



Cruisin' News

December, 2008
President - Clay Seachris
Vice President - Bob Schmeichel
Secretary - Helen Jensen
Treasurer - LeAnne Phillips
Newsletter Editor - Brian Lee

It's a Wonderful Christmas Season

By Clay Seachris

President's message

Wow, what a Christmas party! I had intended this message to reflect the entire year, but the impressive comradery, food, fun and laughs at the Christmas party overshadowed an amazing summer of cruising, socializing and showing of cars. Who knew publicly saying, "I'd really like to work with her" would bring ridicule and laughs upon me. I'm so delighted I have such a supportive vice-president there to award me his shoe for my foot-in-mouth comment. Those are the kind of laughs that reflect good relationships. Later Shirley Alby put it all in perspective when she mentioned her grandchildren once lovingly told her, "Grandma we are laughing at you, not with you."

Our potluck offered a fantastic variety of wonderful entrées, salads and desserts. Many ladies have their specialties, every year members look forward to Joyce Gough's lemon pies and she fulfilled wishes again this year.

We had a lively gift exchange full of tools, toys, housewares, detailing supplies, holiday curios and other magnificent gifts. Cheerful laughs and light-hearted disappointments make the exchange great entertainment. How many times were Mike Miller, Don Mertons, Karen Roe, Grace Lee and Rich Barnes up opening a new gift? I saw Randy Ludwig finally did end up with a cool Coke-a-Cola clock after having a couple other clocks stolen. Cheri Kappenman took home a cute bear many wanted. The memory game portion is fun, as I'm not sure who ended up with the coveted dancing Santa that Sandy Schmeichel unwrapped. There were just so many neat gifts to remember.

Our annual business meeting determining officers was quick. Don Jones' hand gesture of thumbs down was a unique yet effective motion regarding term limits. I've never seen that one in Robert's Rules of Order. The motion's acceptance, along with the seconds, gives an idea of the usual fun and easy-going business meetings of the club. Unopposed nominations were Jayne DeBoer as treasurer, Sheila Miller as secretary, Bob Schmeichel remaining as vice-president and Clay Seachris remaining as president. With a majority present and nominations unopposed, the preceding are next year's officers.

The Great Plains Street Rodders continue as a diverse group of members and cars. Many have multiple show cars and cruisers and we only survey up to three cars per member. In 2008, our 177-member club tracked 175 show cars, cruisers and projects ranging from two 1923 Dodges and two 1923 Fords to a 2009 Mustang. All popular decades of cars are represented. Hotrod '30s, fat-fendered '40s and big-finned '50s are all treasured years, but the muscle cars of the '60s outnumber all other decades.

As I mentioned at the Christmas party, our club is fortunate to have so many dedicated members who are willing to volunteer their time to keep our club active. Every time I give public recognition to volunteers, I regret leaving out so many others who attend and participate in making our gatherings and events so enjoyable. We often refer to our group as "family" and this family works well together at having fun.

It's always wonderful spending time with such great people – family. Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

It's a Different, Different Car

When Jerry and Marilyn Meyers come down the road, there's no mistaking them for someone else. After all, how many other people have taken an AMC Pacer, and then customized it?

There's no question that the Pacer is a very unique automobile. And that's what Jerry really likes about it.

