



VOLUME 37, NO. 3

www.cowtownvettes.org

\$25.00 Subscription



UPCOMING EVENTS

3/5 – MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:30-9:00 p.m. – Coors Hospitality Room

- 3/10 -May NCCC Event Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. – Coors Board Room

 3/14 – PRACTICE AUTOCROSS Mineral Wells Airpark, TX

3/17 – BOARD MEETING 7:00 p.m. – Coors Board Room **3/17 – Low-Down Article Deadline**

- 3/24 -May NCCC Event Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. – Coors Board Room

> - 3/31 -Car Show Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. – Coors Board Room

♦ 4/2 – MEMBERSHIP MEETING ♦

7:30-9:00 p.m. – Coors Hospitality Room *Vote for Outstanding Member*

4/21 – BOARD MEETING 7:00 p.m. – Coors Board Room **4/21 – Low-Down Article Deadline**

3 4/24 - RACE FOR THE CURE Susan G. Komen • Fort Worth, TX

- 4/28 -May NCCC Event Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. - Coors Board Room



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



CTV Officers 2010

DON WELLS: President

dfw73vette@att.net

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Board Member (Term 12/10)

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KARYN FOWLER

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SCOTT WHEELER Board Member (Term 12/11)

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KIM WEST

Board Member (Term 12/10)

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On February 2nd, Punxsutawney Phil came out of his cave and said, "There will be 6 more weeks of winter." Who would ever think Dallas and Fort Worth would have over 10 inches of show last month. Even with the cold, Cowtown had two successful socials. I made a call to the Mayor of Punxsutawney to ask Phil for the weather forecast for the weekend of March 14th. He said, "It will a nice sunny day for Cowtown's Auto Practice". See you all at Mineral Wells.

Don't forget my challenge to each Cowtown members to buy one ticket to support the NCCC National Kidney Foundation Drawing at the 2011 Convention. You could be the lucky person to win the 2010 Grand Sport. Check with Debbie Lindsey on information to buy your tickets.

"Remember this is your club"

Don J. Wells President • dfw73vette@ att.net



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Super Bowl party at Pappa's Burgers turned out great...we had 53 people show up, which I think may be a record for a Super Bowl party! The quarterly football pot winners were Glenda McMahan, Don Fowler, Virginia Littlefield, and Jim Benware. Jim actually had to leave the party early, but before he left he told me that if he won the last quarter to give his winnings to Sylvia Hoaldridge for her National Kidney Foundation fundraiser. Well, for those of you who know Sylvia, would you like to guess how many decibels the noise level went up in the

room when she found out that Jim's winnings were going to her fundraiser?!?

The second social for February was a Valentine's Dinner at Spaghetti Warehouse. Again, we had a great turnout (especially since we had two 100%er's this month) with 48 members! The food was great and the service was wonderful! We had the private banquet room, so it was really nice to be able to mingle with friends before dinner.

For March, our 100% r is the Practice Autocross on 3/14/2010 in Mineral Wells. David Gill (our *Competition Chairperson*) will have more details elsewhere in the *Low-Down* and at the March membership meeting. Remember, you need to sign up (and pay) for lunch, even you're not going to race the event!

In April, we'll be supporting the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on 4/24/2010 as our 100% social. The walk takes place in (*& around*) downtown Fort Worth in the morning and Karyn Fowler has again made arrangements for us to eat at Fuzzy's Taco Shop (same place as last year) immediately after the walk. Please see Karvn's article elsewhere in the *Low-Down* for more details.

As for the May social, all I have at this time is the date...May 15th ... mark your calendar and I'll have more details next month!

That's all for now folks!

Candy Beck CTV, Vice-President • candy.beck@sbcglobal.net (817) 223-9285

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Your newsletter is a reflection of your club. If you have any suggestions or ideas, on what you would like to see in your newsletter, please e-mail me. Send me your articles as plain text, Word or Publisher. Photos need to be the highest quality and resolution your camera can produce. There is a link to a FULL COLOR version of this newsletter on the CTV web site.

Dollie Hunley shunleytx@sbcglobal.net

JOHN ARMES Jr. Board Member (Term 12/10) john.armes@healthpoint.com

THE NCCC CORNER



Several of us will be traveling up to Oklahoma City Saturday after our March Membership Meeting. Oklahoma City Corvette Club is hosting the Southwest Region (SWR) Awards Banquet & Party for the 2009 Competitors. Sunday morning our first SWR Governor's Meeting will take place at 9:00 a.m. at the same hotel.

This month starts the SWR's 2010 annual points chase, with the first competition event being at the Grand Sport Speedway in Hitchcock, TX on March 19-21; just north of Galveston. We have attended this event for a couple of years now

and this year while it doesn't include the typical high-speed events, the very new asphalt road course will be fun to enjoy 14 low-speed events and a play-day on Friday. Again this year they have a special treat, like last year, they had a great evening social at the "Back-40", just a few miles away from the track - be sure to check out the event pages from 2009. If you are planning on attending this event, please note the hotel has once again changed.

This issue of the *Low-Down* marks the 2nd issue of our newsletter that Dollie has submitted for the 2010 NCCC Nat'l Newsletter competition; with the third and final contest issue being the May Low-Down. All of the judges are Regional Executives (RE); they include Margaret Bohannan (Carolina Region), Gary Brisbois (West Region) and Jeannie Ruston from our own Southwest Region. In 2009, Cowtown won 2nd place with Sylvia Hoaldridge as newsletter editor. Good luck Dollie – we are cheering you on with the great new look of the newsletter!

You have heard Don Wells and Debbie Lindsey discuss the 2010 NCCC Charity Raffle Car which all proceeds benefit the National Kidney Foundation. This year the Corvette to be raffled off is a 2010 Grand Sport Corvette. Don has challenged our members to



all purchase at least one ticket; enabling Cowtown to be a 100% Participation Club this year. We did this a few years back and it would be great to do that again. So, I would encourage you to either spend \$10 for one ticket or \$25 for 3 tickets in order to support the Nat'l Kidney Foundation. In your 2010 NCCC Renewal packet, you will find a green form which entitles you to purchase 5 tickets for \$25; the only way to get this special discount. Who knows, you might be the lucky winner of the 2010 Grand Sport being drawn for at the NCCC Nat'l Convention in August of this year.



