



Cruisin' News

July 2015

President – Clay Seachris
Vice President – Bob Schmeichel
Treasurer – Jayne DeBoer
Secretary – Marilyn Haper
Newsletter Editor – Susan Seachris

Summer, It Turns Me Upside Down

By Clay Seachris

President's message

The busy days and nights of summer make it hard for me to keep up with all the fun things going on. So many times things remind me of music lyrics and lately The Cars' tune "Magic" keeps playing in my head. These busy days of "summer, it turns me upside down." I enjoy staying busy, but feel there are just so many things to do and good friends to do them with and no matter how hard I try, things get missed and projects get left unfinished. I guess this a positive thing and when winter comes, I'll wish for days like these.

Speaking of winter, our 22-week cruise season is half over. And what a wonderful first half it has been. Most recently were fun nights at J&L Harley-Davidson, Handyman, the Children Home Society, the Pontiac Club Pizza Picnic, many Saturday night cruises, local car shows, Back to the Fifties and the Heartland Nationals.

We still have a lot of events to look forward to, so join in and enjoy as much as you can; there are many more things still planned. Our poker run is next week, and I know we still need a couple volunteers to manage stops. Later this month the Ford Club hosts a fun evening at Wall Lake, and it should be enjoyable visiting the Falls and Falls Overlook Café for an evening. There are a lot of local car shows and cruise nights yet in July, also.

Our membership is still strong and there are still over 300 Great Plains Street Rodders. We had some longtime members sell their cars and move to other hobbies. We've also added a number of new friends with cool cars, so membership growth has been positive. We're fortunate to have such great caring, passionate personalities in the group that people who join know they're joining others with personalities similar to their own.

For a color copy of the newsletter or to see additional photos, go to our website greatplainsstreetrodders.com.



The Children's Home Society kids enjoyed our street rods and floats.

Priceless Endearment

By Bob Schmeichel

As I was visiting Bill Buus and his wife, Karen, about their '56 Chevy, it became very apparent in our conversation that we weren't just talking about any car at this point in their lives. As Bill told me of his early childhood memories of his father and all his abilities, the relevance of his story came out with very strong emotions. As far back as he could remember, his father was a very talented self-taught individual able to fix pretty much anything old put in front of him. So growing up on a farm near Adrian, Minnesota, family, friends, and neighbors became accustomed to relying on his dad to fix anything broken to make it last. Bill said it was a normal way of life for his father to be taking care of others before himself, which makes Bill's pride run very deep.

During Bill's early teenage years, his father bought a '56 Chevy 2-door sedan out of Sioux Falls that was used to haul everything needing repair as well as being a daily-driver family car. Bill smiled and laughed out loud as he was telling me that his dad, more than once, used the car to bring home a bull calf in the trunk from a dairy farmer nearby who didn't want any bulls. He'd put the calf in the trunk and shut the lid and drive home. Thinking about this situation, I have got to believe it would be funny and totally unexpected for anyone else not knowing anything when opening the trunk and seeing a cow jump out. What the ----- Taking care of whatever, as I hope you are seeing the visual picture I am trying to paint, usually involved the black '56 Chevy. After quite a few years of memorable service, his dad sold the car to a guy from Marion, South Dakota, who had been bugging him to sell it for quite awhile. After doing that and as time passed by, Bill's dad admitted he missed the familiar sight of the black '56 Chevy around the farm and was bound and determined to have another one for fun rather than as a work car. Years went by and eventually in 1985 his dad found and bought another one in Sioux Falls. It was a really nice car to begin with that Bill's dad threw himself into doing almost everything that involved restoring the car back to better-than-new condition. He had done everything mechanically underneath that he could as well as the outside of the body himself, which took almost four years. The one area that he felt he wasn't talented enough to tackle was the paint job. So in the summer of 1989, he struck up a deal with a neighboring farmer to paint his '56 and in turn he would combine his corn. For those of you who don't know how that works, it's called "bartering." Trading labor for labor, which was widely used in the thirties, with no money exchanged and as I did it myself too in the 80s, continues today when it feels fair with no more than a handshake agreement. The farmer who painted the '56 enjoyed doing it so much that he started a body shop in Adrian that is still going strong today. After getting the car home, Bill's mom and dad installed a new reproduction Bel Air interior in the car themselves and joined the Tri-Five Club out of Edgerton, Minnesota. Bill was so happy to see his dad finally doing something for himself for a change, instead of everyone else, and really enjoying it.

