



# CLASSIC HEARTBEAT

February 2006

Volume 30, Issue 2

NEWS OF '55, '56 AND '57 CHEVYS IN NORTH TEXAS AND BEYOND



PO Box 814642  
Dallas, TX 75381  
www.DallasClassicChevy.com  
membership - 94

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President – David Graves**  
214 738-5231 term expires 12/07

**Vice Pres – Marvin Johnson**  
214 352-9132 term expires 12/06

**Treasurer – Dean Schmidt**  
972 867-3255 term expires 12/06

**Secretary – Greg Hedum**  
972 539-9886 term expires 12/07

**Board Member - Larry Rollow**  
972 960-1408 term expires 12/06

**Board Member - Bill Preston**  
972 691-4968 term expires 12/07

**Board Member - John Rush**  
972 517-4247 term expires 12/06

### Appointed Positions

**Tech Advisor - Larry Rollow**  
972-960-1408

**Tech Advisor - Marvin Johnson**  
214 352-9132

**Membership Chairman**  
**Bill Preston**  
972 691-4968

## DACC Celebrates the 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1956 CHEVROLET! THIS WEEKEND AT THE 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Dallas Autorama at Market Hall Friday, Saturday and Sunday!

Our club will display 7 varieties of the '56 Chevy - 50 years after they were introduced by Chevrolet. Today they are as popular if not more so than when they were new! The Dallas Autorama is the perfect place to bring attention to this Anniversary to all area gearheads! Displaying in the club's '56 Chevy Corral this weekend sponsored by Reliable Chevrolet is - John Rush, '56 210 Sedan - Rodney Nevils, '56 Corvette drag racer - Joe Gaikoski, '56 Convertible - Bill Preston, '56 Nomad - Dennis Gormley, '56 Pro Street Sedan - Nick Roppolo, '56 Bel Air Sedan and James Sparrow, '56 Bel Air Hardtop. In this group you will find something for everyone as the group couldn't be more diverse! This weekend we will also be providing souvenir handouts to commemorate this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Reliable Chevrolet and Stoked Out Specialties have stepped up to provided the funding for us to produce a one of a kind piece to recognize this special anniversary! Each car in the display is on the handout and this will be given to visitors to the show. This innovative method of recognizing this event will also carry information about our sponsors, our club and the Lone Star event coming up in May. Be sure to come out and see our display and hundreds of other cars at this weekend's AUTORAMA!



## Reliable Chevrolet signs on for another year as DACC sponsor! '55-'57 Chevy Show and DACC 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration at Reliable in March! Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 PM

Reliable Chevrolet has agreed to yet another 12 month term as a DACC sponsor as the #1 North Texas Chevy dealership recognizes the value in supporting the #1 Chevy car club in the metroplex! Reliable will host our Spring DACC '55-'57 Chevy Show and it is then that we will also celebrate our club's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! 'Birthday Cake' will be served and of course we will have an informal 'Favorite Picks' '55-'57 Chevy Show at Reliable in Richardson. Be sure to mark your calendar and join us as we support our sponsor and celebrate a special occasion for our club!

### DACC TO BE FEATURED ON CHANNEL 8 NEWS

This coming Friday morning's 'Daybreak' news program will feature LIVE segments from Market Hall and the Dallas Area Classic Chevys as the 'Why Guy' Mike Castellucci finds out just WHY '56 Chevys are so COOL! BE SURE TO WATCH between 5AM and 7AM on WFAA TV Channel 8!

### Market Hall

is located on Stemmons Freeway at Wycliff across from the Anatole Hotel.

