



# *Cruisin' News*

July 2016

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Newsletter Editor – Susan Seachris

## *Rollin With Change*

By Clay Seachris

President's message

Mid-July always marks the halfway point of our cruise season. The weather has been pretty good this year, so choosing which and how many car shows and events a person wants to attend seems to be the toughest thing to deal with this year.

It's been great to hear stories about shows and events I did not attend. Congratulations to those of you who garnered hardware for your mantels. There have been many local and national shows that continue to be huge, positive memory makers. Others have shared public and private reasons and stories regarding shows and events that were a bust. Coordinating shows continues to be more difficult as even small towns have added rules to limit their liability. I was just reading a "Protest" headline and learned Sioux Falls requires a permit for any assembly involving 25 or more "persons, animals or vehicles, or combination thereof." From working with this year's Great Race event downtown, I learned that blocking off streets south of 10<sup>th</sup> Street is forbidden. The expense of event liability insurance and a current policy has been a permit prerequisite for years. Parades have all kinds of hidden expenses like a parade permit, barricades, porta-potty requirements, police service, and post-event professional clean-up requirements are just some of the long list.

As we've done for years, the Great Plains Street Rodders continue growing friendships, enjoying our hobby and sharing the social aspects of the cool cars that bring us together.

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



## Always Liked Old Cars

By Bob Schmeichel

Anyone who likes old cars, in my opinion, is kind of a dying breed as you really don't see too many young kids having any real interest in the hobby today. For those of us who grew up in the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s, cars were the common thread that connected everyone to everything sociable. Car choices were made then to haul all your friends around in, cruise the loop, to go fast in or just sit in at your favorite eatery watching cars cruise by while getting waited on by car hops. Other social spots were the outdoor drive-in theaters, roller skating rinks and bowling alleys that are slowly disappearing today. Those times were real face-to-face socializing that pretty much everyone looked forward to be in the middle of every weekend with getting together, talking, teasing and cars getting everyone there. The cars people chose to have then and how they took care of them, I always thought, were a direct reflection of their personality and how they would act with the car. Smoking then among young people was pretty much common place, while drinking beer was the other social choice some got in trouble with even though it was nothing like the drugs being introduced to the younger generations today. Don't get me wrong as people still died back then from over consumption combined with crazy stupid car accidents as happens today. Not being totally in control or distracted driving, as it is being recognized today, has always been a problem no matter the drug being used, and today is abused knowingly more so than ever by all ages who think they have to text while driving. It is against the law. A recent study at the University of Utah found that drivers using mobile phones had slower reaction times than drivers with a .08 percent blood alcohol content, which is the legal intoxication limit in many states. This new ever-growing social connection is distracting many drivers' attention until there is an accident or someone is killed to get the point across. The scene remains hypocritical with many thinking the law doesn't apply to them and they are in control. For those of us who don't text while driving, it gets annoying and kind of takes the fun out of driving when you have to drive for someone texting on the road near you to be safe with their lane wandering. With all the factual information out there about the downside issues of texting while driving, WHY are new car manufactures building cars with hands-free cell phone connections in them? I don't think it's helping the problem with still focusing away from the needed driving attention. With cars getting more technologically advanced with driving, stopping and turning themselves without human assistance, the enjoyment of old, actual hands-on driving experiences may soon disappear. And because cars are getting so expensive, along with the push of electric cars coming strong into the picture, people may eventually just pay to have a car take them from point A to point B, kind of like a taxi but without a driver. How fast the world could change, sound crazy? Watch!!!

