

February / March 2005

Vettester

The Magazine of the Corvette Club of Northern Delaware

Member of the Month:
Brian Falla



Monster Truck Jam



CCND Corvette Cruisers

My Two Cents



by Jack Layton

Now that I am fresh off of vacation, it is back to reality and the cold weather. I woke up to some snow flurries this morning and wanted to get on the next plane outta here. Oh well, there's always next year.

At the February meeting, Harvey Smith presented to the membership his annual financial report for 2004. According to Harvey, the club is starting off 2005 better than it has in any previous year since he has been treasurer. For those who were not at the February meeting and want a copy of the report, please contact Harvey directly. And by the way, this is not a coincidence. By emailing the newsletter, the club is saving big big bucks.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter our 7th annual Red Rose Inn cruise is set for Sunday March 20th. Just a reminder, we will be meeting at Prices Corner **PARK-N-RIDE**, which is on Centerville Road, just behind the shopping center. **Please make a note that we will NOT be meeting in the shopping center. We will be leaving at 10AM SHARP!** Again, this year, we will feature a poker run. Last year was the first time that this was done, and those who participated said they enjoyed the beautiful scenery through the countryside.

It's official. At the January meeting, a motion was made that the club purchase a new 5' X 8' trailer. That motion was accepted and approved by the membership. Steve Blanchies will take care of the initial arrangements. All that's left to do now is to finalize the cost of lettering the trailer. The club is getting prices from 2 or 3 companies. More information will be provided at the March meeting. In the process, Matt Guthen bought the old trailer for \$200.00.

Keystone State Corvette Club is holding their 2nd annual poker run and rally April 17th. Last year we had 3 cars representing the club. I would like to see if we could get 6-8 cars this year. Contact me ASAP if you're interested, either by phone or email.

Regarding the clubs website, Andy Rumford and Janet are in the process of updating it. Look for new changes in the coming months. If you have any ideas on what you would like to see on the site, contact either one of them via email, or by phone.

As of this writing, I am in contact with Concord Mall Management regarding the club holding a 3rd show. Right now I am waiting on available dates. This event will be a combination of cars and motorcycles and advertised as such, with the club being acknowledged as the host. This show will be open to anyone, but space will be limited. Hopefully, I will have more information at the March meeting.

Mike Metcalf is checking with the Blue Rocks about availability for a fireworks night event. He is hoping that they will allow 10 cars to parade around the track this year. Stay tuned.

March madness- Corvette style- is just around the corner. Get out and smell the roses..."Black Roses" that is. And 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 Cariantonio	984-9558
Treasurer	Harvey Smith	376-0200
NCCC Gov.	Dave Morales	475-8560
Show Chairman	Bob Gerber	633-6594
Social Chairman	Lynn Blanchies	322-6649
Member at Large	Mike Metcalf	731-7852
NewsMag Editor	Steve Blanchies	521-1961cell

The Headlight Blues

How to repair 92-96 headlight motors for \$4.95! *By Matt Guthan*



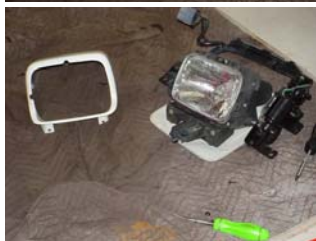
We all know the common problem, go to put your headlight up, and it won't go all the way in position, or it won't park when shutting off. I can at least show you a way to fix your headlight motor instead of buying a complete assembly. It is not that bad to do, but if you are not comfortable, then please have someone else do this repair.

The first thing you have to do is to unplug the harness on the troubled headlight, the next step will be to mark the area of where your headlight is so you can reinstall it in the same area with little adjustment for proper clearance of the headlight door and hood.

Next remove the assembly; there are 3 adjusting bolts and 2 lower bolts to remove. Then after the assembly is removed the headlight cover is ready to come off.