Speaking of the 2010 NCCC Nat'l Convention, it is being held in West Palm Beach, FL this year; July 24-30 and registration opened on February 1st. Now, some of you might ask "What is Nat'l Convention?" and why do I care? I would ask, do you enjoy Corvette Events, fun & parties, competitive events and meeting fun people from around the nation? Well, Convention is all about that with competition events which include a Rallye, Funkhana, Judged and People's Choice Car Show, Record & ET Drag Racing along with High & Low-Speed Autocross at Palm Beach International Raceway, Valve Cover Races, Golf Tournament; not to mention the Pool Parties, Tours, Banquets, a Corvette Mall, and much more.

Convention is also where the Nat'l Awards for the 2009 Top 15 Competitors and Clubs will be awarded; we have two from the SWR in the Top 15. The 2010 Nat'l Newsletter and Website Contest winners (along with several others) will be announced and presented with awards. Some of the parties for convention week include a Mardi Gras, NASCAR, Dolphin themes along with a Club Table Display contest on Saturday night. It is a lot of fun and even if you don't attend for the entire week, you can buy day-passes for the days you are there. You can find event pages for some of the previous year's Conventions by visiting our website – click on the Photo Gallery button and look for the Convention event for each year.

The 2010 NCCC Scholarship Applications are now available for submission; both at the regional and national level. The National Scholarship submission deadline is May 15th (in their hands) and the **SWR Scholarship** deadline is June 15th (postmarked).

If you ordered a 2010 NCCC Pin, I will have those at the March membership meeting.

Glenda McMahan Cowtown's 2010 NCCC Governor

glenda-gm@att.net





Cowtown Vettes Competition Report March, 2010

The Practice Autocross committee met on the 10th of February to follow up on action items from the January 27th meeting. We are proceeding well. There was an equipment check and trailer repack on the 20th of February to check out the timing equipment, fire up the generator, and perform a "casual" audit of the trailer contents and repack the trailer for use at this and subsequent events this year.

Although not yet a "done deal," we are working toward obtaining the use of a sweeper to perform some "track maintenance." I have obtained keys to the sweeper and some indication of its current condition. So far, things look promising for a swept surface.

I spoke briefly with the registrar (Pat Gill) over dinner recently and she indicated that, so far, registration was "light." If you plan to attend, do not let the deadline, March 7th, sneak up on you. It is a long way to the nearest junk food. Speaking of food, for those who register before the deadline, there will be breakfast and lunch. Conversations concerning what will be served prove extremely promising. If I was allergic to the sight of one of those orange cones or the sound of noisy cars, I would still show up (with a blind fold, ear plugs, and my appetite).

I did a terrible job on the registration sheets at February's membership meeting and, for those wishing to sign up, if you were unable to do so, I intend to make a much better showing at the March meeting. You can download the flyer at: http://www.ncccswregion.org/2010/ CTV031410_PAFlyer.pdf.

Please plan to join us on Sunday, 14 March. To remind again,100%er's, this is your event for March.

Dave Gill



Competition Chairperson dogill80@sbcglobal.net



How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are?

- Satchel Paige











NCCC will be raffling a 2010 Grand Sport Corvette in support of the National Kidney Foundation. The winning ticket will be drawn July 30, 2010 at the annual convention which will be held in Palm Beach Garden, Florida. *You do not have to be in attendance to win but you do have to buy a ticket to win.* Makes sense!! The tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. In our membership packets, which should be arriving soon, each member has the opportunity to purchase 5 tickets for \$25.

The monies generated from the raffle go to the NKF in support of their Transplant Games and their Organ Donor Awareness program. Much has been written in the news, over the last several months, regarding



the "obesity" in America and the trickle down affect it has – easier to develop diabetes, hypertension, and cardiac disease, all which causes your kidney to work harder and possibly causing kidney failure. Working in a dialysis center, I have the opportunity to see the ups and downs of both sides – the concern over dialysis treatment, what it involves, how it changes your life and those close to you, but also the sheer joy and relief when a patient receives the call for a transplant. As I have said in the past, it is truly a gift of life.

NCCC recognizes those clubs who participate "wholeheartedly" in this endeavor each year. Wholeheartedly means a club sells at least one ticket per member or if our membership is 125 at the start of the year, we need to sell \$1,250 worth of tickets. Can I buy 3 tickets for \$10 and that count for 3 members? Of course! Does not matter how we reach the goal, we just need to get there. Do we win a big prize? No, but this is not about us or me. It is about the 385,000 Americans who are on dialysis now, the 55,000 who we hope will receive transplants this next year, and unfortunately, the numbers who will be added to the kidney failure list this year.

I have a family member who has attended the Transplant Games as well as knowing others who have gone and it is true magic to see the expressions on these individuals and the exuberance they exhibit after having received their gift of life.

Several years ago, Cowtown was able to reach the goal of 100% participation. For larger clubs, such as ours, it is more difficult. But I know we have the spirit of giving among our members and I know that each one of you will get involved in some way to help us reach this goal. We are all asked daily to give to some charity or activity to help others and most of us are in the position to offer some help. Our President, Don Wells, has told me that it is his goal that we reach the 100% participation level so I hope that you will join him in participating in the one major charity program that NCCC supports.

I will have tickets available at the meetings and socials each month. The countdown is on...you have 6 more months.

Please help us reach our goal!!

Debbie Lindsey

NCCC Director of Sponsorship Debglind@aol.com











Greeting The Troops

Several of you have asked if we could set up **"Greeting the Troops"** at DFW airport for a specific day each month.

So, starting in 2010, we'll try to go on the third Sunday of each month, to greet the returning military troops. I've been going pretty regularly and most of the time they arrive at 7:55 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. So call 972-574-0392, just before you leave for the airport, because the times can, and do change. We can go have brunch afterwards!

Lately, they've been coming in to Terminal D (the International Terminal) but that changes too. The terminal and gate information is given to you when you call that number. You get a coupon for free parking at the airport from someone at the gate where the troops come in.

