



Cruisin' News

April 2015

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

The Boys Are Back in Town

By Clay Seachris

President's message

Spring truly is one of the most exciting times of the year! It brings with it the start of the hot rodding season and the return of many friends who went south for the winter. Also, as we cruise to summer hangouts again, we meet back up with friends we haven't seen for months. For some reason this spring keeps reminding me of a song my friends and I played when we'd get back together on college breaks. The song "The Boys Are Back in Town" always got plugged into an 8-track or cassette in somebody's car and we'd cruise around "yelling" the lyrics. Yeah, I call it yelling. I could not sing back then either. That song represented close friends coming back together again and I guess that's why it's been stuck in my head for weeks now. Just like in my youth, I'm glad to get back together with "those wild-eyed boys that had been away."

This spring as we back our cars and trucks out of their garages, lube up the chassis, replace the fluids, and detail the interiors and exteriors, remember to throw in the bag chairs, bug spray and sunscreen. Also, keep in mind things that may have changed during the offseason. The Siouxland Car Council and our own website became obsolete. Mark Bowers built a new the Great Plains Street Rodders' website and it's filled all kinds of pictures, history, schedules (our own club events and public events we may enjoy) and even a games page. The Car Council website is still obsolete, so new updates and scheduling are not possible. Pocket calendars with summer Wednesday night cruises will available soon. I heard a rumor that Burger King in the old Barrel location is closing, so finding a new, cheap Saturday night ice cream stop may be another change. The interstate speed limit change will also be something to keep in mind. So far it sounds like the 80 mph limit is going smoothly for those who want cruise a little faster. Reports indicate that exceeding the limit slightly may create an unplanned pit stop.

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



Bob and Tina Irvine, Jim Kuhle, Gary Remme and others enjoy a Saturday night at Hardee's on Minnesota Ave.

Making Sense of Time Through a Bottle

By Bob Schmeichel

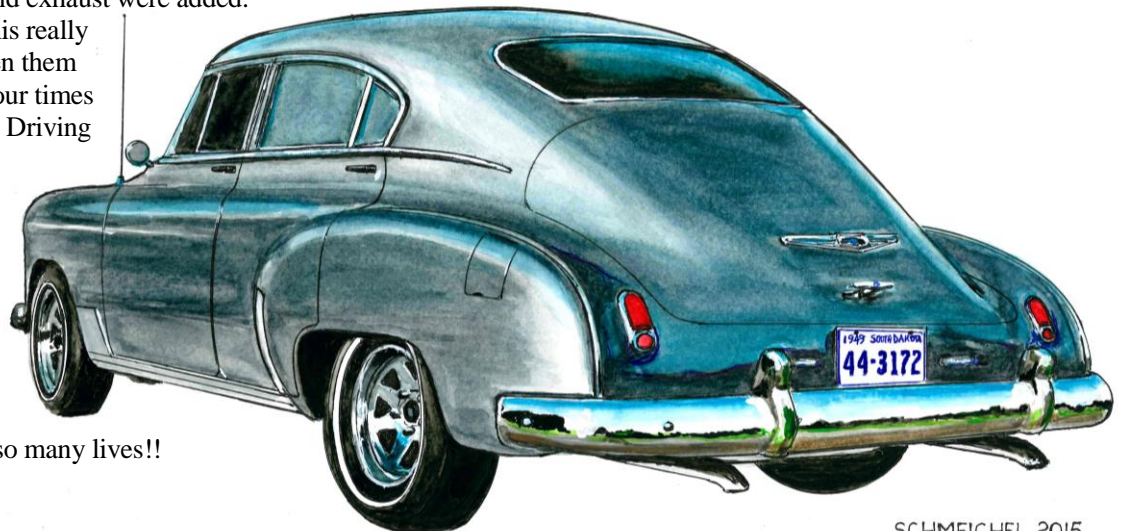
Many of us car hobby people kind of lose track of time when it comes to having an old car and updating it to our likes. Quite often it evolves into years of perseverance along with patience just to get to our desired end result mainly because of time and money that everyone seems to not have enough of these days. Priorities also change our directions every day, and we all work through them. Some issues, no matter what they are, are made easier with the real friends we have around us. When I approached Leo and Carla Rhoades about doing a story based around their 1949 Chevy, loads of history began to unfold that for most people would have been forgotten long ago.

