

CLASSIC HEARTBEAT

December 2012

TEXAS' LARGEST AND MOST ACTIVE CAR CLUB EXCLUSIVELY FOR '55, '56 AND '57
CHEVY CARS, TRUCKS AND CORVETTES – CHEVROLET'S GOLDEN ERA!

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PO Box 814642
Dallas, TX 75381

www.DallasClassicChevy.com

Current Membership - 166

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – David Graves

214 738-5231 term expires 12/13

Vice Pres – Greg Hedum

972 539-9886 term expires 12/12

Treasurer – Billie Walker

972 287-7642 term expires 12/12

Secretary – Larry Epperson

214 546-4464 term expires 12/13

Board Member – Marvin Cowden

972 262-5632 term expires 12/12

Board Member - Alan Strong

972 624-8836 term expires 12/13

Board Member – George Johnson

817 457-3967 term expires 12/12

Appointed Positions

WRENCHES Rep – Don Andre

817 481-3468

WRENCHES Rep – Bill Preston

972 691-4968

Tech Advisor - Larry Rollow

972 960-1408

Membership Chairman

Joe Ortega

972 642-5171

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.

THIS WEEKEND DACC CELEBRATES THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND SPIRIT WITH TWO EVENTS!

This Saturday December 8th the DACC will join forces with the DallasRamps.org group to build wheelchair ramps for those in need.

Plan to meet at 7:30 when teams are divided up and ramp modules are loaded to be taken to the jobsite. The meeting location is at the back of Freed's Furniture warehouse at 4720 Simonton Road (near LBJ and Midway). We need volunteers to make this happen so if you would like to pitch in please contact Greg Hedum ASAP at 972 539-9886 so that he can make the proper plans. If you have a 3/8 corded or cordless drill – please bring it along with some work gloves. ANY ONE CAN HELP on these ramp builds so please consider taking a morning of your time to pitch in with other club members to help someone that needs a wheelchair ramp! Normally you will be finished by noon.

GOT QUESTIONS? Call Greg at 972 539-9886!

This Sunday December 9th the DACC will have our Christmas Party at the home of Rich Purvis.

We will meet at Rich Purvis home in Grapevine at 1811 Parkwood and expect a TREAT as Rich goes ALL OUT for Christmas! If you like Christmas decorations then this is the place to be Sunday! All of the food and drinks will be provided, you are welcomed to bring a dessert but there will be crab/pasta salad, veggies, dips, cold cuts, relish trays etc provided. The beer, wine and liquor will also be provided. We will do our traditional 'White Elephant Gift Exchange' which is always lots of fun! If you bring a \$10 - \$20 gift you get to play so if both spouses want to play then you must bring TWO gifts!

Gifts can be really good or they can be really BAD.

GOT QUESTIONS? Call Rich at 817 329-1210!

CHECK YOUR CLUB EMAIL THIS WEEK FOR
LINKS TO MAPS TO BOTH EVENTS!



19th Annual Classic Chevy Fall Foliage Tour Fayetteville, Arkansas

Randy and Dolly Resh hosted the 19th Annual 2012 Classic Chevy Fall Foliage Cruise this past October 26-27. This year's event took place in Fayetteville, Arkansas and was headquartered at the local Holiday Inn.

Three Tri Five Chevs from DACC met in Denison, Texas on Thursday morning to caravan to Arkansas together. The mechanics got busy immediately as Dan Bunch discovered a tiny leak in the filler neck of his radiator. Larry Epperson got him some JB Weld and emergency tape which got Dan's '57 Chevy through the next 600 miles of the weekend. (But that didn't get them home and on the return trip they got back to Denison on Sunday and he found a second leak and called Triple A to tow the car on home to Mesquite.) We drove in light rain from Eufaula, Oklahoma to Fayetteville, but it was still enjoyable and through lovely scenery. Thursday evening our small DACC group, Bill and Diane Preston, Larry and Dianne Epperson, Dan Bunch and Vickie Penney all enjoyed dinner at Ruby Tuesdays. Then we visited with all the other Chevy owners from Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas as they arrived. The Preston's taught the other DACC attendees the art of playing Chicken Feet as this is a Fall Foliage tradition!

Friday afternoon Randy led us out to the War Eagle Mill west of town that is famous for its huge arts and crafts festival every year. The previous weekend had been the craft festival, so we could enjoy a leisurely lunch in the third floor restaurant, browsing the first and second floor gift shop and learning about the history of this working mill. The scenery was spectacular as usual!

Friday evening the Resh's hosted our group of 80 for a barbeque dinner in their hangar at their home west of Fayetteville. Greg Miller of J&L Classic Chevy Parts graciously furnished the meal for our group. The sight of all those Chevys parked next to the grass runway with the gorgeous fall foliage in the background was worth the trip!

