



Cruisin' News

March, 2007

President - Clay Seachris
Vice President - Kevin Kappenman
Secretary - Helen Jensen
Treasurer - LeAnne Phillips
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Gearing Up To Cruise

The President's Message

By Clay Seachris

Spring is fast approaching and we are all "gearing-up" for getting outdoors and having some fun with our cars and friends.

Some of us just can't wait until spring. I had a member send me an email the other day regarding how he put chains on his car (one of my favorite cars) and plowed through snow during a recent storm. There's a memory that will last forever. Just thinking of this person and the enjoyment he must have had, makes me grateful he's a friend. I won't share who this lovable, crazy person is, but you may find out anyway from the damage caused by the chains to his rear fender-wells and polished aluminum rims.

Great Plains Street Rodders club representatives on the Siouxland Car Council have been busy scheduling this summer's cruise nights that are open to everyone. Hy-Vee will be grilling again for many of the cruise nights. They extended their relationship further this summer by allowing many of the cruise night gatherings to be at one of their locations. These locations will have quality public exposure for us to share our cars and make additional friends. We will be meeting a number of times back at our old meeting location on 39th and Minnesota. There is good history with this location. That area on Minnesota Avenue offers many meal choices, good drive by visibility and a central location. The local parks are also destinations again for many evenings with other local clubs hosting. Sherman Park is always a good turnout, with such a nice shady area and a playground for the children.

The Great Plains Streetrodders will host the cruise and grill-out on August 22nd to Bethany Meadows in Brandon. This is another location that is always fun. The residents are so excited to see our cars and visit with new faces. When I called to verify the evening, they were very grateful to have us visit again this year. Having a picnic with their little band playing on a nice summer evening makes for great memories.

I have spoken with a number of previous members and I'm hoping we generate more memberships this spring and summer. We have a lot of seasonal members renewing memberships and even a larger number of previous members that have not been part of the organization for a while. Our wonderful group of people is our greatest strength and we need to share that strength with others. Please remind previous members and friends of the fun times we have as a group and invite them to join again. I have extra copies of old newsletters to share with prospective members or you may make copies and hand them out yourself.

Share our new growing website www.greatplainsstreetrodders.com with fellow car enthusiasts, also. Great Plains Street Rodders is a great club with strong friendships that has lots of fun. Let's share that fun and our friendship with others.

One Smooth Character

Derrick Stokes has only had his 1963 Pontiac Bonneville 4-door hardtop for about 1 1/2 years, but during that time it has undergone a lot of changes, and is continuing to evolve into his vision.

He bought the car in August 2005 from fellow Great Plains Streetrodders Mike and Lori Paulson. At the time it was all original, and having spent its entire life in Sioux Falls, had some rust issues.

With help from Ron Hammerschmidt and Kirk Lee, Derrick removed the rust, replacing one of the fenders and the trunk floor. He also removed all badges and trim, filling in the holes. He was going for a smooth look, he explained.

“The only chrome it’s got is the headlight bezels, the bumpers and the window trim,” Derrick said.

He also shaved off the door handles and is in the process of installing a remote electric door release. It has lake pipes on the sides, plus full moon wheel covers.

He has painted it a two-tone with a striking shade of Organic Green over Orion Silver. The green color has brought the most compliments for the car.

Of course, removing all the badges and names can cause some confusion among those attracted to the custom car.

“It’s already been mistaken for an Edsel,” Derrick laughed.

Derrick wasn’t looking for this particular car when his search led him to it, although he did want to stay close to his fondness for Pontiacs.

“I wasn’t sure what I wanted – something big, something old and something I could take to

Back to the ‘50s,” he said. The

cut-off for getting into the Back to the ‘50s car show in St. Paul, MN, is 1964.

