

THE CONNECTION



The Newsletter of the
Capital City Corvette Club

Lansing, Michigan

Established in 1958

www.capitalcitycorvetteclub.org

www.cccorvette.org

Charter Member of the
National Council of Corvette Clubs, Inc.

www.corvettesnccc.org



THE CONNECTION

The Newsletter of the Capital City Corvette Club

VOLUME XXXV1 - NUMBER 2 - FEBRUARY 2005

Quick Hits from the Editor~

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

February 2 - 7:00pm

Delhi Cafe'

4625 Willoughby

Holt

Board Meeting

February 16- 7:00pm

Delhi Cafe'

Please send any articles you'd like
published to twig4952@cablespeed.com

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2005

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From the President . . .

Greetings:

Happy February everyone! Here we are in the middle of winter. Isn't it great here in Michigan? What a winter wonderland. So wintertime, what to do, what to do. Well we could go sledding. Nah. We could go skiing. Nah. We could stay home and drink hot cocoa. Now there's an idea! I think that will work, right? Or, we could work on those Vettes and dream of springtime. That sounds pretty good too.

Well, February. Let's see. Not too much going on. We have our general membership meeting on the 2nd and on the 19th we are having a drive and dine, hosted by Gordy and Margaret Terwilliger. It's always fun to go on one of those. I think that's about it for this month, the rest of the time we can watch basketball and drink hot coca, or go to the movies if you want.

Next month, on March 19, is the Michigan Region Awards Banquet. It's going to be here in Lansing at the Hampton Inn, on the west side of town. This is just a heads-up. There is more info on the Website about that. March 26 will be a Euchre/Dominoes night at Bob & Shalimar Maynard's.

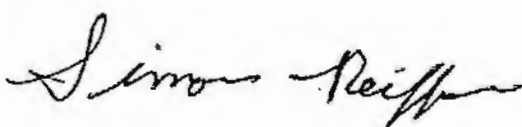
A couple of weeks ago we had our own awards banquet at Coral Gables restaurant. We had a real good time and good food. The Top Ten awards went to Dave Kuempel, Diana Kuempel, Gloria Reiffer, Simon Reiffer, Kurt Schwamberger, Greg Kapp, Sharon Schwamberger, Shalimar Maynard, Margaret Terwilliger and Bob Maynard. Be sure to congratulate these folks on their awards. Also, a reminder to these winners – make sure you wear your award shirt to the next meeting to get your picture taken for the historical record. Thanks. Oh, and speaking of a dress code – let's make sure we all wear our name badges to the meetings and to all of our events please. We are getting to be a very large club now and it just helps to see everyone's name in print. Thanks.

On to more business stuff from the Board. We are in the process of reviewing the points program for our club. We will review the Bylaws and update some of the language in them this year. You'll hear more about that later. We are also trying to incorporate new social activities each month. This goes along with the desires of the members that responded to the survey everyone had the opportunity to fill out last year. If anyone wants to chair one of these events, please contact Janet Johnston to do so. She is the one that keeps us all organized. Kurt Schwamberger is your man if you want to chair a competition event.

Don't forget to review the minutes of the general membership and board meetings to keep up with what's happening. They are published in each month's newsletter. All board meetings are open to the membership. As a board we always encourage input from the membership of this club. Just remember, Capital City Corvette Club belongs to all of us. I want to thank all of you for making this a very successful club last year and hopefully we can do the same this year. Thanks again.

Well that's about it this month, let's have a prosperous month and enjoy the time given to us.

Save the wave!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Simon Reiffer". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

CCCC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING JANUARY 5, 2005

President Simon Reiffer called the meeting to order at 7:00. 34 members were present. Simon started the meeting by thanking out-going board members: Phil Hanes, Don and Carol Armstrong, Shalimar Maynard, & John Bechtel. He welcomed new members: Kurt Schwamberger, Dave and Diana Kuempel, Gary Wyma, & Margaret Terwilliger. As well as returning members: Don and Janet Johnston, Bob Maynard, & Evelyn Aronson.

The board will be working on up-coming events in the new year. Anyone interested in doing a Drive 'n Dine let Janet know. Different events will be coming up and the board encourages members to participate.

SECRETARY: No minutes due to Christmas party.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Gary is enthused about raising money. He asks members to let him know if there is anyone that they can think of who would be willing to contribute to our causes. He will gladly get in contact with them. Delhi has allowed us to meet there for another year.