When I asked Sandy Gunderson why she bought an old car, she responded by saying, "Because even at the age of 73, she has always liked old cars." She grew up and worked in those earlier times I mentioned in the beginning of this story and kind of missed those earlier old car social connections. With her son and brothers having old cars and always talking about going to the "Back to the 50s" event in St. Paul, Sandy's desire grew. So after saving for a long time, Sandy decided she wanted to have an old car for herself while getting kind of a second childhood feeling of driving back again as she put it. So in the spring of 2015, she started looking on craigslist at car sale ads. She found a few and had her son go along with her to check out and give his approval before she would think seriously about buying anything. After a few weeks of test driving cars, one in Dell Rapids finally got their attention. After Sandy's son drove this car a couple miles, he said, "Mom you have to get behind the wheel of this car." Because of the wonderful inside and outside appearance and the car being totally original with 73,000 miles on it, Sandy was soon the new owner of this 1955 Chevrolet Bel Aire. Being only the fourth owner, she received a bunch of original paperwork related to the car along with interesting history she is still trying to get more information on to verify. So far she has had it clarified the car was used in its earlier years to do live remote radio broadcast for KELO AM radio while pulling a trailer behind it with all the connections to the station. The trailer was in the shape of a big microphone and called "Big Mic." This fact was still evident because of the big wire connections in the car trunk still present today that powered the unit as well as the big speakers on the trailer. It was used for quite a few years around the area to promote new business locations and grand opening sales, even at the original Barrell Drive-In. Sandy has recently connected with a person who has original license plates

used on the car that read "KELO-AM." She's hoping to at least get a picture of those. Sandy joined the Great Plains Street Rodders as soon as she got the car and has driven it over a thousand miles in the last year. She said she thoroughly enjoys her '55 Chevy and her easy, new-found camaraderie with new friends within the club while creating new memories. She commented she has even reconnected with people from 50 years ago who she didn't realize were into cars too, making our world become smaller every day. How fun is that??



SCHMEICHEL 2016





## Behind the Wheel

By Karen Roe

There must have been plenty of “snakes and snails and puppy-dog tails” in the Haper household. A blended family with five active boys, Marilyn brought two young sons with her into the marriage, as did Jules. Marilyn shares, “My oldest is Jeff, then Chad. Jules has a son named Jeff, too, so we call him Big Jeff. John is his second oldest and our youngest is Justin, the son we had together.” Jules adds, “They all got along pretty well and still do. When my boys came every other weekend in the summer, we’d all go camping. We owned a 1960 Volkswagen bus that was equipped for camping. Every hippie and hitchhiker we passed on the road would wave and holler. It was a lot of fun and I wished we still had it.” All grown with families of their own, three of the sons live in the Sioux Falls area, but John lives in Georgia and Chad in California. Justin is engaged and will bring two step-children into the family, which will give the Hapers a total of eight grandchildren.

“I was born in Pipestone,” Jules informs, “and have two younger sisters. We lived in Elkton and then Vining, Minnesota, for awhile where Dad did some farming. Then we moved to Brandon and my dad got a job in the stockyards buying and selling cattle. I graduated from Brandon and worked for Rich Brothers Fireworks for a couple of years.” After that, Jules hired on at Builders Supply Company where he retired after 46 years. “I started out welding door frames and worked my way from the back up to the front.”

Marilyn, on the other hand, has always been a Sioux Falls native. “I was born and raised here. I have one brother who passed away five years ago. I graduated from Washington and we just had our fiftieth reunion. I got to see some of my friends so it was a lot of fun.”

“After graduating, I went to Augustana for a year, then went to work for the phone company as a long distance and directory operator for five years. Later on, I worked at several different jobs – at Hallmark putting out cards, as a bookkeeper for Linweld, and at Younkers displaying jewelry.”

With her friendly smile, Marilyn is adept at making members, old and new, feel welcome in the club. Jules adds his own kudos. “She’s smarter than me. She knows how to use the cell phone and she’s good at organizing stuff.” Marilyn admits that her husband of 42 years is not the most patient person but “he’s very handy and he helps around the house. I think we’re pretty compatible.”