Saturday morning Randy and Dolly outlined the route for the day and gave us maps, directions and a cute little "fill in the blank" puzzle of weird, hillbilly street names we would see on the way. Our cruise took us south out of Fayetteville down the state line, through the Ozark National Forest to Alma, Arkansas. There we scattered to the many local restaurants for lunch. We met back up



at 1 pm at Two Sisters Antique Mall to satisfy the "shopping need" of the ladies and to give everyone time to eat and gas up.

The return trip to Fayetteville went north on Scenic Highway 71 through Fort Smith State Park where we took a break and had another opportunity to get some good photos of the cars in a beautiful setting. We continued north to West Fork, Arkansas where we visited J&L Classic Chevy Parts. Greg's collection of Classic Chevys and parts is an amazing sight scattered up the mountain on every flat spot he owns. There are also many buildings and storage trailers housing the restorable cars that we didn't even get a glimpse at! You can visit his web site at: www.gregsclassiccarsparts.com and he also has a full restoration shop.

We finished up Saturday's cruise at Catfish Hole Restaurant in Fayetteville, where we had the entire east dining room together to enjoy dinner. Saturday evening we returned to the Resh's hangar to have our traditional activities of gift exchange, stories and getting information on the next year's Fall Foliage Cruise. Poker, dominoes and general BS continued at the hotel until after we went to bed! Sunday morning we all went our separate ways, knowing we'd see everyone again next year.

DACC is the host club for the 2013 Classic Chevy Fall Foliage Cruise and Diane and Bill Preston will be heading it up. It will be at Lakeview Lodge in Beavers Bend Resort Park, located 6 miles north of Broken Bow, Oklahoma on Hwy. 259 on Friday and Saturday, October 25-26, 2013. Make your reservations under "Classic Chevy Fall Foliage" before August 30th by calling 800-435-5514, or go to Beaversbend.com on the net. All rooms have a spectacular view of the lake with private balcony or patio, coffee makers, telephone & cable TV. A complimentary continental breakfast until 10 am for all hotel guests. Expect the Lodge to sell out and when that occurs contact the Hochatown Country Lodge and Cabins that are in the park at (580) 494-6099 or web at HochatownLodge.com.

Event flyer with full info on the 2013 20th Annual Classic Chevy Fall Foliage Cruise will be available soon on the club web site under 'Calendar' all located at www.DallasClassicChevy.com.

PHOTOS FROM FAYETTEVILLE ON THE CLUB WEBSITE!





I grew up in North Dallas at the intersection of Forest Lane and Greenville Ave. I was the oldest of four boys. (no stinkin' girls!) My dad had a good knowledge of cars which I guess is where I got the car thing from. My uncle bought the '55 from the original owners who purchased it new from Mohr Chevrolet in Dallas. I still have the chrome dealer plate. Well as time went by, the car eventually needed a valve job and my uncle was not good with cars. So my dad stepped in and traded my uncle a '66 Chevy wagon for the '55 and \$500.

The first mechanic job I can remember doing was pulling the head of the 235 straight six and taking it to City Motors for freshening. We then rebuilt the wheel cylinders and brakes, put a new exhaust with a single cherry bomb on it and then took it to be painted at Earl Shieb's. It was originally a dark green/light green two tone paint scheme. We painted it all white and put brown vinyl over the green seats. It still had the big steering wheel and the three on the tree.

My mom drove it for a couple of years. She used to take us to our soccer games at Richland College or Fritz Park. All our games were at different times, so the rule was to either come watch your brother play or wait at the car. Well.. we decided to wait ON the car,

with our cleats! I can remember climbing on the roof to get up high and find her off in the distance. I can still hear the engine hood go "fa fump" after we got off of it. We would chase each other all over that car. I am sure people driving by just shook their heads when they saw what we were playing on.

I started driving the car when I was 14. By the time I took my driving test I could parallel park it and drive it backwards as good as I could drive it forwards. I took my driving test and when I finished the trooper said the only mark against me was that I didn't down shift coming to a stop. Who knew..I did that on my motorcycle but not in my Chevy.

Then I started driving it to school. I used to have to park it on a hill so I could push start it (the starter was bad). I took it to Grapevine Lake once and the wiring harness shorted on the firewall hole and I had white smoke everywhere. I found some old speaker wire in the road and re-wired it on the spot to get home.

I graduated from Lake Highlands High School in 1980. I went right to work for a mechanic in South Dallas called Lopez Automotive. It was a favor my dad called in for me. I had a gift to tear



PHILIP ROMO FEATURE CAR CONTINUED

down and fix most anything. It was that fall that my dad bought me the V8 motor. He had seen a '56 Chevy truck body and the man selling it told him he had a motor for it that had just been rebuilt. My dad bought the motor and brought it to the garage. We set the Chevy up in the back and he and I worked on it for a week. Finally it was ready to fire up and when we did a thick blue smoke came pouring out. This motor was actually the one the seller had taken out of his 1970 Chevrolet truck. So we pulled it out and the rebuild began.

I had it bored .30 and went back with TRW forged crank and pistons at 9.5:1 stock compression. I didn't want it to ping. I milled the heads .10 and put an Edelbrock Performer intake on it with a Holly 600. I used an Accel dual point distributor along with 1957 "ram horn" manifolds, high volume fuel and oil pump and the original 2 core radiator along with the 3 speed transmission.

