

SIDE PIPE

September, 2013

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER



NATIONAL CORVETTE RESTORERS SOCIETY

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

Chairman's Comments

by Neal Kennedy

The major road test for the new Corvette was back in June. That is, the road test where General Motors invites all the car magazines to send a writer to the Milford Proving Grounds. Those lucky automotive journalists have now had time to get their stories in the publication pipeline and on the printed page. Most of us have probably read numerous earlier accounts of the 2014 Stingray's new look. You know, like all the bitchin' about the Camaro taillights. But this time it was different. They got to drive the cars.

I won't try to review them all, but I'll share some thoughts on a couple my favorite write-ups that have now made it to the newsstands. My pick for the best is the one in *Hot Rod Magazine*. Editor-in-Chief David Freiburger assigned himself to go test drive the new Vette. Imagine that. Actually, I like his writing style and his down-to-earth approach to cars in general. So, if you haven't had enough, check out the October 2013 issue of *Hot Rod*.

There are more reasons to pick it up besides the '14 Corvette article. How 'bout an interview with "Jungle Pam" Hardy? All you old drag racers will remember the days when she toured with "Jungle Jim" Liberman. That was way back in the 70's. She assisted with his early-day funny car match racing campaign in a variety of tasks. One of those was directing him backing into his lane after the burnout. What a show! Sad and ironic footnote. Jim died in 1977 driving a Corvette. The 31-year-old racer crashed into a bus.

Another article on vintage Indy roadsters is worth your time to read. Then there's the latest *Hot Rod* Top Speed Challenge report and an update on the plan for the *Hot Rod* Drag Week next year. I think it's one of the best overall issues of the magazine I've ever read. But then again, I've only been

subscribing since I was 12 years old.

Before you think this a commercial for *Hot Rod*, let me point you to another magazine's evaluation of the C7. *Autoweek* had been among the majority of the car mags that criticized the Corvette's interior year after year. But this time, they joined several of the others complimenting the fit-and-finish as much better than previous editions. The good words included the seats. In fact, several magazines considered them much improved over previous years' buckets.

Autoweek has had a tendency to count the number of cup holders as criteria in their evaluations. Especially on minivans. However, this time they had some sound observations about things like brakes and tires and handling. The August 5th issue wraps up observing, "...you realize this thing is all new, it's truly a 21st century sports car in the detail execution and in the driving experience." I'm looking forward to getting to slide behind the wheel myself. (Might be dangerous, to my pocketbook.) As for now, I haven't even seen a C7 in person.

The future is getting darker for the availability of 100% gasoline. And it may happen sooner rather than later. We, in Oklahoma, have enjoyed access, though limited, to non-ethanol gas while other states have not. The last time I was driving in my '08 just south of Dallas I asked the gas station attendant where I could get "real" gasoline. He looked at me like I was from another planet. No 100% gas in Texas! The state-by-state differences in policy make about as much sense as the whole ethanol debate. Pipeline issues and ethanol production requirements from the EPA contribute to the bleak outlook.

We probably have some club members who have a better ear-to-the-ground than I do. But from what I'm hearing, the new standards could be showing up at a gas pump near you as soon as Sept. 15! The premium all-gas grade may be the first to disappear as stations switch those tanks for E15. Midgrade

and regular all-gas would be next to disappear. All this as the government continues to require a certain percentage of ethanol be forced into the public's gasoline supply.

The discussions of damage to small motors, especially two-cycle engines, will continue. Same for long term storage drawbacks when you have that nasty ethanol in your tanks. I know there are several additives that supposedly keep the alcohol from separating. There are also places to buy fuel for small engines in containers to pour-and-run. But that means more expense and hassle... and should be unnecessary.

Many environmentalists are finally realizing that ethanol is a bad deal and working against what they are trying to accomplish. Lots of the tree-huggers mean well and have good hearts. But they need to use another body part occasionally, like their brain. I look forward to hearing from NCRS members on the issue. The excuses of "it's just politics" and "it's the money" don't seem to offer me much comfort.

Club stuff. Several Oklahoma Chapter members made their annual pilgrimage to Carlisle. Be at the breakfast meeting Sept. 7 to get the first-hand reports on the trip. I understand the weather in Pennsylvania cooperated this year. Not too hot, too cold or too wet. Thanks, Mother Nature.

