



Corvette Club of America

the Corvette Courier

The Worlds Oldest Corvette Club

The President's Corner - Don Haller

January 2009

The Prez Says

Wow, 2008 sure flew by!!! I can hardly believe it is a whole New Year and with so many changes taking place in our world, our country, our economy and in our club. I am looking forward to the changes coming for us and hope that they bring good things for our membership in the Corvette Club of America.

As this is the first time that I have addressed you as the President of CCA, I would like take just a few words to say how happy I am to serve as president of the club this year, and I hope to continue the good service that Flo, Jean and the entire board of 2008 provided.

2008 was a big year for CCA; we hosted a lot of great events due to the dedication and support of all those members that donated their time and energy to make them happen.

A few milestones for 2008 included a highly successful Car Show in May despite bad weather moving in on us. We partnered with Lancaster County Corvette Club to Co-host our first Autocross event in many years. The CCA Users Forum was created on the web. Some of our members drove their cars at VIR during track day there this year. We made an additional commitment to meet our \$10,000 Student Award Fund and Jon Thorn made a significant personal donation moving us closer to our goal. Additionally, CCA members stepped forward at renewal time this year and donated additional funds to assist with meeting our goal sooner. As usual we did some other fun things like attend a pool party at Joe and Angie Vaeth's house to kick off the summer, we went to Corvettes at Carlisle, Ocean City Corvette Weekend and visited the Goldberg's for some down-home Country fun in Frederick during October. To wind up the year and make one last splash, we developed a new relationship with Sport Chevrolet and accepted them as sponsors at their dealership in Silver Spring. We have had a great kickoff party at Sport and great December shop night considering nobody drove their Corvette in the sleet and freezing rain. You liked last year? Stay tuned, we are just getting started with 2009!

I am looking forward to this year as president and have a few goals in mind for the club that I would like to see happen. First, I would like to see the University of Maryland Endowment get fulfilled this year by generating more funds at upcoming events. To do this I would like to get started immediately on developing plans for the biggest CCA Corvette Show ever that will be held at Sport Chevrolet this spring. I need a commitment from our membership to assist with judging the concourse event. I will need

many people to make this event happen the way I envision it. This will be a full NCCC Concourse with two additional fun shows held simultaneously. I plan to advertise far & wide and aggressively to bring in as many Corvette enthusiasts to this event this year. I would also like to get us moving forward on hosting and sharing more autocross races with other clubs, I think these are great fun and can be profitable for the club as well. And most of all, I want each of you to have fun doing what we like to do most, and that is have fun while driving our Corvettes!

Now I'd like to put in a short plug for our annual Awards Banquet that is being held on January 24th in Chevy Chase. Please contact Flo or Jean to get your reservation in. This should be a real fun time this year!

See you at the banquet!!



Membership Director—Jean Wade

CCA Membership Update

MEMBER NEWS AND INFORMATION

Happy New Year 2009 members.

Everyone should have a CCA black and gold card with 2009 punch. If you don't you will need to contact me. Jean 301-253-6074.

You should receive your new 2009 NCCC card and information towards the end of this month.

Start the New Year off with a CCA polo shirt. We have most all colors.

CCA polo shirts can be ordered for \$35. You need to contact Jean Wade.

Any questions about CCA or club clothing, events and membership can be directed to me. vettehon@aol.com 301-253-6074

If you are not receiving your club e-mail give me a call.

NCCC Questions direct to our New Gov. **Rich Taylor** 301-865-6491
Richard.j1.taylor@lmco

CCA License Plates contact **Jim Snyder** for complete information 301—948-5766 or jsnyder0623@hotmail.com

Dec. Shop night was held at Sport in Silver Spring despite the weather. They had about 15 members attending the winterizing tech session. I don't think anyone drove his or her Vettes that evening. **Next shop night** will be Jan. 27th. Arrive anytime after 6:30pm. We should be out by 8:30 or so. We will go out to eat afterwards. Place will be announced.

CCA Events:

COMPETITION PLANNING MEETING: JANUARY 13th AT 7PM AT THE MANGIARE BENE RESTAURANT IN GAITHERSBURG. ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ARE URGED TO ATTEND.

Jan. 24th 6-10pm RSVP by the 14th. See flyer and food selection form in newsletter.

Corvette Club of America Awards Banquet & Party

Alfio's Cucina Italiana
4515 Willard Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Any donations of door prizes would be most helpful. Send to Jean Wade.

Keep that smile on your face, your foot down on the pedal, and give me a curve

Blast the radio. Wow, what a life.

Jean Wade - 2000 Red coupe Membership, director 301-253-6074 vettehon@aol.com



The Editor's Corner— Jon Thorn

CORVETTE RAMBLINGS

Happy New Year everyone! I hope to see you all at the CCA Awards Banquet and Party on the 24th. Please make sure to get your RSVP in to Jean as soon as you can.

