



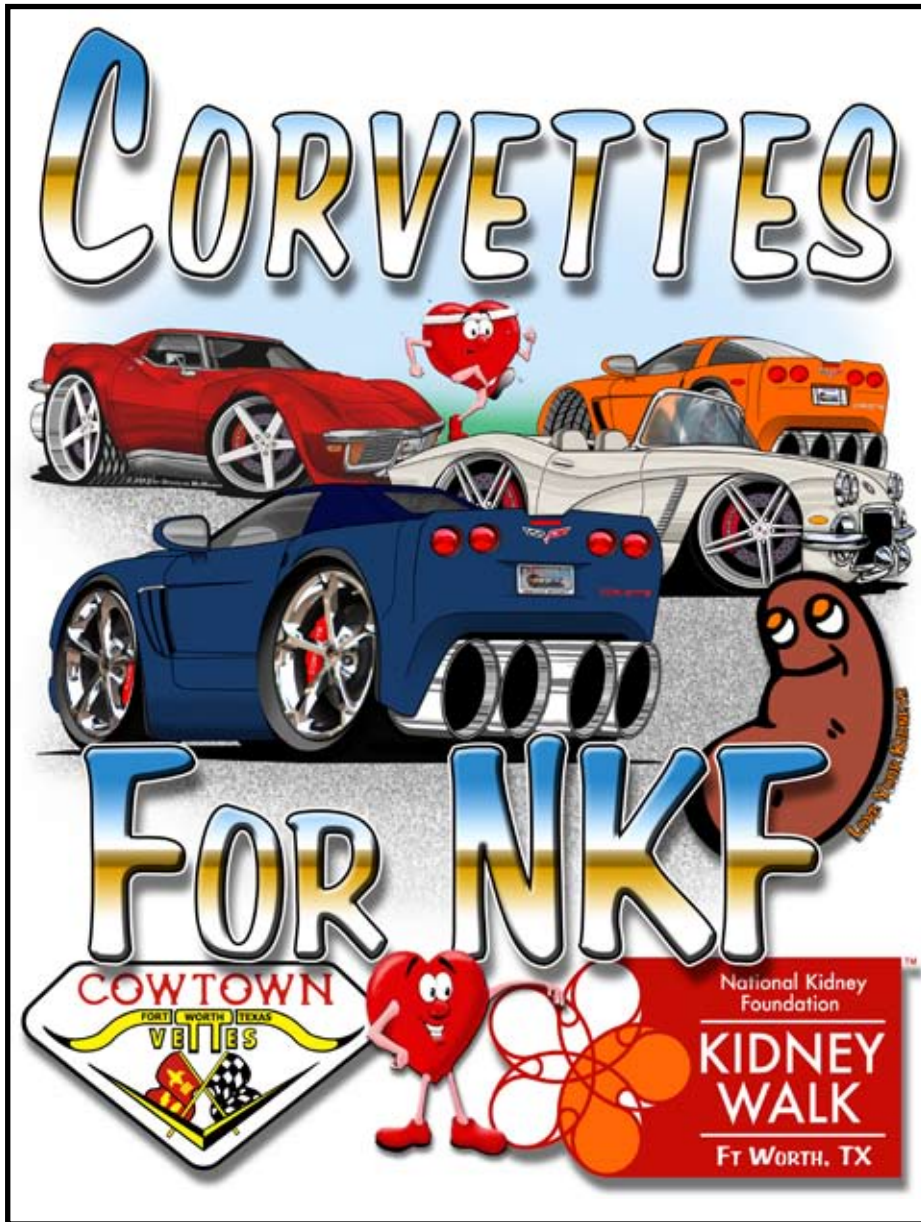
Cowtown

LOW-DOWN

March 2012

VOLUME 39, NO. 3

www.cowtownvettes.org



National Kidney Foundation
Kidney Walk
Saturday, March 24, 2012
Trinity Park, Ft. Worth
See article on page 15 for more details

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

***3/2 MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Coors Hospitality Room

3/3-4 CAMP OUT PAJAMA PARTY CRUISE
Red River Army Depot

***3/11 PRACTICE AUTOCROSS**
General Motors Parking Lot

3/17 Happy St. Patrick's Day

3/21 BOARD MEETING
7:00 p.m. Coors Board Room

***3/24 NKF WALK**
8:00 a.m. Trinity Park

3/24 SWR AWARDS BANQUET
Waco

April

4/6 MEMBERSHIP MEETING
7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Coors Hospitality Room

***4/14 SUSAN G. KOMEN
RACE FOR THE CURE**
8 a.m. Ridgmar Mall

4/18 BOARD MEETING
7:00 p.m. Coors Board Room

**4/21 BACK ROADS CRUISE TO
ROUGH CREEK LODGE**
TBA

***4/28-29 LOW SPEED AUTO-CROSS**
Co-hosts - CTV and CCT
Mineral Wells

4/29 VINES & VETTES CAR SHOW
3-6 p.m. Lone Oak Winery, Burleson

*** Denotes 100%er Award Eligibility Event**



CTV Officers 2011

JOHN ARMES: President
armesgs@gmail.com



GWYNNE HANNA: Vice President
vettelady67@sbcglobal.net



RALEY SMITH: Secretary
rsmith1203@att.net



DONN BECK: Treasurer
donnbeck@sbcglobal.net



GLEENDA McMAHAN: NCCC Governor
glenda-gm@att.net



DOUG McMAHAN: Webmaster
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RICK GARABEDIAN
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RICK WATSON
Jr. Board Member (Term 12/12)
rickandkaren@mindspring.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello Cowtown Members,

What a great start for the New Year. We have had the pleasure of large attendance at our first two monthly meetings and some great turnouts at our events. I hope this trend continues as we have some great things planned for the upcoming months. This month we have the Pajama Party Cruise, the NKF Walk, and our practice autocross at the GM assembly plant. I hear we already have quite a few couples signed up for the cruise and I can't thank you guys enough for your enthusiasm this year and the feedback is so positive from our members. It has been so great to see the number of guests that have been coming to our meetings and thanks to our members for making them feel so welcome. I welcome any member who has a suggestion or comment to come see me after the meeting as we strive to make this club a getaway from the daily hectic times we are in. You guys ROCK. Have a great month and I look forward to seeing you all as we enjoy our Vettes together.

