



CLASSIC HEARTBEAT

February 2005

Volume 29, Issue 2

NEWS OF '55, '56 AND '57 CHEVYS IN NORTH TEXAS AND BEYOND



PO Box 814642
Dallas, TX 75381

www.DallasClassicChevy.com
founded 1976

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **President – David Graves**
214 738-5231 term expires 12/05
- **Vice Pres – Marvin Johnson**
214 352-9132 term expires 12/06
- **Treasurer – Dean Schmidt**
972 867-3255 term expires 12/06
- **Secretary – Greg Hedum**
972 539-9886 term expires 12/05
- **Board Member - Larry Rollow**
972 960-1408 term expires 12/06
- **Board Member - Bill Preston**
972 691-4968 term expires 12/05
- **Board Member - John Rush**
972 517-4247 term expires 12/06

Appointed Positions

- **Tech Advisor - Larry Rollow**
972-960-1408
- **Webmaster - Kevin Brown**
972 889-7233

'55 CHEVY HEAVEN THIS WEEKEND AT AUTORAMA!

Followed by the

Ft Worth Rod and Custom show in 3 weeks!

The Dallas Area Classic Chevy Club will participate in the Autorama this year for the 28th year in a row! The theme is the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the '55 Chevy and will feature club member's '55's from a stock restored example to highly modified street terrors to a drag racer and highway cruisers! This will be the finest lineup of 1955 Chevys ever to appear together at Market Hall! Be sure to make it out to the show and check out the '55's on hand and the hundreds of cars in the show! In the club's display will be Steve Pratt's 2dr sedan, Sharkey Nelson's hardtop, Ron Davis' hardtop, Lewis Reynold's 2dr sedan, Sonny Poteet's hardtop and Greg Hedum's hardtop and new member Jeff Smith with his 210 drag racer. We will be passing out flyers for the club and inviting all interested parties to attend the March club meeting. Also showing at the show is Bill Preston with his '56 Nomad, George Caruth and his '57 wagon, Larry Rollow and his '57 Sedan along with his unique teardrop camping trailer!

3 weeks later on March 4-6, DACC will be displaying Classic Chevys from all three years at the Ft Worth Rod and Custom Show at the Will Rogers Complex. In the show will be Morris Stewart's '56, and Sharkey Nelson will have his '55 and his '57 Limo in the show!



Show Details

Location:

Dallas Market Hall
2100 Stemmons Freeway

Dates/Hours:

Friday, Feb 11 3pm - 10:30pm
 Saturday, Feb 12 10am - 10pm
 Sunday, Feb 13 11am - 7pm

Admission Prices

General Admission - \$12
 Children 6-12 - \$5
 Under 5 - Free

\$2 discount coupons at Oreilly's Auto Parts!

More info at

<http://www.autorama.com/casi/dallas.htm>

TV ALERT !! WFAA Channel 8

On Friday morning Feb 11th the DACC and the '55 Chevy 50th Anniversary theme will be featured on that mornings Channel 8 News beginning at 5:45 AM. 'The Why Guy' will visit with members and their '55 Chevys for 5 segments that will be done LIVE on their morning news show! Be sure and catch it!!!

Reliable Chevrolet becomes newest club sponsor!

Joining Stoked Out Specialties this month as a club sponsor is Reliable Chevrolet! The Richardson Chevy dealer used to be Late Chevrolet, the first sponsor of DACC in 1978. DACC is happy to be associated with this longtime North Texas dealer and we all are looking for big things in the future. Jeff Power, General Sales Manager of Reliable says "This is a great opportunity for us to be recognized as a supporter of the car hobby that features some of the greatest Chevrolets ever built". DACC plans to have 1-2 events this year at the dealership and Reliable will sponsor this years DACC Autorama display and also show Chevy's new SSR in our display! More information as it develops!

Inside Highlights:

Member's Pride	2
Ft Worth Show	3
March Meeting	3
Louis Chevrolet	4
2005 DACC Calendar	5
Letters to Editor	5



DACC Member's Pride

Sharkey and Barbara Nelson

1957 Limousine

Ft. Worth, Texas



MY FUN JOB!!!!