Show hours are  
Friday - 3PM-10:30PM  
Saturday - 10AM-10PM  
Sunday - 11AM-7PM

Discount coupons at  
O'Reilly Auto Parts

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## **SUCCESSFUL DACC COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY IN DECEMBER!**

I want to thank all the volunteers that braved the cold morning to come out December 10th to build wheel chair ramps. We had nine DACC'ers show up for the build. Dean Schmidt, Kevin Brown and Greg Hedum along with his son worked with one of our other team leaders, and my spies tell me they did a great job. Bob Vaughan, Dan Bunch, Alan Strong and Don Andre worked with me and they also did a great job. There are two families more in Dallas that have benefited from the work of these DACC members and the Ramp Project. The Dallas Ramp Project is one of the few charitable organizations whereby all the funds donated end up with the user of what we do. We are all volunteers and there are no administration fees taken out. Again my personal thanks along with the thanks of the Dallas Ramp Project as well as the thanks of two families for the effort of the DACC volunteers.

*Larry Rollow*

## **DACC CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER FOOD AND LIGHTS!**

It was a night of food, gift exchange (stealing) and touring Plano's Christmas lights with Classic Chevys that made for a great evening at the home of Dean and Audrey Schmidt. Touring the area Christmas lights with a large group of Classic Chevys is the only way to do it! And dead end streets always make for interesting drives! Thanks to all who came out and to Dean and Audrey Schmidt for allowing us to use their home for this annual event and this special time of the year!



**This is not your typical tri-five story.** I actually had muscle cars as a teenager, a 1967 Chevelle SS396 and 1969 Malibu 350 that I spent many a night street racing. I also had a 1957 Belaire 4 door in my late twenty's. I always liked the old cars, hot rods and tri-fives. My wife, Leah, also had a muscle car as a teenager a 1973 Plymouth Gold Duster and then a 1955 Chevy Belaire when she was married to her first husband which they street raced on Saturday nights.

I had been saying for years that I wanted a 1932 or 1934 Ford five window coupe. In February 2002, I told my wife that by the time I got a coupe I would be too old to enjoy it. I told her since we both liked the tri-fives that I had made my mind up to buy a tri-five that our daughter and I could restore. Samantha was turning 14 and I knew our time for being close was limited with high school and boys looming in the real near future. Leah agreed, so we found and purchased a 1956 Chevy Belaire two-door post March 9, 2002. The car had a 350 small block with a 350 turbo automatic transmission. The interior badly needed help with no front door panels, torn seats and hanging headliner. The exterior paint job was old but not bad, it had a few pieces of stainless missing, but the most important thing to me was no rust and a straight body.

The next week we started the rebuild by having shocks installed and a new doughnut on the passenger's side to stop an exhaust leak. Then about three or four months later my cousin Charles Roppolo (yes he is in the club and drives the big blue 1956 Chevy panel truck, Samantha, and I jumped in and installed a chrome Ildit tilt wheel, 605 power steering box, a B&M Meg Floor Shifter, and a pair of ceramic coated Sanderson headers then it was back to the muffler shop to have a new Flow Master exhaust system installed along with a pair of Flow Master cutouts. Now it was a little more fun to drive and it had a little sound too. Samantha was a big help! She jumped right in bolting up the headers and getting her hands dirty! It was a lot of fun!

From that point on Samantha and I started accumulating parts and brainstorming with my wife, and friends as to what we wanted this car to be and look like. Every car show we went to and hot rod magazine we read we would pick up ideas. Samantha was starting to learn a lot about how a car works. We would occasionally climb under the car just to discuss how it all worked from the crankshaft all the way to the rear end ring and pinion gear. Her knowledge of cars grew and our time together was great.

## Member's Pride



**Nick and Leah Roppolo  
1956 Bel Air 2dr Sedan  
Mesquite, Texas**

Then in the summer of 2004, the car took on some major overhauling, with the help of a good friend, Ronnie Barryhill, who by the way has a sweet 1970 El Camino with a big rat motor. We began the next phase in Ronnie's garage out in Lone Oak, Texas. We went to work pulling the motor and transmission. Samantha and Ronnie were underneath the car disconnecting the drive shaft and transmission lines while Charlie and I were up top disconnecting the hoses and radiator. Samantha really liked the air wrenches that Ronnie has, she had a blast taking things apart plus she was starting to see first hand some internal parts that we had been discussing like the torque converter or "Jello Mold" as she calls it.

