

It all started 35 years ago in June of 1975, at a little car show at the State Fairgrounds called "Back to the 50's". As the story goes, a fellow by the name of Dave Yernberg chatted up a half dozen other Tri-Five Chevy owners at the show and thus the seeds for a new car club were sown.

The club's first-elected President was John Nagy in 1976 and the club was off and running, with Doug Baril coining the name Chevy's Best to signify the club's dedication to the preservation, restoration, and appreciation of the '55, '56, and '57 (Tri-Five) Chevrolets. The club began participating in the GSTA shows and also used to host a swap meet on the first Saturday in May for several years at Viking Chevrolet, until competition from the Buick Club's swap meet at the Fairgrounds caused it to end. The Club also participated for 30 years in the "Great North Central Memorial Day Classic" by rotating hosting duties among clubs in Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Chevy's Best in Minnesota, until competition from too many other events caused the demise of that.

It's interesting to note that several members from the early days of the club are still members today, such as Jeff Thiele, Dave "Swanee" Swanson, Steve Nordmeier, Kirby Lawrence, Ray Petersen, Neil Hoagland, Joel Hankinson, Jerry Peterson, Barb Williams, and Paul Larson. In fact, Paul has served as the club President several times over the years and is still the proud owner of a 1957 Nomad and a 1957 convertible. We are sorry to report that there other long-time members, Roger Williams, Max DeVries and Ron Kelm passed away in 2010. They will be missed and we will always remember them.

Naturally, over the years the club has grown significantly in size and greatly expanded its range of activities. Fast-forwarding to today, with 103 families currently on our membership roster and 15 local businesses registered as club sponsors, we offer our members a lot of fun things to do. Our club meetings are held at various restaurants on the first Saturday of the month and we host car shows, cruises and other events throughout the year. On the 3rd Wednesday of the month from May through October, we host a car show at The Lookout Bar & Grill in Maple Grove from 5-9 p.m. With free admission, food discounts, door prizes and the "Golden Oldies" playing, this has become a very popular event and culminates with a Top-Five Trophy show in September. At all of these shows, we accept donations to the CROSS Food Shelf, which aids people in need in a seven-community coverage area.

Other club events include shows at the Presbyterian Homes and Park River Estates nursing homes, an antique run, an apple run, a summer picnic, a museum run, an eagle run, a Halloween run, a highway clean-up project and an annual Awards Banquet in December. We also host a "Sweet Summer Nights" car show in August and a Winter Swap Meet in February, both held at Luther Brookdale Chevrolet, one of our fine club sponsors. Our club also participates in other events like the GSTA show, the World of Wheels show, the Dam Days show in Morristown and a very special Firefighters Benefit show in September.

Lavon Barber has been the club president for the past two years and she is handing the gavel over to Mike Jansky for 2011. As you can see, this is a very active club with something to offer for everyone to enjoy and ownership of a Tri-Five Chevy is not a requirement for membership. You can find out about all that and much more at our club website, www.chevysbest.net, so dial it up and get all the details, plus some great photo galleries of members' cars and past club events!