But this car has the style to allow him to create the smooth, custom machine that he has envisioned. And it still has a ways to go before that vision is completed. He pur-



chased a Cadillac split-back seat with electric controls to replace the stock bench seat. Future plans include installation of air ride suspension and an audio and video system. He also wants to replace the current stock 389 c.i. engine with a 400 c.i. from the mid-1970s to provide greater parts availability.

Working on an old car always has its hazards, and Derrick acknowledges his Bonneville has had a close call already.

“We only had one fire while putting it together,” he said with a smile. That was while installing trunk sealer at the same time someone was welding in the trunk. Petroleum-based sealers and welding sparks are not a good combination.

But the car survived and is looking good. And as Derrick gradually continues to complete his plans for this car, it will only look better in the future. Keep an eye on it.



March Birthdays

Randy DeBoer- 3/2
Kevin Keppenman- 3/4
Norma Krouse- 3/6
Lynn Hammerschmidt- 3/8
Les Ramstad- 3/14
Don Jensen- 3/15
Rick Johnson- 3/17
Mike Miller- 3/17
Kathy Koch- 3/20
Dick Gaddis- 3/21
Bob Schmeichel- 3/22
Jules Harper- 3/25
Sonja Lynch- 3/25
Jerry Meyers- 3/26
Jerry Robinson- 3/27
Rich Barnes- 3/30

March Anniversaries

Tommy & Lola Little- 3/30

April Birthdays

Lynda Robinson-4/2
Jim Deboer-4/10
Junie Herschberger-4/15
Patt Anderson-4/16
Lana Kullander-4/16
Larry Olson-4/16
Gary Jorgenson-4/21
Sandy Christians- April 22
Roger Malcomb-4/24
Sandy Peterson-4/26
Kent Reilly-4/27
Jackie Heemstra-4/28

April Anniversaries

Don & Betty Jones-4/2
Dean & Joyce Gough Sr.4/17
Don & Helen Jensen-4/21
Lee & Mary Ramstad-4/24
Jim & Jayne DeBoer-4/25
Bob & Barb Schriever-4/26
Jerry & Lynda Robinson-4/26

Classified ads

FOR SALE – 1961 Corvair Rampside pickup truck, flat opposed 6 cylinder rear engine, needs restoration, \$1,000.00 OBO. Call Terry Peterson at 361-2357 or cell359-5386.

FOR SALE – 1967 GMC pickup truck, 34,000 miles, good shape. \$5,000.00. Call Allen Alby at 605-334-3472.

FOR SALE – Two new Coker white-wall tires P235/75R15 for \$300. Call Allen Alby at 605-334-3472.

FOR SALE -- Ford C-4 Automatic Transmission with shift kit. Approximately 5,000 miles on transmission. Never abused while in my possession. 5/30 guarantee. Must find home. \$400.00 OBO Call Bill at 371-3535 or 366-1158 .

FOR SALE -- 1955 Schwinn 26 inch "CORVETTE" bicycle, 97 % complete. Sturmey/Archer English 3-speed. Green & White (only color combination available in 1955). Full Chrome Fenders. White grips with white tassels. Manufactured in Chicago, IL. Delivered to: Judson Chevrolet/Cushman/Schwinn Company, Los Angeles, CA. Still has 1965 Los Angeles, CA bicycle license sticker attached to frame. Appraised value in Schwinn Book of \$650.00. (If at 100% value is \$1,400.00) Sell for \$395.00. Call Bill at 371-3535 or 366-1158

WANTED -- The Siouxland Car Council is looking for a small enclosed trailer, similar to moving, motorcycle or snowmobile trailer. Contact Kevin Kappenman or Don Jones.

FOR SALE -- Streetrod wheels with tires, mounted & balanced. Wheels are chrome directionals with Goodyear Decathlon Tires (4000 miles on tires). Sizes are: front - Mirage 14"x 7 41/2",

5 hole, rear - Mirage 15" x 7 41/2", 5 hole, all with lug nuts & center caps with chrome valve stems. Tire sizes are:

Front - 195 75R 14", rear - 235 75R 15", all for \$300.00 OBO. Call 361-8494 or 351-1166.

