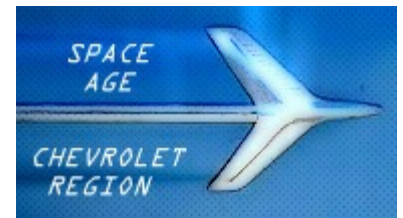


# SPACE AGE STAR

AUGUST 2018



**1976 CHEVETTE INTRODUCTION, GRAND NATIONAL REPORT, ANOTHER 1956 CHEVY PEST CONTROL DISPLAY CAR.**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor's Notes.....	Page 2
Another 1956 Chevy Display Car.....	Page 3
Grand National Meet Report.....	Page 6
1976 Chevette.....	Page 10

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Special thanks to Don Allen for supplying our Grand National report. I had planned to attend the meet along with John Mahoney, who had entered his 1960 Impala. Aside from going to take pictures and write an article for the newsletter, John and I were going to visit with other region members who were attending. Unfortunately, one of our local GMC dealers thwarted our plans.

John had ordered a new GMC diesel pickup truck to use for trailer towing. The truck was supposed to be delivered a few days before the Grand National. In anticipation of the delivery, John sold his old truck. When delivery day arrived, the dealer messed up the tax and title paperwork. This would have caused a major financial inconvenience for John. The dealer didn't want to correct the situation so John walked out without taking delivery. Since he had no truck to pull the car trailer, he canceled the hotel and the trip. The dealer corrected the paperwork two days later, but it was too late to make the meet.

I had been in contact with a few region members regarding meeting and visiting at the Grand National. When we had to cancel, I advised them that we wouldn't be there. That's when Don volunteered to write a meet report.

Paul Dimbath's article is a great follow up to John Mahoney's earlier article about the Truly Nolen Pest Control display cars. This is one of

the most unique uses I've seen for a Space Age Chevrolet.

If you'd like me to publish your Hershey vendor space locations in the next newsletter, please forward them to me by September 20. As always, the region space is Red Field space RNI 86. It was great to receive visits from some of our region members at last year's Fall Meet.

Bill Pritchett recommends a very nice article about 1955-57 Chevrolets in the August 2018 *Hemmings Motor News*. The article covers each model year and also discusses the small block V8 engine developed for these cars. I think it's a worthwhile read.

I hope everyone is having a good summer. Stay well.

*Russell Heim*

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**1965 Impala Sport Sedan for Sale** - 6 cylinder, Powerglide, power steering, factory AM/FM radio, 82,000 miles. Contact your editor at [jetsmooth61@optimum.net](mailto:jetsmooth61@optimum.net) for more info. See the Cars for Sale section of the AACA on-line forum for more information. \$7500



**1975 Cosworth Vega for sale.** Contact John Mahoney at [johnmahchv@aol.com](mailto:johnmahchv@aol.com) for more information. Also see the Cars for Sale section of the AACA on-line forum for more information. \$14,500

# **ANOTHER PEST CONTROL COMPANY 1956 CHEVROLET - BY PAUL DIMBATH**

In the June issue, John Mahoney shared a car he saw on his way back from a cook out sponsored by the Orange Blossom Region of the AACA. The car which caught his eye, a 1956 210 two-door hardtop, was a “billboard” used by Truly Nolen, a pest control firm well known throughout Florida.

Truly Nolen is a family-owned pest control company started in Miami, Florida in 1938. Some claim he started business in Tucson, Arizona. They claim approximately 95 locations in the United States, and 300 plus franchises in 63 countries. I was raised in Miami, so I remember their cars from a very early age. I can remember when I was a very young lad, seeing a Truly Nolen “billboard” car. Truly died April 19th, 2017 in Naples, Florida.

Truly Nolen has been using a variety of collector cars since 1946 to bring attention to their company. The cars are rotated between high visibility locations monthly. After World War II, people were selling cars in droves to get new cars which had not been produced in four to five years. Truly started picking up cars cheap and used them to advertise his company.

You can go on line and get a list of their inventory, and most have a sale price. Let me warn you, they are nice 30 foot cars. Most would take a lot of work to bring them back to reasonable life.

While taking a break for coffee with the appropriate number of donuts one morning, I came upon another one of their billboards, this time it was a 1956 Bel Air, a rare four-door hard top. Seems like they prefer rare bodies. Its not uncommon at all to pass one of these billboards and someone is looking it over and taking photos. Like me.