MEMBERSHIP: There are presently 119 members and 41 Future corvette owners.

SOCIAL: Awards Banquet is Jan. 15, 2005. 40 people have signed up so far. January Drive'n Dine has been postponed. We would like to have a Drive'n Dine once a month. We would like members to volunteer to chair an event and to let Janet know a couple of months ahead of time. We would also like to do a Progressive dinner sometime this summer. If anyone is interested in doing an event, let Janet know.

If anyone is interested in doing an impromptu event let Janet or Gloria know and they will email everyone. Impromptu events can be that we just meet for dinner, or go for a cruise somewhere.

Janet will be in contact with the Jackson club about setting up a date for our annual Bowling competition and possibly a Drive'n Dine.

POINTS: There will be a sign-up sheet printed out every month, All members have to do is sign next to their name. Points will be reviewed at next Board meeting.

TREASURER: We have an increase in membership, which contributes, to our coffer. Phil Hanes asked for additional money to buy awards shirts. Dave Kuempel made a motion to buy the shirts for the extra expense. Motion was seconded and approved. The club contributed \$2260 to the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

EDITOR: Deadline for February newsletter is Jan. 24.

GOVERNOR: Regional Banquet is in March but there are no details so far.

COMPETITION: Kurt will have a "Winner's Trophy Circle" each month. Anyone who receives an award (show, race, rallye) should let him know. Large car shows that members might be interested in:

C5/C6 Bash April 21-23 in Bowling Green, KY.

Bloomington Gold June 23-26 in St. Charles, IL.

Z06 Fest July 21-23 in Bowling Green, KY.

Corvettes of Carlisle August 26-28 in Carlisle, PA.

NCM Anniversary September 1-4 in Bowling Green, KY.

Corvette Forum May 26-28 in Bowling Green, KY.

Black Hills Classic July 13-16 in Spearfish, SD.

NCCC Convention July 23-31 in St. Cloud, MN.

Corvette Cross Roads August 26-27 in Mackinaw, MI.

Funfest September 16-18 in Effingham, IL.

Definite dates that have been sanctioned: April 16 & 17 first high and low speed events of the season are at Gingerman.

May 28 is Blessing of the Vettes at Culvers in Okemos. August 6 is CCCC low speed events at Spartan Speedway. October 1 is CCCC Rallye (indefinite)

We would like to have members sign up for the "Functional Teams" to work our own car shows, speed events, and rallyes. Members please let Kurt know what kind of things you would like to know about at the Educational Workshops after the meetings.

OLD BUSINESS: Thanks goes to Jeff McQuade and Evelyn Aronson and Chris and Terry Burke for taking care of our two adopted families. It was reported by Dave Kuempel that 133 families and 316 children were served for Christmas needs at the SIREN/Eaton Shelter. Treasurer Bob Maynard requested members buy stickers decals and static clings so that we can recoup our funds.

NEW BUSINESS: Zoo Show is scheduled for September 18. Greg Kapp suggested that Pres Kool Show possibly be made into an All Chevy Show. Jeff McQuade suggested that votes be recorded in board meetings. When speaking of show dates and events it is requested that we tell locations so that everyone understands where they are. Chat room is available to all members.

50/50 RAFFLE: Winner tonight was Pam Platte

Motion was made by Greg Kapp to adjourn. Motion seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:00p.m.

CCCC Board Meeting January 19, 2005

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Simon Reiffer. All Board members are present except Bob Maynard.

PRESIDENT: Simon Reiffer welcomed new Board members. We have a good outlook for the new year. We did lots of things last year and will do more this coming year.

SECRETARY: No minutes because there was no official meeting for December.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Gary is trying to find a new place for board meetings, a little more north of Lansing, but he is having a hard time. He'll continue looking. He and Simon will setup a meeting with Pres Kool Chevrolet. Club will consider open house/car show or an all Chevy car show.

MEMBERSHIP: 119 members and 42 F.C.O.A. members. Evelyn will bring club brochures to the next membership meeting for those who want them.

EDITOR: Deadline for the February newsletter is January 24.

SOCIAL DIRECTOR: Janet asked for an open date each month for a Drive'n Dine. Janet made a motion to have a Drive'n Dine once a month as a club event. Motion seconded and approved unanimously.

