



Cruisin' News

July 2014

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

Checking the Calendar and Forecast

By Clay Seachris

President's message

In between frequent rain and hail storms, there have been successful car shows, cruises and social gatherings. Many of you went to Back to the Fifties, and numerous neighboring towns have hosted nice car shows. We've had lots of fun in Tea, Harrisburg, Hartford, Luverne, Dell Rapids, Larchwood, Lennox and all over the Sioux Empire. Some Saturday nights at Hardees and Burger King on Minnesota Avenue have had huge attendance. Along with some others, Wednesday night cruises to Children's Home Society, Terry Koch's and Handyman were blessed with good weather and we pulled out the bag chairs, enjoyed meals and shared stories of the summer travels, shows and how the summer is flying by. As usual it's been crazy to keep up with all the summer events and then this year it seems we've had to keep an eye on the weather. Most of us don't mind a little rain, but hotrods aren't built for gully washers and hail storms. Our host night Root Beer Float Social at Children's Home Society was a big success. Car count was high, the children really enjoyed the evening and I think we all had a fun time. Thank you to the many volunteers who make this event successful every year.

Our next host event is the annual Poker Run on July 16. Susan and I drove the poker run route recently and made minor changes, but the route will be similar to last year. As usual, the poker run should end early enough so those who want to go to Hot Summer nights can go. Since all of the stops are well-known locations, such as popular city parks, we're changing the poker run sheet, which still includes a map, but no longer states left turn and right turn instructions.



Gary & Audrey Remme's '34 Chevy and Steve & Rhonda Ollerich's '71 GTO along with about 50 others at the SF Children's Home Society

Sweet Memories

By Bob Schmeichel

One of my favorite things to do when I was a kid riding in a car was standing up on the floor in front of the rear seat to see where we were going. There was usually a rope attached to the back of the front seats in most all 50s cars to hang on to, so it wasn't hard. Keep in mind this was way before seat belts came into the picture, so there were no laws broken then. So with watching where we were going, I loved challenging anyone in the car to see how quick we could guess what kind of car was coming at us in the other lane. Because I was far sighted at a young age, and most cars from the 50s were easily identifiable from a front view, I could guess the car brand way before it got close enough for anyone else to recognize, even my dad.

Archie Dunham was enjoying a warm day driving on the old Brandon road in the summer of 1999 when he spied an old, recognizable Mercury setting way back in a grove of trees as he passed by. Capturing his interest, he slowed down and went back to the farm where the trees and car were to see if he could speak to someone about it. After knocking on the door for a few minutes with no one at home, he left feeling a little discouraged. The next day Archie climbed into his '56 Ford and went to a car show in Dell Rapids. While he was at the car show, he noticed a woman handing out for-sale flyers as she was walking around. After Archie read the one that was handed to him, he noticed 1956 Mercury and stopped the woman immediately to question her about it. As it turned out, it was the same car in the same location that he had stopped to see about the day before. Not wanting to miss out on a chance to see the car up close, he told the woman he would be over right after the car show. After the show as he drove to the farm, his thoughts were about having a '56 Mercury again as he had when he was a teenager. They were happy times with sweet memories that never went away. After getting to the farm and making their way out to the car, Archie was pleasantly surprised to see the car was in excellent shape and totally complete. The woman told Archie that the car ran but she had lost the title with her move back to South Dakota after her divorce. Archie asked what she knew about the car's history and the story began. She apparently had all the original sales papers on the car that was originally purchased by the Hall Grain Company in 1956 in Acheron, Colorado. It was purchased and used as a salesman's car to sell seed products out of for the Hall Grain Company. The car was driven by a salesman until 1967 then retired by the family rather than trading it off for another car. Now here is the fun part of this story. The Hall family liked the car so much that they stored it inside and used it regularly as a "golf cart" hauling four people around the golf course next door to the grain business with their clubs in the trunk for the next 15 years. I don't think that could happen on a golf course today. Eventually, they stopped using the old Mercury, which was later purchased by the now present owner and her husband living in the same area of Colorado. After a couple years, the present owner and her husband got a divorce, which led her and the Mercury back to South Dakota to be near family. Archie noticed the car still had 1967 Colorado plates, which intrigued him more about her story. After asking her about the price for the car, Archie told her it was a little more than he wanted to spend on the car, but that he was interested and left it at that. A week later, Archie made her what he thought was a fair offer for the car with the understanding she had to find the title. She accepted. The next day Archie had Jim and Ron's towing haul the car to his house. Archie spent a couple days cleaning it up and installed a new battery. To his amazement, the car fired right up and ran great.

