



Cruisin' News

September 2015

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Vice President – Bob Schmeichel

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Newsletter Editor – Susan Seachris

Running On Empty

By Clay Seachris

President's message

Whoa, I'm exhausted, so please excuse me if I ramble a bit here. Susan and I just got home from a weekend with our street rodder family at the annual Vintiques Rod Run in Watertown. There were about 80 other Great Plains Street Rodders, and this year's rod run had 472 cars registered. Lots of friends took home door prizes. The club took home the Participation Award this year. And we all took home a lot of great memories. We always enjoy the atmosphere of this rod run. The Vintiques Car Cub is always such gracious hosts. This year it was great to see so many young Vintique helpers. I really appreciate the Vintiques for keeping this old-style rod run experience going. Susan and I, along with many others, booked a room for next year at the Dakota Sioux Casino already.

The annual "head-count" picnic at the Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum was a hit again this year. The weather was perfect and we all had a huge meal for only \$5 per person. We're already making plans for next year to enjoy this annual event. Thanks to Joyce and Tom Olsen for the cake and Bill and Lana Kullander for the watermelon, but nobody needs to provide anything for this picnic.

I gave this year's Vintiques Rod Run Club Participation Award to Mike DeBoer. Mike is still recovering from emergency surgery. He had a herniated disc that caused paralysis to his lower body. During his recovery when the doctors and therapists told him it may be months before he could walk again, he replied that he needed to be able to walk in a couple weeks. He did not give up on his plan to attend the Vintiques Rod Run with his friends. Best wishes to Mike as he continues to recover mobility and feeling in his legs and feet.

Thank you so much for a fun summer. The Meet-n-Eat Committee is already scheduling our off-season.

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



The annual Arby's Cruise Night had quick food and fun as a storm rolled in.

