

August, 2013

The Sidepipe is published monthly by the Oklahoma Chapter NCRS, Inc. • <http://www.ncrs-ok.org>

## Chairman's Comments

by Neal Kennedy

**T**alk about bringing home the gold! Oklahoma Chapter NCRS members made a haul at the National Convention in Hampton, Virginia. Geeze, where do I start?

How 'bout a near-perfect 99.6 score for Joel Miller's polo white '57 Corvette. Wow! In fact, Joel lost only 29 points total on all four judging sheets. That is, interior, engine, mechanical, and chassis. The only serious potential glitch he ran into was the trunk. It seems it wouldn't open. Kinda tough getting through the operations check when the key won't do the job. No problem when you have a crack team helping with presentation of the car for judging, aka Don Partridge. Joel's crew chief, top-wrench, Corvette confidant, parts consultant, and traveling buddy, Don came through with a low-tech solution. I'll let him tell you all about it at the breakfast.

Past National Judging Chairman and a charter Oklahoma Chapter member, Roy Sinor was honored with the National Achievement Award, a very rare and exclusive presentation. Roy is credited by many as the guy who shepherded the judging criteria through its sometimes difficult evolution. Roy's knowledge was notably demonstrated in the C2 Corvettes. But his ability to rattle through serial numbers like a computer is not restricted to those years. Roy was, for a long time, National Judging Team Leader for the midyears. In fact, the total is 17 years in various national offices. Ask to see his Superbowl-sized ring when you congratulate him.

But wait. There's more. Don came home with a Special Support Award recognizing his efforts in advancing the hobby. Along with Joel and Roy, I'll suggest you get the details from each honoree. Certainly we are all very proud of them. Don has been Joel's right-hand-man for years, working on

Miller's '57, '58 "Pooch" drag racer, '62, and Top Flight '96. The Partridge name has been cited nationally before.

Don's dad, Buck, was recognized for his expertise as a mechanic as well as one of the main forces establishing a national certification process still in use today. Now, the family tradition continues with Don's national award. Don didn't know the honor was coming at the banquet. A nice surprise and well deserved.

Those three guys are long-time members of our NCRS Oklahoma Chapter. We're all privileged to have them representing us so well at the national level. A good reason to come to the August Chapter meeting is to get their tales of the National Convention. It was certainly a long haul towing a car for Joel and Don. But I betcha it seemed like a shorter trip rolling home with miles of smiles and a truck full of awards.

## August Breakfast Meeting

**O**ur monthly breakfast will take place on Saturday, August 3. The location is Ollie's Station Restaurant in the Redfork area of West Tulsa. The address is 4070 Southwest Blvd. The phone number is (918)446-0524, in case you need it.

You can choose the buffet or you can order from the menu. The time to be there is 8:30 a.m., but people always start arriving by 8:00 - 8:15 a.m.

## *Attitude Adjustment Night*

The gathering place for our August Attitude Adjustment Night on Tuesday evening, Aug 20, will be The Rib Crib Restaurant, 8040 South Yale. We have the use of a meeting room for our group.

The time people start to arrive is 5:30 p.m. Most are there before 6:00 p.m. The food is quite good and Tuesday night is "Rib Night" - all the ribs and side orders that you can eat for \$10.99. There are specials on beer, too.

## *www.ncrs-ok.org - Under New Construction*

by Kelly Bolton

The Oklahoma Chapter Web-Site is under new construction and will be coming soon to a monitor near you. The Oklahoma Chapter has established a Web-Site Steering Committee and the same [www.ncrs-ok.org](http://www.ncrs-ok.org) address will soon take you to our newly constructed web-site. Plan is to show the "Prototype" at the August Chapter Meeting to demonstrate the user friendly read/write access for several chapter members and the eight essential sections:

- 1 - Home Page
- 2 - Membership
- 3 - Events
- 4 - Newsletters
- 5 - Photo Albums
- 6 - Contacts
- 7 - Corvette Classified and Restoration Tips
- 8 - Links

After the initial review, several members will be asked to help refine and finalize individual sections. Final review and release is planned for the September Chapter Meeting. Plan for our reenergized web-site is to get the word out about the NCRS, Oklahoma Chapter and to provide additional benefits to our members and sponsors.

