



# Cruisin' News

July, 2008

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

## *The Old Cars Are Out And About*

By Clay Seachris  
President's message

The cruise and car show season is in full swing and members have been busy going in all directions locally, regionally and nationally to numerous venues throughout the country. Back to the Fifties had 11,532 rods, customs and classics on display at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. The 4th of July Heartland Nationals at the Iowa State Fairgrounds stated close to 4,000 cars. Many members had their cars singled out for media coverage at Automania. Gary's '23 T-bucket and Terry and Sandy's '72 Charger were some that got T.V. time, with Terry even giving an interview to a local cable channel. Despite all the large events, the Great Plains family continues to plan and execute many friendly little fun club socials.

Terry did a great job hosting a Siouxland Car Council Wednesday night cruise. His race shop and home of "The Pressure Kocher" and some other sweet rides was a great place for an evening. Many members cooked and served the burgers and brats Kevin provided. This evening was also the debut of Jules' latest project. Look back at last month's newsletter to see photos and read about the interest it peeked.

Walking Tacos were a big hit at Sherman Park. Nancy, Betty, Jayne, Marilyn and others worked together to serve this simple, awesome meal. Despite a threat of rain the park had a good turn-out and we all ate our fill of tacos and watermelon. The shade trees, playground equipment and visible parking lot always make Sherman Park a great hang-out for car enthusiasts.

A Sunday afternoon picnic at Fred and Nancy's was a wonderful gathering of friends. Again, I'm impressed by how gracious our members are as hosts in their homes, garages and back yards. Fred and Nancy have done a wonderful job of reviving Nancy's childhood home. It's easy to envision Fred enjoying their 50's diner nook with hidden flat screen T.V. behind an old-style menu posted on the wall. Yes, burgers were 17 cents back then. The extra bedroom Nancy has dedicated to Elvis memorabilia is also a cool addition to a beautiful home. The food was great and we had a nice time making memories and strengthening friendships.

Many club members have been coordinating a poker run to showcase some Sioux Falls landmarks. Historical tidbits regarding Falls Park, The Amidon Affair and The Indian Burial Mounds and Sherman Park were incorporated into the poker run. Next month's newsletter will have the wrap-up from this memorable event.

I only touched on a small portion of area events. Keep checking [www.siouxlandcouncil.info](http://www.siouxlandcouncil.info) for posted cruises, shows and photos. Our own website [www.greatplainsstreetrodders.com](http://www.greatplainsstreetrodders.com) always has updates also and the web-master link is a great place to email your club member photos. Betty is always glad to get printed photos also for the club photo albums. Keep up the fun, making memories and friendships as Great Plains Street Rodders.



## *Building It Is The Most Fun*

Rich Barnes built a Cobra replica, and then sold it. Then he built another one, and it's for sale, too. If he doesn't like the cars enough to keep them, then why does he keep building them?

Actually, he does like them, but he likes building them even more.

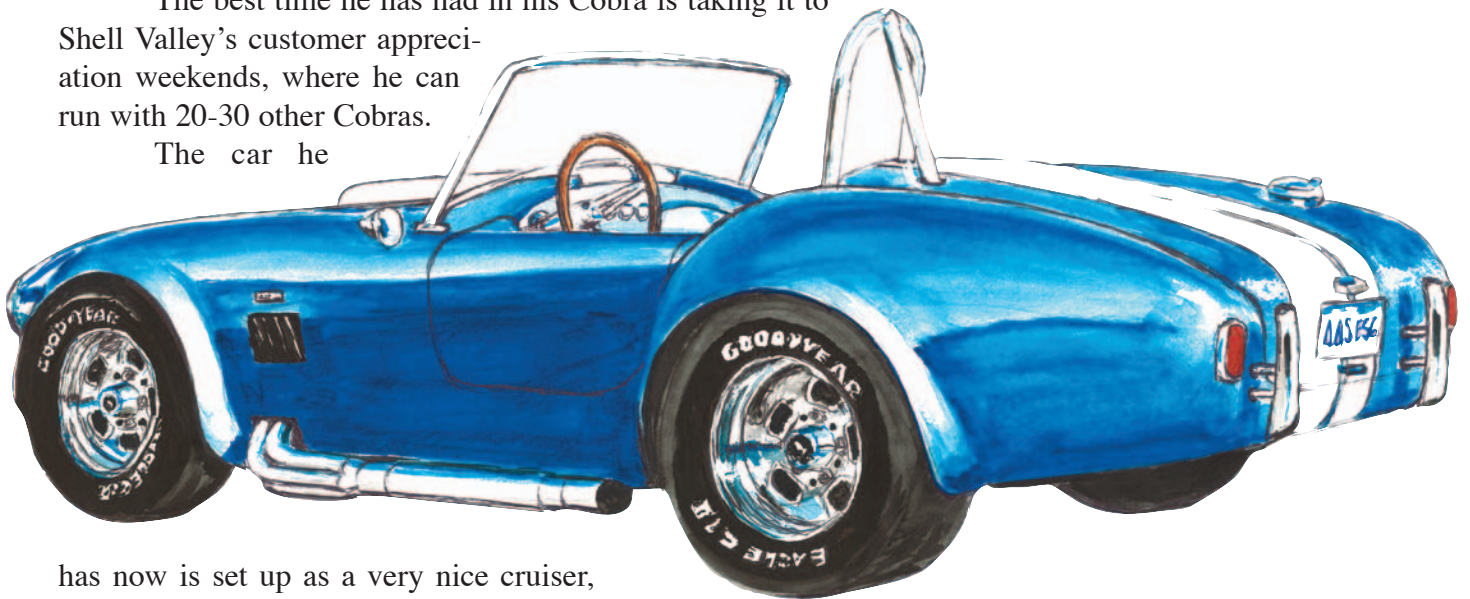
His present 1967 Cobra replica was purchased and built four years ago. The one he had before it he sold to Terry Koch just before purchasing this one, which is painted Guardsman Blue with stripes. While he has been trying to sell it also, he said he hasn't tried very hard, and just puts a "for sale" sign on it at an occasional car show. He does like it well enough that it wouldn't hurt his feelings to keep it.

