

Vettester

May 2004

The Magazine of the Corvette Club of Northern Delaware



1957 Fuller: George Berritt & Joe DeSanto

Anyone with the need to feed that need for speed please take one step forward! And be sure to have helmet in hand!

That's right folks, if you have that **itch** to go fast, or just plain want to see what that Corvette will do, then this one's for you. I'm not talking about breaking the law, I'm talking about doing it the right way.... on the track!

It's that time of year for Corvette Day at the Drags, at Cecil County Dragway. Mason Dixon Corvette Club is holding their annual pedal to the metal extravaganza June 12, and you don't want to miss it. If you've never done one, it's at the least a lot of fun, a real learning experience, and a lot of Vettes. There's nothing like the smell of burning rubber and racing fuel in the morning, to get that adrenaline pumping!

Mason Dixon is an NCRS club, so you'll see everything from show cars to daily drivers to race prepared cars going down the track. There's always a couple of Vipers (Steve) and trailered drag cars show up to make things

interesting. Gates open at 8:00, speed trials run all morning, bracket racing starts at 1:00, \$40 to race, \$10 to watch, see ya there!

The following week takes us to Concord Mall for CCND's annual Fathers Day Show on the 20th. Indoors, under the lights, and not a bad spot anywhere, and always draws the crowds! All cars are numbered and Peoples Choice decides the trophies. Cars need to be there by 9:00 – 25 total cars - \$10 registration – call Jack. A great day to show the kids some Vettes, and see that Dad has friends.

Mike Metcalf has hit a home run in his quest for a fireworks night at the Blue Rocks! Janet will sing the National Anthem, and Jack gets to throw out the first ball (just kidding).

The fireworks are real and the date is July 2nd. Sign ups will be finalized at the June meeting, with the need to bring your \$20. We still need 5 to 6 cars for the on field parade, contact Mike. JM

My Two Cents



by Jack Layton

It's only May and we have already seen temperatures in the 80's for 2 weeks now. This bodes well for the season ahead, versus all the rainy days we had last year.

The Shady Maple cruise on April 24th turned out to be a real nice day. The weather was perfect, and the trip up and back was relaxing. And as always, the food was fantastic. As for the brunch run to the Rusty Rudder on May 16th, the weather was a little iffy in the morning, but was nearly perfect when we arrived- sunny and in the 70's. I believe each trip had 21 people. Thanks to Lynn Blanchies for putting together these two outings.

On May 8th a small group of us headed up to County Corvette in West Chester to tour the facilities and have lunch. We met up with KSCC, and all total there were 24 people who attended. They had a 57 there that was being completely restored, as well as a Pennsylvania State Troopers shark that needed the complete rear fixed due to an accident where he was rear-ended. My thanks to Barry Thomas from Keystone for putting this together.

We are all set for the Blue Rocks. The date is Friday July 2nd and it is a fireworks night game. Mike Metcalf has reserved us the picnic area. The cost is \$20.00 per person. – money is due ASAP!

Again this year we will be able to have 5-6 cars drive around the field prior to the game. There will be a drawing to determine the

winners. Members who wish to attend need to let Mike know.

Our annual Concord Mall show on Fathers Day is June 20th. Cars can start entering the Mall at 7:30 AM, and all cars must be inside by 9:30 AM. Cars cannot leave until 6 PM when the Mall closes. Contact Janet for more information and registration.

Once again this year our club picnic will be held at the DuPont Pavilion in the Barley Mill complex. The date is August 15th from 10am-6p. Members are asked to bring a dish of their choice. The club will be providing the main entrees and drinks. There will be more info as we get closer to the date.

BEGINNING JULY 6th, OUR NEW MEETING PLACE WILL BE AT KAHUNNAVILLE. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF IT.

Let the good times roll. Get out and enjoy the weather, because it looks like it's going to be a great season.

As always... thanks for letting me put in "My Two Cents".

