



Cruisin' News

February, 2007

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Hang In There, Cruising Season is Coming

The President's Message

By Clay Seachris

We're over the winter hump.

This year there was so much media attention given to "Blue Monday." Monday, January 22, was designated the most depressing day of the year. Psychologists worked out that people are most likely to get the blues in the final full week of January because of the combination of bad weather, Christmas debts and broken New Year resolutions.

It seems ironic that a good reason to be a member of the Great Plains Streetrodders is to fight the winter blues. Many car clubs are typically summer only. Our group often seems stronger and more social in the cruising, car show off-season. The fun times and laughs come from a Wednesday night gathering fuel, positive attitudes and great friendships during our long South Dakota winters.

The 2007 Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction wrapped up and a number of club members are back home from working the show, so it will be fun to catch the inside scoop on this year's event. We also had members as consignors and buyers at various auctions, so we also can't wait to see the new purchases or hear how well they did as sellers. I am a little biased, but was happy to see Carroll Shelby's 1966 427 "Super Snake" Cobra sell for a new record at Barrett-Jackson. That's an original, engine-date coded car previously owned by an icon in the automotive and racing industries with a ton of folklore and documented history.

For us car enthusiasts, these record-breaking sales do have repercussions. Many people don't recognize the difference between a documented, flawless car that went across a prestigious auction block with numerous consignor fees and the rusting hulk they've had in their back yard for who knows how long. Let us enjoy the entertainment and reality TV factor of these large auctions and hope that our cars and future projects are not held to the financial standards achieved or under-achieved so publicly.

The annual Shriners' Hobo Stew Party was another good winter get-together. It was great to see so many club members attend. I'm biased here again but, the Great Plains Streetrodders have the distinction of being a large group of wonderful people that in attendance, contribute greatly to a fun time and successful event.



He's a Hotrodder Now

Darwin and Jane Sletten like to cruise around in their antique cars. But motorists beware, because there's one car they sometimes bring out that is much more than an antique car.

Darwin got his 1935 Chevy coupe at the Russo-Steele auctions in Phoenix in 2005. It is the first street rod he has ever owned.

It was an impulse purchase. Darwin was at the auction, and while he had intended to purchase a street rod, he was looking for something that would seat four so he could take his grandchildren for rides. But when the '35 Chevy coupe came across the block, it really caught his eye, he said. The custom paint job and the body style really attracted him. So, he started bidding and came out on top.

"I'm a member of a street rod club, and when I go to a street rod run, I can feel right at home," Darwin said of his decision to buy a street rod.

He'll be getting to those street rod runs pretty quickly now. The little coupe has a 383 c.i. stroker with a B&M supercharger, coupled to a 350 Turbo automatic transmission. It also has a tube-axle front end, a Corvette rear suspension and 2 1/2 inch exhausts with Flowmaster mufflers.

It has four wheel disc brakes to bring it back to a stop. It also features air conditioning, AM-FM stereo CD player and Budnik chrome wheels. The body work and custom paint job was done by "The Lizard."

And how quickly will he be getting to those rod runs?

"It doesn't want to quit squealing (the tires) unless you let up on it," Darwin said.

"I like to drive fast, but I don't like to drive that car that fast."

