



# Cruisin' News

November 2015

President – Clay Seachris

Vice President – Bob Schmeichel

Treasurer – Jayne DeBoer

Secretary – Marilyn Haper

Newsletter Editor – Susan Seachris

## *Kinship Tradition Remains*

By Clay Seachris

President's message

You'll notice on our website Information Page the history portions shares, "Years ago, the members realized during the long Dakota winters, they missed the kinship of summer car shows and cruises together and began to meet during the winter cruising off-season as a "meet-n-eat" Wednesday evening social club. The club continues that tradition averaging 70 members at local restaurants. Meeting during the winter months fostered friendships and has been a strength of the club ever since." This winter we continue to the tradition. Although, the restaurants that can handle our large group are becoming fewer and fewer and the food variety may dwindle, the kinship still carries on. I continue to look forward to our winter meet-n-eats and visiting less about hotrods and more about life.

Also during our off-season, we're fortunate to have some gracious, fun-loving members with facilities to host a number of fun social gatherings. Most recently we enjoyed an evening at Roger and Cheryl Van Noort's Metro Station. Gary Jorgenson and Terry Peterson managed this most memorable evening. Thank you to all who brought snacks. The variety of potluck items was overwhelming. The excuse for the occasion was wine tasting and some of the members enjoyed trying a variety of wines people brought. Robin and Jerry Miller also recently hosted a weekend craft fair. I was busy helping a friend get a '69 Ford back to cruising form, but I know Susan enjoyed her time with friends. She managed to find some cool jewelry to adorn her purse. Ellen Van Noort also just had an Avon social at her home, and I know many enjoyed that afternoon also. December 5, Lori and Mike Paulson will again host the Charitable Morning "Coffee Social" at Driveline Services. We meet there to visit and compile our charitable gifts for Children's Inn. Lori makes great breakfast rolls. Betty Heidebrink also brings some awesome morning sweets. We usually have plenty, but if you'd like to bring something visit with Lori.

For a color copy of the newsletter or to see additional photos, go to our website [greatplainsstreetrodders.com](http://greatplainsstreetrodders.com).



**Some Great Plains Street Rodders cruising to Rock Rapids, Iowa.**

## Unimproved Memories

By Bob Schmeichel

Fred Vegge always loved the looks of a 1964 Chevrolet full-sized car since they came out new, but really didn't acquire one until he was 19 years old. It was a two-door hardtop car with a 250 horsepower 327, 3-speed on the column, and a bench seat that gave him all the fun he could ask for. Little did Fred know, then living in Luverne, Minnesota, and using the '64 Chevy for daily transportation to go to college in Bemidji, that his time with the car was soon to be short lived after being drafted into the service. It was the way life was in America in 1969 and depending on what lottery number was drawn for your birthday, most all boys with low lottery numbers below 180 out of 365, were forced into a military service then. It didn't matter if you were going to college or in some cases even married, you were going to serve wherever the government put you unless you enlisted in a choice of a military branch before you were told to report for duty. Most everyone during that time were Vietnam bound and forced to participate in an undeclared war America made there. I think it was the beginning of big businesses promoting wars for profit and continues even today. Thoughts of not coming back home alive from Vietnam ran through everyone's mind who was drafted that year and going that direction. I lost three college classmate friends there. Fred didn't let that bother him, but also didn't think he needed a car for a while either. So he had his dad sell his car at a sale barn auction for \$425 and pretty much has regretted doing that most of his life. If he only would have had a place to have it stored on blocks for a few years...

Fast forward to a couple years ago, Fred was still dreaming of having another '64 Chevrolet and the allure got even stronger when attending the "Back to the 50s" event at the fairgrounds in St. Paul with some other car buddies. With this event, which is anything but small, and having over 12,000 cars participating as well as 100,000 spectators coming to see all at the get together over a weekend, it's hard not to get pulled into the picture with old memories while walking around and seeing what rolls across in front of you while planting ideas of another car in your brain.

Knowing how excited Fred got, a week later one of Fred's car buddies called him about a '64 Chevy that was for sale in the cities. He told Fred it was pretty much a nice original car that he needed to go see to appreciate before someone else would buy it. He said the owner was itching to sell the '64 Chevy or a '49 Ford he had so he could buy a '66 Mustang he had his eye on. Fred called the owner over the phone to get more information about the car only to hear it was pretty much what he was wanting. The present owner knew all the history of the car with it being bought originally by a farmer who parked the car in a garage and passed away a couple days later. The present owner bought it from a dealership selling it for the farmers estate making him the second owner having it ever since while driving and taking care of it. It was a 1964 Impala SS two-door hardtop with a 195 horse 283 and a 2-speed power glide transmission. It was red with a white top and a red interior and best of all it only had 55,000 original miles on it. After a little more talk, which led to the selling price, Fred told the owner he would be up in a couple days to see the car. The day came and Fred asked his wife, Sarah, to come along to check out a car with him. Fred told me laughing a little bit about the moment they both finally saw the car and him telling her, "Here is your anniversary present honey!" I hope she found it a little humorous too, making buying the car a little easier as was his intention to begin with anyway. I hope I didn't start a war here with this LITTLE notation.