CCND OFFICERS		
President	JackLayton	998-9434
Vice President	Joe DeSanta	832-7147
Secretary	Christine Carlanonio	984-9558
Treasurer	Harvey Smith	376-0200
NCCC Gov.	Dave Morales	475-8560
Show Chairman	George Burrirtt	610-255-4381
Social Chairman	Lynn Blanchies	322-6649
Member at Large	Mike Metcalf	731-7852
NewsMag Editor	Joe Murray	836-3619

In Your Own Backyard.... County Corvette



....had always wanted to make a trip to County Corvette.... had heard that they work on Corvettes and nothing else.... heard they do everything from accident repair all the way up to NCRS restorations.... and anything in between....

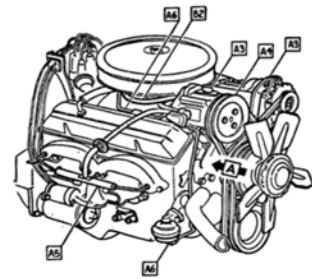
On Sat. May 8th the occasion arose for CCND to join up with KSCC and find out first hand exactly what's behind those big doors! And, with all of the above being true, the answer to the question would be - beautiful cars! There were at the least a half dozen that I could picture in my garage - and that was only after a painful process of elimination.

Yes, I took some pictures, but they don't quite capture the essence of being there. It was like being at a car show. The quality of fit, finish, paint, and workmanship, had to be seen. Even the ones in the various stages of restoration or repair were great examples of the progression of the process.

We were able to see everything, everyone was great, and Jim Jordan did an excellent job as host/tour guide. No misconceptions here, they are totally Corvette and totally professional! Before going for distance with your project, check these guys out yourself, they're right in your own backyard.

Vette Tech

By Pat Bush



Corvette Cooling and Temperature Systems (Part 1)

This month we take a look at the bane of all Corvette owners – cooling the beasts down and troubleshooting my favorite gauge in the cluster – the temperature gauge. Anybody who knows me, also knows both my cars had or still have overheating problems. What you are going to see in this article is what I did to overcome the problem(s).

Let's talk Components:

The cooling system in your car is pretty simple. It's amazing how such a simple system can cause early Corvette owners such angst and aggravation. Let's look at the system from a component perspective:



Radiator – The radiator's function is to take the hot cooling fluid from the engine and cool it down through thermal dissipation using air from the environment. Corvette radiators were manufactured either of brass or aluminum depending on your car's option configuration. All air-conditioned cars used brass units. Some "base" model cars were aluminum. If you ever opened a radiator up you'd see it's a pretty simple affair – two tanks on either end with many tubes that run horizontally from side to side (the radiator core). Thin fins are attached to the tubes and aid in heat removal when the car is operating. The core is soldered to the tanks and forms a sealed unit that can withstand pressure (more on this later).



Thermostat – This is the temperature regulator in the system. It consists of a spring and sensor that opens and closes based on the engine's temperature. Contrary to popular belief, running a car without a thermostat does not eliminate overheating problems. Sometimes it causes a problem because coolant doesn't have enough time to dissipate its heat in the radiator. Thermostats come in three flavors: 165, 180, and 195 degree units. Normal thermostats installed in most earlier Corvettes were of the 180 degree variety. The thermostat on all Chevrolet motors is located on the intake manifold under the water outlet. You can't miss it since the upper radiator hose connects to it.

Radiator Cap – This component connects either to the radiator itself or on certain configurations, the recovery tank. Its function is to seal the system and pressurize it. This is the component that determines how much pressure the system maintains. From the factory, your system was pressurized to 15lbs. Most replacement caps for GM units are 16lbs. Not a problem because the more pressure, the higher the boiling temp for fluids. This is basic physics. That \$6.00 part plays a VERY important role in the cooling system.



Water Pump – The water pump does exactly what its name says: It moves water through the motor and radiator. Inside the water pump are impeller blades that actually move the water. The water pump is driven by the motor and is attached to the Fan Blade and clutch.