John Armes
President
armesgs@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Boy, you guys just never cease to amaze! We had a full house at the February meeting and approximately 20 at Boston's for the 'after the meeting social'. There were 59 at the Super Bowl party (YEA GIANTS) at Pappa's where the food, as always, was wonderful and the camaraderie was amazing. Since I had to get up at 3:30am Sunday morning, Gary and I left just after half time SO... I am not sure who won the last two quarters of the football pot. What I do know is two of our visitors, Jim and Rita Perry won the first two quarters! They were promptly told that they now HAD to join the club so we could recycle some of their winnings! There were 36 at the Valentine Sweetheart Dinner at Los Vaqueros. The food seemed to be a hit and I think that everyone had a good time. I know that Gary and I did! Thank you all for your participation in each event.

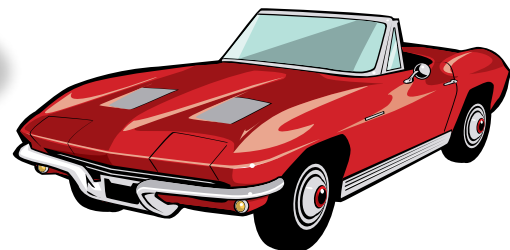
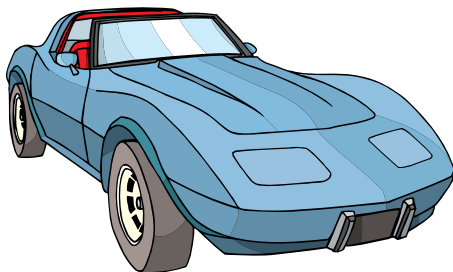
At this writing, we are about two weeks away from our "Camp Out PJ Cruise" with an already confirmed number of 30 "PJ Campers" and an additional two just for the drive up. I can't wait to write about this one! Stay tuned....

For the month of March, there will be two 100% socials. On 11March'12 we will have our **Practice Auto Cross** at our 'semi new' location, the General Motors parking lot in Arlington. If you have never participated in an Auto Cross, you've really missed out! Even if you don't participate as a "driver", there is plenty of fun to be had by all. Come out and enjoy the fun or even pitch in to help with set up and working the event. I promise you will find something to do that you will REALLY enjoy.

The National Kidney Foundation's **Kidney Walk** 24March'12 will be the second 100% social for the month. As with last year, the walk will begin at Trinity Park, Corner of W 7th Street and Stayton, Fort Worth. Check-in will begin at 8:00am with the walk starting at 9:00. Look for more information as the event gets closer.

Gwynne Hanna
CTV, Vice-President
vettelady67@sbcglobal.net

If any of you have any ideas or specific things that you would like to participate in as a 100% er event, email me (vettelady67@sbcglobal.net) with your thoughts. See ya in March!!!





MARCH 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 <i>* Membership Meeting 7:30 Meeting</i>	3 <i>Camp Out Pajama Party Cruise Red River Army Depot</i>
4 <i>Camp Out Pajama Party Cruise Red River Army Depot</i>	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 <i>* Practice Autocross General Motors Arlington</i>	12	13	14	15	16	17 
18	19	20	21 <i>Board Meeting LOW-DOWN DEADLINE</i>	22	23	24 <i>* NKF Walk Trinity Park 8 AM</i>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Bold italic type denotes CTV events

** Denotes required attendance and participation for 100%er Award eligibility*

APRIL 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	2	4	5	6 <i>* Membership Meeting 7:30</i>	7
8 	9	10	11	12	13	14 <i>* Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Ridgmar Mall 8 AM</i>
15	16	17	18 <i>Board Meeting LOW-DOWN DEADLINE</i>	19	20	21 <i>Back Roads Cruise to Rough Creek Lodge</i>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 <i>* LS Auto Cross (CTV hosting) Mineral Wells</i>
29 <i>* LS Auto Cross Mineral Wells ~~~~~ Vines & Vettes Car Show Lone Oak Winery</i>	30					

Bold italic type denotes CTV events

** Denotes required attendance and participation for 100%er Award eligibility*



CTV Committees 2012

AUDIT

Jim Forsythe: Chairperson
Carnut817@yahoo.com

<Open>: Co-Chairperson



CAR SHOW

Sylvia Hoaldrige : Chairperson
pinkvett@gmail.com

Fred Proctor: Co-Chairperson



CHARITIES

Jane Buehler: Chairperson
bbuehler@charter.net

Cory Armes: Co-Chairperson



CTV CRUISER

Donald Hickman: Chairperson
donaldhickman@sbcglobal.net

Carlanne Hickman: Co-Chairperson



EQUIPMENT

Hector Sandoval: Chairperson
fuluz@msn.com

<Open>: Co-Chairperson



HISTORIAN

<Open>: Chairperson



LOGO MERCHANDISE

Karen Watson: Chairperson
rickandkaren@mindspring.com

<Open>: Co-Chairperson



MEMBERSHIP/WELCOME

Donna Forsythe: Chairperson
j-dforsythe@aledobb.com

<Open>: Co-Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

WELCOME!

First Time Guest

Ken Vasilik
1991 L-98 White Coupe

Second Time Guests

Sherry Michener
2000 Black on Black Convertible

Jim & Rita Perry
2011 White Coupe
Walter & Shelley Wheeler
2003 Black Z06



Donna Forsythe

Membership / Welcome Chairperson
ctv-membership@yahoogroups.com



3/03 JASON BLOCKER
3/03 ROB POST
3/05 LINDA LUMMUS
3/06 MANDA GORMAN
3/07 JOE ROSALES
3/10 LOU KIRBY
3/14 BRUCE LEWIS
3/15 DONNA ROSETT
3/16 DOLLIE HUNLEY
3/17 JACK GANDY
3/21 MIKE BRASWELL
3/24 SHAUN LOWREY
3/26 GARY DAVIS
3/26 KAREN PHILLIPS

3/12 RICHARD & KAREN WATSON
3/13 LARRY & ANN FREEMAN
3/15 DONALD & CARLANNE HICKMAN
3/16 JOHN & CORY ARMES
3/30 JIM & LINDA BENWARE
3/30 KERRY & ALAINE KING



Speaking of General Motors

On Jan. 30, 2012, the Ft. Worth Star Telegram reported that General Motors had announced that it will add a \$200 million stamping plant to its Arlington Truck Assembly Plant that will add another 180 jobs to the facility. The sheet metal stamping facility, to be built adjacent to the assembly plant, will be used to produce a new lineup of full-size sport utility vehicles beginning sometime in 2013. The company indicated last month that Arlington was being considered for the project.

