

Spring 2009

Special points  
of interest:

- 2009 Rally
- SOA Website
- Tech Tips
- Member Input—

### Officers

#### **President:**

**Gene Richardson**

770-995-7322

gene940@msn.com

#### **Vice-President:**

**Jack Birchall**

770-394-3518

jlbirchall@bellsouth.net

#### **Treasurer:**

**Beverly Winters**

732-735-5961

rho-jack@hotmail.com

#### **Secretary:**

**Sue Steverson**

618-593-8329

sue58@earthlink.net

#### **Web Manager:**

**Lee Steverson**

618-593-8329

cle58@earthlink.net

#### **Editor:**

**Carol Little**

410-676-6199

soaeditor@live.com

# ClassyWheels

## From the President's Desk

The 2009 SportChassis Rally is now history. What history it was! Seventeen owners attended the 2009 rally held at Elk Creek RV Park at Elk City, OK. Hosts were Connie and Don Manthei. A job well done!

Everyone needing work done by SportChassis had the opportunity to schedule and all was accomplished. Our thanks to Don Bugard and Robbye Brown at SportChassis for a job well done in scheduling and taking care of our needs.

Our new Bylaws were approved at the annual meeting. They are now posted on the web site. Log on to [www.sportchassisowners.com](http://www.sportchassisowners.com). Sign in and you will see the subject, "Bylaws". It is posted in PDF format so that you may download and print, if you wish. I'd like to thank the Bylaws committee for their tireless and diligent efforts in writing these new Bylaws. They began working together right after last year's rally and continued their efforts throughout the year. The committee consisted of Lee Steverson, Chairman, Jack Birchall, Jim Mitchell, Jerry Yoesting and Gene Richardson.

Officers elected are: President, Gene Richardson, for 1 year; Vice President, Jack Birchall, for 2 years; Secretary, Sue Steverson, for 1 year; Treasurer, Bev Winters, for 2 years. Appointed by the President and approved by the membership present, were Steve Bates, Member Representative for 1 year; Marvin Oetjen, as Member Representative for 2 years.

Very soon, we need to appoint a nominating committee to nominate next year's officers to fill those positions listed in the preceding paragraph shown as 1 year. Anyone interested in the nominating committee or filling one of the officer vacancies, please contact the Secretary, Sue Steverson, at



[sue58@earthlink.net](mailto:sue58@earthlink.net). An early reply will be appreciated.

There were two 50/50 drawings, with all proceeds going to charity. Chosen this year to receive the \$230.00 from sale of tickets, was Meals on Wheels of Clinton, OK. Your President, along with Carol and Bob Little presented them with the check. Club members with the winning tickets were Bob Little, who won the oil change provided by SportChassis, and Jeri Palmer who won the Ryobi power tool set. The power tools had been purchased by Connie and Don Manthei, originally to be used as one of the door prizes.

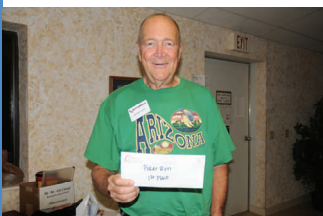
The third drawing was for a refund of the rally fee. This year's winner was Rob and Sherrill Canet. This, by the way, was their first rally.

In addition, Don and Connie had a stack of door prizes and the room resounded with laughter as the winning tickets were drawn and the prizes shown to the group. My congratulations to all of the drawing winners.

One night we had "Christmas in June", with each member present contributing a \$10 gift (two per couple) for exchange. It was made even more fun by allowing members to "steal" a gift of choice from others, as their number was drawn, rather than choosing from the table of gifts. Needless to say, there were a lot of laughs, and



2009 Rally Masters Connie and Don Manthei



Jim Mitchell - First Place Winner in the Poker Run

“Remember the dates, July 12-18, 2010. Looking forward to seeing you there! If you’ve never attended one of our rallies, we encourage “First Timers”. We’d love to meet more of our members at a rally.”



Factory Tour



## From the President (Continued)

people trying to hide their chosen gifts if they were fond of their choice, while others not so fond of theirs, trying to have theirs “stolen” from them. It was so much fun.

Beverley and Clint Havens gave a presentation for the 2010 rally to be held July 12-18, 2010. Parking for the Rally, with water and electricity, will be on their property in Canada, near Calgary. The rally will be held during the Calgary Stampede. You will need a US Passport to re-enter the US from Canada, so be sure it is up to date. Beth and I are really looking forward to this event. We haven’t traveled in the RV to Canada before. You can be assured of a great time and a wonderful rally. Jo and Jim Mitchell will be the assistant rally masters for 2010. So sign up and come join the fun.