As is often the case with car collectors, I had a very early interest in cars. My dad was a "car guy" as was my mother's dad and brothers. My first car was a worn out 1958 Ford that I purchased for \$95 from my granddad in 1964 when I was 14 years old and after I had received my drivers license. It didn't take long for me to realize that I had to have a tri-5 Chevy. I purchased my first one (a '55 210 2dr) for \$300.00 in 1966. I've been in love with tri-5's ever since. After selling the '55 I went to a new '68 SS 427 Impala, then to a '70 SS 454 Monte Carlo. I got married in June of 1970 and as you can guess, raising a family didn't leave much time or money for playing with cars. After going thru



vans and family cars for a few years I ran across a nice '55 Bel Air 2 door hardtop in 1979 which I purchased for \$2,000 and I have had it ever since. In 1989 I purchased my high school buddies '57 2dr Bel Air sedan which I also still have.

Fast forward ten years to 1999. While having my '55 restored by Ken Young/Classic Car Connection, Ken stumbled onto a 1957 Chevy airport limousine in Idaho which he had intended to restore to original condition. I instead envisioned a custom limo. Having come from Idaho and having sat in the weather for many years it was in horrible shape. Ken replaced the floor pan, front end, hood, trunk lid, etc. Long story short, I purchased it from him and hired him to help complete my dream. After 1 year of work by Ken installing an LT-4 FI Corvette engine w/ith a 700R4 tranny, power front disc brakes, 605 steering, and painted it 1999 Cadillac pearl white. Before we could even get it finished I had numerous people wanting me

to hurry and get it finished so they could rent it out. While we were working on this one I ran across another '57 limo in New York which was stretched and built in 1996. I purchased it and brought it home and immediately put it to work while we were completing the airport limo. I then took the airport limo to 3D Customs in Everman which is a custom limo manufacturer. After another year of work there we finally had it ready for the road in September of 2001. After running both limos for another year I sold the turquoise limo to some people in Omaha, NE in September of 2002. I've been running the white limo on weekends ever since. It's a pleasure to drive, gets a lot of looks and "thumbs ups". I call it "my fun job".



Look for more photos of this month's feature car on our website sometime in February. Also you can catch the limo at the DACC display in the Ft Worth Rod and Custom Show in March!





31ST
ANNUAL

Fort Worth ROD & CUSTOM CAR/MOTORCYCLE SHOW

WILL ROGERS EXHIBIT BLDG
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

MARCH 4, 5 & 6, 2005

The show will be in the Amon Carter Exhibit Hall of the Will Rogers Complex located at 3401 W Lancaster Ave in Ft Worth. A stepped up advertising effort should result in one of the best attended shows yet. Vince Vance and the Valiants will perform Friday and Saturday at 7PM on the main stage. Come out and enjoy this event and be sure to stop at the DACC club display where Sharkey Nelson and Morris Stewart will be displaying their Classic Chevys. Also if you see a white '56 Nomad, that is Bill Preston - say hi to him also! Show hours are Fri March 4 4PM -11PM, Sat March 5 10AM - 11PM, Sun March 6 11AM - 7PM.

MARCH DACC MEETING

Membership Drive & Classic Chevy Show
SATURDAY March 12th at 2 PM
RELIABLE CHEVROLET
Richardson, TX

We will have our 1st Quarter Club meeting, welcome newcomers to the club and we will have a informal 55-56-57 Chevy Show. All of this will occur at Reliable Chevrolet in Richardson located on the southeast corner of Arapaho and Central Expressway.

Looking further on the schedule, DACC will have a drag racing event on April 10th at the Texas Motorplex in Ennis as part of the Texas Muscle Car Club Challenge event. In May we will caravan to Dublin, TX to the Dr Pepper bottler there that is world famous as the only one in the world making DP with real sugar! Also Lone Star XXIV is in May in Victoria, Texas. 2005 will be BUSY! Check the schedule for additional events during the year!

WELCOME TO DACC!!

The newest members to join the club

#681 Mark and Anita Lamkin 525 Michener Court Southlake, TX 76092 '55 Bel Air 2dr Hardtop	#683 Jim and Debbie Conkle 8608 Indian Knoll Tr N Richland Hills, TX 76180 '55 Bel Air 2dr Sedan
#682 Chip Norton PO Box 140686 Dallas, TX 75214 '55 210 2dr Sedan	#684 Jeff and Debbie Smith 840 Oakview Oakpoint, TX 75068 '55 210 2dr Sedan

Membership Dues

Your membership renewal date is on your mailing label in the TOP RIGHT CORNER, listed by month and year. Please send your dues in to DACC, PO Box 814642, Dallas, TX 75381. \$25 per year. Your membership will be dropped if you fall 2 months delinquent, so don't hesitate and miss out on the fun this year that you can have with us in your Chevy!