Fan and Fan Clutch – Fans and clutches vary greatly in Corvettes as anyone who has looked at them knows. Their purpose is to pull air through the radiator as well as move air in the engine compartment. The various designs and pitch of the blade determines how much air is pulled through the radiator. Fan clutches have a

thermostat and their purpose is to allow the fan to spin faster as the car heats up causing more air movement and cooling.

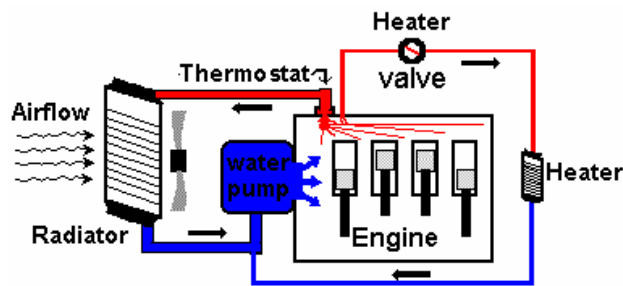
Seals – Seals in a Corvette play an important role in not allowing air to escape around the radiator. Because of their innate design, Corvettes require several seals (around the radiator, around the shroud, and along the top of the hood to force air to the radiator.



Air Dam – This is not a cool cosmetic feature on these cars – in fact it is very necessary to help aide/channel air flow correctly. There are different air dams based on your car's configuration and they're really important. Don't leave home without it!

So How Is the System Supposed to Work?

Corvettes are “bottom feeders” unlike most cars. What we mean by this is that rather than having forced air pushed (and then pulled through the radiator by the fan) from a vertically mounted radiator exposed to the grille, our cars get their air from underneath the car. The whole effect is supposed to be something of a wind-tunnel vortex where air is sucked from below and pulled through the engine compartment exiting through the side vents and transmission tunnel. This is why your feet and the passenger compartment get so hot. It also doesn't help that there is so little engine compartment room to help in dissipating ambient motor and exhaust manifold heat.



When the system is operating at peak performance, it CAN and DOES cool your car. But one problem exists that didn't in the 50's, 60's, and 70's..... There were a lot more open roads and less traffic than there is today. Seems like every two blocks you have to start and stop and we won't talk about traffic jams. This causes a huge load on the cooling system and is death to a bottom feeder – they like to be moving. The engineers didn't think about this back then and truth be told, a Corvette's cooling system (like it's Air Conditioning, is somewhat undersized for the heat load of the car).

When you sit and idle for extended periods, you simply have a much harder time moving enough air volume to operate the system correctly. Not too much of a problem with a non-optional small block. Big blocks on the other hand, have a much higher heat load and there's an awful lot more metal to keep cool. And, of course if you have a big-block with air conditioning (or any car for that matter), well, you just added yet more cooling requirements on an already taxed system since the condenser sits right in front of the radiator and raises the ambient air temperature before it even gets to the radiator fins! Remember, the condenser takes super heated/pressurized freon gas and condenses it into a hot liquid. Finally, the majority of Corvette engines out there 20+ years old have been bored oversize at some time in their lives. This also increases load on the cooling system because there is not as much metal to absorb the heat of combustion. This means more heat is transferred to the coolant and the system has to work that much harder to keep things cool.

Houston we have a problem....

Summertime driving can be a real “adventure” with a marginally functioning cooling system. Take it from a guy who knows. The temperature gauge and sending unit only complicate matters further. You see, the gauge ISN'T supposed to be all that accurate until you get close to the red mark. Then it gets REAL accurate. And of course, lord help you if your sender ever goes bad. Replacements (even from AC) often do not register correct readings on your gauge. So how do we deal with this and assure we don't have a meltdown of that numbers matching block? Next month we'll go through the ropes to search and destroy cooling system problems. What you'll find is there's only so many places to go.....



First Annual Wilmington Assembly (Boxwood Road)

S H AUT W






When GM decides to put on a show they pull out all the stops to make it a memorable event! This show was held at the Newport Boxwood Road Plant and was sponsored by the UAW local 435. Since this was their first car show I was not sure what to expect.

