



# Cruisin' News

January, 2008

President - Clay Seachris  
Vice President - Kevin Kappenman  
Secretary - Helen Jensen  
Treasurer - LeAnne Phillips  
Newsletter Editor - Brian Lee

## *It's Not Just Wednesday Meet And Eat*

By Clay Seachris  
President's message

Thank you for allowing me to be your president for another year. I really appreciate the support of so many people. Without your help, I would not be able to do this job. It seems like yesterday I was writing my first president's message. As I stated last year, Susan and I have enjoyed the friendships we have gained with such a wonderful group of people. I look forward to growing those friendships as well as making new ones.

I still feel the success of the Great Plains Street Rodders can be attributed to the fact that all members feel comfortable having fun together. When it comes to cruising and car shows, the friends we have through the club allow me to enjoy my passion for cars and also share the social side of that passion with Susan.

We continue to beat the winter blues through weekly Wednesday evenings together. These informal dinner dates are always fun for Susan and me. Our Valentine's social is quickly approaching and the meet-n-eat committee is planning an evening of fine dining at the Brandon Steakhouse. The committee is also working on special Valentine's gifts. So I suppose the club asks, "Would you be my Valentine?" Sandy Schmeichel also said she is bringing cake and ice cream, again. So to thank her, we'll do our best to embarrass her with a rendition of Happy Birthday.

The Siouxland Car Council is hosting the Hobo Stew Party at the Shrine Mosque on Sunday, January 27th at 4:30 p.m. The only thing you need to bring is a can (or jar) of something to add to the stew – tomatoes, carrots, corn, peas, beans, okra - anything you might find in a stew - use your imagination. Everything else will be provided. The Car Council supplies the beef for the stew.

There will be a group leaving the morning of February 16th to cruise to the annual Old Iron Company garage tours in Spencer, Iowa, so look for more information at a later date. This all-day garage tour is always a great time. You get to see some cool cars and the toy boxes they live in. Dennis Slaymaker's shop has always been a highlight for me. He's always such a hospitable guy and his Bonneville Salt Flats record-breaking 1934 Ford coupe is a cool piece of modern-day history. That shop alone with all the toys, cars, parts and memorabilia is a tour by itself.

While wrapping up the Christmas Party, many people suggested we organize another Saturday night winter social gathering. Everyone enjoys a potluck social where we can plan fun activities or just visit. Several members helped explore meeting options, and Ron Roe found the Sioux Valley Energy building in Brandon. This is a relatively new, carpeted community room with a kitchen area. The date of Saturday, March 8th is set for the potluck. This will be a fun evening so let me know if you have entertainment ideas.

Please continue to give your photos to Betty Heidebrink for the scrapbook/photo albums and also email them to Derrick Stokes at [webmaster@greatplainsstreetrodders.com](mailto:webmaster@greatplainsstreetrodders.com).

## *It's Not Your Ordinary Cobra*

It started out as a kit car, but then Gerry Phillips got to building it.

The red 1966 Cobra with ghost checkers on the hood and ghost flames on the sides belonging to Gerry and LeAnne Phillips began life in 2000, and Gerry took two years building it the way he wanted it.

“The build went really, really great,” Gerry said. “I made a lot of the components.”

He installed the front suspension so it would have a lower stance than most Cobras. And when it came to putting on the Edlebrock limited edition chrome wheels, he had to narrow the already narrow nine-inch Ford rear end, which he did himself. He also made his own rear suspension and four-bar lengths. He fabricated the gear shift mounting brackets and tower so it could be recessed into the floor.

Gerry also made his own aluminum dash panel so he could have the gauges placed where he wanted them. “When I looked at it, I knew the order I wanted them to be,” he said.

Those gauges gather information from a Ford 5.0 - HO engine with 360 factory horsepower. Gerry bored and balanced the motor, and installed a Ford racing cam and GT

40 aluminum heads. It also has a 20 GPH fuel injector, and he modified the throttle body to 79 mm. But it isn't set up for burning those fat meats on the rear. It has a higher midrange torque.

“It's probably a quicker car for passing. From 45 to 100 MPH it gets right with it,” Gerry said. “It's a cruiser.”

While building it, he had a nice ride down the highway in mind, not the race track.

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"It actually rides nice," he said. "I've got the suspension set up for a comfortable ride."

But the suspension is adjustable, should he ever get the urge to take his Cobra to Road America.

Four-wheel disc brakes stop the little racer, and there's an extra roll bar for the missus, just in case.

When he and LeAnne cruise down the highway, they sit in buckskin-colored leather seats that have ostrich skin panels. The seats are placed for a comfortable ride, too, he said. Should the weather get chilly, they have a canvass top and side curtains they can install, although that wouldn't help much in winter weather, he said.

"When it's cool, it's fine, but in cold weather, it doesn't work," Gerry said. "I've got a heater in it for the wife," he added.

"We used to have a stereo in there, but we took it out," he said. "We couldn't hear it anyway (because of the noise from the wind and side-pipes)."

"It's been a fun car for us," he continued, "probably one of the most fun cars I've ever had."

