

THE

SIDE PIPE

December, 2013

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER



NATIONAL CORVETTE RESTORERS SOCIETY

<http://www.ncrs-ok.org>

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Chairman's Comments

by Neal Kennedy

Here we go again. Now that the initial road tests of the C7 Corvettes have been featured in all the magazines, it's time for the "challenge" articles. In the *Motor Trend* three-way contest, the Porsche 911 Carrera 4S price tag was well over TWICE the cost of the Vette. The Ferrari F12 Berlinetta was more than SIX TIMES the Z51's \$68,775 window sticker! The numbers are for "as tested" models. Porsche \$151,260. Ferarri \$434,144. A fair comparison?

Not to worry. We've been here before.

Another magazine, *Car and Driver*, pitted another Z51 Vette against a twice-as-expensive Prosche 911 Carrera S. After noting the C7 had an \$8500 interior package, C&D writes, "Even at an as-tested \$68,375, the Corvette retains its value proposition. But our prior exposure to the C7 suggests this may finally be a Corvette that doesn't rely on price alone to conquer the 911."

Both magazines were very complimentary of the 2014 Corvette. I'll not try to interpret the articles for you. Check them out for your self. C&D is the November 2013 issue. MT is the December 2013's offering. I'm not bitchin' as much as just pointing out how far the publications have to go to get a "good" comparison.

Things seem to be improving on the ethanol battlefield. The administration is backing off the push for 15 percent ethanol. Many senators and congressmen are no longer championing the corn fuel crusade. Especially those running for reelection in 2014. Hmmm, imagine that. Reduced dependence on foreign oil and environmental concerns are among the reasons. President

Obama's administration proposes reducing the amount of ethanol in the nation's fuel supply. That's the first time for bringing the numbers down since the requirements were set in 2007.

Lotsa tree-huggers seem to be changing their positions on ethanol's wonderfulness. If they are genuinely interested in doing what's good for the planet, as I am, the lights are coming on... if they have a brain. The environmentalists seem to be waking up to the realities of government-subsidized ethanol production. The Associated Press reports 15 million more acres of corn were planted last year than 10 years ago. That's a lot of fertilizer and pesticides going into land that had been previously used for conservation. We've talked for years about the amount of diesel and water it takes to produce a gallon of ethanol. Reduced efficiency and possible engine damage are also on the long-standing list of reasons ethanol is simply a bad deal.

It should also be noted that front runners in the "who's going to run for President in 2016" derby have been strangely quiet on the ethanol issue. In both parties. Paul Ryan and Chris Christie have outright declined comment. Neither Joe Biden nor Hillary Clinton have had anything to say in recent weeks. Not so much a partisan issue anymore, huh? It's nice to get some good news for a change in the continuing ethanol adventure.

On to more cheerful topics. Like the Christmas party. Big thanks in advance the Bretts who were quick to volunteer to host the 2013 edition of the popular annual event. It's December 7th this year, same day as the regular breakfast meeting. There's good news in the OU-OSU football game time. I had a huge sigh of relief when the 11am time was announced just recently. So, we'll be able to hold our breakfast meeting before kick-off, watch the game, maybe sneak in a nap, and be ready to party with the gracious hospitality of Patricia and Ed. 1557 South Yorktown Place. Same drill as last year.

6:00 p.m. start time. Bring a side dish or dessert to go with the club-supplied barbecue beef and turkey. Soft drinks will be provided but beer, wine or umbrella drinks are up to you. It's not mandatory, but many members bring an unwrapped gift for the Toys for Tots campaign. Verle Randolph will see the goodies get delivered to the Marines.

Ed's been good about keeping us updated on his current car project. It's looking pretty good and might be available for a peek on party night!

Plans are underway to kick-off 2014 with a special program at our monthly breakfast meeting. John Neas is working on getting Grand Sport driver Dave Morgan to come and answer questions after we view a recently produced video of the legendary race car. Dave drove one of the ultra-rare cars in the mid-60's, teamed up with driver Delmo Johnson. The pair traded driving chores at the 1964 Sebring endurance race. Plan on spending some extra time after the January meeting to hear from Dave. This is a rare chance for first-hand contact with a true slice of living Corvette history.