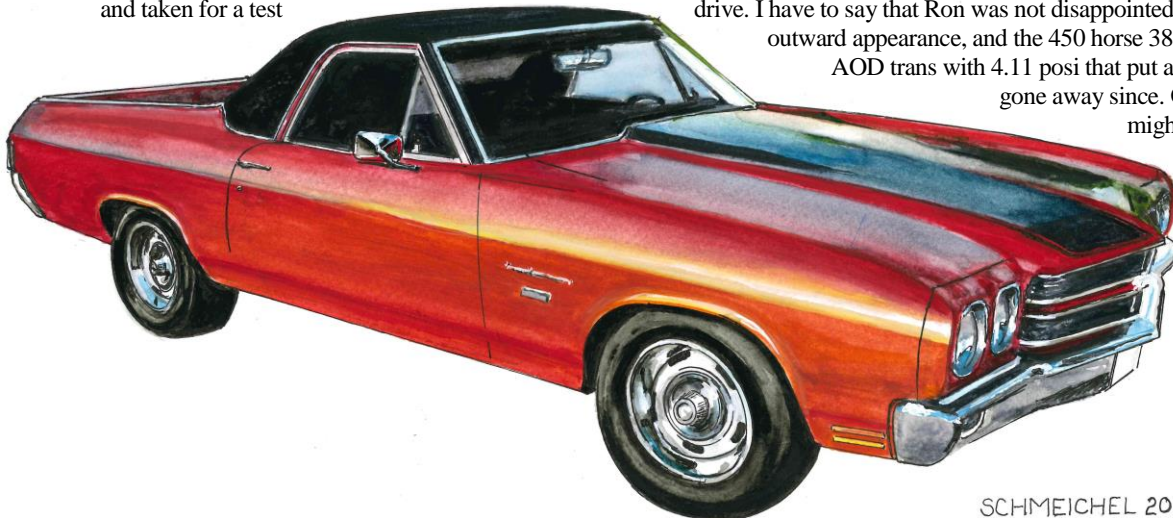
Savoring Evolution Parts

By Bob Schmeichel

How we react with everything we do throughout our lives, from young to old, is based on either visual things we see, things we smell, verbal things we say or hear, or physical things we do or touch. Most of the time there is either a positive or negative feeling that shows itself in each one of those areas, which helps us develop our personality as an individual. Positive feelings or happy memories, everyone hangs onto knowing they are good, and the negative ones are put to the side but not necessarily forgotten. You are probably wondering how this threads itself into a car article, so let me try to convey my broad thoughts so you can hopefully understand. I started building model cars in 1957. With that I loved the hands-on approach and seeing the finished product that not only gave me pride but a broad understanding of how cars went together. As I became a teenager in the 60s, real cars excited me not only because of the power each processed, but because each car brand was very visually different then. One fun thing from that time frame was being able to identify a car coming at you from a quarter mile away. With all the neat lines and chrome trim the cars came with, as well as increased horsepower, these were definitely fun times that the majority of teenagers as well as adults got involved with. For those who wanted to get a little more serious about going fast with their cars, Thunder Valley Dragways opened up in 1967. Drag racing was new in South Dakota and was turning into a full-tilt sport across the nation with horsepower increasing from each of the Big Three auto makers until 1970. As I remember, the 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle SS 454 LS6 was the highest rated, advertised with 450 horsepower available. It was one of the more desirable cars to have from a go-fast point, then even yet today for a collector. Then starting in 1971 and for the next 20-plus years, the government imposed emission regulations on all auto makers forcing them to lower compression in their engines as well as horsepower. The downward spiral of horsepower ratings in cars I am sure had an effect on new car sales but also at the drag strip scene. I for one think there is a direct correlation between not being able to order a new car with a real high performance engine starting in 1971 and people starting to build street rods. The street rod hobby came on quite strong in 1971 all over the country, and I was one of those starting to build my own cars with engines the way I wanted. Now in the last few years, horsepower has come back in new cars largely due to public demand. Who doesn't like the feeling of acceleration?

As I was visiting with Ron "Gunner" Havens, I found out he was also a Sioux Falls native growing up in the same 1960s as I did; a typical teenager then playing with real cars. After graduating from Washington High School in 1966, he and a buddy joined the Marines, and ended up doing a tour in Vietnam, hence his "Gunner" nick name. After coming back to America through the West Coast, Ron planted himself in California through a cousin where the job opportunities were knowingly better than in South Dakota. Dare I say they still are? Ron said the jobs were plentiful and eventually landed one as a new car transport delivery driver. The occupation was good for Ron taking him all over the West Coast, but the demanding job never really left any time for himself. So after 30 years of pounding the pavement, Ron decided to retire and move back to South Dakota to be near his mother who passed two years later. Being in a better position and back in South Dakota now, he could finally focus on some of his past dreams of having an old car. He said one day he found a 1970 El Camino on eBay for sale in Boulder, Nevada. Ron called his cousin in California, who is now a 1970 Chevelle specialist who introduced Ron to that year of Chevelle liking, to see if he had seen the ad. His response was that he thought it looked pretty good with the extra pictures that were online and that Ron should buy it because of the price. Ron still thought he should fly out to see the car before buying it, but time wasn't working well because of a long-time planned up-coming motorcycle trip on Route 66. And then an hour later the same day by a mere coincidence, a buddy of Ron's had just landed in the Las Vegas airport and called to chat a bit. After a little visiting, Ron's buddy agreed to go check the car out immediately for him since it was in a nearby suburb of Vegas. Ron's buddy called back a couple hours later telling him the El Camino was a frame-off restoration and looked mint with nothing wrong. So with that Ron pressed the sold button on eBay and started lining up delivery to get it to South Dakota since he would be leaving soon. With all anyone could do, the El Camino wouldn't get delivered until the same day everyone was leaving on the long awaited motorcycle trip. As it turned out, relatives came over, watched it get unloaded, and put it in the garage, all while razzing Ron over the phone later wanting to drive it for him while he was gone. There was a firm no and leave it alone!! So after 6,000 miles in 24 days on a motorcycle, as soon as Ron got back home, still in leathers, the El Camino was fired up and taken for a test

drive. I have to say that Ron was not disappointed with the great looking outward appearance, and the 450 horse 383 stroker engine, the 700-R4 AOD trans with 4.11 posi that put a grin on his face that hasn't gone away since. Old dreams can happen!! It might just take longer.





