PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
By Gary Chestnut; President, Texas Chapter, NCRS

Now that the holiday season is over and we’re trying to get through winter and the cold weather, it’s time to get ready for 2004 Texas Chapter activities.

There were two outstanding events in January, both with nice participation by Chapter members; 1 - Tech Session in Houston at Gordon Andrus’ shop, 2 - Tech Session in DFW at Chuck and Dave Anderson’s shop. Thanks go to Gary LeDuc and Ken Smith for making them happen.

2004 is the Texas Chapter’s 25th Anniversary. Dave Ewan, being the pack rat that he is, provided the Chapter with copies of the original NCRS Chapter application and correspondence. Thank you to the “charter” Chapter members that are still active for; establishing, developing and continuing with our hobby and helping our Chapter progress to where it is today: Dave Ewan, Ray Repczynski, Ken Naber, Don Brown, Gary Naber, Randy Richardson, Frank Tuttle, Earl Summerville and Gary Summerville.

John Lejsal has planned an excellent Road Trip to Lake Buchanan area, including a dinner cruise Saturday Night on the Vanishing Texas River Cruise at the Canyon of the Eagles. This should be a great time for all. Drive your Corvette, Suburban or whatever, please plan to attend. Don’t miss it! Looking forward to see everyone April 24th.

The Chapter has a new web master. Would like to thank Paul Ansley for all his work, time and money that he put into developing our web site. Mike Robb has accepted the challenge and is responsible for maintaining our web site.

Last but not least. It’s extremely difficult for the Texas Chapter to keep up with changing e-mail addresses. Would greatly appreciate everyone sending Tim Gilmore and myself an e-mail so we can update our address list.

Doug Gabram, who is with the 101st, recently returned safe and sound from Iraq. Welcome home Doug!! Thanks for a job well done!! Support our troops!!
HOW DID THE TEXAS CHAPTER START?
By Dave Ewan

Having heard this question many times as we approach our Chapter’s twenty-fifth anniversary, our Talepipe editor finally convinced me to write an article as the Founding Chairman. So here is what I remember and please take into account that my memory is not as good as it once was. It’s best to start off by telling you how I got my start in the National Corvette Restorers Society and give you an idea of what some of our early members were doing at the time.

In 1972 I purchased a new Corvette while living in Houston, Texas. The first issue of Corvette News came in the mail with a centerfold of a restored Red 1957 Corvette. It had to be the most beautiful classic car I had ever seen. By late 1973 that 1972 Corvette had a very incomplete 1957 “brother”, my knowledge of the 1957 Corvettes was almost zero.

Noticing an ad in the Houston Chronicle newspaper, I attended the Mid Coast Corvette Club show in Lake Jackson, Texas. It was at this show that I met many of the original members; Gary Nabers, Mike Slade, Perry Edgars and Jerry Whitsett, who by the way drove a nice red 1957 to the show. Mike Slade signed our application, Perry Edgars was our first treasurer, and Jerry Whitsett was the reason I got into the NCRS.

By 1974 my ’57 Corvette was in Jerry’s shop in Sweeney, Texas, weekends were spent there working on anyone’s car that showed up as well as hunting parts at swap meets. “Coors” stock was doing well and the ’57 got and engine and transmission.

Jerry was a shop teacher and subscribed to Blue Bars, which covered 1953-55 Corvettes. One weekend Jerry showed me a letter indicating that Sam Folz was starting a new club “The NCRS” which would cover 1956-57. I sent a letter of application the next Monday and # 177 was mine, Jerry joined the next week and got # 264.

The Corvette community was not too big in the Houston area; most of the people saw each other at shows and swap meets. By 1978 I had met several of the people who are on the Chapter paper work including Ray Repeczynski, who could work on anything with an engine and Jim Olson, a Corvette neighbor who along with Mike Slade signed Chapter application dated April 14, 1979.

On December 7, 1979, I received a letter from Tim Partridge and Carl Strohm, Chapter coordinators with a certificate of Chapter Charter and a list of requirements. We needed twelve signatures so we needed our first meeting, which was a joint effort. I sent out an invitation to known NCRS members. Ken and Gary Nabers hosted the event as well, invited customers. Other members like Gary Summerville, Ray Repeczynski, Mark Smith and others hustled to get people to the meeting. Everyone at the meeting signed our Chapter petition. Twenty-three members agreed Texas needed a NCRS Chapter. Three new NCRS members were signed up at that meeting. Six members were unable to attend, but had signed the petition. I was elected Chairman and Gary Nabers was elected Vice-Chairman.

