

## Summit Point High

by  
Jim Wray

I automatically became a member of Corvette Club of America when I picked up my brand spanking new 2010 Blade Silver Corvette GS at Sport Chevrolet on June 26 this year. I've always wanted a Corvette and fondly remember being particularly smitten by a silver blue, split window 1963 Corvette I saw when I was young. Now I have one too!

Since picking it up I've been to two Shop Nights at Sport Chevy and was invited to club president Don Haller's birthday party get together. Happy Birthday, Don! I've gotten to know Pat Roney at these events and he was talking me up constantly about going to the Northern Virginia Corvette Club Car Control Clinic event at Summit Point, West Virginia, on August 7th. I wasn't sure I wanted to do this and wasn't quite sure what it was all about but Pat kept hammering away. He and some other members were spinning some really tall tales about these events. Or so I thought. Due to some work issues of my own I kept avoiding the issue, not knowing if it was time for me, but I finally relented at the last minute and decided to go for it. Boy, what a surprise!

Although some other club guys were talking about a group leaving very early Saturday morning for the same day event, none of that panned out. I didn't want to leave DC at 5:00 AM and rush to get there all worn out sitting in class and on the track so I decided to leave the night before. I left Friday evening after the rental helmet I ordered from OGRacing.com was finally delivered by UPS. You need a helmet for the track so try OGRacing.com who will rent you one over the phone and deliver it the next day for about 50 bucks. My plan was take Route 66 and then 50 to Winchester, stay at the Travelodge where you get a discount for Summit Point, rise early enough for a full breakfast at the IHOP next door, and head for the track in time for 7:00 AM first call. If you do this you need to tell the hotel you're there for Summit Point to get the discount. Its not a bad place for \$60 a night. Everything worked out well except for finding Summit Point the next morning. The place is tucked way back in the countryside and I didn't think it was too easy to find so check your charts if you go. Of course, there's always this new thing called GPS.

OK, so you get there around 7-ish, there's morning stillness lingering in the air, and other Corvettes are rolling in parking in neat rows in grass sections in front of the "paddock." The paddock is the building where all the logistics activities take place. People are milling around, coffee in hand, checking their cars, introducing themselves, while occasionally an old Bimmer or Datsun rolls in. You'll see mostly Corvettes but we did have an Acura and a Cadillac CTS in the crowd along with a few odd classics.

Around 7:30 the call came over the loud speaker for students to sign up in the paddock and then take their cars to "tech." Tech is vehicle inspection before getting on the track. Standard practice is for the tech crew to torque the lug nuts on every vehicle, make an overall check of the engine and condition, and to make sure you have a helmet. Oh yeah, and "take those floor mats out of the drivers side, no floor mats allowed." So you go to registration, get your car and line up in the tech line. From there - well - from there you don't have time to think about anything else for the rest of the day.



Tech In



Skid pad

From tech we parked our cars and went to school. We got a well delivered Racecar 101 class which included points on seat positioning, wheel grip, the physics of performance driving, and charts of how the practice sessions in braking and slalom were laid out. Then it was off to practice those newly learned maneuvers. The skies were clear and the sun was just beginning to heat up what was going to be a very warm day.

First it was braking, then the skid pad where we practiced oversteer and understeer, and finally, the slalom which was a lot of fun. We got to run over a lot of pylons. There were many instructors available and after we made a run at one challenge we'd get back in line for another run with a new instructor joining us in the car. This was good because we'd get different pointers from each instructor and many perspectives on our amateur performance. One thing I can say about this part of the training is that it sets you up for what will be practiced later in the day. You need to pay close attention to what the instructors say because it isn't immediately clear about how some of the subtle practice details will be woven into your real track driving later in the day. For us there were some sweltering temperatures even early in the day. We eventually finished in time to return to the paddock for lunch certainly dehydrated from several hours in the sun and hot cars. Well, they said to drink plenty of fluids in class and told us if we weren't peeing once an hour we weren't getting enough fluids.

