

June, 2015

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Chairman's Comments

by Neal Kennedy

Looks like another triple-header for *Sidepipe* readers this month. How 'bout three articles on the 2015 Heart of America Regional Meet. Yep, another Joplin event is in the record books. The Oklahoma Chapter was well represented with cars and car-guys. Thanks to those members who expended the time, energy and cash it takes to stage such a great event. Enjoy another trio of articles on the meet in this issue. Thanks to the authors and photographers for their help in getting the goods to Newsletter Editor Bob Clark. Thanks, too, to the Kansas City and St. Louis Chapters for their efforts in making it all happen.

We've been able to catch former Oklahoma Chapter Member Pete Sawatzky in between stops on his busy summer swap meet schedule. Our Route 66 Road Tour to his Classic Chevrolet Car Supplies store in Stroud is on for Saturday, June 20. Bud Jessee and Jim Elder are ram-rodin' this outing. Check out the article on the plan-for-the-day in the following pages. We always have a great time on the Mother Road and Pete is always a great host. Bud demonstrated his excellent road trip planning and Route 66 knowledge last summer. Don't miss another lap, going the other direction, this month.

July is the month for the NCRS National Convention. Your last *Driveline* newsletter was headlined, "Last Chance to Pre-register for Denver." It kicks off Saturday, July 18, and wraps up Friday, July 24. The bad news is June first was the deadline. So, if you haven't registered by the time you read this, they say you'll hafta register on-site at the Convention and be looking at a \$40 late fee. The Crowne Plaza Denver Airport is reportedly sold out. Other hotels near the Convention Center are listed in the *Driveline*. The

National Convention may not be this close again for quite a while.

On the future events planning news front, Mike and Nancy Phillips have again agreed to host the Christmas party. Back on Saturday night this year, the date is December 12th. So, they join Mike and Nancy North as repeat victims of the hard-partyin' Oklahoma Chapter NCRS gang. Many thanks in advance for the early commitments for our annual social events. Two less things for your chairman to fret about.

The General plans to spend well north of \$400 million upgrading the Corvette plant in Bowling Green. Construction is supposta start this summer and take about two years. Wouldjabelieve a new 450 thousand-square-foot PAINT SHOP? That's about half the size of the entire plant today. This follows the \$135-million dollars GM has spent on the Corvette factory in the last four years. New robots and tooling are part of the expansion plans. Acoupla interesting aspects include high-efficiency baking ovens to lower energy use and a new dry scrubbing method that eliminates sludge water and waste. Kentucky Lt. Gov. Crit Luallen says, "The Corvette is one of Kentucky's most-cherished icons." What a smart fella.

A travel conflict has delayed our guest speaker plans for this month. Looks like the July 4th breakfast will be the date for a presentation on The Coffee Bunker. The free facility for veterans on S. Sheridan is struggling, financially. Attendance at the hangout for our vets has been good, but they could use some help. Some Oklahoma Chapter members have kicked-in already. You can certainly make personal contributions before if you like, but the requested "more information" will be available next month. We may want to consider a club donation. Think about it.

We've lost another one. Delmo Johnson of Dallas

passed away last month. The car dealer/racer and Tulsa's Dave Morgan are often credited with "more seat time in a Corvette Grand Sport than any other drivers." Dave shared some great Corvette racing stories first hand for us in a past breakfast meeting and other venues. Their partnership is legendary. It's claimed the fun-loving pair never failed to finish a race in 10 years of competition. Check out the obit in this *Sidepipe* issue.

I never got to shake hands with Delmo, but Dave's stories slamming those Corvettes through the gears, and corners of road-racing competition.

June Breakfast Meeting

Our monthly breakfast will take place on Saturday, June 6. 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 June Attitude Adjustment Night on Tuesday evening, June 16, will be Bravo's Mexican Grill at 4532 East 51st St. We will meet here for 2 months while the Rib Crib is closed for remodeling.

The time people start to arrive is 5:30 p.m. Most are there before 6:00 p.m.

Delmo Johnson - 1933-2015

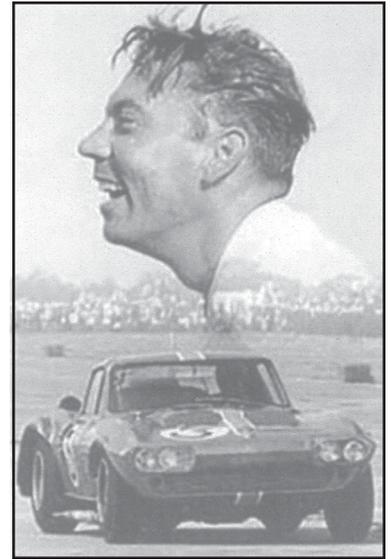
by Richard Prince

Today the world lost a beautiful, devilish, rascal of a man.

