



# HEADLINER



Newsletter of the Late Great Chevys of Dallas & National Impala Association of North Texas



## Auto Fuel Additives



In the old days (and maybe even during these "enlightened" times), medical quacks sold unwitting and sometimes desperate people concoctions that contained everything from cocaine to snake head extracts. This led to the expression "snake oil" for liquids that could cure anything that ailed the buyer.

We can also include in this category automotive products that can revitalize a sulfated battery or grow metal back on piston rings, engine bearings and driveline gears. One even promises to coat combustion chambers with platinum by spraying a liquid into the intake system.

But there are automotive chemicals that can be helpful to car owners and they collectively make up a multi-billion dollar annual business. They fall into the following categories:

**BOOST OCTANE** - At one time you could buy 120 octane gasoline from your corner station and in the '60s, we needed it. Developing high horsepower in those Muscle Car days meant relying more on hot-rod "tricks" than on high technology and to avoid pinging and detonation, those engines needed a diet of high octane fuel. Back then, high octane ratings were achieved by "lacing" lower quality gas with tetraethyl lead, a chemical that slowed the burn rate and allowed it to be used with those high compression engines. In the development of add-on pollution control devices that appeared in '75.

(cont on next page)

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I would like to remind everyone there will be no regular meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup> but we will have a short business meeting at our annual Christmas Party on December 10<sup>th</sup> in its place.

I encourage everyone to attend our Christmas Party. It is by far one of the most fun events we have every year. We will have our usual fireman's gift exchange so everyone needs to bring a gift. Men will bring a mans gift and women will bring a womans gift. Limit the value of your gift to approximately \$20 to \$25.

The club will furnish the main entrée and members are encouraged to bring their favorite side dishes and/ or deserts. Details are included on the last page of



this newsletter. Again that's December 10<sup>th</sup> so put that date on your calendar.

Our next regular meeting would normally be scheduled for January,1. **However, due to the normal meeting day falling on the New Years Day holiday, (and possibly many members may be impaired) the meeting has been moved to the following Sunday January 8, 2012.** Hope to see everyone there at Spring Creek BBQ. Complete information is available in our website [www.lategreatchevys.org](http://www.lategreatchevys.org)

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Joe



*fuel -continued from previous page*

It was found that tetraethyl lead coated the interior of the catalytic converters, made them inactive and eventually plugged them tight enough to blow out. But there's still lots of aging high compression engines around that find that even the highest octane fuel available makes them knock and ping. Chemical octane boosters are available from auto parts stores and can boost the octane rating of "pump" fuel by as much as seven points, but it's not cheap.

**CLEAN COMBUSTION CHAMBERS** - If high compression isn't causing that power loss or pinging in your late model car, and all the other engine management aspects are OK, another cause may be excessive carbon build-up in the combustion chambers. The carbon takes up space in the chambers (as well as around the intake valves) and the volume of the combustion chamber is decreased. This raises the octane requirement of the engine. Another problem with carbon build-up is that it gets hot, glows red and indiscriminately sets off the incoming fuel charges too early. It can even cause the engine to "diesel" (keep running after the key is shut off) which is very hard on the mechanical parts. One cure is to take off the cylinder head or heads and remove the carbon the hard way, but the automotive chemical guys have a better (and cheaper) idea. It's a concoction that's poured through your engine's air intake while it's running at a hot, high idle and it burns off the carbon. It's fairly cheap, at around five dollars a can. Unfortunately, this can upset some of the engine controls on some modern engines, so there are even more exotic cleaners that you can run through the fuel system itself to clean out the combustion chambers as you drive.

**FUEL TANK WATER REMOVER** - In some of the old World War II movies, haggard and hassled tank commanders and flight crews referred to "watering down" fuel to make it go further. But water and gasoline don't mix, right? Well, not very much but enough to do some damage if there's too much in your fuel system. About 2000 parts water per million parts of gasoline is a rough "mix" number and anything over that drops into a little "catch" cavity that you may find at the bottom of your fuel tank. The water gets into the tank as water vapor that's in the air which is pulled into your tank to displace the fuel as it's used up.

