

December 2004

Vettester

The Magazine of the Corvette Club of Northern Delaware



Santa's New Toy

*'Twas the night before Christmas and in the garage,
There wasn't a trace of a Ford or a Dodge.*

*The presents were wrapped and the lights were all lit,
So I figured I'd mess with the Vette for a bit.*

*I popped the release and I lifted the hood,
When a deep voice behind me said "looks pretty good."*

*Well, as you can imagine, I turned mighty quick,
And there, by the workbench, stood good ol Saint Nick!*

*We stood there a bit, not too sure what to say,
Then he said "don't suppose that you'd trade for my
sleigh?"*

*I said "no way, Santa" and started to grin,
"But if you've got the time we could go for a spin!"*

*His round little mouth, all tied up like a bow,
Turned into a smile and he said "hey! Let's go!!"*

*So as not to disturb all the neighbors' retreat,
We pushed the Vette quietly into the street,*

*Then, taking our places to drift down the hill,
I turned on the key and I let the clutch spill.*

*The sound that erupted took him by surprise,
But he liked it a lot, by the look in his eyes.*

*With Hoosier's a' crying and side pipes aglow,
We headed on out where the hot rodders go.*

*And Santa's grin widened, approaching his ears,
With every shift up as I went through the gears.*

*Then he yelled "can't recall when I've felt so alive!",
So I backed off the gas and said "you wanna drive?"*

*Santa was stunned when I gave him the keys,
When he walked past the headlights he shook at the
knees!*

*Then the big block exploded with side exhaust sound!
Santa let out the clutch and the tires shook the
ground!*

*Power shift into second, again into third!
I sat there just watching, at loss for a word,*

*Then I heard him exclaim as we blasted from sight,
"Merry Christmas to all.....it's a joyous good
night!!!"*



My Two Cents



by Jack Layton

As we close out this year and head into the New Year, take a moment to pray for all our troops that are serving in this time of war. One can only imagine what they are going through over there. When a soldier, who was on leave and did not want to go back to Iraq is so desperate, that he had a relative shoot him in the leg, it makes one ponder what it must be like over there. So, take time to thank a Vet when you see one, and to those who have served, or are still serving in the armed forces, I personally thank you.

Speaking of Vets, the club presented the VA Hospital with a check in the amount of \$5000.00 at the December meeting. On hand to accept the check, were Carol Waters, JoAnne MacKeazie, and Rich Citron.

For those that are still on the fence about attending the holiday party, your last chance to sign up is at the January 4th meeting. The cost is \$25.00 per person. Janet needs to let the restaurant know the final count by January 5th.

The first board meeting of the year will be taking place on January 11th. At that

meeting, we will be laying the groundwork for the 2005 season.

Members who have any questions or concerns and want them addressed need to let the board know. Likewise, should you have any ideas for next year; we need to know that as well.

Remember--don't forget to renew your membership. If not paid by December 31st, you will no longer receive a newsletter.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the holidays will probably be over, the start of a new year will be dawning and spring will only be about 80 days away. So let the projects on the car begin and let us plan on an exciting year in 2005.

Hope to see most of you at the January meeting or at the holiday party, and as always... thanks for letting me put in "*My Two Cents*."

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Vette Club Aids Veterans Hospital

By ESTEBAN PARRA / The News Journal
11/28/2004

Corvette Club of Northern Delaware members enjoy lots of things: Their cars. Talking with other Corvette owners about their cars. And going to car shows to check out - what else? - other Corvettes.

But members of the 31-year-old club also enjoy raising money for local charities.

"What we like to do is go out and have fun," said Jack Layton, club president. "But in the same vein we think we should give back to the community."

That's why on Dec. 7 the club will present a \$5,000 check to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center near Elsmere. The money, which will be presented to hospital officials during the club's regular 7 p.m. meeting at Kahunaville in Wilmington, is a result of the club's October fund-raiser in which members solicited donations from friends and businesses.

"I think that's just an incredible support," said Carol Waters, a medical center spokeswoman. "It gives us the opportunity to enhance our services and the living area for our patients and the residents in our nursing center."

The medical center has a 60-bed nursing home and is in the process of improving its garden areas.

The Corvette Club donates to local charities on a regular basis. For the past four years, the money raised from two Concord Mall car shows was used for the Adopt-A-Family fund. This year, Layton said, \$1,000 was raised.

In past years, the 115-member club raised money for the Spina Bifida Association, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The medical center was selected after club member Joe Murray, who is a veteran, proposed it.

Contact Esteban Parra at 324-2299 or eparra@delawareonline.com.



First Impressions of the New C6 Corvette

By Mike Ciabattoni Sr.

Most Corvette enthusiasts waited in great anticipation for the arrival of the 2005 model year Corvette. After all, this was to be, supposedly, the all new C6. The various automotive publications fed us bits and pieces regarding the technological advances, and some ran their “spy” photos detailing exterior body changes. My first opportunity to actually view a C6 in person was not a planned or anticipated happening. As we all know, Steve Blanchies, always has his Corvette antennas tuned and extended to their fullest. He also happens to be the mail carrier servicing the organization from which I retired, Teamsters Local 326 on New Churchmans Road.



One morning, late in November, Steve made his usual stop at the Teamsters’ office, and I just happened to be there. Upon seeing me, his first words were, “Have you seen the C6 yet?” My response was that I hadn’t, and being the accommodating fellow that he is, he asked if I would be interested in seeing one. Naturally, my answer was yes. He proceeded to tell me that while making a delivery at a business just down the road from us, a fellow stopped in driving the new Vette. As only Steve can do, he picked up the phone, called the business and asked the fellow if he would mind stopping at our office so that a fellow club member could get a close up look at the new C6. Within about 5 minutes, the fellow pulled into our parking lot with a Daytona Sunset Orange-Metallic C6 Coupe and Steve, my son who works for the Teamsters, and myself immediately went out to meet him.



