



# CLASSIC HEARTBEAT

February 2010

Volume 34, Issue 2

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



PO Box 814642  
Dallas, TX 75381

[www.DallasClassicChevy.com](http://www.DallasClassicChevy.com)

Est 1976

Current Membership -160

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – David Graves  
214 738-5231 term expires 12/11

Vice Pres – Greg Hedum  
972 539-9886 term expires 12/10

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972 867-3255 term expires 12/10

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214 349-8439 term expires 12/11

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972 624-8836 term expires 12/11

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817 457-3967 term expires 12/10

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972-960-1408

Tech Advisor - Don Andre  
817 481 3468

Membership Chairman  
Bill Preston  
972 691-4968

Ladies Group Chairwoman  
Vickie Penney  
214 629 2043

### Membership Information

Dues are \$25 per year,  
payable to

Dallas Area Classic Chevys,  
mail to the club PO Box.

To determine your renewal date,  
check your mailing label, the top  
right corner is the month/yr your  
membership expires.

## DACC AT TWO BIG INDOOR CAR SHOWS!

### DALLAS AUTORAMA

February 19-21  
Market Hall – Dallas

DACC will have a 8 car display at this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ISCA Autorama! Schedule to display is Geoff Clark's '55 Wagon, Larry Epperson's '57 Bel Air, Michael Brown's '57 Corvette and '55 Bel Air, Billy Walker's '55 210 drag racer, Bryan Greenfield's '56 210, Larry Freeman's '56 Convertible and Tom McGee's '55 Bel Air.

### SHOW TIMES

Friday, February 19: 3 pm – 10:30 pm  
Saturday, February 20: 10 am – 10 pm  
Sunday, February 21: 11 am – 7 pm

### ADMISSION

\$14 at the door  
\$5 Children 6-12  
Free under 5 and under  
\$12 advance discounts at ORIELLY AUTO PARTS

### FT WORTH MOTORAMA

March 5-7  
Will Rogers Complex – Ft Worth

DACC will have a 8 car display at the 2010 Ft Worth Show that will feature a all Convertible Tri Five Chevy display. Scheduled to display are Michael Brown's 57, Mike Reeves '57, Joe Gaikoski '56, Carl Mitcham's '57, Terry Sealock's '57, Larry Myers' (from Okla) '55, Ralph Ellis' '57 and Larry Freeman's '56.

**ALL CONVERTIBLES!**

### SHOW TIMES

Friday, March 5: 4 pm – 10 pm  
Saturday, March 6: 10 am – 10 pm  
Sunday, March 7: 10 am – 7 pm

### ADMISSION

\$12 at the door  
\$5 Children 6-12  
Free under 5 and under

## NEXT MONTH

### OUR LARGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR!

It's our Spring Classic Chevy Show at Reliable Chevrolet, March 13<sup>th</sup> Saturday from Noon to 3PM, No Fees, No Judging, Display only, CACKLEFEST, Dash Plaques, Music by Ghost Surfers, Tri Fives ONLY! FAVORITE PICKS BY DACC SPONSORS! Goodie Bags, Free Hot Dogs and Drinks  
**DO NOT MISS THIS EVENT!**  
we may top 100 Tri Fives this year!

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I turned 16 during late fall of 1961 and my first car was a '46 Chevy. Regrettably, I don't have a single photo of it.

Just as well, though...it was a pretty ordinary car. And not only that, it was as old as I was! Now, I was *young* for a kid...but that was old for a car. It did, however, represent a certain degree of previously unavailable independence and that was no small thing.

Still, I started saving my money toward a trade up, and before long, I was able to accomplish that. Staying with Chevrolet was a given, and I jumped forward six model years to a 1952 Chevy two door coupe. Again, nothing remarkable about its appearance but at least I'd moved into the next decade of automotive design.

Knowing my desire to keep trading up, my Dad came home one day and told me he'd just seen a car he thought I'd be interested in. He described it in great detail...a white over turquoise '55 Chevy two door Bel Air hardtop with a 283 V-8 engine...a new offering for 1955 by Chevrolet. That all new power plant attracted a lot of tire kickers and subsequent buyers. And then there was the style of the '55. It leapt light years ahead of the '54 and represented an answer from designers to the challenge of a couple of years before from GM management ... pull out all the stops and see what you can do.

All of what Dad had told me about his '55 find was good news.

