

# MID-AMERICA CHEVELLE CLUB

## JANUARY 2021 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](mailto:findley13703@gmail.com)

## **Board Information**

<b>Chair:</b>	Roger Verstraete
<b>Co-Chair:</b>	Ed Smoot
<b>Secretary:</b>	Debbie Gragg
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Eugene Hallouer
<b>At Large:</b>	Randy Cummins
<b>At Large:</b>	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 30<sup>th</sup>.** 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. 61<sup>st</sup> Street  
Shawnee, KS 66216

Reminder – Club dues are to be submitted 4/30 and be sure to keep you email address up-to-date so you don't miss club communications.  
Online credit card payment for dues is now available at  
[http://www.midamericachevelles.com/members/join\\_form.html](http://www.midamericachevelles.com/members/join_form.html)



## **2021 Meeting Minutes**

MID-AMERICA CHEVELLE CLUB  
HENDRICK CHEVROLET, MERRIAM, KS

### MINUTES

## **Special Annoucement**

### **MEMBERSHIP SIGN UP AND DUES RENEWAL IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!**

In the past we have had some requests from current members that they would like to renew their annual dues by Credit / Debit card. After some discussion at the last club meeting it was decided to make online New Membership and Club Dues renewal available (a \$2.00 convenience fee will apply). You can now renew your dues by Credit / Debit card on the club website at [www.MidAmericaChevelles.com](http://www.MidAmericaChevelles.com) or get with me at the Club Meetings. When you renew online you can also use the form to make any updates or changes to your Membership info. (if you don't know your membership number that's OK). Of course, you can still join or renew by Cash or Check as in the past, but a third option is now available.

Eugene  
Treasure

## **Events attended by MACC**

Coming soon.

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events 2021**

Please note that all of these events are subject to change as we progress through this year. Sure hope it is better than last year.

March 26-28---World of Wheels Show Bartle Hall Kansas City, MO

So far, we have 4 members with 5 cars interested in doing this show.

\$50 per car.

Contact Steve Calder [sjc52@aol.com](mailto:sjc52@aol.com) or 816-547-1206 text/call if you want to attend with the club or need more info. There is room for 3 more cars.

Late April---Driving cruise-route and date will depend on the weather.

May 1--- Kansas White Way (Hwy 9) Car Run. Atchison, KS to Frankfort, KS

Depart Atchison 8a.m. \$30 registration

May 7-8-Loafers Car Show. Hannibal, MO. Drive to Hannibal on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Show on the 8th.

May22---Driving Cruise

June 12----Paola Heartland Show Paola, KS

June 19---MACC picnic---Hosted by John and Phyllis Prouty 1400 Kurzweil Rd, Raymore, MO

June 26----Driving cruise



July 2 or 3---Good Guys Show Iowa State Fairgrounds Des Moines, Iowa - Drive up and back same day.

July 10-----Driving Cruise

July 22-25---Street Machine National St. Paul, Minnesota

July 24-----Twin Peaks Lunch

August 5-8---Show Me Rally to Dallas, TX Limited spots.

Contact Brian Findley or Ed Smoot for more info. Registrations open sometime in February.

August 7---Car Show Columbia, MO

August 14---Hot Alma Nights Show Alma, KS

August 27---Wellsville Car Show Wellsville, KS

September 11---Turkey Creek Car Show Merriam, KS

September 12---Wheels and Dreams Show Shawnee, KS

September 18---Old Marais River Run Ottawa, KS

September 24-25-Either Midwest Chevelle Regionals or MACC annual Car show. Nebraska Furniture Mart parking lot KC, KS

October 9-----Driving Cruise

October 15-16-Fall Color Tour

October 23-----Fall Party

December 4--- MACC Christmas Party-Thompsons Barn Lenexa, KS  
Saturday event

If and when the membership feels comfortable, we will start up the First Friday Cruisin to members houses.

If you have an idea for one of the driving cruise routes, please let me know.

Any other ideas for events are welcome.

Just let Steve Calder or any of the club officers know at [sjc52@aol.com](mailto:sjc52@aol.com) or 816-547-1206 cell or text.

## **MACC Ladies Column**

MACC Ladies

More info coming soon.

## **President's Column**

Hi MACC,

Hope everyone has been Covid free so far since our last newsletter. 2020 was a tough year and 2021 has only gotten worse as far as the virus goes. Janet and I are on top of the list to get our vaccine shot when it becomes available. Wasn't really too excited to get the vaccine, but after



talking to many of my doctors and people who have taken the vaccine shot they have not had any issues so we decided to go ahead and receive the shot.

