

November 2011



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

President: Stan Shinker
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How much can happen in October for a car club? October usually means cold, rain, and in Minnesota, there is a strong potential for snow. Luck for us, this was a quite dry and pleasant past month. Several events happened including our club meeting at the MoneyMaker puller shop, the Frankensteiner's car show, and some end of the season racing at Rock Falls. What's left for the year? First and foremost is the November meeting on Saturday November 19th at Corvette Specialties in Mounds View. This is the final meeting of the year. Not only will we be holding nominations and elections, but we will start doing some planning for the upcoming year. Also, make sure you mark your calendars: January 21st is the annual "Bowtie Brunch" held at Crystal Lake Automotive in Lakeville. Details to follow, but it's an annual gathering of all the Northstar clubs including Chevelles, Camaros, Novas, and Impalas. Food will be catered in, there's usually an indoor swap meet, and at least one technical demonstration. It's always a great time, especially to get together with a huge group of car people in the middle of winter.



Chevelle Concours Custom Wagon

**Zips you around beautifully
... with room to spare**

You can have nimble handling and room in a station wagon. The Concours has a big 88 cubic feet of room, quick-size Chevelle control, and a beautiful Fisher Body too.

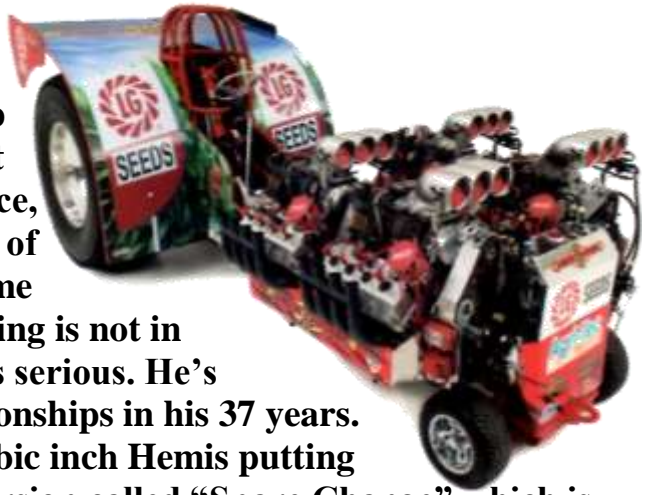
The look of hand-sanded walnut panels, vinyl upholstery and a vinyl covered rear floor protect your cargo and your car.

You can have a station wagon with everything ... room, leavvy, quick-size ease of handling. You can have Chevelle Concours ... by Chevrolet.

**QUICK-SIZE
MANEUVERS LIKE MAGIC
CHEVELLE**

OCTOBER MEETING: MONEYMAKER SHOP

In case you missed it, the September club meeting was held at Bret and Jeanine Berg's tractor pull shop where they maintain "Moneymaker". The shop is not necessarily what you would expect-there's lots of space, and racks for parts, but it's all for the single purpose of this machine since it's essentially a seat bolted to frame that supports it's engines and drivetrain. Maybe pulling is not in the forefront of your motorsport interests, but Bret is serious. He's amassed over 200 career wins and 5 regional championships in his 37 years. What kind of power does it take to win? Four 510 cubic inch Hemis putting out over 8000 horsepower. He also has the smaller version called "Spare Change" which is a single engine rig. While there, club members got to inspect the "tractor" and hear how it all comes together, including how 4 engines hooked together and transfer power to the axle.



Frankensteiners Show 2011:

Another year, another spectacle. This show draws such a wide variety of vehicles that it feels very much like a salute to anything with an engine. Motorcycles, lifted trucks, lowriders, beaters, rat rods, muscle rodz, show cars, and anything else that still doesn't fit into those categories can be found. Add to the 1100+ vehicles entered, the Halloween costume contest, the lowrider limbo, the pipe rapping contest and of course flame throwing, and you get something for almost everyone. Here's a few pics, but to get the full effect, you have to see it for yourself.



Yes, those are adults in Disney costumes. The other one is the Rat Rod mascot.





Reborn IN THE USA

THE STORY BEHIND GM RESTORATION PARTS

(Article from GM's FUEL publication)

As anyone who has ever restored or considered the restoration of a Chevrolet, Pontiac, Oldsmobile, Buick, Cadillac or GMC can tell you, a reliable source of quality parts can make or break the project. Having the coveted GM part number and package ensures authenticity and these parts are designed to bring your vehicle back to mint condition. To serve this market with the quality that restorers demand, in the late 1980s GM established GM Restoration Parts as a separate business activity within the GM Performance Parts group.

