

THE

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

# SIDE PIPE



NATIONAL CORVETTE RESTORERS SOCIETY

November, 2014

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## Chairman's Comments

by Neal Kennedy

**J**ohn Neas had a surprise at the conclusion of the club's first visit to his new garage. Besides his impressive collection of competition and special interest straight-axle Corvettes, John has several front-engine diggers among his fleet of neat cars. Tony Nancy's last record-holding racer and Bennie Osborne's World Champion rail job are in that portion of his collection.

John cackled one of his Top Fuelers. It was icing on the cake after a great tour of a super facility. Many of those in attendance had never been so close to so much horsepower on four wheels before. Fingers in the ears was a popular method of handling the excitement. Big thanks to John and Sally for sharing.

While the club was enjoying the bench racing at John's place, longtime chapter member Scott Pfuehler was completing the requirements for a national license to race with the vintage boys. He concluded the licensing process at Hallett Motor Racing Circuit west of Tulsa and can now run any of the Vintage events across the country.

The Corinthian Vintage Racing Association has a spring and fall meet at Hallett each year. Wouldn't it be cool for our chapter to cruise out to the road course the next time the classics take a crack at the track? We had a chance to see his red-white-and-blue C2 coupe at Dominic White's shop a while back. Now, we can see it on the race course with Scott behind the wheel. I'll check the dates and get back with you on the possibilities. Meantime, congratulate Scott on his accomplishment. He did us proud.

Speaking of future events, the 2014 NCRS Oklahoma Chapter Christmas Party will be

BEFORE the December monthly membership meeting. Pay attention. Party Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast meeting Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be details and directions in the December Sidepipe, but get the dates on your calendars now.

Mike and Nancy Phillips have graciously agreed to sacrifice their humble abode for the gig. Actually, it's the perfect place for a car club party. Mike and Nancy South were quick to volunteer this year. Thanks in advance for the hospitality. I'm certainly looking forward to it. You should, too.

Back to that always-anticipated and too-often duplicated process... elections. Nominations in November, voting in December. My phone hasn't been exactly ringing off the hook with people wanting to step up and take a leadership role. Bring your thoughts to the breakfast meeting Saturday.

It's happened again. We've lost another racer. NHRA Funny Car World Champion Raymond Beadle left for that great racetrack in the sky October 20. The driver of the Blue Max Funny Car passed away at Baylor University Medical Center. Beadle started his NHRA career in the early 1970's and started his own team in 1974. In 1979 he ended the four-year reign of Don "The Snake" Prudhomme.

He wasn't just into drag racing. Beadle put together the team that won the NASCAR Championship in 1989 with driver Rusty Wallace. Raymond also had a World of Outlaws team with Sammy Swindell behind the wheel. His Blue Max logos are often credited with being the first to market team-branded souvenirs. Beadle was inducted into the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America in Michigan earlier this year.

## November Breakfast Meeting

Our monthly breakfast will take place on Saturday, November 1. 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 November Attitude Adjustment Night on Tuesday evening, November 18, 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 \$13.99. There are specials on beer, too.

## Road Trip - West

by John Neas

A continuation of the road trips with cars for the year - Event: NHRA California Hot Rod Reunion, Bakersfield, CA (Famoso Drag Strip)

NHRA outlawed nitro methane fuel as unsafe in late 1957 due to the Cook and Bedwell car which went 167 MPH. Experts had said 150 MPH would never be exceeded. In 1959 a car club, the "Smokers," established the "March Meet" or "Fuel and Gas Championship" at Famoso on a WWII landing strip. The fabled outlaw meet was the race to win. Legends were made, or confirmed, at this race.