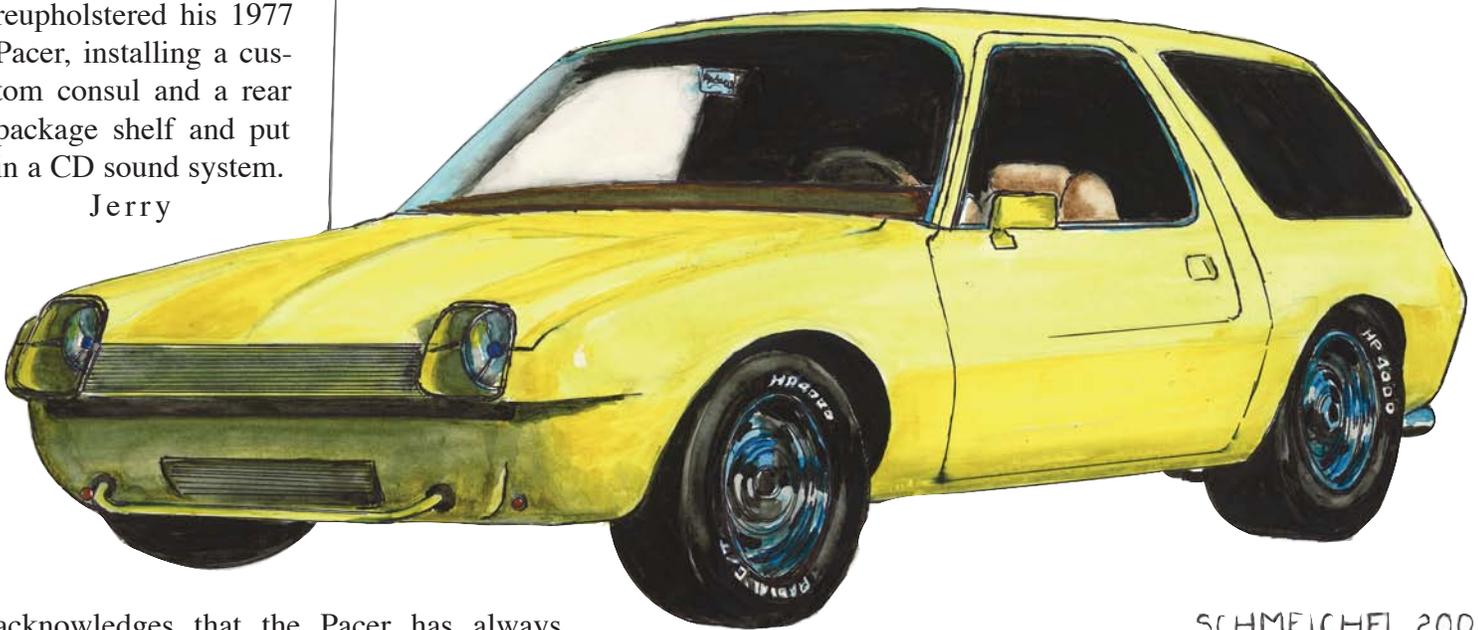
"I just like the looks of it," he said.

But Jerry wasn't satisfied to have a unique automobile. If he ever did come across another one on a cruise or at a car show, he wanted his to look different. So, he removed the bumpers and installed nerf bars. He also rearranged the taillights and blinkers and removed the roof rack for his own, smooth, custom look. That takes some people aback.

"People ask 'What the hell are you doing?' I laugh at them and ask what they're driving and usually they didn't even have anything."

He also reupholstered his 1977 Pacer, installing a custom consul and a rear package shelf and put in a CD sound system.

Jerry



acknowledges that the Pacer has always been controversial in its styling. He noted that the passenger door is four inches longer than the driver's door to make it easier for people to access the back seat.

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However, on a windy day that also makes that door more difficult to handle. From the day it came out, people seemed to love it or hate it. But that is only part of the car's controversial origins.

"It was built originally for a Mazda Rotary engine, but they went with an inline six," he explained. "That made it a little heavy (for the six-cylinder engine)."

But he says he gets far more positive comments on his Pacer than criticism.

"Every car show you go to, 100 people walk up. 'Aw, my grandpop had one; my mom had one.' They love it," Jerry said.

When Jerry found it, his Pacer had sat many years behind a retirement home. He brought it back to life, made the modifications he envisioned and has never looked back. It's built to drive, and he drives it a lot. And he and Marilyn enjoy it a lot, too.

The Dollhouse

By Karen Roe

With determination, I push my cart down the aisle. It's that time of the year again, but instead of

sugarplums dancing in my head, I contemplate what to get my precious granddaughters for Christmas. Like many kids today, they have most everything. My biggest challenge, though, is figuring out how to outfox the other grandma.

"Nana" has everything in her favor. Her spacious house features (and I do mean features) a grand playroom full of every toy and contraption to capture the young, female heart! The contents of Santa's workshop could not rival that grandma's irresistible entrapments. And if those weren't enough, consider a frilly poodle named "Foo-Foo," two guinea pigs and an adorable new kitten. The woman has no conscience!

There must be some way I can entice the girls to spend more time with this grandma. I gaze unenthusiastically at all of the playthings hoping that something unusual will catch my eye. I've nearly given up when I spy it unexpectedly looming from a platform in the last aisle. I shoot my cart over to the breath-taking display. The enchanting dollhouse stands almost to my height. It is made of wood, the gingerbread trim painted in soft shades of brown, pink and green. The rooms, open and accessible to small hands, are elegantly decorated with chic' wall-

paper and real carpet that is scaled to the size of the house. Of course, there is every conceivable piece of furniture and accessory, all of them in exquisite detail. I study all of the rooms and marvel at the modern kitchen. "This kitchen has more appliances than I do," I say to myself.

What really draws my attention, though, is the life-like family of dolls
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that consists of parents, a boy, girl, infant, and, unbelievably, a set of grandparents! My heart flutters wildly! Could it be more perfect?

As I survey the wondrous contents of the dollhouse, my fingers itch to place the tiny infant in its crib and to move the sofa in front of the fireplace. It is all so adorable and, undoubtedly, pricey!

With trepidation, I look at the price tag.