Coming up this month it's the annual picnic for Oklahoma Chapter NCRS members and families. Please note the change in location for this year's Backyard Burger Burnin' Boogie. It will be at Don and Janice Partridge's Broken Arrow estate. They have almost completed tornado damage repairs and guarantee no more twisters. At least not on Sept. 21. Details are still coming together due to the late date change of plans. Mary Blakey hit a bump in the healthcare road, and Jack says they'll need to host the picnic another time. We're all wishing a speedy recovery for Mary.

Partridges to the rescue. Don and Janice have opened their beautiful home for the Cookout and Ice Cream Social several years in the past. The parking situation is great. Don has lots of nice level grass for you to use when you drive your Corvette to the picnic. Some of you will be asked to help with the logistics. It's the usual drill for most of the outing. Bring your favorite folding chairs and a side dish. The club provides the burgers and dogs. Sunscreen and insect repellent might come in handy. Look for directions elsewhere in this issue. It's in Broken Arrow, NOT West Tulsa!

Next month brings the long-anticipated visit to the Zink Museum. Mike Smith and Jim Elder have been bird-dogging this deal. Details are still to come but be sure to get Oct. 26 marked on your calendars. The Museum only opens for special occasions and guests. Point being, don't miss this opportunity to see some of Jack Zink's great race cars, including an Indy 500 winner! I understand there is a lot more than just cars. Come see for yourself.

Kelly's Heroes, aka the web-site committee, had a productive pre-launch meeting Aug. 13. Kelly Bolton has done a great job of bringing it all together. He's been working on it since last February. Kelly, Verle Randolph and Russ Grimm formed the steering committee. Scott Pfuehler, Phil Gray and I also attended the meeting. Jim Elder, Don Partridge, Bob Clark and Brett Driscoll are also involved by virtue of their club offices. Great job, Kelly. The web-site is still evolving, but it's up and running. Take a look!

Speaking of looking, I'm looking forward to reading Part Two of The Corvette Adventures of Danny Beck in this issue. Another example of the fine contributions our members provide and Bob puts together in this publication every month. Thank them and the other workers for their time and effort.

September Breakfast Meeting

Our monthly breakfast will take place on Saturday, September 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.

Attitude Adjustment Night

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

Oklahoma NCRS Annual Picnic / Cream Social

September 21, 2013 6:30 p.m.

by Don and Janice Partridge

Who would have ever thought this activity would turn into a tradition? We're not sure how long ago it was that we hosted the first picnic, but we have a copy of the August, 1994, *Sidepipe* which announces that a hamburger cookout will be held at the home of Don & Janice Partridge.



Here we are in 2013 and we are going to host again. This annual event will take place on Saturday, September 21, at 6:30 p.m. Bring the family, your lawn chairs and a favorite salad or other picnic side dish or dessert. We hope to have several freezers of homemade ice cream. We always have a great variety of excellent food. The club will provide the burgers, hot dogs, and drinks.

You can get to our home via BA Expressway, exit 71st Street, east to 193rd, south to 96th Street, or on the Creek Turnpike by traveling to 193rd exit, then north to 96th Street. If you get lost, telephone us at (918)455-6574.

We look forward to seeing all of you. You're the ones who make this event a success!

A Lifetime of Love

Part 2

by Danny Beck

Well, a little time passed, and I continued to watch the cool Chevy cars cruise the streets of Broken Arrow. I turned 16 and now had my license. My dad was from the old school and did not believe that anyone should have a car until at least 17! So I drove my dad's '63 Chevy truck or mom's Caprice to any event I was allowed to drive to. Many of my friends had their own cars so I felt left out.

One day my dad said, "Let's go down to Ramsey Chevrolet and get you a car." Then he added, "I told

you if you were a good boy, had good grades, and worked hard here on the dairy farm, I would get you a new car, and you have done those things."

We walked in the front door of Ramsey's in Bixby and were greeted by my lifelong late friend, Bill Houston. My folks bought all their vehicles from him, and he was more like an uncle than a car salesman. We loved him. He greeted us, "What can I do for you, Mr. Beck?"

My dad answered, "I am going to get this boy a new car." We were standing by a new red '69 Camaro coupe. It had no options, a six cylinder three speed on the floor, dog bowl hubcaps and white vinyl interior. My dad asked, "how much is this one?"



Bill answered, "Around \$2,350."

Dad replied, "That sounds fine. We'll take it!" We went to Bill's office to do the paperwork, and Bill looked at my face and said, "What's the matter, Dan?"

I said, "I don't like that car! I want a Chevelle."

Dad asked if Bill had a Chevelle, and he answered, "Oh, yes, we have several."

I said, "No, I want the one on the showroom," a silver with black vinyl top, 396 SS stick with air, mag spoke wheels with spinners and red line tires. We walked into the showroom to the car.