We took the Tony Nancy "Sizzler" to the reunion in October. The "Sizzler" was the last Front Engine AA/TF dragster to win Bakersfield and the last to hold the NHRA top speed record

Tony Nancy was a legend in the hot rod hobby for his 22 jr cars. He tied for the most covers of *Hot Rod Magazine* with Mickey Thompson. Tony had the best turned out cars, best

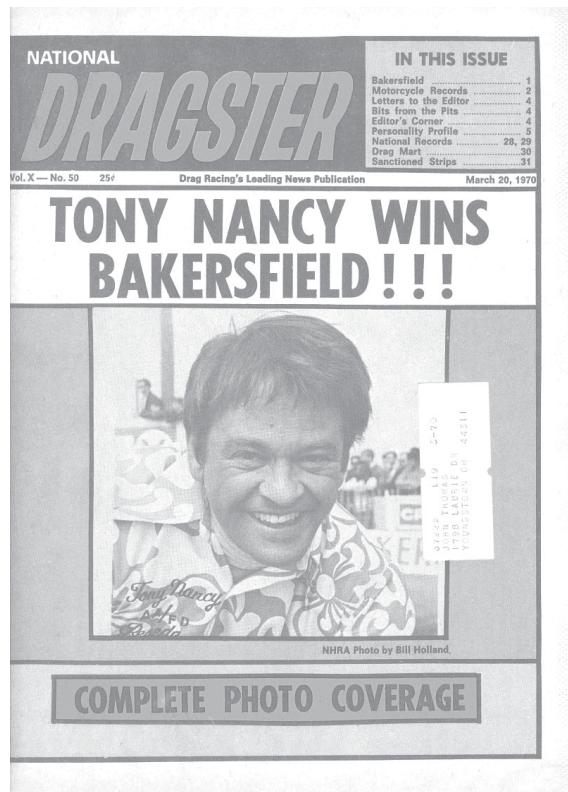
looking women, etc.

He was the upholsterer for the stars and the rich hot rodders. His logo, the sea horse on the hot rod's blower cover and upholstery showed the car was usually an upper end car in looks and generally performance.

Tony died about ten years ago.

The 'driver' for the static starts and the Saturday night push start "Cacklefest" was to be Harry 'Hand Grenade' Hibler. Harry was a best friend of Tony and also an absolute legend in the drag race community. Harry ran the San Fernando Drag Strip during the 60's. This was the home track for Tony, Ivo, Prudhomme, Surfers, etc.

He also was publisher for *Hot Rod Magazine*. He drove many top fuel cars, jet dragsters, etc. with many fires, blown motors, etc. He said that one of



After Tony's win. Tony's happy. Harry's mad.

his car owners was before his time as the car seldom made it to the end of the quarter mile and generally blew up at 1,000 feet (The current length of a top fuel race). Tony beat Harry in the final of a 64 car field to win Bakersfield in 1970. The cast of legends and characters increases during the weekend.

My traveling partners were Curtis Cook and Bob Sullivan from Sand Springs. We arrived in Bakersfield on Wednesday afternoon and Steve Gibbs (retired NHRA Competition Director) and the person in charge of the Hot Rod Reunion. Steve Gibbs parked us in one of the best parking spaces and asked if we would like to join the Cackle at the Doubletree Hotel on Friday night after the Hall of Fame presentation which was held inside. The Doubletree Cackle consists of about 5 cars. The answer was YES!

Thursday was a laid back day for setting the car out and getting credentials, wrist bands, and mixing nitro methane with small percentage of methanol. We also pushed the car to the strip and four professional photographers took a number of pictures of the car. Friday was the start of the Reunion and Harry arrived with his family which included his wife, sister, son, daughter and grand children. Also Ed Pink and his wife were with him. Harry and Ed had assisted Tony in restoring the car.



Harry and his family were really enjoying this opportunity to spend time together as they seldom spent

time with him when he was drag racing in the hay day. Harry brought along the same fire suit and helmet and mask he wore at the race in 1970. His helmet shows fire damage.

The Friday night “Cackle” was an awesome event at the Doubletree, and Steve Gibbs told us we were the

winner as we cackled last and made the most noise and biggest flames. Our crew included Don “Snake” Prudhomme .

Saturday morning we had problems with the in and out driveshaft engagement. We pulled the cover off of the driveshaft and coupler and found that more material needed to be added to engagement fork.