As Leo's story begins, he said his father who was a mechanic in their home town of Taylor, Nebraska, bought a 1949 Chevy from its original owner, Nick Harvey, back in the early '60s. He was an older neighbor who lived across the road from them who took good care of what he had. After Leo's dad tuned up the 69,000-mile car, it was snatched up by a used car dealer in Burwell, which was about 15 miles away. The car sat in the used car lot for a few years with no one really interested in it, which eventually led to Leo's dad buying the car back. Leo's dad, having the car back in Taylor, thought he wouldn't have a problem selling it through his mechanic shop. It was parked at various locations in town to sell with the same lack of interest. Eventually it was parked on their farm next to a mobile home still in very good condition and left in the sun for the next 20-plus years. After so many years of seeing the car sit, Leo said he had nicknamed the car "Harvey" after its original owner, who Leo remembers driving the car when it was newer.

Stepping ahead in time, Leo met Carla, dating began and eventually led to marriage. Wanting to have better opportunities for work led them to relocate to Sioux Falls and establish their first home. Along with good jobs, new friends were made that made the move more enjoyable for both. Among those friends was an interest with old cars, which spurred an idea for Leo to go back to Nebraska to retrieve "Harvey," the '49 Chevy from so many years ago that was a part of his younger days. So in 1989 after paying his dad what was considered a fair price, a trip was made to bring the '49 Chevy home where it would sit a few more years in a driveway or garage until the time was right. Leo mentioned having the old "Harvey" loaded up with balloons in their driveway in 2002 when their daughter graduated from high school to note where the graduation party was – a fond memory for all.

After that day, it was decided it was time to turn "Harvey" into something that everyone all could have fun with. Leo's daughter started with taking the interior apart. Anything cloth in the car was not really salvageable as the sun and the elements of time had taken their toll. During her teardown with mice nests and other dirty, unrecognizable things inside the car, she found a 6-ounce Coke bottle inside one of the doors with a 1948 date on it. That little bottle got Leo's curiosity going, which led to him finding out that the Chevrolet division of General Motors had a walkout strike in 1949. The bottle was apparently dropped inside the door as the walkout began with the car on the production line that day. It may seem funny to have found this, but at the same time, so meaningful to the timeframe when it happened. When it came time for converting everything mechanical underneath, Leo's friends came with enthusiasm and stuck with him to help make it happen. Charlie Hollingshead and Jules Haper helped to make the next four years of work a finished reality. A Buick Apollo sub-frame was grafted onto the front of the frame, which gave power steering and power disc brakes. A new 350 Chevy crate engine was added to a 700R4 automatic overdrive and dropped into place. The old rear end was replaced with a newer one out of a Buick Regal, which was the correct width for the car. Once all the mechanical work was done, body work began with replacing sheet metal where needed and prepping for paint. Once all the body work was done, the car was handed off to Lonnie Bukker to paint. Then a new interior was installed to make everything fresh inside again. Finally new wheels, tires and exhaust were added.

The finished car, thanks to all of his really good friends who helped, has taken them to Back to the Fifties in St. Paul four times and to the Black Hills three times. Driving the wheels off of an old car and doing it with friends makes new memories of time the way it used to be while creating our own new history. Leo's daughter has expressed an interest in having "Harvey" for herself someday with Leo saying, "We'll see." It is kind of unique how much of an impact an old car can have on so many lives!!





