



# Corvette Club of America

## the Corvette Courier

### The Worlds Oldest Corvette Club

The President's Corner - Don Haller

September 2011

#### The Prez Says

Earthquakes, hurricanes and floods! The past month has been filled with less than spectacular weather for Corvette related activities and fun but somehow we have managed to pull it all off with hardly a hitch. Beginning in late August we travelled to Carlisle for the long awaited annual event. We had a great turnout on Friday but with hurricane Irene looming in the Saturday forecast many of us headed back south to our homes. For those that did indeed make it to Carlisle for the day or weekend, I'd like to thank you for your level of commitment and participation. CCA and Found Corvette Caravan Club (FCCC) united to make third most Club Participation at the weekend event. I understand those that remained had their choice of parking and great deals on Corvette parts and accessories.

One week later we found ourselves in downtown Baltimore, MD for the inaugural running of the Baltimore Grand Prix. This too was a well anticipated event and we had a great contingent of CCA members participating. I'd like to thank everyone that came out, the folks from East Region NCCC, and Suzie Stylc for organizing the Corvette Clubs into the Corvette Corral with the Baltimore Grand Prix folks. I thought the Corvette Racing folks did a superb job at the hospitality tent and I look forward to next year with great anticipation. Corvette Racing had a bad start to the race on Saturday but pulled off a third place podium finish through the melee. It is fortunate for all of us that the organizers of the Baltimore Grand Prix managed to fit the event into a window of good weather between two hurricanes, torrential rains and flooding in the first part of the month of September.

As our summer wraps up we still have a few outstanding activities to participate. So be sure to check the calendar and look at the flyers found inside this edition of the Corvette Courier.

Coming up this month is the day trip to the Flying Dog Brewery organized by Jon Thorn on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September and then the CCA Fall Picnic and photo shoot at Gambrill State Park the following weekend on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

CCA has rented the Tea Room cottage at Gambrill State Park for the day and we plan to make a CCA Group Photo with our Corvettes. So, if you have not made it out to an event this year, we would love to have you come out for this one. It would be nice to fill the photograph with lots of nice Corvettes. CCA will supply BBQ and Brats. Please bring a covered dish to share. Look for more information to come on the CCA website and email blasts from Jean Wade.

Don Haller  
CCA President

Membership Director—Jean Wade

## CCA Membership Update

### MEMBER NEWS AND INFORMATION

#### Welcome Our New Member for 2011

			Sponsor
Patrick & Linda Acierto	Knoxville, Md.	72 T Pearl White	Scott Decker
Scott & Tisha Fass	Germantown, Md.	11 R Sonic Blue	Gift
Richard & Cecilia Roe	Cooksville, Md	82 Charcoal Coup	Web

Look forward to seeing all our new members. We have lots of events for you to attend.

NCCC Questions direct to our Gov. **Ron Hamrah** 202-882-8157 [rhamrah@gmail.com](mailto:rhamrah@gmail.com)

CCA License Plates contact Jim Snyder for information 301-948-5766 or [jsnyder0623@hotmail.com](mailto:jsnyder0623@hotmail.com)

Aug. Shop night seemed to be a busy one. 50/50 winner Larry Steinberg. Next shop night Sept. 27th

**Reminder - Elections will be coming up soon. If you have been thinking about running for a position on the board, please contact Don or Jean or come to the meeting. We would love to hear from you. Not too late to speak up. Don't wait until the last minute.**

#### Coming up Events...

- Sept 17th Flying Dog Brewery Tour, Frederick MD 2:30PM - 4:30PM See Flyer
- Sept 24th CCA Fall Picnic and Photo Shoot—Gambrill State Park Bring a dish.
- Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mighty Mo Reunion Party. [http://antietamgallery.net/index\\_005.htm](http://antietamgallery.net/index_005.htm)
- Oct. 14-15 Corvettes in Ocean City <http://www.freestatecorvette.com/>

#### New Event Added

**Might Mo** Show Held at the Antietam Gallery

17320 Shepherdstown Pike - Sharpsburg, Md. 21782

301-432-5868

Featuring - Corvettes, Hotrods, Muscle Cars

- ORIGINAL HOT SHOPPES FOOD: MIGHTY MO'S,  
ONION RINGS, FRIES, ORANGE FREEZES & HOT  
FUDGE CAKE!