Over the next few weeks Archie put on a new set of tires and started rebuilding everything mechanical himself. It took awhile, but eventually he got a title making him feel more at ease about moving forward with restoring this gorgeous, old Mercury. With all the original old paper work pertaining to the Mercury, Archie called the Hall family in Colorado and in speaking to the son, had everything verified that the woman had told him. Archie told the Hall's son that the story sounded a little far-fetched until he found a bunch of golf tees and golf balls in the trunk, which led him to the phone call. The son was excited about Archie restoring the car because his father had bought the car new and wanted Archie to send him pictures of the car when it was done. Archie told him not a problem!! As time went on, Archie and his brother totally stripped the car of all the trim and paint. As you know, 1950s cars usually had lots of chrome or stainless trim on them to dress them up; this '56 Mercury was no exception with being the top-of-the-line model that year. Archie and his brother were both surprised at how little body work they had to do to ready the car for paint. Eventually, a friend that Archie had met at a car show, named Rich, painted the outside of the car. After that Archie polished all the stainless and chrome and

reinstalled it. He moved on to installing a new headliner, carpeting and interior finishing out the whole car, detailing everything out to look new.

Today Archie couldn't be happier with the Mercury that still has only 68,000 original miles on it. He said it rides like a Cadillac and has driven it to both "Back to the 50's" in St. Paul and to the Goodguys in Des Moines quite a few times while smiling all the way there and back.



SCHMEICHEL 2014



Behind the Wheel

By Karen Roe

Married 47 years, Larry and Dawn met at a wrestling match when they were juniors at Huron High. Dawn and her mother had just moved from Redfield to Huron. Larry had lived there all his life with his parents, a twin sister and a younger brother. They graduated in '67 during the Vietnam era so a few months later, Larry enlisted in the Navy so that he could choose the same branch of the service as several uncles. They planned on getting married during his first leave. Dawn, an enthusiastic bride-to-be sent her intended a fabric sample of her bridesmaids dresses. Apparently, though, something didn't click. Weeks later, when she met him at the altar during the wedding ceremony, he had the strangest look on his face. Later, he told her that he'd been expecting her wedding dress to be green.

One of Larry's first duties in the Navy was to cook for the National Rifle Match. Dawn says, "That was ironic because Larry can't cook. Once, I went away for the weekend, and when I came back there were pots and pans everywhere but the only thing he'd cooked the entire weekend was hot dogs.

"I still don't cook," adds Larry, but of course, in the service, you do whatever they tell you."

After serving a few months in Ohio, the Johnstons spent the rest of their military time in Florida. The last few months Larry served aboard a carrier ship used for training and qualifying pilots to land and take off from carrier ships.

They both enjoyed their time in Florida. Says Larry, "I've always liked racing. We went to Daytona pretty regular when we lived in Florida and that's probably how I got started. We've done a lot of traveling to dirt-track races. I really like the late-model, big-powered cars."

Street-rodding, too, has always been a big part of their lives. "We used to pull a camper and travel in groups, but it got to be too complicated. Now, that we're older, we stay in motels." Their street-rodding ventures have taken them all over the map including Minneapolis, Kansas City, and Denver to name a few. Says Larry, "Usually, If we want to do something, we just do it."

Dawn adds, "We'd still like to go to Corpus Christi, Texas. The ship that Larry was on has been turned into a museum and I'm kind of a Kennedy assassination "freak" so we'd like to visit Dallas. Then, we'd swing over to Florida to see friends that we still have in Jacksonville and Pensacola."

An only child, Dawn shares that she spent a lot of time with her grandparents. Though her dad "was a wonderful guy," he was also an alcoholic. Her folks divorced when she was 14, but she believes that she still had a good life. She was involved in insurance and banking for some time, but her most rewarding career was as executive assistant to the president of Presentation College, a small Catholic college in Aberdeen. "Since everything eventually ended up in the president's office, I was sort of a gatekeeper. I had a good relationship with my boss, and I absolutely loved working with the students, especially the non-traditional students. It was so rewarding to see them walk across that stage and earn a diploma when some of them probably never thought they could."

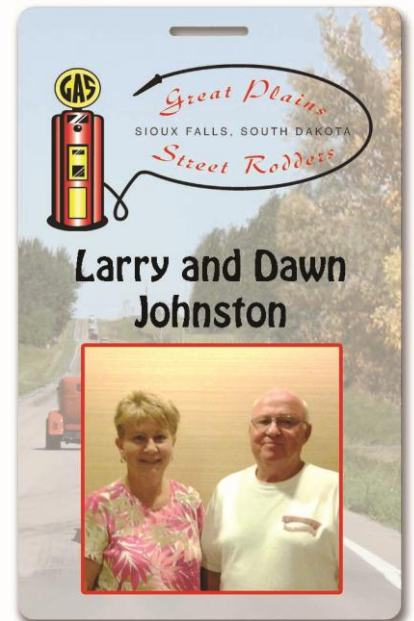
After his stint in the military, Larry became a candy and tobacco product salesman for 36 years. He then worked as a courier delivering labs to various clinics and hospitals out of town. He must have been a favorite because Dawn reports that some of the gals plied him with cookies or other treats along his route. He was employed as a courier for over eight years.

