



Cruisin' News

March, 2008

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

Time To Remove The Snow Tires

Off-season cruising is coming to a close. This winter we've kept busy, shared laughs and sorrow, had a lot of fun, and supported each other through some difficult times. This year's meet-n-eat committee of Shirley Alby, Joyce Gough and Judy Ebright did a wonderful job of planning Wednesday evening dinners. A number of members hosted potlucks and garage tours. Together we coordinated larger socials like the Christmas party and Spring Fever Social. The Great Plains Streetrodders' family continued to make some positive memories as the long winter passed.

Recently, we went cold weather cruising in our daily drivers to Spirit Lake, Iowa. Susan and I met with a number of other cars at Shopko on east 10th Street. Together we convoyed to Eric and Pat Anderson's workshop and home. Upon arrival at Eric's shop the women split and spent the day together visiting, touring a glass-blowing gallery and shopping. The guys also spent the day visiting and touring garages filled with our kind of art. We saw a number of very rare cars. One was a Pierce, almost a century old, and looked like a new car. This car cost as much then as some of our new cars cost today. Eric and Pat were gracious hosts for feeding all of us. Thank you Pat for directing Susan to the "bargain" section at the glass-blowing gallery.

I missed the Valentine's Day evening meal at the Brandon Steakhouse, but I heard good reviews.

This year a couple members recommended that we coordinate a spring social. The Spring Fever Social was a fun, successful get-together. We had a lot to eat with over 60 members bringing all kinds of food. The new Sioux Valley Energy building had plenty of room for the club and worked so well that it is reserved for our next Christmas party. We'll take advantage of the big screen, DVD projector and all the other little amenities this room offers. I appreciate all the members who researched different meeting locations and everyone who helped make the social a success.

Members sharing ideas for cruises and gatherings all-year-round helps to keep us making memories and having fun together. As with any group of friends, we are always looking for ways to be with each other and have fun. The ideas, support and participation of all members make the Great Plains Streetrodders such a great group to be involved with. It works so well for someone to approach the officers with an idea and be able to help us grow that idea into a successful event. Any member can volunteer to coordinate a cruise, tour, picnic or social event and the club will support you.

As the snow melts and the streets dry up, we will get back to cruising and car shows. Today, I heard the ice-cream drive-ins are open and you know spring is here when the Easter Car Show is only a few days away. Some club members have new cars to share; others have updates to existing rides. We have some new members sharing cars we've never seen before. I get excited looking forward to cruising and hanging out again outside with our attention grabbers.

You are all invited - your votes and input are necessary - to attend the Siouxland Car Council meeting on Thursday evening, March 20, at the Pizza Ranch on 41st Street. The council will be electing officers and finalizing the cruising locations. The car council website www.siouxlandcouncil.info is being updated daily as car events are announced. Continue to check www.greatplainsstreetrodders.com to see what updates Derrick has made to our site, also.