Remove the 3 torx-drive bolts, and the pin connects to the arm that holds on the headlight motor. One bolt is a little bit of a challenge to get to, but not impossible.



Once you have the motor on the bench, you can now remove the 3 bolts to the cover of the motor. When the cover is removed, you will see a white gear, grab the top of the shaft and remove the shaft and white gear as a whole assembly. You will notice a lot of old dried up grease coming out of the gear, this is normal, just clean out all of the dried grease. You will also notice some flat washers in the motor where the shaft was removed; make sure that they are still there.



Next you will remove the white gear from the shaft, when it is removed finish taking off any of the old dried grease as explained before. The kit that was purchased for this repair will come with 3 white round shims; they will fit in the white gear where the grease was removed. The gear has 3 inserts where they will fit perfectly; I don't know why the factory never did this in the first place!



Now we have to slide the gear back in the shaft, you have to hold it so the 3 shims don't move. To reinstall everything back you will reverse the above order. Make sure when you are ready to install the headlight arm back onto the shaft using the pin, that you support the arm so it does not bend.

Also when it is fully installed, and before you plug it in, use the manual knob on the headlight motor to make sure that it does not rub the hood.



2005 Corvette Cruisers Steve Blanchies

For this year's winter get away 53 people from CCND, First State Corvette club, Salisbury's Eastern Shore Corvette Club and friends went on a 6 day cruise on the Jewel of the Seas. This is a beautiful ship which is less than a year old.

Most cruisers arrived in Fort Lauderdale the day before sailing, 2 couples went down 2 days early and the rest arriving the morning of sailing. While in Fort Lauderdale we went to Thunder Cycles to check out the custom bikes. We also rode the Water Taxi and admired the water front houses, numerous mega yachts and had dinner at a local restaurant, Shotters.

First day on the ship was Super Bowl Sunday. There were 4 out of 12 at our dinner table that night. I'm sure you already know the outcome of the big game! They owe us another one. How many does that make?



We all wore our yellow Corvette Cruiser T-shirts at our first port, Key West, FL where some shopped, some bar hopped and Lynn & I rented a scooter to tour the island. Groups met for lunch, we met at Margaretville. Everywhere you looked - Look! There are more people in those yellow shirts. That night was formal night. Everyone sure looks great all dressed up.

Next port was Cozumel where 6 of us from CCND spent the day on Passion Island sunning on the beach. It sure was great to be in bathing suits basking in the warmth of the sun. Costa Maya is where we visited the Mayan Ruins and received lots of information on the Mayan people. Grand Cayman tour consisted of a visit to Hell, the turtle farm and to Sting Ray City for some under water viewing in a special boat.

The weather was great and the water was crystal clear! What a great way to get away with fellow Corvette owners. Let's do it again.



March 2005

CCND Member of the Month **by Brian Falla**

It all started with a simple love of the open road...

My love of cars started before I got my drivers license. I enrolled in an automotive shop class in high school and began to learn the basics of automotive mechanics. I learned how to fix cars long before I knew how to drive them.

My first car was given to me by my Dad, a '66 Impala 4 door that had survived my older brother and sister; well it didn't do so well with me. Less than a month later I found myself having to purchase my own car (Dad wouldn't foot the bill twice). I found a '65 Plymouth Fury with "three on the tree" (3 speed manual transmission with a column shifter - remember them??). I bought the car for \$50 and drove it home. This was the



first time I had ever driven a stick. I made it home (after grinding a few gears) and I learned something that would forever change the way I drive. A manual transmission is MUCH more fun to drive than an automatic!! The car was a junk heap, but it was a blast to drive! I even installed a Hurst shift handle on the column shift. Boy did I get funny looks from all my grease monkey friends!

Well, the love of a V8 coupled to a manual transmission never died in me. I found myself in the position to buy a 2nd "play" car in 1985. I went to a couple of dealers and looked at cars that were in my price range (Z28 and Trans Am). I test drove both of these cars, but left the dealerships disappointed. They didn't have the "kick" that I was looking for.