Probably the most significant change in their lives came when they decided, after 42 years of residency in Aberdeen, to move to Sioux Falls. Better health facilities was one factor, but it also allowed them to see more of their son, Dan, who is employed at a wholesale plumbing company here in Sioux Falls. "We both have a good relationship with our son," claims Larry, "but he and Dawn are really close."

"We're a lot alike," adds Dawn. "We both like movies, live theater and books. When he was 15, we took a trip on Amtrack to visit a friend in Washington, D. C. We had to board it in Fargo at 2 a.m. so Larry drove several hundred miles to drop us off and pick us up, but we had a good time."

Another significant reason for the move was so that they would be in a much better location for traveling to street-rodding events. "It's not so far, now, to go to Minneapolis or Kansas City or wherever we want to go."

Whatever their reasons, we're glad they're here. Welcome to the club, Larry and Dawn!



Children's Home Thanks

Thank you for giving us the perfect reason to get outside and enjoy the weather! We loved the root beer floats, Hot Wheels cars, looking at cars and the magazines. The magazines were reviewed and given to the units right away so the kids could associate it with your car group. Each year each of you takes the time to share your cars with us and we appreciate it. The rootbeer floats are a real treat because we don't get ice cream or pop very often. I have it on my calendar in October to contact Clay to see if anyone would like to have a tour of our facility. Thank you again and we appreciate everything you do for us!!

Mari DeBerg
SF Children's Home Society
Volunteer Coordinator



Our Annual Poker Run

Our Annual Poker Run is Wednesday, July 16, please pass the word and invite your friends. With your input, we've planned the run to be similar to prior years; a simple drive with fun stops where skill along with luck increases your odds. Tossing bean bags, darts and washers are some of the fun things at stops. A big thank you to the volunteers.

For the first stop, meet at Dan Dugan Park at 2908 S. Duluth Ave. (37th Street and Duluth Avenue – behind Lewis Drug). The \$5 poker run will start at 5:30 p.m. Last card dealt at the first stop will be at 6:15 p.m. – 100% payout.

Parade Chauffeurs

From Jessie Brower, Little Miss & Junior Miss Canton Pageants Director

As in prior years, I invite all convertible owners to drive the Canton Pageant ladies through the July 26th Classic Car Parade and Cruise Night. Designated "Pageant Driver" sheets will be ready when you arrive. Parade 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



Disrespectful Spectators

All too often we hear sad stories of spectators scratching an expensive paint-job with wheel chairs, strollers, bicycles, purses, chain wallets, buckles, buttons and many other things. Sometimes the stories go as far as people hopping in a car to get the feel of being behind the wheel. There are also the sad stories of stolen parts or personal items.

We've all made thoughtless mistakes, so the saddest damage is that which is done intentionally. ☹



So glad this vandalism buffed out

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.

Wednesday Night Cruising



John & Sonja Lynch's synergy-green Camaro at the Root Beer social



Tom and Joyce Olsen's '63 Chevy BelAir at J & L Harley-Davidson



Dean and Joyce Gough's '40 Ford Sedan at Handy Man Cruise



Clay and Susan Seachris' '65 Cobra Roadster at Sherman Park



Terry, Jayne, Candi and Bones serve root beer floats



Nancy Jellis and Betty Heidebrink are all smiles at the Root Beer Social



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.



Loves 1965 Chevelles

Parker-area, Sioux Falls and Phoenix resident Don Breen loves 1965 Chevelle 300 Deluxe models! Don owned these two in the 1965-67 time-frame, back when he lived in Sioux Falls. He purchased the maroon car first and raced it for a year of so; shortly after selling that car he bought the white one and raced it for a year. Each car was equipped with the high performance L-79 350hp, 327 ci engine, 4-speed transmission, radio and not much else. The 300 deluxe model was the base model Chevelle offered; the dealer invoice on the maroon car was \$2,869.10 in 1965. The white car ended up in northern Minnesota, the maroon one seems to be lost to the years. Don has had several more of these Chevelles since, which he restores to ultimate perfection and then sells.

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.

Siouxland Car Council Schedule

Every May we join with everyone at the Wednesday Night Cruises coordinated as a member club of the Siouxland Car Council. Please join us. Guests are welcome. We are a family-oriented club, we encourage the next generation, so children are also always welcome to all our events.



