

March 2004

Vettester

The Magazine of the Corvette Club of Northern Delaware



Shifting gears – that’s what it’s all about. The time has come and spring has sprung, the season’s inaugural cruise is here so ‘Gentleman, start your engines’.

Seems like forever that we’ve been waiting to hear that, but the 28th of this month will see the ‘starting flag’ come down. Off to the Red Rose Inn we will go.

The staging area will once again be the Prices Corner shopping center at the Kirkwood Hwy. entrance. The starting time has been moved up to 10:00 sharp this year to allow time after the brunch for a poker run type of event on the way back. Jack was finishing up the details at press time.

New for CCND this year, starting on this Day 1 of our season, Dave DiVito will be collecting video highlights of our events. Compiled at seasons end and made available on DVD, this will be the club’s first “video yearbook”. More on this as the drama unfolds.

At this month’s meeting we moved another step closer to making our club calendar a reality. More discussion was held on nailing down a format, with Joe DeSanta

taking the initiative and producing a couple of concepts for members to look at. Mike Metcalf has received some initial figures from a printer in the \$10 - \$20 range depending on what we want as far as design, and how many. Joe is offering the option of producing it ourselves at a reduced cost.

The next meeting will see the draft or appointment of 3 – 6 members (volunteers welcome) to form a selection committee. Their job will be to pick a feature car and 5 additional cars for each month for 18 months. All pictures must be high quality, preferably digital. Joe will have his camera at the Red Rose event, and possibly do another shoot at Lums Pond in the following week or two.

With a need for 108 cars, everyone’s car should be in the calendar. It’s only a matter of getting consistently good quality pictures. If you are interested, or you have something to submit already, please contact Mike, Joe, or myself, asap. There will be a strict deadline set at the next meeting to ensure that all timing considerations are met for a calendar to start in July. **JM**

My Two Cents



by Jack Layton

Welcome to March. The promise of better weather is already apparent. I'm sure that by now everyone has their car all dressed up and will finally have a place to go and show them off.

The season is starting off MUCH better. This time last year, we still had snow on the ground, and we were wondering if spring would ever get here. Even though this winter was not as bad as last year, just the thought of a nice warm sunny day cascading down upon you as you cruise to your favorite destination is enough to get the juices flowing.

The Red Rose Inn cruise is fast approaching. The date is March 28th. You still have time to sign up if you have not done so already by calling me. At this time, we have about 50 people signed up. Reservations are set for 11:30. We will be leaving from Prices Corner shopping center by the Sears Automotive building at **10AM SHARP!!!!!!** From there, we will take a leisurely drive through the countryside and hook up with more people at Longwood Gardens, and then on to the restaurant.

Coming up this year for things to do will be the usual 2 shows at Concord Mall. Father's Day on June 20th, and October 24th. Also, we have been asked by the Kennett Square merchants to cruise on up again this year. The dates are June

12th, and October 9th in downtown Kennett along Broad Street.

On April 3rd, First State Corvette Club is holding a seminar with Gordon Killebrew at the home of Rick and Linda Berry. Gordon was the C4 answer man at GM, before he retired and ventured out on his own. The seminar starts at 8am and runs to 4pm. The cost is \$25 per person, and includes donuts and coffee in the morning, and lunch. If you are interested in going, please let me know ASAP. We will be leaving from the Wachovia Bank in Prices Corner Shopping Center at 7am.

I want to extend my condolences to Mike and JoAnne Metcalf on the passing of JoAnne's father. The club did send out an arrangement to the family.

Here's to a great season of some fun in the sun and as always...thanks for letting me put in "*My Two Cents*".

CCND OFFICERS

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Vice President	Joe DeSanta	832-7147
Secretary	Christine Carlantonio	984-9558
Treasurer	Harvey Smith	376-0200
NCCC Gov.	Dave Morales	475-8560
Show Chairman	George Burritt	610-255-4381
Social Chairman	Lynn Blanchies	322-6649
Member at Large	Mike Metcalf	731-7852
NewsMag Editor	Joe Murray	836-3619

FEBUARY 2004

CCND Member of the Month

by Tom Polis Jr.



I am the proud owner of two Corvettes. My first is a 1982 and the other is a 2003 anniversary convertible.

