



# The Chev-El Times



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## Prez's Notes

Well we made it through FeBRRuary but the month certainly left its mark in the weather department. It seemed normal to walk like a penguin, put more miles on your snow blower than your car and feeling that it was a heat wave if the temperatures broke the single digits. One thing that made the month bearable was the great time we had at Wright's Chicken Farm.

First day of spring, at least on the calendar, is March 20<sup>th</sup> and is close at hand. In addition to that daylight savings begins March 14<sup>th</sup>.

I am sure that I don't speak for just myself when I say I am anxious for the good weather to get here, take the "toys" out of storage and once again get to "CRUISIN" in New England. It looks like it will be a good season. I am starting to get more calls from both members and non-members just to say hi, what's going on and looking for information in addition to the flyers on shows and cruise nights. It's a good sign that people are starting to come out of hibernation and looking forward to having some good times. Hope our paths cross soon and often.

Starting a new article with this issue. It's called "Wondered why my "ride" wasn't right. It's all about the "goofs" that we make and might be some fun but if you have too many you might be eligible for "The Dork Of The Year Award". Already have 2 submissions from founder and co founder of idea. Send em in.

We are starting our season with a very significant 20<sup>th</sup> Annual "ICE BREAKER" which is being planned for May 2nd (rain date May 16<sup>th</sup>). Looking for ideas to be able to have it in next month's newsletter event. It's a good time to renew old acquaintances and make new ones and 20<sup>th</sup> one is a milestone for sure. Hope that we get the biggest turn out ever and make it the special event that it should be..

The date for our 5<sup>th</sup> Regional is 8/27-8/28 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center in Sturbridge MA. It's a big task so please try to get involved and help out in any way you can. A lot of hands can lighten the load for sure. Communication, e-mail, and phone calls are going to be very important to coordinate what needs to be done. Please watch your e-mails. Help will be needed, hope that you can get involved.. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at all.....Thanks.

Remember: You might just be a Motor Head "if you know what citrus hand cleaner tastes like.....and you like the taste .....Enjoy and have a GR 8 Day!

Your Prez!

*Jim Goodwin*



Please note: Anything that you need to be put in the newsletter needs to be received by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to be included in the next issue,

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Congratulations to the following members that **March** marks an anniversary date for them joining the club.

Tom Forlano.....Norwalk CT , 2001.

Paul Morgan .....Stow MA, 1999

Alan Rother.....Medfield MA 2001



## NEW MEMBER

Tom and Mary Leonard.....Byfield MA

'71 Chevelle SS (Original Owner)

'55 Nomad ( Original Owner)

'70 Monte Carlo SS

'96 Impala SS

'88 Firebird Port G.T. A. ( Mary's)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



March 14..Day light savings begins

March 15.....Regional Meeting

March 17.....St. Patrick's Day

March 20.... ..Spring begins ( **HOORAY** )

April 1.....April Fools Day ( watch out)

April 4.....Easter

May 2..... “Ice Breaker” ( watch for details)



**Wondered why my “Ride” wasn’t right, maybe because I :**

Painted the battery posts to make them look better.....submitted by Jim Goodwin, MA

Didn't secure the distributor hold down bolt, was still in my hand. submitted by Phil Hanson,FL



A usual good time was had at Wright's on 2/13. It was a fun night with good food, good company and reacquaintencas with the “cruisers”. Jim Caswell retained

his title for the “Cleaning the Plate More Than Once” sure knows how to pace it. All in all it was a good night for sure.

### Foggy Windshield?

Hate foggy windshields?  
Buy a chalkboard eraser  
and keep it in the glove box  
of your car. When the windows  
fog, rub with the eraser.



## Matching Numbers

If you have an older muscle car or classic car that you are restoring or selling, or if you are interested in purchasing one of these cars, you may have heard the saying - "Check to see if the numbers match". This is such a broad term and really means different things to different people, but in simple terms, matching numbers means that the car carries the original engine, whose 10 number matches the VIN (vehicle Identification Number) of the car. Matching numbers to determine value of a vehicle can get really complex and go so far as to make sure that the chassis, engine, and other mechanical components are original to the car. Here are some of the basics about vehicle numbers and what you should look for.

The first number to look at is your VIN number, or Vehicle Identification Number. This number is most commonly found on your driver's side pillar of the windshield. The VIN Number is a 17-character alphanumeric identifier that acts as a serial number for your car. The VIN number contains four relevant parts and helps to identify:

- 1) "World Manufacturer" of the vehicle,
- 2) "Vehicle Description",
- 3) "VIN accuracy check digit",
- 4) "Vehicle Identification".

:

- Read the VIN Number (located on the right driver side pillar of the windshield)
- Read the Engine Stamp • Read the Door Stamp

The second number to look for on your vehicle would be the engine stamp or engine VIN plate. If you want to be sure that your engine is the original engine of your vehicle, then your VIN will tell you which engine the car came with. When you look at the VIN plate or stamp on your engine, the sequence of ending numbers on the Engine VIN stamp should match the Vehicle VIN stamp. If it does not, then the engine in your car is not the original engine. Sometimes it is hard to find the VIN or stamp number on your engine, so look for a tab located on the front passenger side cylinder head just below the valve cover and the transmission for the numbers.

If your car is pre-to late 60's, then you are not going to be looking for a VIN plate on the engine. They did not put VIN plates on the engine during this time, so you will have to actually look for casting numbers that are part of the engine, exhaust, and intake manifolds. The cast dates should be about six weeks prior to the build date of the car and the build date of the engine should be about two or three weeks prior to that car build date. Make sure the cast dates on the heads, intake, and exhaust manifolds all fit into this window before the car build date to check for authenticity.

The third place to check for vehicle numbers is on the inside front driver's door post. If you open the driver's door and look on the door post, there should be a metal plate held on with two rivets. This plate will tell you the date the car was built, the original exterior paint color, and the original interior color. You can use these numbers to verify the authenticity of the vehicles color scheme and trim levels.

The last place to check for your vehicle's numbers is on the actual chassis itself. Locations vary for this number, but it should also match your VIN number to help you identify if your vehicle has been in an accident or has had complete new framework done to it.

*A closing thought:* "To handle yourself, use your head. To handle others, use your heart"

**Till Next Time !**

**Jim G.**