

JANUARY 2006

Vettester

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CORVETTE CLUB OF NORTHERN DELAWARE

MATT GUTHAN'S
1992 TRIPLE WHITE



My Two Cents



by Jack Layton

Hello everyone. By the time you receive this newsletter, the Christmas holiday will either be at a fever pitch, or we will have let out a collective sigh of relief...happy the days and weeks of shopping have finally come to an end. Whichever it is, it means that another season has come and gone. On the other hand, it means another season is about to start.

So, with this being the January newsletter let me start off by acknowledging "your board of directors" for 2006. Steve Blanchies- Vice-President, Harvey Smith-Treasurer, Christine Carlantonio-Secretary, Mike Metcalf-Member at Large, Dave Morales-NCCC Governor, Bob Gerber-Show chairperson, Barry Kimmelman- Newsletter editor, Linda Kimmelman-Social chairperson and last but not least, yours truly as President. I look forward to working with all of you for the upcoming season.

2006 looks to be another busy season as far as activities and events are concerned. Also, you will be seeing some new features to the newsletter in 2006. As always, we need member of the month articles. I'm thinking, that since we have had an influx of new members the last couple of years, that maybe some of you that did a member of the month article three, four, or five years ago consider doing another one. I will reprise mine from 4 or five years ago and send it in. Be sure to send your articles and comments to Barry Kimmelman. Remember this is your newsletter.

Once again, we will strive to get the newsletter out in advance of our meetings. Time constraints, members work schedules, etc., always play a part in when the newsletter gets out. So please, if you have any articles for the newsletter, please get them to Barry as soon as you can. I would also suggest that if you have some ideas on activities you would like to do, bring them to the attention of Linda Kimmelman. As our

new social chairperson, she would appreciate your thoughts on club activities. Also, be sure to give Linda your email address. Last minute activities do arise from time to time and it will be much easier for her to contact you that way.

Remember, our Holiday party is January 21st, from 6 to 10pm at the Riverview Inn. The cost is \$30.00 per person. As of right now, we have close to 50 people signed up. Contact Janet no later than January 3rd meeting if you wish to attend. And just to reiterate, if you sign up and don't show, you are still obligated to pay. The club will not be responsible. We have to give the restaurant a count of how many will be attending, and the club is charged for that amount. Janet requests that everyone pay by the January meeting if at all possible.

Janet and I plan on taking pictures and delivering the gifts and food to the Church on behalf of the clubs Adopt-A-Family.

On behalf of the club, I wish to send out condolences to Chris and Christine Carlantonio on the passing of Chris' Father- Francis Carlantonio on Monday December 12th. The club sent an arrangement to the family.

Well, winter is here and already I am tired of the cold. Gotta find some place warm – as I despise the cold and snow. So, until next month, Happy New Year to all of you, and as always, thanks for letting me put in "My Two Cents".

CCND OFFICERS		
President	Jack Layton	998-9434
Vice President	Steve Blanchies	521-1961 cell
Secretary	Christine Carlantonio	984-9558
Treasurer	Harvey Smith	376-0200
NCCC Gov.	Dave Morales	475-8560
Show Chairman	Bob Gerber	633-6594
Social Chairman	Linda Kimmelman	234-4476
Member at Large	Mike Metcalf	731-7852
NewsMag Editor	Barry Kimmelman	234-0752

“VETTES FOR PETS” HELPS THE LOCAL HUMANE SOCIETY

By Linda Kimmelman
Photos by Steve Blanchies

This year’s CCND fundraiser for the Delaware Humane Society turned out to be quite successful. First time Show Chairman, Bob Gerber, did a fabulous job organizing the event. As a result of our club’s hard work, we were able to present a check in the amount of \$4500.00 to DHS representative, Mary Ann D’Amato, at our December’s Club Meeting. Since the Humane Society is a non-profit organization, our fundraiser is going to help care for the homeless and abused cats and dogs in our area, and providing spay and neutering services.

Mary Ann also made a point of mentioning how important our donation was to them this year especially as they have been heavily burdened with providing additional care to many animals from the Hurricane Katrina tragedy.

If anybody is interested in volunteering at the shelter, they can reach Mary Ann at 571-0100 x305 or madamato@dehumane.org.