Also looking down the road into next year, Oklahoma NCRS Judging Chairman Brett Driscoll is planning on a Chapter Judging Meet for April 26. He'll have some information and questions for us in preparation for that event. But go ahead and put it on your calendar and plan on helping. Brett can't do it alone.

Another possibility for an activity next year is a visit to the legendary War Bonnet Race Track. It had a short life out west of Tulsa, but still hosted TransAm racing back in the 60's. Reliable sources tell me we will be able to drive around on the old track surface, what's left of it anyway. If there is enough interest, it would probably be sometime in the spring or early summer.

Speaking of next year, it's election time. At the November meeting, a motion was passed nominating a slate of officers that looks a lot like the 2013 lineup. In fact, yes, it's exactly like the 2013 slate. The final vote will come Saturday.

There's one more thing. Membership dues are due. Fifteen bucks. What a bargain! Most other clubs are 20-30 dollars a year. Membership Chairman Don Partridge will take your money. He's not a bank, so correct change is appreciated when using cash. If everybody shows up with a 20 it gets cumbersome. Checks work, too. That method helps keep the "who's paid" list a little simpler. If you miss the

December meeting, snail mail still works. Don't make Don come get you. Avoid the freeloader/chump lineup that will be published in subsequent Sidepipe issues. Settle up Saturday.

December Breakfast Meeting

Our monthly breakfast will take place on Saturday, December 7. 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.



Ed and Patricia Brett have graciously agreed to host the Oklahoma Chapter Christmas Party at their home, 1557 South Yorktown Place, Tulsa, 74104. To find the Brett's home, go west from Lewis Ave. on 17th street and then turn right(north) on Yorktown Place. Yorktown Pl. is a divided street and their home is on the east side of the street. The phone number is (918) 671-1490

The party will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner. The Chapter will supply BBQ and soft drinks. Anything else to drink is BYOB. Please bring pot luck sides or a dessert. So mark your calendars now for Saturday, December 15, 2012.

Plans are to have a gift exchange or "dirty santa" gift game, so bring a gift or two to participate in this fun game. If you would like, please bring an unwrapped toy that will be donated to the Marine's Toys for Tots campaign. Toys for Tots distributes toys to needy children across the Tulsa area.

Attitude Adjustment Night

The gathering place for our December Attitude Adjustment Night on Tuesday evening, December 17, 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.

Judging Meet Scheduled

by Brett Driscoll
NCRS #26846

I hope each of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. It seems as if the winter season is upon us. I hope all of you have checked the antifreeze in your Corvettes. I think you would be ahead of the game making sure that item is checked from your to do list.

Just a reminder for your calendars. Mark April 26th for the Chapter Judging Meet. Neal Kennedy will be my partner in this endeavor (moral support).

I hope to see each of you at the December breakfast. I have a couple of items to discuss before we publish the April 26th Chapter Judging Meet on the NCRS website. This event is moving forward with many exciting activities. I would like everyone to have an opportunity to voice their opinions. Do we want to create an event T-shirt? The breakfast on Saturday is your chance to be heard. I have a bow tie display car, a guest speaker, a great location and many new ideas to discuss. With your help this will be a truly great event.

See you on Saturday,

Save the Wave

Garage Art

by Kelly Bolton

We all have it in one form or another and to different degrees, mine involves Oklahoma license plates. This particular display started as a comment from my wife, "Since you have all those license plates from your Dad, why don't you do something with them like hang them in the garage!" My Dad's Oklahoma license plate collection started in his garage in 1959 and I thought I would build on his collection and take it back to 1955, (my birth year). My Dad's collection was primarily Tulsa County with a few Osage County mixed in, (he said it was due to shorter lines at the Osage County Tag Office). As I filled in the open spaces for my collection, I considered only Oklahoma or Tulsa County license plates, (1, 2, X, Y and Z prefixes) and as the display evolved I narrowed the candidates to Tulsa County only, (and they are with the exception of 1955 and 1974).