Hope to see a lot of you there!

Karyn Jowler Board Member kfowler@theblumfirm.com



2nd Lt. Robert Smoot and daughter Payton. Indiana National Guard Photo by Spc. William E. Henry, Indiana Army National Guard.



The 2010 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2010 in downtown Fort Worth.

DATE: Saturday, April 24, 2010

> **TIME:** Meet at 7:15 am

> > **PLACE:**

YWCA parking lot at the northwest corner of 4th and Lamar Streets downtown Fort Worth *(same place as in previous years)*

Please register online at *http://www.komentarrant.org*. Click on "**Register Now**", then click the gray box on the right that says "**Join a Team**" and then search for the team "**Cowtown Vettes**" in the box towards the bottom of the screen. If you have any problems registering, email me at: *kfowler@ theblumfirm.com*. If you would like to print out a team poster to put up at your office or elsewhere to get others to join us, here's a link:

http://www.komentarrant.org/assets/race-documents/2010-team-poster.pdf

The big posters aren't available yet, but will be by the end of the month, so I'll have some of those at the March membership meeting. The walk is a 5k (about $3^{1/2}$ miles) and starts near the corner of Houston and 4th Streets. About 3 blocks from the lot where we will meet.

As in the past, we will go for brunch afterwards. I liked Fuzzy's Taco Shop on Race Street, where we went last year. For those who didn't participate last year, Fuzzy's is a Baja-style Mexican food place, large enough to accommodate all of us. They open at 9:15 a.m. and we'll probably get there between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. They have everything from breakfast burritos & tacos to Huevos Rancheros and Migas. I've had their Migas and they are great. Their Latin fried potatoes are also wonderful. So, if you haven't signed up yet, this is your incentive to do it!!! Even if you don't walk, you can meet us for brunch. If anyone has any other suggestions for an eating place, please let me know.

This event is a 100%'er, even if you don't walk but meet us to eat afterwards.

Check out Fuzzy's website: *www.fuzzystacoshop.com*. You can see their menu online.

Be there or be Square!!!

Karyn Jowler Board Member • kfowler@theblumfirm.com



CTV Committees 2010

AUDIT Cathy Castorani: Chairperson ccastorani@gmail.com Don Fowler: Co-Chairperson

CAR SHOW

Phil Higbee: Chairperson philco2000@charter.net

John Armes: Co-Chairperson

CHARITIES

Jane Buehler: Chairperson bbuebler@charter.net

Cory Armes: Co-Chairperson

COMPETITION

David Gill: Chairperson dogill80@sbcglobal.net

John Dick: Co-Chairperson

CTV CRUISER Doug McMahan: Chairperson macsvettes@att.net

EOUIPMENT

Henry (Cap) Wilburg: Chairperson capwill101@yaboo.com Hector Sandoval: Co-Chairperson

HISTORIAN Jan Fitzgerald: Chairperson

keithacs@aol.com

LOGO MERCHANDISE

Karen Watson: Chairperson rickandkaren@mindspring.com

MEMBERSHIP / WELCOME Nancy Wells: Chairperson ctv-membership@yaboogroups.com

Barbara Higbee: Co-Chairperson

MID-AMERICA James West: Chairperson jnk69vette@sbcglobal.net

Our Website continues to evolve ... Besides the normal day-to-day changes, over 180 pages have been modified this past month to reflect the new CTV Sponsor page. The 2009 and older event pages will remain unchanged since they were valid at

the time of those events.

The CTV Website awards have been moved off the home page to a dedicated awards page; in an effort to clean-up the website home page.

This past month we have added event pages for the Super *Bowl* and *Valentine's Socials*, both were 100% er events

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held in February. I would like to thank Barb Higbee, Cathy Castorani & Steve Hunley for sharing photos which they took; it really gives another view when added to the ones I took.

WEBMASTER



When navigating our website, have you wondered "how do I tell what has recently changed?" There is an easy way from the website 'home' page; look below the "Calendar of Events" section and click on the flashing **NEW** icon where it states "What is new on our website" That link will take you to the current year's Site History

page which shows everything that is changed on our website, by date.

Cowtown Email Lists: We maintain dozens of email lists various focus areas within the club. If you have a certain passion with your Vette (i.e. Open Road Racing, Car Shows, Cruising, NCCC Convention, Competition, etc.), we typically have an email list for your specific area(s) of interest which you can join to keep you up to date.

If you change your email address, mailing address, your Vettes, etc., please let membership know so that we can update your address on the various email lists; you can send any updates to membership at: ctv-membership@yahoogroups.com.

If you have any suggestions, questions or comments about our how we are managing our Club's website, please don't hesitate to give me a shout.

Doug McMahan 2010 CTV Webmaster • macsvettes@att.net

... whatever your Corvette interest is, pursue your passion, keep the spirit of fun and fellowship in mind...and most of all...

HAVE FUN DOING IT!!!

*** 100%er AWARD INFORMATION ***

If you are working toward the 100% er award for 2010, please remember to sign in at the Membership Meeting or 100%er Social for the month. If you do not sign in you do not get credit toward the Award. If you are attending an NCCC event or an event pre-designated by the Elected Officers in lieu of a meeting or social, it is your responsibility to inform membership.

The following is the explanation of the 100%er award.

A 100% er AWARD is given to each couple or single who attends at least 11 of 12 monthly membership meetings and a Club event at least 9 of 10 months, February through November. The Club event to be

considered for this award each month will be announced and designated each month in the Club Newsletter. Attendance at a concurrent NCCC event or other Club event pre-designated by the Elected Officers will be accepted in lieu of this requirement. In all cases, the eligible Club event(s) will be designated in the newsletter calendar with a star (③). For couples, this can be a joint venture and credit is given if just one attends the meeting or event. This award is presented at the Annual Awards Banquet.

Nancy Wells

Membership / Welcome Chairperson ctv-membership@yaboogroups.com



OUR 2010 NCCC EVENTS

While the chairperson for NCCC Events is responsible for planning and coordinating the NCCC Events which Cowtown hosts, it takes you the members to make these events successful.

