



# The Counts *Streetin' News*



National Street Rod Assn.  
Charter Club since 1975

Volume 48 Number 1  
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The COUNTS are in their  
60th year  
*Fun With Cars Since*



## 19th Annual Counts Car Show February 16 – 18– Rapid Civic Center

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# Editorially Speaking with JIM

Fun with Cars  
Since 1957!



It is known that wild geese flying in formation take turns in the lead position. When the goose on point wavers he drops back into the formation and a more rested bird takes the lead and breaks the wind for the group.

Jim Neuzil has been flying point for the Counts for more years than any of us can remember and is finally ready to drop back and take a bit of a breather. Thus I (with a lot of help) am going to step up and try my hand at the helm of Streetin' News. I am not sure if I am a grey goose or an ugly duckling but I will try my best to produce a palatable rag . If you have comments or improvements don't be afraid to let your voice be heard.

Streetin' News helps us know what other Counts are doing (car wise anyway). The more help I can get from members, the better the newsletter can be. If you attend an event, a car show, a garage tour etc. snap two or three photos and send me a paragraph or two. Don't worry about misspelled words etc. I can clean it up if you just get it to me.

The big news looming in our very near future is , of course, the 19th Counts Car Show which will be February 16-18 at the Rapid City Civic Center. Rather than reprint all the information here I will simply steer you toward the Counts web page at [www.Countscarclub.com](http://www.Countscarclub.com) where you will find applications and all the pertinent poop. Gary and crew are, as always, putting out a ton of effort and it will be well worth your time to help out wherever you can.'

Since we missed a newsletter or two over the last few months we are just going to start fresh and skip a lot of areas including last summers event coverage.

I wanted to point out that Jack Venable was thanked in a letter to Street Scene magazine for having stepped up and helping a Fellow Pages street rodder out of a pickle. Turns out this happened a couple summers ago. Oh well, better late than never, Right Shakey? Al Smith

## "Keep On Streetin'"





**Well, here it is the first of the year and the Counts Club has hit the ground running. I'll be the first to admit that the meetings are a bit crazy, but hopefully they will improve with time. The Counts 19th annual Civic Center Car Show is doing well in the planning stages and I urge fellow members to get involved.**

**Though the temperatures are a little on the nippy side, I am sure there are some wrenches being turned on some cool rides in garages around the Rapid City area in preparation for the warmer days that will surely come. So without further ado, I'll wish all the Counts and hot rodders everywhere a Happy New Year of good health and great wealth. Ya gotta drive 'em!**

**Counts Car Club Civic Center Show information and applications can be found at Counts website [www.countscarclub.com](http://www.countscarclub.com) or on our facebook page.**

# Thoughts from the Editor



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Streetin' News helps us know what our fellow Counts are up to (car wise, anyway). The more help I can get from members the better the newsletter will be. If you attend a car show, an event, a garage tour or just see something automotively interesting please snap two or three photos and send me a paragraph or two. Don't worry about misspelled words etc. I can clean it up if you just get it to me.

We have a really BIG DEAL coming up. It is, of course the 19th Counts Car Show February 16-18 at the Rapid City Civic Center. Just go to the Counts website for pertinent poop. Gary K. and his crew are already busting their buns to make this another good one. It is will be rewarding for you and the Counts to step up and help wherever you can.

Since we have missed several months of newsletters we are just going to start fresh in a lot of areas including coverage of last summer's shows and events.

I wanted to mention that Jack Venable was thanked in a letter to Street Scene magazine for stepping up and helping a Fellow Pages street rodder out of a pickle. Turns out this happened a couple summers ago. Oh well, better late than never, Right Shakey? Al Smith

## "Keep on Streetin'"

# 60 Years....and Counting

The oldest continuously operating car club in South Dakota (and one of the oldest in the nation) celebrated it's 60th birthday in October. The planning took lots of effort and forethought. The event was tremendously fun and it was over before you knew it. A lot like sex, near as I can remember.

The Counts began in 1957 and within months Jim Neuzil had joined them. He is still an active Count today and was the wind that propelled the 60th Anniversary Reunion and Banquet to completion. The event was October 21st . It was held at the Ramada in Black Hawk.



The evening commenced with a Happy Hour with entertainment provided by the oh-so-talented Potter Family. A full scale buffet style supper followed and was enjoyed by a room full of Counts, both present and past. During our meal a video presentation of past and present Counts Cars was shown. When the last piece of cake was devoured the real fun began.