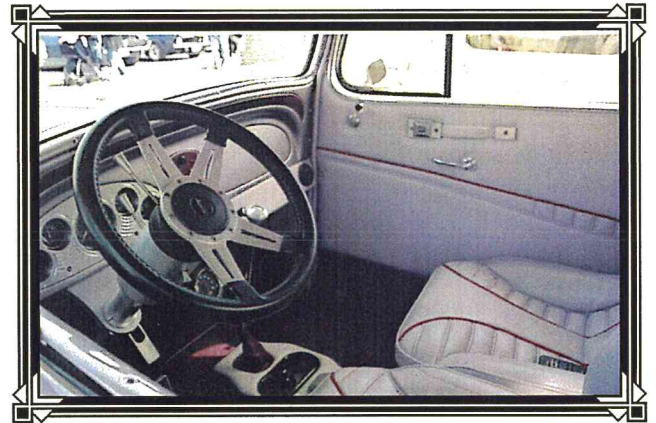
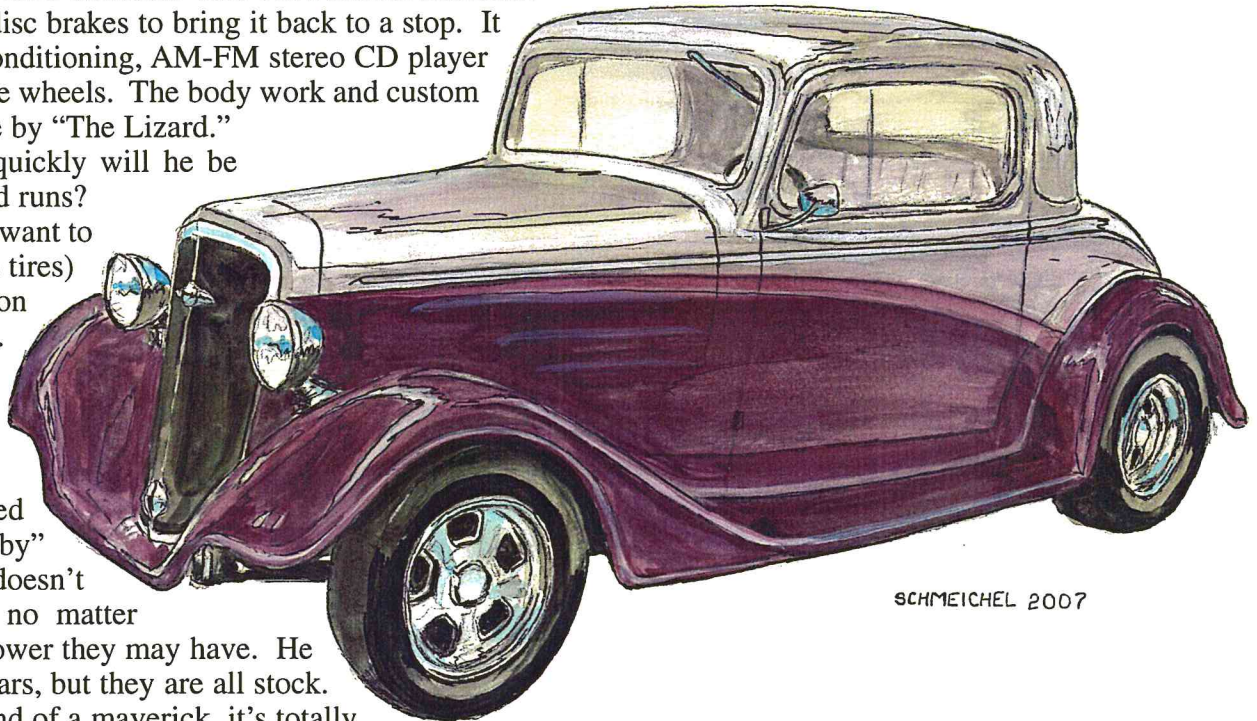
He noted that he likes to "baby" his old cars, so he doesn't drive them hard, no matter how much horsepower they may have. He has six other old cars, but they are all stock.

"This is kind of a maverick, it's totally different than the other cars I drive," Darwin explained. "It's in a class by itself. It's the only street rod I've ever had."

"I love the classic cars," he said. But he added, "I like street rods. It's a cool car to drive."

Darwin still goes to the auctions in Phoenix, but this year he made money instead of spending it. He sold his 1979 Lincoln, 1976 Chevy Monte Carlo, 1959 Thunderbird and 1955 Ford Crown Victoria.

But he said he's also still looking for another car to fill one of the spaces vacated by those he sold. And he wants it to be another street rod. Maybe it'll have a back seat for those grandchildren.



February Birthdays

Derrick Stokes-2/1
Don Jones-2/2
Jim Hansen- 2/2
Darwin Sletten- 2/10
Sandy Schmeichel-2/14
Ken Buchanan-2/18
Dave Elefson- 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

Randy DeBoer- 3/2
Kevin Keppenman- ?
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

Saving Your Horsepower

The Lone Ranger and Tonto walked into a bar and sat down to drink a beer. After a few minutes, a big tall cowboy walked in and said, "Who owns the big white horse outside?" The Lone Ranger

stood up, adjusted his gun belt, and said, "I do... Why?" The cowboy looked at the Lone Ranger and said, "I just thought you'd like to know that your horse is about dead!"

The Lone Ranger and Tonto rushed outside and sure enough Silver was ready to die from heat exhaustion. The Lone Ranger gave the horse water and soon Silver was starting to feel a little better.