FOR SALE – 1971 "402" Chevy big block, apart for inspection in boxes, 427 steel crank machine work done on crank, TRW 11 to 1 427 pistons, new chrome valve covers and air cleaner, other miscellaneous parts. Contact Bob at 361-1932.

FOR SALE – 1963 Corvette rear end. Make a reasonable offer. Call Fred Snyder at 605-359-0423 or 605-275-0460.

FOR SALE – 1946 Chevy 1 Ton Truck, all chrome is very nice, was ex -city truck, runs but clutch won't disengage. \$700.00. Call Ric Anderson at 712-336-4498, Spirit Lake, IA.

FOR SALE – 1952 Packard parts, including a grill, trim pieces, windows and more. Call Gary Ebright at 339-4571.

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



One Fast Senior Citizen

A senior citizen in Florida bought a brand new Corvette convertible. He took off down the road, pushing the accelerator to reach 80 mph and enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left on his head. "This is great," he thought as he roared up I-75.

He pushed the pedal to the metal even more. Then he looked in his rear view mirror and saw a highway patrol trooper behind him, blue lights flashing and siren blaring.

"I can get away from him with no problem," thought the man and he tromped it some more and flew down the road at over 100 mph, then 110 and reaching 120 mph.

Then he thought, "What am I doing? I'm too old for this kind of thing." He pulled over to the side of the road and waited for the trooper to catch up with him.

The trooper pulled in behind the Corvette and walked up to the man. "Sir," he said, looking at his watch. "My shift ends in 10 minutes and today is Friday. If you can give me a reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The man looked at the trooper and said, "Years ago my wife ran off with a Florida State Trooper, and I thought you were bringing her back."

"Have a good day, sir," said the Trooper as he walked away.

Cruising Schedule Gets Busy In A Hurry

As spring tries to work it's way in, the new cruising schedule is starting off to be a busy one. There will be two choices of destinations to cruise to on April 25.

The Siouxland Car Council

has scheduled its first grill-out of the 2007 summer cruising season for that day. In addition, the Great Plains Streetrodders have scheduled a cruise to the Sonic drive-in for the same day. Those who are energetic may try to go to both.

The grill-out will be held April 25 at the new Hyvee on Minnesota Ave. by 39th Street. This is a location familiar to many as it is also by Dareo's Pizza, the starting location of cruises in previous years.

The cruise will also help celebrate the opening of the new Hyvee store by the gathering of our street rods and antique cars. The new store is just opening this month.

In the event of inclement weather, the grill-out will be changed to the Royal Fork restaurant behind the Empire Mall. But all are hoping for a nice show-and-shine with dinner grilled out under sunny skies.

Have you ever been to a Sonic hamburger drive-in? If not, an opportunity is being provided by The Great Plains Streetrodders on the same day as the grill-out.

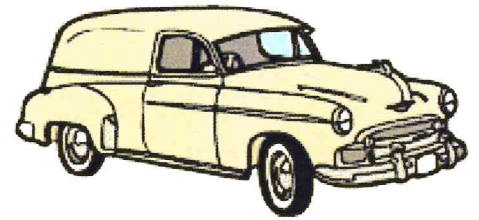
On April 25 the club has scheduled to have its Wednesday cruise at the new Sonic next to the Sportsman's Warehouse on Louise Ave. Sonic has an agreement with Sportsman's Warehouse to use their parking lot for overflow when hosting car clubs, and Sonic employees will come to our cars to take our orders, then deliver our food, no matter how far away we have to park.

Sonic provides an atmosphere and architecture similar to the drive-ins of the 1950s, and by bringing our street rods and old cars, we may be able to take a trip back in time. Also bring lawn chairs to provide a place to sit, especially if you don't want to eat in your classic car.

