



The TALEPIPE

PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL CORVETTE RESTORER'S SOCIETY
FEBRUARY 1998

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By John Smart

I have just returned from the Regional in Cypress Gardens, Florida and can report that a good time was had by all, in spite of a monsoon style rain. Considering last summer's National Convention, our successful Heart O' Texas Regional in Waco and the large turnout in Florida, I see a very encouraging indicator of the health of the NCRS.

The Texas Chapter recently held events in Houston, San Antonio and Dallas-Fort Worth. Coming in April is the Texas Chapter Road Trip to Fredericksburg; a flyer/entry is attached to this newsletter. In July, there is the National Road Tour to the 25th Annual NCRS Convention and I would like to see Texas Chapter participation in this event; see additional details herein. This years National Convention (July 5-9) is being held just across the Mississippi from St. Louis and is about as close to Texas as any recent Convention; don't let this opportunity slip away.

I want to take this opportunity to introduce and welcome the new 1998-1999 Chapter Officers: **Ray Macgregor**; Vice President; **John Rogers**, Secretary; **John Woods**, Judging Chairman and **Rolf Krueger**, Newsletter Editor. A sincere "Thank You" is in order for the outgoing officers; **Chuck Anderson**; **Frank Tuttle**; **Tom Ames**; and **Buddy Williams**.

It's time for me to close, but I hope to see y'all soon. Stay tuned for information on upcoming events and keep those tires turning!

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Ray Macgregor

Well, another year is upon us, and along with it comes the only constant that many of us experience anymore—Change! In the case of the Texas Chapter, that change is in a crop of new officers. I am honored to find myself in the position of Chapter Vice President; with the imposing challenge of filling the shoes of my predecessor, Chuck Anderson. With his recent 40th birthday, Chuck seems to think that we will let him slip into a more quiet lifestyle, but I have no intention of letting that happen until I am fully up to date with the projects currently in the works. Be forewarned, Chuck; you are not quite done yet!

One of the nice aspects of change is that it gives us all a clean slate to work with. We have the opportunity to determine what to keep, what to discard and what to alter. My policy will be to work with both the previous and current officers to determine what we can do to further strengthen our chapter organization. This, however, can't be done in a vacuum. It requires both input and support from the membership at large; otherwise it will be a reflection of a few and not the majority of the membership. In other words, if you have thoughts, criticisms or ideas; step up to the challenge, present them to the leadership, and then assist in their ultimate implementation. This is, above all else, an organization of people who have joined to share their enjoyment of a common interest—**Corvettes**. It is SUPPOSED to be fun for everybody! If it is not working exactly the way

you would like, the GET INVOLVED to see if the majority of members feel the way you do.

I look forward to see a large group of you at the Road Tour in April. I have heard that there are already more than 20 cars registered. I don't know about the rest of you, but I want to see if that darned snake at Round Rock State Park has gotten any bigger!

JUDGING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

By John Woods

As the new Judging Chairman for the Texas Chapter, the first thing I would like to do is to thank Tom Ames for his tireless energy, time and effort as the outgoing Judging Chairman. Tom has created for us a standard that is unsurpassed in the NCRS. We all owe him a great deal of gratitude for his outstanding contribution to our Chapter and the NCRS as a whole. We will be calling on Tom for advice in the future to insure that we continue to follow his example of continuous improvement in the quality of our judging program.

As some of you may recall, I was recently appointed to a national level position as the NCRS Technical Training & Quality Assurance Advisor. In that position, I have the responsibility for developing course material and other training aids that will be used to improve the overall proficiency of NCRS Judges at all levels; Chapter, Regional and National. These activities are governed by the goals set by the National Judging Chairman and the various Corvette Model Team Leaders to improve the overall quality of the judging process. In future reports, I will share more information about these efforts, as well as results achieved.