Cowtown's NCCC Event Dates:

- May 22/23, 2010 No-Frills Event at Mineral Wells
- Sep. 18/19, 2010 14th Annual Super Speedway Weekend at Texas Motor Speedway.

Our first 2010 NCCC Event will be held jointly with *Corvette Club of Texas* (CCT), the weekend of May 22nd & 23rd in Mineral Wells. Last year was the first year we had partnered up with CCT to host four of the BRCC sanctions that we have (bartered sanctions) and the event worked out very well. Our first joint meeting with CCT for the May event will be held in the Coors Boardroom on Wednesday, March 10th at 7 p.m.; it is open to all of you to attend.

Note: The remaining three BRCC NCCC sanctions will be joined with CTV's seven NCCC sanctions for our September *Texas Motor Speedway* event; being held on September 18th & 19th.

I would like to remind everyone that the NCCC events are our primary and largest source of operating income throughout the calendar year – thus we ask your for your assistance and efforts to make them a success!

Note: The September event has also raised a very

nice income for a charity donation over the past several years. Thanks,

Doug McMahan & David Gill NCCC Events Chair

& Co-Chair

What is Drag Racing Drag Race is a wheel to wheel acceleration contest

between two (2) cars on a sanctioned drag strip at least one eighth $(\frac{1}{8})$ mile in length. A Drag Race is a contest of nerves, skill and raw power. When two cars pull up to the staging line, the mental contest begins: who will stage first? Who will get the jump on the other driver without red-lighting (cut that perfect light)? Who will judge the right amount of throttle to get off the line without bogging or going up in smoke? Once the cars are under way, the contest becomes a question of horsepower and driver's skill in controlling the car. Sometimes the driver may want to run just fast enough to win but avoid breaking out or setting a record requiring a tear down. NCCC provides two forms of sanctioned drag racing: (1) Éliminations by Class which can be a Record Drag Event or a Non-Record Drag Event and (2) Eliminations by ET Bracket which can only be a Non-Record Drag Event.

2010 NCCC Rulebook http://www.corvettesnccc.org/NCCCHandbook.html

2010 NCCC Event Training & Practice Autocross Sunday, March 14, 2010 @ Mineral Wells Airpark, TX

For flyer and registration info go to: http://www.ncccswregion.org/schedule.html#CTV_PA

What is Autocross Racing

Autocross is a form of motorsports that emphasizes safe, low-cost competition and active participation. An autocross is a timed competition where drivers drive their cars, one at a time, as fast as they can for one lap. Lap times are recorded for each of several separate Autocross laps run during the day. Autocross courses are run on paved surfaces at race tracks, parking lots, or Airport runways, and are designed with the placement of orange traffic cones to create a course that tests the car handling skills of a driver. Courses designed for "Low Speed" Autocross use cone placement to limit maximum speeds to 80 MPH for factory stock vehicles. "High Speed" Autocross does not place a restriction on speed, however, requires the driver to be High Speed Certified. Your Corvette will be assigned to a Group and Class that ensures you will be competing against other Corvettes of similar power and performance. Similarly, there are separate catagories for men and women. The National Council of Corvette Clubs, NCCC, sanctions numerous Autocross events during the year between March and November. The regulations governing Autocross events are available at: http://www.corvettesnccc.org/NCCCHandbook.html.

Autocrossing is a good way to learn driving skills and club ethics that apply to road racing as well as everyday driving.

Steve Hunley



CTV Committees 2010

NCCC EVENTS Doug McMahan: Chairperson macsvettes@att.net David Gill: Co-Chairperson

> NCM AMBASSADOR Kim West: Chairperson kdcwest@sbcglobal.net

NEWSLETTER Dollie Hunley: Chairperson shunleytx@sbcglobal.ne. Steve Hunley: Co-Chairperson

> NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION Glenda McMahan: *Chairperson* glenda-gm@att.net



Doug McMahan: *Co-Chairperson*

> **OPEN ROAD RACING** Karl Samuel: Chairperson karl.samuel@gmail.com

PARLIAMENTARIAN Barb Greenfeder: Chairperson barbsc6@sbcglobal.net

SOCIALS Candy Beck: Chairperson candy.beck@sbcglobal.net

SPONSORSHIP Elected Officers: *Chairperson*

TEXAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY Rick Garabedian: Chairperson rgarab1@yahoo.com

TIMING Candy Beck: Chairperson candy.beck@sbcglobal.net

COWTOWN CRUISER



CRUISERS, if you are driving your Corvette to the March 14th Practice Autocross, you can visit the *information page for that event*. Towards the bottom of the page you will find a cruise route to grab 11 CCP points for the short cruise out there and back by adding a couple of stops.

	NCCO	c - National Count	of of Corvette Clubs		
NOTE: for th	ose of you that are particip points available between P	waing in the Cash W and the Practice	e Autocross Location	(CCP) this year, there - contact me if you'd i	are a minimu ke more

Please email additional photos and information to Webmaster

If you are cruising for points, you can validate what your log sheet should look like for socials and NCCC events by clicking on the 2010-CCCP_YTD link from the Cruiser webpage. This document will be updated monthly with the social / NCCC entries for the previous month. Note: this sample also illustrates points for attending the SWR Awards Banquet, the SWR Governor's Meeting, etc. – just make sure you capture your cruiser photo when you attend the events.



Hot Springs Corvette Weekend: We will be cruising to Hot Springs, AR on April 15 for the 12th Annual Corvette Weekend; hosted by the Central Arkansas Corvette Club. We will be departing on Thursday morning and will cruise thru the Talimena Scenic Byway on our way to

Hot Springs. Depending on the final schedule of the weekend's events, we will enjoy *Magazine Mountain* either Friday (16th) or Sunday morning (18th) before we head back home.

The *Corvette Weekend* event has something for almost everyone, starting with the neat setting of being in Hot Springs, AR. The event includes a Poker Run, an Autocross (or Slalom Course), Guided Road Trips, Dinner at the *Mid-America Museum* (with tour), a Midnight



Cruise through Hot Springs, Corvette Car Show, Scavenger Hunt, Silent Auction and Drag Racing. The host hotel is the *Austin* however we have chosen to stay at the *Arlington*, just down the street; one we have stayed at many times before.