Dad said, "Yes, I like the looks of this car better, and it is a little larger and probably safer if he had an accident." Everything went fine until dad asked the infamous question. "What kind of engine does this one have?"

Bill just said, "A V-8."

Dad said, "Well, it probably needs that since it is a larger heavier car." Then the process stopped when he asked Bill, "What size V-8?"

Bill looked at me for a few seconds and then replied, "A 396!"

"What! Well, I should have known you would want something like this. I would never buy a kid a big

block engine to drive.” You see my dad worked at Standard Parts Co. for 40 years, and his job was in the machine shop side. He was the one who bored the blocks, milled the heads and rebuilt all the engines, and he knew what porcupine heads, etc. were all about. So he thanked Bill and said that we would not be buying a car today. We went home, him mad and me teared up.

When we drove in to the farm, mom was working in her flowers and she asked, “Where’s the new car?”

Dad said, “We did not get one; he wanted one with a powerful big block V-8, and he is crazy if he thinks I am going to buy him one!”

Well, about two weeks passed, and I called Bill every day after school. “Bill have you sold that ‘68 Chevelle?”

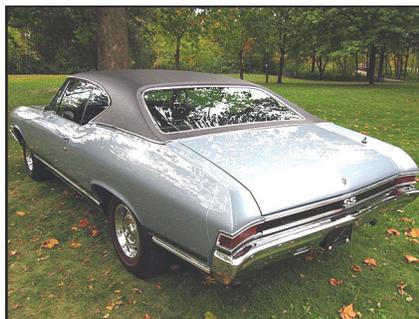
“No, not yet, Dan.” That Chevelle belonged to one of the salesman’s daughters. Her husband had a new Camaro, and they could not afford two car payments, so Mr. Ramsey let him put it on the showroom to sell.

After school one day I reverted my efforts to Mom, asking, “Please go down and look at that car before they sell it!” She said, “Ok,” so we went there after school. We walked into the showroom, and I walked up to the car and said, “This is it. Isn’t it beautiful?”

She smiled and said, “Yes, it is!” Bill walked up and smiled at us. Mom said, “I want you to get this car off the showroom. We are buying it.”

Bill said, “Now, Mrs. Beck, you know you are going to be in so much trouble. Mr. Beck does not want Dan to have this big engine.”

She said, “Oh, don’t worry about him. I will handle it!!!” So I drove my Chevelle home and parked it under a big sycamore shade tree and hurried to get all the cows milked, the calves fed, and the barn cleaned before dad got home from work.



When he pulled in the lane, he got out and walked up towards mom and asked, “Where did that thing come from?”

Mom said, “I know you are going to be upset but I bought it.”

He said, “No, I am not upset at all. He is a good boy,

works hard, takes care of the farm equipment, and I know he will take care of his car, so he deserves it.”

I thought, “Wait a minute, this is not my dad talking!”

Then he dropped the bomb!! “If he goes out and gets killed in it, I will cry when I walk by his casket because he is my baby, and I love him, but I will not feel guilty at all because YOU bought it for him--not me!!”

I said, “Wait, Dad! Do not put that guilt trip on Mom. I do not want it because of the engine. I want it because nothing is as cool as an SS Chevelle. I wouldn’t care if it came with a six cylinder, but they only come with 396’s! I promise you if I get one ticket in it, you can take it back to Ramsey’s and have Bill sell it.”



I kept that promise and never had any problems that I got caught at!!! I loved that car until about

three years later when I saw the first ‘73 Monte Carlo in *Car and Driver* in the June issue, and they unveiled the new body style. It was a burgundy one with a white landau roof. I read the article and went straight to Ramsey Chevrolet to see Bill and order one. By now I was well into college and worked at the Tulsa County Courthouse and could afford the payment.

The Monte Carlo came in late in September, and I had the very first one in Tulsa. What a head turner it was! The Saturday morning it came in I called Bill for the 95th time to see if it was there yet. He told me “no” and that he would call me when it got there--for the 95th time. Then he looked up and said, “Wait a minute! An auto transport truck is slowing down on Memorial. Yes, I see your car! It is the last one on the load. Come on down!”

I cleaned out my Chevelle and cried all the way to Bixby. Dad came home from work at noon and saw me weeping as I cleaned out the SS. He said, “Son, if you like this car that much, why are trading it in?”

I replied, “You haven’t seen the Monte Carlo.” While I was at the dealership, I looked at a Corvette on the showroom and sat down in it. Bill said that I looked good in it, but I said, “My dad will never let me get one of these as long as I am in college because of the payments and insurance!” Was I ever right as chapter three will explain.