The 1982 was purchased new by my father after founding Communications Construction Group. This is a Cable Television and Telecommunications Company that provides construction, engineering and cad drafting services. His company has constructed and upgraded several cable TV systems for Comcast over the years. In 1997 he decided it was time to consider retirement and sold his company to Dycom Industries. After this he built a vacation home at Smith Mountain Lake in Roanoke, Virginia. Unfortunately, a few years later, he was diagnosed with cancer and past away in October of 2001.

In November, I inherited the car. This vehicle has been in storage for quite some time. So the first thing I had to do was to take it over to James Chevrolet in West Chester to get it Inspected. After getting all of this done, it was time to enjoy the Vette.



One morning I decided to take the Corvette to go eat breakfast at the Nottingham Inn. On the way back, I passed by the Red Rose Inn.

Just by luck, it happened to be on the same day as the annual cruise and brunch. So I went into the parking lot to see why there were so many Corvettes in the parking lot. While looking at the cars, I met a member of the Keystone Corvette club. He introduced me to Frank Dubeck, who was the president at the time. After that I decided to join the Keystone State Corvette Club.

corvette

April first of 2003 is when I bought my Fiftieth Anniversary Convertible. I had taken my primary vehicle to James Chevrolet for an oil change. While waiting for the service to be completed, I noticed that the dealership had an Anniversary car in the show room. After looking at the car, I decided to test drive it. After the test drive, the salesman and I began to negotiate a deal. First, he offered me a lease on the car. I declined this. Then he offered me a thousand dollar rebate and six year loan at 5 percent. I declined this also. The third offer was to

take away the rebate and offer a zero percent loan for five years. I then told the salesman to give me the keys and to start the paper work.

With the Fiftieth anniversary party in Nashville around the corner, I decided to take the new Vette. The plan was to break it down into two trips. The first part of the trip was to drive to the lake house a few days before the celebration began. This gave me some time to play with the boat and jet skies, then drive from Roanoke to Nashville for the car show. While on the way down, I stopped at the Bristol Speed Way to watch the Corvettes race on the quarter mile and oval tracks. After arriving at Nashville and going through the car show at the stadium, I decided to take a ride to see the National Corvette Museum and participate in the Golden Jubilee Tour. This tour had about three or four hundred cars participating. The odd year cars staged at the Bowling Green plant and the even year cars staged near the museum. About half way through the tour, the odd and even years passed each other on the rolling back roads of Kentucky. Other than the Corvette parade at Nashville, the road tour was my favorite part of the trip.



I decided to join the Corvette Club of Northern Delaware because the monthly meetings and club events are closer and more convenient to participate in. In addition to being a member of the Corvettes Club of Northern Delaware, I decided to maintain my membership to Keystone State.





Ebay Car and Parts Purchasing Tips – Part 2

by Pat Bush

Last time we covered some basic Ebay purchasing tips. This month let's talk about how to get online and get "whatever"! Purchasing online these days is not much different from purchasing at a store. Purchasing on Ebay is easy and fast most times and the majority of sellers are honest folk. In the hundreds of transactions I have made, only 2 or 3 have been issues and for those, Ebay generally will support you. But you need a couple of things to get started and that's what we are discussing this month.

Screen Name and Initial Set-Up – Before you can do anything on Ebay you have to get yourself a screen-name and set your account up. This isn't hard at all. Just go to www.ebay.com and click the "Register Now" button. Fill out all the required information and you are good to start buying and selling on Ebay!

Credit Cards and Bank Accounts – As part of the registration, you will be asked for confidential information especially if you are making a big dollar purchase (>\$15,000.00) There's a lot of scary information out there about providing confidential information on the net. Spoofing is a real problem on the Internet and everything people say is true especially regarding identity theft. But, Ebay is a safe place as long as you don't consider emails from folks masquerading AS Ebay when they're not. In the four years I have dealt with the service, all my information has been held confidential. Word to the wise though, **NEVER MAKE YOUR USER ID/SCREEN NAME THE SAME AS YOUR EMAIL!** Otherwise you will get a ton of spam and emails that look like they came from Ebay but didn't.

OK, so now you are registered, now what?



Searching on Ebay – Ebay finds items based on generic or specific character searches. The key to finding parts is to look for general **NOT** parts specific to Corvettes. Remember, for all their allure, Corvettes are still just Chevrolet and GM products! If you know what you are looking for, you just might type in something like "GM Ball Joint" and return a plethora of units that will work on your car because the General wasn't stupid! The more parts that worked across product lines, the less inventory they needed! Sometimes though, you can't get away from typing Corvette – and that's OK too cause we all know some parts are "Corvette only". And you can be pretty specific in the Advanced Search page – right on down to a specific auction number or seller!