Dean Robertson, who made his living manufacturing and selling exhaust systems for competition snowmobiles, regaled the audience with stories from his childhood and early youth. He was a bit of an engineering prodigy in his youth and is an accomplished entertainer and storyteller to this day. Many of the mechanical accomplishments he described were beyond the understanding of his audience but his humor was grasped by everyone. (more)



## ....and Counting page two

**Ten years ago Bob Rohrbach first introduced his 'junk sculptures' at the 50th Counts Reunion and declared that he 'was not an artist'. In the years since he has learned that he truly is an artist.**

**Dan Duncan and other Counts gathered up a barrel of used engine parts and Bob did his magic to weld up 16 or 17 (don't remember exactly) automotive sculptures and auctioneer Kevin McPherson, as usual, encouraged frenzied bidding from the audience. Rush went home with three of the prized art pieces and every sculpture brought good money. A diecast car was also raffled for the benefit of Peyton Ratterman, whose story is elsewhere in this**

**newslet-**

**ter.**



**The night came to a close with the presentation of awards. The tee shirt cars were New Machine: Tommie Relf's black Cadillac hardtop. Tommie is a new member this year, joining just after the Rod Run. New Rod: John Stauffacher's recently completed '37 Chevrolet sedan and Car of the Year: Denny Volmer's adorable pale yellow '65 Chevelle convertible. Congratulations to each of these COUNTS.**

**Hope you can all make it to our 65th in October, 2022. Don't forget that this year is also the historic 50th year for**



## Whatcha got stuck in your Garage?

**A WHILE BACK I HANDED OUT A QUESTIONNAIRE asking what projects are being screwed together in Counts members' garages. I think we just scratched the surface but we did find out about some interesting iron being modified around town. Gearheads love to look at others projects but sometimes like to keep their own project under wraps until the finishing touches are done.**

**Bob Myers is well under way on a '39 Chevy pickup. It is set up with a 327 and 4 speed; Mustang II front end; power rack, 11 inch power disc brakes, 9 inch Ford posi rear; sway bars both front and rear and 2 1/2 inch exhaust.**

**Bob has the chassis completely detailed and painted and is now turning his attention to body work and paint as his winter time job. He is envisioning a 2 inch top chop, white walls on chrome wheels and leather upholstery. The '39 will be, what else, Bob Myers red! If you have seen Bob's other projects you know this will be a stunner!**

**My questionnaire also asked what you may have on your bucket list . Bob's answer "a Henry J gasser and a blown hemi anything" I hope Santa can get at least one of those in his sleigh .**

**Tom Schmanski's father bought his 1956 210 in 1974 from a junk yard for the princely sum of \$48 (towing and storage). The car had a 235 inline six and overdrive and Tom drove it for 100,000 miles and learned to repair it along the way. Tom's friend, Roy Dyce from Sioux Falls saw the car and convinced Tom to turn it into a mild custom and to hop up the old stovebolt. Tom's hope is to be driving his '56 in 2018. The only thing Tom listed on his bucket list was a 12 port inline. This guy is a dyed in the wool inliner.**



**Bob Diekmann is building one rip roaring grocery getter. Starting with a 1948 Ford F-1 panel truck he has tossed a whole lot of delicious goodies in the pot to enhance the stew. Like a 2014 5.0 Ford Mustang engine; 6 speed automatic tranny, Dakota digital gauges, Mustang II front end, air conditioner and heat. All upholstery and work has been done by Bob himself. This one should be a beauty just like his copper pickup. (More)**

### **Skip Abell in his own words:**

Over 22 years ago, Gary Kreun told us about a '29 Roadster that might be for sale off Sheridan Lake Blvd. Anita and I quickly contacted Lyle Pogue to seal the deal. At the time, our daughter had a month-old son, named Travis. Pam and Travis accompanied us for the great buy. We have made slow progress over these years; the project is nearing completion. Much of the sheet metal work was done while I attended classes along with Denny Volmer, Al Smith, Steve Kroger and a couple of other non-club friends at Gene Jobgen's A&A Restoration. We are forever grateful to Gene for his invaluable help with the project. He's been with us from the beginning with advice, parts sourcing and moral support. I built the '32 frame from a set of American Stamping rails purchased from Speedway Motors. I created the boxing plates. Gene and I bent the crossmembers, much of the suspension has come from swap-meets. Our son, Bub built the 67 Camaro 283 in 1996. I purchased the three-deuce intake manifold from Rush Elliott sometime in the late 90's. I recently completed paint in my shop in Piedmont. The paint is a base-clear, and has been color-sanded. I first primed the body and frame, then taped the scallops over the grey primer with 1/8" tape. I then sealed everything with white epoxy, then painted and masked the 1956 Chevy Adobe beige; then quickly retaping the beige and sprayed the 1985 Chrysler Carrera Red. I then removed (carefully) the 1/8" tape, leaving a grey pinstripe to separate the colors; and finally covered everything with four coats of clear. Product used was PPG. The paint process from epoxy to clear coat took me approximately 12 hours in one day! At this point, I am completing brake work. Next will be installing the engine and transmission temporarily so I can build the exhaust system. Bub and I plan to re-build the Turbo 350 transmission in my shop. I have already installed the IDITIT steering column and wired the body, and gauges. It has an 8" Ford rear-end with a 3.25:1 ratio. Anita and I plan to do the upholstery ourselves, we have already built the seats, and made all the interior panels. I have no idea when it will be finished, as the process is most enjoyable. There are no other projects on my "wanna do someday" bucket. Maintaining our '31 Ford, '41 Chevy, and '50 GMC Pickup long with the roadster will keep me busy enough.

Two pictures are attached, first is the original owners with Travis in the receiving blanket, second is Travis and I with the project as it is today. (More)

