## **SPACE AGE STAR**

**APRIL 2020** 





IN THIS ISSUE WE CELEBRATE 60 YEARS OF 1960 CHEVROLET.



#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

### EDITOR'S NOTES......Page 2 1960 CHEVROLET TURNS 60.....Page 3 **EDITOR'S NOTES:**

I imagine this newsletter finds most, if not all, of you in some kind of shut-in situation. I hope all our region members are staying well. Maybe this newsletter will relieve a little boredom.

Something else to pass the time during Corona virus quarantines is watching Jam Handy films on You Tube. In case you don't know, Jam Handy made industrial training films. Chevrolet was a big client of theirs, and Jam Handy produced many promotional and training films for Chevrolet. I especially enjoy the sales force training films and film strips. They're a lot of fun, especially when they compare Chevrolet products to the competition. Look for the 1962 film entitled "Duel in the Desert," as it'll take you back in time and provide a few laughs. Laughter is important in times like this.

Our region has 99 members this year, the exact number we had last year. A few old members didn't appear on the active roster when I prepared the 2020 roster for national headquarters. We recruited the same number of new members as those who left, so our number didn't change. I haven't deleted anyone from the email list. If your membership lapsed and you've since renewed it, contact me at the region email address, and I'll place you back on the official roster.

The newsletter received an "Award Distinction" from AACA for 2019. It's always nice to be recognized. Thanks to all the members who contributed to the newsletter. Actually, I was surprised that we received an award, I thought the newsletter quality was down last year, mostly because I was ill and couldn't experiences make people think before they give it as much attention as usual.

This month begins a look back at the 1960 Chevrolet. We'll cover passenger cars this month and light trucks and Corvette in June. We featured region Vice President John Mahoney's 1960 Impala in the April 2017 newsletter. John contributed an article about the 1960 custom feature accessory Speedminder in the same issue. We covered 1960 Corvair extensively in the August 2015 Space Age Star, so we won't include it this time.

Russell Heim

#### **Letter to the Editor:**

Morning and great job as always on the newsletter.

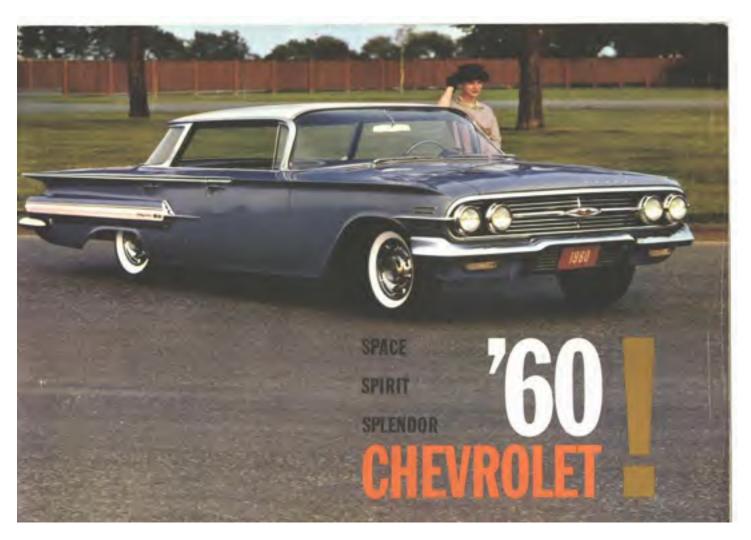
In response to your comment about my letter to the editor in the AACA Magazine, the club is so 2-sided in that they want new members, but they don't want them to have "newer" cars! And that infuriates me. I wrote another letter to West Peterson a few years ago about how I was treated at the Virginia Beach National meet. "That's just a used car!" is what was said to me and I was so mad that I had to write about it. The response was amazing! I can't tell you how many people told me that they received the same comments on their 25 year-old vehicle. And I don't mind sticking up for people "my age" who don't have/want 20's/30's/40's vehicles. While I love them and they are beautiful, they don't work for us in this time of our lives. My Wagon, like my Suburban, is my daily driver as well as my HPOF vehicle. I will never own a "new" car.

Sorry.... I hope I didn't ramble too much! And of I got your oh so subtle hint about an article on my car. I'll wait until I have some better photos until I submit.

#### Annie Goldman

Thanks for your thoughts, Annie. I hope your speak.

# **60 YEARS OF 1960 CHEVROLET**



The 1960 Chevrolets bore a strong were lower than last year. car. resemblance to the 1959 models. The 1958 and 1959 models barely resembled their immediate The 1960 side trim featured a jet plane with a predecessors.