"I'm enjoying cruising in it too much," Rich said.

He purchases the cars as kits from Shell Valley out of Nebraska, where he gets everything needed except the engine, transmission, paint, wheels and tires. That allows him to put the wheels and drive-train he wants on each car. If he had his way, he would build a car each year and then sell it, he said.

The best time he has had in his Cobra is taking it to Shell Valley's customer appreciation weekends, where he can run with 20-30 other Cobras.

The car he



has now is set up as a very nice cruiser, giving him power, but a calm ride down the highway. It has a Ford 351 stroked to

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408 cubic inches. A dynamometer registered this car at 450 horsepower and 475 pounds-feet of torque.

"When I built this one, I was looking for a mid-range hauler," he said.

The five-speed transmission will allow him to cruise at 75 MPH while turning only 2200 RPM. And, it will run on regular pump gas, he noted.

He chose the color based on the advice that red or blue Cobras sell quicker. And as much as he likes this car, he has to sell it if he's going to get to build another one. He can only afford one at a time.

While his wife, Melania, has given him a lot of support in this hobby, he said she doesn't ride with him in his Cobra very often.

"She doesn't like it much because it messes her hair up in it," he said.

## *An Invite to the Farm*

It's time to get out of the city again. The 8th Annual Cruise to the Farm will be held 3-7 p.m. Sunday, July 20.

Norm and Ethelyn Fey are again hosting the event at their farm, 2454 160th Ave., Edgerton, MN. They promise fun, fellowship, food, beverages and maybe a few burnouts. Those attending are invited to enjoy the outdoors around their facilities or the air-conditioned comfort of their home. Bring a lawn chair.

The Feys are inviting members of the Great Plains Streetrodders to participate as well as anyone interested in streetrods.

Children are invited, too, although the only animals they will find on this farm are raw horsepow-

er and maybe some of the streetrod drivers.

To get there from Sioux Falls, take I-90 east to Hwy 75 and go north to Rock County 1, then 4.5 miles east to 160th Ave. Turn south on 160th Ave for about 50 feet, then turn left into the Feys' driveway and follow it 1/2 mile to the farm.

## *Not Getting Any Better*

A man was just waking up from anesthesia after surgery, and his wife was sitting by his side. His eyes fluttered open and he said, "You're beautiful." Then he fell asleep again. His wife had never heard him say that before, so she stayed by his side.

A few minutes later his eyes fluttered open and he said, "You're cute."

The wife was disappointed because instead of "beautiful," it was now "cute." She asked, "What happened to beautiful?"

The man replied, "The drugs are wearing off."

## *Join The Olympics*

Want to be a part of the Olympics? Bring your ride to the Special Olympics of Sioux Falls Car Show, to be held 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, July 20.

It will be held along Phillips to the Falls between 6th and 2nd streets in Sioux Falls. Three awards

will be given in each of 57 classes in addition to Best of Show, Mayor's Choice and Athlete's Choice. Dash plaques will be given to the first 100 vehicles.