I looked at a '69 Vette in Newark and seriously considered it, but it was already a classic and I wanted something that I could rack the miles up on, not something to look at. A few days later, I saw an '81 Vette parked on a used car lot off Kirkwood highway. Not knowing anything about Vettes, I asked a friend at work if '81 was a good year for Vettes (he had two mid year cars). He didn't tell me it was a great year; he also didn't tell me it was a bad one. So, the price was right and I purchased the car. It had 39,000 miles on it, a manual transmission (of course) and just about every

option available except power mirrors and glass tops. Now granted, this car is not a real tire smoker, but it is a lot of fun to drive. My love of Corvettes had begun.

By '91 I found myself in a position to buy another Vette. This time I decided to go for something a little more classic. I really only had four requirements for the car: It had to be original, a rag top, have side pipes and... a manual tranny. I spent the better part of a year looking for the right car. While searching the want ads, I saw the meeting notice for CCND. A short time later, I joined the club. I did a lot of research (determined not to get ripped off) and must have test drove 20 cars during my search. I finally found a '69 in North Philly that met all 4 requirements. It is a Cortez Silver rag top with a nice list of options, including AC, TI ignition, 350/350, Tilt Telescopic, Leather trim and all the original dealer papers. Now, I have my screaming small block coupled to a 4-speed! I get a rush every time I drive this car!

Some time in '94 my '81 developed a coolant leak from under the intake manifold. I figured, no big deal, I'll just change the gasket out. By this time the car had 150,000 miles on it (I told you I wanted a car I could drive) and when the intake came off I saw the cam. It was shot. So, I decided that the motor should be rebuilt...

13 months later, the car pulled out of my garage with a completely rebuilt drive train and suspension, all new bushings, bearings, mounts and a little more horsepower. I did all the work myself with jack stands, a small hydraulic piston jack and an "A" frame hoist. Well, I must have done something right because that was over 80,000 miles ago; she's still fun to drive and gets me back and forth to work on a daily basis. The only job I couldn't tackle myself was the body work. To this day, the poor car needs body work and new paint.

I probably would have purchased another Vette by now if I hadn't been bitten by the motorcycle bug back in '93. My neighbor asked me to buy his old Honda and I agreed. I've always been a believer in buying American, so it wasn't long before I got my first Harley. I have two of them now and all four garage bays at my house are full. I guess the next step is to install a lift so I can "stack" the toys. Then I can get another Vette!

Hmmm... "Honey... I need to put a lift in the garage. It will be so much easier on my back!" Wink-Wink.



For all you motorheads out there, two unaltered and unrestored engine compartments. Can you tell which is which?? For many of you, I'm sure this is a "no-brainer".

Upcoming Events

Lynn Blanchies



Feb. 23 - Dinner out at Joe's the Unchained Restaurant

Located on Kirkwood Highway. Meet at the restaurant at 6:30pm. Please let me know if you are coming for reservations. (322-6649)

Feb. 24-27 - Atlantic City Car Show



March 20 - Red Rose Inn Sunday Brunch & Poker Run Rain or Shine

\$20.00 per person with Tax and gratuities included. Money will be collected at the March meeting and prior to leaving that day. Reservations made through Jack/Janet Meet at 10:00am at the park n ride behind Prices Corner Shopping Center. Please join us for this annual spring event. This is always a good turnout and pictures are taken afterwards. Remember the Best Hand wins!



March Birthdays

Jennifer Powell	3/1	Carol Powell	3/23
Janet Taylor	3/6	Dave DeVito	3/27
Bob Gerber	3/10	Barry Kimmelman	3/27
George Patterson	3/10	French McGhee	3/27
Greg Hoffman	3/12	Theresa Ventresca	3/29
Gloria Boone	3/13	Helene DeVito	3/31
Don Carbaugh	3/15		

What do you want to do?