The highlight of our week was driving our trucks to Clinton during a Route 66 Festival in the Park and having the local police escort our caravan round and round thru the residential area of Clinton. There were lots of folks on hand to greet us as we responded with the blast of our horns.

Earlier in the day, members on their motorcycles and in their trucks, participated in a Poker Run. We’re happy to report, Jo and Jim Mitchell won the grand prize of \$1000.

Remember the dates, July 12-18, 2010. Looking forward to seeing you there! If you’ve never attended one of our rallies, we encourage “First Timers”. We’d love to meet more of our members at a rally.

Until our Rally, we wish for you happy, safe travels, with God as your Co-Pilot. Hope to see you as we travel around this great country.

Gene & Beth



Secretary—Sue Steverson



Webmaster Lee Steverson



2010 Rally Masters Beverley & Clint Havens



## Treasurer

Bev has been hard at work getting all the club data organized to make it easier for her. She thanks everyone for getting their renewals to her and keeping her informed of changes. She also thanks each of you for your extra effort in printing your information clearly.

You can also help by sending Bev your 2010 Rally Registration form and check early. That will also help our Rally Masters in planning for supplies and food needed at the rally.

Also, please help Bev keep our database current and accurate by informing her of any change in your home or email address and your telephone numbers. I would also appreciate it if you would include the Editor if you make any changes so that I can be sure you get your newsletter and all special association info in a timely manner. All information is considered confidential and will not be released. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Bev and Stan made the move

from Florida to Wyoming in early June in their SportChassis and trailer. The horse and colt arrived later in the month. They have been very busy with completing work on their new log home outside of Cody. Stan added another horse to their stables and they are now both enjoying riding the Wyoming range.

Bob and I visited Stan & Bev and got to see the house and horses! Just Beautiful. Work is still going on so they have not yet moved in but it is getting close.



Bev Winters—Treasurer



Jo Mitchell getting her sundae at the Ice Cream Social

## 2009 Rally

It's hard to believe that the 2009 Rally has come and gone. Once again, Rally Masters Don and Connie Manthei stepped up to the plate, worked hard, and put on a very successful rally in Elk City, Oklahoma. When you spend time in Oklahoma during the summer, you shouldn't be surprised to see the thermometer reach into the triple digits. Record temperatures were experienced in Texas and Oklahoma during the week of our rally and we saw the temperature climb to 110° several days in a row. Thank goodness that Connie picked a campground that had a beautiful air conditioned meet-

ing room with a great kitchen and enough tables and chairs to comfortably accommodate all of our group. The group toured a Windmill Farm in Weatherford, OK and learned how the windmills are constructed. We also got to see just how large they are "up close and personal" when we walked right up to the base of one of the operating windmills.



The folks at Freightliner Specialty Vehicles opened the doors and provided a warm welcome to all the rally attendees. The group was broken down into several smaller groups and each group was led on a tour of the facility. Several of the women also had the opportunity to drive a new truck and get some driving tips from the employees. While we were driving the new trucks or enjoying our tour, Brian Ane-shansley was standing over a hot grill cooking up hamburgers and hot dogs for our group and for all the factory employees.



Touring Weatherford and a Wind Turbine Farm



Clint Havens, Bob Little & Gene Richardson



Marvin Oetjen, Randy Palmer, Ron Black & Lee Severson







Billy Stone on his Barstool Racer



Neil Yant out visiting.



Marietta Black, Shirley Oetjen, and Sue Stevenson just relaxing.



Dottie Kappers with her Door Prize.



Jim Mitchell hoping to keep his presents while Jeri Palmer considers taking it away from him. Jo Mitchell looking on.



Route 66 Days in Clinton

## 2009 Rally (Continued)

Laughter filled the room during our "Christmas in June" celebration. Everyone drew a number from a can. The presents were all set out on a table and as a number was called, the person went up and picked out a present and then opened it and showed everyone what they got. The next person whose number was called had the option to go get a present off the table or to take away a present from someone else. If your present was taken away, you got to go pick out another present from the table. There were some really nice presents and they went from one member to another amid gales of laughter. At the end of the evening, everyone was happy with their presents and all enjoyed a wonderful time of togetherness.

Everyone also enjoyed the All You Could Eat Catfish Dinner and some of the members tried to eat their yearly fill of fried catfish! Afterward, we all enjoyed seeing the animals in the park behind the restaurant.

