

Competition Chair— Rich Taylor

CORVETTE COMPETITION**Competition Report**

Our final competition event of the year was a huge success with 41 participants from several different Corvette clubs. The weather was great and everyone loved the course layout. The event ran smoothly with only a few minor timing equipment issues. I'd like to thank everyone who came out to support this event either as a worker or a participant as we could not have been successful without your help. A special thanks goes out to Don Haller and Van Vanderhaar for operating the timing equipment and for Nita Armstrong and Jean Wade for handling all of the registration chores. We also had a successful autocross training class on Saturday with 7 students, 6 of whom also registered and participated in the autocross events on Sunday. Stay tuned for information on next year's competition events as we are planning four more autocrosses and autocross primer training courses and plan to develop and conduct some intermediate autocross training classes for those who are ready to advance to the next level. A brief overview of our autocross primer course is included below. Other events will include a drag race/car show, several High performance Drivers Events (HPDEs) and Fridays at The Track (FATT), and a club coordinated participation in the Baltimore Grand Prix events in downtown Baltimore.

Corvette Club of America Autocross Primer (Open to All Types of Cars)



This is a primer autocross class for those who are just starting out or for those who would like to brush up on their skills before running in a timed event. The class will consist of a combination of classroom time, time in the shop to review proper car preparation and safety and lots of time on the course honing your driving skills with an experienced driver. The following are some of the items that you will learn:

- What to bring to an autocross event
- Car preparation
- Technical and safety inspection
- Walking the course
- Reading the course map & learning the course
- Taking notes
- Tips for accelerating, turning and braking
- Lots of practice runs in your car with an experienced driver

We will use the classroom and shop facilities at Lincoln Technical Institute and drive on a course that will be set up in the Lincoln Tech parking lot. A Snell 2005 "SA" or "M" rated helmet is required in order to participate. If you have a helmet, please bring it with you. Several helmets will be available to class participants who do not have one.

As you can see, we are planning another great year of competition events to offer an opportunity for you to enjoy your car for the purpose for which it was designed, **To Go Fast**, so if you have an interest in driving your car in a competitive event, please feel free to contact me to discuss your interests and find out what events will satisfy your desires. I look forward to seeing you out on the track with a big smile on your face.

Below are a few pictures from our last autocross event of the year.

Living Life in the Fast Lane

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CCA Competition Chairman

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Catching up on some competition events not reported yet

By Pat Roney

August 19th Summit Point FATT

Rich T., Vic B., Gary N. and I signed up for the August 19th Summit Point FATT. Rich had a tire problem in the first round and had to take a rain check. The rest of us were all in Group 2 and had fun running together. The weather was nice for the entire day, something we could not say for the Sunday NASA event.

August 20 & 21st NASA event at Summit Point

The Saturday NASA event provided good weather for Gary N., Dan W., Tom A., Bob C., new member Art B. and myself. We had 3 each 25 minute track sessions on Saturday and plenty of actual wheel to wheel races to keep us entertained between track times.

Sunday morning was nice, but rain dampened our afternoon sessions. I decided to try a run in the rain for the 2nd session and learned why the rain sessions are not very popular. Wipers had to be on high speed while on the track and the windows had to be down. At one point while making a right turn into turn 9 I felt water splashing on me and looked to see a waterfall coming over the roof and into the car. I was out long enough to see how my car handled at speed on a wet track. The braking and cornering was better than I expected but I had to be very careful with the acceleration. Even though I had toned it down, even a moderate amount of throttle induced wheel spin. As you can see from the pictures, the rain was fairly intense.