The bad news was that the car he was telling me about had been wrecked and was sitting in a neighbor's front yard with significant front end damage. That would have deterred most people from even considering a purchase. But it just so happened that my Dad was an auto mechanic who owned a salvage yard. Replacement fenders and other parts presented no problem...he had several acres of cars from which to cannibalize. But there was one other thing...the frame had been bent and he was not equipped to handle that.

I bought the car anyway and we found someone who claimed to specialize in bent frames. I'll shorten the story to say we restored the car and brought it back to its former showroom brilliance. The frame however, was never right after that and a new set of tires I bought were ground down to the cord within months. But that '55 Bel Air *looked* beautiful, and I never forgot it.

So much so, that I vowed to one day own another '55 Bel Air two door hardtop. I ultimately fulfilled that pledge to myself 46 years later.

I found its replacement in northwestern Arkansas, not too far from the Missouri border. It was solid black with a red interior...a fairly uncommon color combination. It had recently been the recipient of a total frame-off restoration,

*Continued on Page 5*



## Welcome New Members To DACC!

858

Michael Grubbs/Grubbs Motorsports  
225 E Buckingham Road  
Garland, TX 75040

859

Chris & Shanna Schwarz  
10822 Caprock Cir  
Dallas, TX 75218  
'57 Bel Air Hardtop



### ATTN: DACC Drag Racers

Spring is just around the corner and that means it's almost time to hit the strips! This month is the annual Texas Thaw Rod Show/Drag Races at Denton's Northstar Dragway, mark the date Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup> for this annual event. Then the first of the year long series of Texas Muscle Car Club Challenge events gets underway Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Texas Motorplex in Ennis where DACC Tri Five Chevys will begin the 2010 season. Watch the club chat board and weekly club email for more details on this and other events coming up!



## Buddy Love's DACC Blog



Follow the fictitious DACC member Buddy Love (a alter ego of a mysterious club member) as he experiences the ups and downs of being a old car hobbyist. Buddy is a cool cat and his blog is full of thoughts and ramblings (with a Tri Five Chevy spin) as he goes through life working on old cars, attending car shows and simply observing life from a different perspective. Catch the blog and follow it closely by linking over from the club website or the club's Facebook page.

## RELIABLE CHEVROLET EXTENDS DACC SPONSORSHIP FOR ANOTHER 12 MONTHS!

The Dallas Area Classic Chevys will continue to partner with Reliable Chevrolet in Richardson as a club sponsor for another 12 months! The DACC/Reliable relationship dates back to February of 2005, making this the 5th year in a row that our club has been supported by Reliable. Our thanks to General Sales Manager Jeff Power, General Manger Dave Anderson and all the employees and staff at Reliable for their support of our club over the past 5 years!

## WILSON AUTO REPAIR EXTENDS CLUB SPONSORSHIP!

Also renewing for another 6 month period is Wilson Auto Repair in Garland. Barry Wilson and the gang at the shop (that includes club members Tom McGee and Bryan Greenfield) have supported DACC since March of 2007 and this will continue into 2010. Remember if you need work done to your Tri Five Chevy, these guys know old Chevys! From simple drum brake rebuilds, complete frame off restorations, metal fab and more contact Barry Wilson or Bren Brandt at the shop to discuss your needs!



## Back to the 50's!

That was the theme at Denton's Café Du Luxe as the DACC attended this event in January as part of Café Du Luxe's 'Back to the 50's' Celebration. Although leading up to the weekend the DFW experienced single digit temperatures and howling winds, the Saturday evening bash had a nice turnout of Tri Five Chevys from DACC. The Café is owned by DACC members David and Jana Carles and they went out of their way to accommodate the club for this special celebration. Special throwback items (such as a killer Root Beer Float!) was on the menu, a strolling singer who had all the old hits memorized, old horror movie flicks playing all were just a part of the atmosphere for the weekend that was highlighted by the Favorite Picks Tri Five Chevy show.

Congrats to the winners of the 'Favorite Picks' from the show that include Greg Hedum with his '55 Hardtop, David Carles' 'under construction' '56 Sedan, Tim Page's '57 wagon, David Graves' '56 Vette and in it's debut display at a club event Geoff Clark's beautiful '57 pickup!

Special THANKS to David & Jana Carles and their staff for their hospitality and look for more events to come at Café Du Luxe!