The hot Oklahoma weather did not keep the crowds away from the Clinton Route 66 celebration. Billy Stone was up on Main Street with his Barstool Racer and gave me a ride down the block to go look at his girlfriend's 1957 Chevy that she had on display with all the other classic cars. We enjoyed watching the motorcyclist doing some unbelievable jumps on a special ramp set up right on Main Street. Alan Anahansley, Hiren Patel and some other folks from the factory were sitting at a booth selling tickets for the Poker Run. The Grand Prize for the winning poker hand was \$1,000.00. I am happy to report that lucky Jim Mitchell drew the winning hand. I'm not sure who will get to spend the money, Jim or his lovely wife, Jo. I'm betting on Jo!

Steve and Joyce Bates had some major remodeling work done on their Teton over the winter months. I can't remember all the work they had done but it included new ceilings, carpeting, fantastic new window shades, comfortable leather chairs and a beautiful paint job on the exterior. We enjoyed watching the slideshow of our Rally in Cody on their big screen, high def TV.

Speaking of the slideshow, I took lots of pictures again this year. It is a good thing that I did take lots of pictures because not all of them turned out good. I am still learning to use my fancy new SLR Nikon. I will pick out the best pictures and hope to have enough to create another slideshow of the Elk City Rally for all members who attended.

The Calgary stampede was one of the events on our list of places to go when we retired and I did some research before we headed west our first year. Unfortunately I was too late in checking and could not get tickets or camping reservations. We decided to put it on the back burner for awhile. I was excited to meet Clint and Beverley Havens at the Cody Rally and almost jumped for joy when they volunteered to host the rally in 2010. Being from the Calgary area, they have served on various committees responsible for putting on the Calgary Stampede so it will be great to have them as our rally hosts next year. Get busy and get your passport and look for more information in the next issue of ClassyWheels.

Travel Safe! Pray for our troops and country!



## Truck Issues

Our good SportChassis friend, Gwenn Birchall has often been heard saying, “camping is a series of mis-adventures” and I could not agree more. It seems that every year since we have had our SportChassis and our KZ 5th Wheel Toy Hauler we have had the misfortune to experience some scary situations. Both Bob and I think each time that we have corrected the problem and things will start to go smooth. The first year we thought we resolved the problem of having tire blow-outs on the camper by upgrading to Grade G tires but that didn’t solve the problem. We then had the factory put on new axles that were spaced further apart and install Goodyear tires. Seemed to work for a couple years. Then, on our return trip from Alaska we had a problem with the trailer axle. After two round trips from an Indian Reservation in Nevada back to parts store in Boise, Idaho 200 miles away, Bob was able to make the repairs. We continued across country to our rally in Concord. We left the rally heading home and got about 25 miles south of Greensboro, NC and the axle broke again. We limped to a repair shop and had the axle cut and repaired and continued home to Maryland with me in a constant state of worry. However, I was not comfortable with the axles on the camper and so we made a trip to Tampa to look at new 5th Wheels at the Tampa RV show. We really didn’t find anything that we liked better at a price we could afford. We talked with a representative from Moryride and decided to upgrade to Moryride suspension and disc brakes which we had installed on our way to the rally in Cody last year. Everything fixed. Wrong! We made it back across the country to Virginia and for no known reason, the truck just came to a complete stop. Talk about scared! Bob asked me to dial 911 and report that we were stopped in the northbound lane on I-85 and I was so scared and shaking that I picked up the CB instead of the cell phone and then yelled that I couldn’t find the numbers. I will tell you that I am convinced that it has been my prayers that have kept us safe! Thank goodness that no one hit us in the rear while driving at 75 mph on I-85. After a couple minutes Bob was able to get the truck started and drove a short distance to pull off onto the shoulder. The truck continued to run so we continued on up the road with me praying constantly. We spent the night in a campground in southern Virginia. The truck started with no problems the next morning and so we continued on home. It happened again another two times before we managed to get home. We took it to the local Caterpillar dealer and they determined it was a Sensor which we had replaced at a cost of \$200.00. I thought we now had all the problems taken care of and we headed out in June for our rally in Elk City. We crossed the Potomac River and once again the truck just died! It started within a minute and we made it to the welcome center at the Tennessee line when it died again. There was a Caterpillar dealer within a mile of the welcome center. They checked it out and could not find anything wrong but they gave us a card for the Cat dealer in Knoxville, TN. We made it to the west side of Knoxville during the afternoon rush hour and the truck died once again. Bob just managed to get the rig onto the shoulder. I called the Cat dealer and Bob got the truck started again and we managed to get turned around and drive the 15 miles back to the dealer. The mechanics checked it out but were not sure what was wrong and decided that they could not get it fixed before closing. We ended up “camping” in their parking lot until the following morning when the mechanic determined that the problem was the Heui Pump. He managed to get the computer print out from the Cat dealer in Johnson City and said that the same code showed up 11 times. The pump controls the fuel injection and what was happening was that it shut the truck down in a safety measure to prevent serious damage to the engine. They installed a new pump at a cost of \$1,510.00 and so far we have not had any more problems of the truck shutting down. The mechanic said that he could not understand why the truck was not registered as a RV in which case it would still be under warranty and the cost of the pump would be covered under warranty. My big complaint is that it took so long for the problem to be properly diagnosed and repaired. We told Robbye Brown about the problem when we got to Oklahoma and Robbye worked with Caterpillar and got the registration corrected. I am now working with Caterpillar to see if we can get reimbursed the \$1,510.00 we spent on the pump. Everything fixed. Wrong again! The next problem was the ABS light came on as we were driving over the Million Dollar Highway from Durango to Montrose, CO. Bob called Freightliner and they told him what to check. He adjusted three of the units but the fourth one was completely “fried”. He got a new unit which he installed himself but the light did not go out. We took the truck to the Freightliner service center in Grand Junction and the computer showed the right rear wheel unit was also bad and they replaced it. They also informed us of a Freightliner Recall notice that went out in December 2008 but that we never received. Will the problems ever end? So far, the pleasures of seeing our beautiful country and meeting so many nice people outweigh the problems. Camping is a series of mis-adventures! Enjoy camping and safe travels to all!



