



# Vettester

The official newsletter of the Corvette Club of Northern Delaware - December 2010



## **In this Month:**

On the Road with Andy

CCND Tech Night, Corvettes for Chip, Repairs with Brian

Pine Valley Corvettes, The Owners Garage

**Have a Safe, Joyous, and Healthy Holiday Season**

### **CCND Officers**

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***Vice President***

Steve Blanchies

***Treasurer***

Harvey Smith

***Secretary***

Christine Carlantonio

***NCCC Governor***

Bob Avery

***Member at Large***

Mary Lou Gilbert

***Webmaster***

Barry Kimmelman

***Social Chairperson***

Marion Crank

***Show Co-Chairman***

Kevin Frazier

***Show Co-Chairman***

Joe Cook

***Business Officer***

Fred Krumm

***Newsletter Editor***

Jim Ebner



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# On the Road

By Andy Rumford



December has finally arrived, a time for many of us to begin any "off season" projects we have been contemplating all year long.

Special Thanks needs to be extended to 3 outgoing CCND Club Officers, Marion Crank, Jim Ebner and Joe Quick. The time invested in each of their accountabilities as "social chairperson", "newsletter editor", and "Co-Show Chair" needs to be commended. The Club extends its warm appreciation to all 3 of you for your years of dedication and support. Thanks so very much!!

The Clubs Holiday party on December 3rd will prove to be quite a wonderful time. Accolades once again to Marion Crank for handling this function. The Greenville Country Club is such a wonderful setting. Special thanks as well to Rich and Sharon West for opening their lovely home to us before the holiday party.

While the "Off Season" is slow on car shows, there is an event on December 4th and 5th, the East Coast Indoor Nationals at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium, Maryland. Show admission is \$10.00.

In 2011, keeping with the car shows, did you know there are 3 indoor shows, one in February, one in March and another in April? The February show is known as Motorama and takes place in Harrisburg at the Farm Complex. The website for more information is [www.motoramaevents.com](http://www.motoramaevents.com). The event in March is the Northeast Road and Custom show. Their website is [www.northeastcustomcarshow.com](http://www.northeastcustomcarshow.com) and this event takes place at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center. In April, is Strictly Corvette & American Muscle Car Show taking place at the Atlantic City Convention Center... [www.strictlycorvette.com](http://www.strictlycorvette.com). Also, keep January 29 thru February 6, 2011 on your calendar as well as those are the dates for the Philadelphia Auto show.

As we had chatted about at our November Club meeting, the Concord Mall has approached us about doing a 3rd "Show" of some sorts in 2011. They did not mention any of the particulars. We will be contacting them about their thoughts on this idea. If you have any suggestions as to what the "make-up" of this show should be and your ideas on a time-period, we sure would appreciate. You can email me, please at [andyrumford@yahoo.com](mailto:andyrumford@yahoo.com).

Thanks to Fred Krumm, Horace Wahl and Matt Guthan as well for forming a committee to check the availability of other locations for our meetings. Over the next few months different locations will be visited and reported back to us at our meetings. Thanks Guys!!!!

Well, its time to get out my x-mas wish list and do a bit of holiday shopping online. From my family to yours, we wish you a wonderful and safe Holiday Season!!  
Looking forward to being.....

## On the Road

# CCND NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the last CCND meeting



Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by **Andy Rumford** on November 9, 2010.

**New Member:** **Rino Imperiale 1995**

**Vice President:** **Steve Blanchies** away on vacation

**Treasurer:** **Harvey Smith** gave the financial report, and reported 32 paid members. Collected 2011 dues.

**Webmaster:** **Barry Kimmelman** not able to attend.

**Member at Large:** **Mary Lou Gilbert** reported on the Adopt-A-Family. Contacted the family and was given a wish list. Gifts to be unwrapped. Gifts must be ready for delivery by 12/15. Members agreed on \$500 for Thanksgiving food for needy families and \$1500 for Adopt-A-Family. Mary Lou has club shirts if anyone is interested. November 21, Thanksgiving Dinner at Mary Lou's house – bring a side dish.

**Newsletter Editor:** **Jim Ebner** reported that due to a possible transfer to Florida, he cannot continue as editor – would like to transition to someone else.