On June 16, 1980 we received a letter from the Chapter coordinators outlining the twenty-one-point requirement. Then on January 20, 1981, Tim Partridge sent us a letter stating that we had met requirements for formation of our Chapter. During that last year of the Chapter forming process, I was moving from Houston to Grapevine, Texas and Gary Nabers did a lot of work on the Chapter.

A lot of the people who signed the original papers are still active in the Chapter and have continued to promote our growth as well as sharing the interest in the Corvette.

On a sad note, I know of two of the original people who have passed away. Mike Slade who signed both the Chapter application and petition died of cancer in the late 80’s and we lost Mark Smith a few years ago. Several of the original people I have lost contact with.

It would be nice to try and get the original members to our Waco meeting this fall. Let’s remember that all our members make the Texas Chapter what it is today, one of the best Chapters in the NCRS!

Editor’s note: Over the course of the next few issues of the newsletter, We will present some of the original documentation on the formation of the Texas Chapter, this historical data was donated by Dave Ewan. It will elaborate on the early beginnings of the Chapter as we continue to celebrate our 25th Anniversary.
We didn’t generate quite as many new members this quarter as we did last quarter, but I can report that we have thirteen new members.

The Houston Chapter meet turned out great and we even added to our membership numbers at that event. Dues have been arriving regularly, please check your membership expiration date on your mail label and forward dues if you show a 2003 expiration date, this will be your last issue of The Talepipe if your membership expired in 2003. Our current membership stands at 286.

Our new members for this quarter are:

Bill King from Houston, Don Whatley from Houston, Roy Sijthoff from Houston, D.A. Paul, Jr. from Austin, Preston Geis from Spring, Loren R. Smith from Houston, Scott C. Pfuehler from Tulsa, OK, Richard S. Bennett from Lake Jackson, John Savage from Palacios, Bob Wright from Santa Fe, Chip & Ginny Pearce from Sugar Land, Rich Sullivan from Houston, and Tim Bond from Houston. I’m sure that you all will see the benefits of being a Texas Chapter member, thank you for joining.

There are lots of great activities planned for spring and summer; I hope that many of you have signed up for the Road Trip and dinner the weekend of April 24-25. We are also finalizing the details of the June Chapter meet in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. This has always been a fun event and if it is at Chris Piscitello's place, my car will return home for its first ever NCRS judging event.

I hope to see many of you on the road tour and dinner in April, enjoy your Corvette.

The Talepipe (Jim Wrobliske) wishes to apologize for misidentifying the owner of last issue’s cover car. The car is the Third Flight 1972 Corvette owned by Pat Sullivan at the Waco regional. The Talepipe is still looking for 1984-1992 issues of the newsletter, photos of early Chapter events and interesting stories about our Chapter to help celebrate its’ Anniversary. Also please remember Buy/Sell/Wanted ads run free to Chapter members in our newsletter. Thanks to all for so much great input for this issue. Newsletter coverage of the Houston Chapter meet will be in next issue with great photos!
TREASURER’S REPORT
By Sherrye Coleman

NCRS CHAPTER FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Chapter: Texas Chapter For the Year 2003

Opening Balance: $23,598.84

INCOME
- Membership Dues: $4,632.00
- Events (Chapter Meets, Schools, etc): $20,532.00
- Other: $551.88

Total Income: $25,715.88

EXPENSES
- Events: $15,306.12
- Dues Related: $257.17
- Newsletter: $2,859.66
- Other: $600.00

Total Expenses: $19,022.66

Closing Account Balance: $30,291.77

TEXAS MOTORSPORTS HALL OF FAME
INAUGURAL GALA EVENT January 27, 2004
By Gary Chesnut

Yours truly, along with nine other lucky Texas Chapter members had an experience of a lifetime the evening of January 27th. We attended the inaugural event of the Texas Motorsports Hall of Fame at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth. Proceeds from the Texas Motorsports Hall of Fame go to Happy Hills Farm which is an academy for “at risk” children from all over the state of Texas. Happy Hills farm is located in Granbury, Texas www.happyhillfarm.org

The Texas Motorsports Hall of Fame is just that. It honors outstanding Texas motor sports individuals. Annually, a panel of Texas sportswriters will select the inductees for the following awards: Hall of Fame Inductees who have Texas roots, Bruton Smith — Legends Award for lifetime achievement in motor sports, Texas Motor Speedway Sportsmanship Award and the Texas Motor Speedway “Racer” of the Year award.