Pictured L – R: Bob Gerber, Jack Layton, Charlotte Stigler and Mary Ann D’Amato

Adopt
A
Family

Putting Our Arms Around Families



Adopt A Family

By Jack Layton



On Thursday and Friday, December 22 & 23, I dropped off all the presents and the food for our Adopt-A-Family over at St. Catherine's of Sienna Church. As you can see by the pictures, there are quite a few gifts there. My guess is that there is between 30 or 40 presents. Janet and I would like to thank Barry and Paula Boulden, Mike and JoAnne Metcalf, Fred and Connie Krumm, Dave and Ginny Steele, and Barry and Linda Kimmelman, who helped out in shopping for this year's family.



Chesterbrook -Toys for Tots, 2005

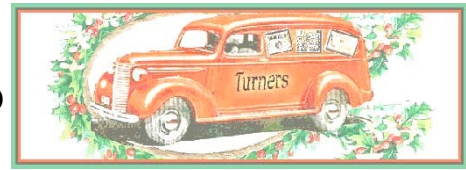
Story by: Andy Rumford

November 6th and in the 70's? Doesn't exactly sound like the kind of weather that signifies the end of the car season, but what a beautiful day it was at the annual Chesterbrook Toys for Tots Cruise and Show. Jack Layton, Andy Rumford, Matt Guthan and Fred Krumm met at Dunkin Donuts at route 1/202 for the 30 minute ride to Chesterbrook. Tom Polis met us later that day at the show. A good estimate would put the number of cars at 400+, a great turnout. A large number of Corvettes were in attendance. Hundreds of Toys were collected as well as a sizeable cash donation for the Toys for Tots cause. We all ate lunch with a few friends from Keystone State Corvette Club at the Stop -N- Go Hamburger spot that just opened at Chesterbrook. Decent food... a very enjoyable day. Sorry, no pictures available



Turners Nurseries, Galena, MD

By Steve Blanchies



It was a beautiful first Sunday of November, same as last year's Turners event. With the sun shining and warm, it was just the correct mix to bring out the cars and spectators at Turners. The Christmas shop was open for shopping and with the usual the free desert table.

There were all sorts of vehicles in attendance and also a line of John Deere tractors left over from the preceding day's tractor show. Strolling through the grounds there were many different colors of hot rods, an old black Cadillac, 2 very old cars, an old Honda motorcycle and a few vintage Corvettes.



County Corvette Toys for Tots

By Andy Rumsford

On December 3rd, County Corvette in West Chester, PA. held it's first ever Toys for Tots cruise. CCND was represented by 6 cars who met at Dunkin Donuts at routes 1/202 for the 10 minute ride up to West Chester. County Corvette had free food, Coffee, Hot Chocolate and enough cookies and brownies to keep all who attended quite full. Those who attended (about 45 total corvettes) parked next door to County Corvette in an adjacent lot. In the front of the building, CC had a trailer decorated as a chimney in which all the toys were placed, a good idea!! Looks like County Corvette will be holding this event on an annual basis in the coming years. A good way to "officially" end the season.



East Coast Indoor Nationals

By Terry Shannon

On Saturday, December 3rd I had the pleasure of attending the East Coast Indoor Nationals car show at the Timonium Fairgrounds north of Baltimore. I met some friends at the Iron Skillet in Elkton at 8:00 AM for breakfast. Show hours were 9AM to 6 PM but we were back home by 3:00 PM allowing us time to knock off some of those numerous holiday honey-do items before the day was done.

This event is a two-day event and everything is indoors. As special guests two of the stars of American Graffiti were present and available to sign photographs. Candy Clark, "Debbie" and Bo Hopkins "Joe the Pharaoh" were very pleasant to all who wanted to purchase a photograph or just wanted to stop and chat. Do you want to feel old? American Graffiti was released in 1973!

The admission price was \$10 with proceeds going to the Abilities Network. Their mission is to provide leadership to assure the full participation of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in all aspects of community life.

The show utilized three of the halls at the fairgrounds. All of the cars are American made cars made prior to 1973. One hall was strictly for vendors and the other two were for display vehicles. Food was available in the vendor's hall. The majority of the cars were trailer queens but regardless of how you feel about folks who don't drive their cars you had to admire the fruits of their efforts. Some were like jewelry! One of the advantages of going to a show that isn't exactly local is that you get to see cars that you've never seen before. Almost all of the cars I saw there were new to me and I've been to a fair amount of shows this season. So next December while you are looking for one more show to squeeze in prior to the end of the year consider the East Coast Nationals. If you don't wish to display your own car, jump in with some other car nuts and ride on down. Friendship, camaraderie and laughter are good for the soul! [East Coast Indoor Nats](#)



My Engine Clean-up Project – Part 1

By Barry Kimmelman

For an article in a Corvette Club newsletter, this may seem a bit strange. This story is about a disease. The disease is called “Whileyouareatityoumightaswellas”. For those who have trouble with complicated medical terms, it’s pronounced “While-you-are-at-it-you-might-as-well-as”.