February 19 Gordon and Margaret Terwilliger will host a Drive'n Dine. March 26 Dominoes and Euchre at Bob and Shalimar Maynard's. Gary and Kathy Wyma will host a Spring Getaway at Frankfurt May 21. Evelyn brought up a tour Michigan contest. She would like club to consider. Kurt made a motion to accept tour and pay for the top 3 positions (\$75 for the 3 positions). Motion seconded and approved unanimously. Janet requested on behalf of Shalimar that the club go to her 4th of July car show. Tabled for more information.

TREASURER: Arrived late. Bob gave a recap of 2004 finances. Gloria asked if the club would pay for business cards and a couple of ink jet cartridges. Gary proposed the club pay for 2 cartridges each of black and color, and business cards. Motioned seconded. Approved unanimously.

GOVERNOR: February 22 is Regional meeting. February 25 and 26 is Governors meeting in St. Louis. March 19 is the Regional Banquet.

POINTS: Would like to get members interested in 4C-chat room. Specify night and time to do this. Discussion of possible points revision. Kurt made a motion to table further discussion until next month. Motion seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

COMPETITION: Functional Teams chairpersons are filling up. Kurt would like ideas for the after meetings programs. Talk of Competition points program. Would reward winners with trophies (\$10-\$15 each). Janet made a motion to accept the Competition points proposal. Motion seconded. Yeas: Kurt, Margaret, Janet, Don, Gary, Diana, Dave, and Bob. Nays: Simon and Evelyn. Proposal passed.

OLD BUSINESS: Simon passed around a copy of the proposed changes in the by-laws.

Kurt made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded. Meeting ends at 9:06p.m.



Competition Report ***February 2005***

Well we are now one month closer to getting our babies out of their winter hibernation. That means it's time to start planning what shows, speed events and rallyes you want to attend this year. Gloria has updated the events calendar with all the Michigan Region's events we have dates for. Some could change but it will give you a good indication what 2005 is shaping up to look like.

We will start the education classes after the May membership meeting. The first topic is "How to get your car ready for show". The topic for June will be "Racing 101 – Autocross and Road Racing Basics". I can still use more topic ideas. If you have something you would like to learn about, let me know.

Sharon and I attended a private unveiling of the 2006 Z06 at the Detroit Auto Show on the 15th of Jan. It was hosted by David Hill, chief engineer along with the chief designer and the head of Corvette Racing. Gloria has posted some pictures on the website if you want to take a look at the new Z06 (sorry but my photography skills are somewhat lacking). Here are some major points emphasized at the unveiling:

1. 500 HP
2. The car is a **fixed roof** coupe.
3. The small spoiler/third brake light assembly creates over 80 lbs of downward force.
4. Brakes are comprised of 14"rotors on the front with 6 piston calipers and 6 brake pads per caliper. The rears are 4 piston calipers with 4 pads per caliper.
5. A lot of carbon fiber was used on the car to reduce weight.
6. All options that are available for the C6 will be available for the Z06.
7. Pricing ?????????? will be available in Jun/July, it's anyone's guess.
8. Car should be available sometime Sept/Oct.

The car was built using much of the data from the very successful C5R racing program over the last three years. It will also be interesting to see what rule changes (NCCC) have to be made, since many of the standard parts on the new Z06 if put on a car today, would place it in Group III.

I have asked Margaret to include in the newsletter a great article I found on auto crossing. It is a 5 part article. I have included Parts I and II this month.

The functional Team Leaders are beginning to fill up, but we still have a few open:

Pre-Registration	Shalimar Maynard
Registration	Diana Kuemple
Tech	John Beethel
Timing	Sharon Schwamberger
Course Setup	
Staging	
Waiver/Sign-in	
Concessions/Food	Janet Johnston
Give-a-ways/Goodie Bags	

If you are interested in leading any one of these groups or participating on any of them, please let me know. This is a great way to support the club and help us provide events that are well run and must do's for the future.