Delmo Johnson crammed ten lifetimes worth of fun, adventure, accomplishment and trouble into his go-around. He loved racing, flying, chasing women, traveling, history, politics, cats, photography, business, building things ...he loved life.

He stopped counting his flight hours when he reached 25,000.

In the 1950s and '60s he raced a wide variety of cars, including Jaguars, Ferraris, Listers, Renaults, and, of course Corvettes. After his first wife left him and completely stripped his house of all furniture, carpeting, door hardware, light fixtures, etc. ("because I was a very bad boy") he took the opportunity to assemble a Pills Special in his living room.



When the world's most dangerous road race, the Carrera Panamericana, was revived in 1964 he competed solo in his 1963 Grand Sport. When the president of Mexico told entrants that everyone from Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas to Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua was warned to stay off the roads, but there will still be people on the roads, and if you hit someone don't stop, Delmo attached a cow-catcher to the front of his Grand Sport.

He kept me endlessly entertained with stories of incredible bravery and intense stupidity. He even let me pilot his Riley Twin-Turbine Eagle.

In short, for a long, long time he made everyone around him, including me, laugh very hard.

From The Dallas Morning News

DELMO, Johnson Jr., graduate of North Texas University, served his country in the United States Army, owned and managed Jonson Chevrolet and other family companies. He was an avid, well-known race car driver and enthusiast. A multi-rated pilot, from fixed wing to rotorcraft, including, S1 Pitts, Cessna, Beechcraft, to the Soko G-2 Galeb jet trainer; he was definitely an aviation guru. In Delmo's early years, he was a famous racecar driver winning several races at Sebring, his favorite racecar was the Corvette. He was an active in member of many social groups, including the Quiet Birdmen, Auxiliary Coastguard, NRA, Dallas Gun Club, and one time president of the IAC, (International Aerobatic Club) and air show acrobatic pilot. Delmo was born in Marshall, Texas, February 7th, 1933, he died May 14th, 2015.

Memories of Delmo Johnson

A colorful character and helluva racer died suddenly but peacefully on May 13, 2015

We and Delmo's many friends mourn his loss. Delmo may be best known for his exploits at Sebring driving his straight axle Corvette, followed by a ZO6 and finally by one of the five original Grand Sport Corvettes that he got from fellow Texan John Mecom.

Preserving his legacy is the good fortune that each of these cars was tracked down, restored and can be seen today. His straight axle and ZO6 are displayed in the Rick Hendrick collection. The Grand Sport 004 resides in the Collier collection.

David Morgan, his co-driver and close friend to the end continued racing for the Sunray DX team based in Tulsa, OK.



But there is much more to this man who operated out of his Chevrolet dealership in Dallas.

Richard Prince, Corvette expert and author says it best "Delmo Johnson crammed ten lifetimes worth of fun, adventure, accomplishment and trouble into his life. He loved racing, flying, chasing women."



Joplin. A Success Once Again

by Scott Pfuehler

Some things we just do good, and an NCRS Joplin Regional Judging event is one of those things.

The Oklahoma Chapter showed up in force to work the event with the goal to make this 2015 event as good as those past.

Lest we forget those in the Chapter who actually took Corvettes to our Corvette judging event for judging, let's say thanks to those who had to stand around and wait on the pesky Judges to do their thing. Our new guy Dale Scott took both of his acquisitions to Joplin, one Top Flighted and the other was signed off for a possible 4 Star Bowtie Award. Not bad for a new guy. Kurt Geis had his '96 on the front row. The Oklahoma Chapter had already judged it at Danny Becks so we knew it would do well. Joel Miller had some help getting the '62 ready for judging after its restoration so Don Partridge and he brought that old Florida machine for us and the judges to enjoy, demoed the movable top too. Our "last week got a top flight at Charlotte" friend, Lee Stigall, had a tough time with the PV but will get a chance to see Denver on his PV route this summer. He had a PV and then went and judged interiors, Lee was a busy boy. Of course, we had a Corvette race car in attendance compliments of Mr. John Neas. What a sound in a closed room it produced. After being started and driven in anger during its early life I think, it's enjoying showing off for us now. Next to the showoff was a red 63 convertible that had just recently been in the *Restorer* and was there as a Duntov display compliments of our own Kelly Bolton. What a story behind this beautiful Corvette!