Fred told me other than driving the car, the only thing he has really done to the car is to tune it up along with replacing the original 50-year-old date coded spark plug wires. He said it runs so much better now. While we were talking, he opened the trunk and showed me the original spare tire still in place that has never seen the ground. Fred did say that they had driven the car to the "Back to the 50s" event last year saying even though the car never ran hot, there is a lot to be said about newer cars with their smaller steering wheels and air conditioning on hot summer days that people forget about until they are driving an older car on a hot day. Don't get him wrong as he still loves to drive his '64 around town and when it's not a hundred degrees outside. He loves it for what it is and won't change a thing. I guess memories are memories as we keep them until you know different or better.







## Behind the Wheel

By Karen Roe

Get-togethers have gotten a lot livelier since the McKittricks joined the club. It's a bit like having a comedy team in our midst. Dead-pan, Owen plays the straight man and Carlotta, with an impish grin, smacks us with the punch line.

Mrs. M enlightens us on how they met. "At the Zesto. I worked with a girl who had the 'hots' for Owen. I knew his sister and brother but not Owen who was quite a bit older. Owen was home on leave from the service, so as a prank, I called him up. "Hi, remember me? We met at a party."

"Who is this?"

"Don't you remember me? I'm disappointed 'cuz I thought you kind of liked me. I'm not going to tell you my name, only that I work at Zesto."

Later, Owen's brother, Bill, introduced them but neither was impressed. "At the party that night, I told Bill that I didn't want to get stuck with Owen. Owen told him the same thing. He didn't want to get stuck with me, either. We played a game and started bantering and the next thing I knew, we were on the couch kissing." Owen adds that her "obscene phone call" ended up in 42 years of marriage.

Though both lived in Mitchell, Carlotta moved there from Sioux Falls with her family when she was in the seventh grade. She worked in the Zesto that her parents owned, graduated from Mitchell Sr. High, then attended Vo Tech school to become an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse).

After graduating high school, Owen joined the Navy for four years. "I was in the submarine service on a WWII submarine that was electric so we spent most of our time on the surface. The longest I was submerged was for 45 days. Most of the time we were in the Pacific. I took trips to Taiwan, Japan, China, Hawaii, the Philippines and up and down the west coast of the U.S. and Canada." After the service, Owen worked several jobs and was in partnership with his father-in-law in a garbage collecting service for 13 years. If you got locked out of your car or house, who you gonna call? Owen, a "lockbuster" with Fred the Fixer for 21 years, would be your man. Working with keys, locks and safes, Owen has a few interesting tales to tell. "There was one older lady who was probably a little senile. She thought college kids were crawling through her heat vents, stealing the keys around her neck, and making copies of them." Owen had to keep rekeying her locks until a compassionate boss put an end to it. Now, Owen is retired but decided to take a part-time job with Weisser Distributing in Tea.

Other than street rodding, Carlotta shares, "We like to take little road trips, go antiquing and I like the consignment shops. We enjoy plays and attending our grandsons' sporting events in Omaha." Carlotta likes decorating and Owen reports, "I like putzing around the house and building things. I've made toy boxes/hope chests for all of my grandchildren." They do some long-distance traveling since their oldest daughter lives in the Bahamas. Someday, Owen would like to visit Australia or New Zealand. Carlotta wants to head east and visit Ireland or Germany.

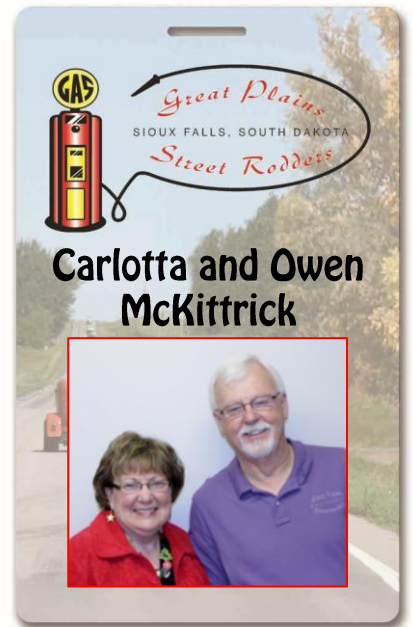
The Watertown rod run is a favorite for Owen and Carlotta. "I like the things they have for women, and since I like gambling, it's fun to stay at the casino. My most memorable trip was when I won \$168."