“Oh, no,” I gasp. “It can’t be!” I slip on my reading glasses to recheck but the outrageous figures remain stubbornly in place. Never in my life have I spent that much on a toy – not for my own children, not for all of them put together! But the dollhouse is soooo beautiful! Maybe, just maybe, it’s worth it. My whirling brain begins to calculate ways that I can fit it into the budget. If I reduce my hair-coloring appointments, go to the gym only twice a week, cut down on lunches with friends.... Yes, it is possible! I whip out my credit card and head for the nearest check-out lane. The picture of two little girls with star-filled eyes has filled my head and now there is no stopping this grandmother!

It is our turn for the family Christmas and everyone arrives the

day before. Christmas morning dawns bright and early as the girls, brimming with excitement, scramble toward the tree. In a few short moments, we hear shrieks of delight. “Oh, look at the beautiful dollhouse. Thank you Grandpa and Grammy, thank you so much!”

The rest of the day is a blurr. The girls play for hours with the dollhouse and later, I join in. Together, we clean house and tend to the children. Never has it been such fun!

Eventually, however, it is time for the trip home. The girls plead piteously for a few more minutes of playtime. When the pleading is followed by tears, Mom promises to bring them back soon. I smile sympathetically at Mom, but inside, cackle with glee. My plan has worked like a charm. My future as the most popular grandmother has been sealed!

Soon, all the hugs and kisses are administered, the good-byes are said, and the loved ones packed in the car, are ready to depart. I wave vigorously from the window until they are out of sight then sigh with both contentment and relief. The dollhouse has been a huge success. It’s been better than past cookie-baking, gingerbread house -making, and tree-trimming all rolled into

one!

After Grandpa stores the dollhouse and accessories under the stairway, I look at it all one last time. I turn off the light and close the door, a smug grin stealing over my lips as I envision the next visit – two very happy little girls and one super deluxe dollhouse, the best investment Grammy ever made!



A Friend Missed

Bill and Sam, two elderly friends, met in the park every day to feed the pigeons, watch the squirrels and discuss world problems. One day Bill didn't show up. Sam didn't think much about it and figured maybe he had a cold or something. But after Bill hadn't shown up for a week or so, Sam really got worried. However, since the only time they ever got together was at the park, Sam didn't know exactly where Bill lived, so he was unable to find out what had happened to him.

A month had passed, and Sam figured he had seen the last of Bill. But one day, Sam approached the park and--lo and behold!--there sat Bill. Sam was very excited and happy to see him and told him so. Then he said, "For crying out loud, Bill, what in the world happened to you?"

Bill replied, "I've been in jail".

"Jail?" cried Sam. "What in the world for?"

"Well," Bill said, "You know Alexis, that cute little blonde waitress at the coffee shop where I sometimes go?"

"Yeah," said Sam, "I remember her. What about her?"

"Well, one day she filed rape charges against me, and at 89 years old, I was so proud that when I got into court, I pled guilty. The dang judge gave me 30 days for perjury."

Holiday Vacation

The Great Plains Streetrodders will be taking a vacation from their weekly "eat and meet" schedule for the holidays.

Because Christmas Eve and New Years Eve fall on Wednesdays, it has been decided to cancel the weekly meetings for Dec. 24 and Jan. 31 this year. We will resume meeting weekly the first Wednesday in January, Jan. 7. That meeting is scheduled to be held at the China Star on 41st Street in Sioux Falls.

For those who still want to go out Christmas Eve, some area churches will be holding Christmas Eve services, including Cross Pointe Baptist on Marion Road, which invites all to their 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service. However, things automotive will likely be down-played at such events.

2009 Officers Chosen

The officers for the Great Plains Streetrodders for the coming new year were chosen at the club's Dec. 6 Christmas party.

If some officers' names sound familiar, it is because they agreed to continue serving another term at the request of the club's membership.

Clay Seachris was selected to be president again, while Bob Schmeichel was chosen to continue as vice-president. The term limits in the by-laws were voted suspended to allow Clay to continue as club president for a third year.

Jayne DeBoer was named treasurer, and Sheila Miller became club secretary.

There were no other nominations for the officers, which makes an election unnecessary. The new officers will begin in their positions at the beginning of the new year.