Jon Brooks of Grand Prix Automotive (Tulsa) who has one of the best nostalgic top fuel cars in the nation brazed some more material and we were good to go.

We then attempted a push start and had problems with non engagement of clutch which prevented the car from firing. Back in the pits, I pulled the cowl and inspection plate and with the help of Curtis, Harry, and "Gentleman" Joe Schubeck (noted top fuel racer in 60's, chassis builder, and the person who developed

and owned the Lakewood Bellhousing). We figured out the problem was a broken clutch fork and a slipped throw out bearing. Joe hammered the bearing back into place, and it was decided that Harry could "finesse" the clutch and we could make a test push start. The second attempt at a test push start worked!

Saturday night was "show time" for the push start Cacklefest and went reasonably well. We first pushed down the strip with about 50 other cars and Bob Frey, the announcer, would talk about the history of each car, drivers, etc. We then push started down the return road and then turned back onto the strip, parked, and ran the car for about four minutes. We Cackled next to a super replica of the Cook and Bedwell dragster. (The real car was stolen out of a garage in Ark City, Kansas in the 60's).

After the Cackle the crowd descended on the Cackle cars. I believe these are the most enthusiastic car fans you will ever see. We loaded up that evening and headed home the next morning.

Another highlight of the trip was meeting Gigi who was Robert Peterson's personal assistant for many years and is President of the Peterson Foundation. Joe Schubeck and Gigi are a couple who credit Harry for their introduction.



The push car was a Dodge station wagon supplied by Ross Howard of Oklahoma City. Originally a preacher's car, we can say it's still used on Sundays!

We made the trip of 1450 miles out and back in two days each way. The conversations were outstanding! We lost treads on two trailer tires but caught each before they blew. When we got home we were greeted with the latest issue of *National Dragster* which had a two-page picture of our car from 1970.

Overall:            **TREMENDOUS EXPERIENCE!!!!**



# Texas Lone Star Regional Report

by Brett Driscoll  
NCRS#26846

The 2014 Texas Regional was held last weekend at the Embassy Suites Convention Center in Frisco ,Texas. It was a great event. Opening reception was held at the double A baseball field of the Rough Riders minor league baseball team. It was good to visit with the members from Texas and the other chapters that made it to the event.



performance verification. It passed with flying colors on its first attempt at that milestone.

A new NCRS member from Edmond brought a Corvette for flight judging. Steve Mitchell, who was present at our April chapter meet, brought his 1970 Donnybrook Green big block coupe to the event. It was Steve's first time for flight judging. Steve drove that Corvette over two hundred miles down interstate I35 and through mid day traffic in Dallas to arrive at the meet with one quarter tank of gas for entry into the event. I was certain we would stop for gas, but he proved me wrong.

Gene Holtz also followed Steve Mitchell down from Edmond. Gene carried the bias ply nylon cord tires down in the back of his Tahoe. We registered at the Convention while the rat motor cooled down. Once a quick NASCAR style four tire swap out was accomplished on the car, the car was ready for the operations section to be accomplished. The operation



I counted roughly 50 cars at the event split between flight judging and performance verifications along with some test judging on C5 cars. It is kind of strange seeing those cars on the flight judging carpet.

Steve Williamson brought his 1969 Corvette for flight judging. It was the first car that you saw as you walked into the building and it looked truly stunning.

One other Oklahoma chapter Corvette was present; Dallas and Kerri Keller brought their 1970 Corvette for

section was accomplished in the ballpark parking lot. After that the car was again driven into the convention center and placed along side the other beautifully restored and stunning unrestored original cars.

If you have never made your way to the Texas Regional I highly recommend it. I always have a great time with the people and the cars.

## Garage Tour Pictures

Our most recent garage tour was to visit John Neas's new office building and Collector Car Emporium. We were treated to a great display and explanation of history on a 5 Star Bowtie Award Winner, 2 Duntov Award winners, 2 American Heritage Corvette Racers, and 3 more Corvettes with great history. There was also a great '57 Chevrolet, a real '62 409 Chevrolet, a '90 ZR!, a Red 308 GT Ferrari, and a real '32 Ford High Boy roadster. And lastly there were two Vintage fuel Dragsters. Quite a collection!!