Lunch was courtesy of the NVCC and consisted of grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, soda, chips, potato salad, and a lot of car talk about the morning. I don't think there was a lot of anticipation for the afternoon session. Everyone seemed content with the morning's offerings and just relaxed and talked as they munched their hot dogs and burgers. After a while it was time for the afternoon class which included a layout of the track identifying all the key curve features, the "line," track etiquette, flag colors, hand signals, passing on the track, instructor-student relations. Then we were off to the track again but it would be a little different this time.

All I can say now is...wow! Wow! Never, ever could I have dreamed of the surprise that awaited me. This wasn't a lot of fun. It wasn't exciting. It was a drug! And I needed more and more each time I got on the track. That first launch onto the track was wild even with an instructor. He encourages you to jump to what seems transonic speed if you can handle it and you don't decelerate until you get the checkered flag several laps later for your cool down run. It could have gotten scarier as each lap on

the track passed and as I approached the curves faster each time and the instructor would say “Wait, not yet, wait, more gas, more gas, TURN! We were already doing 90 mph as we approached turn one and I would turn too soon, too slow. “No brakes, no brakes, it puts too much weight on the front of the car!”

By the end of the day I had done four series of laps, two in my car with the instructor, one in his car with him driving, and the final series again in my car with the instructor. That’s about 24 laps on a 1.1 mile circuit and I have newly found admiration for real race car drivers. Once I gained enough confidence that the car could actually reach such high levels of performance, I started to get in the groove. By the fourth series I was right there in the groove. It was like killing the track. I focused on curve entry points and apexes and exit points, I was no longer concerned about too much speed, the car could handle that, it was more important to thread the car into a trajectory at maximum speed. That trajectory is the shortest distance around the track. As the instructor said, “you, the car, the track all become the same thing.” What a high!



Jim practicing Turn 7.



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AND FOR CARS USING ELECTRONICS  
SEPARATE CLASSES FOR CORVETTES AND OTHER MAKES  
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INCLUDING KING OF THE HILL  
TEST AND TUNE - NOON 'TIL 2:30PM BRACKET ELIMINATIONS 3-4PM

Contact Rich Taylor: [richard.j1.taylor@lmco.com](mailto:richard.j1.taylor@lmco.com)

Corvette Club of America is proud to be sponsored by SPORT Chevrolet, Silver Spring, MD



The Town of Poolesville and the Poolesville Day Committee Inc. are hosting the 5th Annual....

# Poolesville Day

## Classic Rod, Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show

Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Live Music!  
Crafts! Food!



Kids Activities!  
Over 100 Vendors!

**When:** Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 during Poolesville Day. Entrants must be in place by Noon. No entrees will be allowed after Noon. Vehicles will not be able to leave show until trophies are awarded at 3:15 PM, or after the main entertainment band of the day completes their set. In case of rain, check [www.Poolesvilleday.com](http://www.Poolesvilleday.com) for more info. **This is just a three hour show---easy in, easy out! Full access to all Poolesville Day Festivities!**

**Where:** **Cars**---Healthworks Fitness Center parking lot. **Motorcycles**---Lined up from in front of Jamison Realty to old Town Hall. Both at intersection of RT 109 and Fisher Avenue. [Add'l Entry Forms can be picked up at Town Hall.](#)

### \*\*\* Important Information \*\*\*

- The Poolesville Day Classic Car, Rod, Truck and Motorcycle Show is a "Show and Shine" event. There are no specific vehicle classifications. We're looking for Antique, Classic, Sports or specialty cars/trucks and motorcycles.
- Judging will be conducted by popular ballot amongst spectators attending show. One vote per spectator (will be strictly enforced).
- **1<sup>st</sup> Place Trophies and a \$50.00 Bassett's Gift Certificate will be awarded to the entrants voted "Most Popular" in both Car/Truck and Motorcycle categories. Trophies for "2<sup>nd</sup> Most Popular" and "Commissioner's Choice" will also be awarded in both categories.**
- All cars must be legally registered/tagged and in good-to-excellent cosmetic/running condition.
- **Absolutely no cars with "primer" paint or open headers.**
- Entrants may also participate in the Poolesville Day Parade. Go to [www.poolesvilleday.com](http://www.poolesvilleday.com) for more info.
- Poolesville residents are encouraged to register early---this is YOUR show!

Clubs  
Welcome!

