



Cruisin' News

February 2006
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Amazing Cars Bring Out Amazing People

(shared ramblings)

Every month I ramble on about something in this column. So far nobody has complained about me taking advantage of this publication to try to make myself sound important. Maybe that's because I haven't successfully sounded important yet.

But this time I thought I'd share someone else's ramblings. One week during one of our cruises I sat and chatted with, but mostly listened to, Randy Ludwig. He has worked at the well-known Barrett-Jackson auctions for 18 years. He doesn't brag about it, even though he handles a lot of responsibility, including managing the parking of all of the vehicles run through the auction at Scottsdale, AZ., this year so the right ones could be easily found at the right times. But they keep him humble, too – he had to buy those Barrett-Jackson jackets you see him and his wife wearing, they didn't give them to him.

The first year he worked the auction he was on vacation in Scottsdale, and decided to see if he could get a job and be a part of the event. All he did was "look for someone important" and the first important looking guy he found landed him a job. Since then, he's gone back every year, and works some of the other Barrett-Jackson auctions in other parts of the country, too.

During those years he has seen a lot of things happen. And this year's event at Scottsdale only gave him more stories to tell.

By now everyone has heard about the bus that sold at Scottsdale for \$4 million. OK, it wasn't any ordinary bus, but was a one-off custom from the GM Motorama. But Randy got some of the inside stories on that bus, like the fact the guy was really worried he wouldn't get at least \$400,000 for it to break even on the restoration. And when he went to get it washed for the auction, he was quoted a fee of \$150, which he thought too high so he washed the entire bus himself. He'll be able to pay for a lot of car washes now with \$4 million in his pocket.

There was the guy who didn't like the final price his car brought in the no-reserve-only auction. So, as he drove it off the block, he picked up his wife and kept on going. Police finally caught up to him back at his hotel just as he was about to load it in an enclosed truck to take it on home.

One guy going through the auction saw a car that looked like one his father-in-law had. But this was no trip down memory lane. His father-in-law's car had been stolen, and the guy insisted the police be brought in to investigate, so sure he was that this car was the very car stolen from his father-in-law. Police had to search the car for the hidden serial number each car has, which usually requires at least partially dismantling the car. It was finally proven that the car up for auction was not the stolen vehicle.

And then there's the guy who's been helping out at the Barrett-Jackson auctions for 18 years. He doesn't seek any glory and doesn't even get paid high wages. He just enjoys being around the old cars, just like the rest of his fellow Great Plains Streetrodders.

Incredible Luck Got Them Their Custom Ford

Dean and Joyce have had their customized 1940 Ford since 1993 and are often seen running around town in it when the weather is good. But to get the car of Dean's dreams, they had to be in the right place at the right time.

Dean says ever since he was a kid he has always liked the customized hotrods. He had a 1941 Chevy to which he added Cadillac wheel covers and painted white walls, but still envied the ones he saw that had been chopped, Frenched and decked.

Fast forward a few decades. Dean and Joyce were on a trip down into Missouri when they saw a customized 1940 Ford 2-door sedan going down the road.

"I had seen it going down the black-top and I said 'there it is, that's the car I want,'" Dean related.

But as quickly as he had said that, it was gone, heading for its own destination.

Later, upon attending a car show in Springfield, Mo., he saw the very same car, sitting off by itself with a "for sale" sign attached. When he returned home, he was the one going down the black-top in it while Joyce drove their other car.

This custom two-door sedan is nosed, decked and louvered, with the headlights Frenched and 1959 Cadillac taillights Frenched into the rear. A few years later, Dean eliminated the solid front axle by putting in a front subframe from a 1979 Chevy Monte Carlo to accommodate a new 350 crate motor plus a 350 automatic transmission.

"She fit right in there," he said of the Chevy frame. "We didn't have to shorten it up or anything."

The car also features air conditioning and heater plus remote electric doors. Last summer he and his son put in a new sound system, finally replacing the old 8-track stereo.