Behind the Wheel

By Karen Roe

The Ekrems have weathered many a storm, but, now, their horizons have never looked brighter. Tami explains, "Shortly after we began dating, Ben was diagnosed with Type 1, insulin-dependent diabetes. Eventually, he was put on dialysis and was in need of a transplant. A very dear friend of mine came forward and donated one of her kidneys. It was a perfect match. A year later he received a pancreas transplant."

"It comes on very slowly," adds Ben, "but when it hits, it hits hard. I had no energy and was off work for over a year until I recovered from my second transplant. Now, I'm healthy and diabetes free." Because Tami's father was also diabetic and a transplant receiver, she was very familiar with the disease, becoming an expert in combating and surviving diabetes.

Married for almost 31 years, Tami and Ben met just before her freshman year in college. She recalls, "I was born in North Dakota, but when I was 2, my family moved to Mobridge where I grew up. My brother and sister were 17 and 19 years older but we're still very close. After high school, I attended Northern State in Aberdeen. I married Ben in my sophomore year, and we moved a lot so I didn't graduate from college until later." Tami has worked in the insurance business for years. Presently, she is a sales developmental writer and works with agents across the country, a job she really enjoys.

Though they didn't meet until later, Ben and Tami actually grew up only about 20 miles apart. "My parents were farmers and I grew up on a farm near Selby, S.D.," Ben informs us. "I had an older brother and sister, as well. My parents owned a ranch, too, so we always rode horses. At one time, my mother was a trick rider and a bronc rider on the rodeo circuit. After high school, I went to school in North Dakota for auto body repair and worked in the auto body business for several years." Later, Ben became an insurance adjuster and is now an underwriter for auto-owners insurance. "I make sure that the insurance policies are written properly," he explains. "I work out of a home office." This is a real plus, according to Tami, as he can tend to the two dogs now that their kids are gone. Their oldest daughter, Sarah, lives with her husband in Rapid City, and Kristen, the youngest, is attending Missouri State in Springfield, Mo. "Our daughter, Sarah, is expecting her first baby, a boy, in April," Tami shares the exciting news.

Ben's pastimes center around ice fishing and cars. "I've always liked cars and should have been born in the 1940s 'cuz those are the ones I like. One of our neighbors had a wrecking yard and I bought my '46 Ford pickup from him. It sat around on the farm for years but now that I've got the energy, I've been working on it, hoping to have it completed by the Fourth of July. Nothing on it will be original. It'll be all hot rod. Everything will be new."

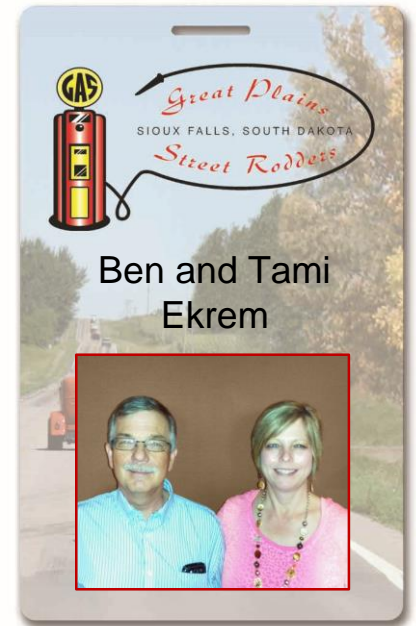
Tami has a couple of passions, as well. "I love cooking. I cook Italian, Mexican and just about everything. I collect recipe books and watch all the cooking shows. I first got interested in cooking as a kid, watching a friend, "Grandma," make homemade bread. Now, I bake all kinds of breads, desserts and lefse for the holidays. I like cooking that's challenging." (Could this woman be a better fit? Tami is to our club, as a spoon is to a banana split.)

"We both love cars," she continues. "I like helping out in the garage. Well, maybe supervising is a better word," Tami amends. "She used to help me in my auto body business," Ben adds. "She would mask off the car before I painted it so she has skills."