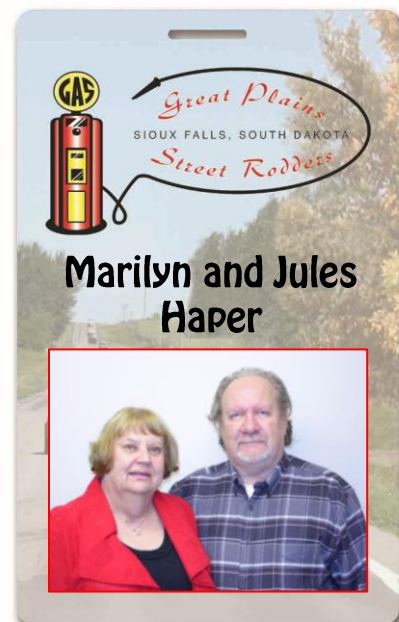
When asked what occupies their spare time, Jules responds. “I’m a putzer. I like to putz around the garage. I like to shoot pistols and guns. I collect coke tins and trays and M&M dispensers.” Though Marilyn has combated a couple of bouts of cancer and underwent rotator cuff surgery, she is back in good form. “I like to read, play cards and just visit with friends. We take care of the grandkids.”

That both of the Hapers like to travel is evident by their impressive itineraries over the years. “We’ve been to Scotland, Ireland and Whales. We’ve been to seven countries in Europe, the Bahamas, Hawaii, Cancun, Canada and Israel.” (Could “I’ve Been Everywhere” be their theme song?) In addition, the Hapers have traveled extensively in the states. “One of our favorite trips was with our Corvette. We went with another couple who drove their Corvette up to St. Agnes, Michigan. They have a rod run there twice a year, in the spring and in the fall.” Another enjoyable cruise for the Hapers is the Black Hills rod run. Jules says, “We like to cruise around the Hills. Even though you’ve been to the same places, you come in from a new angle and a different road so it’s all new to us.” In addition to street rod cruises, the Hapers enjoyed riding motorcycles. “We’ve owned a couple of Harleys and went out to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally for at least twenty years. We sold the Harley a couple of years ago.

Retired now, the Hapers have spent the last few winters in Florida near Tampa on the Gulf coast. “We go in January and February. We walk on the beach, pick up shells and visit with friends.”

What tops the Hapers “bucket list”? You guessed it – more travel! Marilyn has a wish to visit southern Italy. “We’ve been to northern Italy but I’d like to see Rome and Pompeii, and maybe Greece, while we’re down there. I’d also be interested in visiting the concentration camps in Germany.” Jules would be happy just to revisit the seven European countries. “The castles, churches and cathedrals in England were unbelievable.”

So... “Big wheels keep on turning” – when they turn back, Jules and Marilyn, we’ll be doing what we’re always doing. We’ll save a place at the table.



# 2016 Summer Cruise Schedule

We dedicate this cruise season in memory of Marv Underberg and his immortal hotrodding legacy

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CRUISES, approximately 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Open to all car enthusiasts.