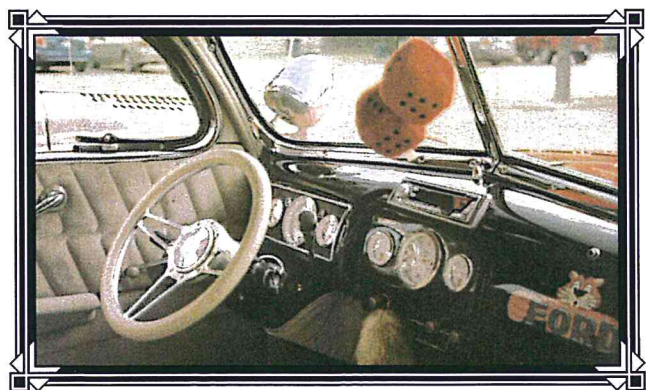
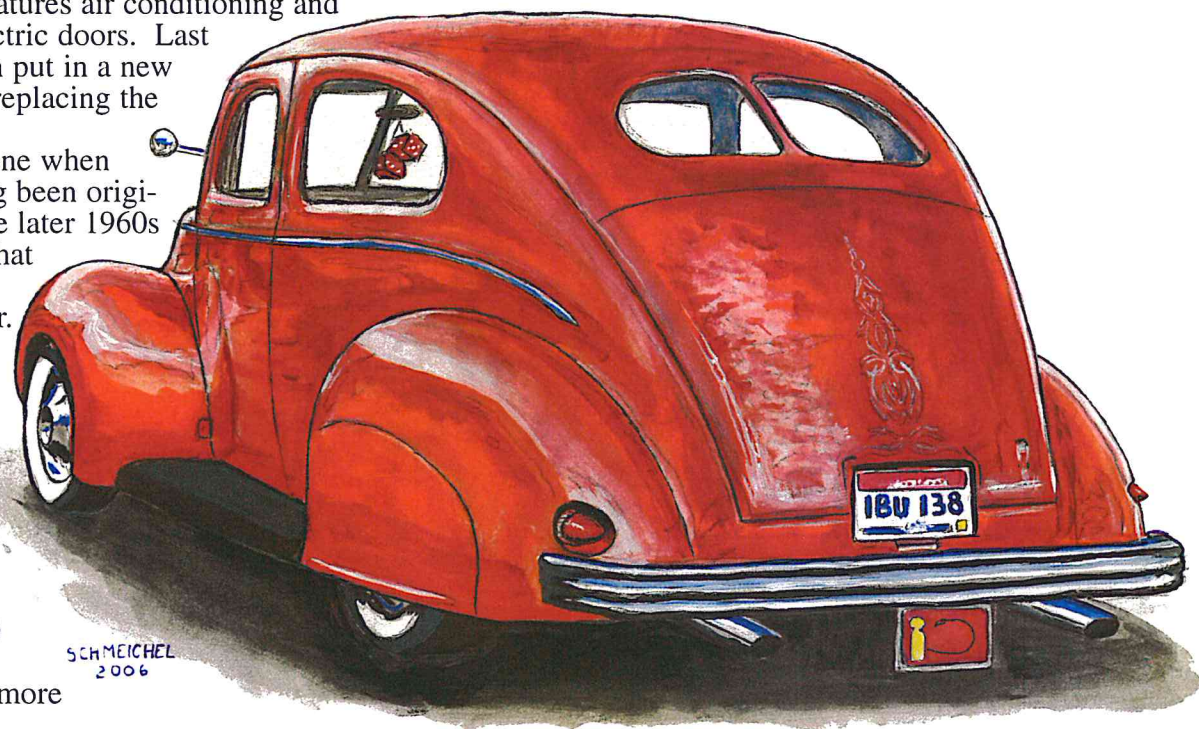
The car was mostly done when he purchased it, having been originally customized in the later 1960s in New York. It was that custom work that attracted him to the car.

He says he's had it about 12 years and probably has \$30,000 tied up into it. But it has more than paid for itself in the joy he gets from it.

"When I first got it, I must've got around 10 trophies," Dean said.