Corvettes at Carlisle 2013

by Brett Driscoll
NCRS #26846

The annual migration to Pennsylvania was a trip to remember. Corvettes at Carlisle is always memorable

- - some years for reasons not related to our hobby. Lance Miller reported a record crowd attendance. We noticed several new vendors and missed some old favorites. We had a new neighbor cooking incredibly good kettle style popcorn. The aroma was their best marketing tool.

There was a great number of 1963 Corvettes present for

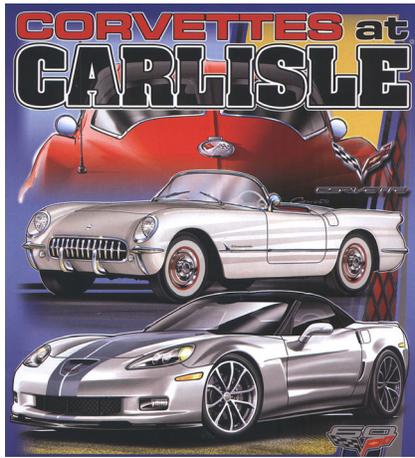
the 1963 reunion. I have never witnessed more red red coupes at any time. There was a Duntov award winning Z06 coupe with a black exterior and red interior that was my favorite car of the show. The NCRS booth had many exceptional cars. The NCRS booth had the only

1955 Corvette that I saw at the show.

We had a new C7 parked adjacent to us when we arrived on Thursday. It was received with great enthusiasm. It is a Corvette like no other. It makes

the C6 look somewhat dated. I look forward to seeing them around town. I think they will be great sellers. I look forward to hearing your comments.

Weather was great, possibly the best we have ever had for the weekend in Pennsylvania. If you have never



made the trip you should make plans and go. The 1964 reunion will be featured next year with the other midyears to follow.



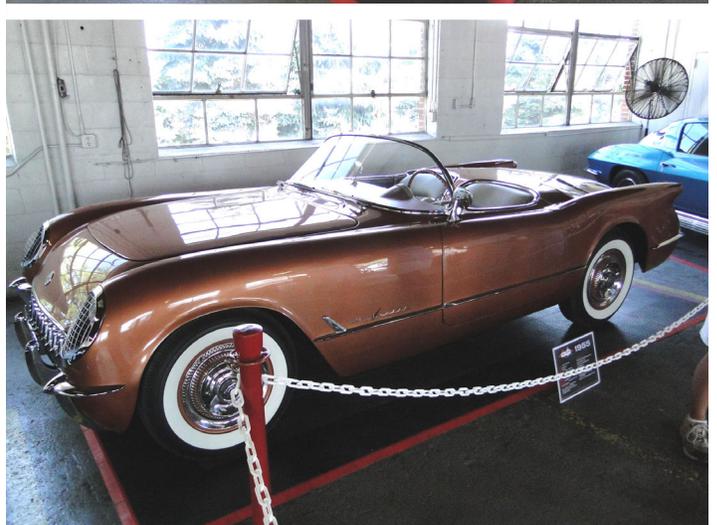




photo Credits - Bob Clark

Rarest Automobile in the World

This is the car that in 1954 could have “killed” the Corvette.

So, Chevrolet, being GM’s big sales and profit division, campaigned to GM to “kill” this car.

When Chevy was coming out with its 6-cylinder sports car with its 2-speed “powerglide” transmission and side curtains, there was a sports car from Olds with a big old V-8 engine with power windows.

So, GM said, “no” to Oldsmobile on building this car.

The world’s rarest automobile: a 1954 Concept Olds Rocket F88 - the only one in existence.

John S. Hendricks (Discovery Communications founder), paid in excess of \$3 million to acquire this 1954 Oldsmobile F-88 Convertible Concept Car.

After spending decades as a collection of parts stuffed into wooden crates, the F-88 was reassembled.

In 1954, the F-88 was a Motorama Dream Car, and was one of only two (or an unconfirmed possible three), ever created.

The F-88 seen here is literally the only car left of its kind and was sold to John and Maureen Hendricks at the prestigious Barrett-Jackson Auto Auction in Scottsdale, Arizona, for an unbelievable \$3,240,000.

This acquisition made automotive history and is in the cornerstone of the Gateway Colorado Automobile Museum, in its own special room in a rotating display, worthy of the F-88.