Another shared interest is camping. "In Mobridge, we lived right on the water," Tami recalls, "so we did a lot of camping. My dad built a houseboat with bunk beds, a stove and 'fridge. We had a lot of fun with it and the one thing I really miss, living in Sioux Falls, is being on the river. We did a lot of camping when the girls were small and hope to get back to it now that we're 'empty-nesters.'"

Besides looking forward to retiring, the Ekrems have a few items on their bucket list. "For one of our anniversaries," Tami says, "I'd like to do a re-commitment of our vows. I, also, would like to visit Hawaii. We never had an official honeymoon, just a trip through the Badlands, so I'd like to go to Hawaii." Ben's wish for the future is very simple – "I just wanna finish my truck."

Though the Ekrems are newcomers, their enthusiasm for the club is obvious and genuine. We are confident that the '46 Ford pickup will soon join the Great Plains Street Rodders "line-up." Old Fords never die. Cherished by owners like the Ekrems, they don't fade away, either.



Papik's Rally Invite

The annual Papik Motors Spring Rally & Car Show is Saturday, May 16, 11am-1pm. We invite you to bring your classics, collectibles, street rods, race cars, and motorcycles. Papik Motors is celebrating our 20-year anniversary at our I-90 location, and we're hoping the event is bigger and better than ever! As usual, the Rock-Nobles Cattleman's Assn. will be serving FREE burgers from 11:30 a.m. until gone. Plus, we plan to have inflatables for the kids. We hope you're able to join us. Heidi Sehr, Customer Relations Manager Papik Motors, Inc.

Thanks for the Support

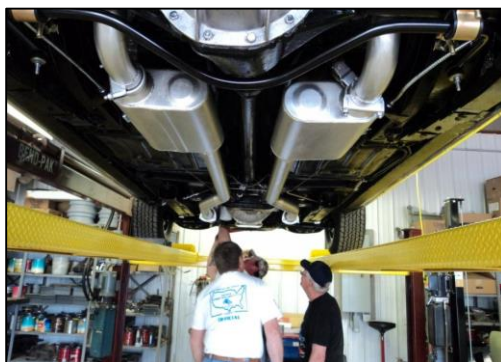
On April 11 at 2:00 p.m., Justin Haper and other polar plungers will be "Freezin For A Reason" at the Sioux Falls Stadium. Thank you to all the people that recently donated to the Special Olympics Polar Plunge. My son, Justin, said he raised \$80 at our event and wants you all to know that it is much appreciated. Thank you also, Jules Haper

Luverne Cruise-in Invite

Greetings, Great Plains Street Rodders. We would be honored if you would join us for the Buffalo Days Cruise-In in downtown Luverne, Minnesota, on Friday, June 5 from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. For the second year in a row, we the band, The Starfires, will play 50s and 60s rock and roll during the event. Hope to see you and your beautiful street rods! Jane Wildung Lanphere, executive director, Luverne Area Chamber and CVB.

NSRA Inspection Day

The Annual NSRA Inspection Day is May 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Renner Garage, Renner, S.D. The process is free, fun and only takes minutes. Bob Schmeichel is one of the volunteer inspectors and they're all helpful guys. They follow NSRA Safety Inspection guidelines and also share years of experience to help you have a safe season. The inspections are only advisory and not a legal clearance.



Club Plaque Ordered

The club ordered 25 plaques to be delivered mid-May. We've got twelve pre-orders and will have extras for purchase. With that production volume, the cost is \$20 per plaque. If you want one, please contact Clay Seachris as he'll be placing the order very soon. Thank you to those that pre-ordered, your interest made this order possible.



Winterfest's 2015 Gift

This year's Winterfest of Wheels event awarded \$33,898 to Sanford Children's Cure Kid's Cancer. W.O.W. is Wow!!!