A chemical fuel system water remover poured into your gas tank mixes with the water as well as with the gasoline and the resulting solution is pulled into the engine and burned. It's cheap (only a couple of bucks per bottle) and the suggested dosage is 12 ounces in 15 or 20 gallons of gas.

**"TREAT" THE GAS** - This is a kind of "catchall" name for the usual light aromatic solvent naphtha blends and I suspect that the main difference between them and most of the other chemicals listed here is in the marketing. Regular use (usually recommended with every tankful of gas) will no doubt keep the water problem at bay and keep the carb & fuel injector nozzles clean, but the recommended dosage will also increase the cost of that tankful.

**CLEAN CARBURETOR AND ENGINE PARTS** - There are no new or late model vehicles that use carburetors, but there are lots of older cars and trucks around that still use them. My daily-driver pickup is one of them. "Carb" cleaner is the common-usage name of that's attached to these pressurized cans of degumming fluid, but the labels now read "Parts Cleaner." I've used it to not only clean out choke and carburetor passages but to de-gum P.C.V. (positive crankcase ventilation) valves without taking them off the car as well as to find vacuum leaks in worn or split hoses or on loose carburetors and intake manifolds. Their long, thin, detachable "snorkel" tubes come in handy for precise spraying. It's mixable with water so it can be used as a drying agent on ignition parts that get wet. Always keep a two dollar can of it in your toolbox.

Automotive engine chemicals are useful but none of them are miracle elixirs. Remember: if the claims made by the manufacturer sound too good to be true, they probably are.





## MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

November 6, 2011

Spring Creek Barbecue, Addison, Texas

Joe Shea welcomed our newest members, Luis "Junior" Fuerte, Jr. and his fiancée, Ashlyn Farley. He owns a 1964 SS.

The new Club caps are available now, as well as the new T shirts. The shirts were modeled by Joe and Sandy Shea. All items come with either Late Great Chevys of Dallas or National Impala Association of North Texas logos. Shirts are \$15 each and come in five sizes.

Glenda Almand read the minutes of the December Anniversary Party/Meeting and mentioned her "Thank You" note to everyone for the award she received was inadvertently not in the newsletter, but to look for it in the next one.

Since Larry McBrearty somehow missed the Anniversary Party, Joe Shea presented his well-deserved award for "Member of the Year" at the meeting. Joe thanked him for his dedication and help with all the cruises this past year.

Norma's Café and Legacy Bank were presented plaques at a luncheon for their sponsorship of the monthly morning cruises. Joe said he thought they appreciated the plaques and Norma's committed again for next year. Legacy Bank followed suit and agreed to sponsor again as well. Joe said next year the time may be changed to 10:00 until 12:00 or 1:00 in hope of getting better participation.

Joe said he was interviewed recently for Speed TV "My Ride Rules." There are four cars per episode and the winner receives \$1000. Joe did not think his interview went as well as some of the others, but he will know in 6-8 months if he was picked.

The Christmas Party will be December 10 at the First Community Bank in Richardson, TX—an excellent location Jim Crossland has been able to acquire for us for the last few years. Joe is planning for about forty people and will get turkey and ham from Norma's. Members are to bring the side dishes. The Chinese Gift Exchange is *always* the entertainment. The gift limit is \$20. Men bring a men's gift and lady's, a lady's. Decorators Sharon Gill and Sandy Shea (+ husbands) will get help from Brenda and Paul Edwards, Larry McBrearty and Jerry Howard this year. The party starts at 6:00. There will be a map in the newsletter of the location.

Due to other activities, the Texas Museum of Automobile History tour will be postponed until after the first of the year, probably in February.

Frisco Automotive is having a benefit car show for Morgan Watson who has leukemia this Saturday, November 12.

Friday, November 11 some club members will have their car in the Veteran's Day Parade in Dallas. Paul Edwards is getting cars together for this parade.

Autorama will be February 17-19 at Dallas Market Hall. Jim Crossland is looking for six hopefully different cars to enter this year.