Before our next Chapter Meet in Waco in October 1998, we want to conduct several judging schools around the state; most likely in Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth and San Antonio. These will be half day sessions, providing members with a combination of judging fundamentals and hands-on experience. Data on schedule and location of these events will be provided in future newsletters.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

By Rolf Krueger

Buddy Williams set up the database and process to publish a magazine style Chapter Newsletter, and we all appreciate his efforts and talents in doing so. The Texas Chapter will continue to publish four magazine style editions of *The Tailpipe* each year on an end of calendar quarter basis. Cutoff dates for input to these issues will be the last day of February, May, August and November. Between these quarterly issues, the Chapter will also publish three to four shorter, letter style editions of *The Tailpipe* each year. Cutoff dates for input to these issues will be the 15th day of January, April, July and October. All Members are encouraged to submit data for publication in *The Tailpipe* to the Newsletter Editor at:

Phone 817-448-9834
 Fax 817-448-9835
 E Mail rkrueger@flash.net

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Brian Lee

Treasury status as of 12/31/97 is as follows:

LEDGER ITEM	VALUE
Starting Balance, 01/01/97	\$ 3,512.87
1997 Revenues	
Chapter & National Dues	\$ 2,664.00
August Dallas Meet	231.00
<u>October Regional Meet</u>	<u>9,673.00</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 12,568.00
1997 Expenses	
Non Regional Meets	\$ 307.49
October Regional Meet	7,977.29
Newsletters & Postage	1,861.17
Office Supplies	177.53
Bank Charges	20.00
National Dues Paid to Chapter	120.00
<u>Miscellaneous Expenses</u>	<u>159.54</u>
Total Expenses	\$ -10,623.02
Ending Balance, 12/31/97	\$ 5,457.85

DFW AREA SEMINAR ON ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

Bob Cook reports that twenty six information hungry members gathered on Saturday, 17 January, for an Electrical Systems Seminar. The seminar presenter was Tom Douglas and the host facility was Frank Parra Chevrolet in Irving, TX.

Tom presented the group with such interesting and factual data that the 2 ½ hour seminar sped by almost as fast as a Corvette on a Racetrack. The attending group left the seminar with enough information on basic electrical know-how that they may be tempted to tackle the electrical system in their own Corvette! Following the Seminar, the group visited the Parra Chevrolet showroom to critique the 1998 C5 Convertible and then had lunch at Crystal's Pizza.

The DFW Area NCRS contingent is looking for other knowledgeable members to present future seminars on such topics as engines, restorations, paint and body, etc. Anyone with suggestions or a desire to volunteer should call Bob Cook at 214-692-7226 during weekday business hours.

SAN ANTONIO AREA ACTIVITY

Bob Demmel reports that San Antonio area NCRS members had their first get together on Saturday, 24 January at the Pig Stand, a local drive in and Friday night cruise location. Although the turnout was small, a good and productive time was had by all. There was discussion on restoration and preparation for Top Flight competition. The group would like to plan a Cruise and Lunch or Dinner outing in the near future. Any one interested in participating should call Bob Demmel at 210-492-2359.

HOUSTON AREA ACTIVITY

Jeff Gunn reports that Houston area NCRS members held their first official meeting on Saturday, 14 January 1998. The meeting was held at Naber Motors with 41 NCRS members in

attendance. Tom O'Grady, Houston Area Coordinator, conducted the business portion of the meeting, which included introductions by each member and an open floor discussion of ideas for future activities and goals for the Area. Based on the ideas expressed at the meeting and a survey of interests the area's members; the focus of activities and future meetings will be repair and restoration, collaborating on issues such as part availability and interchangeability, experience with vendors and preparation for flight judging. Meetings will be held quarterly and will be rotated among the several outstanding Corvette restoration facilities in the area. Meetings will concentrate on straight axle, mid-year and shark (post) era cars and issues. A local newsletter will be published containing information about upcoming local and Regional events, technical and parts questions and answers and Houston area classifieds. Special thanks to the Nabers Brothers for providing the use of their facility, and for the tours they provided following the business portion of the meeting.

