

555 CUBE BIG-BLOCK BUILD-UP BEGINS!

AMMO'S CORVETTE
ILLUSTRATED BY
TIMOTHY W. BROWN

CORVETTE

ENTHUSIAST

LAST L-88!

ALSO INSIDE:

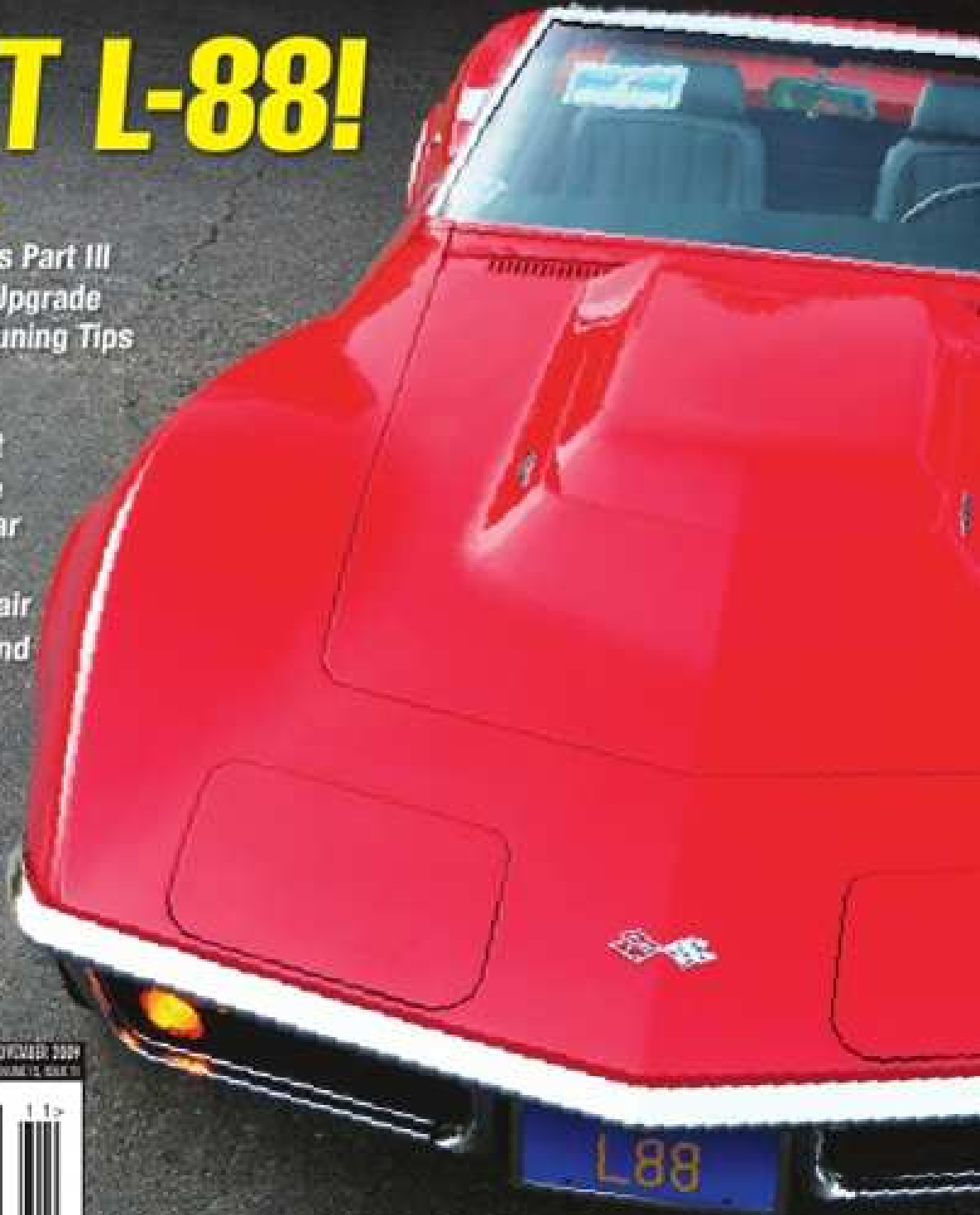
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- C4 Big Brake Upgrade
- Power Valve Tuning Tips

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Body & Paint

C2: An Explosive
Retro Midyear

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Corvettes Helping Kids

WHEN IT'S FUN FOR A GOOD CAUSE, THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF THE FUN

BY ELIZABETH HORNER

Corvette clubs are formed for the enthusiast, and if you're reading this article, chances are you are one of them! They are some of the most incredible, giving, generous and sincerely kind folks you will ever meet.