## *A Lifetime of Love*

by Danny J Beck

Very few people can go back to their childhood and emphatically say they still love something, but I am one of those lucky people that can! I always, from an early age, have loved the Lord, my family and Chevrolets. How can a 5-year old love a car. My oldest brother, 16 years my senior, had a Canyon Coral and Shadow gray '55 Bel Air hardtop when I was three. My middle brother, 12 years my senior had a '57 Bel Air convertible when I was 5. I used to wash them with a bucket and hose for a quarter and then I could go riding with them, especially in the '57 convertible.

About that time Chevrolet got real active in television advertising sponsoring the Chevy Show with Dinah Shore, Bonanza and others. I was enthralled by the neat ads and cars of the fifties. And then came along Route 66 with the cool Vettes that changed to next year's model with each season change. I loved that show because it had an interesting plot every week and because those guys looked so cool cruising around with the top down. I would never miss an episode and have most of them on DVD now!!!

In 1963 my middle brother Jerry's best friend bought a silver split window coupe with a four speed. He came out to the farm on Sunday, the next day after he bought it, to show my brother. I crawled in the back on all fours and he took us for a thrilling and very fast ride down 121<sup>st</sup> St. I will never forget that morning. As of that moment I knew that someday I would have my own Vette.

A couple of years later another event shook me. Mom had a standing beauty appointment at 9:30 on Friday morning. She always said she had to get "prettized" for church on Sunday morning. About three blocks south of the beauty shop on Main St. in Broken Arrow was Bradley Chevrolet. I would jump out of the car as soon as she put it in park and run down to the dealership. One morning in late June or early July, it was really hot I remember, I ran down to look at the cars on the showroom. When I got there, they had a white Corvette coupe with red interior which I thought was cool but on the other end of the showroom was a car I never forgot, a 1965 Stingray convertible, Nassau Blue with white interior. I don't



remember if it was a four speed, an automatic or any other details except it had a cool wooden steering

wheel and those gorgeous three bar spinner hubcaps with the checkered flag logos. Wow! What a car. I sat in that car for two hours. The salesmen did not care as I visited them weekly. I read all the car magazines when other kid read Mad magazine, and I knew about all the new products, engines, colors, etc, many times before the guys at Bradley Chevrolet did. The sales

manager then, George Ferrell, was later my boss when I went to work at Ramsey Chevrolet in Bixby. He told the



salesmen in a sales meeting one morning that when I was 10 years old I could have outsold any salesmen that worked there because I knew more about the products and Chevrolet than they did!!

Anyway back to that morning. Mom came out of the beauty shop and I was not hanging around on the sidewalk.

She knew where I was so she circled around the block and pulled up in front of the



dealership. I was in a dream fantasy for two hours wishing I was 16, rich, and could take that car home with me. I was only 12 so my fantasies were about as realistic as going on a date with Ann Margaret!!! Mom honked the horn because I did not notice her and I

ran out and said, "Mom, some day I will have one of those!" She said, Well, that is sure a pretty color." We went home to the farm, now Haikey Park on south Garnett, and I sat in my swing all after-noon memorizing my '65 Corvette brochure.

In 1965 Chevrolet came out with some great new products. The '65 396 Chevelle came out late in the model year. and Bradley had a butternut yellow coupe with a four speed, and I fell in love with it. Then. there was the new Caprice which was much finer than a Ford LTD!!! In 1966 the new Nova body style came out and I was in love with a bright blue metallic with bright blue strato back vinyl buckets with the 375 hp. 327 four speed. Also I lusted after a red Corvette coupe with a 396 four speed as well. Then came the '67 Camaros with the neat bumble bee stripes. Then the new Chevelle SS in 1968 swept me away, but I never forgot the Nassau blue 1965 convertible with white interior. Someday I will find one I just know it.