07/16/14 **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

07/23/14 **Cruise Night - Sioux Empire Ford Club**

Wall Lake, Wall Lake Township

07/30/14 **Falls Overlook Café**

825 N. Weber, Sioux Falls

08/06/14 **Olsen's Garage (Tom & Joyce's)**

2409 W. 85th Street, Sioux Falls

08/13/14 **Riverdale Park – Potluck**

2000 E. 24th Street, Sioux Falls

08/20/14 **Veteran's Hospital Car Show**

2501 W. 22nd St, Sioux Falls, SD

08/27/14 **Bethany Meadows, Show-n-Shine**

3008 E. Aspen Blvd., Brandon, SD

09/03/14 **Dakota Digital Cruise Night**

4510 W. 61st St. N, Sioux Falls

09/10/14 **First Reformed Church**

4800 S. Tomar Road, Sioux Falls

09/17/14 **Arby's, East 10th**

2729 East 10th Street, Sioux Falls

09/24/14 **Executive Touch / Subaru**

1011 S. Minnesota Ave., Sioux Falls

Recipe

Frozen Strawberry Salad

From the kitchen of Judy Horan

Beat together: 1 - 8 oz. cream cheese and $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of white sugar
Mix in: 1 large package of frozen strawberries and juice (partially thawed)
1 - 20 oz. can of crushed pineapple and juice
2 - sliced bananas
8 - oz. Cool Whip
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of chopped walnuts or pecans

Thank you, Judy, for sharing a favorite summer recipe. If any of our car club cooks have yummy recipes to share, please email them to president@greatplainsstreetrodders.com. The club has lots of great cooks and the vanishing food at potlucks proves it.

Summer Shade with Friends

One of the greatest things about summer is relaxing in the shade. Friends find ways to make it even more enjoyable.



Classified Ads
(FREE to All Members)



FOR SALE – 2008 Ford Taurus SEL 4 door, alloy wheels, AM-FM-CD 6 disc player, auto on floor w/console, leather bucket seats, keyless entry, vanity mirrors, power steering, power brakes, a/c, cruise, near new tires, Sun roof, Exceptionally Clean, never wrecked, clear title, always adult driven, Mom quit driving, (time to move it), Second Owner (my parents), 34,500 miles, Recent trip averaged 26-27 MPG, NADA is \$13,275.00, Make Reasonable Offer, Contact Jerome Miller at 368-2418



FOR SALE – 1947 Blue Ford Club Coupe, 302 Ford balanced motor with a B&M 144, Pro-Charger, AOD Ford transmission, Ford 9" rear-end with Richmond 3:55gears, A/C and heat, P.S., louvered and flamed hood, painless wiring, stance is right, fast, reliable, tight Coupe. \$34,800. Contact Bill Kullander 605-366-1158 kullbill@sio.midco.net



FOR SALE – Rims and Tires, I95-14 and 275-14 for Chevy. Call John Moore 605-371-0787



FOR SALE – Picnic Tables
I make them in different sizes.
Cost depends on size. Inquire to Rick Petersen, 605-201-6073



FOR SALE – Chevy 350 ci Goodwrench Engine only about 20,000 miles \$500 Call Doug 605-351-5599

FOR SALE – 4L60E Transmission
1994 Chevy, Completely rebuilt, \$650, Call Doug 351-5599

FOR SALE – 1947 Chevy 2-Door Sedan, All original, Stored inside for years, Very Solid hotrod project. Glenn Walker 336-7070

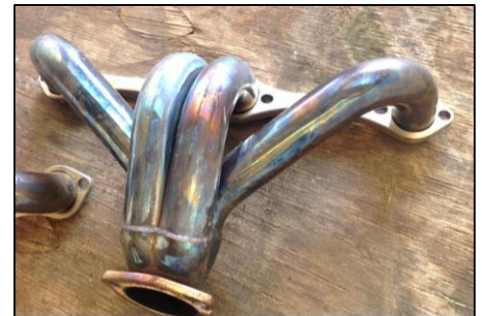
FOR SALE – Chevy Manifolds, Cast# 3747042 originally for 1958-67 283c.i. Call John Moore 605-371-0787



FOR SALE – 1940 Lincoln Zephyr 4 dr. sedan, reliable fuel injected Chevy motor, 700R4 trans., A/C, Tilt wheel, wide white radials. Great road car. Black color with brown mohair interior. Asking \$17,500. Larry Snuttjer 605-351-5385 or lsnuttjer@gmail.com.



FOR SALE – Chevy Headers
Call John Moore 605-371-0787



FOR SALE – Fine China, Royal Albert Old Country Roses Dining Set. I have 64 pieces that are like new, Eight Place settings and many accessories. They were about \$1,800 new. I would sell them for \$800. Thanks, Judy Horan 553-3923



WANTED – Classified ads
Just email or reply to president@greatplainsstreetrodders.com