Oklahoma Chapter Website

by Kelly Bolton

Our web-site www.ncrs-ok.org was reviewed, accepted and published to the internet on August 13th. Special thanks again to Russ, Verle and Joe Voros for their work on developing and implementing our new web-site. Our next steps are updating the content on the web-site. Russ, Verle and I have access and are learning how to update and publish new information. As we continue to learn and update the tasks remain divided as listed below:

Home Page – Phil & Russ
Membership – Don & Verle
Events – Jim, Brett & Verle
Newsletter – Bob & Russ
Photo Albums – Phil & Russ
Contacts – Neal & Kelly
Classifieds – Scott & Kelly
Restoration Tips – Scott & Kelly
Links – Neal & Kelly

Recent updates include Home Page, Photo Albums, Contacts, Links and all background pictures, (mostly from the latest Joplin Regional Meet). The page for Membership 2 is our Member List and is password protected. As Don and Verle populate this page, access is for members only, and we will share the Username and Password and our next meeting. As we continue to populate our web-site, if you have items for the Classifieds, please email to Bob, Scott or me and if possible include a picture.

We are off to a great start and your input/comments are always appreciated, so please bring them to our next Chapter Meeting or email Russ, Verle or me.

Zink Ranch Museum Tour

by Jim Elder

On Saturday, October 26, 2013, the Oklahoma Chapter will visit the Zink Ranch Museum to see the race car collection. The time will be determined later, but mark your calendar for this event.

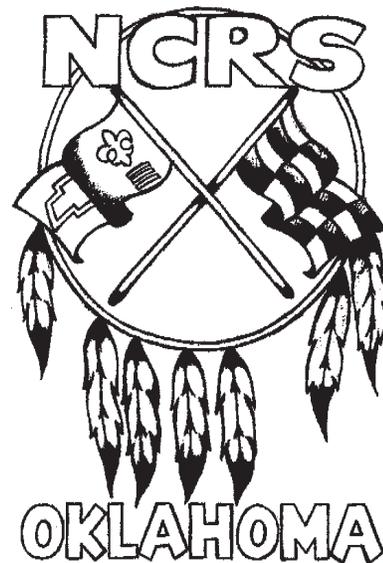
Mike Smith and I are working on this event and will have a sign up sheet at the September meeting. If you can't attend the meeting, call Jim at 918-748-8256 or e-mail jretulsa@cox.net. Mark your calendars now. This is a rare opportunity and the tour will be great. We hope to have a BIG turnout for this event.

Judging School

by Brett Driscoll
Oklahoma Judging Chairman
NCRS #26846

It's official. I have a fall Chapter Judging School on the books. Mark your calendars. The date is October 12th. We have been invited to use a new facility. Dominic White has graciously offered the use of his building for a judging school. I have two Corvettes, a 1966 roadster and a 1963 roadster. I plan to use these two cars for reference to provide everyone an opportunity to see what areas are covered at a judging meet. I will have judging sheets for the cars, and we can group up and go through the sections that most interest the group.

This will be an opportunity to learn more about our cars and enjoy our hobby. I will have more details at the Saturday breakfast. I hope to see you there.



Corvette Classified

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

- Sept 7 Oklahoma Chapter Breakfast Meeting - Ollie's Station Restaurant - 4070 Southwest Blvd - Tulsa, OK
Sept 17 Attitude Adjustment Night - Rib Crib Restaurant - 8040 South Yale Ave. - Tulsa, OK
Sept 19-22 NCRS Regional - Kenner, Louisiana - See *Driveline* for info
Sept 21 Annual Ice Cream Social/Picnic at the home of Don and Janice Partridge - Details this *Sidepipe*
Oct 5 Oklahoma Chapter Breakfast Meeting - Ollie's Station Restaurant - 4070 Southwest Blvd - Tulsa, OK
Oct 12 Oklahoma Chapter Judging School - information at September breakfast meeting and October *Sidepipe*
Oct 17-19 NCRS Texas Regional - Frisco/Dallas, Texas - See *Driveline* for info
Oct 26 John Zink Ranch Museum Tour - Details in this *Sidepipe*
Dec 7 Annual Christmas Party and Dinner -

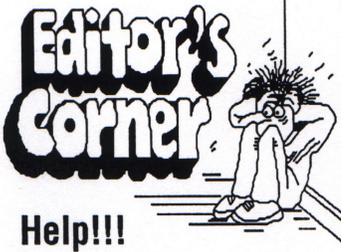
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NCRS Communication

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.



Thanks to Danny Beck, Brett Driscoll, Kelly Bolton, Jim Elder and Steve Mudd 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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