End of part one.

## *NCRS National Convention Highlights For Oklahoma Chapter Members*

**R**oy Sinor received the NCRS Lifetime Achievement award and his granddaughter, Raelee, sang the National Anthem at the Awards Banquet during the NCRS national convention at Hampton, Virginia.



Don Partridge was awarded the National Support Team Award at the convention.



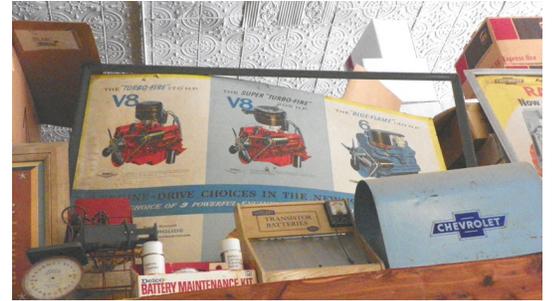
Joel Miller scored a 99.6 in Duntov judging with his restored 1957 Corvette. At the Awards Banquet, he received the Duntov Award for his car.



## *Pete's Place But No Spaghetti*

By Neal Kennedy

Nope. We didn't drive to Krebs on this Corvette cruise. We motored down to Stroud on Old Highway 66. The food was still good, though. But I get ahead of myself. We had a big table full at The Rock Café. Even had acoupla members overflow into a booth. Oops, there I go getting ahead of myself again.



July 20<sup>th</sup> was the regular monthly breakfast day for the local Chapter meeting of the Pearl Harbor Survivors. We shared the meeting room at Ollie's with



those interesting fellows and some of their wives. Stories were swapped and they even included us in

some of their activities recognizing the Veterans in our club as well as theirs. Then we rolled out on Historic Route 66.

Nine Corvettes and 16 people headed west to former Oklahoma Chapter NCRS member Pete Sawatzky's place of bidness. RT 66

Restoration Supplies has added two display cases to the museum.

That took extra time for those of us

who had been to Pete's before. And those who were rookies this trip discovered a treasured collection of Chevy stuff.

Pete's customary "Identify the Parts" quiz was especially tough this visit. Verle Rabdolph and Phil Gray recognized a couple of the nine items

Pete had pulled out for hands-on examination. Most of the group were like me. Couldn't positively identify a single one.

Couldn't positively identify a single one.



Next stop was the legendary Rock Café, marking our first visit since it burned to the ground a few years ago. It looked pretty much the same, just brand new. My bacon cheeseburger was great but the French fries were exceptional, cut from real potatoes with the skin still on 'em and served HOT. I'm glad the owner decided to rebuild the historic landmark. Even the parking lot was improved, and full of a variety of vehicles including an early 50's panel wagon street rod. It was NICE! The Harley's that had stopped by had just departed when we were finished at Pete's place.

We really didn't "stop" at the Rock. The Vettes stayed parked across the street, Main Street, Stroud, America, also known as Route 66. Numerous sections of the old original road were clearly visible as we headed back to Tulsa. With three C1 Corvettes grouped together near the front of the pack, one had to wonder if the trip scared up any ghosts along the Mother Road. Yes, it starts in St. Louie, runs down through Missouri, and Oklahoma City looks oh so pretty....but. It could be the stretch between Tulsa and Stroud is establishing a tradition for the Oklahoma Chapter NCRS tour every ten years or so. We had been there in each of the two previous decades. Anybody up for a return trip in 2022?



# Still Sexy At 60

By Roy Bragg

Gary Hendley remembers the moment, 53 years ago, when he first saw the car that was meant for him.



It was 1960. I was in junior high. One of the history teachers bought a 1960 White C1 (Corvette). The moment I saw it, I fell in love with it. As a kid growing up in South Texas in those days, I had a love for mechanical things and speed and adventure. It was one of those things where I said, "I'll own one of those one day." Of course, I meant I'd own it by 1962 or something. But then real life took over."