The McKittricks have two daughters. Christy, a chiropractor, lives in the Bahamas with her husband, Ivan, and their daughter, Elizabeth, who is five. "I have tea parties and play games with her on Skype. We try to get there once a year and they try to come here once a year." Their other daughter, Amy, lives in Omaha with her husband, Russell, and their three boys. Both Amy and Russell do cardio-vascular ultra sounds.



Carlotta has worked on the recovery floor at Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center for the past 34 years and apparently has quite the bedside manner. "When I was moving a 98-year-old patient from the bed to a chair, he started nibbling on my ear. Another time, I bent down to fluff up the pillows for a patient and he puckered up 'cuz he thought I was going to kiss him." (Are we seeing a pattern here?)

Sooo...if anyone is anticipating a stay in the hospital anytime soon, you might want to consider Avera McKennan. With Nurse Carlotta, you'll get good care and it should be worth at least a portion of the bill just for the giggles.



## Thanks for Hosting

Thank you Roger and Cheryl Van Noort for letting us invade the Metro Station for an evening of food, wine and fun. Thank you to Gary Jorgenson and Terry Peterson for hosting the event and providing valuable prizes. 😊



## Thank You Friends

Thank you to the many friends who visited me in the hospital after surgery and gave me so much support during my rehab. Your friendship is much appreciated. Mike DeBoer.

## Birthday Thanks

Thank you for making my birthday memorable. I'm blessed to have so many great friends. Thank you to Ron Roe, Mark Bowers and all those who helped plan the surprise.



## Charitable Morning

Bring your charitable items December 5; 9:00 a.m. to Driveline Service. Mike and Lori Paulson host a morning social of rolls, juice and coffee. Santa Claus dropped off an outfit, so helper Terry Jellis will take his place for the 10:00 a.m. visit at Children's Inn. Along with the supplies we gather together, Santa has stockings for all the children who want to see him.

## Christmas Party Plan

December 5 is the Annual Great Plains Christmas Party at LifeScape on south Western Avenue. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. for the social and dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by a night of laughs. LifeScape is the caterer. Get your \$12 meal ticket from Jean Knowlton until November 30. Every year, we sell advance meal tickets so the caterer and table setup crew know how many to expect.

To play in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped, gender-specific gift that costs around \$15. If you're not familiar with the gift exchange game, after drawing numbers, the first person opens a gift. Then the second person can steal the gift the first person opened or open a new gift. A little friendly gift stealing makes the game fun.

## Gas Station History

Relive the days of full-service greasing palaces, illuminated globe pumps, and customer gifts at the Falls Fuel. The Old Courthouse Museum, Full Service Gas & Oil Exhibit opening reception is on Thursday, November 19, from 5-7 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free.



## November Birthdays

(2nd half)

Paula Goettsch	18
Maritta Husman	18
Dan Larson	20
Don Mertens	21
Doug Van Noort	22
Josie Bowers	24
Sandy Gunderson	26
Jane Sletten	29

## December Birthdays

(1st half)

Paul Rollinger	1
Ron Hammerschmidt	2
Ron Friedbauer	6
Lana Bowers	7
Linda Schunneman	8
Gary Ebright	11
Jeannine Mills	12
Vince Jones	13
Verlyn Ramse	13
Dorothy Holmbeck	13
Cathy Walker	13

## November Anniversaries

(2nd half)

Denny and Betty Heidebrink	16
John and Paula Goettsch	25

## December Anniversaries

(1st half)

Morris and Beth Fick	1
Clair and Sally Steiner	1
Milo and Sandy Gunderson	5

## Dates Are Mid-Monthly

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

## Nametags & Paintings

Please wear your nametag to the Christmas Party. Also bring your Feature Car Painting so everyone can see the originals. Mark Bowers will be set up to take membership photos and print your nametag there. Our Nametags are classy. They clip to your shirt or on a lanyard. We tend to forget them most of the time, but they are especially nice to have at our larger gatherings.



# *Guess Whose Interior? Answers on Last Page*



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6



#7



#8



## 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.

## The Jolly Green Giant

While at the drag races at Englishtown, New Jersey, one of my favorite "Stockers" of 1967 was the "Jolly Green Giant" '57 Chevy wagon. The car was raced by Ken and Jack Gunning, out of the Philadelphia area, and was always highly competitive. The wagon was running G/Stock when I shot this photo; performance was from a 270hp/283ci engine (dual 4-barrel carbs and a solid lifter cam) and the car ran a 4-speed transmission. Notice anything unusual about the grille? NHRA allowed "mild" customizing in the stock classes and the Gunning Brothers had crafted in a '63 Chevrolet grille - less weight, apparently. The maroon wagon in the second photo is the car as it looks today; it's owned by a family member and is in North Dakota. I had the good fortune to meet both of the Gunnings at the Hot Rod Reunion in Bowling Green this summer. They visited with me at length about "the Giant" and other cars they raced to national recognition; it was great!



