

Awarded Best CLC Regional Newsletter 2007-2008

PATE Swap Meet Month

Photo and text by Lifer



Its that time of year again when the sixteen car clubs that comprise the Pate Swap Meet Association gather in late April to put on the largest swap meet in the Midwestern United States, and possibly the second largest in the country. This is the 47th year of this annual event, and the North Texas Region of the Cadillac & LaSalle Club is a major player. This three-day event, which took many months of hard work by members of the member car clubs, has everything in the way of automobiles, motorcycles, and most anything transportation related, including parts of all kinds, accessories, automobilia, street rods, hot rods, antiques, classics, and loads of hard-to-find vintage items.

The NTX mission is very important, as we are responsible to lay on the ground in seven zones, a special tile marker for each vendor space so the vendors who paid for their space can locate it. This year we are using a heavier tile marker that has a vinyl sticker overlaid on a rubber marker tile. There are approximately 9,071 tiles, each hand-prepared by members of three car clubs, and hand-laid in the proper position on the Texas Motor Speedway north parking lot on the Saturday before the week of the swap meet. On the last Sunday of the swap meet all tiles are recovered, sorted, missing tiles noted, and then stored for the next year's swap meet.



We are also responsible to mark the streets with 126 street signs so vendors and patrons can find their way around this massive site. Before they are set out, new PVC poles have to be made ready. Each 6-foot sign has two streets marked, and is screwed into in a concrete base that weighs about 50 pounds. These signs are set up by a NTX crew that has plenty of muscle. On the last day of the swap meet the signs have to be taken down and stored for another year.

Why do we do it? Because we are part of a large active organization that has the same interests we do. It's hard work, and it's fun. The fun part comes on the swap meet days when we see old friends and greet new ones who come by our white hospitality tent on the corner of Andretti and Third Street, when we sign up new members, and when we show off some of our Cadillacs on display in front of our tent.

These pages will have some pictures of our work and thank you for those who helped and participated. If you didn't make it this year, try to schedule some time for next year, as we would love to have you aboard.





Sometimes you plan and plan and nothing goes as expected. In the military officer tactics courses we trained our officers to make plans, lots of plans, but also to think on their feet when confronted with change. Plan A and Plan B, and then some go as far as plan C. Lots of plans. Lots of details, small and large. Then the first bullet is fired and all the plans are now a mess and all are tossed out and we just maneuver as we are taught. What ever it takes to accomplish the mission.

Well, Pate Swap Meet is somewhat like that. We plan the event, the staging, the preparedness, and something comes along and messes them all up. This year was a string of Saturday rainy days, Race Week, other clubs that help us and their scheduled events that interfered with Saturday Pate participation, and so on. For example, we always do our vendor tile reorganization (Tile Party) on a Saturday, a number of weeks before Setup day so that we can take advantage of time and resources. This year we had to do it near the new storage area, so there was limited rain shelter. However, the rest of the week had no rain, only sun and mild weather. And all Saturdays, raining or not, from March 9th to April 13th were spoken for or rained on.

So thanks to the good thinking of Debbie Overby and Richard Cross, who both suggested we might do this on a Friday, we began to maneuver as necessary. Emails went out and calls were made and thus we had a good turnout on Friday the 12th of April, and got 95% done. Even without doughnuts (please note: Buc-ees doesn't have fresh doughnuts...).

Then Setup Day, which is always the Saturday before the actual Swap Meet, had to contend with the fact that Sunday was Easter and some people needed to prepare for that day. Putting out 9,000 plus vendor space marker tiles and 126 street signs takes some real "man" power, multiple club support, and time. Bad weather always makes it tougher. But the Swap Meet gods looked down upon us and decided to make Setup Saturday a fabulous sunny, mild day. We had 18 people, ten golf carts, 41 tubs of vender space marker tiles, doughnuts and a nice lunch from Newks Resturant on Highway 114 and got through in a good time. Additional work for the setups were completed on Monday by myself, Harriett Levy, Ron Fishell, Butch Martin, and David Beck. By the end of Monday evening every sign was up and every marker in place.

Then, after getting the setup complete we waited for the yearly storms for the swap meet week. Usually hard rains and high winds tears up our setup and we have to do it all again with very limited resources. There was a major storm Monday night, but on Tuesday morning we were still in place and upright.

The Swap Meet had bright sunshine and mild weather and was a roaring success. Then we had to tear it down. NTX, HCCA, and Lone Star Model T had the tiles collected and the signs put away by late noon. Some plans do work out well.

And then next year we do it all again...

Happy Trails,

Bill "Lifer" Levy NTXCLC Pate Director





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PATE SWAP MEET TILE PARTY

In order to place 9,071 vendor place marker tiles they have to be organized in a manner that insures they are all there, in proper order by each block for each zone, and in a correct tub for handling on the swap meet site. This year we only had to replace missing tiles from our sticker and blank tile stock and insure the organization of the tiles were correct.