The next Houston Area meeting will be Saturday, 9 May 1998, at Corvettes and Classics by Ray in the Greenspoint area. This meeting will be a Judging School seminar; John Woods, Chapter Judging Chairman will conduct the seminar with the help of several experienced assistants. Maps and directions will be mailed to everyone on the current Houston Area mailing list.

Also planned is a combination show and shine and "mock flight judging" on 22 August 1998. We hope that the flight judging will give local members the information and experience to participate in the October Chapter Meet in Waco. Further details and registration forms will be distributed to members as details develop.

Houston Area meetings are open to all NCRS members. If you would like additional information, or would like to help with Houston area NCRS activities, please contact either Tom O'Grady at 281-292-6522(H) or 281-591-4412(W), or Jeff Gunn at 281-550-6791(H) or 713-683-4366(W). Tom or Jeff would be happy to add you to the growing Houston area roster.

NEAR TERM SHOWS/EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
March 4-8	Dallas New Car Dealer Show Dallas-Convention Center
March 6-8	Ft Worth Rod & Custom Show Fort Worth-Will Rogers
March 7-8	Corvette & Chevy Expo Houston-Convention Center
March 27-29	Super Chevy Show Ennis, TX-Motorplex
March 27-29	C5 Birthday Celebration Bowling Green, KY-NCM
April 2-4	NCRS Western Regional Meet Albuquerque, NM-Holiday Inn
April 4-5	NASCAR BGN/WC Races Fort Worth-Texas Motor Spdway
April 9-11	Knoxville Corvette Expo Knoxville, TN-Chilhowee Park
April 23-25	NCRS Southeast Regional Bowling Green, KY-NCM
April 24-26	Super Chevy Show Houston-Raceway Park
July 5-9	NCRS National Convention Collinsville, IL-Convention Ctr

NATIONAL 1998 CORVETTE ROAD TOUR

The NCRS is planning a 1998 Corvette Road tour in conjunction with the National NCRS Convention in Collinsville, Illinois on 5-9 July. Four different regional tour components will depart from different points in the USA at staged times and will all meet on July 4th in Paducah, Kentucky to stay overnight and enjoy Holiday festivities. The entire tour will depart Paducah on 5 July so that the Tour can arrive at the same time at the Convention Center in Collinsville.

The Texas Chapter Representative for this Tour is Tom Douglas. Contact Tom at 972-985-7915 for additional details and appropriate Registration material.

TOM'S HANDY DANDY TIPS

The following are maintenance tips suggested by Texas Chapter member Tom Douglas, expert mechanic and parts whiz.

1. Thermostat housings on Chevrolet engines tend to leak between the housing and the intake manifold. Chevrolet has a gasket with a raised "O"-Ring that will solve this problem. The Part Number is 10105135 and List Price is \$1.30
2. Chevrolet/GM Parts Counter is "Mr. Goodwrench Glass Cleaner". Over the years, I have tried every glass cleaning product I could find to clean old car glass and this GM product is by far the best. The Part Number is 1050427 and List Price is \$3.55 for 23 ounce can.
3. All Chevrolet cars and trucks with the Positraction rear axle require a special additive to the regular gear oil. The purpose of the additive is to lubricate the clutch plates in the Positraction clutch assembly. If you hear strange "Popping" sounds from your rear axle, you should drain the existing lubricant and refill with new lubricant and add a jar of the additive. The GM rear axle lubricant is Part Number 1052271 with a List Price of \$6.25; two cans are required. The Additive Part Number is 1052358 with a List Price of \$6.15; 1 can is required. GM is the only source for this product.

1998 CORVETTE SALES/PRICING

Sales of 1998 Corvettes are brisk and Chevrolet has already started to curtail taking orders for Model Year 1998 Corvettes because the current order backlog extends well into the middle of 1998. Rumors are strong that Chevrolet will introduce a fixed roof Corvette coupe in Model Year 1999; it will be configured with many of the convenience/luxury features as optional equipment and is expected to have a base price several thousand dollars lower than the Targa Coupe. See page 5 for details on 1998 Corvette pricing.