Behind the Wheel

By Karen Roe

This engaging couple hails from Minnesota. If you're not acquainted, look for Fred, the tall Norwegian looming beside Sara, a petite blonde of Polish descent. The Vegges met as students at Bemidji State University. Though Fred had a great sense of humor and as "Mr. Fixit," could fix anything, Sara admits that for her, it was not love at first sight. "It was when Fred went into the service," Sara shares, "that we really got to know each other. He would call sometimes and wrote really nice love letters." Fred persevered and eventually won the heart of the peppy, blonde co-ed. They were married in 1970 and have been partners for 45 years.

"I grew up on a farm near Warren, Minnesota, about 60 miles from the Canadian border. I was one of six kids," Sara shares. "After graduating from Warren High School, I went to Cosmetology School and worked as a cosmetologist for a year and a half. Then, I decided to go to college, working my way through as a cosmetologist on the weekends and in the summers." A farm kid, as well, Fred grew up near Luverne with a sister who was somewhat younger. "I went to Luverne High for a year and Augustana Academy in Canton for three years. After graduating, I went to college for awhile, dropped out, and went to work for Brown Drug. Later, I got a meat-packing job in the Cities." Working in the plant convinced Fred that college might be a better option. "I went to Bemidji, dropped out to work, and got drafted into the Army for two years. I was sent to Ft. Polk, Louisiana, where they thought I would make a good clerk. Later, I was transferred to Fort Hood, Texas." By then, he and Sara were married. "That first year was really challenging," Sara adds. "I was newly married, had never left Minnesota, and started my first teaching job with a non-air conditioned room full of 43 kindergartners." When Fred finished his stint with the Army, the Vegges moved to the Cities where Fred earned a college degree and became employed in warehousing and distribution management. Sara continued teaching in the Columbia Heights area, retiring in 2004 after 34 years. "My passion has always been working with children and now I do volunteer work with a children's bible study." They both enjoy spending time with their two grandchildren who live in Sioux Falls. "We have two daughters, Rebecca, an occupational therapist who is single and lives in Minneapolis. Our other daughter, Rachel, has an engineering degree and helps her husband run their Dakota Fabricating business near the Harrisburg exit."

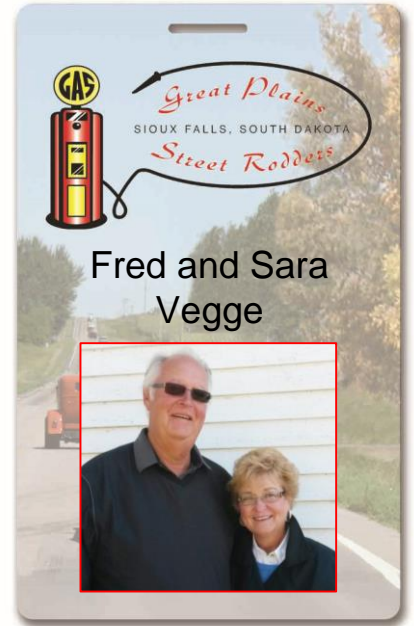
Before retiring in 2007, Fred worked as a salesman for Diamond Vogel Paints for 15 years. In order to be closer to family, the Vegges decided to move to Sioux Falls. "That was a really stressful year," Sara recalls. "There were some deaths and serious illnesses in the family and it was a couple of years before we could sell our house. We've always relied on our faith, though, and it has always gotten us through."

Sara and Fred have many interests together including maintaining a large vegetable garden, canning, and freezing the produce. "We're on several boards at our church, and we've done quite a bit of traveling. We go to Mexico every year and have been on cruises to Alaska, the Panama Canal and the Caribbean." When the Vegges were first married and raising their children, they did a lot of tenting. Fred remembers, "On our first tenting trip, we went up by Mackinac Island, Niagara Falls, then, New York City." He adds, "When the kids were still at home, we took them camping and fishing with two other couples for 25 years every Memorial Day weekend." Presently, the Vegges own lake-shore property on Big Stone Lake. "We spend the holidays there with our children, grandchildren and extended family. We do a lot of boating, skiing, fishing and tubing." In addition to fishing on the lake, Fred has taken several trips to Lake Michigan for salmon fishing.