**Social Chairperson:** **Marian Crank** reported that 38 people have signed up for the Holiday Party on 2/3 – 6-11 pm - \$40 pp – Surf & Turf – Greenville Country Club. Rich West to have appetizers before the party. Members are asked to donate an ornament for an orphanage.

**Co-Show Chair:** **Kevin Frazier** reported that our club was asked to participate in a “Bowl with the Birds” (Eagles) in Cherry Hill, NJ on 12/3, but had to decline because of Holiday Party. Maybe next year????? 2011 Lantana Square cruise nights to be advertised in corvette related magazines.

**Business Manager:** **Fred Krumm** reminded members that next Wednesday – 6:15 – 8:30 pm – tech night at Diver Chevrolet. Will ask Barry Kimmelman about doing car detailing presentation. Send email if attending.

**NCCC Governor:** **Bob Avery** reported on several NCCC shows sanctioned and unsanctioned. December 4 meeting in Harrisburg – any member may attend. George Galant running for President of NCCC.

**Club Historian:** **Bob Cook** not able to attend.

**Old Business:** **Corvettes for Chip** – 385 corvettes, \$11,250 raised – show covered by Channel 6 Action News  
**Concord Mall Show** – 24 cars – Mall to supply double-wide ramps – want to do a 3<sup>rd</sup> show

**New Business:**

**2011 CCND Officer Nominations-**

**President:** Andy Rumford  
**Vice President:** Steve Blanchies  
**Treasurer:** Harvey Smith  
**Webmaster:** Barry Kimmelman  
**Member at Large:** Mary Lou Gilbert  
**Newsletter Editor:** Vacant  
**Secretary:** Christine Carlantonio  
**Social Chairman:** Don Nayden  
**Co-Show Chairman:** Kevin Frazier  
**NCCC Governor:** Bob Avery  
**Business Manager:** Fred Krumm

**New Meeting Location:** Any suggestions call **Fred Krumm**

**50/50:**

**Kathy O'Connor \$46**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Christine Carlantonio, Secretary

**NEXT MEETING DATE IS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2010**



CCND Agenda 12.14.10

Call to Order:

Welcome:

\*\*\* New Members \*\*\*

**2010 CCND Officers Reports:**

Vice President: Steve Blanchies  
Treasurer: Harvey Smith  
Webmaster: Barry Kimmelman  
Member @ Large: Mary Lou Gilbert  
Newsletter Editor: VACANT  
Secretary: Christine Carlantonio  
\*\* Club Historian: Bob Cook

Social Chairperson: Don Nayden  
Co-Show Chair: Kevin Frazier  
Co-Show Chair: VACANT  
NCCC Governor: Bob Avery  
Business Manager: Fred Krumm

**Old Business:**

3rd Tech Seminar, November 17th...recap  
CCND Officer Nominations/ratifications  
Holiday Party Recap  
New Meeting Location Update  
Update on CCND Cruise Night Flyer  
Home Life Tour Adopt a family recap...Marion

**New Business:**

Thanks to the 2010 Outgoing Officers  
Animal Food Drive, Faithful Friends  
"Member Projects", Share details about your Corvette Related project  
2011 Tech Sessions, Are they informative? Do we continue with them? Location Needed..  
Support the Troops...Monthly care packages? Is this something we wish to do?

Adjournment:

50/50: .....Mary Lou Gilbert

Next Meeting date is January 11, 2011

\*\* Not an Officer Position

# Some Necessary Maintenance on my '81 driver

## By Brian Falla

My 1981 Corvette has almost 300k miles and still runs strong. I have noticed that the front suspension has been getting a little sloppy (last major front-end work completed almost 150k miles ago). I have also noted the amount of road noise inside the car seemed excessive.

I replaced the clutch and installed a true dual exhaust system back in the winter. When I did that work, I noted that the floor pan on the passenger side was hitting the frame cross-member. This will obviously add some road noise while driving. Based on this, I figured I had better take a look at the body mounts. These are what provide the gap and "isolate" the body from the frame. These were also last replaced about 150k miles ago.

Sure enough, when I lifted the body up to gain access to the body mounts, I found many were "crushed" significantly reducing the gap between the body and the frame. I don't have the necessary hoist or body dolly to completely lift the body off the frame, so I simply jack one side up at a time to access the body mounts.