April Birthdays

(2nd half)

Patt Anderson	16
Lana Kullander	16
Mike DeBoer	17
Judy Horan	17
Christina Jellis	18
Mark Bowers	20
Gary Jorgenson	21
Dianne Moore	22
Helen O'Keefe	22
Bob Van Noort	23
Larry Johnston	23
Betsy Petersen	24
Joyce Aurit	26
Sandy Peterson	26
Kent Reilly	27
Jackie Heemstra	28
Rhonda Kirton	29

May Birthdays

(1st half)

Bunny Brady	2
Cheryl Van Noort	5
James "Jim" Kuhle	6
Mave Sandberg	10
Julie Dunham	13

April Anniversaries

(2nd half)

Dean and Joyce Gough	17
Art and Bev Umland	20
Don and Helen Jensen	21
Les and Mary Ramstad	24
Derrick and Sarah Stokes	26
Don and LaDell Mertens	28

May Anniversaries

(1st half)

Kent and Terri Reilly	9
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Dates Are Mid-Monthly

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

Tom Cain Celebration

Tom invites all his friends to celebrate his life on Sunday, April 19 at the Splitrock Firehouse, 7201 E. Parkway from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Thank you, Tom!!

Cruisin' for Burgers



Jeff and Jean Knowlton's '68 Chevelle at Nick's



Butch and Deb Yesda's '28 Ford at Nick's



Bob and Sandy Schmeichel's '40 Chevy at Nick's



Ron and Karen Roe's '56 Chevy at Nick's



Bob and Tina Irvine's 2007 Mustang at Hardee's



Mark, Lana and Josie Bowers' '68 Chevy at Hardee's



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.



A Classic First Car

This 1960 Pontiac Ventura was Great Plains Street Rodder member, Mike Miller's, first car; he bought it locally in 1965. The car was powered by the 389ci "Tri Power" engine, rated at 348hp. The car had a Borg Warner T-10 4-speed trans with a Hurst shifter, a 3.36 positraction rear end, and the beautiful 8 lug "Super Duty" aluminum wheels. (Most people don't realize that the center of these wheels were actually the brake drums.)

Mike and his brother pulled the engine, bored it .030, and added several performance modifications, but Mike never had the car on the drag strip to record any quarter-mile times. (At least not an "official" drag strip.) After a minor collision, Mike had the color changed from its original dark maroon to Cadillac Firemist Red.

After four years of enjoyment, Mike sold the car to a guy in Aberdeen in 1969, then saw a different fellow driving it a couple years later. Mike recalls the car as a true classic that he wishes he had back!

Introducing Margo Ann Bossman!!

On April 8, Tom and Christy Bossman added a sister for Noelani and another grandchild for Mike and Lori Paulson.



Upcoming Events

A Ladies Spring Fling is scheduled for Saturday, April 18 at 10 a.m. at the Metro Station in Brandon. Bring your favorite breakfast item to share and a white elephant gift. A white elephant gift is something unusual you purchased or were given that no longer has value to you but has value to others.

Thank you Cheryl Van Noort for hosting. Please RSVP to Cheryl 582-6437 or Ellen 331-4589.



Nick's Burgers Cruise is April 25. Meet at the Flying J at 12:30 p.m. and leave for Brookings at 12:45 p.m. More details to come. Thank you, Butch Yesda, for organizing the Brookings Cruise again this year.