The facility will strengthen the Arlington plant's long-term viability, city officials said. Locating the plant in Arlington "makes sense for GM," said Tracy Handler, an analyst for IHS Automotive. "It's such an iconic plant for Texas. Those are big pieces, and shipping, even by rail, is costly and time-consuming."

The investment not only creates "good American manufacturing jobs" but also would help save the company money as it works to remain competitive globally, Deputy City Manager Trey Yelverton said. "That's good not only for us and potential workers but for GM," said Yelverton, adding that the stamping facility could manufacture parts for other assembly plants in the Southern United States.

Read more at: <http://www.star-telegram.com/2012/01/30/3699106/announcement-expected-today-on.html#storylink=cpy>

NCCC EVENTS

Cowtown's 2012 NCCC Events

The NCCC year has kicked off and Corvette fun is on the calendar with dates for our NCCC which have already been filed. In addition, with the 2012 NCCC Rulebook each club now receives ten NCCC Nat'l Sanctions each year. Counting the bartered sanctions, we have 20 sanctions for hosting some great NCCC events this year. This will impact/change our NCCC events to some degree however we have finalized exactly what changes will be made to our events; more around this in the upcoming months.



Our NCCC Events dates for 2012 are below and they are posted on the 2012 SWR webpage. Please mark these dates on your calendars so you can enjoy the events by participating and/or helping us to host them.

- *March 11, 2012: the Practice Autocross at the General Motors Assembly Plant in Arlington. This is a non-sanctioned event utilized to help our members shake-out their cars before the season starts but more importantly it will be to help our members learn the various responsibilities and components of hosting these events; learning / teaching event. It is also a great opportunity for you to see how your Vette handles in a controlled environment.
- *April 28-29, 2012: the Spring No-Frills event co-hosted by CCT; being planned as 14 low-speed autocross events.
- *September 15-16, 2012: Our 16th Annual Super Speedway Weekend at TMS; being planned as 12 low-speed autocross events
- Date(s) TBD: even with us hosting the events as identified above, we do have some additional sanctions due to the Nat'l Rulebook changes for 2012; we are looking into some type of non-racing event (i.e. funkhana, rallye, etc.) to utilize these; do you have ideas?

* Designated as a Cowtown 100%er event in the months they occur.

We need functional chairpersons for the following positions for all events however we will focus on the practice autocross and April Event for now. We need a functional chairperson for Corner Workers, Course Setup / Teardown, Equipment (club trailer), Lunch, Pre-Staging, Starter, Safety Tech. Please contact me if you would be willing to step up for the club, in order to make these events a success.

Your participation in the events is welcomed and we do need your assistance in hosting and working these events; we need you to sign up as a worker and/or functional chairperson. Thanks in advance for supporting these events which in turn provides operating funds for our club and allows us to enjoy more Corvette fun.

Doug McMahan
NCCC Events Ccoordinator
macsvettes@att.net

Rick Watson
NCCC Events Co-Ccoordinator
rickandkaren@mindspring.com



CTV Committees 2012

MID-AMERICA

James West: Chairperson
jnk69vette@sbcglobal.net

NCCC EVENTS

Doug McMahan: Chairperson
macsvettes@att.net
Rick Watson: Co-Chairperson

NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM

Kim West: Ambassador
kwest1@drhorton.com

NEWSLETTER

Jo Anne Smith: Chairperson
josmith619@att.net

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Robert Geyer: Chairperson
geyerdrill@aol.com

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Barb Greenfeder: Chairperson
BarbsC6@sbcglobal.net

SOCIALS

Gwynne Hanna: Chairman
vettelady67@sbcglobal.net
<Open>: Co-Chairperson

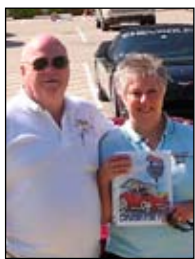
TEXAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY

Rick Garabedian: Chairperson
rgarab1@yahoo.com
Scott Wheeler: Co-Chairperson

TIMING

Candy Beck: Chairperson
candy.beck@sbcglobal.net

COWTOWN CRUISER



The 02/18/2012 cruise to the Texas Museum of Automotive History at Fair Park, Dallas with lunch at the Old Mill Restaurant was postponed due to weather. I will speak to VP Gwynne Hanna and we will let you know what the new cruise date will be.

2012 looks like it will be a great year to get out and drive your Vettes and the weather will only be getting better. Upcoming cruises include:

- March 3rd & 4th, Gwynne Hanna's **The Camp Out Pajama Party Cruise to the Red River Army Depot.**
- April 21st, Doug McMahan's **Back Roads to Rough Creek Lodge.**

Please check the Cruiser Schedule <http://cowtownvettes.org/CCP/cruisersch.html> for upcoming cruises and last minute changes.

2012 Cowtown Cruiser Program (CCP) has started and a number of people were seen taking pictures of themselves with the 2012 Cruiser Logo and their Vettes. If you have not started yet, information is available on the Cowtown website or please give me a call.

Helpful Hints – This one is from Doug McMahan

AVOID stopping on the side of Interstates and major highways - it

...keep on cruisin'

Donald Hickman

2012 Cruiser Chairperson
donaldhickman@sbcglobal.net

& Carlanne Hickman

& Co-Chair
chickma101@sbcglobal.net

is dangerous and a photo of a sign isn't worth the risk. All cities & towns have many roads leading into them, get off the busy highway and take a smaller road out to the edge of the city or town and you'll find another sign, usually in a safer setting.

Another idea is to find the local post office. You'll get both city & state! This also gets you into the town/city where you can discover churches, historical markers, war memorials or courthouses. Most official signs are green in color. So think green!

2012 Annual Vette Photo Contest: The "What You Saw Along the Way" Photo Contest has started so you need to be taking interesting pictures of your Vette while you are out cruising. You will find rules for it on our website.