WINNER'S CIRCLE

January 2005 - **MOTHER NATURE**

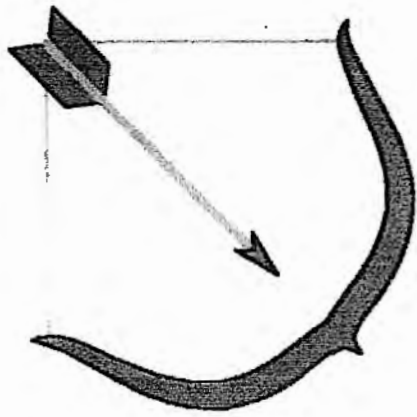
Kurt Schwamberger
kschwamy@yahoo.com
231-972-7880

Capital City Corvette Club 2005 Participation Points Standings

Through January 24

Participation Points

Carol Armstrong	2	Terry Feichtenbiner	0	Bill O'Neill	0
Don Armstrong	2	Randy Gisse	0	Steve Pavlik	0
Ed Armstrong	0	Mel Hahn	0	Joe Platte	0
Evelyn Aronson	3	Mark Hansen	1	Pam Platte	1
Laurie Backus	0	Nancy Hansen	1	Ray Pulido	0
Adele Bancroft	0	Cindy Hanses	1	David Pursel	0
Kurt Bancroft	0	Phil Hanses	2	Kathryn Pursel	0
Don Baron	0	Joy Hardman	0	Carol Putmon	1
Marie Barrett	0	Danielle Hessell	0	Randy Putmon	1
John Bechtel	2	Dennis Hessell	0	Gloria Reiffer	4
Sandy Bechtel	2	Brad Hutton	0	Simon Reiffer	4
Colleen Bratschi	1	Carrie Hutton	1	Robert Ribar	0
Rich Bratschi	1	Greg Jenca	0	Brenda Sage	0
Connie Britz	0	Theresa Jenca	0	Steve Sage	0
Mike Britz	0	Don Johnston	4	Kurt Schwamberger	4
David Brown	0	Janet Johnston	4	Sharon Schwamberger	2
Diana Brown	0	Tom Kania	0	Brenda Shatkosky	0
Chris Burke	0	Greg Kapp	2	Richard Shatkosky	0
Terry Burke	0	Linda Kinney	0	Janyce Shepler	0
Mike Busch	0	Angela Kranz	1	John Shepler	0
Kady Campbell	0	Jerry Kranz	0	Lyn Shoal	0
Pam Candy	0	Dave Kuempel	4	James Simmons	0
Pat Carmickle	0	Diana Kuempel	4	Vicki Simmons	0
Shari Carmickle	0	Margaret Lewis	0	Bill Smejkal	0
Kathy Cooper	2	Mark Lewis	0	Linda Smith	0
Ron Cooper	2	Bob Maynard	4	Rick Smith	0
Dave Cripe	1	Shalimar Maynard	2	Loretta Spinrad	0
Pat Cripe	1	Lisa McDonald	1	Steve Spinrad	0
Ken David	0	Steve McDonald	2	Dan Stremler	0
Kim David	0	Jeff McQuade	1	Nancy Stremler	0
Darwin Day	1	Kenneth Melaragni	0	Gordon Terwilliger	2
Sheila Day	0	Ron Melaragni	0	Margaret Terwilliger	4
Charlie DeYoung	0	Dawn Mitzel	1	Joseph Thomas	0
Patti DeYoung	0	Jeffrey Mitzel	1	Gayle Tbompson	0
Donna Dickert	0	George Nelson	0	Pam Thompson	0
Karl Dickert	0	Bill Nezamis	1	Jan Wasco	0
Trini Dixon	0	Florence Nezamis	0	Ken Wasco	0
Art Doty	1	Gail O'Dell	0	Gary Wyma	4
Nancy Doty	1	Terry O'Dell	0	Kathy Wyma	2
Jennifer Everhart	0				



Social Events

Hope everyone is keeping warm. I know the guys are looking through all the corvette catalogs dreaming of what they want to do when spring comes.

We had a very nice Awards Banquet. Coral Gables did a great job with the food. We had many door prizes to give out. Mid America, Corvette Central, and Ecklers were very generous with their donations. We also had other merchants from around the city donate door prizes.

February 19th we have a Drive & Dine. Details will be in this newsletter. Gordy & Margaret Terwilliger will be hosting.

March 19th we have the Region Banquet. I do believe that some of our members will be receiving awards again this year. Flyer and details also in this newsletter.

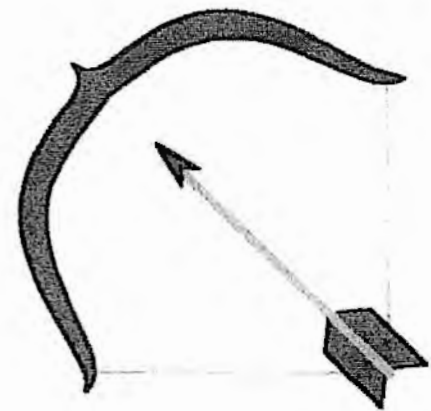
Then March 26th the Maynards are going to have a Euchre / Mexican Train Tournament. Look for the flyer on details of what to bring. This will be a potluck also.