Who was Louis Chevrolet?

The name attached to America's best-selling car, the Chevrolet, belongs to a tragic figure.

Louis Chevrolet never found a way to make money from his talents, skills and experiences. That his name lives on as one of the most famous names in the automobile industry is attributed more to its romantic sound than the man himself.

The name "Chevrolet" is thought to be a French corruption of "goat's milk." Louis Chevrolet was born on Christmas day 1878 in Swiss Jura, the center of the French dairy industry region. The son of a watchmaker, Chevrolet showed a similar mechanical aptitude at an early age. He showed no inclination for school, however, and his parents were happy to encourage his wage-earning pursuits.

Chevrolet began a career in bicycle repair and soon the muscular six-foot youth was racing bikes. In his first three years he won 28 competitive events. He built bikes until he discovered cars. Chevrolet became an auto mechanic in the pioneering French auto industry. He jumped from job to job, gaining valuable experience, before coming to Montreal in 1900.

Chevrolet worked as a chauffeur in Canada for six months before coming to New York, his ultimate destination. Driving hard-steering, rough-riding racing cars required a great deal of muscle at the turn of the century. The hulking Frenchman was ideally suited to this pursuit. Slowly he established his reputation as a mechanic and a

racer, winning his first road race on a cinder track in Morris Park, New York on May 20, 1905.

Chevrolet brought his younger brothers Arthur and Gaston to America and left for Flint, Michigan to drive for W.C. Durant, founder of General Motors. Chevrolet drove a Buick in the first Indianapolis 500 in 1911 but a broken camshaft put him out of the race early. Meanwhile Durant split from GM and privately hired Chevrolet to make the car of his dreams. Chevrolet was a consulting engineer, not an officer, in the Chevrolet Motor Car Company.

When the Chevrolet Classic Six reached production in 1912 there were 275 other automakers in the United States. The first Chevrolet was envisioned as a rich man's car, not the best-selling American car it would become. The Classic Six was big, powerful and pricey. It carried a sticker of \$2150, out of the reach of all but the wealthy. Durant realized he needed to compete with cheaper cars he could sell at high volume. Chevrolet believed his name only belonged on a big, impressive automobile and resigned in October, 1913. He sold his stock, securities which would have made him a millionaire many times over, when he left.

Durant would never miss him. The rough-hewn, uneducated Chevrolet did not fit in with the polished wheeler-dealers in the early auto industry boardrooms. Durant hated the man, but loved the name. He was soon putting the Chevrolet name on many of his brands of cars. Meanwhile, General Motors reorganized with Chevrolet becoming its leading division.

Without even his name Chevrolet formed the Frontenac Motor Corporation. By 1917 he had a new and very advanced racing machine, complete with an aluminum engine block, but no production system. Seeking a regular paycheck he signed on

as vice-president and chief engineer for a new company called the American Motors Corporation. He helped develop their American Beauty but when development got under way his services were deemed expendable.

The Monroe Company next hired Chevrolet to build a race car. He updated his Frontenac racer and with his brother Gaston at the controls, won the 1920 Indianapolis 500. Tragically Gaston would die before the year was out in a fiery crash on a boardwalk raceway in Beverly Hills, California.

With the prestige garnered from his Indianapolis victory Chevrolet obtained backers to incorporate Frontenac Motors but the company went bankrupt with his cars still on the design table. Another car company failed in 1924 and Chevrolet turned to boat racing, winning the Miami Regatta in 1925. But the victory did not translate into widespread success.

In 1929 Louis and Arthur Chevrolet left the auto business altogether to form the Chevrolet Brothers Aircraft Company with a new engine of their design but lost the business to Glenn L. Martin. Finally in 1934, out of charity and a moral obligation towards the man who gave their best-selling car its name, General Motors put Louis Chevrolet on their payroll.

Illness forced Chevrolet to retire in 1938. He and his wife lived in a small Florida apartment but the humid climate accelerated his decline in health and he returned to Detroit for a leg operation in early 1941. Complications forced a complete amputation from which Chevrolet never recovered. He died on June 6, 1941 at the age of 63. He was buried in Indianapolis, scene of his greatest racing triumph.