However, before you bid, make sure you aren't being taken for a ride. Check a couple of catalogs to see A) Is the part available?, and B) What are they charging? Then you can make an informed bid.

My Ebay – I usually scan for a certain part and then add it to “My Ebay”. This saves the auction in your personal in-box for later reference. I love it – as I find candidates and can then watch them to see how the bidding is going. Then, if someone gets a bit over-zealous on a particular part (which happens often), I can just delete it out of my folder. You can store up to around 20 items to watch.



You bid, you won, now you have to pay.....

COMMUNICATE – The first thing you should do is communicate with the seller (or buyer) once the auction has ended. It's easy and fast through Ebay's checkout process. If they didn't specify shipping, you will need to find out the total price to pay them so you can get your part. The rule is “You can never communicate enough!” Sellers like fast transactions and you will like the response and verification of your purchase. It's all part of online buying!

Paying for the Item – You basically have four ways to pay for an item: Personal Check (not recommended and most sellers won't accept it), Money Order, Credit Card, or PayPal. The seller will specify how you can pay in the auction. Personally, I find money orders to be a big hassle but some sellers will only accept them. I prefer PayPal for my transactions because payment is immediate, communication is forthcoming, and transactions can be guaranteed. PayPal requires additional set-up but is a sister service to Ebay so it's pretty easy. If you want to learn more go to www.paypal.com.



Feedback – Feedback is the one way you can tell a seller what you think about their auction. I always leave feedback and most good sellers will do the same. You can leave positive, negative or neutral feedback depending on how your transaction went.

I've had some great experiences and found some real deals on Ebay. The nice thing is you can find almost anything for sale out there. Hopefully this has been an informative page. If you ever have questions, you can always chat with me at a meeting or send an email to pbush@attglobal.net. I've converted several members to “Ebay Aholics” and they continue to find cool stuff for not a lot of money. Good luck and hope to see you online!





Upcoming Events



By Lynn Blanchies

- March 28 Sunday Brunch at the Red Rose Inn.
The details are in the newsletter. Please reserve with Jack if you have not done so already
- April 18 Fun Rally with Keystone Corvette Club.
Accepting first 40 Corvettes to register with driver and navigator. Call Jim O'Vary at 610-754-7614 or Al Paul 610-489-5111 for more information
- April 24 Shady Maple Farm and Smorgasbord
Join us for lunch at an old fashioned Amish Buffet. Cost is approx. \$16.50 for everything. We will leave from Marbrook Elementary School on Centerville Road at 10:45 am
Mark your calendar with the correct date! Sorry I put the wrong date last month
- May 16 Run to the Beach.
We will take a trip to Dewey Beach and have brunch at the Rusty Rudder. Cost is \$12.95. Departing from Wachovia Bank at Prices Corner at 8:30am Let's go before the crowd!
- June 12 "Cruise down Memory Lane" with Corvettes Unlimited in Vineland NJ
5-10pm.
- June 13 "Corvettes for a Cure" with Kelly Chevrolet in Phoenixville Pa. 10-4pm. Benefits the Alzheimer Assoc. Call Adam Wartell for details 610-409-9047
- July 25 Join us for a cruise of the Chesapeake.
- Sep 2-5 10th Anniversary Celebration of the NCM at Bowling Green KY



Melting Pot

We had a unique and good meal at our Melting Pot dinner get together. What a great way to spend an evening together with friends... Steve Blanchies



2004 Atlantic City Auto Auction



There aren't too many events going on this time of year that qualify for (as Jack Anderson called it) that car guy junkie fix, but this is certainly one of them. Even though we didn't get the bus ride down this year, all the fun is being there!

And so it was, from Feb. 26 – 29, that the Atlantic City Convention Center hosted over 1000 cars and many thousands of enthusiasts. All on a pilgrimage to get a little taste of what we all take for granted during the warm weather months – the opportunity to get up close and personal with what the automotive hobby is all about.

The cars were the stars, and for the right price you could bask in the starlight too. With the prices at the Barrett-Jackson Auction seemingly over on the high side this past January, the prices here could kindly be described as artificially optimistic also. That's only one bump in the economic road short of having a bad investment day. Still, as I often say, it doesn't cost anything to look! And there was plenty of looking to do!