Corvette Weekend Pre-Registration is open until September 25, 2011. Go to the Free State web site. Click on The 2011 Event tab for a detailed description of the event. Click on the Event Registration tab to register. **After this date you have to register in Ocean City. Please go online for more info.**



*Keep that smile on your face, your foot down on the pedal, and give me a curve  
Blast the radio. Wow, what a life. So much fun driving a Corvette  
Jean Wade - 2000 Red coupe Membership, director 301-253-6074 [vettehon@aol.com](mailto:vettehon@aol.com)*

The Editor's Corner– Jon Thorn

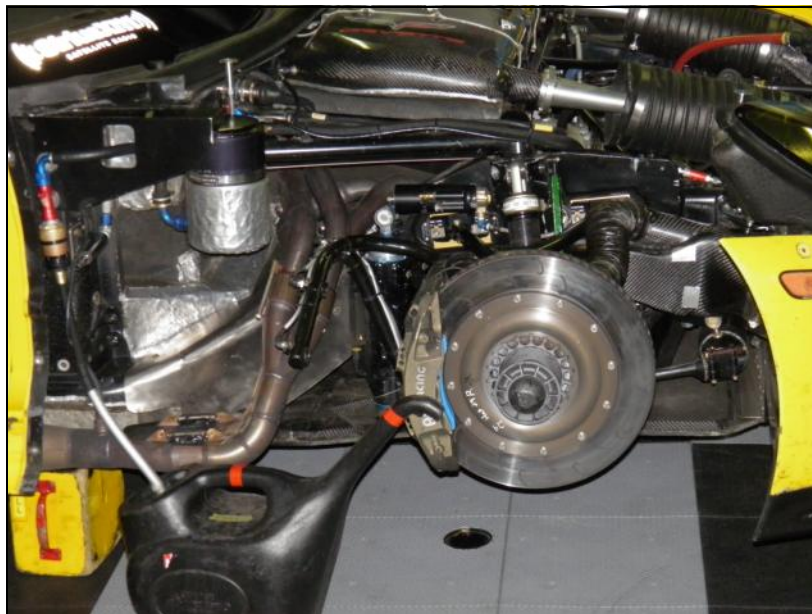
**CORVETTE** RAMBLINGS

I finally figured out what that light was that was coming in my window as I write this month's *Ramblings*. It is sunshine. I sort of forgot what it was like these last several weeks of August and first week of September.

Fortunately, the weather did not interfere with the many activities we had scheduled and we still have several events coming up before the Corvettes disappear under their covers for the winter. Our next event is a Lunch and Tour of the Flying Dog Brewery in Frederick Maryland on September 17<sup>th</sup>. You'll find a flyer with all the info later in this issue and it has also been posted on the CCA web site events page. I am the organizer for this event and I have a special request this time. As you will see from the flyer a **RSVP is required**. The reason is that due to increased demand for the tours the brewery has started using tickets as a means to control the traffic. The tickets are given out up to six weeks in advance. When they run out of tickets for a particular date the tour is closed. I have arranged for us to bypass the ticket process but I need to be able to provide the great people at Flying Dog a solid number for the size of our group on this Saturday's tour. So if you plan to attend please be sure to email me at [jthorn44@msn.com](mailto:jthorn44@msn.com) with the number that will be in your party.

We had a great turnout at the Baltimore Grand Prix. Check later in this newsletter for some comments that I had on the race. I included a few pictures from the weekend but make sure you check out the Photo Album for this event on the CCA site. There are over a hundred photos posted already. Unfortunately there is just no way that I can include all of the pictures here in the newsletter.

I am going to try something a bit unusual for the Corvette Courier and attempt to get some reader feedback. I'm going to start off with a question for the racer guys and later on maybe I'll come up with a good question for the waxers! If my memory still works, I think I owe credit to Tom Armstrong for coming up with the first question. We were at the Corvette Racing Paddock at the Baltimore Grand Prix and he asks me, "What's that?" We were looking at the wheel spindle for the #3 car and Tom noticed a bar parallel to the wheel that had three fittings on it with tubes or cables attached.





Competition Chair— Rich Taylor

**CORVETTE** COMPETITION**Competition Report**

There are no CCA sponsored competition events in September since the decision was made to cancel our fall Muscle Car Mania Drag Race planned for September 11<sup>th</sup> due to a lack of time to properly promote the event to assure its success. In speaking with Kim at Capitol Raceway, it seems that attendance is down considerably at the drag race events. However, we did attend the Baltimore Grand Prix as a group and participated in the Corvette Coral events. It was a well run event and everyone had a great time. We are looking forward to seeing this racing event in Baltimore for many more years, so if you missed it this year make plans to attend next year. Please go to the CCA photo album on our web site and view the many photos of this event that have been posted.