In the event of inclement weather, this location will change to

the Royal Fork Restaurant, which isn't too far from Sonic, and a new date will be set to visit Sonic. Sonic has acknowledged that this may be necessary and wishes to accommodate our needs.

With two events scheduled on the same day by two closely affiliated car groups, the date of one of these events could change, so keep your ears open and your car antennas raised.



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.



Speed Machine Show Set

The South Dakota Parent Connection is hosting the Speed Machine '07 car show. It will be held 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. April 14 in the Buck's Roadhouse parking lot behind the Western Mall.

Members of the Great Plains Streetrodders were among the winners in 2006. Darwin Sletten won Best in Show in the Street Stock class, and Fred Snyder won Best in Show in the Classic Car class last year.

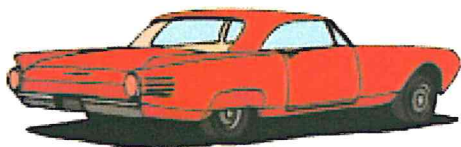
In addition to street rods, race cars prepared for the new racing season will be shown. Trophies will again be awarded this year for Buck's Choice, People's choice, Classic, Muscle, Motorcycle, Sprint, Street, Stock, Vintage and Other. There is no cost to register to be in the show.

To register, call 361-3171 or 1-800-640-4553. Those registering before April 11 will be identified in a program to be handed out at the event.

Raffle tickets will be sold at the event for \$5 each. The prizes to be given out include a TV, a motor scooter and \$250 in cash. There will also be a celebrity barstool race during the event.

More information is available on the Internet at www.sdparent.org or by calling the phone numbers available for registering.

South Dakota Parent Connection is a nonprofit organization that provides services and information for families of children with disabilities or special needs throughout the state of South Dakota.



Spring Swap Meet Still On

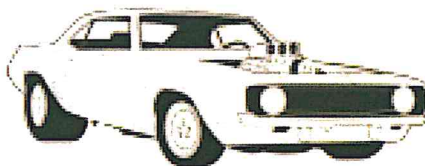
The combination swap meet, car corral and car show is still on for April 15 at the Sioux Empire Fair Grounds in Sioux Falls.

It is being planned for Sunday, April 15, in the area of the fairgrounds located behind the grand stands. Set up is planned for 6-9 a.m., while the actual wheeling and dealing of parts will be held 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. In addition, there will be a car corral area for those who want to offer their cars for sale and an adjacent "show and shine" for those who just want to show their "keepers."

The cost to have a space to sell items is \$15, while the charge to have a car in the car corral is only \$5. Otherwise, the event will be free to the public, including the show and shine.

Doug Walker, one of the organizers, said it will be held rain or shine.

Anyone interested in selling some of their excess auto parts or other automotive goods is encouraged to contact Doug at 529-5716 or Bill Lev at 339-1081.



Upcoming Cruises & Events

- Feb. 21 -- Roll'n Pin
- Feb. 28 -- Valentinos
- March 7 -- China Express
- March 14 -- Tailgators
- March 21 -- Texas Road House (must arrive by 6:00)
- March 28 -- Ramkota
- April 4 -- Pizza Ranch at Hartford
- April 11 -- Tea Steakhouse
- April 15 -- Spring Swap Meet, Car Corral & Show at the Sioux Empire Fairgrounds, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- April 18 -- The Keg on E. 26th St.
- April 25 -- grill out at new Hyvee on Minnesota Ave. (or Royal Fork if weather is bad)
- April 25 -- cruise to Sonic drive-in
- June 20 -- Automania
- Aug. 22 -- Bethany Meadows in Brandon

Tell Your Story

Brad Goebel will be working on the Siouxland Car Council newsletter again this summer and is looking for material.

He encourages anyone who has any information they want to share or photos they want to see in the Cruise-In magazine to contact him so arrangements can be made. He is always looking for interesting tales or pictures of cars to use in the monthly editions published during the summer.



