

MID-AMERICA CHEVELLE CLUB

MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER



MACC MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER



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General Information

The club is a not-for-profit Kansas corporation, dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of all Chevelles and El Caminos. Ownership of a Chevelle or associated vehicle is not required. Club newsletters which include minutes of meetings, upcoming events, and technical articles are also found on club's website and are forwarded to members. Business meetings are convened on the last Thursday of each month, with the possible exceptions of November and December, for the purpose of discussing and planning future club events. The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m., at Hendrick Chevrolet, 8300 Shawnee Mission Parkway, Merriam, Kansas unless otherwise noted in the newsletter or on the club's website. Members may advertise vehicles/parts for sale, trade, or wanted in the newsletter for no charge. Call the editor (Brian Findley) at 913/558-1453 or email at findley13703@gmail.com

Board Information

Chair: Roger Verstraete
Co-Chair: Ed Smoot
Secretary: Gordon & Jackie Gilpin
Treasurer: Eugene Hallouer
At Large: Kent Scott
At Large: John Gragg

Newsletter Editor: Brian Findley

Monthly Meeting Agenda

Monthly meetings are held the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., at Hendrick Chevrolet, 8300 Shawnee Mission Parkway, Merriam, Kansas.

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Introductions
- 3) Reports/Discussion
- 4) Upcoming Events
- 5) Report of Treasurer
- 6) Additional Items
- 7) Adjournment

Dues

Annual club dues (\$35) are to be submitted by April 30th. If you have not renewed your membership by this date there is a three month grace period. You can mail your dues to:

Mid America Chevelle Club
c/o Eugene Hallouer
12318 W. 61st Street
Shawnee, KS 66216

Reminder – Club dues are to be submitted 4/30.



2017 Meeting Minutes

MID-AMERICA CHEVELLE CLUB HENDRICK CHEVROLET, MERRIAM, KS February 23, 2017 MINUTES

Meeting was called order at 7:00 p.m. by MACC President Roger Verstraete.

Followed by self-introduction of members to guests / new club members.

No old business to discuss.

New Business:

Group discussion of World of Wheels car show. Two new members were signed during the show. Next year – consider getting at least one car for each year of Chevelle 1964 – 1972.

Hendrick Chevrolet (sponsor) – Eugene and Roger discussed statement for sponsorship with Hendrick representative. Billing for Hendrick has been centralized which contributed to the delay with the sponsorship check.

Events Calendar:

Group discussion of the Boulevard Brewer tour and lunch.

Steve Calder led the discussion regarding upcoming events. The MACC web page has a detailed listing of events. Steve and the events planning team are looking at charitable car shows for a club event. The MACC has an impromptu lunch gathering most every Saturday at Johnnies Tavern on Shawnee Mission Drive.

Treasurer's Report:

Eugene provided an overview of year to date financials. John Freeman (Freeman's Garage club sponsor) provided a \$500 donation. We currently have 88 members. Club membership renewals fees are due April 30th.

Discussed Regional Car Show to be held in Omaha.

Gas card drawing – Bob Chamberlain was not present to claim the prize.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 for pizza and drinks at Ol' Shawnee Pizza.

Submitted by Mike Stites substituting for Jackie Gilpin (we hope you are feeling better Jackie)



March events attended by MACC

MACC had 13 members Steamboat Arabia tour on March 4, 2017. For several it was their first time taking this tour and all enjoyed seeing the cargo from 1856. One of the highlights of the tour was when David Hawley, one of the owners and a family member who discovered and dug up the ship, stopped in to say a few words to the group and then took questions afterwards.

This is a massive collection of frontier supplies that has been preserved because it was buried 45 feet below the surface. Over 200 tons of cargo was recovered and about two thirds of it has been cleaned for display.





After the tour we went to Garozzos for some good Italian Food



On March 25, 2017, 4 MACC members attended the Mecum Auction. One of MACC very own, Tim Cunningham sold his Orange 1970. Looking forward to what Tim will have next. Congratulations – Tim.

