



Cruisin' News

May 2005

What Constitutes A Street Rod?

(a message from your editor)

In our first issue I offered a personal message trying to encourage club members to offer items of interest for our newsletter. I didn't get much. So this time I'll try a little controversy.

I have heard some conversations occasionally about whether or not our club should have some guidelines determining what kinds of cars could be included for membership and whether or not someone should have to have the "correct" type of car to be a member.

This likely derived from the long-running question as to what defines a street rod. Some would say a street rod had to have been built from a car that originated before World War II. Some might say it cannot have fenders. Others might say it has to have participated in racing (not necessarily legally). Then there are the really technical people who might say it has to have rear tires each of which measure in width no less than one-third the total width of the car, or that it has to have total horsepower equal to no less than 30 percent of the car's weight in pounds. Still others would say it could be any year and style of car as long as it has some kind of modifications.

Then there is the question of the car's age. There are many car clubs out there that require a car to be old. But how old varies widely. Some require as much as 85 years old, but then they usually call themselves a horseless carriage club rather than a street rod club. Other's simply require that the car be 25 years old or older, a rule that allows the addition of one later year's cars every year. Other ideas I've heard include placing a specific year for cutoff of cars, like it has to be 1972 or older, perhaps suggested by someone who has a personal dislike of the federal bumper requirements.

One thing is certain. A lot of different people like a lot of different cars of a lot of different eras. That's one of the things that makes the hobby so interesting. For almost every person involved there is a different type of car being driven, and many of those cars have personalized modifications. The Great Plains Streetrodders' gatherings have ranged from modified Ford Model Ts to the brand new Mustang and GTO, with a lot of variety in between. I think they are all interesting.

My personal favorite vintage are the cars from the 1950s. But I like a lot of the cars from the 1930s, too. And some of the cars from the 1960s and 1920s are particularly appealing, as well. I also find many cars from the 1940s and before 1920 interesting. And I must admit some of the cars from the 1970s and even the 1980s are beginning to appeal to me.

I like seeing the old cars stock, because of the history in the original styling and engineering. But I also find the history of hot-rodding and customizing cars interesting. Plus I find a lot of the individual designs and workmanship of the street rods and customs very interesting. I guess when it comes right down to it, if it's different, I like it.

Here's where you come in. What do you think? Do you think the Great Plains Streetrodders club needs some parameters to determine which cars are eligible for membership, and if so, what would you want to be the determining factors? I'd like to receive some feedback on this, more for my own interest. But who knows, sometime in the future this may become a real issue for our club, and it would be good to have some suggestions from members other than myself – unless, that is, everyone agrees with me.

If I get some feedback on this, we'll start a letters to the editor column with your opinions. After all, I wouldn't want you all to have to suffer with only my opinion each month for your sole intellectual stimulation.

Smitty 1 is the fast one

It's big and low. It's sleek. It's yellow and it's fast. It's David "Smitty" Smedsrud's 1980 Chevrolet Corvette.

When he isn't cruising in his 1946 Chevrolet sedan, Smitty is usually found in his 1980 Chevrolet Corvette. Each has a "Smitty" vanity license plate with the number 1 or 2 beside his name. While he likes both, Smitty said his Corvette is his fast ride since the sedan still has the old stock, stove-bolt straight-six engine in it – so far.

"The Corvette will go faster," he said with a smile.

Sometimes Smitty would bring both cars to car shows. He would drive the '46 Chevy while his recently departed wife, Virginia, would drive the Corvette. Some club members remember seeing Virginia shining the Corvette at a show as though she were competing against her husband's other car for domestic bragging rights. But as the 2005 car show season was just about to get under way, Virginia Smedsrud passed away, leaving Smitty to care for both cars.

Smitty has had the Corvette for about 3 years or so. It replaced a black 1979 Corvette he had that wasn't in as good condition.