Now, as a classic car owner, I’ve heard of this disease before. You always hope it doesn’t happen to you, but I’ve found out that this disease can afflict anyone at anytime and currently there is no known cure for it. I’ll explain how I caught this horrible disease.

Back in July after almost 11 months in the body/paint shop, I was finally able to bring my car home with it’s shiny new paint. Oh, I was happy and life was good – that is until I had to open the hood of the car and look inside. Now, the condition of my car’s engine compartment and motor was not in too terrible of a shape but now, looking at it compared to the new paint, I just wasn’t happy with it. Forty years had taken their toll on various parts of the motor. Time, oxidation, and various fluids had caused the aluminum intake manifold and the valve covers to look aged, tarnished, and stained. The exhaust manifolds also looked rusty. Various hoses and fittings did not look their best. Well, something was going to have to be done about it. Even the paint on the motor block itself had seen better days and some areas of paint had been eaten away by fluids or simply chipped. Something had to be done about this.

Not having the budget to send the car to a restoration shop this year, any improvements that I wanted to make on the engine compartment I was going to have to do myself. To complicate matters further, I had never worked on cars myself or done my own “wrenching.” Well, it was time that I started to learn. Keep in mind that at this point, I was still a healthy, disease-free Corvette owner.

Wanting to make a difference in the appearance of my motor but not having experience working under the hood of the car, I decided to start out slowly and just do a simple project I felt I could handle, so I decided that I would pull off and clean up the intake manifold and the valve covers. That wouldn’t be too bad, huh? It shouldn’t take too long nor be too hard and it would make things look nicer. *Ok, let’s go for it!* I was happy with my decision and even set a date to start my project – the day after the Concord Mall event. I figured that it was going to be the last event for me this year and just about the time I’d normally put the car away for winter storage.



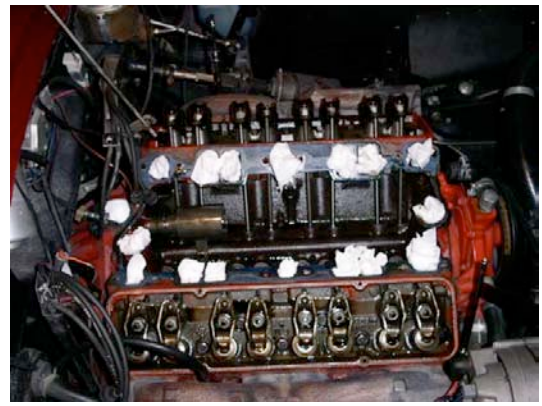
The morning after the Mall show I woke up early as usual and went out to the garage and grabbed my tools.

Okay, now let’s see how to get these parts off. Disconnect the lines and linkage to the carb and pull off the carb... easy, so far so good.

I drained the coolant out of the radiator, removed the ignition shielding and then disconnected and removed the distributor. *Hey, I’m on a roll here!* Next, I removed the fuel filter, heater hose, bypass hose, and vent tube off the intake and then removed the intake bolts. I inserted a wooden broom handle into the distributor hole and gently rocked the intake back and forth to slightly break the seals of the gasket. *Looky-here, I now have the intake off.* Next was easy, just unbolt and lift off the valve covers and, in about an hour, I had the parts off that I planned to remove for the cleanup project. *COOL!*

It was at this exact moment that this dreaded disease hit me....

