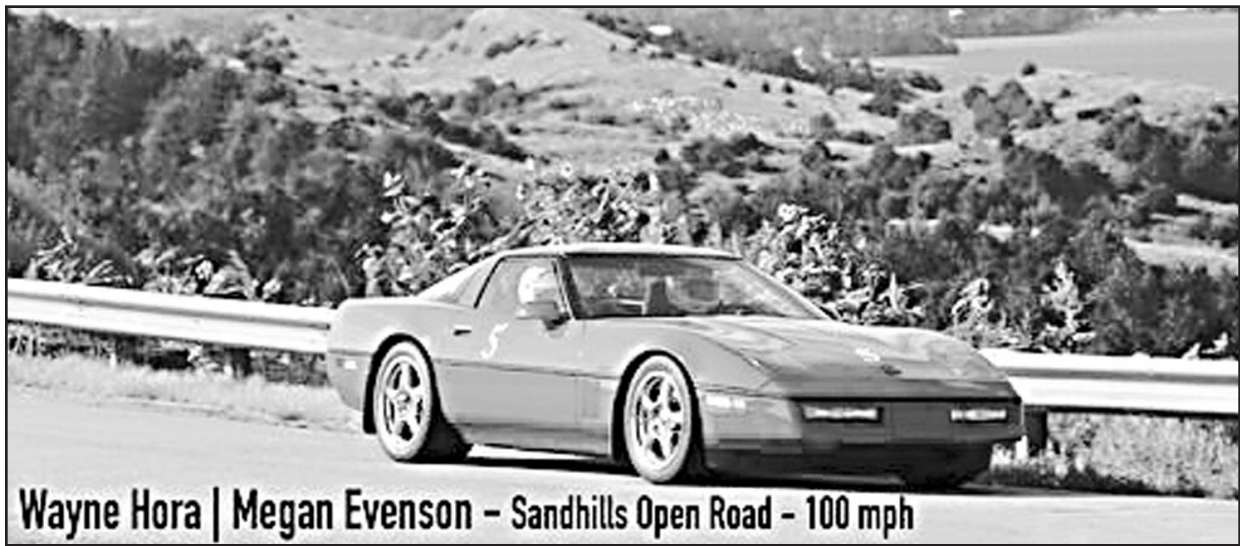


Sole SORC survivor



Wayne Hora | Megan Evenson – Sandhills Open Road – 100 mph

COURTESY PHOTO

Wayne Hora of Stapleton, driver, and Megan Evenson of Lincoln, navigator, will take to the Sandhills Open Road Challenge race course once again in the #5 1990 ZR1 Corvette. Hora is the sole SORC driver to have competed in every Sandhills Open Road Challenge event since its inception in 2001. This includes starting and finishing every SORC race, the one-year grudge match at the Thomas County airport near Thedford, the one-mile shoot-out event near Callaway, and the newly instituted Loup 2 Loup race near Dunning.

When Wayne Hora of Stapleton was interviewed in August of 2001, prior to the inaugural running of the Sandhills Open Road Challenge, he was quoted as saying, “I want to go faster than the speed limit, and do it legally.”

Hora, now considerably older, is still saying the same thing he did 16 years ago. Wayne and his daughter, Megan Evenson of Lincoln, are ready for the 17th running of the SORC on Saturday, August 12, near Arnold.

Hora is the “sole” SORC survivor. He is the only driver to have started and finished every Sandhills Open Road Challenge race. He entered and competed in the grudge match drag race held in 2008 at the Thomas County airport near Thedford under the direction of good friends, Roy and the late Korinda Licking. He has traveled every year in the dark, dodging deer, to the road near Callaway for the one-mile shootout. He signed up for the first Loup 2 Loup race and has competed in every one since the inception of this new race. But this year will mark the end. Hora has decided to bow out of the Loup 2 Loup in 2017, due to time restrictions.

“I’ve enjoyed participating in every event, but it does take a lot of time, and Megan can’t come out for the Loup 2 Loup to help navigate,” Hora said. “I guess it’s just time that chapter comes to an end and another one begins.”

Hora got involved in racing in the SORC after encouragement from his friend, Joe Shown.

“Joe came into the Vet’s Club in Stapleton one night and started talking about this crazy idea he had. He wanted to race like they did in Europe and close down a road so he could do it legally. After Joe left we all just shook our heads,” Hora said.