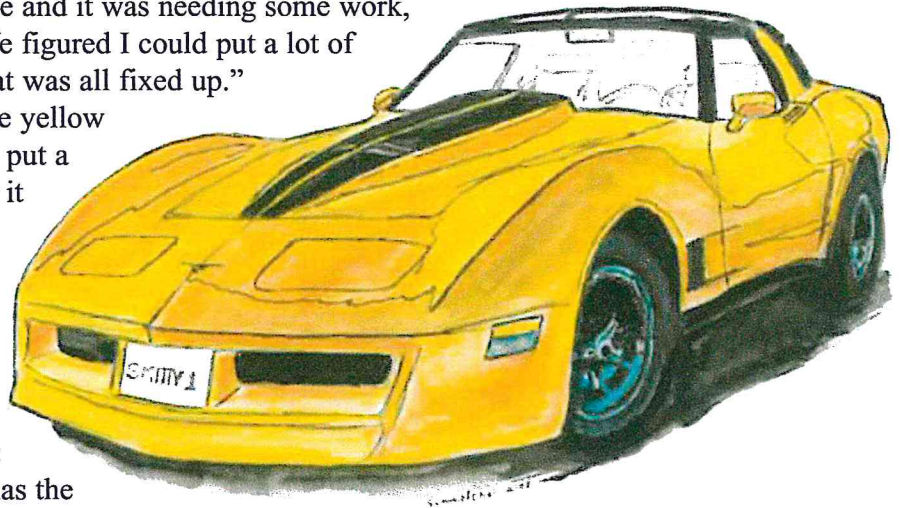
"At that time I had the '79 Corvette and it was needing some work, had hairline cracks in it," he recalled. "We figured I could put a lot of money in that or put it into buying one that was all fixed up."

So, when the previous owner of the yellow Corvette, who also lived in Luverne, MN, put a "for sale" sign in it, Smitty offered to buy it using the '79 Corvette as a trade in, and a deal was made.

The '80 Corvette has a Hi-po 350 engine with steel crank and gears and an automatic transmission. While many original owners of Corvettes wore out their domestic sports cars to the point that engines are often replaced, Smitty's still has the original motor and all serial numbers are matching.

As for the bright yellow color, Smitty said he isn't real partial to yellow, even though his '46 Chevy could also be described as being a very pale yellow in color. It was just happenstance that he ended up with two yellow cars. The Corvette was originally blue, but he has no plans of changing the color for now.

He has been considering selling it and moving onto other car projects, such as putting a larger motor in the '46 Chevy. But he likes driving it too much to simply park it with a "for sale" sign in the window. So expect to continue seeing Smitty in his '80 Corvette ... when he isn't in the '46 Chevy sedan.



Not Rained Out

The Beresford Rendezvous was not a success if you were expecting a large car show on Saturday, but it was a great success if you attended a day later than planned.

About 17 cars from the Great Plains Streetrodders participated May 15, even though it was originally scheduled for May 14, which was probably part of the reason more members didn't participate. It was postponed one day due to inclement weather.

"We didn't get as many as I thought we would ... but all in all, for the way it went, Saturday being bad (weather), I really can't complain. We came up pretty good," said Doug Walker, president of the Great Plains Streetrodders.

Some people who had planned on attending the Saturday event couldn't participate when it was postponed to Sunday. But next year Walker said he would like to see it originally scheduled on a Sunday to prevent any conflicts with school graduations that are usually held on a Saturday in May.

Members of the Spencer, Iowa, and Sioux City, Iowa, car clubs had been invited to attend, but none showed up, possibly due to the bad weather and then the sudden date change.

While many may have been unable to attend, those who did attend enjoyed themselves, which made it a success.

"A fun time was had by all the ones there," Doug said. "The weather was decent Sunday."

Due to the less than expected number of participants there was a lot of food left over, but negotiations are under way to sell the left-over food to the Siouxland Car Council for their next Grill Out. Once that is completed, the club will be able to determine how much money was raised. The funds raised will eventually go to charity.



Roger VanNoort, Bob Schriever & Don Jones visit by the grill.

Worthing to be Worthwhile

A cruise has been scheduled for the evening of June 10 at Worthing, SD. A DJ will be on hand to assist in the festivities.