2012 Cowtown Cruiser T-Shirts: Doug McMahan has ordered the shirts and if you ordered a shirt and have not received it, please see me.

We welcome any suggestions for new cruise destinations or improving the program.



Back Road Cruise to Rough Creek Lodge

Saturday, April 21, 2012

Cruise Sponsor: Doug McMahan

We will start out by enjoying our Corvettes on some back roads on our way down to the Granbury / Glen Rose area where we will meet up with members from the *Brazos River Corvette Club* (BRCC) for the remainder of the cruise out to *Rough Creek Lodge*. The *Rough Creek Lodge, Resort and Dallas Conference Center* is nestled on 11,000 acres in the foothills of the picturesque Texas Hill Country and offer everything from guest houses, cabins, a chapel for weddings, horseback rides, hunting, fishing, zip-line and many other activities including full service spa facilities.

As far as food, RC has been named one of the "Distinguished Restaurants in North America" by DiRoNA every year since 2003. Our host, Jose took a couple of sit-down dinner choices we choose and converted them into a 3-course buffet lunch. They will serve our plates and you can return to the buffet again if you desire. Chef Gerard Thompson will prepare our meal starting with homemade Potato Soup and Mixed Green salad, Pears, Almonds, Goat Cheese & Sherry Vinaigrette. Then the entrees which include Prime Beef Meat Loaf, Garlic Whipped Potatoes, Pecan Crusted Catfish with Sweet Potatoes and Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad. The finale includes Dessert Choices of Crème Brûlée and Valrhona Chocolate Cake. Coffee, Tea, Water or Soda are included in the \$25/person cost; other libations are available at an extra cost.

All that is missing is you; sign up today and come join the fun with friends and your Corvette. RSVP today since we need a final head count the week prior to arrival.





The second month of the year has been a busy month of back-to-back activities starting with the Super Bowl Social, then a Valentine's Social, the Corvette / Chevy Expo in Houston, and last but not least NASCAR Laps for Charity. For capturing photos at these events we would like to thank the Donald and Carlanne Hickman, Fred Proctor, Raley and Jo Anne Smith and Doug & Glenda McMahan for photos at the February events. Coming up in March,

we need you to keep those cameras ready so we can get the fun captured from the Pajama Party/Camp Out Cruise, the Practice Autocross, the SWR NCCC Awards Banquet, the National Kidney walk and last but not least, the first NCCC event of the season down in Houston. So, don't forget your camera when you go out to enjoy any of these events; we would welcome photos from you!

We have posted some members cars since last meeting; which can be found by clicking the Corvette Generations at the top of the web pages; is your Vette represented out there? If not, we would like it to be – show how proud you are of your Corvette. Have you or are you currently serving in the military? If so, we have a Veteran's page which we would like for you to share photos of your service to our country. The page also shows some photos of various memorials that our members have run across while cruising; have you taken photos of any you would like to share?

NOTE: If you are an Elected Officer or Chairperson you might have responsibility of a webpage and its content; if you are not sure – please check with me. If you have information that you feel needs to be on the calendar and/or shared with membership through the events section our website, we would ask that it be sent electronically. Work (paying job) is insane right

Doug McMahan

2011 CTV Webmaster (macsvettes@att.net)

now and time is very limited for maintaining our website. Bottom-line, if you don't provide it electronically to us – it will not be listed on the website; this includes socials, cruises, car shows, charity functions, etc. Remember, our website and these pages are a world-wide representation of Cowtown Vettes and our many activities; if the page is outdated or empty that is a direct reflection on me, you, and the club.

Along with that thought, once again, Cowtown is eligible to enter the [NCCC National Club Website Contest](#) this year, so if you have any NEW ideas and/or suggestions which you feel would make our club website better – PLEASE contact me. As always, I would ask you to keep your eye out for faux pas on the website, sometimes cut and paste isn't my friend, not to mention I get in a hurry. We do want our club's representation on the internet to always be the best that it can be.

Cowtown Email Distribution Lists: If you change your email address, mailing address, your Vettes, etc., please let membership know so that your address can be updated in the Membership Database along with the various email lists. Cowtown has over thirty email distribution lists, many geared around specific activities or functions, like NCCC, various committees, convention, etc. so, if you'd like to be added to a specific list, get in touch with me. If by chance you are not receiving the CTV-All emails then your correct email address must not be in the system; contact us. Send all email and address updates to: ctv-membership@yahoogroups.com

If you have suggestions, questions or comments about how we are managing your Club's website and/or Facebook account, please don't hesitate to give me a shout. I also encourage you to shout if you find any pages that have issues or if there is something you would like to see or things you dislike; after all this is your website and I am only the caretaker of your website.

*...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!!!*

NCCC Scholarship Program

The NCCC Scholarship program is funded through donations from Clubs, individuals and corporate friends such as Mid America Motorworks. The NCCC Scholarship Committee awards \$1,000.00 scholarships to worthy young people who have some connection with NCCC through a Father, Mother, Grandfather, Grandmother, etc., who has been a member of NCCC for at least three years. "Some connection" implies that the Applicant's relatives should have knowledge of the various requirements of the Scholarship Program.

If the relative is not the Applicant's parent, the relative must write a letter to be included with the completed application indicating the following:

His/Her relationship to the applicant

His/Her NCCC Member Number

That He/She will be the Applicant's Sponsor

That He/She has been closely involved with NCCC for a period of three or more years.