Over 350 enthusiasts participated in this event entering everything from turn of the century runabouts to exotic race cars. GM treated the crowd with a variety of new models including the new GTO.

The weather could not have been better and the lot was filled with a large representation of Corvettes of every era. This show was judged by the local Street Rod Club as well as employees of General Motors. They had some incredible door prizes including a NASCAR aluminum jack, color TV, and a battery powered impact gun.



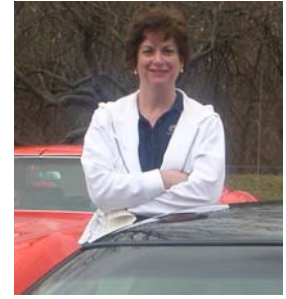
A lower parking lot was filled with new GM models including the GTO, and the Chevy SSR but missing was the Pontiac Solstice Roadster that will be built at the Boxwood plant. Also displayed were race cars, dragsters, drag bikes and an 18-wheeler that is used to support and transport a professional race team.



The proceeds went to the General Motor's Affinity Group for Women, and I'd bet that based on the success of this show, that next years event will be even better. Check out the picture and see if you don't agree....*Joe DeSanta*



Upcoming Events by Lynn Blanchies



- June 12 **Cruise into the downtown Kennett Sq.** for a Corvette Car Show beginning at 4:30 p.m. complete with prizes, raffles and a DJ. Meet at Lantana Sq. at 3:30pm for a caravan trip up to Kennett Sq.
- June 20 **Father's Day in Concord Mall.** The first 25 members will be able to show off their cars inside Concord Mall. Register your car by calling Jack. \$10 Registration Fee. Trophies will be given out. Cars must be in the mall from 9:00am to 6:00pm.
- July 2 **Blue Rocks with Fireworks.** Game time is 7:05pm. Before the game we will enjoy a picnic of Hot Dogs and Hamburgers etc. Cost is \$20 per person. Please sign up at the June meeting. Money will be collected at that time.
- July 25 **Join us for a boat cruise on the Chesapeake.** We will take a 55ft cabin cruiser to enjoy a picnic, swimming, sunning and just hanging out. We will only be able to take 20 people so sign up at the next meeting
- Aug 15 **CCND Club Picnic** Barley Mill Plaza 10am – 6pm Volunteers needed



Birthdays

Raymond Casalena	6/2	Lynn Blanchies	6/25
Bob Whorl	6/4	John Twaddell	6/26
Lauren Lehman	6/7	John MCarnan	6/28
Linda Burritt	6/21	Bobbie McGhee	6/28
Charlotte Gerber	6/24	Jack Dobbins	6/29

Shady Maple by Steve Blanchies

Twelve Corvettes and 21 members enjoyed a wonderful spring day driving to Shady Maple on Saturday April 24th. The back roads through Amish Countryside provided great scenery and at times an unmistakable aroma. As you can see in the picture, Janet arrived in her super sized front loader to help with the expansion of the building.

Shady Maple's food was enjoyed by all in this 1,200 seat restaurant. Some members were off to the lower level for the largest gift shop I have ever seen, while a few of us stayed at the table talking. One member, who will remain unnamed, told us his story of how he obtained his Corvette and what he has to do to keep it. His story would be a great member of the month article. Keep your eye out for that one!

On the way home Lynn and I stopped at a grocery store in Lancaster for a ham. As we were checking out, the young cashiers noticed our Corvette shirts and stated how much they liked Corvettes and asked if we had one. We stated it was in the parking lot and talked about it for few minutes. As we were backing out of our parking space, I noticed 2 of the boys had come out side to see us drive by. I stopped next to them, power braked it and lit up the tires! I think I made their day, I know it made mine. Drive it like you stole it!





CCND May Meeting Minutes

by Christine Carlantonio



Meeting was called to order by Jack Layton on May 4, 2004 at 7:00 pm. Thirty-nine members, including the board, were in attendance.