The organizers of the event have asked members of the Great Plains Streetrodders to participate, to add flavor to the event.

Members of the club who attended last year said it was a very enjoyable event. It is expected to be equally enjoyable again this year.

A Little Bit of Humor

The Pentagon announced today the formation of a new 500-Man elite fighting unit called the U . S . REDNECK SPECIAL FORCES (USRSF). These North Carolina, Kentucky, West Virginia, Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, Texas and Tennessee boys will be dropped into Iraq and will have been given only the following facts about the terrorists: 1. The season opened today. 2. There is no limit. 3. They taste just like chicken. 4. They don't like beer, pickups, country music or Jesus. 5. They are directly responsible for the death of Dale Earnhardt. The conflict in Iraq should be over in a WEEK.

Cool Grills Gather at Grill Out

The Siouxland Car Council's first Grill Out was considered a great success, not just in the funds raised for charity, but in the enjoyment of those who attended as well.

"I think we raised more money at less expense to everybody who participated by not going to a restaurant," said Brad Goebel, this year's Siouxland Car Council president and member of the Great Plains Streetrodders.

About three dozen street rods, antiques and custom cars gathered May 4 at Western Mall and then cruised to Riverside Park for the cook out, which was the first of six cookouts planned by the Council to help raise money for children's charities while providing an alternative to the previous weekly cruises to restaurants. Goebel said 70 people were served at the Grill Out, and the Council made \$300 after expenses.

"For the first time around, that's what I was shooting for," he said. "We were able to have a successful Grill Out."

While very pleased with the participation, he said he would like to see about 100 people served at the Grill Outs, but there are still 5 more planned to reach that number.

The First Grill Out did have its challenges during the planning. The Council soon learned that they could not charge for the meal at the park due to city regulations. To overcome this, tickets for the meal were sold at the beginning of the cruise before going to the park, and then the tickets were exchanged by the participants for the food at the park. Goebel said this made things "a little bit more difficult," but he understands why the city has such policies to protect the public's safety, and he did not mind. He also said there were several people in the city to contact for permission to use a city park for the Grill Out, but part of that was learning the proper process for gaining permission to hold such an event.

"It was a major learning curve," he said. "I didn't realize we'd have to go through all the hoops that we had to to get this accomplished. Sioux Falls has a lot of rules and regulations."

But it was all worth it, as he was pleased with the outcome. And based on comments from those attending, many others were equally pleased. Many described it as "nice and relaxing," Goebel said.

For a long time the cruises involved going to various restaurants, and it seemed like that had developed into a race as people learned you had to get to many of the establishments early to get a seat and get your meal before the staff became so busy that delays grew lengthy. But during this time, Goebel said he noticed the more popular destinations were those with a buffet style and facilities allowing people to eat outdoors where they could mill around to visit with different people and look at the cars. The Grill Out provides this, plus the meal costs less than most restaurants, Goebel noted.

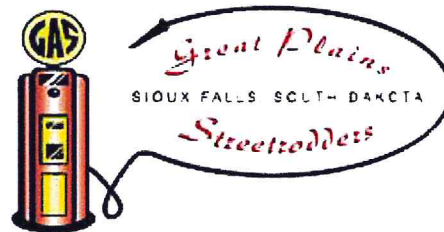
The money raised goes to several local children's charities, and Goebel said 95 percent of the funds stay in the Sioux Falls area. The donations are directed by the Siouxland Car Council board members, which comprise two members from each of 11 car clubs that are part of the Council.

If you missed this Grill Out, there will be more opportunities to participate. The next Grill Out is scheduled for June 1, but the location is again being kept secret until everyone gathers at the starting point for the cruise by Graham Tire in front of Western Mall.

Special thanks goes out to all those who worked on preparing the meal, as well as to Goebel and others who searched and found the correct path through government bureaucracy for approval to use the parks.

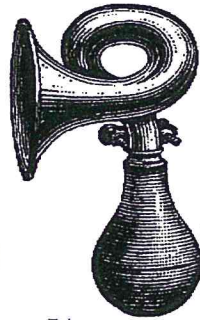


Grillmasters Kevin Kappenman, Don Jones and Don Jenson are being supervised by hungry cruisers.