**REGISTRATION:** Please include registration fee (along completed application form).

- First Entry: \$10.00      **NOTE: Fees are Donation only and are not required.**
- Second Entry (same Family): \$5.00

Space is  
Limited

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email: **\*\*Important** \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Car/BikeInfo: Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

To enter show, please fill out and mail in this form and entry fees (check made out to "Poolesville Day") to P.O. Box 332, Barnesville, MD 20838. Make sure you include your best email address (and phone number if no email) to be reached since all information about the show will be handled via email. Contact Jim Brown (301-221-1988 or [jimbrown.sales@gmail.com](mailto:jimbrown.sales@gmail.com)) with any questions.

**HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT:** In consideration of the acceptance of the right to participate, by execution of this entry form, I hereby release and discharge The Town of Poolesville and the Poolesville Day Committee Inc., and all other sponsors of the Poolesville Day Classic Car and Rod Show and their officers, employees, directors, agents and representatives and anyone else connected with the management, promotion or presentation of the Poolesville Day Classic Car, Rod, Truck and Motorcycle Show from any and all known or unknown damages, injuries or losses, judgements and/or claims from any cause that may be suffered by any entrant, participant to his or her person or property. Further, each entrant expressly agrees to indemnify all the foregoing entities, firms, persons and bodies from any and all liability occasioning or resulting from the conduct of any entrant, participants or spectators assisting or cooperating with entrant under the direction or control of entrant. Further, I agree that any photos or videos of myself or my property as a result of this event may be used promotionally.

Agreed to and signed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Go to [www.poolesvilleday.com](http://www.poolesvilleday.com) to find out more information about Poolesville Day 2010!

## 2010 Ocean City Corvette Weekend

Free State Corvette Club welcomes you to the Ocean City, MD Corvette Weekend scheduled for October 15 & 16, 2010. We are the largest Corvette Club event on the East Coast of the US.

Join us for a weekend full of activities and events starting Friday, October 15. Proceeds from the Ocean City Corvette Weekend benefit Spina Bifida Association of Maryland and other area charities.

Late registration for all of Saturday's events, apparel sales, greet and meet other Corvette enthusiasts, purchase raffle tickets and our fun-filled welcoming party will all take place on Friday, October 15 starting at 11:00am.

Starting Saturday, October 16 at 7:30 am we will be conducting 3 fun car shows, 3 road rallyes, orchestrating our famous Corvette Boardwalk Parade, serving dinner and awarding trophies to all of the successful winners from the car shows and road rallyes.

Come join the fun!!! There is lots to do and lots to see at Free State Corvette Club's Ocean City, MD Corvette Weekend.

The Clarion at 10100 Coastal Hwy has been selected as our Host hotel. Please contact them directly and mention FSCC to receive the discounted rates on both the hotel rooms and the (1, 2, & 3 bedroom) condominiums next door.

See more detail at our web site [www.freestatecorvette.com](http://www.freestatecorvette.com). We will close the entire pre-registration online form on September 26 at midnight; however we will be taking late registrations on Friday & Saturday, October 15 & 16 in Ocean City, MD.



*For those members who would like to shop for a new or used car at Sport Chevrolet, the person to see is **Lee Shirley**. Ask to speak to Lee and let him know you are a CCA member.*