I know the Wyma's are planning a Get-A-Way Weekend in the middle of May. Watch for details on this fun get-a-way.

So look at the dates listed in the newsletter and mark your calendars. Plan on a busy summer of fun with the Capital City Corvette Club.

Happy Valentines Day!

Janet Johnston
Social Director



February 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Happy Birthday Pam Thompson	2	3	4 Happy Birthday Joy Hardman	5
6	7 Happy Birthday Linda Kinney	8	9	10 Happy Birthday Steve Sage	11 Happy Birthday David Brown	12
13	14	15	16 BOARD MEETING	17	18	19 Drive 'n Dine Meet at 5:00pm
20	21	22 Happy Birthday Carol Armstrong Jerry Kranz	23	24 Happy Birthday Diana Brown	25	26
27	28					

CAPITAL CITY CORVETTE CLUB
"Tentative" Calendar of Events
2005

February

- 2 CCCC Membership Meeting
- 16 CCCC Board Meeting
- 22 Regional Meeting-Lansing
- 26 Nat'l Governors Meeting-St. Louis, MO

March

- 2 CCCC Membership Meeting
- 6 NS-TBD -CC of Michigan - Rallye
- 16 CCCC Board Meeting
- 19 Michigan Regional Meeting
- 26 Euchre + Dominoes at Maynard's

April

- 1 NS-TBD Driving School
- 3 NS-TBD - CC of Michigan-Driving school
- 6 Membership Meeting
- 10 NS-TBS - CC of Michigan-Low Speeds
- 15 TBD -Driving School-Gingerman RCWY
- 16 TBD - High Speed - Gingerman RCWY
- 17 TBD - High Speed - Gingerman RCWY
- 20 CCCC Board Meeting

May

- 4 Membership Meeting
- 1 NS-TBD - CC of SW Michigan-Driving School
- 3 Region Meeting-Lansing
- 7 Nat'l Governor's Meeting - St. Louis, MO
- 13 NS-TBD - High Speed School -TBD
- 14 NS-TBD - High Speed - TBD
- 14 TBD- Flint CC-People's Choice - Flint, MI
- 15 TBD - B. Creek CC - People's Choice - TBD
- 15 Royal C of SW MI - People's Choice - TBD
- 18 CCCC Board Meeting
- 21 TBD-Royal CC of SW MI - People's Choice
- 21 Getaway Weekend Frankfort, MI
- 28 TBD - CCCC-People's Choice-TBD
- 30 NS-TBD - B.Creek CC - Parade - TBD

June

- 1 CCCC Membership Meeting
- 12 MI-002-K'zoo CC-Low Speed-Battle Creek
- 12 MI-003-K'zoo CC-Low Speed-Battle Creek
- 12 MI-004-K'zoo CC-Matching Time-B..Creek
- 15 CCCC Board Meeting
- 18 NS-TBD - CC of SWMI-People's Choice-TBD
- 19 NS-TBD - CC of SWMI-People's Choice-TBD
- 19 TBD- CC of MI-Low Speed-TBD

July

- 4 NS-TBD- CC of MI-Low Speed-WaterfordHills
- 4 Car Show - Meridian Mall CCCC
- 6 Membership Meeting
- 9 TBD-Flint CC-Low Speed
- 19 Region Meeting-Lansing
- 20 CCCC Board Meeting
- 24 Nat'l Governor's Meeting-St. Louis, MO
- 24-30 2005 NCCC Convention - St.Cloud, MN
- 30 NS-TBD-Jackson CC-People's Choice-MIS
- 31 NS-TBD-Jackson CC-People's Choice-MIS

August

- 3 CCCC Membership Meeting
- 6 CCCC Low Speed-TBD
- 7 JCC Speed-Low events-TBD
- 13 MI-001-Americas CC-People's Choice-TBD
- 14 TBD-Royal C of SWMI-Low Speed-TBD
- 17 CCCC Board Meeting
- TBD Corvette Crossroads