The gala event was hosted by Bill Weber of NBC/TNT NASCAR fame. Texas Motorsports Hall of Fame inaugural inductee class of 2004 was Fort Worth’s own JR (Johnny Rutherford) and Houston’s A.J. Foyt. A.J. Foyt is the first four-time winner of the Indianapolis 500 race. JR won 27 Indy car victories including the 500 and 23 poles. Both, JR and A.J. are legends in open wheel racing.
Carroll Shelby received the Bruton Smith Legends Award for his lifetime achievement in motorsports and racing. Carroll Shelby developed the famous Cobra which won LeMans and the Cobra Mustangs.

Carroll Shelby
Gil de Ferran received the Texas Motor Speedway Sportsmanship Award. Gil won the IRL (Indy Racing League) race at TMS in October of 2003. de Ferran retired from racing after the 2003 season.

Brendan Gaughan
Brendan Gaughan who has won the last four NASCAR Truck races at TMS was presented the Texas Motor Speedway “Racer of the Year” award.

It was a great evening and lots of fun to visit with the charming Betty Rutherford as well as getting her and JR’s, Shelby’s, de Ferran and Gaughan signatures

CORVETTE OWNER RED OVER WARRANTY

John E. Kehn Jr. was tooling through the mountains of eastern Pennsylvania in July last year, on his way to New York in his 2001 Chevrolet Corvette, when things went wrong. The 46-year-old Houston accountant says an advanced electronic stabilization system went haywire at 70 mph, sending the torch-red convertible into two 360-degree spins. “I was shaking in my boots,” Kehn recalled. He wasn’t injured, but afraid to drive his prized car back to Houston. Kehn said he had already had two other harrowing experiences with the fickle stabilization system. He took the car to Denooyer Chevrolet in Colonie, New York, on October 9, 2002 for warranty repairs, according to a lawsuit filed in a Houston state district court. That was the last time he saw his Corvette.

After Kehn returned to Texas he received a phone call from Denooyer asking him to take the car to the Houston dealership who sold it to him, according to his attorney, Jeffrey Dorrell. “I wasn’t going to fly to New York and drive a car 1,400 miles back to Texas that had already nearly killed me three times,” Kehn said.

Jim Town, attorney for Denooyer, said, “We can only fix a warranty repair if GM says it’s a warranty repair.” He declined to comment further.

Michael Craddock, a Dallas attorney representing General Motors and Denooyer, was unable to say why GM did not believe the repairs were covered by the warranty. “GM has not really had a fair opportunity to inspect the claims (Kehn) is making,” Craddock said.

More than a year later, Kehn says the New York dealership won’t fix his car or tell where it is. His lawsuit names GM, Denooyer and the local dealerships of Allen Samuels Chevrolet-Geo and Bill Heard Chevrolet, alleging that the dealerships failed to properly repair the stabilization system. State District Judge Jennifer Walker Elrod ruled this month Kehn could sue Denooyer in Texas because it had sent a flier to his Houston address.

(Dt Harvey Rice/Houston Chronicle)
I was pleasantly surprised by the turn out we had at our recent tech meeting. There were approximately fifty people in attendance. Thirty-eight people put their name on our NCRS sign-up sheet. Gordon Andrus opened his facility at the Houston Corvette Service for the January 10 event.

Steve Newsom did a great hands-on demonstration for repairing and polishing stainless steel. Briefly, Steve covered such topics as hammering out a defect with a hard surface backup, removing the high spots using a file. Transitioning from filing rework with abrasive sanding. The final product finished with polishing.

The polishing was a central element of Steve’s Tech session. He discussed the nuances of various wheel types and the different compounds employed.

His demonstration certainly made me feel the job is “doable”. Paul Ansley thought he would put Steve on the spot by bringing a trim piece off of his 1969. The part had an ugly corner dent in it. Steve very deftly repaired the part impromptu – it looked good for Paul’s trip home.