### *Sympathy Offered*

The Great Plains Street Rodders would like to express sympathy to Mary and Bob Thoen. Mary's mother, Bertha Chalus, passed away on Monday, January 7, 2008.

A memorial will be sent from the GPSR. The complete obituary can be found in the Jan. 9 edition of the Argus Leader or at [www.millerfh.com](http://www.millerfh.com). Please keep Mary and Bob in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

### *Thanks Offered*

Thanks so much for the card for mom. She will be missed dearly. However, she is in a better place. It is great to have friends and family who care. God bless you all. -- Connie Fiferlick

### *Stew About Winter Here*

Are you wondering when winter will be over and you can get your street rod out to cruise again? An event has been scheduled for you to stew about this!

The Siouxland Car Council (comprised of representatives from many area car clubs) is hosting a Hobo Stew Party at the Shrine Mosque (14th & Phillips – in Sioux Falls), starting at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 27th, and wants members of the Great Plains Streetrodders to participate.

All area car enthusiasts, spouses and families are invited to come - you don't need to be a member of a specific club to attend - just someone who likes cars of any kind - Fords, Mopar, Pontiac, streetrods, Corvettes, etc. You can talk about last year's car shows or upcoming car cruises while enjoying a nice warm bowl of beef stew.

The only thing you need to bring is a can (or jar) of something to add to the stew – tomatoes, carrots, corn, peas, beans, okra - anything you might find in a stew - use your imagination. Everything else will be provided. The Car Council supplies the beef for the stew. Members of the Great Plains Streetrodders have done this in the past and say it does turn out quite good!

Please invite any car enthusiasts you know and join us to enjoy a meal and meet new people with similar interests from around the area.

### *A Family Tradition*

All of his life Ole had heard sto-

ries of an amazing family tradition. It seems that his father, grandfather and great-grandfather had all been able to walk on water on their 21st birthday. On that day, they'd walk across the lake to the boat club for their first legal drink.

So when Ole's 21st birthday came around, he and his pal Corky took a boat out to the middle of the lake. Ole stepped out of the boat and nearly drowned! Corky just managed to pull him to safety.

Furious and confused, Ole went to see his grandmother.

"Grandma, it's my 21st birthday, so why can't I walk across the lake like my father, his father, and his father before him?"

Granny looked into Ole's eyes and said, "Because, you dumb cluck, your father, grandfather and great grandfather were born in January, and you were born in July."

### *Classified ads*

FOR SALE – 1959 Chevy promo model, 1/25 scale, black and white two-tone, plastic, chassis and roof are slightly warped. \$10 or best offer. Call Brian Lee at 498-0178 or email [bg4given@gmail.com](mailto:bg4given@gmail.com)

FOR SALE – 1984 454 c.i. engine with 400 transmission, engine rebuilt 2,000 miles ago. Can hear it run. \$2,500. Call Red Duerksen at 772-4850.

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

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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

### *Upcoming Cruises & Events*

- Dec. 19 -- Ming Wahs
- Dec. 26 – Applebee’s on Louise Ave by Target
- Jan. 2 – Valentino’s
- Jan. 9 – Rolling Pin
- Jan. 16 – The Keg on E. 26th St.
- Jan. 23 – Skelly’s
- Jan. 27 -- Hobo Stew Party at the Shrine Mosque (14th & Phillips – in Sioux Falls) starting at 4:30 p.m.
- Jan. 30 – new Pizza Ranch on W. 41st St.
- Feb. 6 -- TBA
- Feb. 13 – Brandon Steakhouse
- Feb. 20 – Coyote Canyon
- Feb. 27 – Pizza Ranch at Tea
- March 5 – Royal Fork
- March 12 – Market Place at Inwood, IA
- March 19 – Ramkota
- June 6 -- Luverne's Buffalo Days Cruise Nite.

### *January Birthdays*

Shanda Schlechter	3
Ike Wiese	5
Glenna Burns	7
Bob Schriever	8
Michelle Lee	14
Randy Ludwig	16
Larry Hoyme	18
Doreen Wiese	21
Marilyn Haper	24
Nancy Jellis	31

### *January Anniversaries*

Ike & Doreen Wiese	12
Al & Shirley Alby	2

### *February Birthdays*

Derrick Stokes	1
Jim Hansen	2
Don Jones	2
Darwin Sletten	10
Faye Gallagher	12
Bonnie Britt	12
Sandy Schmeichel	14
Ken Buchanan	18
Dave Elefson	18
Joyce Gough	23
Ron Roe	23

### *February Anniversaries*

Roger & Cheryl VanNoort	3
Terry & Sandy Peterson	11
Buck & Virgene Schrader	23
Rich & Melania Barnes	26

### *Greetings Sent North*

Good Morning from sunny Pharr, Texas.

We are working at an RV Park here in Pharr. Everything is going well. It was 82 degrees here on Christmas Day. We enjoyed the day sitting outside in our recliners.

Hope all is well back home in SD.

See you in the spring. Keep warm.