I was now looking at my partially disassembled motor when I realized that, with the valve covers and intake cleaned up, those dingy, rusty-looking exhaust manifolds were going to look worse than they already did. *Well, how hard can they be to take off? Sure, let's go for it.* First I had to remove the rest of the ignition and spark plug shielding parts. Then, I hit the manifold bolts with a PB Blaster to loosen them up and let them sit for a while. Next, I disconnected the bottom of the exhaust manifolds from the side pipes. In order to get to the motor flange bolts, I had to remove the alternator and the bolts holding them to the motor block and *hey, they are off the car!*



But it seemed that the disease now inside me hadn't finished growing yet. I kept looking at the motor, realizing that it wouldn't be too hard to take **this part here** off to clean it up, and **that other part over there** would be simple to undo, and if I removed **this other one**, it would make cleaning it so much easier and **this bracket here** I could repaint.... By the time I finished, not only were the intake and valve covers removed. I had pulled the exhaust manifolds, every piece of the ignition shielding and its associated brackets, the fan blade, the water pump pulley, the water pump, the alternator, the idler pulley, the upper and lower radiator hoses, the heater hoses, the radiator expansion tank and its hoses, and all the ignition wires (spark plug wires).

To make matters even worse, when I had to drain the coolant from the system to remove the intake manifold, I saw that the drain valve was broken so I had to remove the entire valve. This made me realize that whoever had previously been there before me had cross-threaded the drain valve when they put it in, and now the threads were completely messed up. The only way to get it fixed meant that the radiator had to come out, so on top of everything else, the fan shroud and the radiator had to be pulled.



OK, what have I done??!! There was NOT much left inside the engine compartment anymore except for the motor block with the heads still on it, the fuel pump and the starter still attached. *Oh boy, I've really gone and done it now done it now. Well, I have a lot of parts to clean up.*

A friend offered use of the media blasting cabinet at this work so we went over with the exhaust manifolds one day and glass bead blasted them until they looked brand new, and factory fresh. What a great improvement over the rusty-looking pieces! After glass bead blasting them, I applied a manifold "dressing" called "Hot Stuff" that retains the look of the raw cast iron and protects them



from oxidation and from rusting again. After painting on the dressing, it dried for a few hours. Then, I baked the exhaust manifolds in the oven for an hour. They looked great!

I then took all the various brackets, the water pump pulley, the fan blade, fan shroud, and a few other miscellaneous pieces and repainted them the proper semi-gloss black. I cleaned all the hoses up with Simple Green and rubber dressing until they looked like brand new, except for the upper radiator hose. I decided to reorder a brand new one along with most of the bolts that I had to remove in order to take off all the other parts. New replacement bolts were justified so they would look as new and clean as the parts I was refinishing. Also, I re-ordered some new clamps to replace the older ones. Other clamps and fittings cleaned up very nicely.

Before



After



Before



After



After cleaning and polishing

The intake manifold, a few assorted brackets, clamps, and the valve covers I then took to another friend's home to use the glass bead cabinet. Everything came out looking so much better and like new.

Now it was time to look at the motor block itself. As I mentioned earlier, there were places where the paint on the block had been eaten away due to fluid leaks and other areas where the paint was chipped. Not wanting to put nice, clean, refinished parts back on a less than perfect motor, I felt some touch-ups were needed. As I was cleaning the motor, I looked more



carefully and realized there were more areas that needed touching up than I had originally intended on doing.

As I looked at the motor and realized that, in order to make it look as good as I wanted, I couldn't just touch it up. I needed to pretty much paint everything from the level of the oil pan on up. I didn't like the idea of spraying the motor, as I was afraid of getting paint overspray over everything else, including my brand new paint job. *How should I do this?*

Now this was when the disease 'whileyouareatityoumightaswellas' hit me full force. I looked at a basically stripped motor and most of the items already out of the engine bay. Then I looked at all the empty space where the fan shroud and the radiator used to be... then I looked back at the motor again... then at all the empty space and room to work, and I realized it would make painting the motor MUCH easier if I just pulled the motor out of the car and painted it on an engine stand. At the same time, with the motor out of the car, it would really allow me to clean up the entire front area of the frame while I'm at it.

WAIT a minute! Just STOP! Was I really considering pulling the motor out of my beautiful car? I remembered that this project originally started by wanting to just remove the intake and valve covers to clean them. Now, I already had most of the motor and accessories off the car, lying around the house and I was now considering pulling the motor?

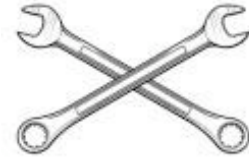
Well, lucky for me a friend recommended a particular paint that I could apply by hand with a brush that dries without leaving brush stroke marks in the paint and would save me the risk of spraying the paint and I wouldn't have to pull the motor so that's what I got.

As of today, I just started painting the motor and so far it's turning out fine. Next month I'll continue with the reassembly and the finished project pictures.