If you would like to see events pages from the 2007 & 2008 HSCW, visit the *Cruise Schedule* where those have been linked. There are also links for a few videos of people enjoying the *Talimena Scenic Byway* and *Magazine Mountain*.

I am still soliciting members to **step up and sponsor**



some cruises again this year; even if it is just a day cruise somewhere for lunch. We are proposing one for late March or on the first weekend of April. Next would be one in June, followed by one in the July or the August time-frame. If you don't have any ideas on a cruise but you would like to sponsor one, get with me; there are always a few good ones that could be repeated. We have some thoughts on some new day cruises that we would be more than happy to share and assist you with.



When a "sponsored cruise' is booked, it will be placed on the *2010 cruise schedule*, you can find them on our website at:

http://www.cowtownvettes.org/CCP/ cruiserpgm.html#CRUISE_SCHEDULE

The 6th Annual Cruiser Photo Contest is underway; providing you with nine more months to capture photos from neat places your Vette took you in 2010. To compete in this contest, you don't even have to participate in the *Cruiser Program* – just take neat pictures where your Vette took you. Check out the contest information at:

http://www.cowtownvettes.org/CCP/2010/CCP_PC_10.html

If you would like clarifications, or if you have a question or comment about the *Cowtown Cruiser Program (CCP)*, please feel free to give me a call or drop me an *email*.

...keep on cruisin' & "Save the Wave"

Doug McMahan 2010 Cruiser Chairperson

2010 Cruiser Chairperson macsvettes@att.net



Interesting Stuff

Did you know... As of November 13, 2009 there are 277 Recognized Corvette Clubs in NCCC.

What is Open Road Racing

It is a timed precision rally style race that requires good reaction times for starting and stopping a stop watch, good driving skills, and some math skill to calculate speed from time and distance measurements. It is not wheel-to-wheel racing. It is considered a high speed event by any race event measure. The object of the race is to try and accurately average a "target speed" without exceeding a maximum speed, known as a "tech speed," over a closed road course of 80 to 120 miles. The course is not a straight roadway but has corners of varying difficulty, as well as elevation changes. It is about precision and an error greater than 0.1 mph from the target speed is usually not good enough to win a trophy.

The "target speed" you choose depends on your driving experience, safety equipment in the car, and personal safety equipment. The faster your "target speed" the more safety equipment is required. Absolute minimum safety equipment is a fire extinguisher mounted in the car and a helmet.

Karl Samuel Open Road Racing Chairperson • karl.samuel@gmail.com



MARCH 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	36th Annual Fort Worth Rod & Custom Car Show5	36th Annual Fort Worth Rod & Custom Car Show 6
					• Membership Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.	NCCC SWR Awards Banquet
36th Annual 7 Fort Worth Rod & Custom Car Show NCCC SWR Governor's Meeting	8	9	10 May NCCC Event Committee Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.	11	12	13
Daylight Savings 14 Time Begins Practice Autocross @ Mineral Wells Airpark, TX	15	16	17 Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. DEADLINE St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20
21 Greeting the Troops @ D/FW Airport	22	23	24 May NCCC Event Committee Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.	25	26	27 Oil Change at Bruce Lowrie 12-2 p.m.
28	29	30	31 Car Show Committee Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.			

			APRIL	2010		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Happy April Fool's Day	GOOD FRIDAY 2	3
4 Happy Easter!	5	6 Cowtown's Official 36th Anniversary Day	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 TMS Samsung Mobile 500 Weekend	16 TMS Samsung Mobile 500 Weekend	17 TMS Samsung Mobile 500 Weekend
TMS Samsung Mobile 500 Weekend Greeting the Troops @ D/FW Airport	19	20	21 Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. LOW-DOWN DEADLINE	22	23	€ Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Fort Worth
25	26	27	28 May NCCC Event Committee Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.	29	30 NCCC National Committee Meetings	

O Denotes required attendance and participation for 100% er Award Eligibility



Walentine's Day Social





NOTEWORTHY

Crime Stopper Alert!

Many of us have Electric Garage Door Openers, and are reassured that todayis technology has provided secure code encryption for the remote control to prevent break ins. This means thieves canit break into your garage. Right?. Wrong! Recently I was informed of a robbery in my neighborhood where the thieves entered through the garage door. They were able to open the garage door that was secured with an Electric Door Opener. According to the Arlington Police Department, they accomplished this by inserting a coat-hanger wire through the crack between the top of the garage door and the wall, and were able to hook and pull the emergency release pull rope and disengage the gear track mechanism. This is what you do if you have a power failure and you want to raise the garage door manually, except you do it inside by pulling on the rope. Below is a diagram of a typical garage door opener track and emergency release mechanism. Note how the emergency pull rope hangs down very close to the closed door and wall, well within reach of a coat hanger wire skillfully inserted between the wall and the top of the door.

Depending upon the configuration of your particular garage door opener, it may be possible to construct a blocking plate that would block the insertion of a coat hanger wire. While you add this to your long list of things to do in life, I would recommend immediately removing the emergency rope and handle. You will still be able to disengage the gear track in the case of a power failure, however, you will have to get up on a step stool and manually flip the small lever. With the rope and handle removed, there will not be anything for prospective thieves to hook and pull with an inserted wire.

Steve Hunley





Interested in working the races at **Texas Motor Speedway?**

The first race of the season is coming up on the third weekend in April. The dates are April 15th thru April 18th. We are looking volunteers working both the North pit road and possibly other areas throughout the track. Those areas are not set in stone at this point but I believe that the suites are what we will pick up this year. So, for now, I would like a list of people that would be interested in volunteering to work during that weekend. For our new members, we work at the speedway to help offset the high cost of the track rental for our annual event.

I will do my best to work you when you want and as much as you want but for now, I just need some preliminary info.

Emergency

Rope Pull

So, if you could, please drop me an email with your name, email address and cell phone number. As we get closer to the race, I will be getting back to you via email to work out scheduling.