There was no trivia, since Ray Durst is still not well. He is having more tests to try to locate the cause of weakness he has been having. Joe asked everyone to keep him in our prayers.

Richard Bartow donated a set of screwdrivers for the door prize. Jim Crossland being the only one to drive his car to the meeting, won. He said he was donating them to the shop at Hebron.

Ashlyn Farley won \$20 in the 50/50 raffle.





## SCATTERSHOOTING



### *Thank You*

*Thank all of you so much for the award of "Member Emeritus" that I received at the Anniversary Party. Excluding the thirty-year part (which I have thoroughly enjoyed), I feel there are many of you who deserve this award. There are others who have worked tirelessly to make our club a success. If you were trying to make me feel special, you did that. I am humbled by your honor.*



*With love and sincerity,  
Glenda Almand*

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## UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

**December 10**

***Club Christmas Party & Meeting***  
**First Community Bank Motor Bank/Community Room**  
**429 Belle Grove**  
**Richardson, Tx. 75080**





*Joe Shea?*

**NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE**

- Glenda Almand
- Richard Bartow
- Louis Fuerte Jr
- Dan & Sharon Gill
- Jack Stewart
- Paul & Brenda Edwards
- Ashlyn Farley
- Jim Crossland                    '64 Impala SS
- Mike Tidwell
- Jerry Howard
- Joe and Sandy Shea
- John & Jessie Thomas
- Ernie Perkins
- Ava Chapman
- Donnie Anderson
- Larry McBrearty
- Aidon Willson (visitor)



"Serve them cheap wine. We don't want to encourage these people to stay."



"I want more communication, and you want less."

"So let's compromise and communicate more or less."



## TREASURY REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE 10/01/2011

\$4,520.98

### INCOME

10/02 Anniversary Party 50/50	\$39.00	
10/02 Anniversary Party Admission	\$290.00	
10/08 Cruise 50/50	\$36.00	
10/08 Cruise Registration	\$170.00	
Norma's Cruise Sponsorship	\$125.00	
Dues	\$240.00	
Hats Sold	\$315.00	
Teeshirts Sold	\$20.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$1,235.00</b>



### EXPENSES

10/02 Anniversary Dinner @ Christina's	\$1,049.05	
10/08 Car Cruise Cash Awards	\$155.00	
New Club Tee Shirt Expense	\$1,331.48	
New Club Cap Expense	\$1,098.74	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$3,634.27</b>

ENDING BALANCE 10/31/2011

\$2,121.71

## PARTING SHOT

*My friend reviewed her young son's fill-in-the-blank homework. One line: "At Christmas, we exchange gifts with \_\_\_\_."*  
*His response: "Receipts."*

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*As we were putting out cookies for Santa on Christmas Eve, I accidentally dropped one. "No problem," I said, picking it up and dusting it off before placing it back on the plate.*

*"You can't do that," argued my four-year-old.*

*"Don't worry. Santa will never know."*

*He shot me a look. "So he knows if I've been bad or good, but he doesn't know the cookie fell on the floor?"*

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**Merry  
Christmas**



# Veteran's Day Parade 2011 - Downtown Dallas -

LATE GREAT CHEVY'S - NATIONAL IN



# Classified Ads



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*Life is short, eat dessert first!*

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## For Sale

See Tidwell & Son for a host of items  
for your Late Great Chevy!

214.563.7958

[our6t4@tx.rr.com](mailto:our6t4@tx.rr.com)





# Christmas Party!



*Or is this Joe Shea? Check at the Post Office Wanted Posters*



**First Community Bank Motor Bank/Community Room  
429 Belle Grove  
Richardson, Tx. 75080**

**December 10, 2011**

## **Directions:**

- 1.) Exit Arapaho from Central Expressway --> West**
- 2.) South on service road ( Richardson main library on your right)**
- 3.) West on Belle Grove (first street)**
- 4.) Look for First Bank of Canyon Creek Motor Bank entrance  
(just before main Post Office)**

**Time: 6:00 PM**

**Chinese Gift Exchange - Bring one gift for man - one for woman. We will explain at the party.**