Calendar of Upcoming Events 2017

April 8 ----- Warm Springs Ranch, Booneville, MO, Budweiser Clydesdale's Breeding Operation - 2p.m. Tour. Tickets are \$14 and limited. We have 42 tickets

April 29 ---- KC Showdown Car Show at Stonegate Motor Plaza, Stillwell, KS

May 7 ----- Cruise the Burg, Louisburg, KS 11a.m. Sunday Event

May 12-13--Loafers Car Club Show in Hannibal, Missouri - Friday travel, Saturday Show

June 3 ----- Club Picnic--Prouty's Place Raymore, MO

June 10 ----- Paola Car show Paola, KS

June 10-16-- Hot Rod Power Tour departs from Kansas City

June 24 ----- Tour Holladay Distillery(McCormick Distillery) and Cruise Night, Weston, MO



July 8 ---- Topeka Cruise Night Fairlawn Plaza
July 22 --- Boulevard Drive In, Merriam, KS

August 12----Guest Club at the Mustang Club of Greater KC Cruise night 10400 Mastin,
August 19 ----- Alma Car Show, Alma, KS
August 20 ----- Kruise to the K
August 25 ----- Wellsville Car Show Wellsville, KS

September 9 ----- Merriam Car Show
September 10 ----- Shawnee Car Show
September 16 ----- Old Marais River Run Show, Ottawa, KS
September 21 ----- Museum of American Speed(Speedway Motors) Lincoln, NE Strategic
Air Command Museum, Ashland, Ne on the way to MW Regional
September 22,23 ---- 30th Annual Midwest Regional Chevelle Show, LaVista, NE(Omaha)

October 20-22 ---- Fall Color Tour Osage Beach, MO
October 28 ----- Fall Party

November *****

December 2 ----- Christmas Party

***Other cruises and functions may be added through the year. If you have an idea let one of the officers or Steve Calder know.

President's Column

Will return Next Month.

Vice-President's Column

One of the things that many of us struggle with on our "antique iron" is drivability. Whether its rear gears, trans troubles, or tires- we are all looking to make our rides more reliable and fun to drive. One thing that can sure help in the drivability department is upgrading the fuel delivery system. While our carburetors have served us well for decades, there's no denying the leaps and bounds that have come around with fuel injection. It used to be that you had to change your whole intake manifold, install a complex fuel pump system, and have the engineers from NASA come and program a system to make your car run when you made the jump to EFI. Well, not anymore! There are many new what I like to call "EFI for dummies" systems out there these days. Self-tuning, learn as you drive systems that bolt on just like your carburetor. I've actually done these conversions several times now, mainly with the FAST EZ EFI systems (see my columns from 2011: http://midamericachevelles.com/news/2011/09_2011_news.pdf , and 2014: http://midamericachevelles.com/news/2014/06_2014_news.pdf). This time around, I got to play around with a different brand- and here's how it went!



This all started with a casual conversation between our friend Ron Brightwell and myself about 6 months ago. He was contemplating doing an EFI setup on his fully restored '69 el Camino. The key to making this change on his car was to install the system in such a way that if he ever decided to sell the car or change it back, that it wouldn't take a huge amount of un-doing. We also wanted the under-hood area to look as stock as possible. What Ron settled on was the FiTech system. What's nice about this setup is that the microprocessor and most of the sensors are built into the throttle body itself. What this did for us was that it kept us from having to mount (or hide) an unsightly computer or any un-necessary hardware.



I've gotta say, the install on this kit was dead simple. We un-bolted the carb and the fuel line to it, and mounted the FiTech throttle body in its place. The only other external sensors that needed to be installed were a coolant temp sensor and the O2 sensor in the exhaust. Everything that was needed was supplied in the kit. The coolant sensor went in place of the dummy light sensor on the driver side head, and the O2 sensor came with a no-weld clamp on setup that went on easily. Simply drill a hold in the exhaust pipe, install the clamp-on bung with the supplied hardware, and that part was done! To make this system run, it only required a few wires that were easily hooked up- 12v battery positive, 12v switched ignition, and a tach signal (Ron already had a HEI distributor so it plugged right in), and that's it! The kit came with more inputs if you chose to use them- one for controlling electric fans (not used on this car), and a wire to bump up the idle when you turn the A/C on- which we hooked up right at the A/C compressor. As far as installing the throttle body and wiring -- job done.



The only other part required to make any EFI system run is a pressurized fuel system that is capable of 60psi or so. This is the part where many folks will draw the line and decide not to do this conversion. Used to be, you had to drop the tank, install a fuel pump, run high pressure lines and a return line, and that can sure be a daunting task. What FiTech offers is an easy way to get this job done, with what they call their "Fuel Command Center"- and that's what we used here. This is a self-contained fuel system that is fed by the stock fuel pump on your engine. The existing fuel pump basically just keeps the FiTech reservoir full, and the Command Center does the rest. We plumbed a line from the factory fuel filter over to the command center, which Ron had pre-mounted on the driver front fender area where the windshield washer reservoir was. From there, we made fuel lines from the included kit and hooked up the high-pressure side to the throttle body. The reservoir does require a vent line to be hooked up, which we hooked up to the factory return line at the passenger frame area. One ground wire and hooking up the power wire included in the kit, and our fuel system was complete and ready to run.