1960 styling was a refinement of the 1959 exterior. The front end was simpler than 1959. They removed the air intakes from the edge of the hood. The new grille was oval shaped with a large emblem in the center.

The 1959 tear-drop rear lights were replaced with double tail lights on Biscayne and Bel Air and triple tail lights on Impala models. Impala and Bel Air featured bright rear cove panels

1960 was the first model year since 1957 that surrounding the tail lights. Biscayne made due Chevrolet didn't introduce a radically restyled with a body colored rear cove. The rear fins

> contrail theme. While Biscayne had a simple wing with a thin bright stainless strip trailing behind it, Bel Air had a small plane with a larger single stainless bright strip, with Impala having a fancy airplane with two bright strips behind it. The space between the strips was painted in a contrasting color to the main body color. Impala front fenders featured slot like trim directly behind the headlights.





Biscayne: Chevrolet's ad writers had plenty to say about the lowest priced series: "Thriftiest of all full-sized Chevrolets." "For the first time in a low-priced series, you get extra luxury and convenience features, such as cigarette lighter, front arm rests, dual sun visors – all at no extra cost." Biscaynes featured a vinyl and cloth interior color-keyed to the exterior. Only the front seats were foam cushioned. Biscayne came in three body styles – two-door sedan, four-door sedan, and utility sedan. Chevrolet built 287,662 1960 Biscaynes. Here are Biscayne's base prices: Biscayne Utility Sedan: \$2,175. Biscayne two-door sedan: \$2,369. Biscayne four-door sedan: \$2,423. Biscayne Fleetmaster two-door sedan: \$2,337. Biscayne Fleetmaster four-door sedan: \$2,391.





Bel Air: Chevrolet referred to 1960 Bel Air as: "Popular priced" and "a beautiful blend of elegance and economy." In the passenger compartment, Bel Air offered five vinyl and fabric interior color combinations, color-keyed to the exterior. Carpeting had vinyl-coated rubber inserts. Bel Air had four body styles, two-door sedan, four-door sedan, sport coupe and sport sedan. All seats were foam cushioned.

Base prices for Bel Air were: four-door sedan: \$2,545, two-door sedan: \$2,491, sport coupe: \$2,596, sport sedan: \$2,661. Chevrolet produced 381,517 1960 model year Bel Airs.







Impala was, according to Chevrolet's sales brochures: "Luxury leader of the low-priced field." "At a glance you can tell the elegance of an Impala by its distinctive side molding, bright rear end panel and triple rear lights." "For interior beauty, there's a brilliant new selection of pattern cloth and leather-grained vinyl upholsteries, color-keyed to the exterior, with rich floor coverings and tasteful appointments." Impala had standard features that were extras on other models: electric clock, parking brake warning light, glove compartment light, and back-up lights. Impala offered four body styles, sport coupe, convertible, sport sedan and four-door sedan. All seats were foam cushioned. Impala base prices: convertible: \$2,945, sport coupe: \$2,704, sport sedan: \$2,769, four-door sedan: \$2,697. Impala production for 1960 was 511,925 cars.

#### EXTERIOR CHROME PARTS NAMES AND MATERIALS

ENDINE-IDENTIFYING EMBLEMS.... Front emblems on white background in place-colored anothered abeninum frame are colored plastic. Chevrolet treat is red, white and blue. V is gold-tolored and protect flags are red and black and white. Bear Chevrolet creat is red, white size plastic. Creat frame, V and crossed flags are chrome-plated metal with flags gainted red and black.



CHROME USAGE Chrome is used to decorate and protect exterior finish and to help distinguish between series and models. For 1960, chrome treatments of all models are new, as exemplified in illustrations of Impala models on these pages and listed on pages 83-86. Three materials are identified as "chrome" in this catalog, Each has bright finish that resists corrosion, scratches and dents, can be kept clean with just soop and water and can be polished.



