



Cruisin' News

April 2017

President – Clay Seachris
Vice President – Bob Schmeichel
Treasurer – Jayne DeBoer
Secretary – Joyce Olsen

Keepin the Wheels Turning

By Clay Seachris

President's message

As another off-season fades into history and the summer cruises begin. I'm reminded again of just how many wonderful Great Plains Street Rodders we have and how so many of you keep the wheels turning. I send out a big thank you to our off-season planners on the meet-n-eat committee; Cory Enderson, Sandy Gunderson, Ron Friedbauer, and Bruce and Suzie Aldrich. Another huge thank you goes to the special party committee; Judy Horan, Jean Knowlton, Betsy Petersen, LaDell Mertons, and Sandy Gunderson.

As our summer cruise season begins I'd like to acknowledge some of what and who keep those wheels turning. Through email, Facebook and texts, I'm able to coordinate with all the members in our planning group, so thank you for being part of the "planners and helpers" group. I'm fortunate to have club member "cruise destination liaisons" and also be able communicate personally with numerous cruise hosts. I visit directly with Steve Swenson at Handyman, Justin Olsen at Dakota Digital, Lisa Mannes at Subaru of Sioux Falls and Executive Touch, Tanner Mans at First Reformed Church, Mari DeBerg at Childrens' Home Society, Shirley Redmond at VA Health Care System, Deb Herrboldt at Bethany Meadows, Mark Iverson with the Lincoln County Cruisers and Don South at Strawbale Winery. I rely upon Tom Olsen to share details on his and Joyce's host night and he's also our liaison on J&L Harley's cruise night. This year, Cory Enderson is our liaison for the Sonic cruise event. Terry Peterson coordinates our evenings with HarrisBurgers and Shenanigan's Pub. We're blessed to have fellow club members Greg and Teena Frederick host their own evening at NAPA in Tea. It's always great to have members, Mike and Lori Paulson; they're Pontiac Club members also and the liaisons for Meadow Barn at Country Orchards. Other GPSR helpers are Kevin Kappenman and Terry Koch coordinating Terry's, Koch Racing Cruise Night. Dick Anderson is a dual GPSR and Sioux Empire Ford Club member and takes care of the Wall Lake event. I'm sure I'm missing some valued helpers. I also failed not mention the many other "Special Event" coordinators emailing President@GreatPlainsStreetRodders.com almost daily.



Thank you your membership, support and participation. Y'all make this club great!!

On April 1, membership review begins. We start organizing the annual membership directory and revise email contact list. To be on that list please be current before the end of the month.

Check our Webpage and find us on Facebook for more cool pictures and information.

Crash Survivor

By Bob Schmeichel

Soon after World War 1 ended, America became a nation of wealth and excess for anyone who was willing to physically work for it. The era became known as “The Roaring Twenties” and lasted for a little more than 10 years. It was a time of a great industrial revolution in manufacturing, which caused much of the rural population migrating to large cities causing them to grow and boom with success for almost any business. Over those years, Henry Ford’s “Model T” success drew fierce competition from other auto makers, so in May of 1927, he closed all his plants all over the world to spend six months retooling for a new car he called the “Model A” It would wind up costing anyone who wanted one around \$500. The average person in a good job in 1927 worked 9 hour days and 54 hour weeks for a \$24 a week pay check. Who would be willing to do that today which has always underlined that a dollar was worth a

dollar then. The down fall of the dollar more apparent in the late twenties when American farmers were over producing crops for the general need or demand in the market place for exporting which drove the prices down. Even with huge manufacturing success, the general overabundance of everything had a ripple effect in America’s stock market values causing careless unwatched selling of stocks till it crashed in October 1929. Auto sales remained strong up thru this event until 1931 when the orders for new Fords dropped below half of previous years demands. Beginning in the 1930’s because of bad farm practices and a drought, the jet stream across America created an unnatural Dust Bowl blowing top soil dirt high into the skies up thru middle America north into Canada. This on top of stock market crash left multitudes of businesses closing leaving millions without jobs pushing America into the great depression. This forced countless families to venture out to other parts of the country to try to gain back the dignity they had worked so hard to achieve. Many drove their Model A’s loaded down with everything precious they could haul or tie on the outside to take with them. Some left with no more than an old wooden wagon loaded with what worldly things they had pulled by a horse even when it was all they had other than the cloths on their backs. Most of the people from that hard time in America are not with us anymore, but a lot of those old Model A’s are still rolling among us. This short version of a piece of history brings me up to a story of Charlie Dickman and two Model A’s. As I visited with Charlie, it was evident his love for cars and what he did with them over his life was as strong as anyone I have ever interviewed for a story. In his college days he circle track raced and drag raced doing most of the work himself to gain the knowledge as most farm kids do. Today besides farming, he continues to have his fingers in more than one drivable project no matter how long it takes. A few years ago Charlie and his brother inherited a 1930 Model A that their mother had driven in high school. Because of their fond memories of their mom and her car, they couldn’t agree what to do with the car. His brother wanted to restore it to original and Charlie had other ideas of building a street rod out of it. Since Charlie had the experience with building and knowing the cost to do so, he decided to leave mom’s car in its original condition keeping his brother happy and seek one out the same year possible already done as a street rod on the internet. After browsing for a few months Charlie finally connected and visited quite extensively with a guy on E-Bay who was non-committal about telling the selling price. As it turned out Charlie lost with his last minute bid, but only to be called back the next day and have the car offered to him at Charlie’s original bid price. So later that week in 2008 he made the 1000 mile trip south of Nashville, Tennessee to pick up the car. He could not have been more pleasantly surprised as the car was way better quality than the pictures on the internet had