New Members: Dante ('02 Z06); Tom Groer ('72 coupe); Barry Kimmelman ('65 coup); Stan Piesieski ('93 40th anniv); Tom Ptomey ('85 coupe); and Terry Shannon ('66 coupe)

Vice President's Report: Joe DeSanta reported that CCND's current paid membership totals 85.

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

Member at Large: Mike Metcalf looking for advertising in newsletter. Club apparel is in. Will be placing May order by end of this week...3 week turnaround...will be getting more catalogs. Club calendar – need pictures!!! Blue Rocks update: Fri, 7/2, fireworks night, in picnic area on 3rd base line, \$20/person – committed for 25 people – sign-up & bring \$\$ to June meeting. Non-secure parking because of fireworks

NCCC Governor: Dave Morales not able to be present.

Newsletter Editor: Joe Murray would like feedback/complaints on newsletter. Need participation in club calendar – now that the weather is nice, it's a great opportunity to get a post card quality picture of your car. If you don't, the club calendar won't happen.

Social Chairperson: Lynn Blanchies reported on the following upcoming activities:

Sun, 5/16 – Cruise to the beach, brunch at Rusty Rudder. Will be leaving Prices Corner parking lot (by Sears Automotive) 8:30 a.m.

Sun, 7/25 – Boat trip on Jay Brantner's father's yacht – can hold 20 people

Recap of Shady Maple: 12 cars – 21 people – plenty of good food

Jack reported on following upcoming activities:

Sat, 5/8 – County Corvette Tour, 11a to 1p, leave from Marbrook Elementary School at 10am, free lunch

Sat, 6/12 – Kennett Square Cruise, stores & restaurants open, leaving from Lantana Shopping Center at 3:30 pm

Sun, 6/20 – Father's Day at Concord Mall, cars in between 7:30-9 am, no one leaves until after mall closes at 6pm, \$10 entry fee, trophies to be awarded

PLEASE NOTE: SINCE LYNN BLANCHIES IS THE ACTIVITY CHAIR, PLEASE CALL HER IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT OR TO SIGN UP FOR ACTIVITIES NOT RELATED TO JACK LAYTON.

Website update: Janet Taylor reported that Andy Rumford did a spectacular job – need to check it out!!

Show Chairman: George Burritt not able to be present.

Old Business: Jack reported that George has a concern about not having sponsors for the October car show. We need to have each club member get at least one \$100 sponsor. A committee was selected to meet at Jack's house next Wednesday, 5/12 @ 7 pm. Members also need to solicit door prizes. An idea was brought up to have event t-shirts imprinted with CCND on front and sponsors on back. Veterans unanimously chosen for the charity.

New Business: **New meeting place beginning with July will be at Kahunaville banquet room – same time**

50/50 Winners: Glass cleaner: Stan; Rainex: Mike Turano; Cash: Bob Twaddell

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Carlantonio, Secretary

NEXT MEETING DATE - TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2004

Vette Shopper

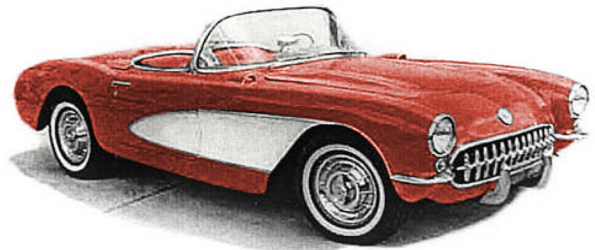
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Of the 6,339 Corvettes built in 57 less than 1,000 were equipped with the Fuel Injection (first year)!

note: fuel unit is not included with car.

This is a very rare find that will be offered for \$37,500.00 obo. The NADA price for average retail is \$64,150 !!! (replace fuel unit for less than \$6K and increase your investment almost 50% !!!

Call Joe DeSanta at 302-832-7147
or George Burritt at 610-255-4381

For Sale: 1957 Corvette ex-Fulie Car !!!



2004

May

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

CCND NEWS
P.O.B. 223
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*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