All applications must be received at the above address no later than the deadline date for the year. The deadline changes from year to year depending upon the date of the Annual NCCC Convention. The 2012 Received Deadline Date is May 5, 2012

For more information refer to NCCC website: http://www.corvettesnccc.org/scholars_program.html

All scholarship applications must be completed correctly and mailed to:

NCCC Scholarship Committee

9741 Sunny Pointe Drive

Laingsburg, MI 48848





National Corvette Museum News

I was looking through the names of the people who are in the NCM's Hall of Fame. I came across Larry Shinoda's picture and a funny memory popped into my mind. Some of you remember the 1992 convention CTV hosted. I'm telling you, what a week we had!!! Ask some of the old timers, we all have a fond, funny, tiring memory we could share. At the end of the long week there was a breakfast on Saturday morning before we all left for home. I don't remember what the breakfast was for but there were honored guests and the committee chairmen in attendance. I had bought a poster that depicted the 1,000,000th Corvette made. I knew Larry Shinoda was going to be at the breakfast. I was determined to get Mr. Shinoda's autograph on my very special poster. After we all ate our breakfast some got up and were mingling around while Debbie Lindsey was giving out door prizes. I jumped up and went over to Mr. Shinoda and had to stand in line waiting patiently for my turn to ask for his autograph. While in line or when I had finally gotten to ask for the honored autograph, Debbie calls out my name which I did not hear. People around me said 'Kim, your name was called'. My reply was 'what, I'm busy here'. You see I was obvious cranky by the end of the week. I stepped away from Mr. Shinoda, went and collected my envelope, and returned. He was very nice and gave me his autograph. I have the poster hanging in my living room and it will always be treasured. Okay, here's the funny part. I'm not sure how much time passed before I opened that blasted envelope. It was probably when I was unpacking once I got home, I can't remember because it was 20 years ago. In the envelope was a certificate for a set of tires, yes a set of tires. I was shocked! Sometime that year I put my new set of tires on my '69. They were a great set of tires because they almost lasted the 20 year since, ask James about them.

Kim West
NCM Ambassador



Larry Shinoda
(1998 Induction)

Along with Bill Mitchell, designer Larry Shinoda has been closely associated with the Corvette Sting Ray, the stunning design that debuted in 1963. The Sting Ray literally set the world on its ear. Few American cars were so instantly recognizable, so clean, and so pure. For the first time in its history, the Corvette staked its own uniquely American ground instead of looking to sports car tradition and Europe for inspiration. Larry played a major role in the execution of that design-from the original Q Corvette to the 1963 Split Window.

Born in Los Angeles of Japanese parents, Larry took to drawing images of cars when he was a young boy using broken pencil stubs. During World War II, Larry and his family, along with thousands of other Japanese Americans, were interned at Manzanar in California. While humiliating, the experience allowed Larry to showcase the benefit of a positive attitude. He amazed others in the camp by designing an armchair out of some old crates that featured a reclining back.

Besides design, his other love was racing. He joined the crew for the John Zink Special at the 1956 Indianapolis 500. The Offenhauser powered Watson racer sported Shinoda-designed bodywork and a distinctive dark-pink-and white paint scheme. And, of course, it won that year driven by Pat Flaherty. In 1968, Shinoda followed then-Chevy General Manager Bunkie Knudsen to Ford, and there he designed the Boss 302 Mustang, perhaps the most graceful Mustang ever produced. Later he established his own design company and designed everything from Roger Penske's race trailers to the Goodyear Blimp. He also created a sleek aftermarket body treatment for the fourth-generation Corvette called Rick Mears Special Edition. He even designed motorhomes for Monaco Motor Coach.

Larry succumbed to kidney problems in 1996 and was the subject of a massive fund-raising effort for a kidney transplant. Despite his handicap, he maintained a vigorous schedule. Sadly, he died November 13, 1997, at age 67 before the transplant could take place. His sister, Grace Nakamura, said, "Creative people take risks. They see things in new ways that the establishment doesn't agree with." Larry Shinoda will always be seen as a creative spark that helped define for the world what the Corvette is today.

More Views from Laps for Charity at TMS



TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

--- submitted by Doug McMahan

Does your C5 headlight emit a horrendous rat-a-tat-a-tat of a machine-gun cacophony that announced the arrival of the headlight gear malfunction known all too well to many of us? To make a long story short, some of the factory gears just don't last; ours made it to about 140k before the passenger's side gave it up and would no longer open the headlight.

I set about ordering a repair kit, and I know Murphy's Law will probably get me but I decided to only change the broken passenger's side since somewhere I have gear that I never installed previously. I ordered and received the latest kit which is sold by various suppliers; they typically contain the same components; some have brass gears and some are still plastic like the factory.



My kit content contained: Top left-clockwise: Silicone lubricant, T-bracket with rubber bushing and plastic washer, brass gear, rubber gear insert, adhesive mixing stick and Urethane two-part, quick-cure adhesive.

I raised the hood and laid out protective mats and towels. Since the headlight wouldn't raise on its own, I rotated the motor worm using the knob on the back of the gearmotor counterclockwise to raise the headlight assembly. This is a close-up of the gearmotor assembly from the back, with the protective boot off the motor worm knob.



Once you have the headlight up, remove the three screws from the plastic shroud using a Philips screwdriver.



Disconnect the main electrical connector for the lights. Then disconnect the two smaller connectors for the low & high beam headlight bulbs themselves or just pull the lights out with the wiring harness complete (which I chose to do).

Front view of the gearmotor. Here you see the three mounting bolts. There are nuts on each bolt that need to be removed. There is also a nut on the other end of the center shaft you see that goes through the offending gear we're looking to replace. I used a 10mm gear wrench and a 10mm box-end wrench to unbolt these and was very careful not to drop the nuts as it's a tight fit for my hands in there. If you drop them, you will need a magnet to fish for them. Removing the center nut allowed me to slip the linkage arm off the gear shaft and that immediately caused the headlight to freefall/pivot so I was careful in easing it down as I removed the gearmotor.



The instructions indicated that the headlight assembly should be loosened and slid forward to allow removal of the gearmotor but I found I could remove it without doing that. Here is the extracted component.



The next step is to use two small screwdrivers to pop the gear cover off; the cover appears to be ultrasonically welded or glued. I was careful and slowly worked my way around the cover until it popped off in one piece.



The exposed gear shows no obvious sign of damage - yet.



Upon further inspection, you can see damage to the gear on the teeth at the top of the picture. Doesn't seem like much, but there's not a whole lot of engagement to begin with.

I cleaned up the gear case, installed the rubber insert into the brass gear, lubed up the gear, shaft and worm with the silicone grease, slid the gear and plastic washer onto the shaft and then the gear and shaft into the case. Then it was time to prepare for the adhesive application. The instructions warn you to work fast when gluing the cover back on because there is only about a 5-6 minute working time once the two-part urethane is mixed. They aren't kidding either. It's important that both surfaces have adhesive applied to them and that it is a contiguous ring all the way around the edge of the case to ensure the case is watertight.