The Run For The Wrenches

By Barry Kimmelman



I've heard comments from many people, a few in our own club, CCND, and many from people who belong to other Corvette Clubs that they are disappointed that the clubs have turned into nothing but social events. Most car clubs, whether they are Corvettes, or any other type of car, were originally started by a group of people with a common interest in working on cars. They would get together at someone's home, garage, or shop and work on their cars or help the others work on their cars. The following week they would meet at another members place and again help each other work on their cars.

This may be an idea that some people in CCND could be interested in, such as to get together once or twice a month and work on our cars and help others work on their cars. I'm a person that has just very recently started doing my own work on my car and I'm learning as I go but at times it could be nice to have others with more experience "guide" me over the rough parts. At the same time, another member happens to currently have his Vette in my garage so that I can help him with his carpet replacement project. Neither of us has done this before but we are learning together as we are doing it.

For the people that already have the experience and enjoy working on their own cars and enjoy helping others with theirs it can be enjoyable, and for those of us just starting out doing the "wrenching" it would allow us to learn from the advice of others. A group like this may also help encourage others that don't currently do any of their own repairs, maintenance, or modifications to decide to jump in start working on their own cars also.

Since Linda and I joined CCND almost two years ago we have tried to get involved and participate in as many club events and happenings as our schedules allow possible. We very much enjoy our membership and the chance we have had to meet and get friendly with many wonderful people that we would not have had the opportunity to meet otherwise. At the same time, sometimes something new can be added to increase interest in other areas that are not currently being explored and maybe a "wrenching group" could be of interest and benefit to others and help expand our current club activities.

Now that the weather has turned and we are into the winter months, this is the time that most people do their "winter projects" on their cars so this is the perfect time. If you feel you would have an interest in this, please contact me (bkimmelman@comcast.net) and lets see if we can get a group together.

Old Corvette Magazines

Do you subscribe to any Corvette publications? What do you do when your finished reading a monthly issue? Instead of "tossing" those old Corvette magazines that many of us receive, why not bring them to our monthly meetings for sharing?

A collection area will be setup each month for magazines at the meeting. Simply bring those unwanted publications to the meetings, as other CCND members might be quite interested in the articles that you have already read. We will toss any untaken magazines at the end of each monthly meeting. Happy Reading.



Humorous Diversions



A fellow bought a new 2003 Anniversary model and was out on I-75 for a nice evening drive.

The top was down, the breeze was blowing through his hair and just out side of "Land O' Lakes" he decided to open her up. As the needle jumped up to 90 mph he suddenly saw a flashing red and blue light behind him.

"There ain't no way they can catch a Corvette," he thought to himself and opened her up further. The needle hit 100, 110, 120 and finally 130 with the lights still behind him. "What in hell am I doing?" he thought suddenly and pulled over.

The cop came up to him, took his license without a word and examined it and the car.

"I've had a tough shift and this is my last pull over. I don't feel like more paperwork so if you can give me an excuse for your driving that I haven't heard before you can go!"

"Last week my wife ran off with a cop," the man said, "and I was afraid you were trying to give her back!"

"Have a nice night", said the officer.

A man decided that he was going to ride a 10-speed bike from Phoenix to Flagstaff. He got as far as Black Canyon City before the mountains became just too much and he could go no further. He stuck his thumb out, but after 3 hours, he hadn't gotten a single person to stop. Finally, a guy in a Corvette pulled over and offered him a ride. Of course, the bike wouldn't fit in the car. The corvette owner found a piece of rope lying by the highway and tied it to his bumper. He tied the other end to the bike and told the man that if he was going to fast, to honk the horn on his bike and he would slow down.

Everything went fine for the first 30 miles. Suddenly, another Corvette blew past them. Not to be outdone, the Corvette pulling the bike took off after the other. A short distance down the road, the Corvettes, both going well over 120 mph, blew through a speed trap.

The police officer noted the speed from his radar gun and radio to the other officer that he has two Corvettes headed his way at over 120 mph. HE then relayed, and you're not going to believe this, but there's a guy on a 10-speed bike honking to pass!