Mike Malone of Machine Works in Greenville, Texas showed up just in time to pick up the extracted motor. Mike had built motors for Ronnie and Charlie so I felt good putting the motor in his hands. After the tear down was complete, he described the motor as one tired 350 Chevy. The block was a four bolt main and the crank was in good shape so those are the only two things remaining from the original motor. Mike had a bare set of Chevy double hump fuel injected heads and a good set of hi-performance rods that he had been saving for the right person to come along. I took him up on his offer and he went to work on the rebuild. Mike bored the block 30 over and sent the crank and rotating assembly out to be balanced, while Graylyn Zito got nasty with the heads porting, polishing, he did a 5 angle valve job, matched and pinged the intake, then the motor was reassembled with hypereutectic forged pistons, triple springs, Hardensharp roller rockers, Comp Cam Xtreme Energy 284H hydraulic cam, polished Air Gap manifold, Holley polished 750 double pump carburetor with four corner idle, and a lot polished aluminum.

At the same time the motor was being built, the car was taken to Fred Taylor out at Cedar Creek Lake for a complete paint job and make over, doors, hood, fenders, and trunk was removed. The fender wells, firewall, dash, door jams, and inside the trunk was painted. In the middle of this project Fred, let us take the car back to Ronnie's for a few months to rebuild the front end and put the power plant back in place.

Back at Ronnie's with the fenders gone, we completely rebuilt the front end with new bushings, ball joints, tie rods and rubbers. While installing the new front springs, 2 ½ "dropped spindles, power disc brakes, and a sway bar we picked up some additional help and knowledge from Tim Neece another good friend who has a T-bucket and 1940 coupe. We then reinstalled the newly rebuilt motor, and a new 700R4 automatic transmission with a 3000 stall PTC torque converter. Tim built a cross-member to help steady the 700R4 then with Samantha's help pumping the brake pedal Ronnie and Tim bleed and adjusted the brakes, after fixing a few leaks and waking Samantha up who fell asleep behind the wheel, it was time to load the car on Charlie's trailer and head back to the painter.

Several weeks later, the silver blue paint job was completed and it was time for the graphics. Leah, Samantha and I had spoken several times about colors and the types of flames that we all liked. I had told them that in the old days I always thought it was cool when a car had graphics on the trunk. I had silver and white pearl flames on my mind but I told the girls to do what ever they wanted. Samantha drew the flames and a solar planet scene on one of her art pads with colors she and her mother decided on. They discussed the theme and colors with Fred, and within about three weeks he turned it into reality. Purple, light

## MISC NOTES:

**\*\* Vicksburg, Mississippi on March 30th and April 1<sup>st</sup> will be the site for the Hurricane Katrina delayed 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Big River Show N Shine. Originally scheduled for the Labor Day weekend last year, this event features 1000 point CCI judging and is hosted by the Big River Classic Chevs. The host hotel is the Battlefield Inn (800) 359-9363 or [www.battlefieldinn.org](http://www.battlefieldinn.org) - room rate is \$62. The host club is on the net at [www.BigRiverClassics.com](http://www.BigRiverClassics.com) . Vicksburg is a straight shot over Interstate 20, located on the Louisiana/Mississippi line and would make a great spring trip to get out of the metromess for a weekend. Bill and Diane Preston have plans to attend and I am sure they would love to lead a group from DFW - contact them at (972) 691-4968 if you would like to make this trip with them! ...**

**\*\* Springfield, Missouri will be the site of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual CCI International Convention, hosted by the Classic Chevy Club of Springfield, MO on August 2-6, 2006. This is the annual big event for CCI and Springfield is a good day's drive from DFW, host hotel is the Clarion Hotel with rates of \$64 per night (888) 756-7318, more info at [www.ClassicChevy.com](http://www.ClassicChevy.com) ....**