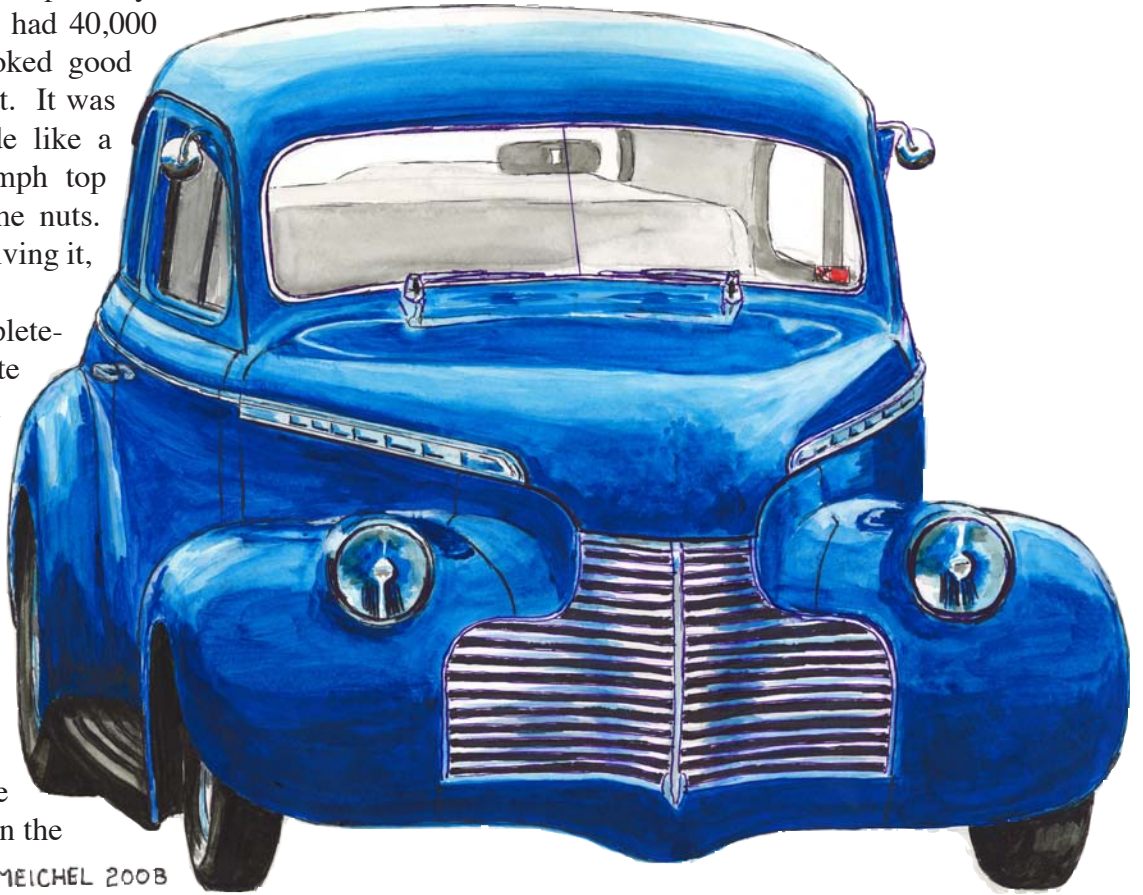
It's The Best One He's Built

By Bob Schmeichel

I have been in the street-rodding hobby for 36 years and my 1940 Chevy is number 6 of what I have built for myself as well as a half dozen other cars I have done for other people.

I bought it in an original, partially restored form in 1987 for \$1,700. It had 40,000 original miles on it and looked good with its then new black paint. It was mechanically sound but rode like a lumber wagon with a 45 mph top highway speed that drove me nuts. So after about 8 months of driving it, I decided to streetrod it.

I tore into it and completely disassembled the complete car, body off, right down to a bare frame. I cut the frame off at the firewall and grafted a Camaro sub frame that I narrowed 3 inches. I bought a 454 Chevy engine with a transmission out of an enduro racer over the phone that the owner said ran good when he took it out. I was questioning that when he pulled it out of a snow drift on the ground with his tractor



SCHMEICHEL 2008 when I went to pick it up. I took it apart when I got home, had it bored and all the machine work done, then put everything back together myself with as many new parts as I could afford at the time to get it running. The transmission seemed to be OK visually, but I had it rebuilt by a friend anyway to give myself a piece of mind. I went to Arndt's next (which is no longer) and bought a 9-inch Ford rearend through Marv (one of our members) out of a '71 Mustang.

The whole project was kind of coming together all at the same time, so I needed to get going on the body and

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started by stripping it down to bare metal. I found some body mounts gone and the entire floor in the trunk was broken loose all the way around. After a couple of weeks of welding everything up that needed it, I decided it was time to attempt to put the body on the frame for a mock-up.

Now, here is where it got fun, and you have to follow me to understand why it got that way. Because I narrowed up the sub frame, I had to mount the engine higher and back, which is what I wanted to do anyway to get the fan into the center of the radiator. And because I did that I had to create a new recessed firewall to accommodate the engine set back as well as a tunnel in the floor of the body for the transmission and driveshaft where it was flat before front to back.

Once I had everything in place with all I had to do, the car practically fell together. I say that laughing as you can usually put something together and take it apart 20 to 30 times before you are happy with the end result when doing something like this.

So now, with everything bolted in place, I started doing body work along with making and mocking up everything I could do to make it different. One of the special

things I always do is to create my own dash, and in this car, I did it out of metal which has always kept that area a focal point at car shows. Also, this is the first car that I haven't chopped the top on it out of all that I have built, and to this day I still like the big spaciousness inside.

Once I had everything pretty much to my satisfaction in the

mocked-up state and ready to paint, I created my own special color. It wound up being pretty simple, utilizing a straight none metallic violet tinting color with blue pearl added to it. The recipe is my own, although I have done other cars using a similar technique to create other one-off similar colors. Believe it or not, I took the car apart and painted it in pieces outside in my driveway in December of 1989. There was a week then when it was 70 degrees all week long, which was the window I took advantage of to paint it. The following week it snowed.

I put the car back together the final time through in the spring of 1990 and have been driving it ever since. I have never had as much fun with any car as I have with this one in the most recent years, and mainly because of my wife, Sandy, being there and enjoying it with me, which makes the whole picture really special.

The really only other desire that I would liked to have done with this car is to run it at the Bonneville Salt Flats as it rolls really fast and easy. After I checked out the rules of what was required to do that, I opted not to spend the money that way.

However, in the summer of 2006, while at a car show in Sioux City, I put the car on a chassis dyno to see what it had for horsepower and top speed. While the horsepower wasn't anything to brag about, the top speed touched 170 MPH. That had a lot of people watching and asking the guy operating the dyno if that was correct, and him clarifying that it was indeed correct quite a few times. That made my day with all the Bonneville desires I have ever had, considering the fact that I had built the engine along with the entire car and had been driving it for 16 years already.