Life was great for about five years until Bill's dad started having some health issues, which kept him away from driving the '56 anymore. Bill realizing after four years that the car wasn't being driven any more, he approached his dad asking if he had thought about selling it. With six siblings, dad said, he didn't want to be in the middle of what could turn into an argument. So over the next year and a half Bill approached each of his siblings to see if they had an interest in the '56, of which none seemed to have any. So in 2005, Bill bought the '56 from his dad and took it to "Back to the Fifties" event for its first outing in five years. The car worked quite flawlessly and was parked back in dad's garage when they returned home. Bill's dad called him a few days later wanting to know why, since he had sold him the car, it was still sitting in his garage. Bill explained it would be gone as soon as he finished building a new garage to hold it, which happened a few months later. Bill's explanation to his father, I am sure, made him realize the car was going to be well taken care of and enjoyed by the right person.

Bill mentioned over the last 10 years there have been a few times that the '56 has really left some heartfelt family-related memories. Once was driving the '56 with his mom and wife to his dad's funeral and the other was chauffeuring their daughter to her wedding and her saying, "It felt like grandpa was with them that day." Bill told me he put personalized plates on it a few years that read "POPS 56" because he felt like it was still his dad's car. Over the last few years people have asked, "Bill, why don't you put a V-8 in it so it can go faster?" His response is always, "I am getting older now, so maybe the car will help me slow down." With its 235 six-cylinder and straight stick trans, it still gets me there, it just takes a few minutes longer, and I am not going to change anything until it doesn't work anymore, kind of like my dad would have done. Making it last as is, the first priority!



SCHMEICHEL 2015

Sympathy Offered

We are so saddened by the death of our friend, Gary Bowman. Gary passed away June 20.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Deb Bowman, and the rest of Gary's family. Gary and Deb have been Great Plains Street Rodders for many years. If you don't recognize the name, I'm sure you'd recognize their red 1962 AMC Rambler convertible and the nice, funny guy in the white hat. The club gave a memorial on behalf of all members.



Thanks Given

Thank you for the thoughtful memorial gift. Friends are special treasures. Deb Bowman and family.

Our Annual Poker Run

Our Poker Run is July 15. It costs \$5, 100% payout, starts at 5:30 p.m. First stop closes at 6:15 p.m. It's similar to prior years; a simple drive with fun stops, skill and luck increases your odds. Tossing bean bags, darts and washers are some of the fun.

Let Clay Seachris know if you'd like to help at a stop.



VFW Memorial Escort

The Vietnam Vets Legacy Vets MC and the Sioux Falls Vet's Council would like to invite The Great Plains Street Rodders to participate in the escort of the **Vietnam Traveling Wall from the VFW to the Pentagon on August 5.** We will stage at the Sioux Falls VFW at 15:00. We will be traveling up Minnesota Avenue, turning left on Russell and proceeding out to Westport then on to the Sanford Pentagon. The order of departure will be police escort, two lead - flagged - bikes, the trailer with the Wall, hopefully 100-150 motorcycles and then hopefully 100-plus street rodders. Contact Ronald E. Obe if you have any questions, 338-6649, ron.obe@usc.salvationarmy.org This is the largest replica of The Vets Memorial Wall and an opportunity for those who sacrificed to remember their fallen brothers and sisters. It also allows others to honor over 58,000 fallen soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines on the wall.

Canton Chauffeurs

All club convertibles are invited to be "Pageant Drivers" in the Canton Classic Car Parade July 25. Lineup begins at 6:30 p.m. at Canton High School parking lot. Parade starts at 7 p.m. Please RSVP at 360-1117, or mrssouthdakota@gmail.com. Or contact Clay Seachris and he'll forward your information. Thank you, Jessie Brower



July Birthdays

(2nd half)

Betty Jones	17
Roger Van Noort	20
Rick Petersen	20
Bones Hanson	21
Candy Nelson	22
Kirk Lee	23
Janet Gannon	24
Terry Peterson	25
Shirley Snuttjer	26
Kathy Buskol	28
Barb Buchanan	29
Pat Reichert	29
Gary Bockorny	30
Melvin Holmbeck	30
Ken Jump	30
Art Slumskie	31
Sara Vegge	31

August Birthdays

(1st half)