Then on New Years Eve night 1980 I painted it candy apple red over silver lacquer. Since I had taken a hack saw to the rear fender wells and pulled out the lip of the opening I decided I wasn't going back original. I had decided to put a "pop top" in it. The owner of the body shop, Big Simon, said "come back to the back and I will show you something". My father and I went to the back and under a tarp was the back half of a 1974 Lincoln Continental with an electric moon roof. \$600 later the moon roof was in my car with a button on the dash! I have not seen another 1955 Chevrolet with an electric moon roof yet. The paint job came out great and the car glowed. When it was finished I took the car and my girlfriend to White Rock Lake for a cruise. I had just hit the road along the lake when I guy ran out into the road waving me to stop. He pulled out a tripod in the street and put his camera on it and took some pictures. He told me he was with the UNT paper doing a story on "Cruising White Rock". It was so cool! I had a friend who was riding his bike on the other side of the lake and he said that he could see my car's paint job and knew it was me so he rode over.

Well I made it to the next summer and I had to replace the clutch. So I put an 11 inch Zoom. I had to drive on Central expressway to and from work, so I had the strongest left leg in town. By now three of the four boys where driving and I came home one day and the drive way was full. So I parked out in the street...across the street to

be safe. Well I jumped in the pool and next thing I remember was the phone in my room ringing. I picked it up and it was my mom..strange..she said "Philip...it's your car!" I threw the phone down and ran through the house dripping wet to find my car's rear end had been crushed. My brother was late for work and jumped in his 1956 Chevy 3/4 ton truck and threw that baby into reverse and pulled out of the driveway without looking. BAM! My mother told him to "Get out of here" and then when he was a safe distance away she called me.

I cooled off and ended up buying a '81 Chevy Silverado Truck. I had the body work on the '55 Chevy done to fix the damage but with payments and higher full coverage insurance I couldn't raise the money to paint it. Well 9 years later my high school reunion was coming up and I convinced my wife to allow me to spend the money and have my cousin paint the car at his shop in Plano. It took him almost a whole year and he cut some rear fender wells out of a spare 1955 Chevrolet he had and we painted the car 1990 Corvette Red using Deltron and added a Violet Pearl in the clear coat. That is the paint job it has on it today. I have always been able to keep it in the garage but for the last year it has been outside. I bought a 2001 BMW 740IL to turn and sell and the transmission went out on me and I haven't had the money to get it fixed. Not a good situation.

Ruby still runs good but I would love to do a rebuild if I could. I have three teenagers and I have built two cars for two of them. The youngest loves the old cars. I am lucky to still have her and once she is cleaned up she looks good from 20 feet away or zooming down the road. I still get the "thumbs up" signs too. I love this car and it has always been my first love..but my wife Adelita is my inspiration. She is the reason why I didn't paint it midnight blue like I always wanted..but blood red.

I give praise to my God and use the car as a conversation piece and in ministry. With my church in Frisco we had a ministry called I55. Whoever invited the most kids to youth that week would win a ride in the '55 from school and a stop at Sonic on the way home. We would park in front of the school and roll out a red carpet and make a big scene, passing out cards and talking to kiddos while the 200 watt stereo was blasting. Great fun and we brought some kids to the Lord in the process. That I believe is why I still have the car and can share this testimony with others.



Welcome New Members

#936

Chris Graves & Tera Wendland
2310 Benbrook
Carrollton, TX 75007
'55 Bel Air 4dr Sedan

#937

Herschel & Regina Cronin
12211 Thornbriar
Pearland, TX 77581
'55 2 dr Sedan drag car

#938

Bobby & Nancy Marriott
11861 Foutch Road
Pilot Point, TX 76258
'55 Bel Air 2dr Sedan
'56 Pickup

#939

Lupe & Elaine Gonzalez
1400 Pine Hurst Drive
Coppell, TX 75019
'55 Bel Air

DACC ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS!

The Annual Meeting of DACC took place last month at the fantastic Jack Junkies DIY Automotive Garage in Plano. Food was on the agenda along with club elections and all was a success! The menu was BBQ with fixings and special thanks go out to Marvin Cowden, George Johnson and Andy Salinas for their help with that. Officer elections were conducted by our Secretary Larry Epperson and back in for another two year term were Greg Hedum – VP and Board Member Marvin Cowden. Giving up their positions for some new blood was Treasurer Billie Walker and Board Member George Johnson. DACC elected Tom Walker as the next Treasurer and John Rogers was elected to the Board of Directors. A SPECIAL THANKS to Billie and George for their past service to the club and a big welcome to Tom and John! Thanks also to Jack Junkies for allowing us to use their facility and all the members who came out to the meeting and drove their '55-'57 Chevs!



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SAVE THE DATE - March 9th, 2013 SPRING





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Saturday - WHEELCHAIR RAMP BUILDING
Sunday - CHRISTMAS PARTY

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