Shown took his idea in March of 2000 to the Custer County Supervisors and Don Olson promoted the idea after talking to community officials from Lee, Nevada. Olson believed the road race would be a boost to Arnold and Custer County. Arnold Chamber of Commerce members got on board and helped get the race off the ground. Several key people stepped up to offer assistance.

On August 11, 2001, the first ever SORC began with 36 cars entered and 34 starting and finishing the race. Gary Patterson, vice president of operations, Silver State Classic Challenge, Inc., was instrumental in helping with the inaugural event and has continued to this day.

Shown says he still gets a lump in his throat at the starting line. His idea has come to fruition and it is heartening that something he dreamed about became a reality. Shown first drove the road race course in 1978.

“I was an Army Reserve recruiter and needed to go to Dunning and Brewster. I looked at a map and noticed the blacktop road north of Arnold. I decided to take it and thought how great it would be to drive this road knowing you weren’t going to meet anyone,” Shown said. “It wasn’t until I bought my LT1 Corvette and later my ZR1, that I really started pursuing closing the road in earnest.”

The rest, as they say, is history.

“Joe talked me into getting into that first race



MARCIA HORA PHOTOS

Ann Wells of Stapleton and Wayne Hora pose in front of Car #73, a 1988 Corvette, that ran in the very first SORC race in 2001. This picture was taken at the first car show held in downtown Arnold, and is in front of Reed’s Food Center. This was the first and last race for the ‘88 Corvette as it was traded in on the ZR1.



Wayne Hora and navigator, Donny Dailey, with the ZR1 Corvette that has ran in every event except the inaugural race.

and I was hooked,” Hora said.

Donny Dailey of Stapleton served as navigator in the early years.

“During the first years, Ann Wells would pay my entry fee and give me spending money,” Hora said. “Whenever I would think about giving it up, she’d always encourage me to enter again the next year.”

There have been some placings in the past 16 years.

“We have won some plaques, but it is really tough to place and there are some very good drivers who are spot on,” Hora said. “It sure is nice to win, but the friendships we’ve made throughout the years

(Continued on page 7)

Collier Takes Gold At Cornhusker State Games



ANN COLLIER PHOTO

Carlie Collier, Sandhills High School junior, is pictured above right with the pair of gold medals she received at the 2017 Cornhusker State Games. Josh Deines, Sandhills-Knight Coach is also pictured with the silver medal he received in the 200 Meter Dash.

Collier competed in the 15-16-year-old age group in the 100 and 200 Meter Dashes. Carlie ran the 100

in 13.05 and the 200 in 27.08. The meet was held July 22 at Lincoln High in Lincoln.

She also finished the meet second overall in all age groups of the women’s division in both the 100 and 200.

Coach Deines ran in the men’s 19-20 age group and placed ninth in the 100 with a time of 11.83 and second in the 200 with a time of 24.49.

Scranton Competes In California



JAMIE TAYLOR PHOTO

Shaylee Scranton a recent Thedford High School graduate, qualified at the Nebraska State FBLA Conference in Omaha for the 75th annual FBLA National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California. Scranton qualified in Business Communications, and she and FBLA advisor, Jamie Taylor, traveled to California for opening session on June 28.

The Nebraska group traveled early to California, so members could visit Newport Beach and Disneyland prior to the beginning of the conference.

The conference included state and regional meetings, tests and seminars before the closing session July 2. It was an amazing conference filled with California sun and fun, as well as networking with the 13,000 other mem-

bers that were there, and being involved in meetings and other educational experiences. Shaylee did not place in the top ten on her test, but felt she did very well.

The Sandhills Chapter of the FBLA received a Diamond Award during the conference. Sandhills was 1 of 16 Nebraska FBLA chapters attaining this recognition. Amanda Payne, 2016-2017 Chapter Co-President, was instrumental in achieving this status. This status was a special recognition created for the 2016-17 year only in honor of FBLA-PBL’s 75th anniversary. The chapters had a large list of requirements to meet to qualify for the recognition.

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Fair Results & Highlights Inside

The 2017 Thomas County Fair is in the record books for another year. At right is Taley and Tate Koubek, members of the 4-H Achievers Club as they make their way down the parade route.

See inside this issue for more parade pictures, as well as results from the 4-H Shows.

