



Cruisin' News

May 2017

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

Get Out There

By Clay Seachris

President's message

The Ladies Spring Fling was the last of our indoor events. This weather has jumped smack dab into summer...

Despite some spring rains we're cruising and enjoying wonderful Wednesday evening cruises and Saturday nights at Hardee's. Thanks for everything you've done to make this summer cruise season another memorable year. Now get out there, cruise and socialize with us. 😊



The Steel Veteran of All Foreign Wars

By Bob Schmeichel

I think most of the time when people walk up to an old olive drab green military Jeep, they might say it's just another old Army Jeep not really realizing how much of an important role it played in helping America and its allies win WWII. The reality lessons learned with WWI, that hunkering down in trenches to hold an area or riding horses into a jungle were not going to win wars without a tremendous loss of lives. Because of what was witnessed by so many, the United States government decided we needed some sort of a small reconnaissance vehicle and put the idea out there for American auto makers to develop based on specific needs requested. The main objective was to be a light weight, built tuff 4-wheel drive vehicle easy to work on and able to haul 4 or 5 people. When others in the high ranks of the fast

charging cavalry units were asked their thoughts of what was needed the list went on to say, "It had to be as faithful as a dog, strong as a mule, and agile as a goat along with being able to go where horses couldn't." The thoughts and the demands were heard loud and clear, so in 1937 the United States Army began to work on specifications to create this 4-wheel drive reconnaissance vehicle with enlisting the American Bantam auto company in Butler, Pennsylvania. Ford Motor Company, Willys, and later Kaiser also jumped in at the chance to build their versions for the government with the same guidelines. With four different companies creating and developing what they thought was needed, the Army evaluated hundreds from each of the companies and cherry picked the best ideas from each which became the standard issue specification that they would built by. On November 23 of 1940, the first proto type Jeep was delivered for tests. There was still horse cavalries in the Army then , but with the jeeps being rapidly introduced into the picture, their versatility proved to be much more user friendly to work on and with, besides getting more men in and out of places quicker. Horse cavalries quickly became a thing of the past and Jeep production was being pushed to supply what Franklin D. Roosevelt called, "The Arsenal of Democracy." One comment made by an old maintenance Army guy sounded kind of funny but true done quite often thru all the years. If something on the bottom side needed repair, two or three guys could lift the Jeep up on it side where it would sit by itself and do whatever was necessary. A transmission change for instance, then plop it back down, fill all the fluids and it was on its way again. And since everything about the Jeep was built to government specs, every part from any manufacture interchanged without an issue.

On May 1, 1937, with seeing conflicts to gain power over others and claim lands starting in Europe and later Asia, President Roosevelt signed the Neutrality Act not wanting to be involved even though WWII would soon be eminent. Henry Ford agreed with President Roosevelt remaining quite the pacifist even though he was building Jeeps for the government military. Henry's son, Edsel saw more of the possibilities for Ford Motor Company during this time frame and pushed to become a vital supplier of wartime equipment. I have seen it many times over the years and have always said it is really ashamed that this country has to be in wars declared, or not as Viet Nam, for this country to thrive economically. So many lives wasted as the war mongers promote to line their pockets while they sit in the safety of this country. Never the less, Willys built 362,894 wartime jeeps, and Ford built 285,660. American Bantam who started the Jeep concept, got the short end of the stick building only 2676 Jeeps. Willys got special permission from the government to begin building civilian Jeeps months before other auto makers were allowed to switch from wartime production and resume their usual businesses. Because of this transition from the military Jeep to the civilian public sales, Jeeps are thought of or considered the grandfather of all modern day 4-wheel drive SUV's.

From 1972 thru 1976, Milo Gunderson served in the Air Force as a maintenance person for medical and dental equipment repair in the Philippines. During his time there he purchased what he called a flat fender military jeep (an earlier jeep) from a DOD teacher there that he used for daily transportation until he was shipped back to the states. He was telling me he always liked the simplicity of that old jeep and how fun it was to drive. So here we are today 40 years later, with Milo purchasing another Jeep 3 years ago to relive old memories. He purchased it from the VFW Legion in Brandon that was looking for cash to remodel their kitchen. The 1964 Jeep was pretty much restored as it appears today with the exception that Milo added lock out canvas top, and a rear mounted spare tire to complete more user friendly. Milo thoroughly enjoys his an old memory along with knowing that this is a real piece of American enabled America and its allies to win wars. Today the Jeeps have been replaced heavily armored, General Motors built, Humvee with a \$220,000 each price tag noted from 6 years ago, compared to a Willys 1941 Jeep price of \$648.00. With GM approaching building 300,000 Humvees since 1989, who said war wasn't big business??



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SCHMEICHEL 2017



Behind the Wheel

By Karen Roe

Besides each other, the Irvines definitely love the old cars. Bob shares, "My dad was a mechanic for Ford Motors and over the years working on cars was something we've always done together." His wife, Tina, also got "hooked" early on. "My brother owned a 1955 Thunderbird and as a teen-ager, he would let me drive it around in the summer. It would vapor-lock though, and one time I got stalled on the highway. My brother came by, told me just to wait for it to start, then took off." (so much for brotherly love) Fortunately, after awhile, it did.

Bob recalls his early childhood. "I was born in Sioux Falls and was the only kid, but when he was just a baby, my cousin, Harley, came to live with us and so is like a brother to me." When Bob was 9, his father went into farming near Colton. "I graduated from Franklin High which closed soon after."