When I inspected the body mount areas, I noted a good bit of corrosion. The mounts fit into a hole about 1-1/4" in diameter, most of mine were opened up to between 1-1/2" & 1-3/4"; not a good thing. I needed to figure out a way to "grab" enough good metal so the body mount can do its job. I found some large flat washers at a local tractor supply house. They are used as machine shaft spacers/shims or gauges.

I cleaned off as much of rust as possible and applied rust inhibitor and flat black paint. I also cleaned the flat washers off and painted them as well. (Barry would have been proud...)



*On the left is one of the old mounts. The bottom and top halves of the mount used to be the same diameter!  
On the right is one of the washers I used to reinforce the body mount areas.*

I installed the body mounts with a flat washer above and below the corroded mounting hole, thus “grabbing” some good metal. Not optimal, but I figure I should be able to get another 5+ years before having to look at them again. Really the best way to repair the areas I’m talking about is to lift the body completely off the frame and weld new metal in. There are plenty of repair parts available; I just couldn’t install any with the body still on the frame.

I did replace one of the # 4 body mount reinforcements. It is a metal piece that rivets to the underside of the body right behind the rear wheel. The one on the left side of the car was completely rotted out; the one on the right was still in good shape so I left it in place. When you install these reinforcement pieces, you’re supposed to seal around them to keep water from getting between the reinforcement and the body. I’m sure they have special RTV for this application, I used what I had handy...roofing sealant. Didn’t look as nice as the proper RTV would, but it really isn’t visible and it will seal the area up just fine.



*This is the new body mount and reinforcement installed in the left # 4 position.*

Once all the body mounts were installed and properly shimmed, I noted that I had a good gap between the floor boards and the frame cross-member; - nice.

Next I tackled a complete rebuild of the front suspension. The ride height on the car is still good, so I decided not to replace the coil springs. I purchased a front-end rebuild kit that includes tie rods, ball joints, idler arm and control arm bushings. I didn’t use the rubber bushings that came with the kit. I installed new poly bushings instead (actually, Ed and Dave installed them in the arms; I didn’t have the best tools to get this work done).

I did have some trouble with one item; the power steering piston. Mine is still the original and it’s never been rebuilt. Therefore, I decided to tackle it now. It still worked ok, only got a little damp with fluid but I figured it was due. I found someone who sold a rebuild kit for the ball stud used to attach the piston to the center link. I also purchased the new seals for the piston. This is where I ran into trouble. I had a really tough time getting the old seals out. The area is very tight and right next to the piston shaft, which you really don’t want to scratch or mark up at all. My piston had back to back lip seals. All the information I could find on the pistons said that there should only be one seal, some washers and a leather “wiper” ring. Anyway, looking back I think I would have been much better off

purchasing a rebuilt piston or sending mine out to be rebuilt. I wasted a lot of time on those piston rod seals.



*Here is the rebuilt power steering piston.*

While taking the piston out, I noted a lot of wear on the power steering hoses. These were also last replaced about 150k miles ago. So, a complete new set of hoses were installed.

I cleaned up other odds and ends while under the car, including a slight realignment of one of the muffler hangers that was hitting the metal bracket bolted to the frame. (Another source of road noise repaired.)

The car is almost done now. I have a little more work to finish on the front end. I also have to put the AC compressor and alternator back in. I needed to get them out of the way so I could remove the upper control arms.

Last, the seats need to go back in (I purchased some “like new” seat cushions from Ed and Dave that will really look nice in my car). The seats were removed to make it easier to get at the two rear body mounts. They are accessed by removing the speakers in the back corners of the interior.

I should have the car back on the road by the time you read this. Let’s hope the work I’ve completed this time lasts as long as it did last time...

## CCND Tech Night.....by: Andy Rumford

November 17<sup>th</sup> found 12 CCND Members at Diver Chevrolet on Pennsylvania Avenue for the Clubs 3<sup>rd</sup> “Tech Session” of the year. Spearheaded by Fred Krumm, this session was informative for all those who attended and was a wonderful way to spend an hour or so during the workweek, learning about our Corvettes. Diver’s Showroom was open and many of us as well spent time roaming the new cars on the floor.

Nick Cervelli had his 1982 in the Service Bay area as did Fred Krumm. The Master Tech from Diver who shared his experience with us assisted Nick in uncovering a “Locking Mechanism” issue with his car, of which was resolved. Barry Kimmelman also answered many questions from members on the art of detailing a car. Thanks Barry!