After about 15 minutes, I checked for a good bond. Then I slid the T-bracket onto the shaft with the larger end of the rubber bushing towards to cover to retain it. The T-bracket was added to the kit after reports of cover separation due to adhesive failures caused by axial load of the gear shaft. The bracket helps to keep the cover in place.



It was a little tougher putting the gearmotor back in since there was nothing to hold the headlight up; so I used the rubber air hose which was soft yet stiff enough to support the weight of the headlight.

Next, I reinstalled the gearmotor and reassembled the headlight in the reverse order of disassembly, making sure to slide the linkage onto the gear shaft in the proper orientation. Incidentally, if you were fortunate to raise your headlights electronically, when you started the procedure, the headlight position of the repaired side might be out of synch with the other side; this would be due to installing the gear shaft in a different position than where it was before you removed it (could even be about halfway up). This is not a problem because you can manually rotate the motor worm using the knob on the end of the motor until the headlight was in the fully raised position.

Finally, I tested the headlight raising/lowering action and confirmed it was working properly. Interestingly enough, the repaired side works faster than the other side, even though it isn't sounding like a machine gun yet.

February

SUPER BOWL PARTY @PAPPA'S BURGERS FEBRUARY 6, 2012



Fun, Food,
and Football...



What else do
you need?



Festivities



Red was the color of the evening...



VALENTINE'S DINNER LOS VAQUEROS FEBRUARY 11, 2012



GOVERNOR'S THOUGHTS



It is March already and we have seen very little winter weather! March brings our practice autocross so let's hope that for at least the weekend of March 11 we see spring-like temps. Hope to see you there.

Convention registration opened on February 1 and I know several of you registered. There is still time to get in on the fun! The price increases on April 1 and again on May 1. If you are thinking of taking in the fun and excitement of convention and seeing what is all about keep that in mind. Remember convention is not just about competition events; it has lots to offer everyone. The low speed and high speed autocrosses, drag racing, the rallye, the funkhana, the concours, valve cover races, golf and local tours and parties every night! There is something for everyone and you will have FUN and make lasting memories.

Glenda McMahan
2012 NCCC Governor
glenda-gm@att.net

Remember the two scholarship programs we have available to us. The **National Scholarship Program** has to be in Patrick Dolan's hands by May 5. Check out the website for info and how to apply.

http://www.corvettesnccc.org/scholars_program.html

The **Southwest Region Scholarship Program** has not set a due date but it is usually in June. Keep an eye out for this at <http://www.ncccswwregion.org/>

Southwest Region Banquet for 2011 awards is taking place March 24 followed by the first governor meeting on Sunday morning, March 25. If you are interested in going the deadline is March 17. The deadline to get a special rate in the Waco Hilton is March 3rd.

Cowtown has several events going on every month, be sure and attend at least one and join the fun.



NCCC at the Corvette/Chevy Expo in Houston, TX on February 10-11, 2012

Glenda and I worked the NCCC booth at the show, in the corner of the *San Jacinto Corvette Club's* booth. We greatly appreciate them offering us the space at no cost and we enjoyed spending time as well; they are a great group of individuals. It was also nice to meet and visit with some of their members who don't typically attend the racing events, not to mention seeing some of their show Vettes; they had twelve entries in the show. This CCE show is a judged show and open to Corvettes and basically anything built by Chevrolet so besides the Vettes we enjoyed some amazing Camaros, pickups, etc. The judges and the new promoter were from Florida; the promoter (Bill from *Vette Vues* magazine) is someone I work with for AD trades at the NCCC National Level. We did enjoy visiting with lots of people including several Corvette Clubs about NCCC and will probably have a new SWR club in Houston; we should know by our next membership meeting.

We decided about two weeks before the show that we might as well put our *Grand Sport* in the show since we were going to be there all weekend anyway; so we detailed the GS and had it ready for the show mid-week. Murphy's Law; it started raining Thursday night and we caught rain all the way to Houston Friday morning – lots of cleaning and detail work after we arrived and had the NCCC booth setup. Murphy got us again on the way home, it started raining before the awards on Sunday afternoon and it rained almost all the way home – two complete details on the GS and both were spoiled (or soiled) by rain. I won't complain though, Texas still needs rain so hopefully we won't be back in a drought situation again this year.

Note: A few photos from the show are posted on our Cowtown website and a link at the bottom of the page to my personal website for more expanded show coverage; enjoy.

Doug & Glenda



Doug & Glenda at the NCCC booth.



The McMahan's GS entry.



COWTOWN VETTES CHARITY REPORT



We have two big charity events coming up this Spring. It's time to get signed up and ready to participate and support these charities. Our winter weather has been so mild that we can get outside and start walking now and we'll be ready to go for the first event in March.

The 2012 Fort Worth Kidney Walk is on Saturday, March 24th in Trinity Park with check in beginning at 8:00. The Kidney Walk is a non-competitive 1.5 mile or 3 mile course, open to all ages, fitness levels, and participants with special needs. You can even bring your four-legged children! Look for Sylvia Hoaldrige's article elsewhere in the newsletter for the details on how to join the Cowtown Vettes team.

Just three weeks later on Saturday, April 14th, we'll support the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure at Ridgmar Mall. As you remember there were some traffic prob-



lems getting to the race last year. Karyn Fowler has some creative ideas on how to overcome that problem this year and will be sharing her plan with us soon. So, get ready

now by going online to <http://www.komengreaterfortworth.org/komen-race-for-the-cure/> to register. Click on "join an existing team" (team name is Cowtown Vettes) and follow the prompts. We'll have more details at the March and April meetings.

Both of these walks are a fun way to help others and give yourself a great day outdoors with family and friends. Are you signed up yet?

Jane Buehler
Charities Chairman

NASCAR Laps for Charity

Cowtown would like to thank the participants who came out to enjoy the NASCAR LAPS for Charity on Sunday, February 19th. We had partnered up with Team Texas (NASCAR Driving School) and Texas Motor Speedway for this charity fundraiser day. Team Texas had dropped the 4-lap ride price to \$99 and offered to give 50% of the entry fee to the Club's Charity of choice. This was a great opportunity for folks to enjoy NASCAR laps and to raise funds for charity at the same time.