**\*\* Sedona, Arizona is the home of the 2006 Chevy Nomad Convention to be held July 10-13 this summer. Expect Bill and Diane Preston to be among the participants at this annual gathering of tri five wagons! More info at [www.ChevyNomadClub.com](http://www.ChevyNomadClub.com) ....**

**\*\* Athens, Texas will be the destination on April 9th when the DACC conducts our Spring Cruise. This East Texas town is the Blackeyed Pea Capital of the World but we plan turn the clocks back when we cruise into town with our Tri Five Chevys! Mark your calendar and plan to join us as we caravan to this East Texas town for lunch on Sunday April 9th! ....**



## Roppollo Feature Car Continued

blue and silver flames trimmed out in hot pink, and a mural of solar planets on the trunk. It is one of a kind and I can only thank Leah, and Samantha for their vision, it turned out better than I could have imagined.

Next, the car had a complete wiring harness installed, so it now has all the modern circuits and fuses that a new car has. A set of new tires were installed on new Cragar SS wheels with a complete front-end alignment. Radiator support, braces, interior molding, and bumper's were re-chromed. New parking light assemblies, mirrors, door handles, chrome hinges, and new 4-core desert cool radiator, tail light assembly, custom grille, and hood bar was purchased and installed.

Back at Ronnie's it was time to for the finishing touches and to fire up the motor, everyone was there and pitching in. Mike and Tim helped Ronnie fire it up and broke in the cam. When that engine fired, we all were amazed with the sound. Charlie and I added a little something I had been holding out a set of electric cutouts on the exhaust. There is a button mounted to the console that I can push and they automatically open and close the headers. Everybody thinks the electric cutouts are cool.

During the past months for Samantha's sophomore year AP English project, she wrote about the restoration and made a scrapbook to show our progress. Leah drove the car up to the school, for the entire class, and her teacher to see it. Samantha did a presentation describing the project as well as teaching the class the basic way an engine powers a car. Needless to say the principal, coaches, and just about anyone who appreciates cars found a way to the parking lot. Samantha received an "A" for her report.

After eleven long months, we got the car back and I took it to Joseph's Auto Toy Store and had them install a security remote pager system, ground effects (LED lights), automatic door locks, and power windows.

September 2, 2005, Samantha and I entered the car in our first car show. It was a small show at the Burger Street on Town East Blvd. in Mesquite. We were very excited when we took the First Place trophy in the 50's class, it is something that Samantha and I will always remember.

What is next? Hopefully a new Ford 9 inch rear end with posi-traction and 4:11 gears, or Vintage Air/Heat, who knows? Oops! My wife just informed me that college is next for Samantha, starting next fall! Time has really flown and I would not trade a moment of it for the time spent with my daughter and friends making this car a reality from my dreams!

**LOOK FOR MORE PHOTOS OF NICK'S '56 ON THE CLUB WEBSITE  
[www.DallasClassicChevy.com](http://www.DallasClassicChevy.com)**



## DACC Celebrates 30 years! 1976 - 2006

### **It Happened** In February In DACC History

... **1985** - DACC wins Best Club Display at the Dallas Autorama

... **1989** - DACC displays 5 Classic Chevys at the Dallas Autorama - Tim Hammond's '57 210 sedan, Larry Cheek's '56 Convertible, Lance Denton's '56 Sedan Delivery, Alan Vaughn's '55 210 sedan, and David Janik's '55 Bel Air hardtop.

... **1999** - Young Chevrolet signs on as a sponsor of DACC

... **2004** - DACC reorganizes after several tough years that almost brought an end to the club.

... **2005** - Reliable Chevrolet becomes a DACC Sponsor

...**2005** - DACC celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the '55 Chevy with Autorama display and is featured on WFAA TV.