Rich Diver also gave us his “OK” to use the shop once again for a few of our tech Sessions in 2011, which was good news!

This year our Club had 3 Tech Sessions, all informative and well attended. We will continue these functions in 2011. For the first tech session of the year, which we will do in January or February, we are looking for a suitable location. If you can “host” a group of 15 or so of your fellow members and have a lift, we would love hearing from you. If you could please drop me an email or a call, sure would appreciate and we will schedule out a date and time for these informative sessions.

Corvettes for Chip, November 7th, 2010

Story by Andy Rumford

Photos – Various Contributors



The 4th Annual Corvettes for Chip show took place at Brandywine Picnic Park in West Chester, Pa. CCND was well represented with 30+ members registered for the event. The Show raises awareness and funds for the disease known as Amyloidosis. Over the past 4 years, we have been able to raise \$25,350.00 with the revenue going to the Chip Miller Charitable Foundation. Channel 6 Action News must have been at the event, although I never saw them. On the 6PM news that Sunday a short piece on the event was on TV...so nice to be able to have a bit of "Air time". The event this year raised a total of \$11,250.00. Congrats to our own Jestin Allen who for the 2nd year in a row won the "Slow Drag" Contest. Photo's of the event will be up on the Corvettes for chip website shortly!!







# Pine Valley Corvettes

Story and Photos By Dave Whitman

Pine Valley Corvettes officially opened for business three years ago when Ed and I decided to take a buy out from Daimler Chrysler corporation located in Newark Delaware (which has since closed its doors) the time was right since there were few jobs available in the Delaware area.

Before working for Daimler Chrysler as machine repairman (maintenance department) we both worked for Atlantic Aviation in New Castle Delaware now known as Dassault Falcon Jet. Ed and I both have Aircraft and power plant licenses to work on aircraft with 35 years experience between the two of us.

Pine Valley Corvettes is a two-man shop currently replacing a frame on a 73 coupe.



We provide a wide range of maintenance services including suspension, brakes, interior work and electrical troubleshooting. We also provide a pre purchase inspections. We are also distributor for the following: Corvette America, Corvette Central, Tire Rack, Auto Custom Carpet, Genuine GM parts, Lone Star Caliper.





We have serviced several of the CCND club members' corvettes. Stop by and check out the shop.

Thanks,  
Dave Pine Valley Corvettes  
302-690-6370



# The "Owners Garage"



The December 14th CCND Meeting will be at the **Newark Country Club** - <http://www.newarkcc.com/>  
**300 West Main Street**  
**Newark, Delaware 19711-3218**

For directions to NCC please try - <http://www.newarkcc.com/directions.htm>

## Upcoming Events

**CCND Holiday Gathering – December 3, 2010 - Greenville Country Club**  
**6:30 pm - 11:00 pm – Casual Dress**

**Greenville Country Club - 201 Owls Nest Road - Greenville, De 19807**  
[www.greenvillecc.com](http://www.greenvillecc.com)

**Menu & cost information:**

**Surf & Turf - \$40.00 per person**

**Please make checks payable to "Greenville Country Club"**

**A "Pre-Party" reception at Rich & Sharon West's home will be held from 5:50 - 6:20 pm.**  
**Their home is right up the street from the country club.**

**Rich & Sharon West - 5 Owls Nest Road - Greenville, De 19807**

**County Corvette's 4th Annual Christmas Toy Drive -** Benefitting the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House  
Date 12/05/09 10 am - 1 pm (rain or shine)

**Location:**

County Corvette 315 Westtown Rd - West Chester, PA 19382

**For additional local car show listings in the NJ, DE, and Southeastern PA area see here:**  
<http://www.cruisinnews.us>

## ***December Birthdays – Happy Holidays***



Harvey Smith	December 1	Jimmy Thacker	December 1
Mark Pace	December 3	Brian Falla	December 8
Ivan Price	December 8	Michael Cibattoni	December 14
Bill Coopersmith	December 24	Janice Wahl	December 25
Rose Marie Steinhouse	December 28	Alan B. Simkins	December 29



**Happy Birthday Everyone!!!!!!**

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Barry Kimmelman  
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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*



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