September

- 6 Regional Meeting-Lansing
- 7 CCCC Membership Meeting
- 10 Nat'l Governors Meeting-St. Louis, MO
- 17 TBD - Shiawassee CC-Rallye-TBD
- 18 Horsepower at the Zoo Car Show
- 18 MI-005-Kalamazoo Low Speed - Battle Creek
- 18 MI-006-Kalamazoo Low Speed - Battle Creek
- 18 MI-007-Kalamazoo Matching Time-B. Creek
- 21 CCCC Board Meeting
- 24 TBD - Royal C of SWMI-Rallye-TBD
- 25 TBD - CC of MI-Low Speed-TBD

October

- 1 TBD - CCCC Rallye-TBD
- 2 TBD - Flint CC-Rallye-TBD
- 5 CCCC Membership Meeting
- 8 TBD - JCC - Rallye
- 9 MI-008 - KCC Rallye-Kalamazoo, MI
- 15 Great Lakes CC - Rallye - TBD
- 16 TBD - CC of MI - Rallye - TBD
- 19 CCCC Board Meeting
- 22 TBD - TBD - High Speed - Grattan Raceway
- 23 TBD - TBD - High Speed - Grattan Raceway

November

- 2 CCCC Membership Meeting
- 8 Michigan Region Meeting
- 12 NCCC Governors Meeting
- 17 CCCC Board Meeting

December

- 1 CCCC Holiday Dinner/Meeting
- 15 CCCC Board Meeting

*** Calendar subject to change

BURRRRR ! ! ! !

LET'S FIGHT THE SNOW

AND COLD TOGETHER !