If you already gave me this info at the last meeting there is no need to give it to me again.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Rick Garabedian TMS Event Coordinator

rgarab1@yaboo.com



The Great American Speedway!...

Schedule of Events for the 2010 Race Season

Samsung Mobile 500 Weekend April 15 - 18, 2010

Texas 550k Weekend (Indy Car Race) June 3 - 5, 2010

> Lone Star 500 Weekend November 4 - 7, 2010

For more information, please go to: http://www.texasmotorspeedway.com/Schedule

MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS



Club members enjoy FREE "Classifieds" listings in the Cowtown Low-Down! Contact the Editor for more info.

FOR SALE

1982 COLLECTOR CORVETTE 63,000 actual miles!!!

Garage kept and covered, new paint outside, new seats, new steering wheel, refurbished wheels.

\$12,000

Contact Don Littlefield: email: *vlittlefield@gmail.com* or by phone: 817-360-6295



FOR SALE

1993 CORVETTE BLACK COUPE

Fresh tune-up, including opti-spark, plugs & wires, oxygen sensors. Many new interior parts, including seat foam & covers. Chrome C5 Z06 wheels. Six speed manual transmission. Looks good and runs great... would make an awesome auto-cross car!

\$8,500

Call Candy at (817) 223-9285





C5 Z06 POLISHED WHEELS

18" x 10.5" – *original GM* polished Wheels (*not reproductions*) & Caps.

We are changing a few things on our C4 and have changed wheel sizes.

If you are thinking about autocrossing, or just want another set of wheels, these will fit and work on all four corners of a C4, C5 or C6 Vette.

\$500 (set 4 Wheels & Caps)...or best offer

Contact <u>Doug McMahan</u> (817-473-3837) macsvettes@att.net

RENT or BUY

Rent tires and rims (295 X 40 X 17, fits C4, C5 or C6) to run the practice auto cross for \$100.00 (rims to be returned after the practice) or buy the tires with the rims for \$500.00.

If you have ever run Mineral Wells, you know how hard it is on your tires, this is the perfect solution for the person that wants to see what auto crossing is all about. It is also a steal if you want to buy the package.



Call Bob at: 817-238-6446 or email: *cinbob75@charter.net*



CONTACT US

COWTOWN VETTES P.O. Box 1974 Fort Worth, Texas 76101 www.cowtownvettes.org

CHANGE OF CONTACT OR VETTE INFO? Contact: Membership - Nancy Wells ctv-membership@yahoogroups.com

WANT TO SUBMIT A **NEWSLETTER ARTICLE?** Contact: **Editor – Dollie Hunley** shunleytx@sbcglobal.net (Send articles as plain text, Word or Publisher. Photos need to be the highest quality and resolution your camera can produce.) (Deadline for the April issue is: March 17th)

WANT TO SUBMIT A **PHOTO FOR:** "TALKIES" "NEW ARRIVAL" "OUT 'N ABOUT" **Contact: Editor – Dollie Hunley** shunleytx@sbcglobal.net (Send a HiRes color photo & caption)

WANT TO ADVERTISE IN THE **COWTOWN LOW-DOWN? Contact: Editor – Dollie Hunley** shunleytx@sbcglobal.net (Ads renew each December)

LIKE TO HAVE **YOUR VETTE FEATURED** IN THE **CENTER SPREAD OF THE COWTOWN LOW-DOWN?** Contact: **Editor – Dollie Hunley** shunleytx@sbcglobal.net

WELCOME!



NEW MEMBERS Charles Gerth & Debra Bond 1977 Blue Coupe

2ND TIME VISITORS:

• None



ctv-membership@yaboogroups.com

1ST TIME VISITORS:

- Charlie Birch 1986 Coupe
- Mark Lowery 2002 Pewter Coupe
- David Ross 2009 Black Z06



3/5 – Linda Lummus 3/6 – Manda Gorman 3/7 – Joe Rosales 3/10 – Lou Kirby 3/11 - Keith Fitzgerald 3/11 – Bob Greene 3/11 – Caye Young 3/14 – Bruce Lewis 3/15 – Donna Rosett 3/16 – Dollie Hunley 3/17 – Jack Gandy 3/21 - Mike Braswell 3/23 – Karen Phillips 3/24 – Shaun Lowrey

3/10 – Joe & Anna Rosales 3/15 – Donald & Carlanne Hickman 3/16 – John & Cory Armes 3/30 – Jim & Linda Benware 3/30 - Kerry & Alaine King





Racing

Long before Texas Motor Speedway (TMS) was even a glimmer in someone's eye, CTV members were into racing in a big way. Granted, we weren't racing on a lot of road course tracks like TMS, but we (yes, that includes me) were racing. When we joined CTV, low speed autocrosses were held in shopping mall parking lots. That was back when the Blue Laws kept the malls closed on Sundays (remember those days?). Locally, high speed autocrosses were being run on the old Great Southwest Airport runways just south of Hwy 183 at Hwy 360. The airport buildings were still around at that time, and you staged on the concrete tarmac area and raced on the runways. The main runway is now Amon Carter Blvd and the airport buildings have been replaced by the American Airlines headquarters buildings, but for a long time after we could use a small bit of the runway that was just north of Hwy 183. Hallett was a popular road course in Oklahoma as well as Texas World Speedway in College Station. Mineral Wells became a closer and more popular place to race semi-high speed. Hallett was never my favorite spot, probably because I ran off the track there and also into a tire wall there driving someone else's car! Never a good thing to do.

I think everyone knows drag racing has been around forever, but it certainly seems to be fading in the last couple of years as far as NCCC is concerned. CTV members were racing at Green Valley Raceway in North Richland Hills, which is now a housing subdivision. Green Valley also had a road course that used the drag strip and return road and wound around the pit area.

Walt Zschirnt used to run a lot out there when he belonged to the Green Valley Race Association. He was racing wheel-to-wheel in a race-prepared C3 with a big block back then. In fact, Green Valley was where we first met Walt, but that's another story. I think Sharon also raced that car for a while.