## Ft Worth Rod and Custom Show

March 3,4,5  
Will Rogers Center  
Amon G. Carter Exhibit Hall

The popular Ft Worth Rod and Custom Show will have a outstanding lineup of tri five Chevys from the DACC. DACC will have a display consisting of - Rodney Nevils - '56 blown Corvette race car, Sharkey Nelson - '55 Bel Air Hardtop, Bob Vaughan - '57 Bel Air Hardtop, Debbie Guido - '57 Chevy Sedan, George Caruth's '57 Sedan Delivery and Doyle Irick's '57 Cameo pickup! Be sure and check out this great group of '55-'57 Chevys at the show to be held at the Will Rogers Center in Fort Worth!

[www.TXSHOWCAR.COM](http://www.TXSHOWCAR.COM)

## Lone Star XXIV Update

May 5,6,7- Irving TX

A long but productive meeting took place at the host hotel Sheraton Grand DFW in Irving last month as DACC puts the finishing touches on the planning of Lone Star for 2006. A great turnout had the room filled to capacity and a lot of ground was covered. Here are the major committees and the person in charge of that committee

**Show Judging- Marvin Johnson 214 352-9132**  
**Registration/Hospitality - Bill Preston 972 691-4968**  
**Swap Meet - Larry Rollow 972 960-1408**  
**Drag Racing - Tom Walker 972 986-0849**  
**Dance/Hotel Arrangments Jim Conkle 817 581-0554**  
**Parking Lot Sound System - Dan Bunch 972 270-0461**  
**Signs - Greg Hedum 972 539-9886**  
**Security/Parking - Bob Vaughan 972 985-8580**  
**Photography - John Rush 972 517-4247**  
**Door Prizes/Sponsorships David Graves 214 738-5231**

If you have ANYTHING to offer to any of these committees, please contact that person in charge now. We are putting the final touches on our plans and expectations for the event and we need to know about any resources that you have that we can use to make the event successful. If you have ANYTHING to offer that does not fall into one of the committees but feel it may be useful towards the event, contact David Graves at 214 738-5231 ASAP.

The Committee Heads will meet several times to review status and issues that come up as we get closer to May 5,6,7. We are anticipating a very good turnout and we intend to be as prepared as we can to pull this off with success.

We have been very fortunate to have secured several significant sponsors for Lone Star. Richard Stokes' Stoked Out Specialties not only is a sponsor of DACC but has agreed to be a 'Major' Sponsor of Lone Star! Their support has been phenomenal to this club and have contributed significantly to our causes. Painless Performance Products, nationally known for their outstanding wiring harnesses and accessories has also agreed to be a 'Major' sponsor of the event. Adrian Murray and all the staff at the Ft Worth based supplier are big supporters of anything automotive! And our own DACC member George Caruth has stepped up with a 'Major' sponsor level contribution to the event. We are truly fortunate to have a member of the club as passionate about the tri five chevys as George is! Reliable Chevrolet has agreed to an 'Associate' sponsorship and their support over the past two years to our club in general has really been a win/win proposition for both organizations. The Houston Classic Chevy Club has sent a 'Club' sponsorship to DACC and their support is very special and meaningful for the continued success of Lone Star. More sponsors could be announced as this event grows closer! We have more programs we would like to fund so if you have a lead or want to get involved - contact David Graves for details.

Pre-registration forms are now on the Lone Star website and thanks to Kevin Brown we are able to accept and process online registrations using major credit cards! Also the schedule is posted on the website and you will see it is a aggressive one! Make your hotel room reservations now at the Sheraton Grand DFW and take advantage of the \$65 per night rate at this top notch hotel! You will want to be close to the action and the cars of Lone Star and staying at the hotel is the only way! Watch the Lone Star website for more news and developments!

[www.LoneStarChevys.com](http://www.LoneStarChevys.com)





**REGISTER NOW**  
for the  
**Lone Star XXIV Convention**  
May 5,6,7 2006  
[www.LoneStarChevys.com](http://www.LoneStarChevys.com)

Name  
Address  
City, State Zip

## 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mail

Contact Sales Manager Jeff Power at Reliable for the special DACC members deal on a new or used Chevy!

Need parts? Your contact is Jerry Lewis, Part Manager. He will get you the DACC deal on all parts available from Chevrolet, from glass cleaner to engines!



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