanda Gronseth	3
Ike Wiese	5
Russ Tieszen	6
Glenna Burns	7
Jean Tlustos	10
Ron Husman	10
Beth Fick	12
Michelle Lee	14
John Lynch	15

December Anniversaries

(2nd half)

Mark and Lana Bowers	19
Glenn and Cathy Walker	19
Eric and Patt Anderson	20
Bill and Lana Kullander	20
Owen and Carlotta McKittrick	28

January Anniversaries

(1st half)

Steve and Helene Carlson	3
Ike and Doreen Wiese	12

Dates Are Mid-Monthly

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

Membership Renewals

You may send your renewal to Great Plains Street Rodders, Jayne DeBoer, treasurer, 1717 Annway Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57103. Annual dues are still \$20 per couple and \$10 for a single membership.

The Gift

By Karen Roe

It was the winter of 1933, and though his neighbors had very little, it seemed to Nathan Townsend that he had even less. Like all the other farmers of Kingston County, he struggled to support his family on parched land that yielded little more than a few bushels of potatoes. How could it, though, when for months, there hadn't been enough rain to fill a teacup.

Thankfully, the few dairy cows he owned supplied enough milk for the locals. The meager income kept a roof over their head and the banker off their doorstep.

Nathan sat at the kitchen table with his wife, Sally, staring pensively, out at the new-fallen snow. It's almost Christmas and things haven't gotten any better, he reflected, but at least we have something to put under the tree for Danny. Something is better than nothing, he reminded himself, but the thought brought little satisfaction.

"Where are you tonight, Nathan?" Sally chided gently, her knitting needles clacking a methodical rhythm. "You're a million miles away, it seems."

Breaking away from his reverie, Nathan responded glumly. "I found that old sled up in the loft today, the one Thomas and I played with as kids. I sharpened the runners and gave it a coat of varnish. I guess it'll have to do for Danny's present this year."

"It'll be fine," Sally reassured him with a pat on the arm. "He'll love it. You'll see."

"I hope so. More than anything, I'd like to buy that Sports Roadster pedal car that Danny drools over every time we walk by the window of Henry's store. Short of selling a milk-cow, though," he added regretfully, "there'd be no way."

"I know we can't afford it, but even if it wasn't so expensive, Henry would never extend our line of credit," Sally grumbled, "...the stingy, old curmudgeon," she threw in for further emphasis.

Nathan smiled at Sally's description of Henry Carson, "He has a business

to run, Sally. We can't expect him to favor us over his other customers, especially, in this poor economy. Besides, I don't think Henry's a curmudgeon. He's just a lonely man who's never been able to let go of his grief."

Sally remained silent. Everyone knew that despite Henry's vehement objections, his son, an only child, had enlisted in the army during the Great War. He'd joined the Doughboys to fight in the trenches of France, never to return.

A widower now, he ran his business efficiently, but dispassionately, with little interest in his customers or anything outside the doors of Carson's General Store.

"Maybe you're right," Sally conceded, "what matters is that we have each other."

Nathan nodded his head in agreement as they settled into a companionable silence.

As promised, the day before Christmas Nathan took Danny with him on a round of errands beginning with a visit to the post office and ending at Carson's General.

Nathan paid on his account, then motioned his son towards the hardware section where he intended to select a box of nails.

"Can I stay here by the window, Daddy?" Danny asked, still glued to a spot in the front of the store.

Understanding Danny's attraction to the window display, he allowed it, but cautioned, "Stay where you are. I'll be back in a few minutes."

As soon as his father stepped away, Danny withdrew a paper from the pocket of his coat. Hesitantly, he moved to the counter where Henry stacked an array of cigar boxes.

"Mr. Carson," Danny spoke timidly, "this is for you."

Henry looked up from his task. With a puzzled frown, he reached down and took the paper from Danny's hand. While he studied the simple stick-figure, Danny explained in a soft voice. "I drew a picture of me. I know you're really sad 'cuz your son died in the war. I thought...I thought, on Christmas Day, you could look at the picture and pretend that I'm

your little boy. Then, maybe you wouldn't be so sad," he concluded with childish candor.

Henry took in Danny's earnest expression. It was the first time in years that anyone had mentioned his son – the first time in years that anyone cared. He was about to push a "thank you" around a lump in his throat when Nathan appeared, charged his purchase, then shepherded his son out of the store.

Later that evening, long after Danny had gone to bed, the Townsends heard a knock on their front door. Peering into the wintry darkness, Nathan saw nothing on his stoop but a large box addressed to Danny.

To ensure that it wasn't some sort of prank, Nathan opened the box, revealing to his enormous surprise, the red, shiny pedal car that had been displayed for months in the window of Carson's General Store.

And so it was, despite the hard times, the Christmas of '33 turned out to be very special for the Townsends and for another, as well.