But he spends more time driving it than he does at car shows these days. That's what this '40 Ford is all about for Dean.

"It's just a cruiser, not for show or anything," he said. "Just as long as it looks good and gets thumbs-up off the street, that's trophy enough for me."



Classified ads

WANTED – 1960-1974 Volkswagen Bug (standard Beetle). Need not be running, don't want a convertible nor Super Beetle, nor automatic transmission. Call Jules at 361-1127.

WANTED – Chevy engine, 305 or 350 c.i. in running condition. Call Kenny Buchanan at 334-6668 or 376-7264

FOR SALE - 1970 Monte Carlo, ivory white, mechanically excellent, interior and body needs restoration. 350/350 automatic. May sell the street and strip engine with dart heads separate since it was originally built to go in another rod. Total package \$3,600. Call Eugene (712) 338-9036.

FOR SALE – 1942 Packard parts, including a grill, trim pieces, windows and more. Call Gary Ebright at 339-4571.

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 498-0178.

WANTED – Classified ads for the Great Plains Streetrodders newsletter. If you are a member of the club, it'll cost you nothing. But it can help you sell something, or find something. The very first time that classified ads were included in the newsletter, they worked. Brian Lee sold a Johnny Lightening diecast car. To place your ad, call Brian at 498-0178 or email him at bg4given@gmail.com

Upcoming Cruises & Events

Feb 22 -- Ming Wah
March 1 – Skelly's (downtown Sioux Falls)
March 8 – Hartford Pizza Ranch
March 15 – Long Shots
March 22 – Uno Tomato
March 29 – Tailgators (Brandon)
June 21 – Automania Car Show (downtown Sioux Falls)
Aug. 11-13 – Old Iron Company's Spencer Rod Run

Newsletter to be Stamped Out

The Cruisin' News, newsletter for the Great Plains Streetrodders, will be mailed out to members of the club, but club dues will go up as a result.

At the Christmas party held Jan. 21 club members voted to increase the annual dues effective Jan. 1, 2007 to \$15 a year. That means the dues will still be only \$10 this year.

The purpose in the increase in dues is to provide funds to mail out the newsletter to members. At present the newsletter is handed out to members at the weekly cruises and/or meetings, but if someone goes on vacation or misses a couple weeks for some other reason, they may miss that month's newsletter. Some had expressed concern about missing even just one issue of this wonderful club publication. In addition, it is hoped that the information in the newsletter will help encourage those who participate only occasionally to come more often.

If anyone desires to have the newsletter mailed to them this year, arrangements can be made by paying \$5 for the postage. See Doug Walker if you want your newsletter mailed to you this year.

February Birthdays

Don Jones-1/2
Sandra (Sam) Schmeichel-2/14
Ken Buchanan-2/18
Joyce Gough-2/23
Ron Roe-2/23
Denny Muchow-2/26
Harold Fiferlick-2/27

February Anniversaries

Roger & Cheryl Van Noort-2/3
Terry & Sandy Peterson-2/11
Buckie & Virgene Schrader-2/23
Rich and Melania Barnes-2/26

March Birthdays

Lynn Hammerschmidt-3/8
Don Jensen-3/15
Rick Johnson-3/17
Wayne Ebright-3/17
Kathy Koch-3/20
Bob Schmeichel-3/22
Jules Haper-3/25
Jerry Meyers-3/26
Candi Hanson-3/30
Rich Barnes-3/30
Dick Gaddis-3/31

Watch The Exhaust

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign...
"Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."



Cruising to Cornhuskers Territory

A cruise to Lincoln, Neb., and Omaha, Neb. is being planned for March 11-12 and will include a visit to the Speedway Motors Museum as well as the World of Wheels show.

The group of Great Plains Streetrodders that choose to participate will gather at the Tea Exit Truck Stop in time for a 5:00 a.m. March 11 departure. A breakfast stop is planned for the McDonalds in Fairmont, Neb.