**Upcoming Events**

There are several of our members who will be participating in some or all of the following non-CCA or NCCC sponsored events throughout the year. These events are High Performance Drivers Education (HPDE) events on various road courses. You are put into groups depending on your level of experience and driving skill and instructors are provided to ride along with you. This is a great way to learn how to get the most out of your car in a safe and controlled environment. These events combine classroom time with track time to teach both the theory and physical control aspects of high speed driving. We will also be participating in a few Friday at The Track (FATT) events at Summit Point Raceway throughout the year. Here is the link to the FATT schedule:

<http://www.summitpointfatt.com/> . For those who aren't familiar, Summit Point is near Charles Town,

WV and is very convenient to those who live in the Baltimore/Washington area. If you'd like to see photos from any of our past competition events, please go to the CCA web site and open the photo album link on the left side of the page.

## **Remaining 2011 HPDE Planned Events**

Oct 7-9 NASA Octoberfest VIR Full

Oct 14 Friday at The Track

Oct 30-31 Chin Virginia Int'l Raceway This popular annual event follows the 13-Hour race at VIR

## **2011 CCA Sponsored Competition Events**

The competition year is winding down and we have only two remaining competition events this year, so please plan to come out and have some fun in your Corvette and help out with our autocross before the weather changes and we have to put our cars away for the winter...

### **November**

November 5, Autocross Primer School at Lincoln Tech in Columbia, MD

November 6, Double NCCC Sanctioned Autocross, Lincoln Tech, Columbia, MD

As you can see, there are still several opportunities 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.

### **Living Life in the Fast Lane**

Rich Taylor

CCA Competition Chairman

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

240-460-9797 or 301-519-5370

**NCCC Governor — Ron Hamrah**

## **NCCC Report**

### **Points of Contact Listing**

**NCCC Questions** direct to our Governor **Ron Hamrah** 202-607-3399, [rhamrah@gmail.com](mailto:rhamrah@gmail.com)

### **NCCC Governor's Report**



By Ron Hamrah, NCCC Governor for CCA

#### **Check out the following informative websites:**

East Region NCCC website at <http://www.ernccc.org>

Corvette Forum at <http://forums.corvetteforum.com/index.php>

Discounts for NCCC Members - <http://www.corvettesnccc.org/Friends.html>

National Corvette Museum - <http://services.corvettemuseum.com/portalttools/ncmf/membership.cfm>

Insurance Link - <http://www.ncminsurace.com/>

#### **EAST REGION NCCC Vette-work**

All NCCC members are invited to join the East Region Vette-work, the heart and soul of Corvette enthusiasm. <http://ernccc.ning.com/?xgi=0o5HhRuMrv1zbl>

**FOR SALE** There is a new App that will handle classified ads better than the Forum did. You will find a new section called "Listings" where you can list items.

## What are you doing August 2014 ?

If you missed the 2009 National Caravan to Bowling Green, KY, you missed seeing 8,000 Corvettes from across the US and Canada as well as Corvette enthusiasts (without their Corvettes) from Holland, Germany and (23 of them from) Australia !!! Don't miss the next caravan. Check it out at <http://www.corvettecaravan.com/> Contact me or ask any of our CCA members who participated.

## VERIZON CELL PHONE SERVICE DISCOUNT

If you are a military veteran and use Verizon for your cell phone service, you can get a 15% discount on your service. All you need to do is take a copy of your DD-214 to a Verizon store and tell them you would like to have the Vets Discount. Tell them the discount code is 117818. You should get a 15% discount off your monthly bill. You can even fax them your DD-214 for the discount.

## EAST REGION CLUB SPONSORED EVENTS

Here are some upcoming events sponsored by other clubs in the East Region. Please let me know if you are interested in coordinating a group of CCA members to participate in any of these events.

October 14 – 15, 2011 (See Jean's event list on page 2 of this issue.)

### THE 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FREE STATE CORVETTE OCEAN CITY WEEKEND

And it's the 20th Anniversary of the Grand Boardwalk Parade. This part of the weekend event has grown from a small group of cars to hundreds of cars stretching from the Inlet all the way up to the end of the Boardwalk. This is the largest Club Corvette Parade on the East Coast of the United States.

The 2011 parade is scheduled to start at 4 pm on October 15. Corvettes will start gathering at the Inlet at 1:30 pm. Spectators will be in a good spot to see the parade anywhere along the route. In order to participate in the parade, Corvettes need to be registered for the weekend. Online Event Registration is available at [www.freestatercorvette.com](http://www.freestatercorvette.com) for the 25th Anniversary of Free State Corvette Weekend on October 14-15, 2011. Sign up to reserve your spot in our Grand Boardwalk Parade, Car Shows, Rallies and Dinners and order Event Apparel and Mementos by clicking on the Event Registration Tab.