We left the power wire off the Command Center and cranked the motor over for a minute to make sure the reservoir was full. After hooking up the power wire and checking the system for any leaks, it was time to see if we did this deal right. We hooked up the handheld controller supplied in the kit, and answered a few questions- engine size, number of cylinders, idle RPM, etc. After that, Ron hit the key and the 396 roared to life, and settled into our requested idle speed.

Watchable fire up video here: <https://www.facebook.com/ed.smoot.7/videos/1225882064174272/>



We were unable to actually drive the car that day, as a Midwestern March Blizzard was blowing outside, but I have no doubt that the system will perform as advertised. All in all, it took the two of us 4-5 hours to complete this job. We worked at a steady, albeit leisurely pace, and that timetable also included a trip to O'Reilly auto parts and a sandwich break. These systems have gotten much more reasonable lately- with this kit (good to 400hp) coming in at \$795 retail, plus \$395 for the Fuel Command Center. Still not "cheap", per se, but it's about half of what these kits were just a few years ago.

So, if this is something that you've been considering, don't be intimidated! This is something that can be done with basic hand tools in your garage. If you have any questions or concerns about EFI, hit me up anytime. I enjoy trying out the different systems and would be happy to assist if anyone needs a hand. See y'all at the meeting!

Ed

New Members

When you have the opportunity, please take time to welcome the following new members to MACC.

Randy & Chrystina Clark
16109 E 30th St S
Independence, MO 64055
Home 816-478-8409 Cell 816-665-8025
e-mail rdandcc@comcast.net
Member # 425 good to 4/30/2018
1972 Chevelle SS, Red with Black Stripes. Just bought it Feb. 28, 2017
Interests: Cruising, Car Shows, Tech Info, Tours, Parties.
Found out about club in Internet.

Bill & Patty Gill
5312 NE Holiday Drive
Lees Summit, MO 64064
Cell [913-271-0988](tel:913-271-0988)
e-mail billgillrv7@gmail.com
member #426 good to 4/30/2018
1964 Chevelle SS, Ermine White with Black Interior. Owned since 1980, full restoration in progress.
Interests: Cruising, Car Shows, Tech Info, Tours, Parties.



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Mid America Chevelle Club Apparel for Sale

Here is a list of club apparel that is available for club members. This will be available at this month club meeting. We sell all of our club apparel at cost to club members.

Flexfit hats. Sizes (S-Med), (Large - XL) Colors, black, tan, white, red, navy. \$12.00



Hanes Beefy-t shirt. Sizes Large, XL, 2XL. Color Navy, Red, White \$12.00



All weather hooded wind breaker. Sizes come in Large, XL, 2XL Navy



Mid America Chevelle Club Members Parts for Sale



If you have any car parts you would like to sell email your list of parts to findley13703@gmail.com

Brian Findley – 913-558-1453

14 inch spare wheel and tire - \$20

Engine wiring harness for 1966, HEI with factory AC - \$100 – still in the original packaging.

Frank Riley – 913-638-7596

Frank has 3 cars for sale – Should you be interest, please contact Frank at the number provided or at taz66215@yahoo.com

1970 Chevelle SS - 402, Turbo 400, 3:73 Posi



1967 Malibu 2 DR Hardtop - 350 4bbl, 700R4



1967 Chevy II Nova 2 DR Hardtop - 305 4bbl, Turbo 350



Tom Meier from Lawrence, KS at 785-979-9920 have the following items for sale.

1967 El Camino (It is a driver, not a show car) – 327, turbo 350, 3:73 10 Bolt Posi, Power disc front.

1- 283, 3pd on the column

2- Parts El Camino

1970 1/18th scale Chevelles and El Caminos for sale, \$20.00 each. Contact John W. Gragg 816-804-4771



THE CHEVELLE REPORT---monthly publication by the National Chevelle Owners Association (NOCA). Monthly editions from February 1986 to October 2001 in four (4) binders. Enjoy hours and hours of reading “How to Articles”, “Chevrolet Factory Photographs”, “Coverage of National Events” and “Featured presentations of Members Chevelles, El Caminos, Sprints, Beaumonts, and Wagons” for sale at the very low price of \$350.00. Contact John W. Gragg 816-804-4771.