More Photos at  
[www.DallasClassicChevy.com](http://www.DallasClassicChevy.com)

## COMING IN MARCH!

The club's biggest annual event is on Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup> from noon to 3PM! This may be the largest Spring Classic Chevy Show yet and there are reasons why! We will have goodie bags for the first 100 cars, dash plaques for the first 100 cars, DOOR PRIZES! (we already have prizes from Eckler's Classic Chevy, Classic Performance Products, Reliable Chevrolet, 104 Octane Plus, Rock Auto and Meguiars), there is no entry fee, no judging, only favorite picks by Reliable Chevrolet, Wilson Auto Repair and

Heritage Insurance, a special 'CACKLEFEST' for all open headered cars!, free hot dogs, burgers, drinks and LIVE MUSIC by the *GHOST SURFERS!*

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS BRING YOUR '55-'57 CHEVY CAR, TRUCK OR VETTE street car, race car, show car or project – ALL ARE WELCOMED!

**THE PLACE TO BE IS  
 RELIABLE CHEVROLET  
 SATURDAY MARCH 13,  
 Noon to 3PM**



## DACC 2010 Calendar of Events

**Jan 9<sup>th</sup> Saturday** – Tri Five Show at Café DuLuxe in Denton

**Feb 19-21 Weekend** – DACC Tri Five Display at 50<sup>th</sup> ISCA Dallas Autorama, Market Hall, Dallas

**Mar 5-7 Weekend** – DACC Tri Five Chevy Display at Ft Worth MotoRama Show, Will Rogers Center, Ft Worth

**Mar 13 Saturday** – Spring Classic Chevy Show, DACC's LARGEST event of the year, Favorite Picks of each year Tri Five Chevy along with truck and vette, 'CACKLEFEST', Live Band, Food, Goodie Bags, dash plaques for first 100 cars – DON'T MISS THIS at Reliable Chevrolet, Richardson

**April 11 Sunday** – Poker Run sponsored by DACC Ladies Group, details TBA

**May 14-16 Weekend** – 28<sup>th</sup> Lone Star Classic Chevy Convention in San Antonio, [www.LoneStarChevys.com](http://www.LoneStarChevys.com)

**June 12 Saturday** – DACC Tri Five Chevy Dyno Challenge, Speedtek, Haltom City

**July 4 Sunday** – DACC Tri Five Chevys at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Arlington

**Aug 21 Saturday** – DACC Tri Five Chevys at the Hot Texas Nights Car Show & 'Dinner Before the Show', N Richland Hills

**Sept 11 Saturday** – Fall Classic Chevy Show, Tri Five Chevy only display with Favorite Picks in each year, truck and vette, Reliable Chevrolet, Richardson

**Sept/Oct TBA** – State Fair of Texas Tri Five Chevy Display

**Oct 9 Saturday** – 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Drive In Movie Cruise to the Brazos Drive In and the Granbury Town Square, Granbury

**Oct 22-24** – Fall Foliage Tour hosted by the Springfield Classic Chevy Club to Branson, MO

**Nov 13 Sat** – DACC Annual Meeting location TBA

**Dec 11 Sat** – DACC Ramp Build & Christmas event, details TBA

### Michael Brown's '55 Bel Air Feature Car Continued

and sported a 283 cu. in. V8 with a factory three speed manual transmission and column shift. Though I now own a small collection of Corvettes, all of which have floor shift, it had been many, many years since I had driven a column shift. It all came back to me in a rush though and now, driving my 'new' '55 Bel Air is one of my favorite things to do. I had it shipped to Texas from Arkansas and when it was backed off the covered transport, it needed nothing but a driver, and I was eager to fill that role. I still am.

I'm also a collector who is pretty much a 'stock' car kind of guy. My cars, including the '55 Bel Air, all are either original or restored to appear that way. I made one concession to that, however. The little '55 V8 purred like a kitten, but it needed some...character. (Not the term I would use if I were telling this to a bunch of guys in a bar, but a term I should use here). I added some glass packs to the dual exhaust and now it sounds just about right.

As every Tri-Fiver knows, 1955 opened the flood gates for a new era of design, engineering and class for Chevrolet. And several decades after those flood gates were opened, I'm once again glad to have 'gotten my feet wet' with a '55 classic.

And I'm also pleased to say, the frame on it is arrow straight.



More photos at [DallasClassicChevy.com](http://DallasClassicChevy.com)



# Wilson Auto Repair

**3133 Saturn Rd, Garland Tx 75041**

**972-271-3579**

[www.WilsonAuto.com](http://www.WilsonAuto.com)





www.DallasClassicChevy.com

PO Box 814642  
Dallas, TX 75381

**INDOOR CAR SHOWS**  
**DALLAS AUTORAMA**  
**FEB 19-21**  
**Ft WORTH MOTORAMA**  
**MAR 5-7**

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1<sup>st</sup> Class Mail



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