shown. But the best part was that he bought the car for about half what it would have cost to build his mom’s original car the same way as a street rod. When Charlie isn’t busy as he usually is with his farm, he is truly enjoying driving the 1930 Model A as much as he can since the day he brought it home. With Charlie being the fifth owner of the car since it was new, here is a list of what was done to the car before he bought it. The top was chopped 3” and the roof opening filled with a ribbed station wagon roof insert along with the windshield is flushed into the body eliminating a lot of wind noise usually associated with Model A’s. The drive train is a 350 Corvette engine with 350 turbo trans and a mid-80s Corvette rear end. That combined with a complete Pete and Jake 4-bar front end and a heavy 32 Ford front axle make the car a dream to drive down the road. The tilt wheel, heat and air conditioning, along with power brakes only make it better. In order to make the car Charlie’s own style he installed larger 32 Ford head lights and pulled the hood off to show the bling all under. Here’s a question, “How many new cars of today will anyone care about or see 87 years from now? So is this a survivor from a tuff time? I’d say yes, and in a good and enjoyable way for all to see of what once was in a simpler time in *America !!*





2017 Summer Cruise Schedule

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

- 05/03/17 Harris Burgers**
106 E. Willow St., Harrisburg, SD
- 05/10/17 Shenanigan's Pub (26th & Ellis Rd.)**
1903 S Ellis Road, Sioux Falls
- 05/17/17 Sonic / Northern Tool**
3910 West 34th Street, Sioux Falls
- 05/24/17 Lower Sherman Park – Potluck**
805 S Kiwanis Ave, Sioux Falls, SD
- 05/31/17 J&L Harley Davidson**
2601 West 60th Street, Sioux Falls, SD
- 06/07/17 Terry Koch Race Shop**
26846 469th Ave, Sioux Falls, SD
- 06/14/17 Handy-Man Cruise Night**
910 E 10th St, Sioux Falls, SD
- 06/21/17 Children's Home Society, Root Beer Float Social**
801 N Sycamore, Sioux Falls, SD
- 06/28/17 Cruise Night - Empire Pontiac Chapter host**
Sherman Park, 805 S Kiwanis Ave, Sioux Falls, SD
- 07/05/17 Jack Fox Park - Lincoln County Cruisers host**
225 N Broadway, Canton, SD
- 07/12/17 Falls Overlook Café & Hot Summer Nites**
825 N. Weber, Sioux Falls, SD
- 07/19/17 Wall Lake - Sioux Empire Ford Club host**
Wall Lake Township
- 07/26/17 Strawbale Winery**
47215 - 257th St Renner, SD
- 08/02/17 Poker Run - Great Plains Street Rodders**
Start - Dan Dugan Park, 37th & Duluth, Sioux Falls, SD
- 08/09/17 Olsen's Garage**
2409 W. 85th Street, Sioux Falls, SD
- 08/16/17 Veteran's Hospital Car Show**
2501 W 22nd St, Sioux Falls, SD
- 08/23/17 Bethany Meadows, Show-n-Shine**
3008 E Aspen Blvd, Brandon, SD
- 08/30/17 Dakota Digital Cruise Night**
4510 W. 61st St. N, Sioux Falls, SD
- 09/06/17 First Reformed Church (Youth Group Fundraiser- "Fifties Drive-In")**
4800 S. Tomar Road, Sioux Falls, SD
- 09/13/17 Meadow Barn at Country Orchards**
1690 Willow Street West, Harrisburg, SD
- 09/20/17 Executive Touch / Subaru**
85th & Minnesota Ave., Sioux Falls, SD
- 09/27/17 NAPA Auto, Tea**
27095 Katie Road, Tea, SD

Car Council clubs feel the future of our hobby lies within our youth. Events are coordinated with families in mind. So please bring your children and grandchildren and share the fun times and cool cars with all. Thank you for participating.