Entry fee is \$10 in advance or \$15 the day of the show. All proceeds go to Special Olympics of Sioux Falls.

## *A Sad Day*

We were saddened to hear that Great Plains Street Rodders founding member Bob Schriever passed away June 26.

Bob owned and operated Missile Muffler until selling the business and retiring in 1981. He then worked with his son, Tom, building cars and doing auto body repair. He owned a race car for a time and was recently inducted into the Huset's Speedway Hall of Fame. He helped start The Great Plains Streetrodders in 1985 as a group centered around pre-1949 streetrods. He also had been a member of the Sioux Falls Ignitors car club. He and his wife Barb were frequently seen at club activities in the 1932 Ford hotrod he had built, and more recently in a pickup truck his late son Tom started building and he finished.

Please keep Barb and the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. If you would like to send a card to Barb, her address is: 4101 South Klein Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57106.



## Custom Car Interest

### Rekindled

By Clay Seachris

Just as the customcar seemed to fade completely, developments took place in 1973 and '74 that would help rekindle an interest in '50s custom cars.

George Lucas' movie *American Graffiti* was released in 1973 to an enthusiastic audience that connected with the film's nostalgic depiction of teenage activities in the summer of '62. Central to the story were cruising customs and hot rods. For car enthusiasts, what could have been more perfect than the Deuce coupe, chopped Merc and '58 Impala that were central to the story? *American Graffiti* got people's attention, but there was more to come.

Car magazines also played a part. In 1973, *Hot Rod*, not known for featuring custom cars, ran an article that espoused 1950s customizing as an art form. Examples were included along with a pullout poster by artist Robert Williams. Titled "A Devil With a Hammer and Hell With a Torch," the poster celebrated the accomplishments of George Barris and Ed "Big Daddy" Roth and showed real and imagined '50s- and '60s-style custom cars.

Then, *Street Rodder* devoted its November 1974 issue to chopped Mercs. Bang! The magazine devoted almost entirely to street rods was featuring a custom Merc on its cover. It was all coincidental, but the 1950s style custom car was being celebrated in different media. Slowly, '50s style customs were coming back.

Back on the street rod scene, numerous fledgling companies were manufacturing components exclusively for hot rods by the mid 1970s. They made kits for engine and transmission installations, suspensions,

and disc brakes. Another company even had a completely new, stamped 1932 Ford frame.

These products made constructing a street rod a lot easier and safer. The components were well-made and engineered, and the new rodding magazines, as well as the *Street Rod Nationals*, provided the means for effective marketing.

As early Ford bodies became more and more rare, fiberglass companies started manufacturing everything from fenders to complete coupe and roadster bodies. Existing businesses expanded their lines, and more companies sprang up to manufacture more sophisticated equipment such as independent suspensions and air conditioning systems. From these companies emerged another hot rod milestone. Shops began specializing in constructing hot rods. Customers could buy any service from chassis fabrication, to upholstery, to wiring, or opt for a complete "turnkey" rod.

These were the beginnings of the huge street rod aftermarket industry. It was a slow and steady progression, and an obvious outgrowth of the *Street Rod Nationals* and the NSRA.

Custom cars were slow to this party, and when they finally arrived, it was in a different way than hot rods. The custom car movement had grown from its rebirth in this decade, but the ideas applied to the custom car hadn't changed significantly from the 1950s. The same cars were being customized, the shoebox Fords and 1949-51 Mercs for example, and these cars had more complicated bodies and components than hot rods, making aftermarket bodies and parts less feasible to produce. Aftermarket bodies for typical '50s custom subjects weren't needed anyway because these cars were still

readily available and relatively affordable.

Also, most custom car modifications have always been unique and labor intensive for each car. Whereas almost every hot rod needed suspension components, making them lucrative to manufacture, custom cars couldn't benefit from as many aftermarket components because it was too difficult at the time to manufacture custom bodies and the market for such products was much smaller.

It also made little sense to make a chopped top for a Mercury or a hood with rounded corners, for instance, because each custom car is a personalized statement, often with different treatments for the various custom modifications.

Back in the hot rod world, a new look had taken hold, that of the "resto rod," so-called for its use of original components such as lantern-style cowl lights and accessory trunk racks.

This gave restorers two reasons to dislike hot rodders. First, rodders were "ruining" original cars by cutting up the frames and bodies and installing late-model engines, air conditioning and the like. Second, the resto-rodders were robbing restorers of their prized original components, like headlights, accessory clock mirrors and greyhound hood ornaments. Original-type mohair upholstery and even stock two-tone paint jobs were showing up with regularity at rod runs and in the magazines.