Meet-n-Eat and Summer Cruise Schedule

4/15/15	Shenanigan's Pub 1903 Tea Ellis Road, SF	5/13/15	Pizza Ranch, E10th 3809 East 10 th Street, SF
4/22/15	Hibachi Grill Supreme Buffet 1100 West 41st Street, SF	5/20/15	Sonic / Northern Tool 3910 West 34 th Street, SF
4/29/15	Harris Burgers 106 E. Willow St., Harrisburg	5/27/15	Lower Sherman Park, Potluck 1805 S. Kiwanis Avenue, SF
5/6/15	Wendy's, W. 12th **1st Cruise Night 400 S. Lyons Ave., SF	6/03/15	Terry Koch's Race Shop **Thanks Terry 26846 469 th Avenue, SF

Some Flyers Emailed to the Great Plains Street Rodders

Budweiser



SAFETY INSPECTION AND OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, May 2nd, 2015
10:00am to 3:00pm
Renner Garage, Renner SD
FREE TO ALL CARS
LUNCH AT NOON
Thanks to Our Sponsors!
RENNER GARAGE, L.L.C.
Street Rods, Classics, Customs, Parts & Service
Mobile Brake Service
American • Import • Light Truck Repair
  **KNOW HOW**
HOT ROD SWAP MEET
SUN, MAY 3rd, 2015
AT THE NEW LYNN POLICE GROUNDS, GIBSON FALLS SD
9:00am to 3:00pm



Spring Rally & Car Show

Saturday, May 16
11am - 2pm

FREE
inflatables
for the kids!



Celebrating
20 years on
I-90!

You're invited to join us for this special event!

Anyone interested in displaying their vehicle(s) is encouraged to pre-register in order to have vehicle signage ready. Registration forms are available at www.facebook.com/papikmotors and at Papik Motors. Or, call 507-263-9171 or 800-634-7701. Note: Registration is FREE.

FREE burgers will be served by the Roch-Nobles Cattleman's Assoc. from 11:30am until gone.


Street Rods - Classics - Collectibles - Race Cars
Drivers - Refreshments - Burgers - Door Prizes

View our event page, including photos from past events: [Find us on Facebook](#)

22nd ANNUAL BUFFALO DAYS

CRUISE-IN

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2015
6-10 PM



FREE VEHICLE REGISTRATION


FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

MAIN STREET LIVERNE, MN

Motorcycles
Trucks
Corvettes
Street Cars
Classic Cars
Muscle Cars +
Antique Tractors
WELCOME!

Enjoy the sounds of "Starfires"

Beer Garden & Food Court

CONTACTS:
Bill Miller (507) 676-0374, Rick Reed (507) 283-1800,
Keith Schmuck (507) 227-1430, Ken Vos (507) 220-7673,
Liverne Area Chamber (888) 283-4061

www.luvernechamber.com

Recipe

No-Bake Protein Bars

5 cups uncooked oatmeal (quick or old fashioned oats)
1 1/3 cups peanut butter
1 cup coconut cream or milk (from a can)
3 tbsp honey

Open the can of coconut cream or milk and whisk until the mixture is smooth. Add honey and mix well. Mix in the peanut butter. Then add the uncooked oatmeal and mix well. Flatten the mix in a 9x13 inch pan lined with parchment or wax paper. (Use a smaller pan for thicker bars.) Refrigerate overnight or a minimum of two hours. Cut into 12 or 16 bars. Add dark chocolate chips or coconut for variety. For a half batch, use an 8x8 inch pan.

Classified Ads

(Free to Members)

Great Plains
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA
Street Rodders

WANTED – Classified ads

Free help to sell something or find something. Just email (or reply to any club message) the information and a picture if you have one to president@greatplainsstreetrodders.com

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

~~Come help us celebrate 125 years~~



We will be having a celebration for Richard "Dick" Gaddis for reaching the marvelous achievement of 75 years of age (March 21st 1940) and 50 years of employment with Billion Motors (April 3rd, 1965)

We will be having a get together at the community center in Crooks SD, 701 S Western Ave, 57020 on Sunday, April 26th from 1 to 4pm.

