



Cruisin' News

March 2006

President - Doug Walker

Vice President - Roger VanNoort

Secretary Treasurer - Sandy Schmeichel

Newsletter Editor - Brian Lee

I'm Itching To Go

It's almost here. Soon, the birds will be out chirping, all kinds of wild animals will be prancing around, the buds will be coming out and the scenery will begin turning green.

No, no, no, I'm not trying to turn us into a nature club. You've got it all wrong. You're supposed to be reading poetic metaphors and deciphering their metaphoric meanings. OK, let me put it in plain English for you.

Some people look forward to spring, but I'm talking about how the cruising season is almost here. After all, there's a car show scheduled in town less than a month away (check the schedule in this newsletter)! What I was trying to say was soon, the Road Runners will be chirping their tires, and all kinds of Mustangs, Impalas, Cougars and similar muscle cars will be running on the local streets. And the buds -- come on, work with me here -- they're our car-crazy buddies that come out with their hotrods. And who cares if the grass turns green, I'm thinking of all those regular people who will be green with envy when they see us in our cool cars once again. Are you getting the picture yet?

Although the exact date of our official Wednesday cruise for street rods hasn't been set yet, I'm thinking it's only a matter of a couple weeks, maybe less, before some of the old cars start showing up at our Wednesday outings. I, for one, am just waiting for a little rain to wash the more recently laid salt off the streets.

I've already had the '51 Chevy out once. It started up rather quickly, in spite of having sat for almost 5 months. I think maybe it was as eager to get out as I was to get it out. Can cars suffer cabin fever? I'm sure there must be some kind of metaphor that can be called cabin fever. Maybe it's those flat spots on your tires, or the mouse's nest in the tailpipe.

For me, the cabin fever is an itching -- an itching to get out the old car and park it somewhere next to some other cool-looking old cars. That's the kind of itch you can't scratch with your fingers. It just stays there, constantly annoying you until you finally can drive the old rod to a place where others are getting their old car itch relieved. By the way, that "itch" is another one of those metaphors, and I don't expect to see anyone in the club scratching themselves. Is anyone else as anxious as me to see the old cars out and gathering together again?

The Plate

(A tribute by Ron & Karen Roe)

Many times we've cruised down the road following that immaculate '57. Phil Herschberger was usually behind the wheel with June riding shotgun. We all recognized the license plate that read 14U2NV.

We've enjoyed many times together but one particular episode comes to mind. We were over to the Luverne cruise-in for Buffalo Days. After a night of music and fellowship, no one wanted to go home, so we decided to go to the Country Kitchen for our customary night cap (ice cream). On the way over Phil and June had a disagreement, and Phil, miffed, squealed into the restaurant parking lot. When he and June walked inside, Erv teased Phil that he'd never seen the '57 lay rubber.

"Yeah, well, it's my tires and motor," he grumbled in reply.

June, not to be outdone, "gestured" in a way that revealed her feelings on the subject.

It was Erv, though, never at a loss for words, who summed up the situation perfectly. "Well, Phil, we can see you're still number one." This brought more kidding and laughter, and soon all was well.

With the love of his wife and daughter, Phil was a blessed guy. One for you to envy -- funny, we always thought the plate was for the car. We'll miss you Phil, until we, too, cruise those streets of gold.

(Phil Herschberger died March 4, 2006.)

A Lost Cause Found New Life

By Jules Haper

I'm a sucker for lost causes, and this 1941 Chevy was a pile of junk – rusted out floor boards, top smashed down 10-12 inches, bullet holes and not one fender without a rip, tear, dent or all of the above. The trunk was caved in and the glass was cracked or gone.

A friend of mine started with it, and I welded a Nova sub frame on it for him. He got into it for a while, but then said it was too rough. He bought another '41 Chevy in a lot better shape and said I could have this one for my troubles.