I have an update from our Toys for Tots Run at the Rockville Hooters in November. A mystery has been solved. I mentioned in the December Courier that we didn't know who won fifth place. Bob Jones contacted me to let me know that he is the owner of the Pewter C5 with the tag 6-SPEED. The car is otherwise known as the Gray Ghost. Bob was accompanied by his good friend Joe Taylor who was a former President of the CCA back in the early 1960's. Bob commented that he and Joe thoroughly enjoyed the event. For next year's Toys for Tots Run I think we will need to focus a little more on the fun show results and a little less on the establishment's employees so that we can keep our records straight! In any event, Bob, congratulations on the win!

For those of you who missed Frank's talk on winter storage at the last Shop Night, we have a nice collection of winterizing tips later in this issue from our own Keith Mordoff. Thanks Keith for contributing the article!

On the subject of Sport Chevrolet, I have a special request from Lee for our opinions on the following question. I hope you'll make a point to contact him. It would be even better to catch him in person; but, if you want to send him an email, you can reach him at lshirley@sportautomotive.com.

ATTENTION CORVETTE OWNERS



We at *Sport Chevrolet* would like your personal input concerning our two glass display cases in our parts department. Your input is very important to us as to what we should stock or display for *You - the Corvette Owner* - and what you would realistically consider to purchase from us during your visit here for Corvette Accessories. *You - the Corvette Owner* - have in your possession the most popular Sports Car in America, Bar None. Others make claim to be there, but Corvette is Number 1. Always has been, Always will be!

So, it's **VERY IMPORTANT** to us, to receive your input. Corvette Owners DO wish to accessorize.

You can contact us by mail, e-mail, or by phone, whatever is most convenient for you, and bring it to the attention of Lee Shirley.

Thank you very much for choosing Sport Chevrolet for your Service Department needs and we sincerely hope to hear from you soon.

Finally, before I run out of space here, please note that the Competition Committee is holding a meeting on January 13th. There is more info in Pat's report. Be there if you can.

I hope to see you all on the 24th!

Jon Thorn – CCA Courier Editor

NCCC Governor's Report



Happy New Year!!! The 2009 East Region Calendar of Events is now posted at the following link <http://www.ernccc.org/events.php> . This calendar will be updated throughout the year, so if you are interested in participating in these events, please refer to this calendar. Just click on the link for any event to get the details to sign up and participate. For those of you with teenage drivers, I would like to call your attention to one of the first events of the year. On March 28th the Northern Virginia Corvette Club is sponsoring a drivers' school. This class teaches safe driving techniques and vehicle control. They have sponsored this event many times and I understand that it is an excellent class room and hands-on event. The details have not yet been posted, but check the calendar for more information later this month.

You should be receiving your NCCC 2009 membership renewal packets in the mail no later than 1/19/09. If you do not receive it by then, please contact me. Below is a picture of what the envelope looks like so that you don't dispose of it accidentally.



As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding NCCC events, news or information.

Your NCCC Governor,
Rich Taylor
Richard.j1.taylor@lmco.com

Competition Chair— Pat Roney

CORVETTE COMPETITION**COMPETITION REPORT December 2008**

No new activity to report in December, but we are now into a new year. Happy New Year to all. I am looking forward to another successful year for the competition group. We are planning a Muscle Car Mania car show and drag race in the spring, an All Corvette car show and drag race in the fall, a High Speed Driving Event (HSDE) and a lot of autocross activity. I am still waiting to get some input on the High Speed Driving Event as to whether we want to try to get into the National Corvette Museum (NCM) sponsored event at Virginia International Raceway in July or stick closer to home at the Summit Point Friday at the Track. The NCM sponsored event is difficult to get into as there is a specific sign up time, I believe in March, and it fills up quickly, but it is one of the most respected HSDE programs you can attend. For more info please check out the article in our Corvette Courier August 2008 issue section 1 under Ramblings, and in the August 2007 section 2, page 4 titled "An Outstanding Two Days!". Both articles are by our editor Jon Thorn.

We will be discussing all of this on Tuesday, January 13th at 7pm, just before the business meeting. I would appreciate if all of the interested parties would be there to help get our year off to a good start. Please bring you inputs for new events or for changes to the usual events. Some of the items to discuss will be the preferred dates for the Muscle Car Mania event and for the All Corvette event, the rain cancellation policy, the allowing cars other than Corvettes to make practice runs only at the All Corvette race, and any other controversial things. If you can not make this meeting, please email me with your ideas or concerns.

I am wishing you a wonderful new year, with good health and prosperity.