IT'S DRIVE 'N DINE TIME

Date : February 19, 2005

Meeting time : 5:00pm

Drive South on US 27 From Lansing

Meet at the Barnes Rd. Exit ** Car Pool lot

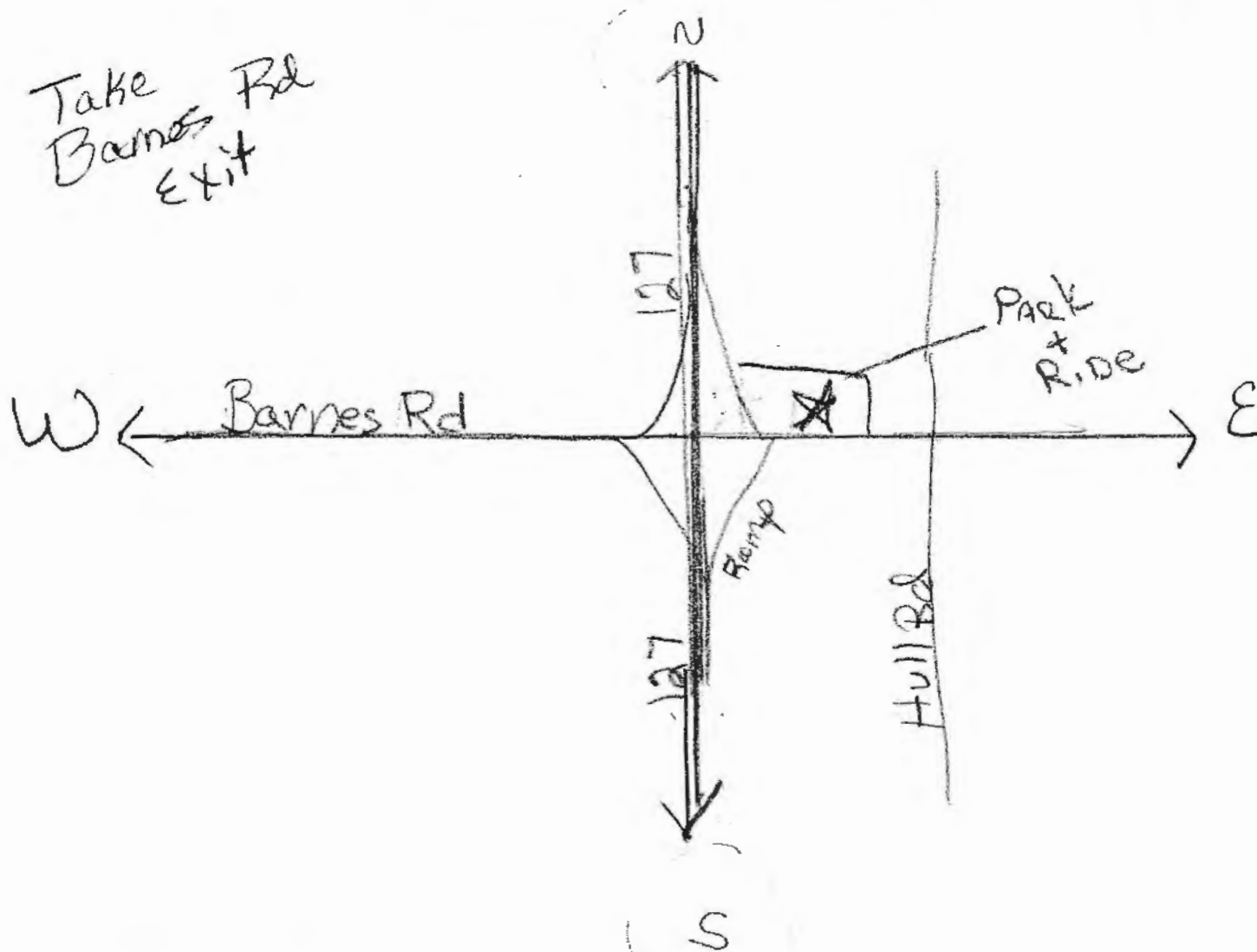
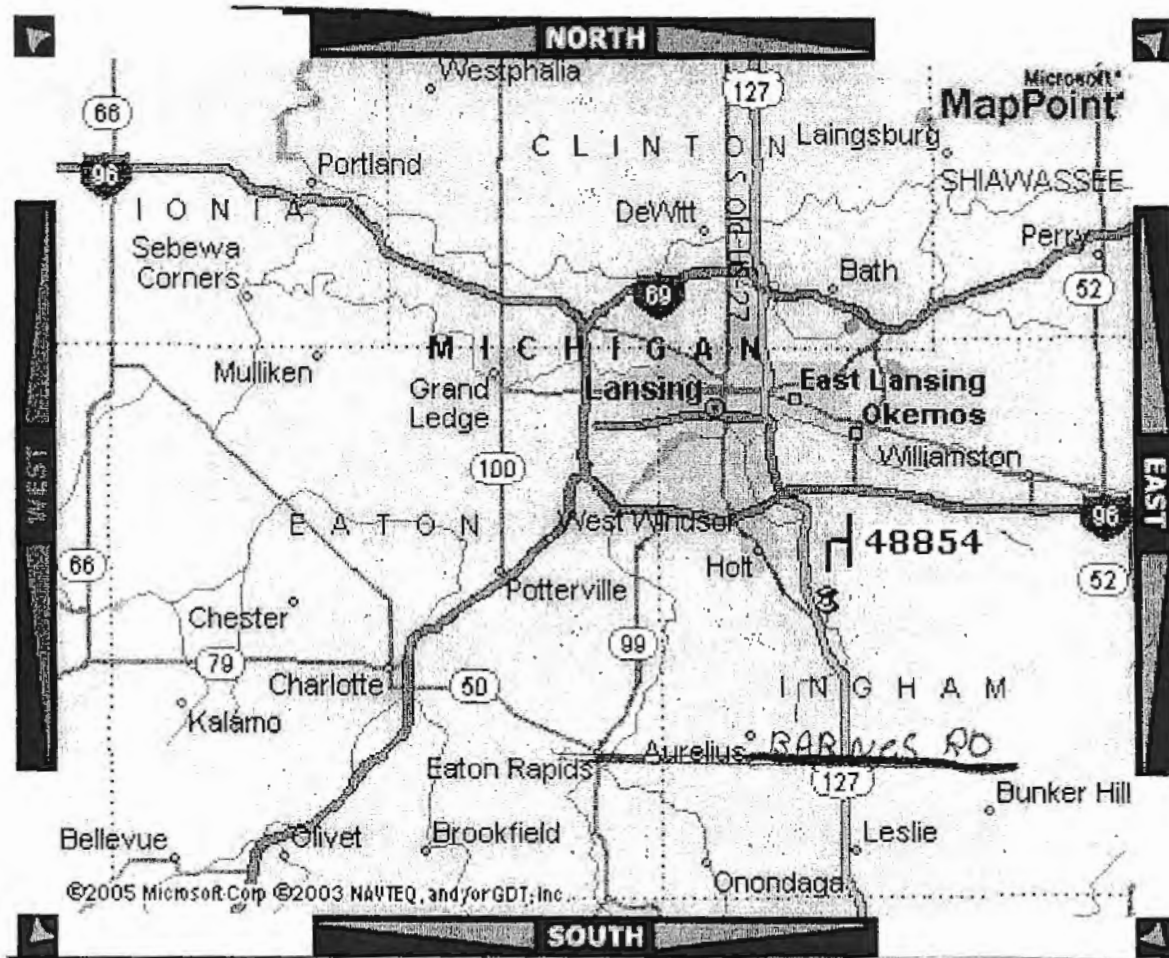
East side of US 27 (Past Mason)

R.S.V.P.