## SOA Website



The website is on line and is now easier to access. We now are fortunate to have Lee Steverson serving as our Webmaster. All you have to do is go to <http://sportchassisowners.com> and check it out. You should create an account so you can keep up with the news and happenings of the club. You have the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Each edition of the newsletter will be posted to the site. In the near future, information on the 2010 Rally will be posted along with the Rally Registration Form. Lee and I met with Hiren Patel who manages the website for the factory and who has made improvements for us on our site. We look forward to working with Hiren and thank him for all his help to date. Send me a picture of your truck and rig and I will put it on the site for all to see. If you have any suggestions for improvements, please enter a comment under the "General" section.

## Recommended Restaurants, Campgrounds or Service Centers

I would like to continue this section of the newsletter but I really do need some input from members. I still think it is a great idea to share with other members places that we would recommend to friends. It could be restaurants, campgrounds, or places to get service on our trucks or campers. In addition, we can also use this section to tell our friends about places that should be avoided. I cannot understand why no one has provided any input for this section of our newsletter. I have heard many of you talk about great campgrounds and restaurants you have encountered while travelling. If you have a place to recommend or one to avoid, please send me an e-mail or give me a telephone call with the information.

## Recommendations By Carol & Bob Little

\*Do you miss having access to the Internet and your email while travelling around the country? Have you ever considered making your truck or trailer a "Wi-Fi Hot Spot" so you can connect? Well, you might want think about getting the Autonet Mobile Router. To learn more about the system, check out <http://autonetmobile.com/service>. Then call Robbye Brown at Freightliner Speciality Vehicles at 580-323-4100 because he may be able to get you a deal on the unit since they are now installing them as an option on new trucks. A few of our members had the units installed while we were at the rally and they are very happy with the service.

\*We had our Heui Pump replaced at Stowers CAT. We would recommend them if you need service while in the Knoxville area. Their address is: Stowers Engine Power, P.O. Box 14802, 6301 Old Rutledge Pike, Knoxville, TN 37924. David Walters is the Engine Service Manager and he can be reached at 865-595-1078.

### \*Colorado River State Park, Fruita, CO

This is a very nice state campground located just off I-70 west of Grand Junction with several sites that have full hookups. All roads within the campground are paved and there are large pull-thru sites that will easily accommodate our big rigs. There is a covered picnic table at each site and also a small lake with a swimming beach. The entrance to Colorado National Monument is only about 5 miles from the park and well worth the drive. If you are in the area in mid to late July, be sure to get some Olathe sweet corn. It is absolutely delicious! Call ahead for reservations.