The Vegges agree that the two most important things in life are family and faith. When asked, however if there was anything on their "bucket lists," both mentioned traveling. "I'd like to go to Israel," is Sara's wish. Fred's destination would be in the opposite direction. "I think it would be fun to go to China and see the Great Wall." Having made friends with a couple from Australia, a trip there and to New Zealand also would be on the agenda.

We are glad that the Vegges have made the car club part of their activities. We are not the land of ten thousand lakes but we do have a few good fishing holes. And, of course, we've got the old cars.



Thanks for Hosting

Thank you to Tom and Joyce Olsen along with co-hosts Jerry and Robin Miller for a memorable Wednesday night cruise night. The taco bar was a hit, and although we tried, we could not eat all the awesome desserts members shared.



Thanks Roast Hosts

Thank you to Ron and Karen Roe for hosting another awesome Wienie Roast. Even with rain earlier in the day, attendance was approximately 80 people. Thank you to Doug and Karen Walker for picking up the hotdogs and buns. It was another memorable event surrounded by great friends.



Christmas Party Plan

The Annual Great Plains Christmas Party will be the evening of December 5 at LifeScape on south Western Avenue. Keep an eye out for \$15 gift exchange clearance items. That morning we're planning our annual charitable trek to Children's Inn again. Santa's been shopping.

Thanks Cruise Host

Thank you Candi Hanson for coordinating the Rock Rapids Cruise. Judging by attendance it was a huge success. We've made that run a couple times and I think we'll make that an annual cruise.



Endless Wednesday Fun

(From the Meet-n-Eat Committee)

We have the schedule set for the off-season. We kept many of our regular stops. We also dropped a few locations and continue to seek feedback. We keep in mind and try to stay under \$10 or have some menu items that are lower cost. We know we can't please everyone, but try to accommodate the wishes of the majority and are always open to input from the members. You're a fun group and Terry Peterson and I still enjoy doing the Meet-n-Eat schedule. Let us know if you have any questions. Thanks, Gary Jorgenson

Vintiques Rod Run

We enjoyed the 26th Annual Rod Run. Many won door prizes and gifts. We even had a couple Top 10 winners. We're proud to win the Club Participation award again. There were 472 cars and over 800 rodders at the event. It was great to see so many new, young Vintiques.

I had a proud moment on the cruise home. At a gas stop, some Minnesota street rodders shared they felt the Great Plains Street Rodders are such a great group of "car people." 😊

September Birthdays

(2nd half)

Audrey Remme	20
Kris Golden	21
Donna Jellis	22
Cindy Friedbauer	29
Loren Fick	30
Bill Kullander	30

October Birthdays

(1st half)

Suzie Aldrich	4
John Hauge	5
Jim Larson	5
Jerry Miller	7
Rick Munce	8
Kevin Lucas	9
Melania Barnes	11
Lori Paulson	11
Doug Walker	13
Emery Lee	14
Helene Carlson	14

September Anniversaries

(2nd half)

Gary and Audrey Remme	19
Jerry and Robin Miller	29

October Anniversaries

(1st half)

Don and Pat Reichert	6
Ken and Susan Jump	11
Doug and Karen Walker	13

Dates Are Mid-Monthly

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

Participation Award

At the Vintiques Rod Run. We received the award for largest club attendance with 33 GPSR registered.



Out-of-Town Cruising



The guys took the high ground to visit at Lake Kampeska



Gale and Judy Horan on the the Vintiques Poker Run



Susan Seachris and Nancy Jellis feeling the cold at a cruise stop



Congratulations Larry Stauffacher on a Top 10 Award in Watertown



Verlyn Ramsey and others enjoy a Dyno Run on a Garage Tour



There's always some fun conversations around the cars



Ben Ekrem and "helpers" check out his truck on the Rock Rapids Cruise



David Frock and Mel Holmbeck at Rock Rapids



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.