I was fortunate enough to get permission to open up the car and hood. The car had modification under the hood. Aftermarket A/C and an alternator. The interior was better than I usually see in these cars. There was some small amount of body cancer but not much was visible.

Chevrolests are by far not the only manufacture represented in their collection. But they’re the most important.











# **2018 AACA Grand National Meet - Greensburg, PA**

## **By Don Allen - Photos By Mark DeFloria - Western PA Region AACA**

The Grand National Meet was held in Greensburg, PA on the beautiful Greensburg campus of the University of Pittsburgh. The venue was perfect for a car show, and the weather was ideal. About 500 of the 525 cars registered showed up. Since this was a Grand National Meet, there were no Driver Participation and no HPOF classes. To be eligible for a Grand National Meet, the cars must have received a Senior award the prior year or before. This means that these cars were all top notch candidates for a Grand National Award. Of the 500 cars in the meet, 88 of them were Chevrolets in 30 different classes. Corvettes alone accounted for 27 cars in four classes. I judged class 33 which is 1957 and 1958 Chevrolets, and in this class, we had 17 1957s and one 1958. Class 32 which is the 1955 and 1956 Chevrolets had only eight cars, four 1955 and four 1956 models. The high performance classes were very well represented, not only by Chevrolets, but all makes. There were Chevrolets of all types. They were as old as 1930 and also included Corvairs, Novas, Chevelles, Monte Carlos, Camaros, Impalas, and trucks.

In a Grand National Meet, even if you do not make the Grand National Award, you will get a preservation award if you score at least 350 out of 400. In addition, everyone receiving a Grand National Award will also receive a preservation award. Also, at the Grand National Meet, they give out the new Zenith Award. This is the AACA's "best of the best." Two cars are nominated for the Zenith award at each of the national meets. The nominees are brought to the Grand National, and a special selection committee picks the best of this special group. This year's winner was Gregory and Cheri Haack, of Freeport, Illinois with their 1935 Packard Super Eight convertible coupe.

Starting with next year's judging, three new changes have been instituted. They are:

1. 1957 Chevrolets will now move from class 33 to class 32 and the 1958 Chevrolets will move to class 27C.
2. All motorbikes having an engine size less than 50cc must be street legal to be judged.
3. Any car receiving its Senior Award prior to the registration deadline for the Annual Grand National Meet may now compete for a Grand National Award in the same year the Senior Award is received.















# **INTRODUCING CHEVETTE**

**BY RUSSELL HEIM**

## **1976 Chevette.** A new kind of American car.



Chevrolet introduced its new subcompact car to the public on September 16, 1975. Chevette was the result of a project to develop an American version of the Opel T-car. Chevrolet made a strong effort to avoid the problems encountered with the early Vegas. Attention was focused on making the Chevette reliable and avoiding recalls. Corrosion protection was also a major focus.

Chevette featured front engine, rear-wheel drive architecture. It was the first U.S. built metric car. Another first for an American car was an on-board diagnostic system for the electrical functions. The new cars rode on a 94.3 inch wheelbase and were 17 inches shorter and 600 pounds lighter than the Vega.

Chevette's four cylinder engines were designed by Opel. Despite featuring an iron block, Chevette's engine weighed 59 pounds less than Vega's alloy block engine. The new engine featured a belt driven overhead camshaft, crossflow porting and a new Rochester single barrel "Monojet" carburetor.



# How you can order the Chevette.



## **Chevette Coupe.**

This is the basic economy version of our four-passenger Chevette lineup. But don't let its low price sticker imply we've skimped on quality and features. Standard is the 1.4-litre 4-cylinder OHC engine, along with wall-to-wall carpeting, wide hatch with supports, fold-down rear seat, glove compartment, bright bumpers and trim moldings, acoustical insulation, and more.



## **Chevette Sport Coupe.**

If you like your car to have a trim, sporty appearance, this version was designed for you. Bold sport stripes, black accents plus all the standard features of the coupe, including your choice of 14 bright exterior colors. Four colors—light blue metallic, lime green, burnt orange and light red—are exclusive to Chevette among all 1976 Chevrolets.