Real life meant 41 years of muscle cars, family cars and junk cars. But by 2001, Hendley could fulfill his dream: a 1-year-old Corvette C5, pewter-colored with black interior.

Hendley, now 65 and senior vice president at EDC Moving Systems in San Antonio, would go on to own three Corvettes at different times. He currently owns a 2008 C6.



America's love affair with the Chevrolet Corvette turned 60 on Sunday. A banquet and factory tour at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky, sold out. Car clubs across the country scheduled events on Saturday and Sunday to honor the milestone.

Corvette isn't all nostalgia. Workers at the factory, across the street from the Corvette Museum, are re-tooling the plant to make the seventh generation of Corvette, called the C7, scheduled to be released early next year.

Marked by long, curving lines and riding low to the ground, the Corvette is revered for its style and its power. Like Milla Jovovich in the "Resident Evil" movies, it's attractive but packs a punch.

"There's a mystique about it," said Donna Sandoval, a staffer at the National Corvette Owner's Association in Falls Church, Va. "It's style. It's the bodies. They're not square. They're sleek and nice looking. To me, it's like a love affair. There's this feeling that when you sit in it, it looks very nice. It's got deep exhaust sounds. It's powerful. It sounds when you step on it, it's going to take you somewhere that you want to go. It's a thrill."

"The car's owners tend to be older," she said. That might be because the car became a symbol for American freedom and mobility in "Route 66," a television show that ran from 1960 to 1964.



"It played a lot into the lore of Corvette ownership," Hendley said. "Two young guys just going across the country, getting into adventures. It symbolized adventure and freedom."

Then there are the gear-head qualities.

"The engineering of Corvette has been focused on the experimental side, developing the handling and horsepower and the speed, that sort of thing," Hendley said. "If you're bent on American muscle, that's always been the way to go. The Corvette is the height of American muscle."

"Today, when I look at Ferraris, they don't grab me the way the Corvette does," said Mark Horner, another

owner. "Even a Porsche doesn't have the styling that a Corvette has. The Corvette is a sexy car. It's the best-looking car out there."

The Corvette first appeared in 1953 and has been in continuous production since then. Its fans are more like well-meaning stalkers, who await the arrival of each new model, but are just as likely to buy an old one.

Some, like Hendley, buy one at a time. Others, such as Horner, 44, go all in.

He has owned as many as six Corvettes at once, spanning four of the six generations that have rolled out of the plant. He retired this month from the military.

"My Corvette addiction," he admitted, "has gotten a little out of hand."

Before buying his first one in 1996, Horner and wife Beth Horner — also a muscle car fanatic — were living in California, where he was stationed. They spent weekends scouring California and Nevada for a classic Corvette at the right price. In the process, they met a lot of other Corvette owners.

Another aspect of Corvette ownership: Corvette owners tend to bond. Hendley and Horner said their social lives revolve around other Corvette owners. They go to dinner, make road trips, go on cruises together.

"It became a social network," Hendley said. "There's no one that owns the Corvette because it's a status thing. Most of us are 50, 60 years old. We've got members at 80 years old. But that car has taken me on many trips with these people. We do trips to Ruidoso, Yellowstone Park. It's like a motorcycle club."

Horner, Hendley and Hendley's next-door neighbor, Bernie Jensen, all belong to the San Antonio-based Texas Corvette Association.

Jensen's got two Corvettes in the garage of his Hollywood Park home and has owned 35 of them in previous years.

He bought his first 35 years ago.