1998 CORVETTE PRICING DATA

Compiled by Rolf Krueger, Fort Worth, TX; 15 January 1998; NC = No Cost

RPO	DESCRIPTION	MSRP PRICE
1YY07	1998 Chevrolet Corvette Coupe	\$ 37,995
1YY67	1998 Chevrolet Corvette Convertible	\$ 44,425
---	Destination Charges	\$ 565
R8C	Customer Pickup at NCM, Bowling Green, KY	\$ 400
1SA/1SB	Base Equipment Group (Note 1)	\$ NC
AAB	Memory Package (Requires CJ2)	\$ 150
AG2	Power Passenger Seat	\$ 305
AQ9	Adjustable Sport Leather Seats (Requires AG2)	\$ 625
AR9	Leather Bucket Seats	\$ NC
B34	Front Floor Mats	\$ 25
B84	Body Side Moldings	\$ 75
C2L	Dual Roof Panels-Painted & Translucent-Coupe Only	\$ 950
CC3	Translucent Roof Panel-Blue Tint-Coupe Only	\$ 650
CJ2	Dual Zone Air Conditioning Control	\$ 365
D42	Luggage Shade and Cargo Net -Coupe Only	\$ 50
FE9	Federal Emission Requirements	\$ NC
NG1	CT/MA/NY Emission Requirements	\$ 170
YF5	California Emission Requirements	\$ 170
F45	Selective Real Time Damping Control (Not available w/Z51)	\$ 1,695
G92	Performance Rear Axle Ratio (3.15, Not available w/MN6)	\$ 100
JL4	Active Handling System	\$ 500
LS1	5.7 Liter SFI V8 Engine	\$ NC
MN6	6 Speed Manual Transmission	\$ 815 (715 w/ZAZ)
MX0	4 Speed Automatic Transmission	\$ NC
N73	Magnesium Wheels (Not Currently Available)	\$ 3,000
T96	Halogen Fog Lamps	\$ 69
UN0	AM/FM Stereo with CD Player	\$ 100
UIS	Remote 12 Disc CD Changer	\$ 600
V49	Front License Plate Frame	\$ 15
Z51	Performance Handling Package (Note 2)	\$ 350
ZY1	Exterior Paint-Paint Code (Note 3)	\$ NC
---	Interior Color-Code (Note 4)	\$ NC
---	Convertible Top Color-Code (Note 5)	\$ NC
ZAZ	Indy 500 Pace Car Replica Package-Convertible Only (Note 6)	\$ 5,039

(1) 1SA/Coupe has standard integral radio antenna, 1SB/Convertible has standard power radio antenna

(2) Requires AG2 and with Automatic Transmission requires G92; Not available with F45.

(3) Available 1998 Exterior Colors (Code):

White (10U), Light Pewter Metallic (11U), Sebring Silver Metallic (13U), Nassau Blue Metallic (23U), Black (41U), Light Carmine Red Metallic (53U), Torch Red (70U), and Medium Purple Metallic (95U).

(4) Available 1998 Interior Colors(Code):

Black (193), Light Oak (673), Light Gray (923), and Red (943)

(5) Available 1998 Convertible Top Colors (Code):

White (16T), Black (41T) and Light Oak (67T)

(6) ZAZ Pace Car Package includes Radar Blue (21U) exterior paint, Black top, Yellow and Black (194) interior , Yellow wheels (PA6) , Pace Car graphics, LS1 engine and base suspension. Package also includes the following options: MX0, G92, JL4, AQ9, AG2, AAB, CJ2, B34, UN0, and T96.