Here some of the 41 tubs full of new tiles ready to go.



Each tub contains tiles for specific blocks and a laminated map for exact tile count and field position





Usually we have about 50 members from three clubs helping on this project and it goes very fast, not counting time to share a catered meal. This year we decided to do this on a beautiful, sunny Friday because of bad weather forecasted for Saturday, so some working members could not make it. But here are those that did and their effort and time is greatly appreciated, so a big THANK YOU for y'all.

> NTXCLC Bill Levy **Richard Cross** Rubye Musser Harriett Levy **Ron Fishell** Mark McKay Steve Overby Debbie Overby

TILE PARTY CREW Lone Star T Bill Peterson Judy Peterson David Rosenow Dale Roberts

HCCA Jerry Howard James Toler Lynda Roberts Sandy Rose

PATE SWAP MEET SETUP



After all our planning and preparation it was time to put the pedal to the metal and get the PATE Swap Meet ready to operate. We met by the Pate Pet Cemetery zipped out with ten golf carts to our storage Conex, loaded up the tile tub and street signs from storage and ventured out to set the place up. The day was sunny and mild, but the ever-present wind was always there.

Pit Stop Row, outside Speedway gate 4 on Petty Street, is what we commonly call the"Pet Cemetery." It makes it an easy reference.



Doug Ashby and Ron Fishell, one of our numerous crews are depositing vendor space tile markers on the speedway parking lot, working from a golf cart, and determining the correct location for the tiles.



NTXCLC Pate Director Bill Levy mounts a metal sign on a PVC pole mounted in a 50 lb cement base, one of 129 signs put out this year.



One view of the swap meet underway. The cars on the right are in the car corral, all for sale.



Our 41 tile tubs as they are neatly organized in storage on shelving built by Pate Director Dave Anderton.

| NTXCLC | <u>SETUP CREWS</u> Lone Star T | <u>HCCA</u> |
|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Minnie Bedrick Chris Cohn Bill Levy | Kathy Harris David Harris Dennis Sanford | James Toler <u>OTHER</u> |
| Harriett Levy Chris Jessen | Dave Rosenow Fran McGlinn | Butch Martin |
| Barrett Jessen Doug Ashby Ron Fishell James Levy Nancy Severance Jim Hanson Bill Ische Ryan Ische | Jamie Stevenson Larry Kollie Robert Jebavy Gary Page Don Hayes Steve Bourgeola Judy Peterson | David Beck |
| Richard Cross | | |

Due to lack of resources and crews, certain setup functions were finalized on the following Monday and Tuesday Repair of sign poles were minimal. A hard-working skeleton crew made up of **Bill** and **Harriett Levy, Ron Fishell**, **Butch Martin**, and **Dave Beck** put in another ten hours mounting signs on the sign poles, final review and auditing of the space tile markers for correct placement, adding addition missing tiles along the ditch rows, and adding addition signs on 3rd Street Ally. This was missed due to the confusion caused by the highly welcomed new parking lot stripping last year. And as the tent company mounted our hospitality tent at Andretti Avenue and 3rd Street, we felt a job well done and complete. Already for the big swap meet.

PATE SWAP MEET

This year's Swap Meet had perfect weather and big crowds of vendors and shoppers. It was really enjoyable to be in the NTXCLC hospitality tent during the meet. The swap area was fun also. From jet planes to custom cars, and lots more.



Some of our visitors in the hospitality tent included Mark McCay, Richard Cross, Minnie Bedrick, Rubye Musser, Doug Ashby, and Chris Cohen.



In the hospitality tent are Jim Hanson, Frank and Helen Remes, and Ron Fishell.



Cadilllac Hubcaps



A jet trainer, sold first day.



Custom Ford



A highly trained guard dog protected the vendor's stuff.

A neat Rat Rod



A thousand pickup trucks, everywhere.



More crazy stuff

PATE SWAP MEET TEAR DOWN

When the swap meet is over, the crowds have left, and most of the vendors have departed, its time for the tear down crews to clean the place up. The two biggest challenges are the trash and trash barrels, and the picking up of the vender space marker tiles and street signs. NTX along with help from the Lone Star Model 'T' club and the North Texas Region HCCA are responsible for the tiles and the signs. With eleven golf carts zipping and zooming in all seven zones to pickup 9,071 tiles and put them in the 41 tubs for storage, and Ned Hannah's truck and trailer with a lifting crew traversing each of the twelve streets picking up 121 signs, we got 'er done by 12:30 p.m. HOORAH!!