# Oklahoma Chapter Judging Notes

by Brett Driscoll  
NCRS#26846  
Oklahoma Chapter  
Judging Chairman

O k Corvette fans and NCRS judges !

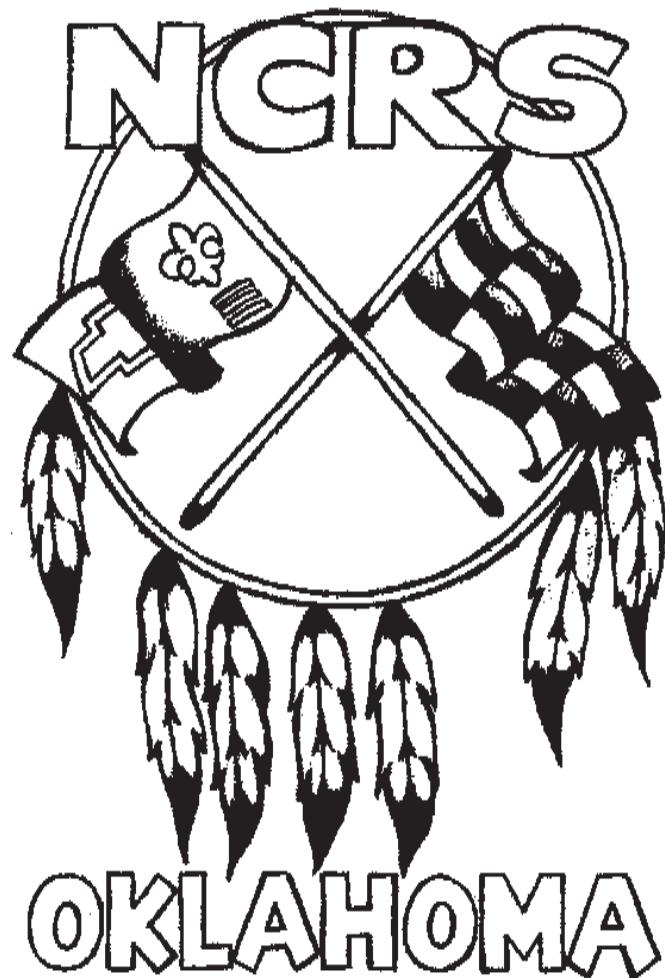
I have a judging school scheduled immediately following the Saturday morning breakfast get together. on November 1. I will have it available online but there is no requirement to pre register.

The Chapter was recently given a copy of the ,ÄúPaint / Fiberglass ,Äú DVD from the NCRS judging series. This is relative new video that was not available when we purchased the other four DVD, Äôs in the series.

Kelly Bolton was very gracious to the club and wanted to add it to our reference materials. I am thankful that Kelly made this available to our club and look forward to viewing it with each of you.

If you have any desire to learn more about one of the most important steps in any restoration, please make the breakfast meeting and stick around after the breakfast for our first viewing. For those desiring points, it will add one point to your tally.

See you Saturday.



## Upcoming Events

Nov 1 Oklahoma Chapter Breakfast Meeting - Ollie's Station Restaurant - 4070 Southwest Blvd - Tulsa, OK  
Nov 1 Oklahoma Chapter Judging Class after breakfast meeting  
Nov 18 Attitude Adjustment Night - Rib Crib Restaurant - 8040 South Yale Ave. - Tulsa, OK  
Dec 5 Oklahoma Chapter Christmas Dinner & Party - At the home of Mike & Nancy Phillips -Tulsa, OK  
Dec 6 Oklahoma Chapter Breakfast Meeting - Ollie's Station Restaurant - 4070 Southwest Blvd - Tulsa, OK

2015

Jan 21-24 NCRS Florida Regional - Lakeland, Florida - See current *Diveline* for info



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



Thanks to BrettDriscoll and John Neas 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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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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