For up to the minute event news, visit [www.facebook.com/CorvetteWeekend](http://www.facebook.com/CorvetteWeekend). Check out the event video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-ZNQHbyME>.

### Revolution Corvette Club

Date: Saturday, 17 September 2011

From: 10:00am To:

Category: Concours

Location: Northeastern High School / Middle School Complex, 300 High Street, Manchester, PA 17345

Event Title: TRIPLE People's Choice Concours

Sanction #:ER-574-004, ER-574-009, ER-574-085

Email : [rc@ernccc.org](mailto:rc@ernccc.org)

More info : <http://ernccc.org/flyers/2011/ER-574-004.pdf>

### Central Pennsylvania Corvette Club and Lancaster County Corvette Club

Date: Sunday, 18 September 2011

From: 08:00am To:

Category: Autocross

Location: Weaver Market, Routes 272 & 897, Adamstown, PA 19501

Event Title: Joint CPCC & LCCC Autocross

Sanction #:ER-196-086, ER-266-115

Email : [cpcc@ernccc.org](mailto:cpcc@ernccc.org) ; [lccc@ernccc.org](mailto:lccc@ernccc.org)

More info : <http://ernccc.org/flyers/2011/ER-196-086.pdf>; <http://ernccc.org/flyers/2011/ER-266-115.pdf>

FROM THE POCONO MOUNTAIN CORVETTE CLUB

“Dear Fellow Vette Head,

Please get the word out to anyone you think might be interested-

Pocono Mountains Corvette Club NON-sanctioned Drag Races

Sunday September 18 @ Seamans Air Port

727 Windssock La. Factoryville, Pa 18419

Check in and tech start at 11:20,

You NEED a current helmet, sound car and full shoes or sneakers.

Any car will do

\$25.00 unlimited runs

YOU MUST CONTACT Mike Kollar at [jnkej@ptd.net](mailto:jnkej@ptd.net) or [570-296-9426](tel:570-296-9426)

We need a head count!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

### **Bel Air Corvette Club**

**Date** : Saturday 24 September 2011

**From** : 08:00am To:

**Category**: Concours

**Location** : The Avenue at White Marsh Mall, White Marsh, MD

**Event Title**: SINGLE Concours – Judged

DOUBLE Concours – People’s Choice

Sanction #ER-263-087, ER-263-102, ER-263-103

Email : [bacc@ernccc.org](mailto:bacc@ernccc.org)

More info : <http://www.ernccc.org/flyers/2011/ER-263-087.pdf>

### **Tri County Vettes**

**Date** : Sunday, 25 September 2011

**From** : 08:00am To:

**Category** : Autocross

**Location** : PPL Service Center, Tannersville, PA

**Event Description** : DOUBLE Autocross

Sanction # ER-323-088, ER-323-089, ER-372-152, ER-372-153

Email : [tcv@ernccc.org](mailto:tcv@ernccc.org)

More info : <http://www.ernccc.org/flyers/2011/ER-323-088.pdf>

NCM Ambassador — Terry Popkin

## National Corvette Museum Report

### Clubs Awarded at Anniversary Event

Congratulations to the following clubs for their accomplishments this year that were awarded during the 17th Anniversary Celebration:



**Furthest Traveled**  
Simi Valley Corvettes

**Volunteer Award**  
Circle City Corvette Club,  
Indianapolis, IN

**Good Samaritan Award**  
North Texas Corvette Club

**Best Website**  
1st – Santa Clara Corvettes  
2nd – Emerald Coast Corvette Club  
3rd – Grand Sport Registry

**Best Printed Newsletter**  
1st – Skyline Drive Corvettes  
2nd – Northern California Corvette Assoc.  
3rd – Santa Clara Corvettes

**Best Online Newsletter**  
1st – Lone Star Corvette Club  
2nd – St Louis Corvette Club  
3rd – Queen City Corvette Club

### George Sipprell Joins NCM Board

George Sipprell of Branford, CT was elected to the NCM Board of Directors on Saturday, September 3 during the Museum's quarterly board meeting. George is a family member of the Museum and serves as NCM Ambassador at large for Connecticut and achieved Master Ambassador status this year.



George not only volunteers at Museum events, but also served as the 2009 Caravan Leader for CT.

George takes the seat previously held by Abbie Miller, who resigned recently due to personal commitments.

### Hall of Famer Betty Skelton Passes

Corvette Hall of Fame inductee Betty Skelton Erde lived in the fast lane most of her life, setting speed records both on the ground and in the air. A resident of The Villages, FL, she earned the nickname "First Lady of Firsts", setting many records and being the first female test driver in the auto industry.



