

DECEMBER 2011



MINNESOTA'S '64 - '87 CHEVELLE AND EL CAMINO CLUB

President: Stan Shinker

Vice President: Chris Reid

Webmaster: John Delke

Treasurer: Bryan Flattem

Here it is; the end of 2011. We've survived another year, and what a year it was. We re-elected a club President who will continue leading this great group of people. This past January, Stan announced 3 key things: increase membership, include more family members in club events, and continue helping members create long term friendships. We have done that, but we're not done yet. In 2012, I would expect to see more people become members as our name continues to grow and we become more and more visible at car shows, swap meets, and other events. We have seen more spouses at events, and I think 2012 will continue that trend. Dave has brought up the idea of a family water park day, which will be discussed more in upcoming meetings. Lifelong friendships take time to develop. Come on out to our events, offer to help with an in-garage project, or just plan a bench racing session somewhere. Maybe we should plan a garage oriented poker run sometime?

What did we do as a club in the past year? We toured Ellingson Car Museum in Rogers and CA Performance speed shop in Oakdale. We got some good hands-on welding and plasma cutting experience at Toll Welding in Plymouth. We had members at all the popular cruise sites across the cities, and hosted one night at North St Paul. We rocked the Car Craft Summer Nationals with Bob receiving the Best in Show Chevrolet and Scott winning Grand Champion Muscle Car in the Real Street Eliminator contest. We cruised, and we raced. Some getting personal records, some happy to drive home without breaking. We co-hosted our first organized car show at Friendly Chevrolet, and got up close and personal with the Moneymaker tractor puller. We can't forget the annual Bowtie Brunch where metal master Erik showed us some tips and tricks for straightening sheet metal without body filler or that road trip into Wisconsin where so many great pictures were shot.

What else happened? We lost Porky's as a cruising destination, but helped send it off with throttle and smoke. We added a bunch of new members. We welcomed back some who had been gone. We helped each other out both with and without cars. We planned new projects and finished others. We built some relationships with businesses, and have made our club's name more familiar among the car scene. Finally, we grew as a club. Beyond the membership numbers, we have continued to rebuild and reinforce our club's values.



NEXT MEETING: “Bowtie Brunch” 1/21/12

Crystal Lake Automotive

16055 Buck Hill Road, Lakeville MN, 55044, phone 952-435-9800
Mechanical and Collision Repair



This is traditionally the best meeting of the year. There's no pressure to have a car ready for a show and it's inside out of the inclement weather. If you have never been, Karl opens up his shop to all members of Northstar Chevilles, Northstar Camaros, and their respective Impala and Nova clubs. Expect good catered food, lots of people, and a chance to get together in the “off season”. In years past, there have been metal working demonstrations, paint seminars, mechanical hands-on mini-projects, and an inter-club swap meet. It's on January 21st, check the club website for more details. It's also a great time to renew your membership, get some club logo merchandise, and buy the NEW 2012 calendar.

On a personal note:

I have been a member of Northstar Chevilles for several years. When I joined, there were about 20 members or so and it was organized, but not a very formal club. That's what I liked since I had a very young child and couldn't devote too much time to anything beyond family and my fixer-upper house. In those first couple years, I attended almost no meetings or events, but I stayed in touch using the website's forum section. In fact, most members had probably never even seen my face. In 2008, our club took a change from its original intent. It became more structured and dedicated to being active, and strongly encouraged members to participate. Even though not everyone had a running Chevelle (or one at all), the club's presence was starting to get noticed. Mid 2009, our club started to lose focus and eventually required immediate reorganization. At the very end of 2009, I was encouraged to step up and assume leadership of this club, and at the Bowtie Brunch I was meeting most members face to face for the first time. Over the course of that year, I focused on what makes our club fun: the people. I have always said that this club gets members because of the cars, but stays together because of the people. It is why anyone who pays a membership is considered a member of the club-car or not. This has always been club policy. With our restructure, I found myself taking on more and more responsibility, perhaps too much. Because of how the club was heading in 2009, there were many people who held back their involvement and took a “wait and see” position, which I respected. I continued with the newsletter, shop tours and meetings, and hopefully introducing some new ideas and engaging those who weren't actively participating on our forums. As the year progressed, our club gained momentum and by the end of 2010, we were back on course heading full throttle into 2011 with direction and purpose. I hope I performed well combining the best parts of what our club was and what I believe our club should be. Over the past year, Stan has built on my vision in his own way, and I feel it is time for me to step aside and encourage other members to take opportunities. I am not quitting the club, nor will I slink back into the shadows. I am encouraged by the enthusiasm our members have shown in stepping up to fill the various positions that were vacant. Thank you for allowing me to play such a crucial role in this club's revitalization.

Bryan (aka Bowtie on our forums)