<h1>CCA 1956 - 2010</h1>	<p><b>With Great Pride we are Happy To be associated with:</b></p>  																																							
<p><b>Corvette Club of America, Inc.</b> <b>2010 Board of Directors</b></p>	<p><i>Your club membership gets you:</i></p>																																							
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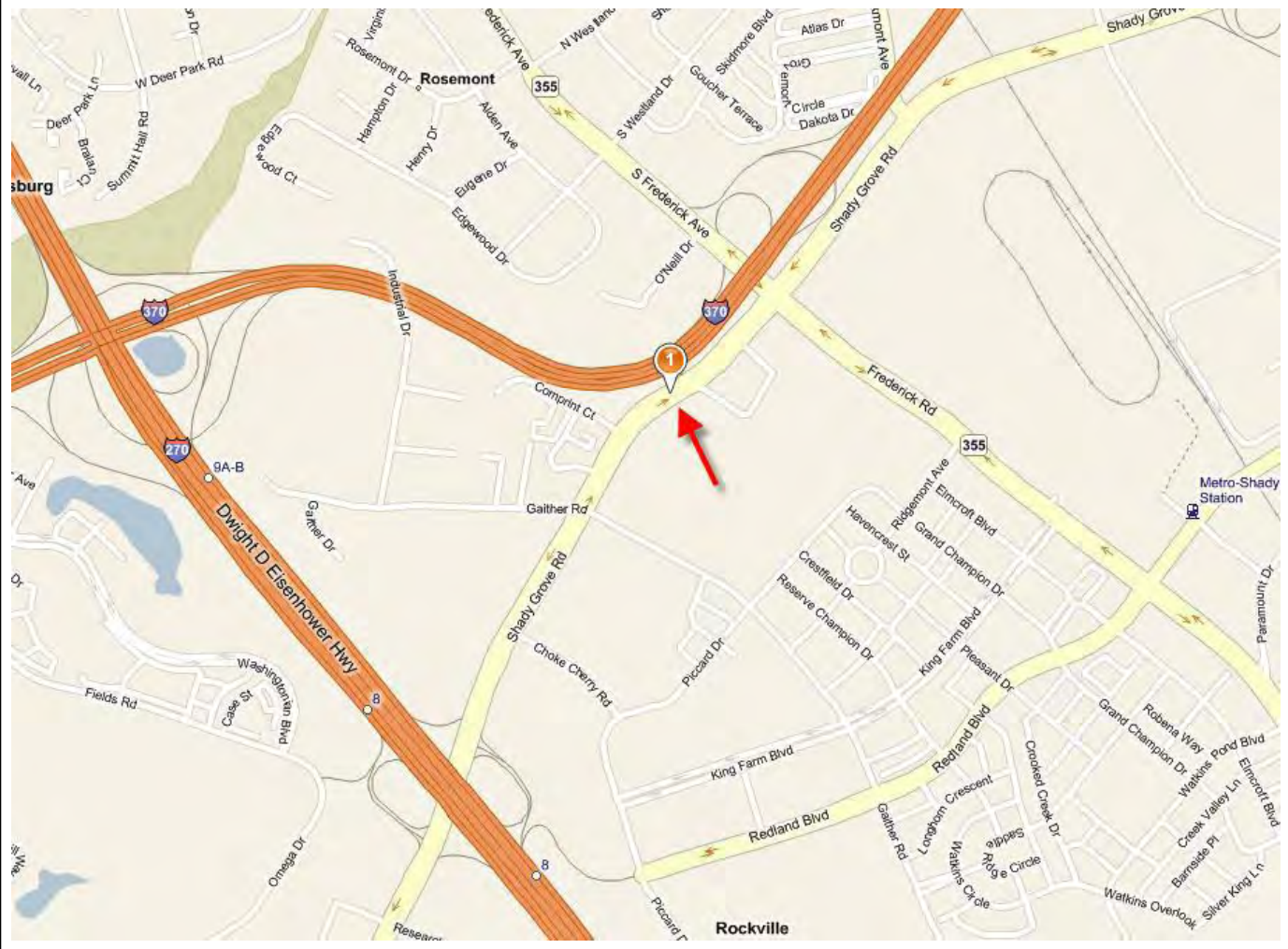
<h2>CCA Meeting Schedule</h2>	<p><b>BUSINESS MEETING</b> at J.J. Muldoon's, 16143 Shady Grove Rd., Gaithersburg, Md. 301-258-8866, second Tuesday monthly at 7:30pm to approximately 9:30pm. <b>Next Meeting Tuesday September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010</b></p> <p><b>SHOP NIGHT</b> at Sport fourth(*) Tuesday 6:30pm ,til 8:30pm. "Food Frenzy" location to be determined. <b>Next Shop Night Tuesday September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010</b></p> <p>* Shop Night is the <b>THIRD Tuesday in November and December</b> due to Holidays.</p>
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 P.O. Box 3355, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20885

**Business Meeting Location:**

J.J. Muldoon's  
16143 Shady Grove Rd.  
Gaithersburg, Md. 20877  
301-258-8866 <http://www.mymuldoons.com>

Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM



**Shop Night Location:**

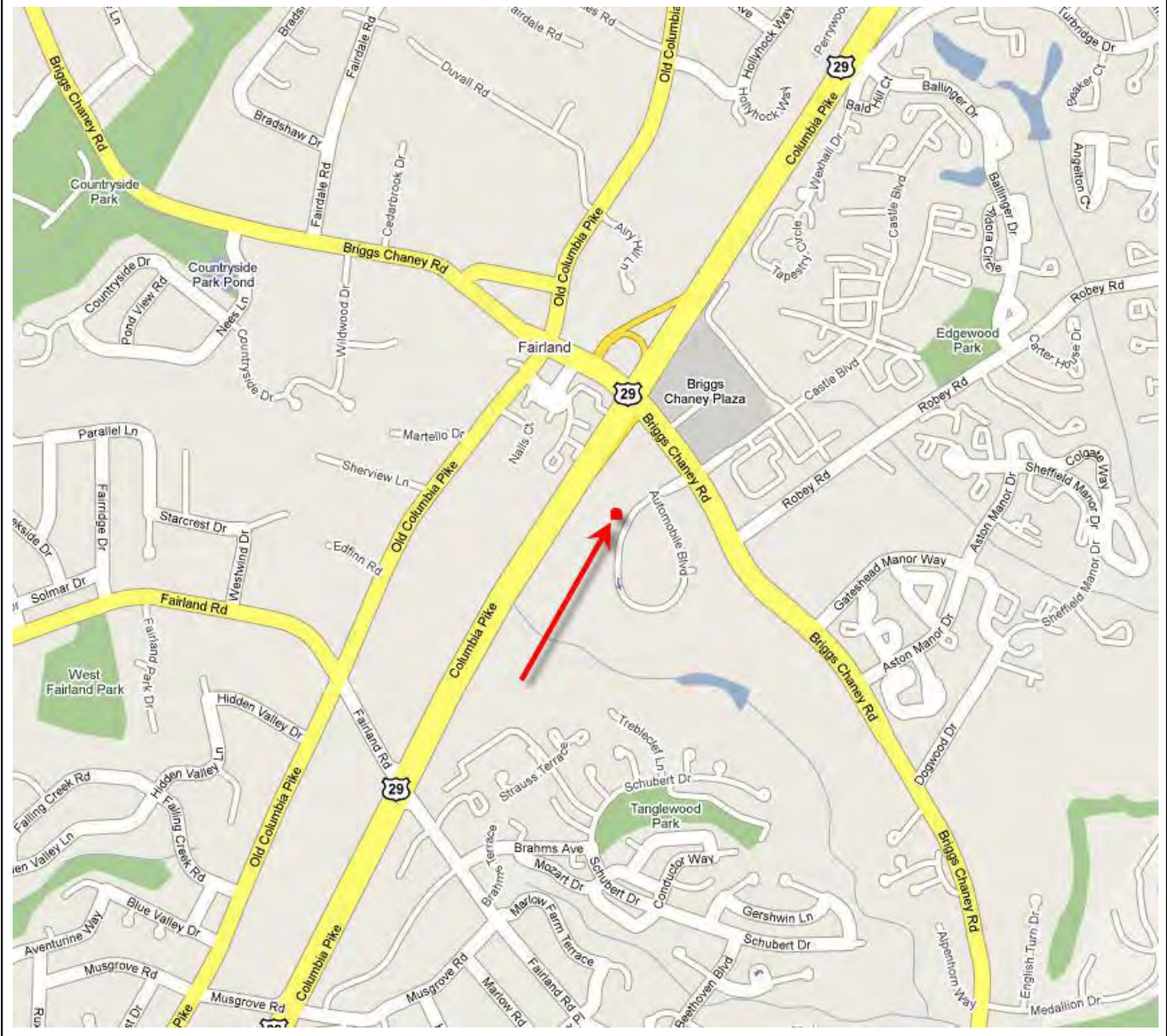
Sport Chevrolet  
3101 Automobile Blvd.  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

Fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM\*\*

(\*\* Shop Night is the THIRD Tuesday in November and December due to Holidays)



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#### CCA Club logo Md. License Plate

Contact CCA Tag Leader  
Jim Snyder 301-948-5766



CCA 50th Anniversary patches are still available. Contact  
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