To top off a fine sunny afternoon & good company, Winn Ferguson, the shop manager did smoked BBQ and it was excellent!

Related to the polishing of stainless steel there is a Caswell plating article on the Internet, which can be found at http://www.caswellplating.com/buffs/buffman.htm The tools that Steve used, including the ‘dent’ pick hammer and small anvil can be obtained from The Eastwood Company, www.eastwoodco.com telephone 800 – 343- 9353.

It was great seeing you all there. Nice job Steve thank-you for the time & effort.

Chapter “thanks” to Gordon Andrus
HOUSTON CORVETTE SERVICE
4537 Steffani Drive  Houston, Texas
(713) 896 0119
MINUTES OF THE WINTER MEETING OF THE TEXAS CHAPTER
NATIONAL CORVETTE RESTORERS SOCIETY

1.) TIME and PLACE
The National Corvette Restorers Society – Texas Chapter held its’ Winter meeting on Saturday, February 21, 2004; during the Texas Chapter Flight Judging meet held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas.

2.) QUORUM
Officers present at the meeting were: Gary Chesnut, President; Jim Wrobliske, Secretary; Bob Demmel, Judging Chairman; Tim Gilmore, Membership Director; Debbi Wrobliske, Newsletter Editor; John Lejsal, Road Tour Chairman. Also in attendance were Area Coordinators Gary LeDuc representing Houston and Ken Smith representing Dallas/Fort Worth. NCRS President and Region VII Director, Gilbert Scrivner, attended the meeting along with the following Chapter members who signed the roll; John Carter, Dan Harbut, Rick Dietel, Gary Summerville, Roger Bradley, Pat Sullivan, David King, Bill King, Steve Newsom, Gordon Andrus, Charlie Cadenhead, Jim Nelson, David Matlock Charles Warren, Bill Usher and Bill Keckeisen.

3.) CALL TO ORDER
Gary LeDuc, Houston Coordinator, acted as Chairman and Jim Wrobliske acted as Secretary of the meeting and recorded the minutes.

4.) BUSINESS
Gary LeDuc, Houston area coordinator welcomed the Chapter membership. He thanked Gordon Andrus for recently hosting a Tech Session and thanked Steve Newsom for his excellent presentation on polishing. Gary recognized Chapter members who had brought their cars for the judging and had them give a brief bio of their Corvette. He acknowledged Geoff Goetz for working the Chapter’s table and swap area. Gary said the Houston area photo shoot is still on and encouraged membership to be sure Chapter has a good, current e-mail address for contact of upcoming events.

Gary then turned over the proceedings to President, Gary Chesnut. Gary Chesnut noted that this is the Chapter’s 25th Anniversary and encouraged all to attend the Anniversary dinner planned in conjunction with the upcoming road tour on April 24-25. Gary noted the memberships support of recent Tech Sessions and acknowledged Gordon Andrus and Chuck and David Anderson for opening their facilities for the events in Houston and DFW respectively. Also noted were the May 15th Tech Session in Austin/San Antonio and the June 13th Chapter Meet in Cleburne.

John Lejsal took a few minutes to detail the road tour to Lake Buchanan, the dinner cruise and need for everyone driving to provide insurance information and commented on the need for all Chapter members to update e-mail information as he had about a fifty percent mail return. Gary closed out the meeting with a call for questions, as there were none, he directed all involved to the owners and judges meeting and wished all a good event.

Jim Wrobliske, Secretary
February 21, 2004
Many thanks to everyone who braved the weather to come out to a tech session January 24th at Automotive Performance Unlimited, hosted by Chuck and Dave Anderson.

Even though it was cold and rainy, about 20 Fort Worth – Dallas area NCRS members came to southwest Fort Worth to learn about Corvette rear suspension. Before getting down to the nitty gritty, we visited over pastries and coffee furnished by the Texas Chapter. John Smart was kind enough to offer his 1965 convertible for the session. During the morning session brother Dave Anderson and Jack Perryman helped demonstrate the fine points of wheel bearing and trailing arm maintenance. Chuck emphasized that the wheel bearings are an often overlooked part of proper maintenance and that regular inspections and lubrication are essential to keep the assembly operating properly. He had several damaged parts to show what can happen if maintenance is performed improperly, everyone had a chance to examine a correctly set up bearing assembly.