We also went to Little River drag strip near Belton Texas and there was a small drag strip just outside of Ardmore Oklahoma. Both of these tracks were small tracks and you usually had to make sure the livestock was off the track (and what they had left behind) before you started. Little River was a very small track with a very short shut-down area. But the cars usually ran pretty fast there. Don thought it was because all the trees over the track kept the track surface cool and the trees also produced a lot of oxygen that helped the HP. Drag racing has always been my favorite - so exhilarating!

Cowtown always has a lot of racers in our membership and we are always well represented whenever our group goes to an autocross.

Thanks for reading,

Karyn Fowler Board Member

kfowler@theblumfirm.com





DIY C5 Exhaust Swap

Most who own a C5 Corvette have at one time or another have desired to change the "cats back" exhaust *(from the catalytic converters back)*; and for one reason or another, we have just never gotten around to it. Even after acquiring the new cats back exhaust, then it was a matter of

figuring out if we should take the Vette to a muffler shop to have it done or attempt it myself. Visiting with several folks that had tackled this, I decided to undertake the task on my own. A couple of friends with vehicle lifts had offered to help however, it then



came to the dilemma syncing our schedules to get-r-done.

I called Tim *(our parts guy)* at **Bruce Lowrie Chevrolet** and ordered a pair of exhaust donuts *(gaskets)*, part #10276792, quantity of 1 per package. Some say you don't need to replace them however, my thought is why risk it, I certainly don't want an exhaust leak nor do I want to undertake this twice.

One sunny Sunday, I decided to tackle this in my own garage, technically it wasn't a challenging task; it was more of a physical task of elevating the Vette high enough to get the exhaust over the rear axle. Since I have one of the old heavy-duty extended lift 2-ton floor jacks, several wood blocks, along with some beefy jack stands, I went to work.

Before elevating the rear of the Vette, I drove the Vette's front tires up

on blocks so the nose of our C5 would not drag on the floor. Now for the fun part, you need to elevate the rear of the Vette to 48" off the floor, at the rear bottom of the license plate *(see fig. 1)*. This measurement was discovered after some trial and testing when



Once you have the rear of

the Vette airborne (fig. 2),

round up the necessary

tools. For our '01 Vette,

I needed 13, 15 & 18mm

sockets with ratchet and

box-end wrenches, along

with a few rags. I opted

to change out one side

of the exhaust at a time,

just in case I needed to

attempting the rotation and removal of the exhaust. *NOTE:* Be SURE to have the front wheels blocked and some good jack stands securely under the Vette; saving a few dollars doing it yourself isn't worth short-cuts.



refer to how the original exhaust was mounted.

Start by dropping the rear sway bar *(fig. 3)* by removing one bolt and one nut on each side of the differential; you will need the 15mm socket and the



tional maneuverability of the exhaust during removal and installation.

You are now ready to remove the two bolts which connect the cats-back exhaust to the "H" pipe section; the exhaust gasket will drop out (*fig 5*). Once those bolts are removed, you will need to remove one 13mm bolt from the muffler hangar (between the muffler & the rear fascia).



fig. 4

it out of the way.

18mm wrench for this. The purpose is not to remove the sway bar but to simply rotate

Next, slide up underneath the Vette to remove two bolts from exhaust pipes hangars

(fig. 4), located just aft the

"H" pipe; this provides addi-

Next, slide the exhaust pipe up and over the rear axle; it will have to be rotated around the axle to remove it in one piece. Once you have the exhaust out, you will need to remove the rubber muffler mount/ isolator bracket in order to reinstall it on the new muffler.

NOTE: during removal and installation, I placed some rags (pads) on the floor in case the exhaust tips came in contact – after all, you don't want mess up the chrome tips \bigcirc . Depending on the brand of cats-back exhaust you purchased, there might be a few extra steps at this point to get the new exhaust to the manufacturer's instructions

ready to mount – please refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

After your new cats-back section is assembled and ready for installation, work it back thru the same path as you removed the old one. Bolt the muffler isolation hangar back in place with the 13mm bolt *(37 Ft-lb)*. Next, install the two bolts on the new exhaust section to the "H" pipe section, torque to 37 *Ft-lb*.



With one of the cats-back sides changed out, you can see the difference in looks that the new makes (*fig. 6*).

Continue by removing the other cats-back and replacing it with the new one. With both cats-backs bolted to the "H" pipe section, you can now re-attached the

spring hangars at rear of the "H" pipe *(fig. 5)*. Finish putting things back together by re-attaching and torqueing the sway bar mounts. The upper bolt is to be torqued to 49 *Ft-lb* and the bottom to 70 *Ft-lb*.

Before lowering your Vette, stand back and look at the tips, make sure that they are level; double-check all your mounts to make sure you have installed and torqued all the bolts. With all that accomplished, lower the Vette back to the ground where you can finally hear how the new exhaust sounds. Now you are ready to enjoy the new sound of your Vette with it's new cats-back exhaust.

Doug McMahan macsvettes@att.net

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2010 Southwest Region NCCC Schedule