*No Vendors or Peddlers are allowed at Siouxland Car Council Events*

~~05/04/16 Harris Burgers~~

~~106 E. Willow St., Harrisburg, SD~~

~~05/11/16 Wendy's, West 12th~~

~~400 South Lyons Avenue, Sioux Falls SD~~

~~05/18/16 Sonic / Northern Tool~~

~~3910 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux Falls~~

~~05/25/16 Lower Sherman Park — Potluck~~

~~805 S Kiwanis Ave, Sioux Falls, SD~~

~~06/01/16 J&L Harley Davidson~~

~~2601 West 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux Falls, SD~~

~~06/08/16 Terry Koch Race Shop~~

~~26846 469th Ave, Sioux Falls, SD~~

~~06/15/16 Handy Man Cruise Night~~

~~910 E 10th St, Sioux Falls, SD~~

~~06/22/16 Children's Home Society, Root Beer Float Social~~

~~801 N Sycamore, Sioux Falls, SD~~

~~06/29/16 Cruise Night — Empire Pontiac Chapter host~~

~~Sherman Park, 805 S Kiwanis Ave, Sioux Falls, SD~~

~~07/06/16 Jack Fox Park — Lincoln County Cruisers host~~

~~225 N Broadway, Canton, SD~~

~~07/13/16 Falls Overlook Café & Hot Summer Nites~~

~~825 N. Weber, Sioux Falls, SD~~

~~07/20/16 Wall Lake — Sioux Empire Ford Club host~~

~~Wall Lake Township~~

~~07/27/16 Riverdale Park — Potluck~~

~~2000 East 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux Falls, SD~~

~~08/03/16 Poker Run - Great Plains Street Rodders~~

~~Start - Dan Dugan Park, 37<sup>th</sup> & Duluth, Sioux Falls, SD~~

~~08/10/16 Olsen's Garage~~

~~2409 W. 85th Street, Sioux Falls, SD~~

~~08/17/16 Veteran's Hospital Car Show~~

~~2501 W 22nd St, Sioux Falls, SD~~

~~08/24/16 Bethany Meadows, Show-n-Shine~~

~~3008 E Aspen Blvd, Brandon, SD~~

~~08/31/16 Dakota Digital Cruise Night~~

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

~~09/07/16 First Reformed Church~~

~~4800 S. Tomar Road, Sioux Falls, SD~~

~~09/14/16 Arby's, East 10<sup>th</sup>~~

~~2729 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux Falls, SD~~

~~09/21/16 Executive Touch / Subaru~~

~~Brand New Location, Sioux Falls, SD~~

~~09/28/16 NAPA Auto, Tea~~

~~27095 Katie Road, Tea, SD~~





## Our Annual Poker Run

Our Poker Run is August 3. It costs \$5, 100% payout, starts at 5:30 p.m. First stop (Dan Dugan Park) 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.



## Canton Classic Parade

The July 30, Saturday Night Classic Car Parade Lineup, begins at Canton Golf Course parking lot east of Canton at 6:30 p.m. (Due to highway laws and an All School Class Reunion Dinner at the High School). Wheels roll at 7:00 p.m.



### Cruise Route 66 in September.

Ron and Karen are in the final planning stage.

Please contact Ron. He's having a couple final meetings to determine who's going, exact dates for leaving and estimated times for seeing some of the United States' greatest wonders.

## Canton Chauffeurs

All club convertibles are invited to be "Pageant Drivers" in the Canton Classic Car Parade July 30. Lineup begins at the Canton Golf Course parking lot east of Canton at 6:00 p.m. Parade starts at 7 p.m.

There's a new Little Miss Canton Pageant coordinator so just show up and "play it by ear." Clay Seachris will let you know more when/if he knows more...

## Jim Needs a Hug 😊

Jim Kuhle is a great guy to have at our cruise nights and rod runs. He was "hamming it up" for Clay and this photo was too good not to share. **Gotcha Jim!!**



## 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
Bill Fatland	31
Art Slumskie	31
Sara Vegge	31

## August Birthdays

(1st half)

Vicky Levene	2
John Goettsch	3
Ron Jellis	4
Joyce Olsen	5
Owen McKittrick	6
Cheri Kappenman	6
Karla Rohde	6
Ben Ekrem	7
Brian Lee	7
Terry Jellis	9
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

*Great Plains*

SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

*Street Rodders*



## 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 top B&W was 1965 at the National Drags in Indianapolis. Al is with his altered wheelbase 1964 Plymouth.

Bottom photo was 1967 - Thunder Valley Dragways, Marion, SD. This was Al's 1966 Dodge Dart funny car, and a rear end issue with the car was being worked on at the time of the photo.

## The Flying Dutchman

These two photos show just a couple of the various cars that Al "The Flying Dutchman" Vanderwoude raced over a many- year racing career. Al was one of the more famous racers to ever come from the Sioux Falls area; he grew up in nearby Ellis and attended Cathedral High School. Al left school prior to graduation and went into the Seabees at age 18. By 1958 he was building his own race cars; he started racing Dodges and stayed with Mopars for most of his career. He is credited with having some of the earliest "funny cars" in drag racing. Al's wife, Doris, told me that Al built his own cars and engines, did his own driving, and ran a different car every year. Doris said, "Al was a true drag racer through and through. He believed you had to do it all, and he particularly enjoyed seeing and visiting with kids at the races." Al passed away in 2001. Doris also told me that our own GPSR member, Dick Gaddis, is a cousin of Al's, which I didn't know.