During the initial layout I had room for all years, including 1974. As it turned out, 1974 Oklahoma license plates were not available and the state issued 1973 with a 1974 plastic validation sticker to new vehicles, etc. for 1974. This was due to the McAlester Penitentiary Fire that destroyed the license plate making equipment and all the license plates, (remember the old joke that only in Oklahoma can you get a license plate made by your own Dad). One evening during my routine scouring for missing Tulsa County license plates on E-Bay, up pops a 1974 in its original condition, heat marks, unpainted and the seller is from Arizona. I didn't know they existed! The bidding war began and I finally secured the plate as the top bidder, (you might say that license plate was a

"HOT" item!). My 1974 is a Greer County only to later find out Scott, (another Oklahoma license plate aficionado) has one that is a Tulsa County. My quest continues as my wife suggested I now see how far back I can go with original Tulsa County license plates, (currently back to 1952).



As I compiled this article, I thought if license plates were judged, how NCRS would score these:

- Initially the method of attachment is incorrect as they should be attached with license plate fasteners that are flat-head, slotted self-tapping screws with integral flat washer in lieu of sheet metal screws, slotted hex washer head, stainless steel 18-8, #8-3/4" and Bibb Washers – 0 Flat.
- The 1955 is the only one restored and a candidate for Flight Judging.
- The 1974 is a non-production class, possibly a candidate for a Heritage Award?
- All others are unrestored and candidates for Bowtie Awards, (the 1963 has two additional lower holes, probably from a dealer installed option?).



Thankfully these license plates are not judged and are retained for the nostalgia and history they bring along with our cars. So my "Garage Art" journey has been lots of fun as it continues today. So I have to ask "What's in your Garage?"

Restored 'Vette Wins Top Flight Title

Muscle Cars of Texas, a local musclecar restoration shop, took the prestigious Top Flight title at the National Corvette Restorers Society's Texas Regional event in Frisco, late last week.

Vinnie Tortorella, founder of Muscle Cars of Texas, and his team worked for -seven months to restore the 1963 Z06 Corvette Stingray in Daytona Blue to its original factory specifications to enter and win this industry achievement.

"It is so rare to receive Top Flight recognition first time entering the National Corvette Restorers Society judging," Tortorella said.

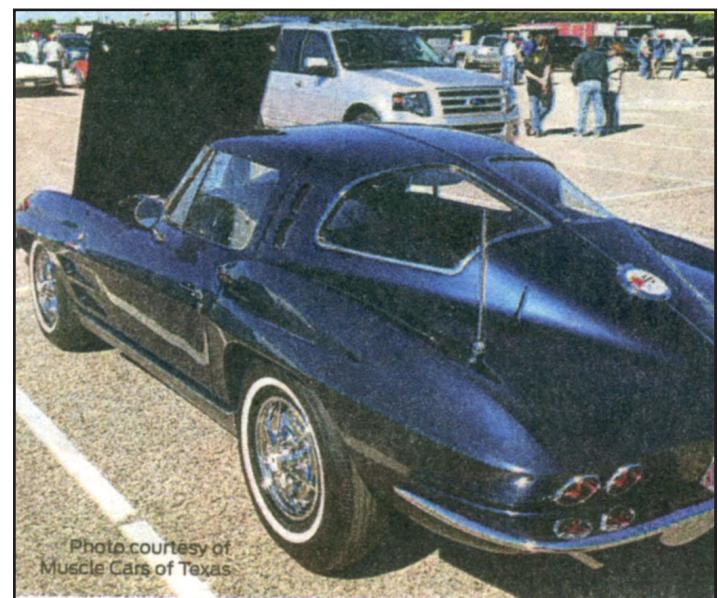


Photo courtesy of Muscle Cars of Texas

The team at Muscle Cars of Texas spent seven months restoring this 1963 Z06 Corvette Stingray to original factory specifications for National Corvette Society's Texas Regional event.

In order for the car to have received Top Flight, every minor detail down to the last nut had to match exact factory -specifications as if it rolled straight off the assembly line in 1963. To ensure all facets of the vehicle were met, judges broke down its structure into five categories - operations, body, interior, exterior and chassis. For two days, owners and restorers looked on eagerly as their cars were inspected with a fine-tooth comb. One small oversight could cost a year's worth of work its well-deserved glory.

The first day, judges check to see if the windshield wipers, lights, gauges, electronics, locks or any other operational device pass rigorous inspection.

Tortorella's vehicle received exemplary marks with zero deductions. During the second day, judging inspectors are reviewing all areas of the car. Judges measure the amount of paint overspray underneath the car that was common for assembly line vehicles when they were painted.

