



# CLASSIC HEARTBEAT

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

July 2007

Volume 31, Issue 7



PO Box 814642  
Dallas, TX 75381  
[www.DallasClassicChevy.com](http://www.DallasClassicChevy.com)  
Membership -137

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***This Sunday we will meet at the parking lot of Texas Motor Speedway (Hwy 114 and Interstate 35W) at 12:30 and depart shortly after to drive down Hwy 114 to Bridgeport and have lunch at 'Yesterday's Diner'. Make plans to join us with your Classic Chevy for some summer time cruising and good food! (As always, be sure to check the club website if weather is threatening for any last minute changes to our plans!)***

## COMING IN AUGUST !

***It's the Annual 'Hot Texas Nights' car show !!***

This event is open to all makes and models of cars and trucks and DACC wants to make a big Tri - Five presence at this event! Mark your calendar for Saturday Night August 18<sup>th</sup> and plan to be in Hurst, Texas. Also we will have dinner before the event that evening! Full details next month!

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# July Feature Car

Bob and Sharon Smolik  
Frisco, Texas



In early 1956, I was the proud new owner of a used 1955 Ford two-door Fairlane but for only about six months. My interest shifted quickly with the debut of the 1957 Chevy Bel Air. It was so fast and sleek. I quickly realized that I wanted to see myself behind the wheel of that hot car.

I knew it would take several convincing discussions with my mother to achieve my dream car. It took a week or two before my mother finally allowed me to order one from the local dealer, Bill Becker Chevrolet in Chicago, IL. The agonizing wait time was about 4 weeks! I was so excited to place my order for a Bel Air 2-Door Hard Top, all white with red and black interior, standard shift, power pack engine - total cost approximately \$2,300, tax, title and license.

During this time, I was dating a lovely girl named Sharon, who later became my wife. I would pick her up at the high school and we would have lunch together. However, I always found that my car somehow steered its way to the dealership before our lunch date. I had to check to see if my Chevy had arrived. Sharon and I were married in June of 1960 with the '57 Chevy as our first official family member.

In the 1950's, it was popular to customize your car. I participated by having my Chevy nosed, decked, pin-striped. Continental kit and added many engine updates.

In 1961, Sharon and I started our family; therefore, my beloved Chevy had to be traded because it just wasn't suited to be our family car. After raising three wonderful sons, I found myself being pulled

back in time to my love of the '57 Chevy.

I discovered that my senses were becoming finely re-tuned to anything Chevy related. My newly awakened Chevy interest led me to attend the Tri-Five Chevy show at Reliable Chevrolet in the spring of 2005. It was there that I picked up an application to join the Dallas Area Classic Chevys which ultimately enabled me to become reacquainted with my love for the '57 Chevy.

I began an E-Bay search for the car of my dreams. Luckily, I located one I really liked in Atlanta, GA. When the bidding was all over, the owner's reserve was not met. However, I was able to contact the owner by phone and we agreed on a purchase price.

The Chevy had been re-painted a few years ago, but it was not a chrome-off job. I truly felt nostalgic as I drove the car from Atlanta to its new home in my Frisco garage. Therefore, I decided to treat the car to a new, professional paint job complete with chrome replacement. I chose Avery Paint & Body in Balch Springs in November 2005 to do the initial work and finally finished as of April 2006. The car still needed some loving care to meet my high standards, but I use my weekends to refine this true classic. For example, I have added ceramic headers, CD player, glass pack mufflers and more chrome to chrome to the engine compartment just to mention a few of the "Smolik-upgrades."

In some small way, I have passed on my love for classic cars to my middle son, Tom. Also, my grandchildren really enjoy riding around town in the '57 Chevy with me. It's truly a way for us to connect and close that generation gap.



## 2007 Lone Star Classic Chevy Convention

Over 100 Tri Five Chevys make the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Version a BIG SUCCESS in Austin !