Two weeks ago, club officers and I had our first Zoom meeting of the year. The main topic was the 2021 Midwest Regional Chevelle car show. After much debate about our chance of pulling the car show off because of the uncertainty of Covid, we decided that at this time we could not commit to hosting the Regional. On April 1st, we will reconsider hosting it if we feel the virus is heading toward a decline in cases. There is just too much uncertainty on what's going to happen this year which makes it impossible to plan 9 months ahead. Eugene has emailed O'Reilly's and explained our decision on waiting till April 1st to make our final decision. We don't like waiting that long because it gives us less time to plan and advertise the Regional, but we feel we could pull it off in a shorter time frame if we needed to. The tentative date for the Regional is September 24th and 25th. We also discussed at the meeting that if the Regional show doesn't work out or if another club wants to host it we would try to have our annual car show on the same dates. This decision won't be made until June 1st. That's two months later in the year and a lot can change in two months. We feel we can throw it together and do the best we can in that short time frame.

The second topic of discussion was events and meetings for the first quarter of 2021. We decided not to have any meetings until it warms up so we can have them outside in a safer environment. World of Wheels Car show has moved their date to March 26-28 and according to Steve we have 4 members with 5 cars that want to participate in this year show. We need to have 8 to 9 cars to get the same spot we've had for the last 5 years. Steve has a contact email if you are interested in going down to Convention Center for this year's World of Wheels show.

Steve has an event list for this year, and everything is kind of tentative because of Covid. We are hoping for the best, but as all of you know no one knows what things are going to be like at the time of events. We are looking for different things we can do with our cars that are safe and fun at the same time. In April, we are going to start up our cruises that we did last fall. These seem to be well attended and safe for our membership. Weather will dictate the dates and we will keep membership informed when they will be held.

Well that's it for this month. Everyone stay safe and hope to see everyone soon.

*Roger*

I know a lot of you are working on your Chevells this winter, getting them ready for this year's car season. There are a lot of different things we all want to do to our cars. I'm no different and with two cars my list is twice as long.

When I first joined the club the only thing I was good at was putting gas and oil in my car and making it shine. After listening to what a lot of members were doing to their cars, I decided I would try my luck at working on my car. It wasn't easy for me, most of the time it took me three tries to get it right. After working on my red hardtop for about six years I started to feel more confident in my ability, and then I was able to start some major improvements. This experience really helped me when I decided to build my convertible. Looking back from when I started on my hardtop, I feel I was going at it the wrong way. I was working from the top down instead of the bottom up. It wasn't until later on when it dawned on me that it wasn't about making it go faster, or shine more that was important. It should have been about making my



car as safe as it can be and then work on other stuff. So, as you guys plan on what your next project is on your ride, I hope you will consider making your car safe first.

When Chevelles were first built the only thing GM was concerned about was making them go fast in a straight line. Even the midyear Corvettes didn't handle well or stop very fast. It wasn't until the late 60's that GM started working on making cars safer with better braking and handling systems. In 1969 the first SS Chevelles came out with stock power disc brakes on the front and drum brakes on the rear. In 1970 the F41 suspension was introduced, this came out as a stock item on all SS package Chevelles. This suspension system came with better rear end control arms, shocks, and rear sway bar. Since then, technology has come a long way in both stopping and handling. Front disc brakes have been replaced with four wheel disc brakes with drilled and slotted rotors. The old F41 suspension was an improvement but compared to what is out there now there's no comparison. The rear control arms, for example, were made in a U shape with a flat piece of metal welded to the open side. The new control arms are made out of 2" boxed steel  $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick, with welded connectors on each end. The upper ones are the same way. All you have to do is look and see the difference. The original sway bars were  $\frac{3}{4}$ " steel bar formed into the shape needed to connect the lower control arms, the newer ones are  $\frac{7}{8}$ " or larger. The larger the size the stronger the rod is which makes it flex less which turns into better handling around corners. The next big improvement on rear suspension is better shocks and springs. If you have the original springs, it's way past time to change, they are worn out. There a big selection out their too for springs, from stock to performance sets. Hotchkis makes a nice set of springs and they are about 1" shorter than original.







I used KYB shocks and painted them the stock color on my two cars. QA1 shocks are the best out there, but they are some what pricy.

Now going to the front suspension, about the same holds true as the rear suspension. Better front springs, good shocks, drilled and slotted rotors on your disc brakes, and heavier front sway bar are great additions to your car. There are some great suspension packages out there, ranging from \$1,000 to upwards of \$4,000. Hotchkis and Detroit Speed are the best, but for my budgit I used a kit from PMT Fabrication Spension System. I have used them on both my 70's with great results.





Here is picture of a badly wornout front sway bar rubber bushing. This one must be an original to the car.



You can see what a 50 year old rubber bushing looks like and how it would hurt your car handling performance. This is only one of many rubber bushing that is in your suspension system. Your original body mounts are made of the same material and probably look the same. As you can see above, the difference between the 50 year old piece of rubber and the new rubber sway bar link. Age is a huge factor on rubber mounts along with water, salt, and road grime.