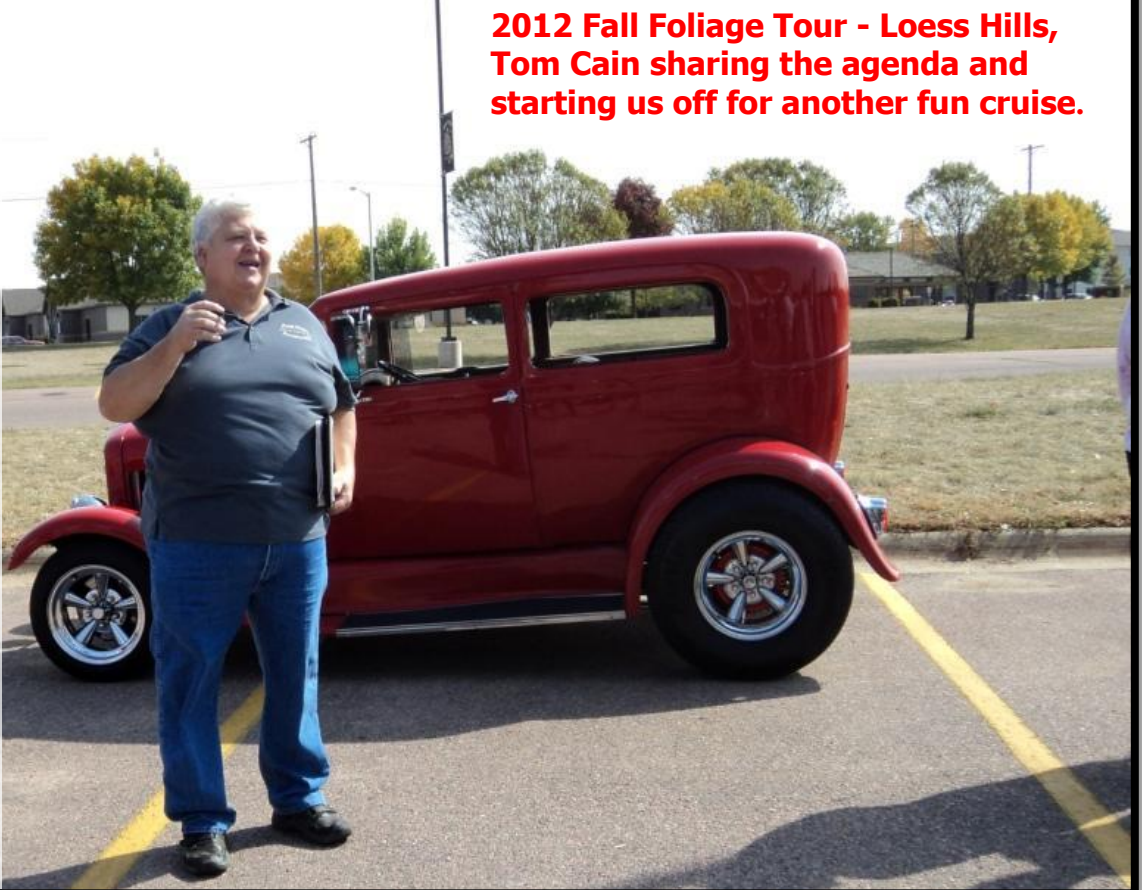
*Lunch, Coffee and juice will be served.
Please join us and share some stories and memories!*



Tom has been battling cancer for years. Doctors have told him to enjoy the time he has left. On Sunday, April 19 at the Splitrock Firehouse, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Tom asks all friends to come enjoy and celebrate his life.

Tom's life is full of Thunder Valley Dragstrip stories, lots of Corvette Club stories, Black Hills Corvette Classic stories, Great Plains Street Rodder stories and so much more. Tom Cain has made a huge impact on racing and cruising. His contributions, legacy are great. On behalf of all the GPSR, thank you, Tom and Judy, for being part of our merry band. Thank you for coordinating cruises, and thank you for your friendship.

Sincerely, Clay Seachris,
Great Plains Street Rodders



**2012 Fall Foliage Tour - Loess Hills,
Tom Cain sharing the agenda and
starting us off for another fun cruise.**