ROOF SIDE MOLDINGS Stainless steel SIDE WINDOWS FRONT FRAME Stainless steel VENTIPANE MOLDINGS Chrome-plated steel WINDSHIELD WIPER HARDWARE Chromeplated and stainless steel NAME ON HOOD Chrome-plated steel HEADLIGHT FRAMES Silver aluminum RADIATOR GRILLE Silver aluminum FRONT AND REAR ENGINE-IDENTIFYING **EMBLEMS** See illustrations RADIATOR GRILLE EXTENSIONS AND BARS Silver allominum **BUMPERS AND GUARDS Chrisme-plated steel** PARKING LIGHT FRAMES Stainless steel DOOR HANDLES Chrome-plated metal DOOR KEYLOCKS Chrome-plated metal

Stainless steel

Stainless steel

WINDSHIELD FRAME

CHROME MATERIALS Chrome-Plated Metal Chromium, a hard durable metal, is used to plate irregularly shaped parts and large, heavy-gauge steel parts, such as humpers. Stainless Steel Chromium is alloyed with steel make stainless steel—used extensively in moldings. Aluminum Aluminum is light and can be finished with smooth or textured surface. By an anodizing process, color can be integrated with surface so it can't wear off.

#### DRIP GUTTER MOLDINGS ABOVE WINDOWS AND ON WINDSHIELD PILLARS

ROOF REAR MOLDING Stainless steel
REAR WINDOW FRAME Stainless steel
SIDE WINDOW GLASS MOLDINGS

Chrome-plated steel SIMULATED AIR EXHAUST PORTS

DECK LID EDGE MOLDING ... Stainless steel

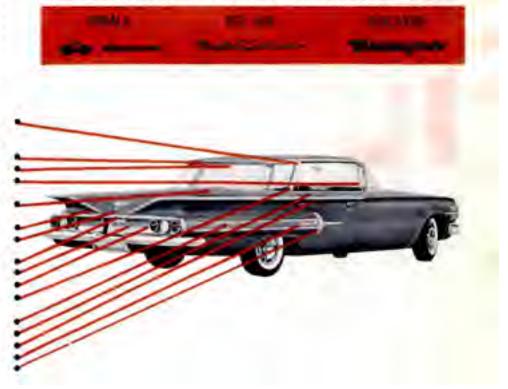
LUGGAGE COMPARTMENT KEYLOCK
Stainless steel
END PANEL MOLDING ... Silver aluminum

END PANEL MOLDING. Silver aluminum END PANEL TRIM PLATE Silver aluminum REAR LIGHT FRAMES. Silver aluminum REAR DOOR LOCK PILLAR MOLDINGS

BODY SIDE MOLDINGS. Stainless steel
BELT LINE MOLDINGS. Stainless steel
REAR FENDER MOLDINGS. Stainless steel
SIDE SERIES NAMEPLATES. See illustrations
SIDE SERIES ORNAMENTS. Stainless steel

SIDE SERIES NAMEPLATES Bright chrome. Names are in silver-colored script; Impala figure and flagstaffs are colored gold; flags are red, gold and black; Bel Air crest is gold and white.

· HUB CAPS.









DISTINGUISHING FEATURES Chevrolet station wagons rank with finest in industry. Basically, they are identical with comparable Chevrolet sedans (see charl) from front of car to rear of front doors. From there back, modern station wagon body features make them small; highly capable cargo carriers. Slimitine Styling
Sedan height, long first roof, expansive
windows and gull-wing lenders for graceful
inner. Magic-Mirror Finish. Looks better,
lasts longer. Safety Plate Glass in All Windows
For more restrict vision. Full Vision , For more restful vision, Full Vision Panoramic windshield, narrow pilturs and wraparound rear quarter windows for full vision around car. Retractable Rear Window Lowers into tailgate; power-operated in Kings wood, Feam-Cushiened Seats with Generous For maximum comfort. Look-Dimensions ... out Lounge Third Seat in Kingswood Comfortable room and exceptional view for three persons; more accessible. Fast-Folding Second and Third Seats . Fold easily and quickly to become part of platform. Sturdy Platform . Broad, list and covered with durable vinyl; low height aids loading and entry to third seat. Single Tailgate ... Opens level with platform; no overhanging liftgeto, Large Carge partment under platform or behind sidewall, All-Vinyi Interior ... Except for portions of seals in some models, frim is durable vinyl.

Station Wagons: 1960 wagons got the sales hyperbole too: "Everyone of Chevrolet's five wagons shares the distinctive good looks of Chevy passenger cars. That's because Chevrolet styling for 1960 was conceived and developed to be ideally suited for both cars and station wagons." "Chevrolet wagons ride and handle like passenger cars, too." Chevrolet wagons offered 92 cubic feet of storage with the rear seats folded down. This year the rear window rolled down into the tailgate for easier loading. 1960 saw Chevrolet build 212,729 station wagons.