So, I drug it home. I stripped out a 1976 Chevy Caprice Classic for the 350 c.i. motor, 350 transmission, steering column, brake pedal assembly and many other accessories. My oldest son helped me with it for a while and I was hoping that he'd want the car. I didn't need it as I already had a chopped and dropped 1946 Ford pickup truck, but his interests went elsewhere. As a result, it ended up out in a grove for two years.

I sold my '46 Ford pickup at the Back to the Fifties event in June 1999. The following Monday I got my friend Charlie's truck and trailer and we went to the grove to bring the old Chevy back to town. I didn't want any chrome, so I welded up a lot of trim holes, 50 in each door and 46 in the hood. I chopped the top two inches and shaved off anything that could come off. Charlie helped me after work for about six weeks with the mechanical stuff. I bought a new 350 c.i. crate motor. Charlie overhauled the transmission and wired it up with a harness salvaged out of an old Nova he had. I put in the glass, power windows, keyless entry and painted it flat black, dents and all.

My wife Marilyn said I could have her side of the garage to put the Chevy together. That lasted until she had to scrape windows, and then I was working on the car outside so she could park her car in.

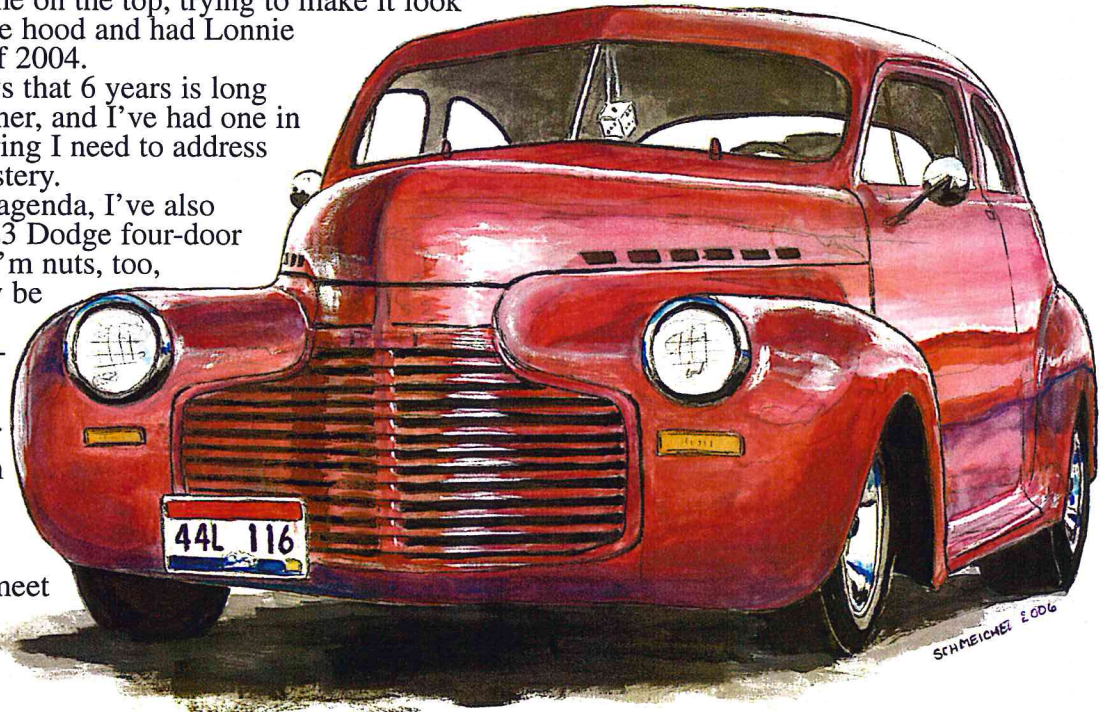
We went to Back to the Fifties in June 2000, then out to the Black Hills Rod Run. We took it to Casper, WY, to show my folks and then to Pierre Dam Run and Watertown. We put a lot of miles on it, even though it was basically a tin can with no interior nor working wipers. Some of you know what that's like.

