

In early 1974, Dennis McPeak, a member of the Corvette Club of Texas in Dallas wanted to find a Corvette club closer to home here in Fort Worth. He soon found out about a group of Corvette enthusiasts who were meeting at Buck's Trim Shop in east Fort Worth and began attending meetings. The group soon outgrew Buck's and with Dennis' help, the meetings were soon moved to Bruce Lowrie Chevrolet and the forerunner of Cowtown Vettes, the Fort Worth Corvette Club, was formed with April 6, 1974 marking the end of charter membership.

Dennis, as our first president and club founder of Cowtown Vettes, believed the best path would be to join NCCC and compete with other clubs. Other members of the Fort Worth Corvette Club preferred to remain non-affiliated. With these differences, a split soon occurred. Those who remained renamed the club Cowtown Vettes with Bruce Lowrie Chevrolet as our club sponsor. What started as a small group of dedicated, hard-working Corvette enthusiasts has now blossomed into a well-known, competitive club of 185 members that is competitive in all aspects of Corvetting and is also well-known regionally and nationally throughout the National Council of Corvette Clubs. We appreciate and applaud Dennis' wisdom, leadership and persistence to create a firm foundation that has helped carry Cowtown Vettes through its first 30 wonderful, memorable years. Dennis, would you please come forward for a special presentation.

Unfortunately, the lack of adequate records prevents us from recognizing all of those chartered at the April 6, 1974 meeting, but some of them are here today. Please stand when I call your name.

- Tom Adams
- Jim Bock (not present)
- Larry Hoaldrige
- Greg Holzer
- Lee Joyner
- Jerry Lindsey
- Dennis McPeak

Of these charter members, only two have not allowed to let their membership in Cowtown Vettes lapse at any time, thus signifying them as the only remaining "official" charter members according to our Club Bylaws. They are:

- Tom Adams
- Larry Hoaldrige

Tom and Larry, would you please come forward for a special presentation.

Even though I was honored in December, 1974 as being the 1st honorary member of Cowtown Vettes (Debbie Lindsey was the 2nd and to date we are the only individuals that honorary member has been bestowed upon.), I've been here from its inception right by Larry's side. Cowtown Vettes is family: we've seen members marry; we've seen members have children; we've seen those children grow up; we've said, "Welcome back!" to members who had left us to raise their families and then rejoined the club; we've even said good-bye to members who have passed from this life.

To quote Dennis McPeak from his 1st President's message:

"We know each other and help one another. We are truly a family club and I think that is where our real strength is."

Thank you.