## Christmas Charitable Morning and Evening Christmas Dinner and Gift Exchange

December 5 at 9 a.m. – we'll meet for a social hour and gather together all your charitable supplies for Children's Inn. Then at 10 a.m., we'll go to Children's Inn with Santa Claus to deliver your gifts and supplies. Later that afternoon at 4:30 p.m., the Christmas party social begins followed by a catered meal at 5:30 p.m. and the gift exchange game beginning at 6:30 p.m.





## *Meet-n-Eat Schedule*



**11/25/15 HyVee Deli, 26<sup>th</sup> & Sycamore**  
1601 S. Sycamore Ave., Sioux Falls

**12/02/15 Buffalo Wild Wings, S. Louise**  
2601 S. Louise Ave., Sioux Falls

**12/05/15 Charitable Morning & Christmas Party**  
4100 S. Western Ave., Sioux Falls

**12/09/15 Tailgators**  
1013 N. Splitrock Blvd., Brandon

**12/16/15 VFW, (Burger Night)**  
3601 S. Minnesota Ave., Sioux Falls

**12/23/15 HyVee Deli, 26<sup>th</sup> & Sycamore**  
1601 S. Sycamore Ave., Sioux Falls

**12/30/15 Pizza Ranch, East 10<sup>th</sup>**  
3809 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux Falls

**1/06/15 Rookies Sports Bar & Grill**  
2616 S. Louise Ave, Sioux Falls

**1/13/16 Shenanigan's Pub**  
1903 Tea Ellis Road, Sioux Falls

**1/20/16 The Cracker Barrel**  
2409 S. Shirley Ave., Sioux Falls

**1/27/16 Crack'd Pot Restaurant**  
1430 N. Minnesota Ave., Sioux Falls

**2/03/16 Hibachi Grill & Supreme Buffet**  
1100 West 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Sioux Falls

*Great Plains Street Rodders – “A Friend in Need Is A Friend Indeed.”*





**Classified Ads**  
(Free to All Members)



**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

**FOR RENT – Garage Space,** 12' x 21' wide, 12' high inside, available with one or two 10' x 12' upper storage decks, electricity, insulated, fire-proof sheetrock, insulated floors. Also large 50' x 36' spaces available in adjacent building. Also outside storage available. Security fence surrounds property. Call Dale Aurit Home: 334-5005 or Cell: 605 212-5949

**Sympathy Offered**

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Great Plains Street Rodders Vice President, Bob Schmeichel and his family. Bob's mother Phyllis passed away Sunday, November 1. The club sent a memorial on behalf of all the Great Plains Street Rodders.

**Thanks Given**

Thanks to my GPSR extended family members who we saw or thought of us after my mother's passing. It has been a long road with me at her side to get to this point in her life. She is finally at rest with my dad. She was a very dear person to me, whom I will truly miss talking with about my car club paintings or the 1-off car I'm building that is not done yet. She always had an interest in everything I had going on and was my biggest supporter verbally and physically if she could help, all my life with everything I have ever done. She will be missed. Thanks again!! BOB

**FOR SALE – 1964 Galaxy 500 2dr Hardtop,** all new interior, recent paint and restoration updates. Asking price is \$25,000. Call Mel Holmbeck for more info or make an offer. 361-2740, "Dorothy and I enjoy this Ford. I'm just looking for something different." ☺



**Sympathy Offered**

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Gidget Underberg and her family. Marvin Underberg passed away November 3. Marv loved animals and enjoyed taking care of his dogs. His passion was cars. He was one of the founders of the Sioux Empire Mustang Club. He was also the current President of the Sioux Empire Ford Club. Above all, Marv cherished spending time with his family and friends

**Quiz Answers** 1. Dean, Joyce Gough, 1940 Ford 2. Denny, Betty Heidebrink, 1959 Chevy 3. Gary, Audrey Jorgenson, 1957 Chevy 4. Gary, Audrey Remme, 1934 Chevy 5. Rick, Betsy Petersen 1955 Chevy 6. Charlie, Sandy Hollingshead, 1955 Pontiac 7. Terry, Nancy Jellis, 1971 Jeep 8. Doug, Karen Walker, 1955 Chevy

**Phyllis and Bob Schmeichel enjoying a beautiful Loess Hills Fall Foliage Cruise**