I drove it like that for 3 years. Then in the winter of 2003 I went to work on it again, welding up the few remaining holes and spent a lot of time on the top, trying to make it look like a top again. I louvered the hood and had Lonnie Bucher paint it in the spring of 2004.

It still isn't done. Marilyn says that 6 years is long enough to go without a headliner, and I've had one in the box for 3 years, so this spring I need to address this issue as well as the upholstery.

But while that work is on my agenda, I've also started another project – a 1923 Dodge four-door sedan. Yeah, Marilyn thinks I'm nuts, too, because that one will probably be a rat rod for another six years. Maybe they're just never completely done.

The '41 Chevy is a driver, not a show car. I've done most of the work on it myself, and I'm a door knob salesman, not a mechanic or auto body man. But I still get the looks and thumbs-up from the people I meet on the road. You would have had to see what I started with to really appreciate what it looks like now.



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 Baddis-3/31

April Birthdays

Betty Jones-4/8
Jim Deboer-4/10
Junie Herschberger-4/15
Larry Olson-4/16
Gary Jorgenson-4/21
Roger Malcomb-4/24
Sandy Peterson-4/26
Jackie Heemstra-4/28

April Anniversaries

Don & Betty Jones-4/2
Max & Karen Putney-4/10
Dean & Joyce Gough Sr.-4/17
Don & Helen Jensen-4/21
Jim & Jayne DeBoer-4/25
Bob & Barb Schriever-4/26

New Members

Derrick Stokes, owner of 1963 Pontiac Bonneville & 1993 Pontiac Sunbird

Upcoming Cruises & Events

March 22 – Uno Tomato
March 29 – Tailgators (Brandon)
April 5 – Roll’N Pin
April 8 – Speed Machine ’06 hot rod show at Buck’s Roadhouse
April 12 – Cody’s
April 19 – Magnolia (Luverne, MN)
April 26 – Dareo’s
June 9-18 – All Car Rally in the Black Hills (www.bhoverdrive.com)
June 21 – Automania Car Show (downtown Sioux Falls)
June 24 – Pipestone Watertower Festival car show, Pipestone, MN (pre-registration only)
Aug. 11-13 – Old Iron Company’s Spencer Rod Run
Aug. 13 – 13th Annual Madison Car Show at the Prairie Village

Join the Speed Machines

The Great Plains Streetrodders have been invited to participate in the Speed Machine ’06, which is being billed as the biggest hotrod show in the Midwest.

Whether or not it’s the biggest, it will be one of the first of the season. It’s scheduled for 11 a.m.-5 p.m. April 8 and will be held in the Bucks Roadhouse parking lot off Western Ave. between 41st and 49th streets in Sioux Falls.

Originally organized to showcase race cars in past years, this year it is being expanded to include street rods, hot rods and custom cars.

There is no charge to register a vehicle to be in the show. To register in advance call 605-361-3171 or email sdpc@sdparent.org. All those registered by April 4 will be listed in the event’s program.

The event is a fund raiser to support South Dakota Parent Connection, a nonprofit organization that provides services and information for families of children with disabilities or special needs throughout the state of South Dakota. For more information on the organization, visit www.sdparent.org on the Internet.

Officers Are Elected

The Great Plains Streetrodders elected a new president and re-elected the remaining 2005 officers for another term.

Kevin Kappenman was elected the new club president in elections held March 8 at the Hartford Pizza Ranch. Roger VanNoort will continue in another term as vice president and Sandy Schmeichel was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Members expressed praise to Doug Walker for a fine job he has done the past 12 months as the club’s president.