The Lone Ranger turned to Tonto and said, "Tonto, I want you to run around Silver and see if you can create enough of a breeze to make him start to feel better." Tonto said, "Sure, Kemosabe," and started running in circles around Silver. Not able to do anything else but wait, the Lone Ranger returned to the bar to finish his drink.

A few minutes later, another cowboy struts into the bar and asks, "Who owns that big white horse outside?" The Lone Ranger stands again, and claims, "I do, what's wrong with him this time?"

The cowboy looks him in the eye and says, "Nothin'... but you left your Injun runnin'."

Classified ads

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



Spring Swap Meet Slated Here

A combination swap meet, car corral and car show is being planned for April 15 at the Sioux Empire Fair Grounds in Sioux Falls.

Doug Walker, who is planning the event with Bill Lev, said most cities of any size in the region host a swap meet, even Sioux City, but yet none has been held in Sioux Falls for this area's old car enthusiasts.

"It's time Sioux Falls had one," he said.

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.

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

We Have Our Very Own Website!

The Great Plains Street Rodders now has its very own new website out there on the great World Wide Web.

The website will be used for announcements of upcoming events

for the club, a place to contact the officers, a photo album and a place to see where we have been, where we are and where we are going.

The new website is located at WWW.GreatPlainsStreetRodders.Com and it is up and running and waiting for your suggestions, your photos and your events to make it a better place to visit.

To keep up to date with the latest happenings please register your email address or addresses on the Great Plains Streetrodders emailing list. To do that, visit the website, click on Contact and sign up. Towards the bottom you will see "subscribe to the email list;" click on it, and your email might open or you can copy it and paste it into a new email you have started or just type it into the "To:" line of an email. It doesn't need any text; just send it to t h e G R S R L i s t - Subscribe@GreatPlainsStreetRodders.Com, and you should in a short time receive a response from the Email Server at the site asking you to confirm that you really want to be subscribed and kept up to date. Just hit reply and send that. There, you are now ready to go on the club's new Internet Super Highway. With this you will be kept up to date as events happen.

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 15 -- Spring Swap Meet, Car Corral & Show at the Sioux Empire Fairgrounds, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Get a Real Vanity Plate

Another opportunity has arisen for those who have yet to acquire a Great Plains Streetrodders car plaque.

The plaque, which features our club's name and logo, is about the same size as a license plate. It was designed to look similar to the club plaques that were popular among hotrodders in the 1950s. They are cast in aluminum for light weight, but have a hefty look to them.

Doug Walker is heading up this purchase of the plaques. It is necessary to be able to order 50 of them to keep the price down to \$15 each, so he is encouraging everyone who does not have one to get their order in to him.

Doug can be reached at 529-5716.

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.



It Was A Sweet Meeting



It was a little more than the usual eat and meet for the Great Plains Streetrodders as they gathered Feb. 14 in Brandon.

It was Valentine's Day, and the "Eat N Meet Committee" provided all kinds of treats for the occasion. Each person present received a favor consisting of a neatly wrapped bouquet of candy. In addition, each woman present received a carnation as a token of her special value on that day.

While our country seems enthralled with treating all equally, regardless of gender, it is true that the ladies received more than the men at this meeting due to the distribution of the flowers. But the men didn't mind, since it was Valentine's Day. The men knew it was necessary to cover up what was truly on their minds on that special day.

For those women reading this who may be wondering what was truly on their man's mind, the truth will herein be exposed. And always remember, you read it first in the Great Plains Streetrodders Cruisin' News!

Every year at Valentine's Day the same thoughts sprout up in most car guys' minds. It's Feb. 14, and their thoughts gravitate to being with their true love. After all, it's mid February, which means winter is almost over and soon they will be able to pull their beloved out of that cold, dark garage. Visions dance within their minds of laying their hands back on that smooth steering wheel, and caressing gear shift knobs with their fingers. Soon they will be able to once again hear the wonderful purring of V-8 power, and smell the sweet aroma of burning rubber.

That is what Valentine's Day is really all about. It is the initial shot of spring fever for the car guy who has gone too many months without cruising in the hotrod.

And if any women are shocked to learn that the gleam they saw in their husband's eye and growing smile on his face wasn't about them, don't fret. It won't be long before he'll be able to offer you a ride in a really classy car, and it's going to be great!

Until then, that single carnation will have to do.