The Texas Corvette Association (www.texas-corvette-association.org) comes together each year to put on a car show. Held in Boerne, Texas, the Texas Corvette Association's Open Car Show is a sight to be seen. If you've never been to Boerne (www.boerne.org), you'll want to see that too. Wonderfully quaint shops, incredible restaurants and relaxing little getaways are scattered throughout this

small town. There is also a wonderful town square (yes, just like you see in the movies) that houses a white gazebo – and that gazebo becomes the focal point every April for all the activities surrounding this event.

Co-founded in 1979 by U.S. Air Force members Craig L. Main and William H. Clower, the Texas Corvette Association (TCA) was created in San Antonio to cater to the needs of

Corvette owners. Soon after flyers were designed and distributed, the club was born. As detailed in the bylaws, "The purpose of the TCA shall be the promotion of Corvette enthusiasm, planned road trips, social gatherings, support of local charities and the promotion of driving safely on the public highways."

There were eight members at the first meeting at Landa Park in New Braunfels, Texas, and one of the first events was a run to Wimberley and the Pioneer District near San Marcos in 1979. The event attracted 47 cars and



comprised a convoy three miles long. People followed on the road, crossed the median to join, and drove ahead to get a vantage point on the next bridge, resulting in a traffic jam at San Marcos! Over 30 years later, it is obvious and exciting to see their vision live on, in the hearts of over 430 members representing almost 300 Corvettes in the San Antonio area. The TCA has a long and proud history with many dedicated members who work hard to make it the great organization it is today.

The TCA's Annual Open Car Show began in the early '90s when funds raised from the endeavor were given to charitable causes. Since 1992, the car show has become an organized, annual event bringing together car lovers from all over Texas. Participants travel from out-of-state, as well as as far away as Australia. In the show's beginning, the TCA would host between 50-75 cars. Today, the event draws an average of 250-280 cars with



TOP RIGHT: Members of the Texas Corvette Association and representatives of St. Jude's Ranch for Children join together to ceremoniously donate of \$100,000, representing proceeds from the 2009 TCA Annual Open Car Show.

MIDDLE RIGHT: (L to R) 2009 TCA Car Show Chairman Jerry Hordley, National Corvette Museum Delivery

Manager Gary Cochran, TCA member Bobby Lavo and TCA President Dave Schatz take a moment from the festivities and pose for the camera.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Despite some early morning showers, more than 260 cars participated in this year's TCA Annual Open Car Show.



some years reaching as high as 300 cars! Each year, a car show chairman is named and a committee is established, bringing fresh ideas, new perspectives and exciting opportunities as the show grows bigger and better. All of this is a direct result of the dedication of TCA members who pour their heart and soul into this one-of-a-kind event.

In 2000, following a desire to ensure that donated funds were making a difference in a measurable and effective way, the TCA board decided to adopt St. Jude's Ranch for Children (www.stjudesranch.org) as the charity of choice and primary benefactor of the event's proceeds. Since 2007, the event has also been a sanctioned Official Fiesta® San Antonio (www.fiesta-sa.org) event. Today, the TCA supports a variety of causes, but its relationship with St. Jude's Ranch for Children is its primary philanthropic focus. Rescuing abused, abandoned and neglected children of all races and faiths from the vicious cycle of child abuse, St. Jude's Ranch for Children provides healing and nurturing in a safe home-like environment where children can learn life skills to start new lives

with new chances, new choices and new hope. With over a 40-year history of caring for kids, the organization to date has provided help for more than 1,000 children.

This year's show will go down in the memory books. Show officials had been watching the weather all week and knew it was going to be a nail-biter. Conversations just two days out included words like 'reschedule,' 'back-up site' and 'rain date.' When they awoke the morning of the show to rain, they remained optimistic. By 9 am, the sun was out, and things were beginning to dry out. Despite the weather, there were more than 200 cars that showed, including over 80 whose owners drove in, despite the rain and registered that morning! Thousands more turned out to see everything, and the funds raised were the highest to date. In a ceremony on June 2, 2009, a check for \$90,000 was presented to St. Jude's Ranch for Children, thanks to some of the most incredible, giving, generous and sincerely kind Corvette enthusiasts you will ever meet. Please join them next year on Saturday, April 17, 2010.



TOP: Numerous Corvettes turned out April 18, 2009 for the TCA Annual Open Car Show held in Boerne, Texas.

BOTTOM: The San Antonio Spurs Coyote paid a special visit to the Texas Corvette Association's 17th Annual Open Car Show.