Now, how about those workers, those who are there getting it done so the rest can have a good time with their Corvettes. Mike Aichele ramrodded a whole list of Oklahoma workers, and bought some additional (*in addition to what was supplied by the event*) pizza for lunch. OK who noticed the guy always hanging around listening to the judges and their conversations while judging, attending the various judging schools and just generally soaking up all the Corvette knowledge that floats around at an event. That was Bruce Ryan at his first opportunity to attend one of these fine Regional events. He OJed his way into some judging points too. Shall we tell him the cost of a black hat. Jimmy Elder strung lots of tape on the floor, as did Scott Pfuehler, David Houlihan, David Beach, Larry Mills, Jack Blakey and someone had to come up with all those give-a-ways so Dave Harrison did that for us. O, Yeah, about that OSU orange tape the guys put all over the floor, Mike says next time we can get OU red or maybe TU blue, but I think he is just messing with us.

Since we were officially the parkers, we had parker crews who walked with the owners on their cruise to their parking spot and then got them to line up their wheels with the tape. Some of the drivers were better at that than others. We had the list of where each entrant would park and his parking space number. Now here we had a rookie helping and wow was she good at it. Becky Pritchett has made us a believer in letting women help us with Corvette parking. I think she liked bossing the guys around. Others helped out: Jack Blakey, Pete Pritchett, David Beach, Don Partridge, Scott Pfuehler, and Charles Buxton.

How about those Corvette pictures?





Phil Gray and his crew managed a shot of each owner driving into the facility and then a shot of the Corvette only. I think Becky helped him a little keeping it all straight. Mike Aichele then stitched Phil's wonderful photos into a power point presentation for the Awards Dinner, which is a tradition that this Regional started a few years ago.



Now about that overhead door that we had to man. As it turns out, the facilities manager made us go to OJT on how to operate the door, since the electricians couldn't just hook it up normal. We all know that there is a job out there for everybody to be good at. Well. Larry Mills made the position of Overhead Door Opener his own and did a fine job. Larry had to go back to Tulsa and work the next day so luckily when the second shift, namely Charles Buxton arrived, he got OJT from Larry and was able to finish out the day as our Door Opener and Closer. Now while all this was going on, we had a gate guard out front of the facility with a TSA style wand at the ready. I'm not sure if Bud Jessee got to wand anyone, but he sure said Hi to all that came in the facility as his official duties as Event Security Chairman.



Since it was a judging meet the Oklahoma chapter also supplied Judges to the mix. I saw Verle and John Neas with the judges "pondering a deduction look." Who else helped in this endeavor? Some from that Kansas group of the Oklahoma NCRS Chapter were David Houlihan, Rick & Bev Smiley, and, of course that OKC guy Mr. (400) Gene Holtz. Our event boss, Joan is also an Oklahoma Chapter member, and she along with her crews from the three Chapters put on a nice, more than nice, a great event. Glad I went. Put the next one on your calendar.





PS. The rumor is that two Oklahoma members were to receive their Black Hats Saturday night. Well, did they?

My First Regional

By Dale Scott



Wow, what an experience I had at the regional in Joplin. First, I would like to give a very "special" thanks to Roy Sinor for hauling my 1953 to Joplin and finding this Very Special Car for me. Also, I would like to thank Scoff Pfuehler who was instrumental in helping me achieve a Top Flight award for my 1957 Aztec Copper Corvette.



Roy unloaded the '53 from his trailer as we PUSHED it into position at the first space in the building (thank goodness). Soon after, Scott helped me back the 1957 out of his trailer for an operations evaluation. The two NCRS judges were very nice as they guided me through the exercise. Little did I know that Mike was the Team Leader for both my cars and the other was Vennie, who was a former president of the NCRS. Much to my surprise, I was discounted only 12 points on this evaluation. Entering the building, Phil Gray, photographed each car for documentation to this Regioal meet and then we positioned the '57 next to the '53.



It was amazing to watch the placement of all the Corvettes and to enjoy the progression of history for this great machine. The Vette's there were of show quality and it was a pleasure to roam around the next two days absorbing the SautiM detail of their originality and restorations.

The '53 was evaluated on Friday





morning and I was privileged to have Brett Driscoll and Verle Randolph undertake the interior judging documentation of this car. The car was being evaluated for a Bowtie sign-off to advance for judging at the National Convention in Denver. My 1957 fullie was judged on Saturday with the privilege of John Neas and Verle again. John helped document the mechanical area and Verle helped document the chassis. I was extremely impressed with the knowledge and the professionalism that each judge possessed.

It was a real pleasure to display the '53 and the '57 with all the other very high quality cars that were on display and judged for individual completeness.

After the meet was over many owners started to drive there Corvettes out of the building. My family was observing this when John Neas started his 1957 race car, which produced a thunderous roar as he passed by us. I said "and now we need to PUSH my '53 out of the building!"

The banquet was a very special surprise for me. At the awards ceremony, I was presented an advancement to the National NCRS Convention to pursue the Bowtie Award for the '53. I was also presented a blue ribbon for a Top Flight Award on my '57.

What an experience !!