NTXCLC

Tear Down Crews Lone Star T HCCA

Bill Levy Ron Fishell Chris Jessen Harriett Levy Ned Hannah Jim Hanson Mark McCay James R. Fine Bill Ishe Sandy Ische Steve Overby Debbie Overby Jeff Podmers John Jebavy Bill Peterson Judy Peterson Glen Murphy Marilyn Murphy

James Mel Donal



NTX and HCCA crews celebrating a job well done. Mission Accomplished.



Ned Hannah, Jeff Podmers, and Jim Hanson hustling 121 sign poles and 50 lb bases







Time to close the door on this years Pate Swap Meet. Ready for next year.





Here are the up and coming activities that members and family and guests can plan for and participate in.

2019

May 2nd-4th INTER-REGIONAL MEET & DRIVING TOUR Lufkin, Texas, Best Western, hosted by the Gulf Coast Region. Page 7.

June 1st NTXCLC Breakfast Social, Bic's Restaurant, 2245 Midway Road, Dallas, TX 75252, 9:00 a.m.

June 11—June 15, 2019 CLC Grand National— Louisville, KY.

July Open for suggestion on 3rd or 4th.

August 10th Regional Prep meeting, voting for directors.

October 22—October 26, 2019 National Driving Tour, Valley Forge, PA.

November 9th New Holocaust Museum, Dallas

December 14, Toys For Tots (Site TBA)

2020 CLC Grand National—Overland Park, KS.
2021 June 6- CLC National Driving Tour, Amarillo, TX.
2021 CLC Grand National
2022 CLC Grand National, Chicago, IL
2022 National Driving Tour- a tour to cover several southeast states.
2023 CLC rand National, Albuquerque, NM.

Rubye 817 996-8066

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The North Texas Region is sorry to see Randoll and Joyce Reagan leave the club, but after many years as productive members, they are retiring. That leaves us with the need of a historian for the club, to take over current records, and add new ones. Interested members or associates please contact Bill Levy.



One visitor at the NTXCLC hospitality tent told us about his new business called The Vintage, an online swap meet for vehicle parts. You can find this at www.swapcarparts.com. Check it out.

Our Pate Swap Meet Registrar, Gail Moore, is retiring. She has ben responsible for, among things, registering vendors in their assigned spaces at the swap meet. With a new computer system for assisting with this coming on line the duties will change a bit, but it will still be an important position as part of the swap meet. It is a compensated position, and selections will be made in September. If you are interested, contact me and I will forward information to you and John Anderson (president of Pate) as it becomes available.





Dave Eckberg — just returned from Houston Hospital March 5. He bought a 1937 LaSalle, which is in shop right now.

Cecil Thompson—doing fine, just Dr appointments. Reagan Hammett. Mary Lou Ruhling. Tony Yates —nursing home. Randoll Reagan—at home and doing ok. Pauline Ofsted nursing home. Gordan Fenner—Longview.

May God Bless each of you and have a speedy recovery

Let me know of someone that needs our prayers or assistance

Rubye

817 996-8066



Welcome New and Renewed Members:



There are 16 car clubs that manage the Pate Swap Meet each year. If every member of the North Texas Region Cadillac & LaSalle club recruited just one new member each, we would be the biggest club in the swap meet. Remember, the member count, besides meaning a more fun and interesting club, gets the club a bigger share of the Pate income.

If a member obtains 5 or more new members to the NTXCLC they will receive a free Club Shirt at the annual Christmas dinner.

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For membership information— Contact Bill Haesslein at billhsln@airmail.net



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NTXCLC Board Meetings usually 3rd Saturday of even months Next Board Meeting June 22, 2019





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Bill Levy (lifer@writeme.com) Editor, North Texas Region CLC 16734 Lauder Lane Dallas, TX 75248 Awarded Best CLC Regional Newsletter 2007-2008

Awarded Old Cars Weekly Golden Quill 2012, 2013, 2014,2015, 2017

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NTXCLC

2019:

May 2-4 INTER-REGIONAL MEET & DRIVING TOUR Page 7 June 1st NTXCLC Breakfast Social, Bic's Restaurant, 2245 Midway Road, Dallas, TX 75252, 9:00 a.m. June 11—15, CLC Grand National— Louisville, KY. October 22— 26, National Driving Tour, Valley Forge, PA. November 9th New Holocaust Museum, Dallas, TX December 14, Toys For Tots (Site TBA)

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June 1st We now have a NTXCLC Club Breakfast Social meeting at the Bic's Restaurant, 2245 Midway Road, Dallas, TX 75252, on the first Saturday of every month, @ 9:00 a.m. We look forward to you joining us for this social event. Bring the Caddy, or just head out in your daily grocery – getter and break bread with us. Spouses are invited.



March 2—Present: Bill Levy, Ron Fishell, Jeffrey Pendleton, John Barr, Jim Hanson, Doug Ashby, Steve Overby, and Dan Harrison.