## **Chevette Rally Coupe.**

This car looks like a performer, and it has the special equipment to do it. Standard are the larger 1.6-litre 4-cylinder OHC engine, special suspension with rear stabilizer bar, special instrumentation with tachometer and temperature gauge, sport shifter, sport steering wheel and passenger assist grip. Special identification, Rally-style wheel covers and black rocker panels give this Chevette a look all its own.



## **Chevette Woody Coupe.**

The Woody has the stylish look of a mini-Estate wagon. It has wood-grain vinyl exterior trim, a Custom Interior with wood-grain vinyl accents on the instrument cluster, a sport steering wheel and day-night rearview mirror. Included, too, are bright window moldings, wheel trim rings and a deluxe grille with bright accents.

**EXTERIOR COLORS.** For any of the above Chevettes, choose from antique white, silver, light blue metallic, dark blue metallic, lime green, bright yellow, cream, burnt orange, medium orange, firethorn metallic, light red, black, dark green metallic and buckskin.

## **Chevette Scooter.**



Introducing the Scooter, our lowest priced Chevette and a new kind of all-purpose, economy car just right for today's needs like shopping, commuting and pleasure driving. It has two full foam-cushioned front bucket seats, efficient 1.4-litre 4-cylinder OHC engine and synchronized 4-Speed manual transmission. There's less standard equipment than on the Chevette Coupe, but Scooter's price is less, too.

**SCOOTER COLORS.** Select from light blue, antique white, cream and light red.

Chevette's only body style was a two-door hatchback, but there were five trim levels.



If you like the special touch of added comfort and beauty, Chevette's available Custom Interior is right for you. The seats are available in new rattan-pattern all-vinyl in black, light buckskin, dark blue, dark firethorn or white. Or choose Rutledge sport cloth-and-vinyl in black, light buckskin, dark blue or dark firethorn. Also included: deluxe door trim, wood-grain vinyl accents on the instrument cluster, sport steering wheel, day-night rearview mirror, carpeting for the cargo area and added acoustical insulation.



The Scooter interior is a basic 2-passenger design with roomy rear area cargo space. Standard upholstery choices are all-vinyl or cloth-and-vinyl; passenger compartment floor covering is black carpet; the glove box is an open compartment.

13

Other Chevette features were a fully synchronized four-speed manual transmission, rack and pinion steering and front disc brakes.

Chevette was a unibody car. The hood and grille were a combined unit and the front fenders bolted onto the car. Bumpers were mounted on shock absorbers which connected to underbody rails. The front suspension had a stabilizer bar, coil springs, low friction ball joints and high caster geometry all mounted on a heavy-gauge crossmember. The rear suspension featured variable rate coil springs with a torque tube axle.

Chevette was only offered as two-door hatchback in 1976, but came in many trim levels. Buyers had a choice of two four-cylinder engines. The standard was engine was 85 cubic inches and produced 52 horsepower. A 60 horsepower, 97.6 cubic inch engine was a \$51 option.

The "standard" Chevette listed for \$3,098 and weighed 1,927 pounds. It came with the 52 horsepower engine with four-speed manual transmission, blackwall tires on 13x5 disc wheels, heater/defroster, fuel gauge, courtesy light, easy access instrument panel, spare tire below cargo floor, do-it-yourself service manual, color-keyed wall to wall carpet, fold down rear seat, glove compartment with door latch and bright bumpers with trim molding and acoustic insulation.



Chevette's front seats were buckets, while the rear seat was a bench with a folding backrest. Four all vinyl interiors and two cloth and vinyl interiors were offered. 14 exterior colors were available. Chevette was the first Chevrolet to feature steering column mounted finger-tip stalk controls for headlight dimming, turn signals and wiper/washer.

Some available options were the 60 horsepower engine, AM/FM radio, air conditioning, twin sport mirrors, bumper guards, roof rack, turbo-hydra-matic automatic transmission, rear defroster and swing-out rear windows.

For extremely frugal customers, Chevrolet offered the Chevette Scooter at \$2,899. The Scooter had no back seat and weighed 1,870 pounds. Scooter's interior had vinyl upholstery and rubber floor mats. The glove compartment had no door. Only four exterior colors were available for the Scooter.