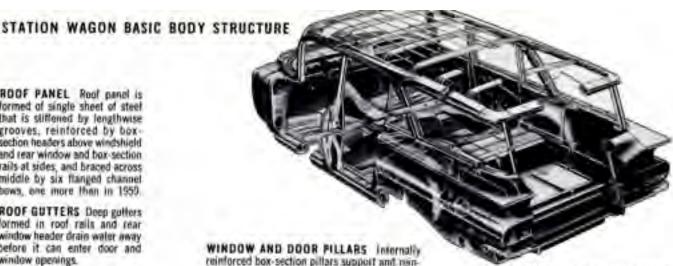
Chevrolet's 1960 wagon offerings were: four-door six-passenger Nomad: base price \$2,996, four-door nine-passenger Kingswood: base price \$2,957, four-door six passenger Parkwood: base price \$2,854, four-door six-passenger Brookwood: base price \$2,760, and two-door six-passenger Brookwood: base price \$2,693.



ROOF PANEL Roof panel is formed of single sheet of steet that is sliffened by lengthwise grooves, reinforced by boxsection headers above windshield and rear window and box-section rails at sides, and braced across middle by six flanged channel bows, one more than in 1950.

ROOF GUTTERS Deep gutters formed in roof rails and rear window header drain water invay before it can enter door and window openings.

COWL, INSTRUMENT PANEL AND DASH WALL STRUC-TURE Double-walled to form plenum chamber for ventilation system, cowl forms arch across front of body. Instrument panel and heavily ribbed dash wall are welded to cowl to form structure of great strength. Dash legs on front of structure brace body to chassis frame; help maintain. body and charsis alignment.

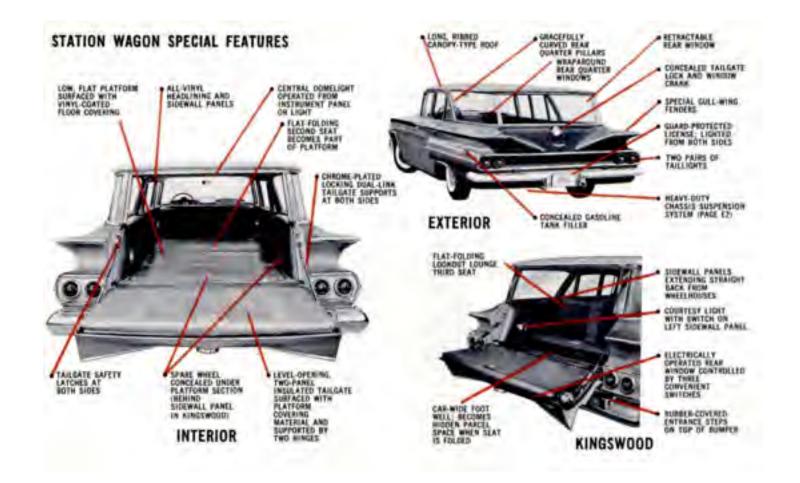


reinforced box-section pillars support and nanforce roof, "Dog-leg" front pillars permit big windshield and doorways. Center pillars are of T-shaped box-section to make them narrow. Curved pillars in rear quarter areas are braced by wheelhouses.

SIDEWALL AND WHEELHOUSE STRUC-TURES Door frames, body panels and wheelhouse for each side are built as unit to provide precise door fits. Rigid wheelhouses stiffen body sides and brace roof through rear quarter pillars. Body sides are braced acress car by rigid cowl, roof and floor.

FLOOR PANEL Rib-stiffened panel, reviforced by box-section cross beams and doublebox-section siderall type body sills (page E4). For 1960, front tunnel of floor is narrowed by as much as 11/2 inches and lowered by as much as 1% inches, providing more foot room and making sliding across seat easier.

UNISTEEL BODY CONSTRUCTION AIR steel body components are welded into solid substantial structure that is completed by securely locked double-walled doors and tailgate and safety plate glass in all windows.