The Central Texas Classic Chevy Club of Austin played host to the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Lone Star Classic Chevy Convention this year. They were the club that stepped forward in 1983 and hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Lone Star Convention when Texas State Rep of the Classic Chevy Club David Graves began the search in the winter of 1982 for a club to host his idea of having a Texas event each year for '55-'57 Chevys. The idea was this - the event would 'float' from city to city within Texas and be hosted by the local Classic Chevy Club in that Texas city. The idea has stuck and here 25 years later the Austin club found themselves hosting the Silver Anniversary of this great event. The CTCCC members planned and executed a great event with an emphasis on hospitality. Even the weather cooperated all weekend by being warm, overcast and breezy with no appreciable rain or beastly heat!

Twelve cars representing just part of the Dallas Area Classic Chevys that were heading to Austin gathered in Desoto on the morning of May 4<sup>th</sup> to caravan to Lone Star XXV. Starting out together were Dan and Vickie Bunch in their '57 Chevy Sedan, Ron and Cheryl Davis in their '55 Bel Air Hardtop, Dean and Audrey Schmidt with their '57 Bel Air Hardtop, Marvin and Donna Johnson and their '55 Bel Air Hardtop, Bill and Diane Preston in their '56 Nomad, Chuck and Janis Rader and their '57 Bel Air Hardtop, Robert and Sharon Smolik with their '57 Bel Air Hardtop, James and Trish Sparrow in their '36 FORD??, George Johnson in his '56 Nomad and visitors Mike and Vickie Wilcox with their '57 Chevy. The weather on this Friday morning was great and with the previous week's wild thunderstorms, everyone



was relieved to be making the trip in dry weather. Cruising down Interstate 35 with a large group of beautiful mid fifty Chevys sure draws a lot of looks, thumbs up and honking horns! Our group reached Waco and stopped for refueling and had a leisurely lunch at the historic Elite Circle Grill on the 'Circle' in Waco. While in Waco a photo op came up and several of our cars were photographed in front of an authentic drive in diner there on the circle in Waco. Our old Chevys made the trip to Austin without any mishaps, but... there were several situations prior to leaving home which delayed the arrival of John and Maggie Rush with their '56 Sedan and David and Marlene Graves in their '56 Corvette, and made the Sparrows drive their '36 FORD??!! instead of their '56 Hardtop Chevy! Several other DACC members attended without their Chevys including Don and Jo Andre, Carl and Charlsie Mitcham and Kenneth and Sue Taylor. Mike Reeves with his '55 Bel Air was already at the hotel when we arrived.

Friday evening's activity was a cruise though the Central Texas countryside to the small town of Walburg for a German Buffet Dinner. It was like a trip back in time seeing all the old Chevys driving down the two lane blacktop roads through the farm land in the area around Walburg. The restaurant was a very old building and fit the theme very well! German food, German beer and German music made for a great experience.

The ladies of CTCCC shone on Saturday with a continental breakfast for all participants in the car show area. They prepared delicious homemade nut breads and muffins, fruit and dozens of

Round Rock's world famous Sunshine Donuts. Then they out did themselves with a fantastic lunch of fajitas, beans, cheese nachos and another array of homemade desserts. The Marriott Hotel's north parking lot was completely full of '55-'57 Chevys - sedans, hardtops, nomads, station wagons, sedan deliveries, convertibles, corvettes, cameos and pickups. Some were fully customized and some were fully restored to the condition they were when new and many were in between. It was a beautiful site!

Show Judging was the highlight of Saturday and a modified version of the 1000 point Classic Chevy Judging system was used by the CTCCC for this year's event. Classification for the judging was run by Pete and Kathy Sawatzky again this year just as they did at the Dallas Lone Star event in 2006. The judging teams assigned to each class used a 100 point judging system that did not require the underside of the cars to be judged. The traditional 'Drivers Class' of cars were also on display but were not judged on the 100 point system but all participants voted for their favorites among the non-judged cars to receive special awards.

Saturday afternoon was free for us to enjoy visiting, napping or shopping, while the CTCCC members worked to tally the judging sheets and prepare for the evening awards banquet. A dinner was offered at the hotel before the Awards Presentation and most elected to have this dinner, but a few of the Dallas club members elected to make the trip to 'The Oasis' on a cliff 450 feet high overlooking Lake Travis for dinner.