Upcoming Events

June 1 Car Council Grill Out (location to be announced that day)
June 3 - 4 SDSRA Run to the River at Chamberlin, SD
June 3 - 4 Buffalo Days Cruise and Car Show at Luverne, MN
June 10 Hills Poker Run at Hills, MN
June 10 Worthing, SD, cruise
June 11-12 Brookings car show and cruise night
June 17 - 19 Ford car show at Sioux Falls Ford
June 22 Automania car show in downtown Sioux Falls
June 25 Spirit Lake cruise in at Spirit Lake, IA
June 25 Pipestone Water Festival at Pipestone, MN
June 26 Dell Rapids car show at Dell Rapids, SD
July 1-3 Goodguys Heartland National at Des Moines, IA
July 4 Lennox car show
July 8-10 The 37th Black Hills Rod Run at Hill City, SD
July 10 Norm Fey cruise-in
July 15-17 Milwaukee National at West Allis, WI
July 16-17 Special Olympics car show and cruise
July 23-25 The 25th Annual Canton Car Show in Canton, SD
Aug. 4-7 36th Street Rod National at Louisville, KY
Aug. 12-14 Old Iron Co. Rod Run at Spencer, IA
Aug. 12-14 Dam Run at Pierre, SD
Aug. 13-14 Pontiac car show and cruise
Aug. 14 Madison Car Show
Aug. 19-20 Ralley To The Valley at Rock Valley, IA
Aug. 26-28 Kool Deadwood Night
Sept. 2-4 Labor Day Rod run at Sioux Falls
Sept. 9-11 Vintiques Rod run at Watertown, SD
Sept. 16-18 Street Rod National North at Kalamazoo, MI
Sept. 17 Wheel for Charity at Sioux Falls
Sept. 18 Mopar Car Show at Sioux Falls
Sept. 23-25 Mid-Western National at Kansas City, KS
Sept. 23-25 OutKasts Car Show at Mitchell, SD
Sept. 24 Renner Car Show at Renner, SD



- Recipe -

Poppy Seed Bread (Makes two delicious sweet bread loaves)

By Grace Lee

Heat oven to 350 degrees

Bread

3 cups flour

1 1/2 teaspoon salt

1 1/2 teaspoon baking powder

3 eggs

1 1/8 cup vegetable oil

2 1/4 cups sugar

1 1/2 cup milk

1 1/2 Tablespoon poppy seeds

1 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 1/2 teaspoon almond extract

Glaze

1/4 cup orange juice

3/4cup sugar

2 Tablespoon butter

1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

1/2 teaspoon almond extract



Combine flour, salt, baking powder. Beat eggs lightly and add to dry ingredients. Add remaining bread ingredients. Mix. Pour into 2 greased and sugared OR floured bread pans. Bake at 350 for approximately 1 hour or until done in center.

Mix glaze and pour over bread while it is still warm so butter will melt. Remove from pans when cooled

Classified ads

WANTED TO BUY – 1988 Chevrolet pickup truck with 350 and 700R4 transmission in any condition as long as it runs and shifts. Call Doug at 605-529-5716.

FOR SALE – Antique diecast toy 1959 Chevrolet sedan in 1:43 scale, made by Corgi in England in the early 1960s. It is in good condition except for an amateur repaint by some previous owner and displays nice. First \$5 takes it. Call Brian at 605-362-1047.

FOR SALE – Toy Ford Mustang concept car. This Johnny Lightning 1963 Mustang II is a limited edition replica of a Ford concept car and was released around 1997. It is still sealed in the original package and comes with a button that notes only 20,000 were made before production of this model ceased. It is a great example of Ford Mustang history as well as an unusual sample of the Johnny Lightning line of toy cars, and can be had for \$3. Call Brian at 605-362-1047.

FOR SALE – 14-inch beauty rings and baby moons to fit Ford rims. This is a complete set of four, but one of the baby moon hub caps is banged up. The whole set will go for \$20. Call Brian at 362-1047.