The next item is your steering gearbox. If you still have your original one on I know it has a lot of play in it. Your old gear box takes about four and one half turns to go to one side to the other. They make replacement ones that just take three and one half turns. It might not sound like a lot but with quicker response time and getting rid of all the play in your old gearbox, this is a big safety factor going down the road at 70 mph. Ground Up makes a Power Steering Gearbox Kit that comes with a new rag joint coupler and correct attaching bolts. It's painted the correct color and fits great.



Last, but surely not least is your tires. Tires that are 10 years or older are not safe. You might have a ton of tread left on your tires, but tire tread does not protect your tires from a blowout. Blowouts occur from side wall cracks on the inside and outside of your car. All it takes is one bad tire to total out your expensive ride. For \$750 to \$1,000 you can have a new set on your car and you won't have to worry about them failing. That's cheap protection for the \$30,000 to \$100,000 cars we drive on the road today. Also, nothing looks better than a new set of wheels and tires. There are a ton of options out there, like going with the original 14x7 SS wheels, all the way to 17x8 custom set wheels and tires.



Here is the set I put on my car. Its kind of a blend of old and new style. 17x8 with 255/50/R17 tires.



Here is the same wheel with red line tires. I could not find red line tires in 17", but Diamond tire company will but the red line on a set of tires for you. They also can put blue line, gold line, and white walls on a set of tires for you too.

I hope everyone might consider some of these changes when doing upgrades to your car in the upcoming years.

*Roger*

### **Vice-President's Column**

Will be back next year.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Ed



## **New Members**

Kyle & Cassie Anderson  
26708 Mason School Rd  
Blue Springs, MO 64064  
816-550-3212  
E-Mail a1979kyle@gmail.com  
Member # 475 good to 4/30/2022  
1969 Chevelle SS-Daytona Yellow/Black Vinyl Top,  
1967 ElCamino-Tahoe Turquoise,  
1977 ElCamino SS Black  
Interests: Cruising, Car Shows  
Found the club on the Internet





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## **Mid America Chevelle Club Apparel for Sale**

Here for a short time are some addition Club Show shirts, get yours while the supply last. In addition, be ready to order you very own plaque with your name and membership number.

2019 Show shirt sizes still available to purchase at the meeting:

- 3 Medium
- 1 Large
- 2 XLarge
- 1 2XL
- 1 3XL
- 1 Medium 2018 show shirt

Cost of the shirts are \$15 for M, L & XL, \$18 for 2XL & 3XL, and \$5 for last year's shirt.

If anyone is interested and have not already purchased a Club Membership Plaque the last time to purchase one will be at the October club meeting. Eugene will be the meeting to accept payment so Roger can turn in the order the following week. We plan to hand them out at the Christmas Party or arrangements can be made with Rogers to pick it up when they are ready.

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

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



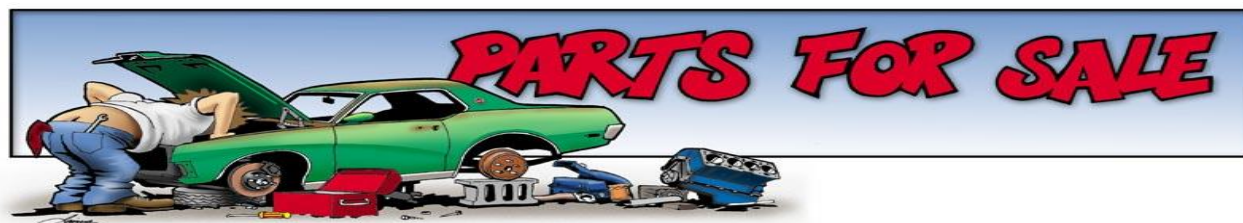
Hanes Beefy-t shirt. Sizes Large, XL, 2XL. Color Navy, Red, White \$12.00



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](mailto:findley13703@gmail.com)

Brian Findley – 913-558-1453

Engine wiring harness for 1966, HEI with factory AC - \$100 – still in the original packaging.  
Stainless fuel line for 396/350

Mike Stites – 913-485-7368

Transmission Cooler - \$30 -- 4.56 gear set - \$100





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

I've got both my El Camino's for sale and wanted to see if you would share the links please.

I love them both but I need a better daily driver for going back and forth to school.

Don Hosek

Looking for the upper tailgate molding for a 1976 El Camino. This molding covers the pinch weld on the top of the tailgate. For sale: '73 - '77 El Camino NOS wheel opening moldings, complete set of four \$950.00; Reconditioned set of four also available \$750.00 Please call Don Hosek at 515-975-7800.

1965-1967 BB Holley intake – Ron Brightwell - \$80.00



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



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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.