### Lone Star XXV continued

Awards were the last official activity of the event on Saturday night and the Austin club put the final touches on the presentation which included a multi media presentation of the winners.

DACC members receiving class awards were:

**Marvin Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> , Modified '55 Hardtop**  
**Mike Reeves, 2<sup>nd</sup> , Custom '55 Hardtop**  
**Bill Preston, 2<sup>nd</sup> , Custom '56 Sedan**  
**George Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup> , Custom '56 Nomad**  
**David Graves, 1<sup>st</sup> , '56 Corvette**  
**Chuck Rader, 1<sup>st</sup> , Contemporary '57 2-door Hardtop**  
**Dan Bunch, 2<sup>nd</sup> , Custom '57 2-door Sedan**  
**John Rush, '56 Non-Judged Driver's Class Award**

Special awards were:

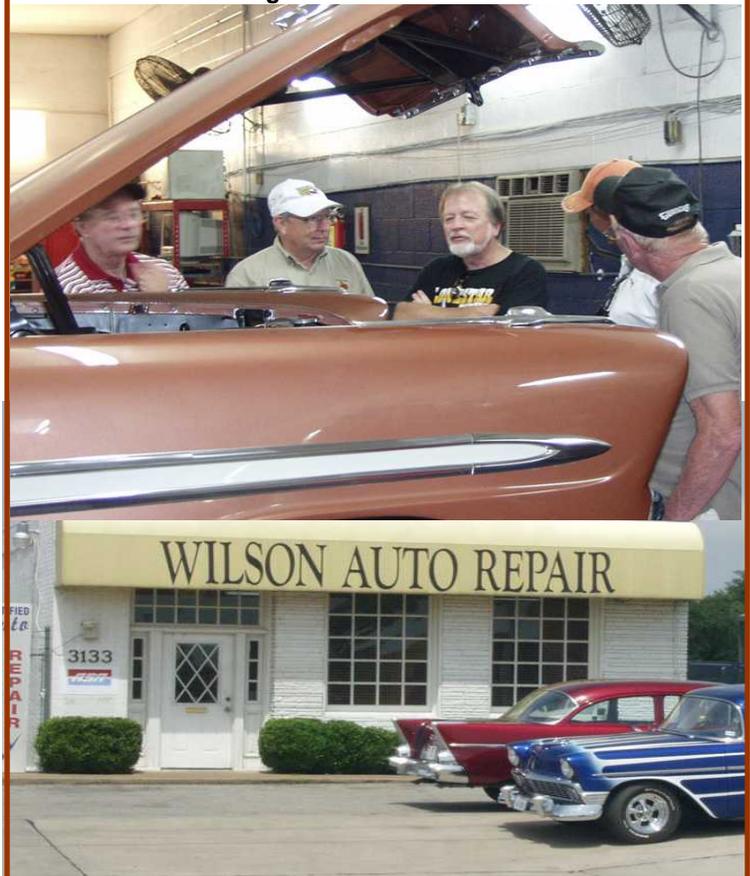
People's Choice: Billy Willenberg's '55 2 dr Bel Air hardtop, Lockhart, TX  
 San Antonio Club Favorite: Bill Preston's '56 Nomad, Flower Mound, TX  
 Dallas Club Favorite: James Sellstrom's Original, Unrestored '55 4 dr Bel Air Sedan, Austin, TX  
 Houston Club Favorite: Rex Buzan's '55 2 dr Bel Air hardtop, Henryetta, OK  
 Austin Club Favorite: Bobby Marshall's '56 Pickup, Austin, TX  
 Longest Distance Traveled: Stratford, MO  
 Hard Luck Award: Marlene Graves, DACC. Audrey Schmidt did a colorful job of nominated Marlene to the crowd, seems when their newly finished '56 Corvette was fully loaded for the first out of town trip the rear tires would rub and not clear the wheel wells. David's solution was to unload Marlene and make her drive her own car!!! Attendance Award, well they didn't give one out but DACC might have beat out the Houston club for having the most club members in attendance. This was a great accomplishment since our club has almost been invisible at Lone Star events for a number of years in the past. Great turnout DACC!!!!