Dallas Area Classic Chevys 2005 Schedule of Events

**February 11-13 * Dallas
Autorama, Market Hall -
Dallas, TX**

**March 4-6 * Ft Worth Rod
and Custom Show, Will
Rogers Complex, Ft Worth,
TX**

**March 12 Saturday * 2PM, DACC
Membership Meeting and 1st Quarter
Meeting, Reliable Chevrolet,
Richardson, TX**

**April 10 Sunday* Drag Racing, Tx
Muscle Car Club Challenge, Texas
Motorplex, Ennis, TX**

**May 1 Sunday * DACC Spring
Cruise, Dr Pepper Tour, Dublin, TX**

**May 13-15 * Lone Star XXIV Classic
Chevy Convention, Victoria, TX**

**June 12 Sunday * DACC Dyno
Challenge and 2nd Quarter Meeting,
Velocity Performance, Carrollton, TX**

**July 10 Sunday * DACC Summer
Cruise, Pelican's Wharf Restaurant at
Lake Texoma, meet with the Ok City
Classic Chevy Club**

**August 20 Saturday * DACC Show
Event, Christian Classic Cruisers,
Haltom City, TX**

**September 17 Saturday * DACC 3rd
Quarter Meeting and Classic Chevy
Show, Reliable Chevrolet,
Richardson, TX**

**October 8 Saturday Night * DACC
Drive In Movie Night, Brazos Drive
In, Granbury, TX**

**October 21-23 Fri-Sun * 12th Classic
Chevy Fall Foliage Tour, Wagoner,
OK hosted by CCC of Okla**

**November 13 Sunday * DACC 4th
Quarter Meeting and Annual
Elections, TBD**

**December 11 Saturday Night *
DACC Christmas Party, Dean and
Audrey Schmidt's home in Plano, TX**

Letters to the Editor

Stoking Stoked Out...

I read with interest the piece in the latest issue of "Classic Heartbeat" about Stoked Out Specialties. Among other things, it mentions that Stoked Out is doing a complete frame-off restoration on my '57 Bel Air. That's true, and I want to go on record and say that they have done a truly outstanding job so far. I have been most impressed by their courtesy, professional expertise and attention to detail. They take pride in the quality of their work and customer satisfaction is a top priority. Rich Stokes works very hard to see that this is accomplished. Although I've only been involved in one other restoration, and that was a number of years ago, I recognize quality work when I see it. Roger Lynskey is a true craftsman and is doing a great job orchestrating the whole project. I have also been very impressed with the work done by Jason and Greg. I also want to mention that the Stoked Out facilities are second to none - spacious, extremely sanitary and well equipped. I encourage anyone who might read this, and is considering any level of restoration work on their "classic," to visit Stoked Out Specialties and check-out the work being done on my "Baby."

One other thing. at Marvin Johnson's suggestion, I sent my door flippers to a gentleman named Gerald Wodtke in Buffalo, Minnesota for restoration. I just got the flippers back from Gerald, and they are fantastic. One of the flippers was split on one end, and Gerald had to send it out to be tig welded - you can't even tell it now. Of course, he replaced the springs, felt, etc and did a beautiful polish job on the stainless. The whole thing cost me \$160.00. Just thought I would share this with you and other club members.

I appreciate very much all of your efforts, David, as well as those of Marvin and the rest of the DACC staff. Keep up the good work!

Best Regards,
Bob Vaughan, Plano TX
DACC member # 654

**The Indy Pace Car for 1955
The '55 Chevrolet**



Sonny Potet at Houston Raceway Park



PO Box 814642
Dallas, TX 75381

Name
Address
City, State Zip

1st Class Mail

For ALL of your Chevrolet needs,
stop and visit
'The North Texas Chevy Store'



RELIABLE CHEVROLET
The North Texas Chevy Store

**Reliable Chevrolet wants
to help you find your
New or Pre-Owned
Vehicle**

**800 North Central Expressway
Richardson, Texas 75080**

1-888-837-0219

Sponsor of the Dallas Area Classic Chevys

www.ReliableChev.com



Stoked Out Specialties

777 Riding Club Rd.
Rockwall, Texas 75087
972.772.0146

www.StokedOutSpecialties.com

Sponsor of the Dallas Area Classic Chevys

We are located in Rockwall, Texas just east of Dallas. Our 14,000 square foot shop contains all the necessary facilities to produce the complete vehicle. Our staff not only focuses on the artistic aspects of a project, but the function, safety and serviceability as well. We are a full service shop, capable of helping you with everything from a complete build up to simply an upgrade or alteration on your current street or show car or truck.