Vicky Levene	2
Ron Jellis	4
Joyce Olsen	5
Owen McKittrick	6
Cheri Kappenman	6
Karla Rohde	6
Ben Ekrem	7
Brian Lee	7
Terry Jellis	9
Laurie Van Noort	12
Josh Frock	13

July Anniversaries

(2nd half)

Tom and Joyce Olsen	19
Duane and Marie Rogers	27
Rick and Chris Johnson	28
Steve and Rhonda Kirton	30
Art and Julie Slumskie	31

August Anniversaries

(1st half)

Josh and Lisa Frock	4
Mike and Jean Tlustos	7
Darwin and Jane Sletten	8
Ron and Jackie Heemstra	14
Jules and Marilyn Haper	15
Doug and Laurie Van Noort	15

Dates Are Mid-Monthly

The two-month birthday and anniversary schedule is listed from the 15th to the 15th of each month.

Root Beer, Cruising and Fun



Ron, Betty, Candi, Jayne and Jules team up at the Root Beer Social.



Terry Jellis always adds life and laughter to the party.



Dave Tank's Corvair, Larry Olson's '55 and others at CHS



Another Art and Julie Slumskie classic at the Root Beer Social



Sonja and John Lynch cruised to J&L Harley on their Stallion.



Handyman cruise night was a big hit again!



Jack Mills enjoys some shade with his toy at Back to the Fifties.



Ellen Van Noort sharing her snacks with the group at BTTF.



Photographs and Memories by Tom Olsen

I'm a car guy and veteran Great Plains Street Rodder from Sioux Falls who developed an interest in cars in the early 1960s, and that passion has been with me all these years. Each month I'll share a picture or two in the newsletter and will offer a short narrative on each for your enjoyment. While I'm primarily a Chevy guy, I'll do my best to mix things up a bit so everyone sees something they might enjoy.

Thunder Valley Dragway in 1968



Nearly complete restoration in 2015

Another Race Car Saved

When I started drag racing at the old Sioux City drag strip in 1964, one of the toughest cars to beat in the stock classes was Don Stephenson's '57 Chevy. Don's Chevy was equipped with the 270hp/283ci engine and a 4-speed transmission. (The 270/283 ran solid lifters, a "Duntov" cam and dual Carter WCFB carbs.) Don, from Omaha, raced the car successfully for several years and notched some national event wins around the country. Somewhere around 1966, the car was named "Tension" and it was known by that name ever after. Don was always looking for any advantage in the class breakdowns, so the car was run in many different configurations; even to the point of swapping on a sedan delivery body for a short time! After several excellent years of racing, Don eventually parted with "Tension," and it was lost to the ages for many years. Recently, another individual from the Omaha area found "Tension," purchased it, and began a full restoration to its "as raced" condition. Tension is nearly complete now and beginning to appear at area events...I can't wait to see it!

Sioux City Dragstrip in 1964



A Little History of the Great Plains Street Rodders from Bob Schmeichel

Many of us before the Great Plains car club was ever a thought were Siouxland Street Rodders. It wasn't a very large group at the time, but we did the Easter Car Show in the spring and used the money made from that at the end of summer to rent the fairgrounds and put on the Labor Day Rod Run and Campout. I was playing around then drawing cars then too, that we used on the Labor Day Rod Run t-shirts and dash plaques. For me it was kind of fun to try to come up with some clever designs that depicted camping out with your hot rod.

We were also lucky to have the Argus Leader do quite a few articles on the club and how we thought it was a family hobby even in the early stages of what we were doing. During those early 1970s, we were on the ground looking underneath each others' cars more than today to see how we engineered suspensions and everything else together in that area usually made out of junkyard parts. We took a lot of pride with what we did searching and finding what would work along with doing it as cheap as we could. If you had a couple thousand dollars in the whole build for a street rod that was a lot of money at the time. I had my first drivable rod for \$35 and then put another \$1,200 in it to finish it to my liking. In those days everyone did a lot of bartering to get one thing or another or to have something done. This kind of personal engineering and finishing touches defined who we were at the time as far as building a street rod and having something no one else had.