Something that only occasionally has been seen since it's introduction, was the original '53 Corvette Motorama Car. Currently owned by Kerbeck, this was the car that started it all. Something else that I've never seen was what is known as the Caballista Corvette! Built between '79 - '82 by Dunham Motor



Coach Co., only 50 were built, 5 of which were convertibles. Looking more like a cross between a Pontiac and a Buick with sweeping side pipes, it none the less was Corvette powered, and prices started at \$60k new. The most affordable car of the day was also a Corvette! A red '57 for \$3000? Only if what you were looking for was of the 'pedal car' variety!



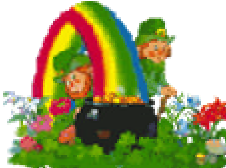


CCND March Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Jack Layton on March 2, 2004 at 7:10 pm. Thirty-one members, including the Board, were present.

New Member: John Joannides (White '97 coupe with tag "Dow S&P")

Vice President's Report:



Joe DeSanta reported that CCND's current paid membership totals 87. He is out of "Member of the Month" articles. Working on member cards. Working on club calendar – he showed 2 samples, a single page with a number of cars and a double page with featured car and smaller cars – members liked the double page sample best. Anyone interested in submitting a picture must have one in high resolution digital or burn on CD. Joe also offered to take pics at Lums Pond. He would like cars in picture quality background.

Treasurer's Report: Harvey Smith not able to attend. Jack reported club is in the black.

Member at Large: Mike Metcalf on vacation. Jack reported that Mike is working on Blue Rock's game. He placed the order for club apparel. Eighteen month Club calendar – pricing from Kinko's 1-149 copies \$19.99 ea. – 150 & up \$10.

NCCC Governor: Dave Morales not able to be present.

Newsletter Editor: Joe Murray reported all is quiet in news land.

Social Chairperson: Lynn Blanchies on vacation. Jack reported on the following club activities:

Red Rose Inn Cruise - Sun, 3/28 – rain or shine – meet at Sears, Prices Corner – 10am leave – Dave DeVito to video – possible activity following the brunch.

Shady Maple - Sat, 4/24

Kennett Square Cruise – Sat, 6/12 – open to all cars

Concord Mall Show – Father's Day – Sun, 6/20

Club Picnic – Sun, 8/15 – Barley Mill Plaza – 10 am – 6 pm - **need volunteers to setup/cleanup**

Kennett Square Cruise – Sat, 10/9 – CCND to host

Concord Mall Fall Show – Sun, 10/24

Show Chairman: George Burritt not able to be present.

Old Business: Jack reported on C4 guru **Gordon Killebrew** – will be in Dover on **4/3** – Rick Berry (FSCC) hosting – **hands on class - 8 am – 4 pm** – participants will get a chance to see Rick's 9 corvettes and an enormous die cast collection – room can fit 75 people comfortably – coffee & donuts in morning – lunch - **\$25/person** – don't have to have C4 – meet at Prices Corner Sears – **7 am leave – advance payment appreciated to Jack Layton.**



A member asked about any future Lantana Cruise nights. Since the coffee shop left, there has been no communication as far as any cruises. Old Ridge Village, Kahunnaville, and Kennett Square are all interested in having a cruise night.

New Business: None

50/50 Winners: Leather conditioner – Matt Guthan; Upholstery cleaner – Linda Cook; \$23 – Dave Steele

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, **Christine Carlantonio**, Secretary

NEXT MEETING DATE - TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2004



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For Sale: 1955 Chevy Bel-Air

This car was originally purchased in 1955 by the **Rollins family of Delaware**. Then acquired by Bob Reed who sold it to **Bob Gold** (yes "Corvette" Bob Gold). The car was shipped to Oklahoma where it was body-on restored in 1995. Richard Reed purchased and enjoyed this car for the next 8 years while restoring the suspension and transmission in 1999.



Equipped with factory air (1st year for AC), power brakes, power seats, power windows, numbers matching 265 ci. V8 engine and a Power Glide transmission. Beautifully finished in turquoise and ivory with matching interior. This car is a real head turner and a pleasure to drive and is being presented for \$32,500.00 or best offer. Don't hesitate; this car is a very rare find.

For more info or to arrange for an inspection please contact **George Burritt at 610-656-6617 cell.**

2004

March

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

CCND NEWS
P.O.B. 223
New Castle, De.
19720



*The Corvette Club of Northern Delaware was
Established in 1973 and is a member of
The National Council of Corvette Clubs*



Check out our web site @ www.vetteclub.org