Today, GM Restoration Parts is managed by Cliff Cohen, and a staff of enthusiasts who work closely with Cohen's team to ensure that any reproduction part, licensed product, accessory or wearable lives up to the standards set for their brands. To understand this unique business and how it works, we rang up Sales Manager Gary Skelton and peppered him with the questions that rivet-counting, number-crunching collectors want to know.

***FUEL:** How do you choose products and licensees? Is there a suggestion box?*

Gary Skelton: No. GM Restoration Parts and projects are submitted to us by individual vendors who specialize in certain types of parts. We assist, review and approve within a circle of vendors, such as Eckler's and Year One to name a couple.

How does it cross your desk?

We receive lists of parts that will be going obsolete, coded for a Corvette, truck, A-body, whatever. If it is a part number in strong demand, we will contact our specialty licensees to give them the heads-up to see if they want to continue reproducing the part, and help them get in touch with the original vendors.

Then what?

In some cases, production of the parts can continue as is, but now with a license as a GM Restoration Part.

How often do you use original GM tooling?

I'd say about 5 percent of the time. By the time the tool is at the end of its life, it will need refurbishment or replacement to produce the quality that our customers demand. It varies with every part. Again, that's not a project we handle, but we help the vendors get to the right information to make those judgments.

Do you use the original blueprints?

About half the time. We have a lot of connections within the GM system, and we will call them to see if we can locate an original blueprint to either check or reproduce a part. But there is no one single place where they all live. Some prints may live with vendors who may or may not still be in business.



What if you can't find a blueprint?

Modern 3-D laser image technology and CAD have revolutionized this business. As long as there is at least one good part to scan, the technology is there to reverse-engineer it for production. It's a balancing act for the vendor to be able to merchandise "made from original tooling" with the need for quality and value. A lot of times, our parts are noticeably improved over the originals.

What's the oldest part that you've ever turned up?

We actually found the vendor that was still making the hood bars for the '56 Chevy Bel-Air. When the part went on the obsolete list, we got them connected to a licensee and kept it in production.

What parts have to carry a GM license as a Restoration Part?

Any part that carries a GM name, a divisional or supplier brand, vendor designation, or logo has to be registered, whether it is a GTO emblem or a lens for a Guide lamp.

Can a part fit a GM vehicle and not carry the Restoration Parts seal of approval?

Yes – but only if it does not have an original GM Part indication on it. That could be anything from a hood hinge to a trunk lid. We like to think it would be to their advantage to have us verify it and license it. They would be able to merchandise and advertise it under the GM Restoration Parts umbrella. But it's not something we force.

Who monitors the quality of these parts?

Cliff is the end of the line. He understands the whole picture. He knows that restoration is a balancing act, that there will be a lot of handwork and fitting before a restored car or truck is complete, and then it probably won't be in daily service. But our customers expect quality and that's what we give to them.

How can I tell when a part is a genuine GM Restoration Part?

It will say genuine GM Restoration Parts somewhere on the package, part or both. And it may say it in the catalog, too.

Where can I buy them?

You can get them from our licensees, one of their retail outlets, or select GM dealerships.

Anything else?

Even with all the changes in the economy, the business is still very strong, and the passion for classic Chevrolet, Pontiac, Buick, Oldsmobile, Cadillac and GMC vehicles is still as strong as ever. That's a good thing, and we don't see a lot of signs that it is tapering off.

www.gmperformanceparts.com/gm-restoration-parts

Through the GM Restoration Parts website (under the extras tab), you can access lots of different things like the GM Photo Store, GM's Heritage Center, Vehicle information packets, VIN decoding, and more.

Samples of GM packaging over time



Note the GM Restoration markings on these to the right:





Take a close look at this picture. Sometimes the advertising department doesn't quite pay attention to the details. The '70 Chevelle they chose to show was actually an inline 6 cylinder model. The advertising department wanted to display the SS model to show it's power and aggression, so they made a few changes to make the car look like an SS. I'm not sure what they thought the teeth would do.



Raw picture to the right, actual advertisement below.



Drawing of the '71 Chevelle prototype, note lack of bumper & extended stripes