One evening in 1985, I got a call from Jerry Kennedy, who at the time was a field director for NSRA. He asked my thoughts about having the Mid-America Mini-Nationals in Sioux Falls. He passed through Sioux Falls many times on the way to Minneapolis for the Street Rod Nationals and thought Sioux Falls would be a nice town to do a smaller event for 1948 and older street rods only. So in 1985, I organized a new club for street rods only that eventually was called the Great Plains Street Rodders to help coordinate the '86 National Street Rod Association, Mid-America Nationals that was held in Sioux Falls. The Mid-America Nationals grew and moved. And, so did we by opening up the club to all car enthusiasts.

Summer Cruise Schedule



07/15/15 **Poker Run - Great Plains Street Rodders**

\$5 to Play, 100% Payout
Start at Dan Dugan Park (37th & Duluth)
5:30 to 6:15 p.m. for map and 1st card

07/22/15 **Cruise Night - Sioux Empire Ford Club**

Wall Lake, Wall Lake Township

07/29/15 **Falls Overlook Café**

825 N. Weber, Sioux Falls

08/05/15 **Riverdale Park – Potluck**

2000 E. 24th Street, Sioux Falls

08/12/15 **Olsen's Garage (Tom & Joyce's)**

2409 W. 85th Street, Sioux Falls

08/19/15 **Veteran's Hospital Car Show**

2501 W. 22nd St, Sioux Falls

08/26/15 **Bethany Meadows, Show-n-Shine**

3008 E. Aspen Blvd., Brandon, SD

09/02/15 **Dakota Digital Cruise Night**

4510 W. 61st St. N., Sioux Falls

09/09/15 **First Reformed Church**

4800 S. Tomar Road, Sioux Falls

09/16/15 **Arby's, East 10th**

2729 East 10th Street, Sioux Falls

09/23/15 **Executive Touch / Subaru**

1011 S. Minnesota Ave., Sioux Falls

Some Flyers Emailed to the Great Plains Street Rodders

Come Join Us!

Lincoln County Airport

47014 Great Planes Place

Saturday, July 18, 2015

8:00 a.m. — noon



For more information contact:
Legacy Aviation 605-368-2841
Gary Pelach 605-310-9984
Roger VanNoort 605-941-5251

- Great Plains Streetrodders will be on display
- EAA Chapter 289 members will provide Young Eagle Rides all morning
- Chapter 289 Pancake Breakfast served 8:00-11:00 a.m.
- Discovery Flights with Legacy Aviation
- Adult rides with Legacy Aviation available for a small fee
- Hanger tours

Sponsored by:
Experimental Aircraft Association
Chapter 289
47014 Great Planes Place
Tea, South Dakota



40yrs Honoring & Healing 2015



The Vietnam Vets / Legacy Vets Motorcycle Club and the Sioux Falls Vet's Council invite you to experience the largest replica of The Washington DC Vietnam Wall

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

AUG 5, 3:00 pm - Escort The Wall from the Sioux Falls VFW to the Sanford Pentagon
Aug 6, 9:00 am - "The Wall" open to public
AUG 6, 7:30 pm - Opening Ceremony
AUG 9, 9:00 am - Closing Ceremony and Non-Denominational Service



The AVTT Traveling Vietnam Wall will open to the public at the Sanford Pentagon 24 hours/day beginning August 6, 2015. Visit www.honoringandhealing.org for further information. OR like us on Facebook



Chasers' 5th
Annual
Car Show
Sat August 15 2015

8405 W. 12th St. • Sioux Falls, SD • 605.335.9633

Registration 3PM
Show and Shine



T-Shirts, door prizes, other specials
to all participating car owners.
Intersection of
W 12th Street & Tea/Ellis Road

If you have
additional questions
please call
Judy 366-2444.



Classified Ads
(Free to All Members)



FOR SALE – Pair of Hankook Optimo H725 Tires, size 225/70/R14. These have less than 20 miles on them! Asking \$210. Tom Olsen, 759-6567

WANTED – Classified ads
Free help for members selling or wanting something. Just email/reply with the information and a picture if you have one to any club message.
[president @greatplainsstreetrodders.com](mailto:president@greatplainsstreetrodders.com)

FOR SALE – Pontiac Wheels.
6"x14" \$20 for both.
Call Bob at 361-1932



ARE YOU GETTING EMAILS FROM THE PRESIDENT?

Please email Clay at president@greatplainsstreetrodders.com if you're a 2015 Great Plains Street Rodder reading this printed version, have an email and did not get this emailed to you, also. With the changes to our website, new members and renewal management, we want to make sure you're getting all the communications that keep us together having fun.