The early departure is necessary to make it in time to the Speedway Motors Museum for a 10:00 a.m. tour. This tour is being planned especially for our group and is only available at this time as most of the museum staff is also involved in the World of Wheels. For anyone who has an order to pick up at Speedway, the parts counter will be open until noon. The tour is being given at no charge, but any donations will be appreciated.

Lunch is planned for somewhere after the museum tour.

Following lunch, check-in at the Super 8 Motel, located at 2545 Cornhusker Hwy, next to the fairgrounds, is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Rooms have been reserved at this hotel under the Great Plains Streetrodders name, courtesy of Lori Paulson. The rate quoted is \$45 per night. Participants must confirm their room by calling this hotel at 1-402-467-4488. Have a credit card number ready.

Once checked into the hotel, the participating Great Plains Streetrodders will be able to visit the World of Wheels car

show and the Lincoln Swap Meet.

The World of Wheels is being held 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Saturday and 12:00-6:00 p.m. Sunday at the Qwest Center in downtown Omaha. Admission is \$13 or discounted \$11 tickets can be purchased at O'Reilly Parts Store.

The Lincoln Swap Meet will be held at the fairgrounds, and admission is free when canned goods are provided for a donation.

If you have any questions, contact Lori Paulson at 351-0416.

Automania Will Return

Registration has already begun for the 2006 Automania on Phillips to the Falls to be held June 21 in downtown Sioux Falls.

This car show, which drew hundreds of muscle, classic, import, sports and hotrod cars as well as many motorcycles last year, will be held 4:30 – 11 p.m. and will again feature live entertainment. But this year three more blocks are being added. Last year's participants spilled out of the several blocks closed off for the event and parking lots and side streets were commandeered for the overflow. So this year the event is being expanded to 16 blocks.

There is no registration fee, and the first 400 to register before June 1 will receive an event T-shirt plus a bag of other small prizes.

For more information contact Main Street of Sioux Falls at 605-338-4009, AutoBuy at 888-348-7555 or email daniel@dtsf.com.

Get Yours Embroidered

Got a favorite shirt or other clothing item that needs a little pizzazz? Get the Great Plains Street Rodders logo embroidered on it.

The company that made the logo and put it on sweatshirts that were purchased by members is now making the logo available on any apparel of your choice for \$7.50 each, a group rate available because they already have the club's logo set up. But a minimum of 13 club members need to participate to make this rate possible.

This quote is based upon club members providing the apparel, whether brand new or used and laundered. The shirts, pullovers, jackets, pajamas or other clothing item do not need to be new. The embroidering company, Stitch N Nitch, has simple material requirements: no leather and no micro-fiber.

For more information, contact Doug Walker. Or you may drop your clothing items off at Stitch N Nitch, 48078 259th Street, Brandon, and they can be contacted at 582-2285.



Bumper Stickers Available

Bumper stickers with the logo and name of the Great Plains Streetrodders are available.

The stickers are 4 inches by 8 inches in size and have the logo on either a white background or black background. They are not just for car bumpers, but can also be used to decorate trash cans, a garage wall, the front door of your home or even the side of your dog (however they are not recommended for use on living creatures, including wives).

If you want to brag about your membership in a great street rod club, the stickers can be purchased for \$7.50 each. See Doug Walker to order your stickers.

High Scoring Eatery

Among the restaurants frequented by the Great Plains Streetrodders, My Pizza Pie has scored a perfect 100 points from the City of Sioux Falls Health Department.

The city recently started posting the restaurants its Health Department has inspected and their scores on the Internet. In January's listing, My Pizza Pie was the only restaurant frequented by our club to receive a perfect score.

To view the listings, go to <http://www.siuoxfalls.org/health/scores.aspx>

Submissions For The Newsletter

If you have anything to submit for the Great Plains Streetrodders newsletter, the deadline is the second Wednesday of each month. Anything will be considered for addition to the newsletter.

To submit something, contact Brian Lee at 605-498-0178, email bg4given@gmail.com or look for him around his 1961 Ford Thunderbird or 1951 Chevy sedan delivery.