Also, a S.D. Native, Tina recalls wonderful memories from her growing-up years. "My parents owned a resort on Lake Cochrane which is up by Gary, S.D. so my brother and I had a great time swimming, boating, and doing all the fun things you would do in a resort area. From ages 12 to 20, I lived in Brookings and went to SDSU for a couple of years.

Bob recounts how he and Tina met. "My friend's wife kept interrupting our card game, trying to get me to go on a date with her friend. Finally, Dale said, For Pete's sake will you tell her you'll give her a call so we can finish the game." Bob continues with a good-natured grin, "I'm real punctual and was a little early for our first date. She came to the door with wet hair and said she wasn't ready so I went out to the truck and sat for a half an hour." Now married 31 years, Tina has no complaints. It appears she found the perfect man --- a nice guy who drives a street rod and knows how to be on time.

Both married previously, only Bob had children so Tina "stepped up to the plate" as step-mom to Bob's son and daughter. Doug, who is single, lives in S.F. Bob's daughter and her family live in Wyoming and have a boy and a girl.

After high school, Bob worked construction for awhile, then Morrells for 21 years. "When Morrells went on strike, I knew some people in the sheriff's department and got on there as a deputy in the DCI (Department of Criminal Investigation). I also worked out at the Air Guard in security. I retired from the Guard after 22 years."

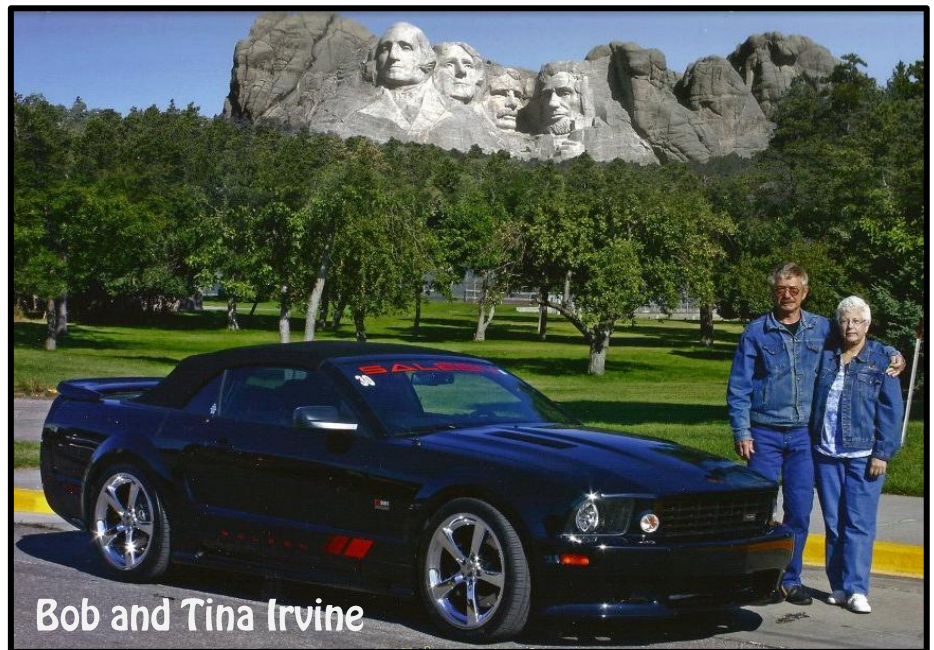
Tina's job took her downtown to the Sioux Fall library. "I worked in the bookmobile for about 15 years and also the library reference desk in the main library." (The reference desk was pre-Google, a place where people went for information.) "You never knew what questions you'd be asked. One woman had a snapping turtle in her bathtub and wanted to know what to feed it. I was a librarian for 32 years and retired in 2009. I loved working there."

The Irvines have had their share of struggles throughout the years, both having dealt with cancer. Tina shares, "I had a stem cell transplant in 2011 and still have times when I get tired but I'm doing okay." In addition, they are in the process of moving Bob's parents from an acreage to a retirement community. "Both my folks are in their nineties and it was getting to be too much."

For interests other than street-rodding, Bob also enjoys buying and rebuilding tractors. "It was kind of a comradere thing I did with my dad." He continues, "I like to work around the yard. When I cut down branches, Tina follows behind, telling me when to stop, then I come back and cut them down later." Tina describes her pastimes, "I'm a Master Gardener and enjoy crafts and collecting rocks." According to her spouse, she is also a fantastic cook. The Irvines like traveling. "We've taken several cruises, including one to Tasmania which is south of Australia." They described the Tasmanian devil as about the size of a badger and "when they eat something, they eat bones and all." Bob's favorite cruise was along the east coast. "We went in the fall and the colors of the trees were just breathtaking."

Tina adds, "One of my favorite trips was to California to see the Redwoods." Bob would like to take a trip on the Am Trak someday but Tina's wish list is way different. "I'm a Cowboy's fan and I'd like to referee an NFL football game."

Though Bob sold Tina's first Trans Am, they have acquired another, one of several rides to Wednesday night gatherings. Also, the friendly Irvines are regular cruisers to Hardee's, so if you haven't made their acquaintance, think "burgers" some Saturday night.



Bob and Tina Irvine



2017 Summer Cruise Schedule

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CRUISES, approximately 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Open to all car enthusiasts. No Vendors/Peddlers allowed at Car Council Events

Schedule is also posted on greatplainsstreetrodders.com

Follow us on Facebook for more information and up to date photos

For Cruise Scheduling, Follow The Motormarket on Facebook

- 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



The Car Council members feel strongly that the future of our hobby lies within our youth. Our events are coordinated with families in mind. So please bring your children and grandchildren and share the fun times and cool cars with all. They are more than welcome at all our cruise-ins. Thank you for participating.