Cowtown had fifteen participants who met up at 10:30am just outside of Texas Motor Speedway; including spectators on the dreary overcast day. The participants were David Gill, Tyler Pittman, Steve & Dollie Hunley, Mason, Chad Martin, Sherry & Matthew Michener, Fred & Scott Proctor, Tony & Jake Sokoloski, Don Wells and Doug & Glenda McMahan. We had 4 supporters / spectators including Christi Martin, Don & Virginia Littlefield and Nancy Wells

We drove in and parked at the Sprint Cup garage at 10:45 and headed to the Team Texas trailer to sign in for our laps. It had been raining for the past two days and up thru last evening so they asked us to wait for a bit while TMS dried the track out. Since the morning breeze was a bit brisk, we walked back to the garage to get in out of the wind and to look at the cars we were going to ride in. After several hours of waiting for the sun to come out and burn off the clouds, Mike announced that TMS has decided they weren't going to continue trying to dry the track and that the event was cancelled. He regretted it since this is the second time they have tried to host this event and it was cancelled due to weather. Mike stated that he would try to put another Charity day event together for us in a couple of months – so be watching for the opportunity to participate when it is rescheduled.

Since the event was cancelled, several of us drove on into Roanoke to grab lunch at the Twisted Root; as Murphy would have it, the sun came out as we were finishing lunch.

--submitted by Doug McMahan

(Additional pictures of this event can be found elsewhere in the Low-Down)



Our cars in the Sprint Garage Parking area.



Blowers drying the track.



Members looking at the cars.

TECH TALK

C-5 EMERGENCY BRAKE

DISCLAIMER: *While this worked for me, I'm not saying it will work for everyone.*

Went to get my '03 inspected and was turned down immediately because the e-brake lever instantly topped out. Doing a little online research I found that adjusting the e-brake isn't a simple tweaking of a cable anymore. The worst, and nearly most suggested method, involved removing the wheels, calipers, and rotors, then manually adjusting the e-brake star. This is NOT where I was looking to go. Another, much less suggested idea said to quickly pull up the e-brake lever three times, failing that, do the old back up the car and hit the brakes routine except use the e-brake. These two suggestions were generally ridiculed in the "most suggested" method articles. As you have no doubt surmised, the quick three pulls on the lever took care of my problem, although I also did the back up routine just for good measure.

The next time the e-brake was weak I tried pulling it both back and towards the driver, which also worked, got another sticker.

Again, this may not work for everyone, but it is quick, easy, and well within most of our price ranges.

GOOD LUCK!

---submitted by Bill Buehler



Two Days of Fun

Howdy! These pictures are from a recent "Drivers Education" course at Motorsports Ranch, hosted by Maverick Region, PCA. Car 706 was just spectacular to watch. Car 442 is unique! It started "life" as a 1974 Porsche 911 Carrera. It now

sports an LS3(!) power plant-in the rear, just as the flat 6 used to be. A true crowd Pleaser!

Two days of track time with an instructor for under \$300. Such a deal!

--submitted by **Richard Cross**



Texas Motor Speedway News



Workers Needed for Texas Motor Speedway Race Weekends

The first race of the season is coming up on the 2nd weekend in April. The dates are April 12-14. We are looking for volunteers to work in various areas throughout the track. We are in need of workers for the Garage Party on Saturday and workers each day on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. For our new members, we work at the speedway to help offset the high cost of the track rental for our annual event.

Please drop an email to Scott or me or see one of us at the membership meeting if you have an interest in volunteering. We need your name, email address and phone number. As we get closer to the event, you will be contacted to work out the scheduling. Thanks in advance for your help.

Rick Garabedian
TMS Event Coordinator
rgarab1@yahoo.com



Scott Wheeler
TMS Event Coordinator
wheelfs@gmail.com



**National Kidney
Foundation®**

Test Your Kidney I.Q. - Take the Kidney Quiz!

Attention CTV Members, NCCC Family and Friends!

The 2012 Fort Worth Kidney Walk to benefit the National Kidney Foundation Serving Texas is just around the corner... **Saturday, March 24**, at Trinity Park (the site of last year's walk). Please join your fellow CTV members, along with family and friends, for this wonderful experience. By registering online, raising donations among family and friends, and spreading the word about the NKF, you are helping the NKF prevent kidney disease and urinary tract diseases, along with improving the health and well-being of individuals and families affected by kidney diseases, as well as increasing the availability of all organs for transplantation.

Did you know that Kidney Disease is directly associated to many of today's major health issues: obesity, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and high blood pressure? Yet many doctors do not check for kidney disease until it has progressed into later stages and ultimately requires dialysis or a kidney transplant for survival. 1 in 9 people are affected by chronic kidney disease. Hispanic, African Americans, Asian Americans and Native Americans are most at risk for kidney disease. With this in mind, each of you probably knows someone directly or indirectly who is currently affected by kidney disease. As we grow older, more will be affected.

Every year our community of Walkers increases to help raise funds for the NKF's programs and services, such as research, kidney health aware, patient services & education, advocacy for organ donation, Camp Reynal kids camp and much more! Your participation, donation, fundraising and encouraging family and friends to do the same are the backbone of the Fort Worth Kidney Walk.

Here's how to sign up as a member of **CORVETTES FOR NKF**:

- Go to cowtownvettes.org
- On the homepage, look for 'March 24, Saturday' and click on 'Nat'l Kidney Walk in Ft Worth'
- That will take you to our team's homepage.
- Click on 'Join Team' above 'Sylvia Hoaldrige'
- That will take you to the Participation page.

- Select Participation Type
- Type in Donation Amount

Are you a new or returning participant? New – you will need to create a username and password; Returning – you will need to logon with your username and password from last year. Don't know it? Click on new and create a new username and password.

If you have any problems following the other prompts to get signed up, please contact me at pinkvett@gmail.com. If I don't have an answer for you, I'll get one from the NKF office in Dallas.

Corvettes for NKF is currently **#1 in donations with \$1,312.00** and is a member of the NKF's Top Fundraisers Club. Let's keep the momentum going! Nothing is too large or too small.

For those of you who are media savvy, the NKF now has its own Twitter profile and will be tweeting out exclusive fundraising contests, etc., so type [@DFWKidneyWalks](https://twitter.com/DFWKidneyWalks) or "LIKE" the *National Kidney Foundation Serving Texas' Facebook Page* for more updates. Don't forget to post a message about the Fort Worth Kidney Walk to your Facebook page.