#### **ENGINE IDENTIFICATION**



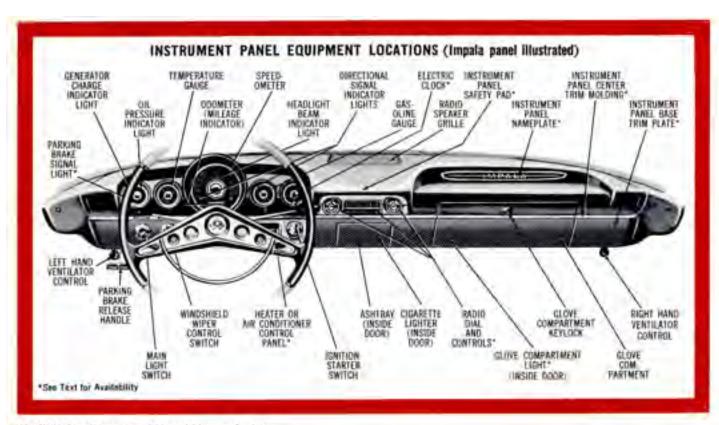
235.5-CUBIC-INCH HI-THRIFT 6 Hi-Thrift 6 is standard engine and is provided by factory when any 6-cylinder Chevrolet model is ordered (see model identification). Every Chevrolet model with Hi-Thriff 6 engine is identified by Chevrolet crest on grille and on rear of cas. Crest is red, blue and gold colored plastic in chrome-plated metal frame.



283-CUBIC-INCH V8 ENGINES Turbo-Fire V8 (illustrated) is standard Chevrolet V8 engine and is provided by factory when any standard V8 model is ordered. Super Turbo-Fire V8, however, is regular production option identified by number RPO 410. Chevrolets with either engine are identified by Chevrolet crest above broad V on grille and rear of car.



348-CUBIC-INCH V8 ENGINES RPO numbers for these optional engines are: Super Turbo-Thrust Special V8, RPO 574, Turbo-Thrust Special V8 with Synchro-Mesh, RPO 577. Super Turbo-Thrust V8, RPO 573, Turbo-Thrust V8, RPO 576. Turbo-Thrust Special V8 with Powerglide is deviation of RPO 576. Car emblems include crossed flags above broad V.



C8 INTERIORS Impalia, Bel Air and Biscayne Models

#### BASIC BODY STRUCTURE

COWL, INSTRUMENT PANEL AND DASH WALL STRUCTURE Double walled to form plenum chamber for ventilation system, cowl arches across front of body. Instrument panel and heavily ribbed dash wall are welded to cowl to complete structure of groat strength. Dash

legs on front of structure brace body to chassis frame and help maintain body and chassis slignment. ROOF PANEL Roof panel is single formed sheet of heavy-gauge steel reinforced at front by box-section windshield header, at rear by box section rear window header and at sides by box section roof rails. A flanged channel roof bow braces roof across its middle.

BOX SECTION One of strongest yet lightest steel structural forms; used in roof rails, pillars, sills, cross beams and braces.

ROOF GUTTERS. Deep gutters formed in roof rails drain water away before it can enter door and window openings.

LUGGAGE COMPARTMENT STRUCTURE Body sides are joined by seat backrest support, parcel shelf and car end panel below deck. All are integrated by deep gutter that extends around luggage compartment opening.

WINDOW AND DOOR PIL-

LARS Internally reinforced / tox-section pillars support and reinforce root. "Dog-leg" front pillars permit big windshield and doorways. Sedan center pillars are T-shaped box section to make them slender (page D4). FLOOR PANEL Rib-stiffened panel, reinforced by box-section cross beams and double box-section siderail type body sills (page E4). For 1960, changes in tunnel area of floor provide more foot room inside body (page D12). SIDEWALL AND WHEELHOUSE STRUC-TURES Door frames, body panels and wheelhouse for each side are built as unit to provide precise door fits. Rigid wheelhouses stiften body sides and brace roof through rear pillars.

#### CHASSIS FRAME

CONSTRUCTION Safety Girder Lubular canter X built frame is composed of all welded structural members that are welded into unit to provide car foundation of great strength and rigidity. Exclusive to Chevrolet in its field, X built frame contributes to long car.

are and excellent riding confort and permits a low body floor (page 012) in order to obtain low car height and low car center of gravity for extraordinary car stebility.

HODY SILLS AND CROSS BEAMS Chassis frame needs no bowed-out side members because body sills of heavy-gauge steel in broad double box sections have strength needed to resist impacts from sides. Location of sills father outward and lower than bowed out side members puts his protective strength where it is most needed—at widest part of body. Sills saltend length of body from cowl to wheel-houses. Box-section cross beams, integral with body floor, brace sills laterally.