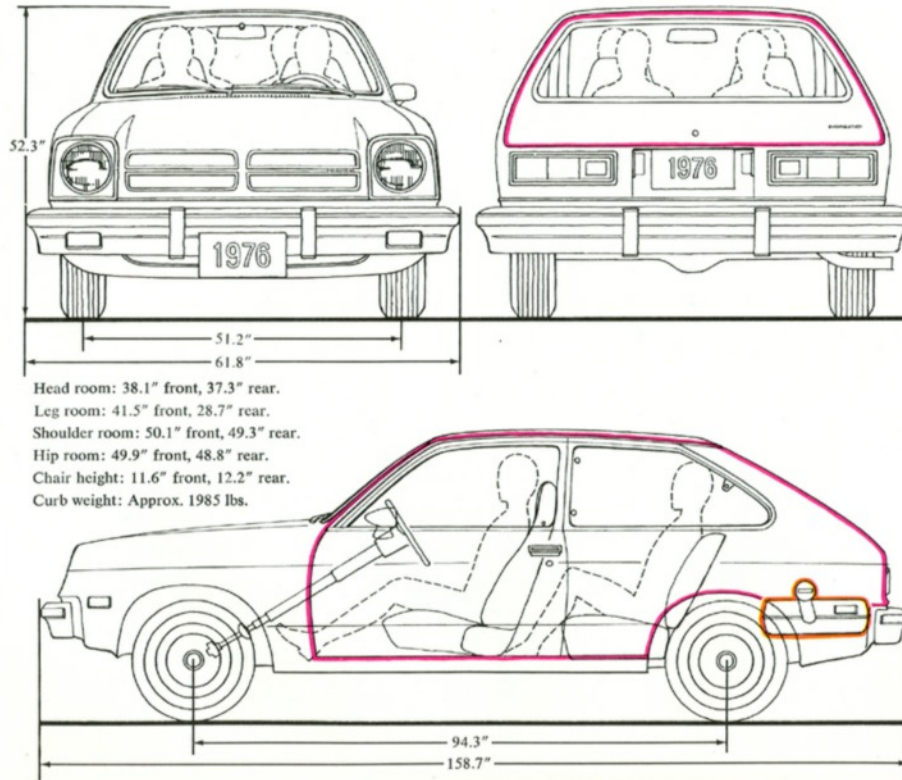
Chevette was economic to maintain. The suggested service intervals were long for the time. According to Chevrolet literature, the spark plugs were good for 22,500 miles and the air cleaner only needed to be changed every 50,000 miles. Oil changes and lube jobs were scheduled for six months or 7,500 miles. Transmission fluid didn't need changing until the car logged 60,000 miles.

The usual hyperbole was featured in the sales brochures. The biggest claim they made was the gas mileage (a huge concern in 1975), 40 miles per gallon highway and 28 city. The brochure took aim at Chevette's competitors, "Its wheelbase is about the same as VW Rabbit's. It has more front seat leg room than a Toyota Corolla two-door sedan and more front seat headroom than a Datsun B210 two-door sedan." Another interesting item in the brochure states that, "The 1976 Chevette is America's first metric car the forerunner of America's cars of tomorrow." The sales pitch also claimed: "Chevette. More than just a new car for America, it's a new kind of American car."

This "new kind of American car" was a sales success for Chevrolet. In 1976 they sold 178,007 standard Chevettes and 9,810 Chevette Scooters. Despite being quickly considered obsolete because of the front engine rear wheel drive platform, Chevette was very popular and lasted through the 1987 model year. It was the best selling small car in the United States in 1979 and 1980. Chevrolet sold almost 2.8 million Chevettes over the 12 year model run.

Has anyone seen a Chevette lately? I remember seeing one parked in front of the local post office, probably at least 10 years ago. It probably belonged to a postal worker because it was always parked in the same place. I've never seen one at a car show or an AACA meet. If any of you owns one, please submit photos and a story about your Chevette. If you encounter one in your travels, please photograph it so we can feature it in the newsletter.

## Service, size, capacities, more.



### FULL-WIDTH HATCH.

Loading a Chevette through the rear hatch is easy because of its 48-inch maximum width and 28.5-inch height with the hatch open. Pneumatic hatch supports are standard.

### TRI-COLOR TAILLIGHTS.

Here's another of the international features standard on Chevette: red, amber and white taillights which quickly signal to the driver behind what your driving intentions are. The red taillights glow when your headlights or parking lights are on. Apply your brakes and



the red taillights show a brighter glow. The bright amber taillights will flash with your turn signals or hazard warning flasher. Put your Chevette in reverse gear and the backup lights light up.