I will probably redo this car some day, but for the present time, I am

having too much fun driving it. I do have a desire to build one more car, but because it takes so much time and drive the older you get, I am going to create a totally one-off creation. I will be creating my own handmade body, frame and suspension. I already have the design down, and Sandy wants to physically help me build it, learning to

Classified ads

FOR SALE -- NOS 1966 Chevelle rear bumper, still in GM's 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 diecast car. To place your ad, call Brian at 498-0178 or email him at bg4given@gmail.com

Upcoming Cruises & Events

Feb. 20 – Coyote Canyon
 Feb. 27 – Pizza Ranch at Tea
 March 5 – Royal Fork
 March 12 – Market Place at Inwood, IA
 March 19 – Ramkota
 March 22-23 – Easter Car Show in Sioux Falls
 March 26 – Ming-Wah
 April 12 – SD Parent Connection Car Show in Sioux Falls
 April 19 – El Riad Shrine
 May 10 – El Riad Shrine Rockin' 50s Party
 May 21 – ABS Show and Shine
 May 28 – VA Car Show at the Sioux Falls VA hospital
 June 4 – Executive Touch cruise
 June 6-8 -- Luverne's Buffalo Days Cruise Nite and car show.
 June 8 – Sioux Empire Ford Car Show
 June 13 – Hills Poker Run, starting in Brandon, SD
 June 15 – Cars in the Park show in Mitchell
 June 18 – Automania in Sioux Falls
 June 20-22 – Back to the 50s in St. Paul, MN
 June 21 – Marion Car Show
 June 21 – Mighty Mo Car Show at Harry K's in Oacoma
 June 27-29 – Quarry Days in Del Rapids
 July 8-12 – POCI Nationals in Spearfish
 July 11-13 – Black Hills Rod Run at Hill City, SD
 July 12-13 – River City Racin' Show and Shine at Cedar Shore in Oacoma
 July 26-27 – Canton Area Cruise Nite and Car Show
 Aug. 8-10 – Old Iron Co. Rod Run in Spencer

Aug. 10 – Madison Car Show
 Aug. 15-17 – Yankton River Boat Days
 Aug. 21-24 – Kool Deadwood Nights
 Aug. 29-31 – Labor Day Rod Run in Sioux Falls
 Aug. 29-31 – Good Guys Car Show in Kansas City
 Sept. 5-7 – 29th Annual Vintiques Rod Run in Watertown

March Birthdays

Randy DeBoer	2
Kevin Kappenman	4
Norma Krouse	6
Lynn Hammerschmidt	8
Les Ramstad	14
Don Jensen	15
Rick Johnson	17
Mike Miller	17
Kathy Koch	20
Dick Gaddis	21
Bob Schmeichel	22
Lea Yorsky	23
Sam Britt	24
Jules Haper	25
Pat Kiebach	27
Rich Barnes	30

March Anniversaries

Tommy & Lola Little	3
Diego & Lea Yorsky	19
Chuck & Sherrey Kellogg	28

April Birthdays

Jim DeBoer	10
Junie Herschberger	15
Patt Anderson	16
Lana Kullander	16
Gary Jorgenson	21
Sandy Christians	22
Roger Malcomb	24
Sandy Peterson	26

April Anniversaries

Don & Betty Jones	2
Dean & Joyce Gough	17

Don & Helen Jensen	21
Les & Mary Ramstad	24
Jim & Jayne DeBoer	25
Bob & Barb Schriever	26

Help Them Celebrate

Dean and Joyce Gough will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary April 17. But their children can't wait that long.

The Gough's children will be holding an open house in honor of their parents' anniversary 2-4 p.m. the preceding Saturday, April 12. It will be held at the Trinity Baptist Church, 2400 W. 18th St. in Sioux Falls.

They are inviting all members of the Great Plains Streetrodders to join them in honoring their fellow club members' achievement.

They request no gifts.

Parking in Ireland

Paddy was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up to heaven he said, "Lord take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of me life and give up me Irish Whiskey!"

Miraculously, a parking place appeared.

Paddy looked up again and said, "Never mind, I found one."



Sympathy Goes Out

Great Plains Streetrodder Darwin Sletten's father, Kermit , passed away March 9, 2008 at Sanford/USD Medical Center.

Funeral services will be held March 13 at the Hartford United Methodist Church, Hartford, SD. A memorial was sent on behalf of the Great Plains Streetrodders.

Kermit, a former Hartford resident, was born on a farm near Chancellor on May 27, 1912 to Tom and Annie Sletten near where the Slettens homesteaded in Dakota Territory in 1976. He attended rural schools in that area and married Florence Rippentrop at the rural Lennox Germantown Presbyterian Church on March 21, 1936. He farmed in the Chancellor area until 1942, when he bought a farm 5 1/2 miles north of Hartford. There, Kermit and Florence resided until moving to the Lennox Good Samaritan Home in 2002.

If you would like to send a card to Darwin and Jane you can send it to: Darwin and Jane Sletten, 2410 West Old Yankton Road, Sioux Falls, SD 57108.



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.