"Girl, We Couldn't Get Much Higher"

This month's article isn't so much about a particular car/owner as it is about a "look" that was the trend in Sioux Falls from about 1966 to 1968. The rage among many car owners at that time was to see how high a hot rod could sit. Perhaps it was the popularity of "Gassers" on the drag racing scene that led to this. I note, in going through my photos, that each example here involves a Chevy; this wasn't just a Chevy owner thing, but these are the only examples I have. Sorry!

The lift came through a variety of methods. On the front, aluminum screw-in spacers or a round coil spring spacer under the spring, sometimes special front spindles were used. On Mopars, cranking the torsion bar suspension up as far as it would go was an option. On the rear, coil spring spacers, extra length spring shackles, extra leaf rear springs, air lift bags, and air shocks all were used. The tallest tire you could fit, of course, added to the effect.

The end result was a car that sat just as high as possible, often to the detriment of ride and handling quality. But it looked COOL!



Invite: Hot Dogs and Ice Cream Sundaes at Doug and Karen Walker's, September 20

Doug and Karen Walker invite all Great Plains Street Rodders to a Sunday Social at their home, 4900 W. Galaxy Circle, 4 p.m. social and eat at 5 p.m. Everything is free, but feel free to bring salads, beans, chips etc. to compliment the meal.



Doug and Karen Walker
2015 Vintiques Rod Run

Summer Cruise Schedule



09/23/15 Executive Touch / Subaru
 1011 S. Minnesota Ave., Sioux Falls
09/30/15 NAPA Auto, Tea
 27095 Katie Road, Tea, SD
10/07/15 Harris Burgers (Off-Season Opener)
 106 E. Willow Street, Harrisburg, SD
10/14/15 Shenanigan's Pub, 26th & Ellis Rd.
 1903 Tea Ellis Road, Sioux Falls
10/21/15 HyVee Deli, 26th & Sycamore
 1601 S. Sycamore Ave., Sioux Falls
10/28/15 VFW, (Burger Night)
 3601 S. Minnesota Ave., Sioux Falls

11/04/15 Pizza Ranch, East 10th
 3809 E. 10th Street, Sioux Falls
11/11/15 Roll 'n Pin Restaurant
 3015 W. Russell Street, Sioux Falls
11/18/15 Crack'd Pot Restaurant
 1430 N. Minnesota Avenue, Sioux Falls
11/25/15 HyVee Deli, 26th & Sycamore
 1601 S. Sycamore Ave., Sioux Falls
12/02/15 Buffalo Wild Wings, S. Louise
 2601 S. Louise Ave., Sioux Falls
12/02/15 Charitable Morning & Christmas Party
 4100 S. Western Ave., Sioux Falls

Car Show Flyers Emailed to the Great Plains Street Rodders

TAILS & TIRES CAR SHOW



September 19, 2015

DOOR PRIZES American Legion
 1701 Legion Dr., Sioux Falls, SD
(Located by Burnside Park)

RAFFLE

THE FLAUNT GIRLS

VENDORS

MUSIC

Registration 8-10AM
Awards 4PM

FOOD

\$15.00 VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE
(\$10 EACH ADDITIONAL VEHICLE)

FREE ADMISSION

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT NETTIES SPAY -N- NEUTER

ALL MAKES AND MODELS WELCOME
AWARDS FOR:

BEST IN SHOW • RUNNER UP • BEST CUSTOM • BEST ORIGINAL
 BEST STREET ROD

CONTACT 605.940.4140 FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

FOR SALE – Pair of Hankook Optimo H725 Tires, size 225/70/R14. These have less than 20 miles on them! Asking \$150. Tom Olsen, 759-6567

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



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." ☺



Tom Cain passed away August 22. Tom leaves behind a legacy of drag racing, drag race management, hot rodding and event management. He will be missed greatly. Our thoughts and prayers are with Tom's family.