Sunday morning DACC members got on the road at various times. One group pre-arranged a stop in Salado to take pictures at an old restored filling station and garage. The owner has a collection of Fords and Lincolns in a building on the east side of I-35 that is outfitted to look like an old fashioned garage. We took lots of pictures of our cars at the old pumps and enjoyed the stop. Again the return trip was a safe one for all and the weather cooperated all weekend to make this 25<sup>th</sup> version of Lone Star one for the books!

Plan to attend the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual event next year as the Heart of Texas Classic Chevy Club of Waco will hold the 2008 Lone Star on May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Czech Inn in the town of West (located north of Waco) . This will be a low keyed event with no judging. The Waco club has elected to open next year's event to all years of Chevys. More details later as they develop.

### Wilson Auto Repair Meeting Recap

The DACC had over 20 members attend the June Meeting at Wilson Auto Repair in Garland. Barry Wilson gave a great presentation on several topics that everyone found very informative and useful. Not only did Barry open his shop up to our club, give a great technical presentation but also feed the group! In the shop there were several cars being worked on that our group found interesting! Remember, Wilson Auto Repair is 'old car friendly' and if you are seeking mechanical work on your ride, be sure to give Barry a call and discuss your needs with him! More photos from the meeting are on the club website !



### Coming Next Month .....

Part One of Larry Rollow's 2007 Hot Rod Magazine Power Tour Adventure! Larry documented his travels as he left Dallas in his '57 Chevy and drove to Cleveland, Ohio to begin the Power Tour for '07 which ended a week later in Little Rock, Arkansas. The ultimate 'Road Trip' this year had lots of cars, some rain, and other surprises!! With so much to tell, we are going to have to split the story over two issues !



**We Say Farewell To** - Twyman Doyle Irick, 72, of Aubrey, who died Monday, June 4, 2007 at Presbyterian Hospital in Denton. He was born January 22, 1935 in Olney to T.W. and Ada LeNora Ford Irick. He attended Crozier Tech, was a member of First Baptist Church of Aubrey and owner of Irick's Countertops in Aubrey. He married Nancy Marie Rodges on April 17, 1959 in Durant, OK. He is survived by his wife Nancy Irick of Aubrey; sons, Russell Irick, of Aubrey, and Lance Irick, of Frisco; sister, Mitzi Bowen of Aubrey; and grandchildren, Taylor Irick and Zane Irick. He is preceded in death by his parents and son, Dale Irick.



## Last month ...

DACC Members pooled their resources to build a wheelchair ramp for DACC VP Marvin Johnson who continues to recover from a stroke that he suffered in May. Be sure and check the photos from this effort on the club CHAT BOARD. The following is a note from Donna Johnson to the club and especially Larry Rollow and all the members who pitched in on a rainy Father's Day to build Marvin his ramp -

**Marvin and I both want to extend our greatest appreciation for the ramp that was built for Marvin on Father's Day—during rain storms.**

It turned out to be a wonderful gathering of 10 members of the Chevy Club. It was a great feeling to know there are so many people that care. For Marvin, it was very uplifting to be with his buddies again.

We want to thank personally the following members that were there to make it happen, working

all the while in the rain:

Larry Rollow, Greg Hedum, John Rush, Bill and Diane Preston, Bob Vaughn, Ron Davis, Dan Bunch, Andy Salinas, Stu Jacobs--and special thanks to Larry for his expertise and guidance--and to the club for making it possible.

Marvin is home and doing well. He is walking with a cane—even at times when he should not be. The ramp is being used every time we leave the house using the wheel chair, and every time he wants to roll out to the work shop, which is about every 3-4 hours! His speech and right arm are slow coming back but his speech gets better every day.

We hope to see you in July for the cruise to Bridgeport!

*Marvin and Donna Johnson*

Be sure and check out the photos from this effort on the club chat board under the 'Events' section !



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