## Freightliner Recall

We took our truck to the Freightliner Service center in Grand Junction, CO to resolve the problem of the ABS light. They did the repair in a timely manner. They also informed us of a Freightliner Recall Notice but they did not have the parts in stock. The recall was released in December 2008 and relates to Medium Duty Axle Spindle Nuts. The letter states, "... **has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on specific Freightliner Business Class and Business Class M2; Sterling Acterra; and Freightliner Custom Chassis FS65 and B2 school bus chassis and FB65 shuttle bus chassis manufactured between January 26, 2000, and March 24, 2008, by ArvinMeritor or Axle Alliance Company with 6,000 or 8,000 pound front axles and a four-piece spindle nut set.**" **This is a very important recall.** The letter states, "**Installation of a four-piece spindle nut set with a thin spindle nut may lead to damage of the wheel end, including incorrect end play, degradation of lubrication, wear of the spindle nut and bearing journal, oil contamination with metal shavings, and premature bearing failure. Outer wheel bearing failure will cause noise and vibration that will be noticeable to the driver and the Antilock Braking System warning light will illuminate. Continued operation with the warning light illuminated may result in wheel separation and a possible vehicle crash.**" We were headed north to Missoula so we called the Freightliner Service Center in Missoula, MT and they had the parts in stock. They did the recall work for us. We did not have to have the entire unit replaced, only the nuts. If you did not receive the Recall, you should call your local Freightliner dealer and verify whether or not they need to check your truck. When you contact your dealer, refer to campaign number FL527AB.

## Condolences

All members of the SportChassis Owner's Association International extend sincere condolences to the family of Tim Sinor. All of us were saddened to learn of his passing in a motorcycle related accident in South Dakota. Tim was a well respected member of his community, a good businessman who was proud of his product and also proud of the employees who worked for him, and he was a loving family man. He will be truly missed by his family and all whose lives he touched. God be with the family.

## Tech Tips

- Check your computer internet connection speed by going to: <http://www.ispcompared.com/internet-speed-test.htm>
- Another neat site if you like waterfalls: [www.gowaterfalling.com](http://www.gowaterfalling.com)
- Are you considering retirement? Check out: [www.retirementliving.com](http://www.retirementliving.com)
- Looking for a place to enable you to connect to the internet? Check out: [www.wififreespot.com](http://www.wififreespot.com)
- What do you do with all the digital pictures you take? I suggest you do something special with them. Check out the following website: <http://www.photodex.com> and look at the contests which have slideshows created by users. They have two programs you can purchase to create beautiful slide shows with all your pictures. Pro Show Gold is a great program but if you feel the need to create more professional type shows, you can check out Pro Show Producer. I started with Gold and moved up to Producer and that is the program I used to create the slideshows on our previous rallies.

## Get Well

**Get well wishes are extended to any and all members who might be "under the weather". Special get well soon wishes to our VP Jack Birchall.**

## Flash

Our President, Gene Richardson, is announcing today, that, in conversations with SportChassis Specialty Vehicles, Inc., Mr. Brian Aneshansley has been selected by management to represent the company and to be our liaison. He will also fill their seat on the Board. The current By-laws establish this non-voting seat. We are extremely happy that Mr. Aneshansley is volunteering his valuable time to assist us in governing our Association and to be our contact point with SportChassis Specialty Vehicles, Inc.

Jack Birchall

Vice President

## Check Out

### Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

Park your camper in the Family Campground located on Route 550 south of Montrose. Nice campground with full hookup large pull thru sites to accommodate big rigs. Enjoy the scenic ride thru the National Park which is about 10 miles north of Montrose. Enjoy a good Mexican dinner in Montrose at the Restaurant. Good place to buy fresh vegetables is the Buffalo Ranch located on the left side of Route 550 north of Montrose. Enjoy the Olathe sweet corn!



## Favorite Recipes



**Do you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share with other SportChassis Owner's? If so, please send it to me at: [soaeditor@live.com](mailto:soaeditor@live.com)**

### Italian Noodle Medley

1/2 pkg (6 oz) Ronzoni Healthy Harvest Extra Wide Style Noodles

1 jar (about 26 oz) spaghetti sauce

2 cups chopped cooked chicken

2 cups (8 oz) shredded mozzarella cheese, divided

1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Cook pasta according to package directions. Meanwhile, in a medium saucepan, heat spaghetti sauce and chicken until warm. In 2-quart casserole, spoon enough sauce to cover bottom. Layer with one half pasta, 1-1/2 cups sauce and 1 cup mozzarella cheese; repeat with remaining pasta,

sauce and mozzarella. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

Bake, uncovered, 20 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Makes 6 servings.

Serve with a salad.

Enjoy

### Recipes Needed to Fill this Space

***PLEASE SEND ME SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES!***

### Recipes Needed to Fill this Space



SportChassis Owner's Association  
C/O Beverly Winters  
7 Ridge View Trail  
Cody, Wyoming 82414