Betty was inducted into the Corvette Hall of Fame in 2001, and passed away at the age of 85 at her home on August 31.

### New Solar Charging Station at GM Plant

In June, General Motors commissioned the first of many solar charging stations for the Chevy Volt at the Corvette Assembly Plant. Energy not utilized to charge the Volt will be fed into the plant and be utilized by production equipment.



The solar station is anticipated to generate more than 30,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. The station is free for electric car owners to utilize.

If you'd like to check out a 2012 Chevy Volt, drive across the street and visit our special exhibit, 100 Years of Chevrolet, where we have one on loan from GM!

Terry Popkin, NCM Ambassador, [tjpopkin@mac.com](mailto:tjpopkin@mac.com), 301-949-2464



## **CCA Lunch and Flying Dog Brewery Tour September 17, 2011**

**Join us for a fun day of food, drink, beer tasting, a brewery tour and of course great CCA friends.**

**Lunch will be at Beef 'O' Brady's in Frederick, MD at 1PM and will be followed by the beer tasting and tour at the Flying Dog Brewery in Frederick from about 2:30PM to 4:30 PM. Bring your Corvette!**

**RSVP required. See important information on the back of the flyer.**

**"GOOD PEOPLE DRINK GOOD BEER."**

**-Hunter S. Thompson**

**[flyingdogales.com](http://flyingdogales.com)**

Attend either the lunch, brewery tour, or both. **RSVP required.** Please email Jon Thorn (jthorn44@msn.com) and indicate which events you will be attending.

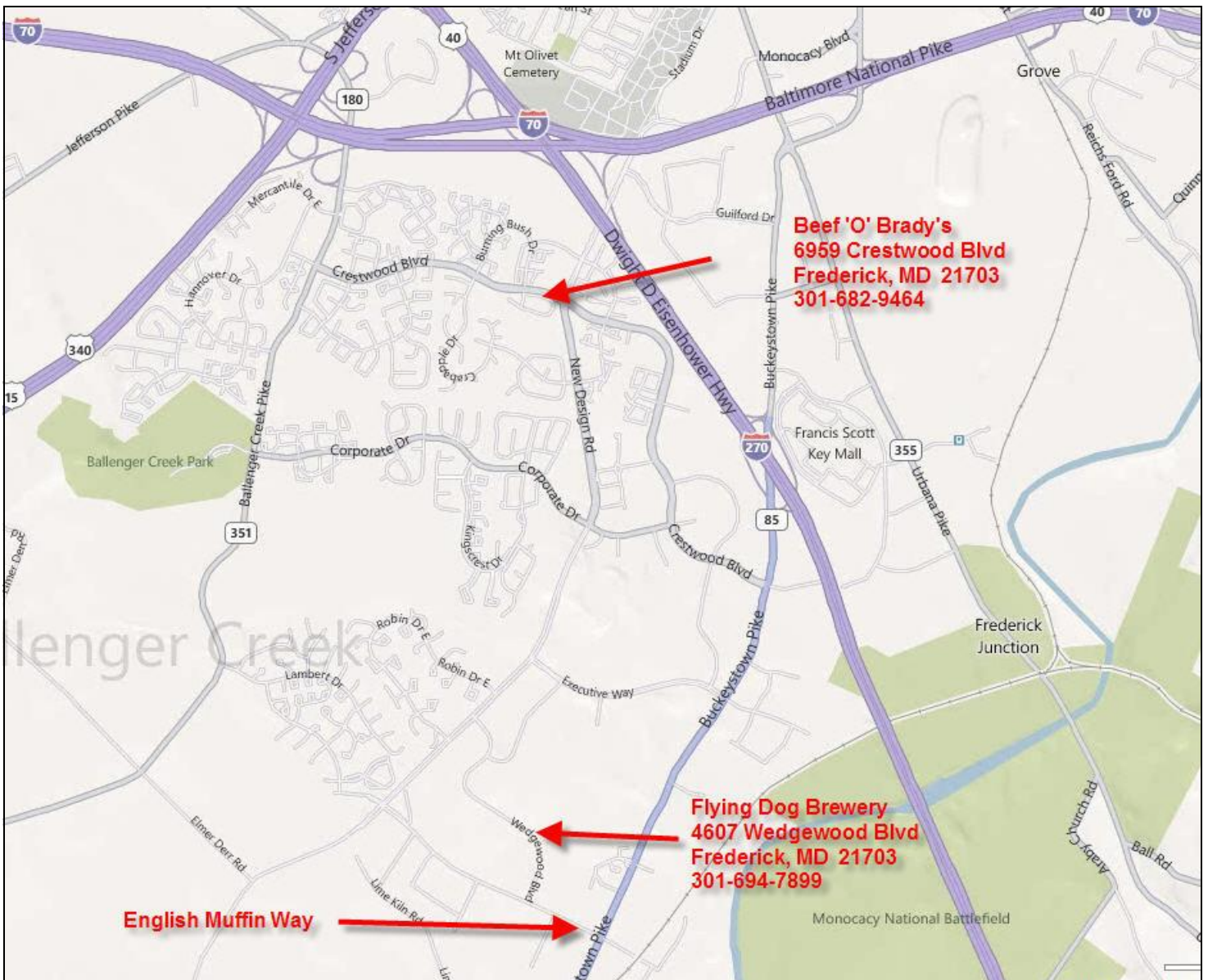
Plan on being at Beef 'O'Brady's for lunch by 1PM. We will probably not be able to sit in a single group but we will have separate checks. They serve Flying Dog among other beverages.