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By the end of the decade, the typical hot rod was a clean, simple traditional or resto-rod with modern advances like independent suspensions, disc brakes, rack-and-pinion steering, power windows, power brakes and tilt steering columns. Like they often had in the past, junkyards provided the components that builders incorporated into their hot rods, only now some different parts were chosen.

The quality of street rods was on the rise, and so were events' participation and the street rod industry as a whole.

### *Upcoming Cruises & Events*

- July 16 -- Cruise to Marty's Upholstery in Del Rapids
- July 16 – Hot Summer Nights in Sioux Falls
- July 19 – cruise & car show for Deanna Ludwig in Canton
- July 20 – Cruise to the Farm 3-7 p.m. at Edgerton, MN
- July 20 – Special Olympics car show at Phillips-To-The-Falls in Sioux Falls
- July 20 – Klassic Kruisers Car Show in Lake Preston
- July 23 -- Cruise to VA, 2501 W 22nd

- St., Sioux Falls
- July 25-26 – Impact In The Park motorcade and car show at Humboldt, SD
- July 26 – Renner Days car show
- July 26-27 – Canton Area Cruise Nite and Car Show
- July 30 -- Cruise hosted by Empire Pontiac Chapter, at Pontiac of Sioux Falls, 2805 S. Kiwanis St.
- Aug. 2-3 – All GM Car Show in Sioux Falls
- August 6 -- Cruise to Citi Car Show, 701 E. 60St N., Sioux Falls
- Aug. 8-10 – Old Iron Co. Rod Run in Spencer
- Aug. 10 – Madison Car Show
- August 15 -- Cruise to Bethany Meadows, 3008 E. Aspen Blvd, Brandon
- Aug. 15-17 – Yankton River Boat Days
- Aug. 17 – Arlington Car Show
- August 20 -- Cook Out Wall Lake, hosted by the Sioux Empire Ford Club
- Aug. 21-24 – Kool Deadwood Nights
- August 27 -- Cruise to Executive Touch /Subaru, 1011 S. Minnesota Ave., Sioux Falls
- Aug. 29-31 – Good Guys Car Show in Kansas City
- Sept. 3 -- Cruise to Ice Cream Social at Children's Home Society,

- 801 N. Sycamore Ave. Sioux Falls
- Sept. 5-7 – 29th Annual Vintiques Rod Run in Watertown
- Sept. 18 – Cars Thru The Generations at Sioux Falls
- Sept. 26-28 – Outkasts Car Club show in Mitchell



### *July Birthdays*

Pat Bruining	3
Karen Roe	3
Eric Anderson	8
Jan Malcomb	10
Doug Krouse	11
Karen Walker	12
Nancy Snyder	15
Kimberly Frock	15
Betty Jones	17
Roger VanNoort	20
“Bones” Hanson	21
Kirk Lee	23
Terry Peterson	25
Jason Schlechter	26
Barb Buchanan	29
Gary Bockorny	30
Art Slumskie	31

### *July Anniversaries*

Jim & Julie Hansen	2
Terry & Nancy Jellis	10

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- Roger & Diane Corkill 11
- Tom & Joyce Olsen 19
- Rick & Chris Johnson 28
- Dale & Pat Kiebach 29
- Art & Julie Slumskie 31

### August Birthdays

- Joyce Olsen 5
- Cheri Kappenman 6
- Darla Goebel 7
- Brian Lee 7
- Terry Jellis 9
- Laurie VanNoort 12
- Wayne King 16
- Betty Heidebrink 17
- Judy Bentson 18
- Sandy Heither 18
- Jean Knowlton 18
- Shirley Alby 19
- Glenn Walker 20
- Robin Miller 22
- LaNette Gregersen 27
- Terry Koch 28
- Garry Remme 28
- Jeff Knowlton 29

### August Anniversaries

- David & Kimberly Frock 5
- Darwin & Jane Sletten 8
- Jules & Marilyn Haper 15
- Doug & Laurie VanNoort 15
- Ron & Karen Roe 23



### Classified ads

FOR SALE -- 2001 Dodge Ram 1500 Sport 5.2 Liter 4X4 This is a real nice white Dodge Ram 1500 Sport 4X4 with a lot of cool stuff. It has twin Magnaflo mufflers, Pioneer CD player with Comp 12's and Fosgate amp, remote start, viper lock/alarm system, allow wheels, 112,464 miles. \$11,800, Contact Clay's neice Miranda at pernell555@msn.com or 929-6066.

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 -- 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 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



### 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.