Old Songs Redone

It was fun being a baby boomer .. until now. Some of the artists of the 60s are allegedly revising their hits with new lyrics to accommodate the baby boomers. They include:

1. Herman's Hermits--- Mrs. Brown, You've Got a Lovely Walker.
2. The Bee Gees--- How Can You Mend a Broken Hip.
3. Bobby Darin--- Splish, Splash, I Was Havin' a Flash.
4. Ringo Starr--- I Get By With a Little Help From Depends.
5. Roberta Flack--- The First Time Ever I Forgot Your Face.
6. Johnny Nash--- I Can't See Clearly Now.
7. Paul Simon--- Fifty Ways to Lose Your Liver
8. The Commodores--- Once, Twice, Three Times to the Bathroom.
9. Marvin Gaye--- Heard It Through the Grape Nuts.
10. Procol Harem--- A Whiter Shade of Hair.
11. Leo Sayer--- You Make Me Feel Like Napping.
12. The Temptations--- Papa's Got a Kidney Stone.
13. Abba--- Denture Queen.
14. Tony Orlando--- Knock 3 Times On The Ceiling If You Hear Me Fall.
15. Helen Reddy--- I Am Woman, Hear Me Snore.
16. Willie Nelson--- On the Commode Again
17. Leslie Gore--- It's My Procedure and I'll Cry If I Want To
18. Steppenwolf – The Pharmacist



Cool Recipes From Cat Cooks

Some of the women of the Great Plains Streetrodders have decided it is time to get some recipes in the Cruisin' News.

This one is from Sandy Schmeichel, called Sandy's Sweet Dip:

I -8 oz pkg. cream cheese

Soften and whip together: 1/2 cup butter

Add & whip again: 2 TBLS Brown sugar

3/4 cup powdered sugar

Add, mix and chill: 1/2 tsp. vanilla

3/4 cup mini chocolate chips

Finely chop walnuts and spread over top.

To make it fluffier, add 1/2 a carton of a lg. cool whip

Chill for at least an hour and serve with graham crackers or any of your choice.

This one is passed on by Karen Roe and we'll call it Brandon Pancakes:

Six-year-old Brandon decided one Saturday morning to fix his parents pancakes He found a big bowl and spoon, pulled a chair to the counter, opened the cupboard and pulled out the heavy flour canister, spilling it on the floor. He scooped some of the flour into the bowl with his hands, mixed in most of a cup of milk and added some sugar, leaving a floury trail on the floor which by now had a few tracks left by his kitten. Brandon was covered with flour and getting frustrated. He wanted this to be something very good for Mom and Dad, but it was getting very bad. He didn't know what to do next, whether to put it all into the oven or on the stove and he didn't know how the stove worked! Suddenly he saw his kitten licking

from the bowl of mix and reached to push her away, knocking the egg carton to the floor. Frantically he tried to clean up this monumental mess but slipped on the eggs, getting his pajamas white and sticky. And just then he saw Dad standing at the door. Big crocodile tears welled up in Brandon's eyes. All he'd wanted to do was something good, but he'd made a terrible mess. He was sure a scolding was coming, maybe even a spanking. But his father just watched him. Then, walking through the mess, he picked up his crying son, hugged him and loved him, getting his own pajamas white and sticky in the process! That's how God deals with us. We try to do something good in life, but it turns into a mess. Our marriage gets all sticky or we insult a friend, or we can't stand our job, or our health goes sour. Sometimes we just stand there in tears because we can't think of anything else to do. That's when God picks us up and loves us and forgives us, even though some of our mess gets all over Him. But just because we might mess up, we can't stop trying to "make pancakes" for God or for others.

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.

Classified ads

FOR SALE -- 1947 Ford 5 Passenger Coupe. Ford 302 with B&W 144 Powercharger, C-4 Automatic, Ford 9" with Richmond 3:55 gears, Mustang II Front-end, P.S., P.B., A/C & Heat, Super-trap Exhaust, V.D.O. Gauges and much more. Dependable street rod that moves out very rapidly. Tight and rattle free; along with a nice smooth ride. \$23,500.00 or best offer. Call Bill Kullander at 371-3535.

WANTED -- BB Chevy intake 4-barrel Ovalport. Call Bob Schriever at 361-6557.

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 Lightning diecast car. To place your ad, call Brian at 498-0178 or email him at bg4given@gmail.com