Pat Roney
Competition Chair
Corvette Club of America ER-001
Proney42@verizon.net



**COMPETITION PLANNING MEETING:
January 13TH AT 7PM AT THE MANGIARE
BENE RESTAURANT IN GAITHERSBURG.
ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ARE URGED
TO ATTEND.**

“Oh Winter, you bring us these restless, Corvette-less days”
-some tips for winterizing or storing your Corvette this winter

By Keith Mordoff

Growing up in California it never would have crossed my mind to “winterize” a car or actually put it in storage for a few months. For years I owned a 1956 MGA while living in Los Angeles that I honestly never (not once) put the top up. If it got too cold, we’d pull out the lap blanket. If it rained, I’d just drive a little faster. The car didn’t even have working windshield wipers. But living here, we have a different reality. Between winter weather and road salt, I don’t know about you, but my Corvette only saw one day on the road in December. So what should we do with winter upon us? First decide if you will drive your Corvette at all or actually put it into a dormant sleep for a few months. If you choose to “winterize” your car – meaning you plan to drive it some over the winter months, it’s a good idea to follow these 10 steps.

1-Change the oil. Fresh oil removes any contaminants that will lie around in your engine. Also make sure you get the correct viscosity in your engine for the cold temperatures of winter.

2- Keep your windshield clean – Whether it’s putting new blades on your wipers, filling your washer reservoirs, or keeping a clean rag in your car for those low-sun mornings when your windows are dirty, you need to be able to see.

3-Check your battery. Check to see if your posts are corrosion-free. Is it fully charged? Topped up if needed?

4- Check your engine belts and hoses. Take a look at their condition and tension.

5- Tire pressures. Cold air means the air pressure in your tires is likely lower. Get them up to the right temperatures. Check your spare tire as well.

6- Consider a separate set of tires. This might not make sense for us Corvette owners, but a set of winter tires or all season tires this time of year might be a good idea for your daily driver. My summer-only tires on my Mini Cooper S are good for nothing on wet, sloshy winter roads. Separately if you have an all-wheel drive vehicle, check the systems function if it has not been used the rest of the year.

7- Check your anti-freeze. A 50-50 mix of anti-freeze and water is a must this time of year. An inexpensive antifreeze tester from the local auto parts store is a good idea. Drain, re-fill, and flush the system if it has been awhile or the mixture ratio is off.

8- Jumper cables – Throw them in your car for you and others just in case.

9-Kitty litter. If you live in a snowy area or are expecting a storm, carry a bag of non-clumping kitty litter for drive-wheel traction. Also consider carrying a shovel just in case you or someone else gets stuck.

10- Emergency kit. Put one together and carry it if you don’t have one. Blanket, boots, gloves, wa-

ter, food, flashlight, tool kit, first-aid kit, flares...use your head. Know what to do if you do get stranded. Stay with your car unless you know where you are and can get to a safe place. Light flares outside your car to get attention. Use blankets or extra clothes to stay warm. If you have a lot of gas in your tank, run your car and heater for 10 min each hour you are waiting for help. Stay home if it really looks bad.

So if your Corvette is a low-mileage, fair-weather car, or like mine, has 315s at the rear so wide that driving on anything other than dry roads is an adventure in driving sideways, maybe putting your car asleep for several months is a better option. Here are some steps for you:

First do you start your car occasionally or not start the car – this is a debate with no right or wrong answer: I never completely put my car away, so I do start mine now and then. But, I'll cover the "cold-storage" non-start method.

- 1- Wash and wax the car. You want it as clean as possible.
- 2- Clean your garage or storage space. You want it as spotless as possible and lay down a plastic sheet below where your car will be as a moisture barrier.
- 3- Change all fluids in your car. Oil, engine coolant, hydraulic brake and clutch fluid, windshield washer fluid. Also, add gas stabilizer to your fuel tank with a nearly empty tank, and then fill your gas tank to the top.
- 4- Vacuum and clean the interior. The cleaner it is going in, the better it will be (and smell) when you put your car on the road. Place desiccants in the car to suck up moisture. These can be bought and put on the floor foot wells and in the rear deck. This prevents mildew from growing and keeps the leather from deteriorating due to accumulated moisture.
- 5- Park it – drive your car onto the plastic sheet that will prevent water vapor from rising up into your car and it will keep any fluids from staining your garage floor. It also will make a decent barrier to prevent mice from making a cozy winter home under your hood.
- 6- Oil in cylinders – Loosen the spark plugs and squirt a small amount of oil into each cylinder to prevent the rings from corroding.
- 7- Jack it up. Jack up your car onto jack stands (move the plastic around them) to relieve the strain on your suspension and to prevent any flat spots to your tires. If you choose to leave your car on its tires, pump up the tire pressure to the max pressure allowed.
- 8- Relieve the fuel pressure. Check your manual on this one for your year car, but with many cars you need to start it and then disconnect the fuel pump wiring harness. The car will sputter and die when there is no pressure in the fuel line.
- 9- Plug up your tailpipes and intakes with steel wool so no critters will pass.
- 10- Remove the battery and place it on a battery tender to keep it fully charged.
- 11- Tuck up the plastic sheet up around the car. Tuck it around the wheels and hold the sides up by closing the plastic into your doors. Top off the car with a car cover.

But maybe this is the best plan of all. Keep running your car in a warm climate. On the following page is the championship winning ZO6.R GT3 of Martini Calloway Racing which won the FIA GT3 Team Championship in Dubai! Now that is a great way to spend the winter months!