The Flying Dog Brewery tour starts at 2:30PM Plan on being a little early. We will not be the only group but this is the last tour of the day. The charge is \$5.00 and for that you get a complete tour of their plant, tasting up to five samples of beer, and you get to keep the glass. **Note: This is an industrial plant. For safety reasons no open toed shoes are allowed on the tour. So leave the sandals at home :) In addition plant floors may be slippery so be sure to have good tread on the shoes. No slicks!**

Beef 'O'Brady's 1:00PM 9/17/2011  
6959 Crestwood Blvd.  
Frederick, MD 21703  
(301) 682-9464

Flying Dog Brewery 2:30PM 9/17/2011  
4607 Wedgewood Blvd.  
Frederick, MD 21703  
(301) 694-7899

Menu and Coupons: <http://www.beefsoffrederick.com/>





*Corvette Club of America*

# Founders Day Picnic

Saturday, September 24th



**Where: Gambrill State Park  
Tea Room Reserved Cabin**  
**When: 09/24/2011, 12 Noon to 5PM**  
**Caravan details coming soon!**  
**CCA Group and Individual Photos  
to be taken with your Corvette**

**CCA will provide the BBQ  
And Brats**

**Bring a side dish to share!**

**Bring Your Own Drinks**

**Alcohol Permitted**

**Please Drink Responsibly**

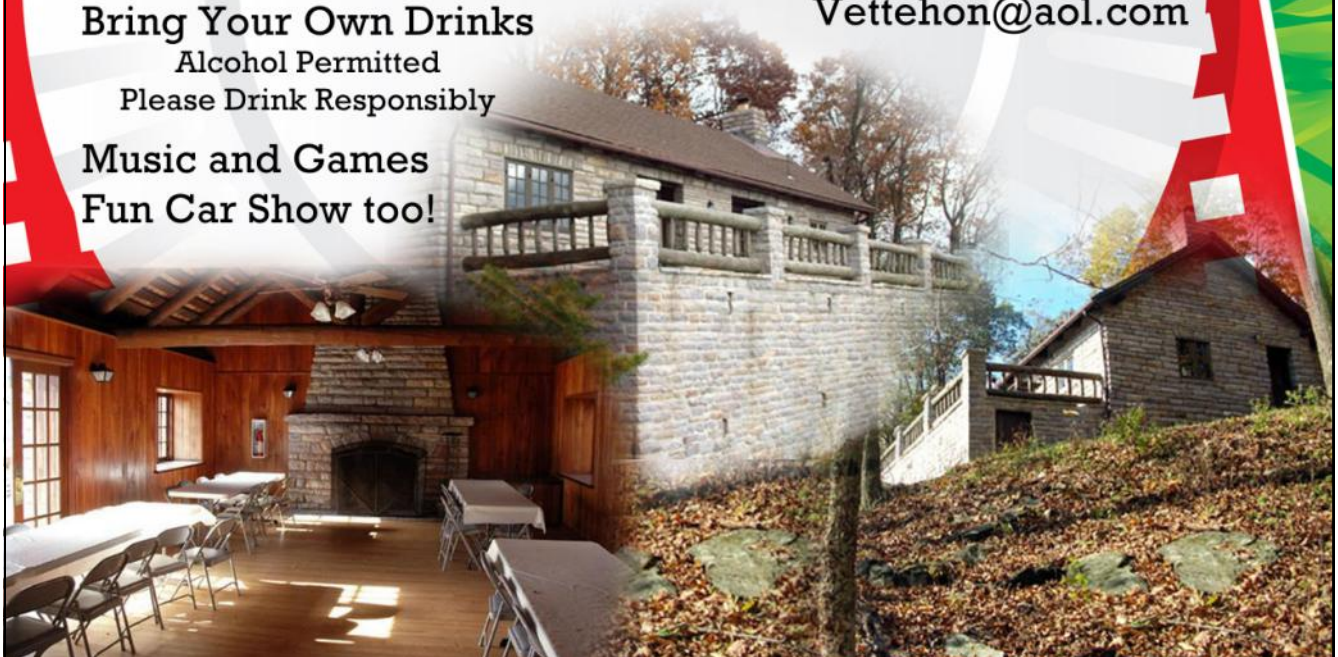
**Music and Games**

**Fun Car Show too!**

**Please RSVP to**

**Jean Wade at**

**Vettehon@aol.com**



**The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**“ MIGHTY MO REUNION ”**

**MAY IT BE FRIDAY NIGHT FOREVER**

**Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**10:00 am to 4:30 pm**

**Held at the Antietam Gallery Historic Sharpsburg, Md.**

CCA Corvette Caravan leaving # 80 Urbana park & ride 10 am on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Contact Jean 301-253-6074

All Corvette clubs invited

**Featuring**

Corvettes, Hotrods, Muscle Cars - Let us be park of the show.

- ORIGINAL HOT SHOPPES FOOD –

MIGHTY MO’S, ONION RINGS, FRIES, ORANGE FREEZES AND

HOT FUDGE CAKE!

- LIMITED EDITION PRINTS AVAILABLE – Memories of the 50’s

**Directions:**

17320 Shepherdstown Pike - Sharpsburg, Md. 21782

301-432-5868

[http://antietamgallery.net/index\\_005.htm](http://antietamgallery.net/index_005.htm)

70 W past Hagerstown to Exit 29 Make Left off exit (rt. 65 S.) 10 miles to stop sign turn right on rt. #34 (Shepherdstown Pike) 1 mile to Antietan Gallery

**(Jean plans to attend on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> so contact her if you are going that day and want to caravan with her.)**

## A Few Comments on the Baltimore Grand Prix

by Jon Thorn