To prepare the 1963 Z06 Corvette Stingray, Tortorella and his team conducted an extensive frame-off restoration. Muscle Cars of Texas replated, rechromed, rebuilt and repainted every inch to replicate factory original specification. Even the individual insignia placed by inspectors as each part was reviewed on the assembly was included in detail. After approximately four hours, judges stated the Corvette was immaculate.

Approximately 85 Corvettes entered the National Corvette Restorers Society's Texas Regional event, with less than 10 percent taking home the Top Flight title.

During the last 13 years, Muscle Cars of Texas has become one of the well-known muscle-car restoration stops in the state of Texas. Muscle Cars of Texas is a one-stop restoration shop for classic- and muscle-car owners interested in rebuilding, repairing or restoring their automobile. The shop specializes in frame-on or off restorations and restomods, and can conduct minor to thorough detailing, body work and tune-ups.

To learn more about services and past work, visit www.musclecaroftexas.com.

(Brought to our attention by Wilma Clark. This article appeared in the Houston Chronicle Autos section.

The author is unknown.)

Corvette Classified

For Sale \$18,900, 1975 Corvette Convertible, Original L48 engine, Automatic, Optional black custom interior trim, Auxiliary hardtop, Map Light, Air Conditioning, Power steering, Power brakes, Tilt-tele steering column, Silver base coat clear

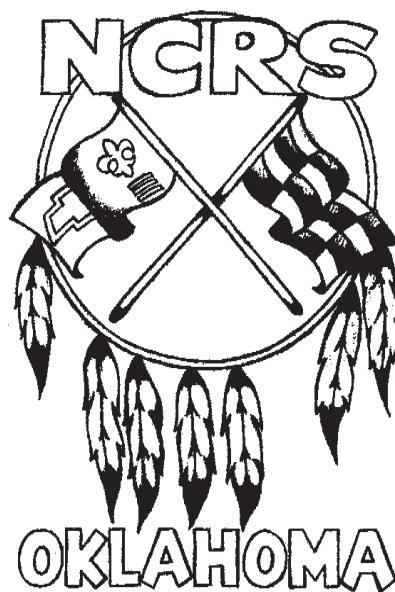
coat repaint,
No hit body,
Rally wheels w/
Goodyear
Eagle II tires,
Original AM-FM radio,
64,000 miles,
Current owner



for 12 years, Very original beautiful Corvette, Please call Jon, 918-636-4736.

For Sale: Home with large garage! 4 BR, 2-1/2 Bath, 2700 sq. ft., split level home, centrally located near St. Francis Hospital, 6 car garage with car lift, in ground swimming pool, enclosed patio room with hot tub, large open concept kitchen with center island, granite counter tops, pantry, convection microwave, convection oven, hardwood floors in main level, fresh paint inside. Exterior is brick & siding. Rent to own for 18-24 months.

Call Howard Huff 918-557-4013



Upcoming Events

- Dec 7 Oklahoma Chapter Breakfast Meeting - Ollie's Station Restaurant - 4070 Southwest Blvd - Tulsa, OK
Dec 7 Annual Christmas Party and Dinner - At thh home of Patricia and Ed Brett - Info in next *Sidepipe*
Dec 17 Attitude Adjustment Night - Rib Crib Restaurant - 8040 South Yale Ave. - Tulsa, OK

2014

- Jan 4 Oklahoma Chapter Breakfast Meeting - Ollie's Station Restaurant - 4070 Southwest Blvd - Tulsa, OK
Jan 23-26 NCRS Winter Regional - Kissimmee, Florida
Apr 26 Oklahoma Chapter NCRS Judging Meet - Details to follow - Register at www.ncrs.org



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



Thanks to Brett Driscoll, Kelly Bolton and Wilma Clark 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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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.

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Chevy Runs Deep

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WWW.DANNYBECKCHEVY.COM

A black and white photograph of a white Corvette parked in front of a Chevrolet dealership. A woman is standing next to the car. The dealership's name, "DANNY BECK CHEVROLET", is displayed above the phone number. A large "U.S. 66" route marker is visible in the background. The bottom of the advertisement features the slogan "Chevy Runs Deep" and "Proud to be the Sponsor of the Oklahoma Chapter of NCRS" along with the website "WWW.DANNYBECKCHEVY.COM".