To those in the community, the changes in Henry Carson appeared gradually.

At first, folks noticed that his demeanor was far less morose.

Then, in addition to the perfunctory "thank you," surprised customers were asked, "How are you? How's your family?"

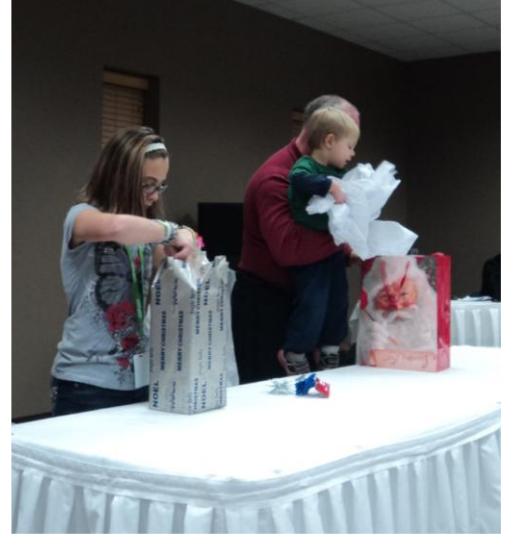
Perhaps, the biggest transformation occurred, however, when after two decades, Henry Carson crossed the threshold of the Kingston Methodist Church for the first time.

Danny's drawing remained pinned to the wall behind the cash register until Henry died. His store, then, was passed on to its new owner – a young, enthusiastic proprietor by the name of Daniel E. Townsend.

Townsend Mercantile expanded significantly and, after the war, became the largest distributor of pedal cars in the entire Midwest. Daniel Townsend made certain that, at least one of them, made its way to a needy child every Christmas Eve.



All FUN and GAMES at the Christmas Party





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.



A Nice 1957 Wagon

Ron Roddel (Auto Body Specialties, here in Sioux Falls) owned this nice, silver 1957 Chevy two-door station wagon for about a year in the 1967-68 time-frame. If I understand it correctly, the car was originally put together by Bob Norton, another Sioux Falls car guy who has since passed. This car had the dual 4-barrell, 283 cubic inch/270 horsepower engine that was available in Corvettes that year, as well as a 4-speed trans. This combination allowed the car to race in E or F Stock in those years. Ron has the popular Cragar S/S wheels up front and Goodyear "Drag 500" slicks are on the rear. If you look closely, you can see tow bar tabs just under the front bumper. I'm not sure where this car went from those days, but Ron went on to own and race the "Hairbender" Plymouth and is still a successful NHRA Super Stock racer to this day.

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.

Dec. 18 – Woody's Pub & Grill
900 S. Marion Rd., SF

Dec. 25 – Merry Christmas
No Meet-n-Eat Social

Jan. 1 – Happy New Year
No Meet-n-Eat Social

Jan. 8 – Sneaky's Chicken
4211 W. 12th Street, SF

Jan. 15 – The Cracker Barrel
2409 S. Shirley Ave., SF

Jan. 22 – Denny's at Flying J
Exit 83, I-29, SF

Jan. 29 – Rookies Bar & Grill
2616 S. Louise Ave., SF

Feb. 5 – Pizza Ranch – East 10th
3809 E. 10th Street, SF

Feb. 12 – Valentine's Party
Location TBD

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. 41st Street, SF

Mar. 12 – Buffalo Wild Wings
2601 S. Louise Ave., SF

Mar. 19 – Pizza Ranch East 10th
3809 E. 10th 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. 6th Street, SF

Classified Ads

(FREE to All Members)



FOR SALE – 1967 Chevy C10
454 Big Block, 700R4, 12 Bolt
Rear-end, Tubbed, Chopped,
Shaved, 4 Wheel Power Disc
Brakes, Tilt Box, Boxed Frame,
Power Windows, For More
Information Please Call 366-4883



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

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.

Recipe

Chicken Baseballs

From the kitchen of Susan Seachris

3 oz. cream cheese, softened	2 cups cooked chicken, cubed
2 tsp. butter, melted	1 8 oz. tube crescent rolls
¼ tsp. salt	2 Tbsp milk
2 Tbsp chopped onion (I heat onion and butter together in microwave for a few seconds to soften.)	

Mix together cream cheese, butter, salt, pepper, milk and onion. Stir in chicken. Separate crescent roll dough into four rectangles and seal perforations. Spoon ½ cup of chicken mixture into center of each rectangle. Pull opposite corners of dough to center and seal. Place on ungreased cookie sheet or pizza stone. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

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



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

FOR SALE – Four New Tires 600 x 16 wide white FORD script 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 – 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



WANTED –Flywheel Pan for 700R4 transmission (Chevy) need the metal pan for under flywheel, torque converter area. Along with **Stock dipstick tube& dipstick.** Tom Olsen 759-6567

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

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