I'd like to be able to provide a full summary of the great weekend we had in Baltimore but time limitations unfortunately prevent it. I would be great if more people volunteered to help write event articles but that's a topic for another time. Since I really don't have the time to provide a full accounting of the weekend I'm just going to throw out some random comments on my impressions and I'll also include some comments I have picked up from professional reporters at various newspapers.

First impression was that this event was far different than going to a track such as Mid-Ohio or Mosport. At tracks I have been to if you did not want to sit in a grandstand you could easily find great viewing spots on a hillside. People brought their own chairs, picked out a camping spot, and spent the afternoon enjoying races without ever stepping into a grandstand. In Baltimore that was impossible. Your best view for the most part was from a grandstand seat. Sight lines were very short so in most places you could not see more than a hundred yards in either direction. An IRL car covers two hundred yards in nothing flat. There was hardly time to get car numbers as they went by. Another big difference was the crowds. Compared to Mid-Ohio this was more like going to Le Mans in terms of the number of attendees. People were everywhere. Unlike Le Mans you do not have an eight mile circuit. In Baltimore you either had blocked off roads (for the track), blocked off sidewalks (for various reasons), or buildings. Pack eighty to a hundred thousand people into the Pratt Street area and you think there are a million. If you want to get people pictures this was the place to be. If you want pictures of a Corvette leaning into a corner you better have had a Press Pass and IMSA permission. The crowds made it hard to get around at times. The backup at bridges to cross over the track are hard to describe. You sort of had to be there. It seemed like most of Baltimore was there!

That paragraph makes the event look pretty bleak. I heard comments from people before the race that they were not going to attend because they did not expect it would be a very good time. I heard plenty of comments from people who had never been to a race in downtown city streets that the crowds were horrible, the view was horrible, traffic was horrible, etc.

My view of the race is far different. I think part of the problem was attendee expectations. Most of the crowd had never been to an IRL or ALMS race from what I could tell but the ones who had been to races probably forgot that there are no big open fields, rolling hills, and great viewing locations like at Mid Ohio or Mosport. Baltimore was a two mile course in city streets in a very small tightly packed area. In many ways it was more like a huge rock festival or street party than a race event. The bottom line is that I really enjoyed it. It is different and you have to appreciate that, but I had as much fun in Baltimore as I did at Le Mans in June.