My first impression of the C6 was somewhat mixed. While I think that overall, the exterior design is attractive, I feel that it is much less distinctive than previous models. As I approached the parked vehicle from the front, I felt it had a definite Viper flavor. Perhaps

that is because the new headlight design virtually mirrors that of the Viper. Additionally, after viewing from both front and rear, unlike the C5, I felt that the C6 front and rear styling had a familiar rather than a distinctive appearance. Coincidentally, on that same day, I had driven my 2001 Z06 to the office. Therefore, we had the opportunity to do a side-by-side comparison. I tried to remain objective in making comparisons; however, I’ll admit that’s somewhat difficult to do when you have a vested interest in one of the vehicles. (My 2001 Z06, purchased after I had retired, was the end result of a 40-year-old promise I had made to myself as a teenager.) While the reduced size of the C6 does give it a somewhat sleeker appearance, both my son and I felt that the C5 exterior design was more distinctive and attractive. In the process of examining the C6, the driver proceeded to tell us that he was a freelance automotive writer for various publications, including Delaware Today Magazine. He had just recently picked the loaner Vette up and was going to do a piece on it. Although he hadn’t as yet had an opportunity to do a complete evaluation, to that point, he was very impressed with handling, performance and comfort of the C6. He encouraged us to sit in it to get a closer look, and from a personal point of view, I thought that the



interior was very attractive. While sitting behind the wheel, I immediately noticed that the back seat bolsters more closely conformed to my body than did my C5. Although not confirmed by riding in the C6 for any period of time, I got the impression that these seats would provide more comfort than the C5 throughout an extended trip. Also, prominently displayed in the center of the dash was an AM/FM CD with a DVD / Navigation system. I have, on a couple of occasions while using rental cars, had the opportunity to use a navigation system and, believe me, they can be a very useful tool when traveling in an unfamiliar area. I'm not certain, but I believe the driver indicated that this unit could be used to view any type of DVD. This may be fine for back seat passengers in a mini van, but the use of a DVD in a two seat Vette, while moving, would not be the safest scenario I could envision. However, the Navigation system / DVD player, is incorporated with a Bose premium 7 speaker system as a \$1,400.00 option. Whether or not most buyers would feel that the benefit of such an option would justify the cost is questionable.



There were a couple of items incorporated in the C6 that, I feel, fall into the bells and whistles category. For example, there is no need to use a key or a remote to start, lock and/or unlock the vehicle. As long as the driver had the keyless entry remote in his/her pocket, the vehicle would lock or unlock whenever the driver was within or out of a 5-foot radius of the vehicle. A cute item, but it doesn't really improve the vehicle in any way. In fact, while observing the C6, you could hear the locking system engaging and disengaging as the driver moved in and out of the 5-foot range around the vehicle. In addition, as long as the driver had the remote in his/her pocket, the vehicle could be started using a push button on the dash.

The vehicle was equipped with a Preferred Equipment Group costing \$4,368.00, the Z51 Performance Package, the aforementioned CD with Navigation and Bose system for \$1,400.00, polished aluminum wheels and the Onstar System for \$695.00. With a base price of \$43,445.00 and a destination charge of \$800.00, the total cost of this particular C6 was \$53,490.00.

In summary, while I believe, as stated earlier, that the C6 has lost some of the styling distinctiveness, it is still a very attractive Vette. Based on a variety of evaluations by various auto publications we have all read, there is no doubt that handling, performance and comfort improvements have been made. With respect to exterior design, that is something that each of us will evaluate and compare with our personal favorites, and opinions, will no doubt, differ. One thing is for sure, the C6 will carry on the proud tradition of America's number one sports car, and without a doubt, Corvette will remain the biggest bang for the buck of any car produced.....anywhere in the world.



Keystone's Grand Ball

Steve Blanchies

It was a great ride in the Vette to Keystone's Grand Ball on December 4th. We had wonderful evening with the members of the Keystone Corvette Club. They know how to put on a grand event. There was an abundance of appetizers brought around during the open bar before our Filet Mignon dinner. Afterwards there was dancing and almost everyone at our table received a door prize.



Every year Keystone raffles a new Corvette for a fundraiser for Spina Bifida. Last year's winner was from Florida and he opted for the cash. This year's winner was local and he was called after his named was pulled as winner of the 2005 C6 Daytona Sunset Orange Coupe. The winner could not convince his wife that he had won. Members from Keystone went and picked up the winners and brought them to the Grand Ball. It was great to see the ear to ear smile on the winners faces. The new owners pulled the loser prize tickets which were awarded to raffle ticket buyers attending the event. The winner had been buying tickets for this raffle for the past 7 years. He had just retired and had told his wife when he had bought the ticket that he was going to win this year! What a great retirement surprise.





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Upcoming Events Lynn Blanchies

Jan. 15 - Holiday Party Riverview Inn, Pennsville NJ 6:30-10:30pm. Cost \$25 per person

Join us for Buffet Dinner with cash bar. This year we are asking for everyone attending to please bring a Pollyanna gift to share. Dancing is downstairs afterwards to extend your evening. This is always a good time for all. **If you have not signed up and still want to go check with Janet Taylor.**

Feb. 5-13 - Philadelphia International Auto Show – Philadelphia Convention Center

Admission - Adults \$12 weekends \$10 weekdays. Of this, \$1.00 goes to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

January Birthdays



Nick Cervelli	1/5		
Nancy Stewart	1/6		Thomas Groer
Edna Boutwell	1/9		Diane Picho
Charlie Kirby	1/13		Elaine Raign
			Franklin Fink
			1/30



2004

December

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Established in 1973 and is a member of
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