Joplin 2015

by Brett Driscoll
NCRS #26846

It was a great Heart of America Regional once again. If you were unable to attend the Joplin meet, you missed a good one. It is always



good to go back to a familiar place that almost feels like home. The convention center in Joplin feels like home to me.

The weather was sketchy at times, lots of rain on the way to the meet on Thursday. I had to place signs for the PV course in the rain. That was a first. Kelly Bolton helped me with that assignment and together we made it a fun activity.

The car count was lower than anyone would have desired but what was a low number in actual cars was a count of truly very nice cars. The Oklahoma Chapter was very well represented with display cars, flight judged cars and PV cars.

There was a car and owner from South Dakota. The car was a yellow '66 sidepipe roadster that was beautifully restored. He also had a very well behaved labrador retriever as a travel companion. Bud Jessee had the pleasure of the dog's company during his secured parking duty.

The judging schools were educational and being around the team leaders is always a good opportunity to learn about the cars and their inherent anomalies. Joplin is a great place to visit and the local people are a true treasure.

Bud Jessee and I had the opportunity to join some of the local Corvette enthusiasts at their monthly get together at their favorite burger joint.

We had great conversation about our Corvettes, and about long ago high school basketball rivalries. My most memorable conversation was of the Joplin tornado that was a mere week or two after the last Joplin NCRS meet. Each person had been deeply touched personally by the tornado. You can still see its path today. There has been a lot of rebuilding and there will be more rebuilding as time goes on. It is a time stamp that each of the Joplin residents remembers life before and after the tornado. There stories were truly amazing. I know that I have said it before, this hobby started with a Corvette focus, but it has evolved into so much more than that now. I look forward to seeing old friends and I look forward to making new friends at every NCRS event that I attend.

Editor's note - Picture credits to Phil Gray, Brett Driscoll, Kelly Bolton, Dale Scott, Bud Jessee, and Joel Miller

Road Trip To Stroud, OK

On Saturday, 6/20/2015, the NCRS group will drive to Stroud, Oklahoma to visit Pete at Route 66 Restoration Supplies. They have a large inventory of 1955-1957 Classic Chevrolet Restoration Supplies.

We will start the drive at 8:30 am from Crystal City Shopping Center which is just West of Ollie's restaurant on Southwest Blvd. We will drive down old Route 66 and should arrive at Pete's about 10:00 am.

The historic Rock Café is across the street from Pete's place in Stroud for those interested in lunch before you return home.

To the High Bidder

Intake manifold 3795397

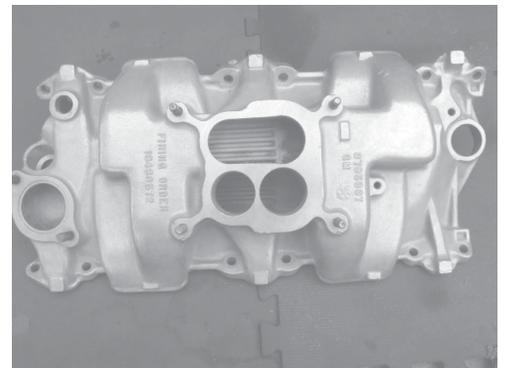
Dated 4-23-62.

Fresh skinning job.

Donated for auction by

Rex Bowers after owning it for 30 years or so.

The proceeds from this auction benefit the Little Light House.



Thanks for the bids and to the high bidder.
Scott

Make your check out to the Little Light House.

Scott 437-4292

Corvette Classified

For Sale: 04 Corvette convertible, spiral gray-b lack/black, 23K miles, 6-speed, all options, pretty clean car, \$26,500 or interesting C3 trades.

Mike Martin 918-606-0568, mikmart@cox.net

Upcoming Events

- June 6 Oklahoma Chapter Breakfast Meeting - Ollie's Station Restaurant - 4070 Southwest Blvd - Tulsa, OK
June 16 Attitude Adjustment Night - Bravos Mexican Grill - 4532 East 51st St. - Tulsa, OK
June 20 Road trip to Stroud, Oklahoma - Visit Route 66 Restoration Supply - Lunch at The Rock Cafe (info in this *Sidepipe*)
July 4 Oklahoma Chapter Breakfast Meeting - Ollie's Station Restaurant - 4070 Southwest Blvd - Tulsa, OK
July 19-24 NCRS National Convention - Denver, Colorado - See *Driveline* for info
Aug 21-23 Corvette Carlisle - Carlisle, Pennsylvania

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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.

**Editor's
Corner**



Help!!!

Thanks to Dale Scott, John Neas, Scott Pfuehler and Brett Driscoll 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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Bob Clark • Editor

10809 So. Louisville Ave. • Tulsa, OK 74137-6720
home • (918) 299-9001 • work • (918) 298-2777
Fax - work 918-298-2778 • home 918-298-9094
E-Mail • vettefan66@sbcglobal.net



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