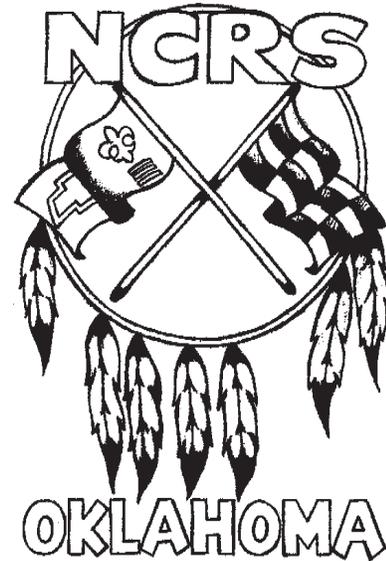
"I waited until I could write a check for it," he said. "And I wanted my kids to be grown up enough so that they would stay away from them."

Unlike some purists who don't alter the cars beyond

restoration, Jensen had a revved-up air conditioner installed in his 1966 coupe.

"At my age," he said, "I know I'm looking cool in that car. But I've got to be cool, too."

(from July 27, 2013, San Antonio's Home Page,  
*San Antonio Express News*  
Brought to our attention by David Dutton)



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### *Corvette Classified*

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**For Sale:** C1 rear leaf spring banding tool (notcher/crimper) and banding kit. Correct tool width and modified for single notch insertion as in original appearance of band installation. \$60 OBO.

Dean Rose 918-286-1077 or [deanrose@cox.net](mailto:deanrose@cox.net)

**For Sale:** 1965 – 1969 NOS Grill Brackets, \$15.00 per bracket. I have more 1969 brackets than mid-year. Phone me with part number, year, and brief description.

Part #14101127 \$450

These also could be used for street rods as well as Corvettes - NOS Late 86-87 Corvette Aluminum Heads with Valves

Call John Neas  
(w) 918-749-7741 (c) 918-231-4454

## Upcoming Events

- Aug 3 Oklahoma Chapter Breakfast Meeting - Ollie's Station Restaurant - 4070 Southwest Blvd - Tulsa, OK  
Aug 20 Attitude Adjustment Night - Rib Crib Restaurant - 8040 South Yale Ave. - Tulsa, OK  
Aug 23-25 Corvette Carlisle - Carlisle, Pennsylvania  
Sept 7 Oklahoma Chapter Breakfast Meeting - Ollie's Station Restaurant - 4070 Southwest Blvd - Tulsa, OK  
Sept 19-22 NCRS Regional - Kenner, Louisiana - See *Driveline* for info  
Sept 21 Annual Ice Cream Social/Picnic at the Blakey's home - Details next *Sidepipe*  
Oct 17-19 NCRS Texas Regional - Frisco/Dallas, Texas - See *Driveline* for info  
Dec 7 Annual Christmas Party and Dinner -

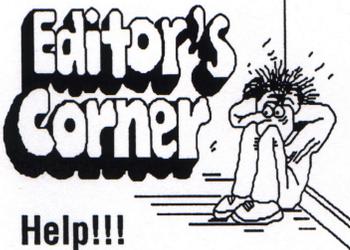


Thanks to Brad Williams and Mazzio's for continuing to support the Oklahoma Chapter NCRS. We appreciate your help.

## NCRS Communication

To keep up to date with the latest news from your Oklahoma Chapter NCRS and your Region VII Director, be sure to advise Bob Clark or Don Partridge of any e-mail address changes. This also applies to phone numbers and new mailing addresses.

If your address is not current, then you will not receive the latest news and information.



Thanks to Neal Kennedy, Kelly Bolton, Phil Gray, Danny Beck and David Dutton for their contributions to this issue.

Thanks also go to Jim Elder, Neal Kennedy, and Verle Randolph for their continuing help in folding and mailing.

\*\*\* **Please** think about writing an article or contributing an item of interest for the newsletter. This can be a tech tip you've found, an article to reprint from another publication that would be of interest, a personal experience that would interest other members, or an item of news about the chapter or its members. Remember, include pictures if you can. Your Corvette classified ads are welcome, too. You can mail, e-mail, FAX, or loan me a diskette or flash drive (Windows or Macintosh). **Remember!!** Your help is needed to make this newsletter a voice of our chapter!

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