

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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2019 SORC in the record books



Photo/Debbie Connelly

Byron Burnham stands next to his '75 custom Chevy Vega at Friday afternoon's car show. Participating in the SORC was on his bucket list after retirement, but he didn't know he had history here at the time of entering.



Photo/Jesica Tickle

Last week's SORC wasn't all about racing. After the burnout contest, fire department members provided some fun for the kids as they sprayed the street down. As usual, the races themselves, Friday's parade and car show, and Saturday night's barbecue and awards ceremony at the park drew large crowds showing support for the three-day event.

First-time SORC participant discovers family history in Arnold

By Janet Larreau

Editor's note: All SORC drivers have a story to tell - where they're from, what they do, and of course, what kind of car they're driving. The drivers - coming from the east and west coasts and everywhere in between - usually don't have any history with the town of Arnold; they simply come to race and to see friends, who they now consider "family." This year, a driver discovered that he did have family history here but didn't know it until just before the race.

Entering the Sandhills Open Road Challenge in the tiny

town of Arnold, Nebraska, has been on Byron Burnham's bucket list for 10 years. Living in California, and a union member in the Screen Actors Guild, he was a stuntman and provided transportation for special effects.

It was an interesting career. "My previous car, a 1976 Vega Cosworth, was used in the movie "Contact" with Jodie Foster, and I was almost an extra," said Byron.

Two years ago he retired and moved back to Lincoln, Nebraska, and this year secured a spot in the SORC.

There was something about the name Arnold that was ringing a bell, but he just couldn't place it until he called a cousin

who knew a lot about the family's history. Interestingly enough, at the insistence of Byron's great-great uncle, Dr. Frank Burnham, the first hospital was started in Arnold in 1921 in a house. Dr. Burnham went on to practice in the newly built Marion Dunn Hospital, which was in use starting in 1930. As a child, Byron visited here.

"It's one of those things. It just didn't trigger," he said.

Driving a '75 Chevy Vega, Byron took part in the parade wearing a Santa hat - loaned to him by his hosts, Dru and Jack Magill.

"I've been a professional

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New race director goes solo for first year

When 141 cars from over 22 states roar into town for three days of SORC events, it's all hands on deck. Some 300 volunteers from several communities stepped up to help this year, but the race director takes on the biggest share of the responsibility.

Brock Dailey, who took over the wheel after long-time race director Shane Cool stepped down, went solo this year after Cool helped him get started in 2018.

Dailey said he volunteered to be director because of all of the responsibility involved.

"You couldn't ask a new person to come onto the board and try to do it. I've ran the radios

and knew that end of things, and thought I could probably handle the task," he said.

Other than two mechanical problems that held things up during the open road challenge from Arnold to Dunning and back, Dailey said everything went smoothly.

"There were no wrecks - that's the big thing," he said.

Board members are looking forward to the 20th anniversary of the SORC next year.

"I'm sure we'll try to do something special. That's a big milestone to still be doing this after 20 years," said Dailey.

Results from the Open Road Challenge and Shoot-out can be found on pages 6 and 8.

Retiring teachers give gifts to school

Students began enjoying gifts donated by two retiring teachers when classes started up again at A.P.S. last Tuesday.

The Arnold Education Association (AEA) honors newly retired teachers with a financial gift and remembrance for students. When Melva Geiser retired, her remembrance was a buddy bench on the play-

ground - a special place in a school playground where a child can go when they want someone to talk to. This year, Gerry Swingle and Berni Crow chose to benefit the school on the playground and in the school.

Former 4th Grade teacher Mrs. Crow chose a second equipment box for the play-

ground to ensure students in all the grades have access to equipment without losing recess time to locate it. Mrs. Crow felt that the time students spend in recess is very important academically. Not only do they get needed physical activity and oxygen, they also practice social skills.

Former Science teacher Gerry

Swingle loves reading and science, and he wanted to focus on how the two skills connect. His remembrance has helped school librarian Debby Moninger expand and organize her maker space section.

"I've been researching maker spaces in the library, and he has helped me with several activities that have to do with

both reading and science," said Mrs. Moninger.

"As they leave the school, retiring teachers are helping with the extra needs of the school with gifts that don't show up on state tests. They feel like they are helping future generations of students," said Mrs. Moninger.



Just traveling along

Devin Peterson, dressed as a tourist, and her goat, Moe, who was her luggage, received the Best Dressed Goat award at the Custer County Fair. Devin, daughter of Cory and Mindy Peterson, will be a freshman this year at A.P.S., and was among many Arnold 4-H'ers who brought home awards after a summer of preparing for competition with their leaders. Inserted inside this issue is a special tab the Sentinel staff has been working on that includes stories, photos and finally, fair results. We would like to thank all the sponsors who made this first-ever tab possible.