25th Annual NCRS National Convention July 5-9, 1998 Collinsville, Illinois Hosted by St. Louis, Kansas City & Oklahoma Chapters

Collinsville & the Greater St. Louis Area

Situated in Illinois, Collinsville is just a short drive from downtown St. Louis. The area offers many fine attractions for adults and children. The Gateway Arch stands on the Mississippi Riverfront as a memorial to Thomas Jefferson's dream of a continental United States. There are many historic homes and townhouses that can be toured. Other attractions for the family include the St. Louis Science Center, St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis Children's Museum, Grant's Farm, Six Flags Great Adventure, Keil Center, home of the St. Louis Blue's Hockey Team, the newly completed Trans World Dome, home of the St. Louis Rams Football Team, and Busch Stadium, home of Cardinals baseball. Also, you can see Gateway International Raceway with Indy Car, NHRA and NASCAR racing. Union Station and the Riverfront area are attractions you won't want to miss. Shops, restaurants and entertainment abound.

Day trips from the area include the Missouri Wine Country, Eureka with more than 100 antique dealers, St. Charles, Missouri, 30 minutes from downtown, listed on the National Register with red brick streets and gas lamps reminiscent of an old river city, and Hannibal, the boyhood home of Mark Twain.

Plan to bring the entire family for a week of Corvettes and area attractions. You won't be disappointed.

NCRS Convention Schedule (Subject to Modification)

Sunday, July 5th

1 pm to 5:30 pm General Registration
1 pm to 5:30 pm Judging Check-in & Display Car Placement
5:30 pm All Judged Cars Must Be Checked-in & Staged!
6 pm Welcome Reception Cocktail Party

Monday, July 6th

8 am to 5 pm Registration Desk Open
8 am Founders Judges & Owners Meeting
8:30 am Founders Award Judging begins
9 am Operations Judging & Judged Car Placement begins
9 am Performance Verifications (by appointment)
10 am to 5 pm Swap Meet
6 pm to 8 pm BBQ Dinner
8 pm Membership Meeting & Founders Awards

Tuesday, July 7th

7 am Bow-Tie Judges Breakfast & Meeting
8 am Bow-Tie Owners Meeting
8:15 am Observer Judges Meeting
8:30 am Bow-Tie Judging begins
8 am to 4 pm Registration Desk Open
9 am Bus Excursion to St. Louis Zoo & Science Center
10 am to 4 pm Swap Meet
11 am to 4 pm Tech Sessions - Meet the Folks Who Built Your Car
4:30 pm Bus Trip to Mid-America Designs for Dinner & Fun!

Wednesday, July 8th

7 am Judges Breakfast & Meeting
8 am Owners Meeting
8:15 am Observer Judges Meeting
8:30 am Flight Judging Begins (as scheduled)
8 am to 4 pm Registration Desk Open
9 am Bus Excursion to Six Flags Great Adventure
10 am to 4 pm Swap Meet
6:30 pm Sock Hop Dinner Dance with Sh-Boom

Thursday, July 9th

7 am Judges Breakfast & Meeting
8 am Owners Meeting
8:15 am Observer Judges Meeting
8:30 am Flight Judging Begins (as scheduled)
9 am Bus Excursion to St. Charles for Antique Shopping
10 am to 4 pm Swap Meet
6 pm Awards Banquet Cocktail Hour
7 pm Awards Banquet

Lodging Information

All room reservations and bookings will be handled by the Convention Bureau in Collinsville. Upon submitting your convention registration to NCRS-Cincinnati, you will receive a reservation form that must be mailed to the Convention Bureau. You will not be eligible for our special rates by contacting any of the hotels direct. All hotels are within a five-minute walk of the judging field. Rooms in each hotel are limited. In order to secure your first choice of hotel, you may send in your registration form now and if you are planning to have a car judged, send the vehicle registration in at the later (1/15/98) date listed. Hotel rates vary from \$61.88 to \$85.95 per night. The in-between rates are \$69, \$71, \$75, \$77 and \$79. **YOU MUST REGISTER WITH NCRS-CINCINNATI AND GET YOUR REGISTRATION NUMBER. WITHOUT ONE YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BOOK A ROOM!!**

Registration Information

Pre-registrations without added late penalty fees will be accepted only if received on or before Friday, May 15th. Registrations after May 15th must be done on-site at Collinsville and are subject to a \$30 late fee. Convention registrations will be confirmed by return mail. Registration packets, meal tickets, shirts and name badges may be picked up at the NCRS registration desk.