FRAME DIMENSIONS

Overall length Maximum width

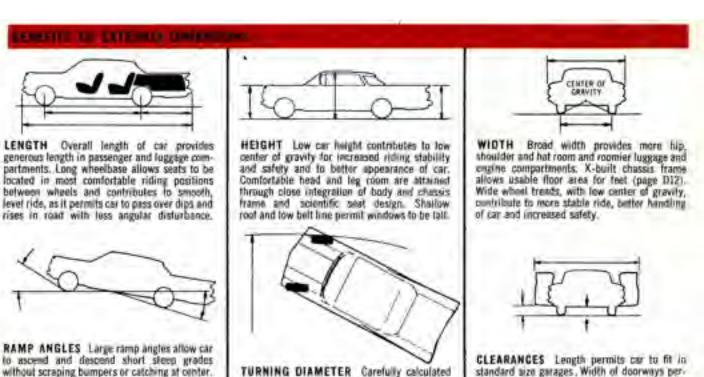


FRONT CROSS MEMBER Box section member underslung below front of engine; provides substantial mount for front suspension. ENGINE REAR SUPPORT Channel section; builed mounting aids in removal of engine and transmission from chassis for repairs. CENTER STRUCTURE
Box section of tremendous
strength resists (wisting
strength resists)
of floor tunnel space D121.

SIDE MEMBERS Box sections integrated by center structure. In convertible, thick plates are welded on lop and ballom of side members to front and roar of frame center structure. REAR CROSS MEMBERS For 1960, three rear cross members strengthen frame and provide stronger mountings for rear suspension system members and rear bumper.

195.3\*





steering genmetry permits car to turn in light circle at curb level for easier maneuvering

and parking. Short front overhang reduces

wall-to-wall turning diameter to minimum.

Short overhang and high humper make front ramp angle large. Although rear overhang is long to increase length of luggage compart-

ment, high bumper provides large ramp angle.

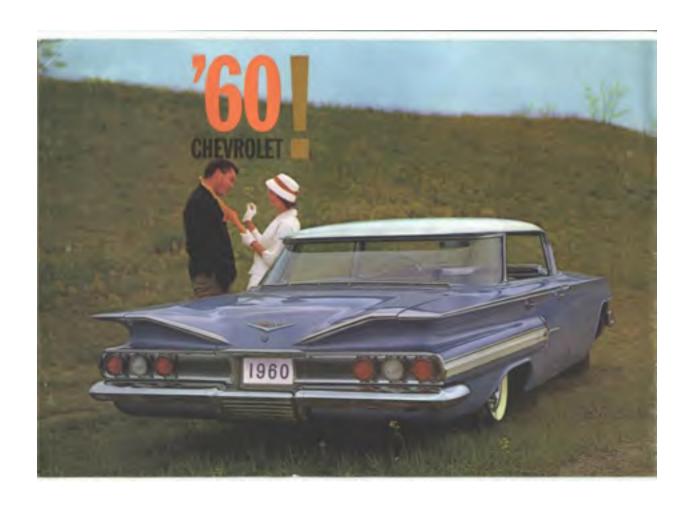
CLEARANCES Length permits car to fit in standard size garages. Width of doorways permits wasier entrance and exit under all conditions. Bottoms of doors are high to slear curbstligh road clearances permit car to travel rufted roads with least possibility of damage to chassis. Chevrolet copywriters described the 1960 models as: "Everybody's kind of elegance." The new cars were: "Nearest to perfection a low-priced car ever came." They told potential customers that: "You're surrounded by solid sturdy Fisher Body construction." 1960 advertising focused on these features: smooth ride with coil-springs at all four wheels, quicker stopping safety-master brakes, roomier interior with a lower and narrower transmission tunnel. Popular options that year were: two-tone paint, power brakes, power-steering, Powerglide, Turboglide, white wall tires, and door edge guards.

1960 production by body style: 497,048 four-door sedans, 228,322 two-door sedans, 204,467 sport coupes, 169,016 sport sedans, 79,903 convertibles, 198,066 four-door wagons, 14,663 two-door wagons.

Technical illustrations from 1960 Finger-Tip Facts courtesy of John Mahoney. Brochure and advertising illustrations courtesy of www.oldcarbrochures.com.







The *Space Age Star* is the official publication of the Space Age Chevrolet region of the Antique Automobile Club of America. This is a non-geographic region dedicated to the enjoyment, restoration and history of 1955 and later AACA eligible Chevrolet cars and trucks. We publish the newsletter six times a year.

### Region Officers:

President: Russell Heim

Vice President: John Mahoney, Jr.

Secretary: Ana Heim

Webmaster and Proofreader: Bill Pritchett

Please send all articles and photos to the editor at spaceagechevy@gmail.com

Our Web Address is: http://spaceage.aaca.com