UPCOMING EVENTS - From the Cruise Director

Linda Kimmelman 302-234-4476
Lkimmelman@mac.com



January 3, 2006
Tuesday

CCND MEETING @ KAHUNAVILLE
TIME: 7:00 PM

January 8, 2006
Sunday

BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM IN CHADDS FORD
TIME: 11:30 AM

COST: Adults \$8/ Seniors & Kids 6-12 \$5/ Under 6 - free
We'll meet inside (in front of the Museum Shop). The Brandywine River Museum has several wonderful holiday exhibitions open in addition to the amazing works of art displayed year round. A personal favorite for the Christmas season is the extensive model O-gauge railroad. If you're able to join us, give me a call or email me.

January 21, 2006
Saturday

CCND HOLIDAY PARTY @ THE RIVERVIEW INN
TIME: 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

COST: \$30 per person

Cost includes a buffet dinner in a private room. There will be a cash bar available during the course of the evening and there will be live music & dancing downstairs afterwards. If you wish to attend and haven't done so by now, you **NEED** to seek out [Janet Taylor](#) by the night of the January meeting with names of guests and money in hand. Also, if you'd like to participate in the Holiday Gift Exchange at the party, the gift value is set @ approximately \$25. if the gift is gender-specific, please label it as such.

January 28, 2006
Saturday

MidATLANTIC GRAND PRIX INDOOR CARTING
TIME: 1 pm

COST: \$20 for adults + \$2 for head sock

This fast-paced indoor Go Kart facility lets you race against the clock or each other. All racing Includes: race suit, full-face helmet, neck brace, pre-race briefing and a computer printout. If you've got the itch to "drive it like you stole it," and your Vette is in winter storage, c'mon and join us at the track. Let me know if you're interested.
4060 N. Dupont Hwy, New Castle, De

February 7, 2006
Tuesday Night

CCND MEETING @ KAHUNAVILLE
TIME: 7:00 PM

February 10, 2006
Friday Night

Xtreme GLOW BOWLING PARTY @ BOWLERAMA IN NEW CASTLE
TIME: 9:30 pm - 11:30 pm

COST: \$4.99 per person for a group of 6

We'll meet in the Lobby at 6:30. Glow in the dark balls and a DJ spins the tunes. We'll bowl for 2 hours. All you can bowl for 2 hours for only \$29.95 per lane (group of 6). Let me know if you'd like to join us. 3031 New Castle Avenue, New Castle, De.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



January 5 Nick Cervelli
January 6 Nancy Stewart
January 9 Edna Boutwell
January 13 Charlie Kirby
January 16 Thomas Groer

January 16 Bill Molnar
January 16 Diane Picho
January 21 Elaine Raign
January 30 Franklin Fink





CCND DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES



Jack Layton called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on December 6, 2005. Jack and Bob Gerber presented the Delaware Humane Society with a check in the amount of \$4500. Maryanne, spokesperson for Delaware Humane thanked the club for the generous contribution.

- Vice President's Report:** Steve Blanchies reported 50 paid members.
- Treasurer's Report:** Harvey Smith presented the Treasurer's Report. Motion was made and seconded to approve the report as presented. MOTION CARRIED.
- Member at Large:** Mike Metcalf reported one apparel order filled – no other orders pending. Did order some samples of hats. Looking for a Spring order.
- NCCC Governor:** Dave Morales had no news to report, except nccc.org is the website for information.
- Newsletter Editor:** Barry Kimmelman needs "Member of the Month" articles, technical articles. Would also like members to think of different columns they would like to see.
- Social Chairperson:** Lynn Blanchies reported on upcoming activities:
- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| Sun. 12/11 | Longwood Gardens |
| Sat. 1/06 | Holiday Party |
- Show Chairman:** Bob Gerber will start planning for next year's show.
- Jack Layton:** Please contact Linda Kimmelman, the new social chairperson, for any activity ideas.
- Janet Taylor:** Janet sent around a signup sheet for holiday party. Need \$30/person by January meeting. Party starts at 6:30 p.m. Bring a \$25 present for a Chinese auction.
- Old Business:** Membership dues of \$35 are due by 12/31/05 if you want to continue receiving the monthly newsletter.
- New Business:** Linda Kimmelman is the new social chairperson. Jack will be asking the 2006 board members to an impromptu meeting. Members will vote for a new charity at January meeting – three choices are ALS Society, Ministry of Caring, and Sunshine Foundation.
- 50/50:** Scratch Remover – Andy Rumford; Protectorant – Tom Polis; \$34 – Andy Rumford
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, **Christine Carlantonio**

NEXT MEETING DATE – TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2006

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club of northern delaware
CORVETTE



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



CCND NEWS
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