Cancellation Information

NCRS Convention and/or Judging registration cancellations must be received in writing. Convention (not judging) cancellations are subject to a \$15 fee; cancellations received after June 1st (or no notification) are subject to forfeiture of \$45 registration fee, and guaranteed meal tickets cannot be refunded. Cancellation of a CONFIRMED JUDGING ENTRY received on or before May 15th, is subject to a \$25 fee; CONFIRMED JUDGING ENTRY cancellation received after May 15th is subject to a \$50 fee; CONFIRMED JUDGING ENTRY cancellation received after JUNE 1st (or no notification) is subject to forfeiture of \$100 judging deposit. All Convention and/or Judging cancellations must be RECEIVED in Cincinnati no later than Monday, June 1st.

Awards Notice: Judging Award recipients not attending Collinsville awards presentations will be charged a handling & shipping fee of \$20 which will be paid at the time of registration in Collinsville.

- Questions regarding convention details, contact:

Steve Walker, 1998 Convention Chairman
8212 State Route 143 - Edwardsville, IL 62025
Phone: 618-692-1033

- Questions regarding convention registration, contact:

Gary Mortimer, Convention Registrar
6291 Day Road - Cincinnati, OH 45252-1334
Phone: 513-385-8526

- Questions regarding judging registration, contact:

Roy Sinor, National Judging Chairman
9575 No. 177th E. Ave. - Owasso, OK 74055-8339
Phone: 918-834-0259

DON'T MISS THE SPRING '98 ROADTRIP !

Last year's Spring Roadtrip was so successful that we have decided to do it again. Our destination this spring will again be . . . Fredericksburg! Located in the heart of the scenic Texas Hill Country, Fredericksburg is a community brimming with German Heritage and historical charm. We will be taking the scenic route and with a little cooperation from Mother Nature, we should see lots of those famous Texas Bluebonnets.

There will be 3 departure points on Saturday, April 25th, with 1 leaving the **Dallas/Ft. Worth** area, 1 from **San Antonio**, and 1 from **Houston**. Everyone should arrive in Fredericksburg by early afternoon in time to get in some shopping (a.k.a. adult refreshments). Dinner Saturday night will be at a local well known restaurant. After breakfast on Sunday morning, we'll depart Fredericksburg and head east. Time permitting, we'll make a brief stop at the LBJ Ranch. We plan to stop for lunch and return home by mid-afternoon.

Send in your registration for more specific information. This is a great way to get to know your fellow Texas Chapter members and get the Corvette out on the open road. If you have a CB radio, bring it along and you'll be sure to catch the jokes. We have a block of rooms reserved until March 25, but we anticipate a good turnout so make your reservations early.

If you'd like to come along on the trip, **you must register and provide the proof of liability insurance** for the car you will be driving. Please return the registration form and list the complete VIN of your car. Proof of insurance is a requirement of the NCRS National Headquarters and there can be **no exceptions**. When we receive your registration and proof of insurance, you will receive a confirmation letter, the name and number of the motel in Fredericksburg, and the route map. Hope you can make it!

There will be a short Chapter Business Meeting at Fredericksburg on Saturday evening 4/25.

Registration for Spring '98 Roadtrip to Fredericksburg

Name: _____ Spouse/Companion: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Car to be driven: _____

Car VIN: _____

Don't forget to include **proof of liability insurance** for above vehicle and mail to:

NCRS
P.O. Box 540487
Dallas, TX 75354

Office (214) 350-8757
Home (817) 379-0075

(214) 350-8769 Fax
(817) 431-8799 Fax

**Texas Chapter, NCRS
Newsletter Office
917 Remuda Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76108**

Address Correction Requested