Before wrapping up with a Q & A session and general discussion, we enjoyed a barbecue lunch courtesy of the Texas Chapter. Overall, the day was a success despite the weather and we hope to have another session soon.
2004 CHAPTER EVENTS CALENDAR

DFW AREA EVENTS-Ken Smith; Phone (972) 241 - 5577 W, (214) 704 - 7374 C, vette69@airmail.net
✓ Chapter Meet, June 13, 2004, Cleburne, Texas
✓ Photo Shoot at George Bush International Airport / Continental Air Lines Hanger (date to come)
HOUSTON AREA EVENTS-Gary LeDuc; Phone (281) 358 - 2473 gfleduc@kingwoodcable.net
✓ Tech Session, May 15, 2004, San Antonio with details to come
✓ Flight Judging, August 14, 2004, to be held at “Corvettes at Dell Diamond” in Round Rock, Texas

AUSTIN-SAN ANTONIO-Ron Mulholland; Phone (210) 379 - 1201 mr63vet@aol.com
✓ Tech Session, May 15, 2004, San Antonio with details to come
✓ Flight Judging, August 14, 2004, to be held at “Corvettes at Dell Diamond” in Round Rock, Texas

2004 ROAD TOUR-April 24-25, Lake Buchanan, Texas, John Lejsal; Phone (281) 485 – 4419 jlejsal@aol.com

2004 TEXAS REGIONAL-November 4 - 6, Waco, Texas

Happy Hill Farm is the Texas Chapter NCRS designated charity. Happy Hill Farm is a wonderful opportunity for “at risk” children from all over Texas. Anything to help our youth is a worthwhile investment in the future.

FOR SALE
1974 Original spare FIRESTONE 500 tire and wheel, has never been on the ground. $375.00
Call Dave Ewan @ (817) 482 - 1971

Chapter Flight Judging
“Corvettes at Dell Diamond” Round Rock, Texas
August 14, 2004 9:00AM-4:00PM
(210) 379 – 1201 Ron Mulholland mr63vet@aol.com

ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE TALEPIPE

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Come join us to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Texas Chapter.

To celebrate, The Texas Chapter will be taking a road trip to the Lake Buchanan area on April 24-25, 2004. We will have a private charter dinner cruise Saturday night on the Vanishing Texas River Cruise at the Canyon of the Eagles. The dinner will be Chicken & Beef Fajitas. The best part is the dinner is free. That’s right no charge. The Texas Chapter is paying for the meal. The boat will depart at 7pm for a 2-1/2 hour cruise on Lake Buchanan. The dinner boat cruise does not serve any alcoholic beverages. You can bring your own if you desire. Dinner Boat Capacity is 120 so we are limited to the first 120 members who register.

We will stay overnight at the Hampton Inn on the Lake in Marble Falls. We have reserved 30 rooms on a first come first serve basis. The rooms will be held until March 24, 2004. Reservations made after this date will be provided on a space available basis. To make reservations call the Hampton Inn on the Lake at 830-798-1895. Ask for the NCRS group rate, which is $85 per night plus taxes. You are to make and pay for your own room reservations.

We will have leaders for the groups coming from different areas. You should contact your area group leader to let him know that you will be joining the group and to get the departure location and time.

Gary Chesnut – Dallas 817-579-5242 gchesnut@flash.net
John Lejsal - Houston 281-485-4419 jlejsal@aol.com
Ron Mulholland – San Antonio 210-496-2626 mr63vet@aol.com

We will meet at the Hampton Inn on the Lake in Marble Falls and leave at 6pm to drive together to the Vanishing Texas River Cruise at the Canyon of the Eagles.

You must register for the Road Trip if you plan to attend. NO exceptions. Cut off date for registration is April 10, 2004. Limited to first 120 people.

You do not have to drive a Corvette to attend. Drive the car, truck, motorcycle or whatever makes you happy and gets you there and back safely.

If you have any questions contact John Lejsal at 281-485-4419 or jlejsal@aol.com

Check out these websites to see the boat, hotel and other things you can do:
http://www.vtrc.com/driving.html Vanishing Texas River Cruise
http://www.canyonoftheeagles.com Canyon of the Eagles
http://www.lodginghost.com/hampton-inn-marble-falls Hampton Inn