I'd like to make a couple of comments about the course itself. It was certainly a challenging one for the drivers. First, they were late getting it constructed. Planned practice sessions on Friday had to be cancelled because the catch fences were not completed yet. About half of the track was concrete and half was asphalt. A lot of work went into the concrete portions (mostly Pratt Street and Light Street) trying to grind the bumps at joints and resurface them. But you only had to see Porsche Cup cars nearly going airborne to know that it was a bumpy street. It was a highly technical track. It

was hard to notice but there were in fact elevation changes and off camber corners. How many courses have railroad tracks crossing the main straight in the same general area as the start / finish line? How many two mile tracks have two fairly long straights separated by a 180 degree hairpin turn? And then there were the walls. Only a couple of the major corners had runoff areas. The rest of the time the drivers were doing well over a hundred miles an hour running down a concrete canyon formed by the safety barriers. When anything went wrong it was nearly impossible to miss the walls (see photo). At all other IRL ALMS races most all of the drivers have lots of experience and know the tracks well. In Baltimore they got to walk the course on Wednesday while it was still being constructed, and then have a short time out on it on Friday before the races on Saturday and Sunday. It had to be exciting for the drivers <g>. Specially in the ALMS race since on this particular course the LMPC cars had the capability to beat LMP cars and the Porsche Cup cars were nearly as quick as the GT cars. Everyone was bunched together which I am sure was hard on the drivers but it made for great spectating.



I was lucky enough to win a raffle at the Corvette Corral that entitled me to a “hot lap” in a Tequila Patron C6 Z06 driven by one of the IMSA people. At the point that I had gotten the ride I had been able to walk most of the area of the course. What really surprised me was how different the view was from the passenger seat of the Z06. The concrete walls looked a lot higher and the track a lot narrower than it did from the grandstands! We did some drifting through a couple of the corners, including turn #1, and it was really hard for me to imagine going through them two wide at race speeds let alone three wide. So I am sure the first concern of most of the drivers was just trying to survive the weekend and not destroy their cars.



The crowds were friendly and large. I've seen estimates from eighty thousand to over a hundred thousand. It will still be a few weeks before the city comes up with an official number. There were more vendors and activities available than you'll ever see at a regular track. The facilities were really

excellent for their first try at something this large. All things considered I'd call it a roaring success. Our access into and out of the Corvette Corral can only be described as perfect. There was plenty of parking space and it was really simple to get to it. GM, through Corvette Racing, rolled out the red carpet for us at the corral.

There has been some complaining about traffic and downtown upheaval in preparation for the Grand Prix. Not all of Charm City was happy going into the event. The same conditions that killed the Grand Prix in D.C. are still possible in Baltimore. So it is interesting to see some of the comments in the press following the event.

**From the Baltimore Sun:** *Those planning ahead to the summer of 2012 can likely figure on Indy race cars returning to the streets of Baltimore for Labor Day weekend.*

*Will Power had barely crossed the finish line Sunday to win the IZOD IndyCar Series race at the inaugural Baltimore Grand Prix, but event organizers, IndyCar executives and Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake were already looking ahead to next year.*

*All were in agreement about how well a holiday weekend worked. The crowds, estimated by organizers at well over 100,000 for the three-day event, seemed to back that up. So did the effusive comments of the drivers, who said the combination of the challenging course and enthusiastic fans made it as attractive a site as there is on the series.*

**From the New York Times:** *Baltimore joins Toronto, St. Petersburg, Fla., and Long Beach, Calif., as North American cities to host IndyCar racing on city streets.*

*Roger Penske, the owner of Team Penske, says success in Baltimore can increase his sport's visibility and viability at a time when Nascar has become far more popular. "We want to build this as a great North American sport," he said.*

*Rawlings-Blake says she wants to keep the IndyCar relationship with Baltimore going indefinitely. "This was magnificent for our city," she said.*

*Simona de Silvestro, who finished sixth in the IndyCar race, put the event's potential in global perspective. "This could be our Monaco," she said.*

It will be a couple of more weeks before we know for certain but it looks like they will be doing the race again next year. Now that we have been through it once we know we can survive the weekend and have a lot of fun with it.

As a club we should do some more advanced planning. It looks like there is an opportunity to work closer with Corvette Racing by volunteering to help with the corral. This would be good for the club. Bel Air took the club participation award from GM. We should get organized and see that it does not happen a second time <g>. I think there turned out to be plenty of room in the lot for trailer parking. We should work with BGP closer to get that rule changed so that some of our trailer queen show cars and track cars can show up for the car show. A couple of trailers would also be great for tailgating. These are things that can be looked into. Getting into and out of the corral turned out to be so easy

that we should have our entire club there next year. We should work closer with the BGP people too. It's just some food for thought over the coming cold winter. This could turn out to be a major annual CCA event that is tons of fun!



Corral Tent