Dale & Sandy Heither

The Saga of Fred

As many of you know Randy and Deanna Ludwig, Jim DeBoer and Fred Snyder are all in Scottsdale, AZ, getting ready for the Barrett-Jackson Sale. But Fred took ill, and the following emails received from Jayne explain the resulting unpleasant ordeal.

Received 01/07/08:

Hi, just a note to let you all know that Fred is in the Mayo Hospital in Scottsdale. Jim & Fred worked all day

Saturday and Fred said on the way back to the motel that he just didn't feel good. They stopped and got burgers and malts at Sonic and Fred thought if he ate and laid down a while he would be ok. He didn't get any better and kept thinking about what the doctors had told him at the heart hospital (in Sioux Falls when he had problems earlier this past fall), that if he didn't feel right, he needed to get into a doctor right away. Jim took him to a medical center close by the motel. They ran some tests and thought he was having problems because they had cut his blood thinner meds. They said they should never have cut them as drastically as they did. Anyway, they wanted to run more tests to be sure that they weren't missing anything and moved him in the night to the Mayo Hospital. They ran a brain scan and there wasn't anything abnormal there. They were going to run an MRI last night and thought he may even be able to leave last night, but the MRI showed that he did have signs of having a new stroke. Today they were going to go down his throat again, like they did here. If I remember right, they were looking at the back side of the heart and tomorrow they will go in through the groin. Jim has been with him when he hasn't been working, they knocked off yesterday about 3:30 due to rain. Nancy had been doing very well with all this but now with the new test results she really wants to be there and Fred is trying to get her to stay here. There is really nothing she can do but sit and wait for the results but I know we would all want to be there too if it was our spouse. I just spoke with Jim briefly at noon and he updated me on all this. I have not talked

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with Nancy today, but I will keep you informed!!!

Received 01/08/2008:

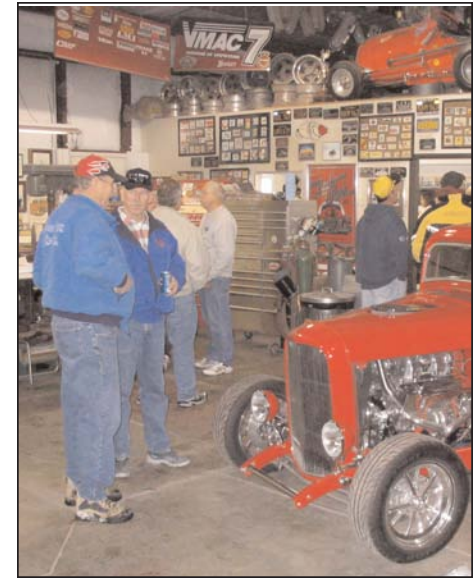
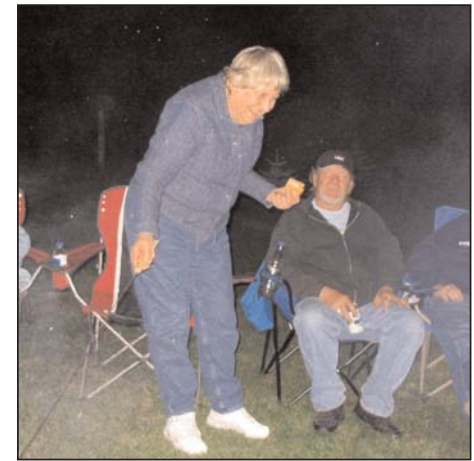
Nancy is flying to Phoenix this morning. Her plane should arrive at 9:06 Arizona time. Jeff took her to Omaha to the airport. Fred doesn't know she is coming but I bet he will be glad to see her. He called her at 3:30 a.m. so I think he misses her! At this report the doctor is saying that Fred has inflammation of the blood vessels in his brain. It is treatable but not curable. He will have to take medication for it for the rest of his life. I guess this too is hard to regulate like the blood thinner. Don't know at this point what causes it. Our friends in Mesa are picking Nancy up at the airport. The doctor has requested Jim be there for Fred's procedure this morning so Nancy doesn't want Jim leaving to pick her up. They said that could be anytime after 6:00 a.m

Received later 01/08/2008:

Hi, just to let you know the outcome of today's (Jan.8) tests. The big test Fred had done today indicated there was no inflammation of the blood vessels. So now they are looking for a blood disorder. They took about 30 vials of blood today. Some they will test there and the rest was sent to Rochester. The results of those tests will not be back for a couple of weeks. They released Fred tonight as they said there was no reason to keep him. He will check in with them on an outpatient basis. He is to take it easy tomorrow (Jan.9) and then Thursday he is to go back for x-rays. They need to wait until Thursday so that all the dye that he was injected with today is out of his system. They will be looking at the abdomen and the chest. Then they will keep monitoring his blood. He has had a team of neurologists working on him but Thursday the head doctor will meet

with Fred and Nancy to discuss all the test results. I will keep you posted if there any changes.

Once again, please keep Fred and Nancy in your thoughts and prayers!



## *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](mailto:bg4given@gmail.com) or look for him around his 1961 Ford Thunderbird or 1951 Chevy sedan delivery.