201	U Southwe	est Region NCCC Schedu	e
DATE	LOCATION	EVENT	CLUB
3/6	Oklahoma City, OK	SWR Awards Banquet: Hosted by Oklahoma City Corvette Club	OCCC
3/7	Oklahoma City, OK	SWR GOVERNOR'S MEETING – 9:00 a.m.	SWR
3/14	Mineral Wells, TX	Test-n-Tune Practice Autocross	CTV
3/19-21	Hitchcock, TX	Playday @ <i>Grand Sport Speedway</i> 1st CHOICE – 7 Low-Speed Autocrosses 1st CHOICE – 7 Low-Speed Autocrosses	SJCC TCMC
4/10-11	Waco, TX	1st CHOICE – 7 Low-Speed Autocrosses 1st CHOICE – 7 Low-Speed Autocrosses	CTCC MCCC
4/24-25	Waco, TX	1st CHOICE – 7 Low-Speed Autocrosses 1st CHOICE – 7 Low-Speed Autocrosses	THT LCC
4/30-5/1	St. Louis, MO	NATIONAL MEETINGS	Nat'l
5/7-9	Tulsa, OK	Driving School Playday on Friday 1st CHOICE – 7 High-Speed Events – TBD 1st CHOICE – 6 High-Speed Events – TBD	COAST CCO
5/22-23	Mineral Wells, TX	1st CHOICE – 4 Low-Speed Autocrosses (CTV hosting) 1st CHOICE – 7 Low-Speed Autocrosses	BRCC CCT
5/22	Mineral Wells, TX	SWR GOVERNOR'S MEETING - 8:00 p.m.	SWR
5/29-30	Oklahoma City, OK	1st CHOICE – OK City at Sheriff's Track – 6 LS X-Crosses 1st CHOICE – 1 ETD, 1 MTD, R-Drags @ Thunder Valley in Noble, OK – Monday: Rain day for drags	OCCC CCOC
6/26-27	TBD	1st CHOICE – 7 Low-Speed Autocrosses 1st CHOICE – 7 Low-Speed Autocrosses	TVS NTV
7/24-30	West Palm Beach, FL	NATIONAL CONVENTION 2010 & NATIONAL MEETINGS	Nat'l
8/14-15	Oklahoma City, OK	1st CHOICE – 7 Low-Speed Autocrosses 1st CHOICE – 4 Low-Speed Autocrosses	SCCC CCOC
9/10-11	St. Louis, MO	NATIONAL MEETINGS	Nat'l
9/18-19	Fort Worth, TX Texas Motor Speedway	1st CHOICE – 10 Low-Speed Autocrosses @ TMS – <i>14th Annual Super Speedway Weekend</i> 3 sanctions are from BRCC	CTV BRCC
9/18	Mineral Wells, TX	SWR GOVERNOR'S MEETING – 8:00 p.m.	SWR
10/9	Waco, TX	1ST CHOICE – 7 Low-Speed Autocrosses	TCCC
10/16-17	Oklahoma City, OK	1st CHOICE – 1 Event – TBD 1st CHOICE – 5 Event – TBD 1st CHOICE – 1 Event – TBD	OCCC MTCC SSCC
10/30-31	Waco, TX	1st CHOICE – 7 Events 1st CHOICE – 7 Events	TV TOCC
10/30	Mineral Wells, TX	SWR GOVERNOR'S MEETING - 8:00 p.m.	SWR
11/12-13	St. Louis, MO	NATIONAL MEETINGS	Nat'l

Future Corvette Owners Association (FCOA)

Do you have a son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, niece, nephew, or are a guardian to a child under the age of 16 years. If so, don't forget to enroll him/her in the Future Corvette Owners Association (FCOA), NCCC's youth organization.

Website: http://www.corvettesnccc.org/fcoa1.html





SW Region Clubs
BRAZOS RIVER CORVETTE CLUB (BRCC) Granbury, TX • SW-540
• CEN-TEX CORVETTE CLUB (CTCC) Waco, TX • SW-200
◆ CORVETTE CLUB OF OKLAHOMA CITY (CCOC Oklahoma City, OK • SW-468
◆ CORVETTE CLUB OF TEXAS (CCT) Dallas, TX • SW-074
CORVETTE OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH TEXAS (COAST)
San Antonio, TX • SW-143
COWTOWN VETTES (CTV) Fort Worth, TX • SW-055
LONGHORN CORVETTE CLUB (LCC) Austin, TX • SW-207
MID-COAST CORVETTE CLUB (MCCC) Lake Jackson, TX • SW-170
MID-TEXAS CORVETTE CLUB (MTCC) Killeen, TX • SW-185
NORTH TEXAS VETTES (NTV) Fort Worth, TX • SW-555
OKLAHOMA CITY CORVETTE CLUB (OCCC) Oklahoma City, OK • SW-131
◆ SAN JACINTO CORVETTE CLUB (SJCC) Houston, TX • SW-063
◆ SOONER STATE CORVETTE CLUB (SSCC) (Formerly CCO) Tulsa, OK • SW-423
Iulsa, OK • SW-423

SUN CITIES CORVETTE CLUB (SCCC) Albuquerque, NM • SW-085

TEXAS COMPETITION CORVETTE CLUB (TCCC) McGregor, TX • SW-569

TEXAS CORVETTE MOTORSPORTS CLUB (TCMC) Houston, TX • SW-568

TEJAS VETTES (TV) Plano, TX • SW-163

TEXAS OUTLAWS CORVETTE CLUB (TOCC) Graham, TX • SW-198

TIN HALL TOYS (THT) Santa Fe, TX • SW-392

TULSA VETTE SET (TVS) Tulsa, OK • SW-248

COWTOWN VETTES MARKETPLACE



COWTOWN VETTES MARKETPLACE

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and Performance



Hello everyone. Welcome to the Logo Merchandise store. There are lots of great things for sale with the Cowtown logo on them. Here's just a sampling of some of the things we have for sale:

Caps\$ 7.50
Visors
Sweatshirts\$20.00
(2XL and up slightly higher)
Long Sleeve T-shirts\$15.00
(2XL and up slightly higher)
Short Sleeve T-shirts\$13.00
Men's & Women's Long Sleeve Denim Shirts \$25.00
Polo shirts. All different styles \$25.00
(Please note that on all shirt orders,
2XL and up sizes are slightly higher)

If you want your name added to your shirt, it's only \$3 more!

Or if you want a Cowtown logo or a certain year Corvette on one of your own shirts it's only \$5!

Name tags\$ 7.50

We also have stickers, patches, koozies, and tumblers *(only two of these left!)* So stop by the Logo table before and after the meeting to place your order. You'll get your order by the next meeting.

Thanks!

Karen Watson

Logo Merchandise Chairperson • 817-232-3871 rickandkaren@mindspring.com





DO YOU HAVE A NEW ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL ADDRESS? HAVE YOU SOLD YOUR CORVETTE OR BOUGHT A NEW ONE? If so, let Membership know so we can update your address on the various email lists. You can send any updates to Membership at: *ctv-membership@yaboogroups.com*.





Sand, Sun, and Corvette Fun...

It is fast sneaking up on us and will be here before you know it!!! Planned for July 24-30, 2010 it promises to be a week of fun and adventure.

> http://www.corvettesnccc.org/ Convention2010.html

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