Upcoming Cruises & Events

Dec. 3 -- Shrivvers Square - Hemmer Brother's Hamburgers
Dec. 10 -- Rookies - South Louise Ave (by Granite City)
Dec. 17 -- Shenanigans
Dec. 24 -- Christmas Eve
Dec. 31 -- New Years Eve
Jan. 7 -- China Star
Jan. 14 -- Pizza Ranch, W. 41st St.
Jan. 21 -- Hy-Vee, Minnesota Ave.
Jan. 25 -- Siouxland Car Council Hobo Stew at the Shrine on Phillips Ave.
Jan. 28 -- Cracker Barrel
Feb. 4 -- Royal Fork
Feb. 11 -- Brandon Steakhouse
Feb. 18 -- Skelly's
Feb. 25 -- Valentino's
Feb- 28-March 1 -- Counts Car Show, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City
March 4 -- Roll'n Pin
March 11 -- Ramkota Inn
March 18 -- Tea Steakhouse
March 25 -- Main Street, Larchwood
April 1 -- Keg, E. 26th St.
April 8 -- Pizza Ranch, Tea
April 15 -- Ruby Tuesday's, E. 10th St.
April 22 -- Tailgators, Brandon
April 29 -- Ming Wah's
July 10 -- Black Hills Rod Run

December Birthdays

Ron Hammerschmidt	2
Bill Miller	3
Marlo Jones	7
Gary Ebright	11
Cathy Walker	13
Leonard Rhoades	15

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Barb Schriever	17
Heather (Hanson)	19
Julie Hansen	20
LeAnn Phillips	20
Helen Jensen	21
Roger Corkill	24
Ellen VanNoort	30
Chris Johnson	31

December Anniversaries

Morris & Beth Fick	1
Glenn & Cathy Walker	19
Eric & Patt Anderson	20
Bill & Lana Kullander	20
Fred & Nancy Snyder	31

January Birthdays

Matt Butler	2
Shanda Schlechter	3
Ike Wiese	5
Glenna Burns	7
Fred Lambert	10
Beth Fick	12
Michelle Lee	14
Randy Ludwig	16
Doreen Wiese	21
Marilyn Haper	24
Nancy Jellis	31

January Anniversaries

Ike & Doreen Wiese	12
Al & Shirley Alby	20

Classified ads

WANTED – Front fenders for a 1956 Chevy. Call Ron Roe at 605-332-4543.

FOR SALE – Ford shop manual for 1952-1953-1954 passenger cars. 1976 Ford Torino Elite two-door hardtop, 351 c.i., auto transmission. Contact Ken Buchanan.

FOR SALE – NOS 1973-198?

Chevrolet/GMC P/U, Suburban, Blazer rear tailgate trim molding (black insert) \$25.00; GM Aluminum Big Block “Chevrolet” logo black powder coated valve covers with fasteners and grommets new in the box, \$125.00; complete set of Big Block GM High Performance 1.7 stamped steel rocker arms, pivots and nuts new in the box \$50.00; Complete 396 CI Chevrolet Big Block date coded L-1-5 (Dec-1-65), Holley 600 CFM double-pumper carb, Edelbrock Performer 2-O aluminum intake, GM HEI distributor, 8.5 mm ignition wires, strong performance hydraulic cam, fuel pump, needs valve guide seals, \$2000.00; Chevrolet Big Block 9 qt oil pan cleaned & painted black, \$25.00; 9” Ford rear end housing with 28 spline axles bracketed for 1958-1962 Chevrolet full size car 5 x 4 ?” bolt pattern, \$100.00; set of 20 Stainless steel Chevrolet metric wheel lug nuts new never installed, \$20.00; new Chevrolet/GM 454 HD fan clutch new in box, \$30.00; 1993-1999 Chevrolet/ GMC P/U Suburban, Blazer rear tail lights converted to LED lamps (plug in) \$50.00, pair of John Deere lawn tractor wheels sandblasted painted JD yellow 12”x12” for 400 series tractor, \$60.00; snow mobile trailer axle with springs and tounge,\$50.00; pair of trailer tires & wheels, bias ply 205/75x14 spoked wheels 5x4 1/2” bolt pattern \$30.00. For more information call Mike Miller @ 605-360-8546 Sx. Falls.

FOR SALE -- 1972 Buick Riviera, 455 c.i., auto. Needs deck lid and front seat upholstery. Good straight body, vinyl top, boattail. Runs and drives. New

front discs. \$1500. 1975 Buick Riviera, 455, auto, very good body, needs some plastics and front bucket seat torn. One owner car that has the turbine wheel covers. Excellent bumpers and chrome. Runs and drives. Call Eric Anderson at 712 380 4969

FOR SALE -- 3:92 gears for Ford 9 inch rear-end (excellent condition), Holley 650 Double-pump four barrel carb (needs new power valve), Chrome 2-wire alternator for 1974 thru 1984 Ford 302 (New in box). Call Bill Kullander, 605 366-1158

FOR SALE -- 5' x10' trailer with attached loading ramp. Wired with lights and highway tires. \$775.00, call Terry Peterson, 359-5386.

FOR SALE -- NOS 1966 Chevelle rear bumper, still in GMs factory rubberized wrap. I've seen them listed on E-Bay in the \$450-\$500 range. The first \$375.00 cash will own it. Call Jerry at 368-2418 for more details.

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

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

Merry Christmas!