Warmer weather will be here before you know it. Do you know of any special events, places to go or things to do that we can do together? Getting together does not have to mean driving the Corvettes, but it is a plus if included. Contact Lynn, boatwidow@comcast.net or Steve Blanchies, 50thacorvette@comcast.net with any ideas and suggestions. Home phone: 322-6649



CCND Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Jack Layton on February 1, 2005. Jack presented his gift of a monogrammed calculator/pen set to Harvey Smith, who was not able to attend the holiday party. Andy Rumford, Member of the Year, was presented with a gift of a crystal clock.

Vice President's Report:

Joe DeSanta reported 67 paid members. Member of the month articles needed. Membership cards were discussed and it was decided to not do them this year.

Treasurer's Report:

Harvey Smith reported club is in the black. The annual report was distributed.

Member at Large:

Mike Metcalf has contacted two club apparel companies. Waiting for setup estimates - should run \$0 to \$150 depending on whether he can get the setup back from Signature Stitches. Will bring new catalogs to next meeting. Both companies promised a week and a half turnaround.

Blue Rocks: June 3rd, fireworks night, \$20/person in the picnic area. We are hoping for approval for 10 Vettes to cruise around the field. Will get more info by next meeting.

NCCC Governor:

Dave Morales - not able to be present.

Newsletter Editor:

Steve Blanchies reported that Jack's printer is still down. If anyone has any articles for newsletter, please send to Steve. Janet is providing a link on the internet to post the newsletter for now. New link will be emailed each month.

Social Chairperson:

Steve Blanchies reported on upcoming activities:

- 2/05-13 Philadelphia Auto Show
- 2/23 Dinner at Joe's the Un-Chain, 6:30pm - no sign up, just show up
- 2/26 1st State Corvette Club Atlantic City trip
- 3/20 Red Rose Inn **

Any other suggestions for events - call Lynn

Show Chairman:

Bob Gerber reported the show date is 10/2, rain date 10/23. We will be meeting with Delaware Humane Society, working on flyer, and meeting with Ritchie about rules & regs for vendors. Also working on budget for the show.

Janet Taylor:

Janet reported 60 people attended the holiday party and a good time was had by all. Everyone was asked to bring a gift. Instead of the usual gift exchange, Jack decided to have a "Chinese auction". Members were asked to fill out a questionnaire regarding the website.

Old Business:

** Jack reminded everyone that the Red Rose Inn brunch cruise is a rain or shine event. Everyone who signs up is still expected to show up no matter what, because reservations have to be made ahead of time.

4/17 - Keystone State Corvette Club poker run

Club trailer: Steve Blanchies priced a 5 x 8 from Lowes in Middletown with a \$200 discount for a total price of \$1699. Logo application will be about \$500. Motion was passed to purchase this new trailer. Don Steinhauser offered \$150 for the old trailer; Matt Guthan will buy it for \$200.

New Business:

None

50/50:

Magnetic pointer - Norman Powell; Plastic storage box - Andy Rumford; \$42 - Lynn Taylor

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Carlantonio

NEXT MEETING DATE - TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2005

Monster Jam

Steve Blanchies



Lynn & I took our 4 year grandson to the Wachovia Spectrum Saturday afternoon to see the Monster Jam. There were eight monster trucks maneuvering through the tight confines of the small show floor as we watched from the top row of section 325.

These LOUD high horse powered, big tired, 4 wheel drive trucks flew through the air, jumped on and over cars. Sometimes doing wheelies 90' to the floor. Some of the names in attendance were Superman and Medusa who in the freestyle contest had managed to put her truck on its side after saving moments earlier from a flip. Also there was the popular Grave Digger who had won this afternoons contest.



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Please contact Mike Metcalf to advertise on this page !!!

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Sneek Peek of the New Z06 and Nomad!



February - March 2005

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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