### 13-GALLON GAS TANK.

Combine Chevette's fuel efficiency with this size gas tank and you can drive hundreds of miles between fill-ups.

12

## What it's like inside Chevette.

Just because Chevette Coupe is economical in price, efficient in size and easy on gas doesn't mean its interior has to be less comfortable, less attractive than you want your car to be. Take a look at the front seats. They're thick foam, contoured buckets for comfort and support. The retractor for the combination seat-and-shoulder belt is hidden in the body pillar. Inertia-type seat locks securely hold the backrest in a sudden stop but allow easy entry into the rear seat. Also, the rear seat is full width with thick foam cushions. Front and rear seats are

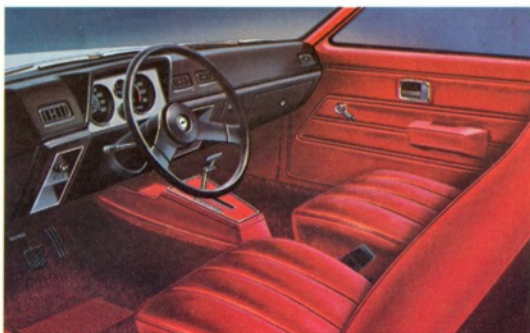
upholstered in soft vinyl in your choice of black, dark blue, light buckskin or dark firethorn; also, cloth-and-vinyl in light buckskin or dark firethorn.



Other standard features inside the Chevette Coupe include: generous head, shoulder and hip room for four passengers; flow-through ventilation; built-in

heater/defroster; choice of accent colors for the cowl panels and carpeting; black instrument panel; and a specially designed steering wheel that helps provide visibility for all instrumentation.

The instrument panel is cluster-designed for easy viewing with a speedometer that indicates both miles per hour and kilometers per hour, a fuel gauge, and warning lights for temperature, generator and oil pressure. (Special instrumentation with tachometer and temperature gauge is available.)



A floor-mounted 4-Speed manual transmission is standard. The color-keyed carpeting is standard, too, on Chevette Coupe (a luxury usually not found in small, economy cars). There's even a glove compartment with a latch-type door.



The rear seat on Chevette Coupe folds down to give a roomy, wagon-like area for carrying larger items. There's also out-of-sight storage under the easily removed floor panel, where the spare tire is hidden from view.



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.

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

**• 40 MPG highway**  
**• 28 MPG city - EPA**

# Chevette

That's right.  
40 mpg highway, 28 mpg city,  
based on EPA test results with  
standard 1.4-litre engine and 4-speed  
manual transmission. (Remember:  
These mileage figures are estimates.  
The actual mileage you get will vary  
depending on the type of driving you  
do, your driving habits, your car's  
condition, and available equipment.)  
Chevette is international in

design and heritage, with engineering  
concepts proved around the world.  
Its wheelbase is about the same  
as the VW Rabbit's.  
It has more front-seat head  
room than a Datsun B-210 2-door  
sedan and more front-seat leg room  
than a Toyota Corolla 2-door sedan.  
It has one of the shortest  
turning circles in the world, making  
it extremely nimble.

It is protected by 17 anti-  
corrosion methods.  
At \$2899\*, the two-seat Scooter  
model is priced \$431† below the low-  
est priced VW Rabbit. The four-seat  
Chevette Coupe is priced \$232† below  
the Rabbit.††

In short, it's a new kind of  
American car. Sold and serviced by  
all 6,030 Chevrolet dealers from  
sea to shining sea.

**Prices start at \$2899\*.**

2-Seat Scooter (shown)	\$2899*
Chevette Coupe (not shown)	\$3098*
The Sport (not shown)	\$3175*
The Rally (not shown)	\$3349*
The Woody (not shown)	\$3404*



**Chevrolet's new kind of American car.**

In California, see your Chevrolet dealer for EPA mileage figures and engine/transmission combinations available on California emission-equipped cars.  
\*Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price including dealer new vehicle preparation charge. Destination charge, available equipment, state and local taxes are additional.  
†Not including dealer new vehicle preparation charge additional on VW Rabbit.  
††Based on a comparison of Manufacturers' Suggested Retail Prices.