The Fort Worth Kidney Walk is one of the few remaining walks that does not have a registration fee to sign up. However, the NKF encourages every walker to set an initial goal of \$100, which could amount to asking 10 friends for \$10 each. Raising \$100 will get you a commemorative t-shirt on the day of the Walk.

Don't forget about Matching Gift Programs. Does your employer have one? This is a great way to double your money for this great cause.

At the March 2 membership meeting, I will be selling \$1 raffle tickets with the proceeds going directly to the NKF. I will gladly take checks or cash. At the end of the meeting, a ticket will be drawn for a special gift. By the way, all tickets purchased at the February and March membership meetings will be kept safe until Cowtown's TMS event weekend where each ticket will be eligible for door prizes on Saturday night. Don't forget... all monies are tax-deductible.

Sylvia Hoaldrige
Team Captain – Corvettes for NKF



**More views from the
Corvette/Chevy Expo
in Houston, Texas**



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



EAST TEXAS CORVETTE CLUB (ETCC)
Lufkin, TX • SW-577



LONGHORN CORVETTE CLUB (LCC)
Austin, TX • SW-207



MID-COAST CORVETTE CLUB (MCCC)
Lake Jackson, TX • SW-170



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



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

2012 NCCC RACING EVENT SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT	CLUB
3/11	Arlington	Test-n-Tune Autocross (non-sanctioned) General Motors Parking Lot	CTV
3/24	Waco, TX	SWR Awards Banquet, hosted by Cen-Tex	CTCC
3/25	Waco, TX	SWR GOVERNOR'S MEETING - 9:00 AM at Hilton	SWR
3/31-4/1	Houston, TX	1st Choice - LS Autocross Events 1st Choice - LS Autocross Event	SICC CMCT
4/6-8	Hallett, OK	Driving School/Track Day(non-sanctioned) on 4/6 1st Choice - 7 Events 1st Choice - 6 Events	NTV TOCC
4/28-29	TBD	1st Choice - 4 Events (CTV hosting) 1st Choice - 7 Events	BRCC(CTV) CCT
5/4-5	St. Louis, MO	NATIONAL MEETINGS	Nat'l
5/12-13	TBD	Car Show and Drag Races (not record Drags)	SICC/CMCT
5/19-20	Waco, TX	1st Choice - LS Autocross Events 1st Choice - LS Autocross Events All at TSTC (Waco Airport)	CTCC MCCC
TBD	TBD	SWR GOVERNOR'S MEETING - 8:00 PM @TBD	SWR
5/26-27 (28?)	OKC, OK Noble, OK	1st Choice - LS Autocross 1st Choice - LS Autocross All at Sheriff's Facility	TVS SCCC CCOC
6/2-3	Austin & San Marcos, TX	1st Choice - Car Show, Funkhana, Rallye, and HS Autocross	LCC
6/9-10	OKC, OK	1st Choice - 7 LS Autocross Events 1st Choice - 7 LS Autocross Events All at Sheriff's Facility	TVS SCCC CCOC
6/23-30	Topeka, KS	NATIONAL CONVENTION 2012 & NATIONAL MEETINGS	Nat'l
8/4-5	OKC, OK	1st Choice - 6 LS Autocross Events 1st Choice - 7 LS Autocross Events All at Sheriff's Facility	CCOC SCCC
9/7-8	St. Louis, MO	NATIONAL MEETINGS	Nat'l
9/15-16	Ft. Worth, TX	1st Choice - 10 LS Autocross Events @ Texas Motor Speedway - Laps on the Oval on Sunday morning	CTV BRCC
9/15	Ft. Worth, TX	SWR Governor's Meeting - 8:00 PM@ Hampton Inn on I35 (just south of Texas Motor Speedway)	SWR
9/28-29	Waco, TX	Car Show	CTCC
10/13-14	Waco, TX	1st Choice - 7 LS Autocross Events	TCCC
10/20-21	OKC, OK Noble, OK	1st Choice - 7 Autocross Events at Sheriff's Facility 1st Choice - 3 Drag Events @ Thunder Valley in Noble	COAST CCOC
10/27-28	Waco, TX	1st Choice - 7 Autocross Events	TV
TBD	TBD	SWR Governor's Meeting - 8:00 PM @TBD	SWR
11/9-10	St. Louis, MO	NATIONAL MEETINGS	Nat'l
11/16-17	TBD	1st Choice - 7 LS Autocross Events & Playday	TOCC

Flyers for these events can be found at <http://ncccswwregion.org/schedule.html>

DID YOU KNOW? ...1967 was the first year to have three hood styles: the small block hood, the big block hood, and the L-88 hood, even though



externally the L-88 looked like the regular big block hood. In late February/early March, 1967, some small blocks received the big block hood due to a manufacturing problem with the small block hood mold. These were not given the hood stripe.

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11/2012

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www.cowtownvettes.org

\$9500 for the car complete. \$11,500 car and all spares I have - 2 rear ends (3.55 and 3.70), several other rear housings, spindles, trailing arms, stub axles, small parts, 3500 stall convertor, half-shafts, springs, #186 heads, 355 short block (12.5 to 1), 2 extra 15x10 wheels w/drag tires, LT-1 stock aluminum intake, whatever else I find.

I have owned the car since 1984. Many time class winner in NCCC autocross and drag competition. Lots of receipts, time slips, etc. I have the clear title. Car is in Arlington, TX.

Walt Zschirnt wzschirnt@yahoo.com

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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>



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*Current club members enjoy a
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 Contact the Editor for more info.*



CTV Logo Merchandise

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 \$ 7.50
 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
rickandkaren@mindspring.com
817-232-3871

**HAVE YOU GOT A BUSINESS YOU
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**Free ad for CTV members on
 this page of the Low-Down**



ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE SENT TO:

COWTOWN VETTES

P.O. Box 1974

Fort Worth, Texas 76101



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@yahoogroups.com.

Cruise to Hard 8 Barbecue and Dublin Dr. Pepper *January 7, 2012*



A gathering of Vettes



Love those
back roads



Enjoying a Dublin Dr. Pepper



A gathering of members at Hard 8 barbecue

At the Veteran's
Memorial



Next to the Erath County Courthouse



Is that
writing in
the sky?



We were there the last weekend it was open

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