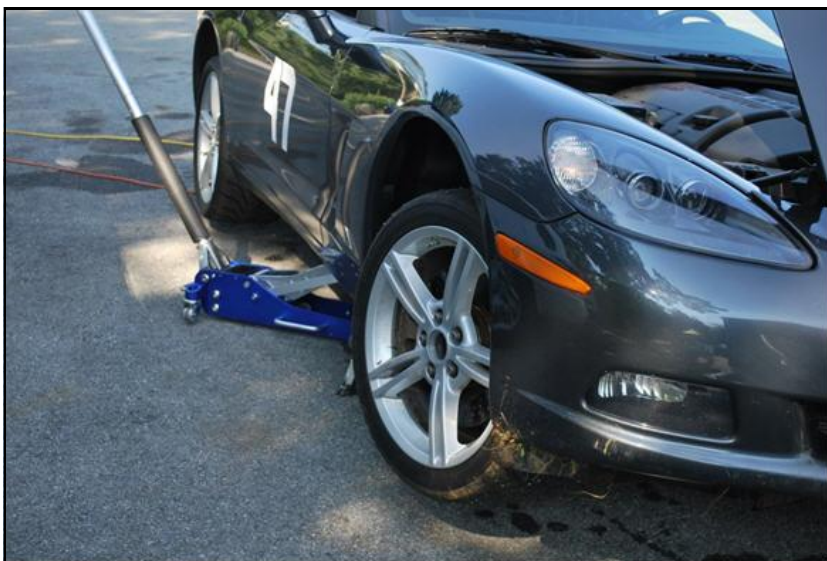
Dan getting his car ready for the track. Tire changes to racing rubber, brake bleeding and brake pad changes are some of the more typical adjustments



Gary, our most experienced track driver with his pride and joy Leona.



Tom A. heading out for a track run. At this point of the season I would have to give Tom the most improved driver award.



A little dirt on Bob C's car after an off track experience.



Tom checking out the rain Sunday afternoon.



We stayed to watch the Mazda Miata's race towards the end of the day. It is quite exciting to see 30 Mazdas all trying to get to turn one first. Several times in the race one or more would not be able to get slowed down enough and would slide off track.

Any of you that are interested in the competition side of our club should come out and hang with us and watch these races.

Northern Virginia Corvette Clubs Spooktacular event October 22nd

I traveled over to Old Dominion Speedway to autocross with many of the NCCC East Region members. I didn't get a chance to walk the course before the event so my first few runs were very slow trying to figure out where to go, but by the end of the day I had cut my time to a reasonable number. It is always a pleasure visiting with NVCC and other East Region clubs. Afterwards, we all went out

to dinner to recount the great times.



Chin Motorsports at Virginia International Raceway event October 30 & 31, 2011

Gary N., Dan W., Vic B., Bob C. and myself caravanned down to VIR for a 2 day on track event. We drove down in the snow on Saturday, November 29th, which was not the best way to get us in the mood to get our cars on the track. Sunday and Monday were much better days and we all had a blast. This was one of the first times that we all were solo, no instructor, in the blue group. The blue group is just one step under the actual racers in the red group. In the blue group we can pass anywhere on the track, including corners, with a point by from the car in front. It is a very fast group and very intimidating for the first time out.

I didn't get a chance to take pictures during the track event but did manage to get this photo of our group relaxing after a day on the track at the Oak Tree Tavern on site at Virginia International Raceway. We were so excited that least half of us were all talking at the same time. The excitement here is something to witness. The couple at the right of the photo are from North Carolina. We met Graham at Watkins Glen and have stayed in touch with him since. I managed to get rides with Graham and our own Dan W. The rides with my buddies have been some of the most exciting times on the track. It gives you a chance to relax and see things that you don't notice while driving on the track.

Bob C. gets the award for most improved driver at this event with Vic right behind him. Bob did a 2 minute 17 second lap which puts him right behind Gary and Dan for the fastest. I am finding more and more that I can't keep up with the worn out street tires I am using. Maybe Santa will bring me racing tires for Christmas.



We have a good group of drivers in our competition group and enjoy talking about our events with anyone that will listen. If you are at all interested in learning more about what we do, feel free to ask. The beginners group on the track is pretty tame with an instructor in the car teaching you the driving techniques while you drive at your own comfort level of speed.

Pat Roney