Call Terwilliger's at 517-628-2002 or

Janet Johnston at 517-647-2403

MAP FOR FEB. DRIVE 'N DINE



MICHIGAN REGION AWARDS BANQUET

March 19th, 2005

at

**Hampton Inn
525 N. Canal Rd.
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
517-637-8381 for reservations
Room Rate: \$65.00 + Tax includes hot breakfast**

**Directions:
I-96, Exit 93B (Saginaw Rd. East)
Hospitality Suite- Opens at 3:00 PM
Dinner at 6:00
Program and Awards at 7:00
DJ and dancing after Awards
BYOB/Wine/Alcohol
Mixes/Pop/Coffee will be provided**

**\$25.00 Per Person
3 Entrees to choose from
Mixed Vegetables
Desserts**

**Send Check to: Pat Thuemmel
1604 Barritt Street
Lansing, MI 48912-3715**

Meet Lyn and Ron Shoal

Ron and Lyn met over 36+ years ago at the Metro Bowl Lounge and just celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary. They have two daughters. Denise is married with three children: Dalton, 11; Nicole, 9; and Aimee, 2. Denise, husband Dan, and children live in Charlotte, Michigan. Their other daughter, Mindy, is married and expecting her first baby with the due date of Grandpa Shoal's birthday, March 3rd! Mindy and husband Kevin live in Memphis, Tennessee. Ron and Lyn also have a 14-year-old Maltese named Bailey who is "very very spoiled."

Lyn works at Meijer Traverse City store in Systems area, soon hoping to retire then work part-time. Ron is semi-retired. He owns Shoal Construction and works out of Elk Rapids and downstate. He builds homes, light excavating, and works with engineered drainfields under the business name of Enviro Wastewater Management. Most recently, he sold Greater Lansing Excavating in 2004.

Lyn likes working out, driving her Vettes, going to car shows in the summer, enjoying their lake home in Elk Rapids, spending time with their grandchildren, and sewing. Ron likes cars and going to car shows. He is currently frame-off restoring a 1956 210 Chevy. "We both look forward to spending a little time in the warmer climates next winter traveling with a 5th wheel."

In addition to CCCC, they belong to Elk Rapids Street Dreams Car Club. Ron is a member of the Knights of Columbus, MOWRA (Michigan Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association), and Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce. Lyn is a member of the Elk Rapids Business and Professional Women's organization.

The Corvettes are Lyn's. The '65 was purchased in 2001. The '91 was purchased in 2004. Both happen to be red. They heard about CCCC from Jeff McQuade and have been in the club since 2002.

"We enjoy being with the members, attending the meetings, but it is just too far to drive. We love the Mackinaw Crossings event and being with the members...look forward to spending time with you all this spring at your event that you usually have in May up north."

Dear Friends,

I would love to be able to talk to each one of you and let you know how our shelter's Christmas finished up, but as that is not possible, here is a short note from my heart.

Each year, I cannot believe that SIREN's friends are even more generous than they were the year before. But here we are with another Christmas under our belts, and even more families were helped this year. Thanks to your generosity, SIREN was able to help 12 more families than last year. This was surprising to us in a year when financial giving has been down for most charities.

There were a total of 133 families helped this year. This number includes both adopted families and families that were able to shop in our Christmas room. The number of children was 316. Just think, 316 children had a Christmas morning because of the giving heart of each and every one of you!

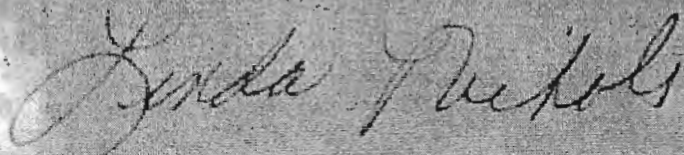
Thank you for the gifts for our Christmas room and shelter wish list items. Because of the wish list items that were donated, our supplies should last through the hectic winter months.

I hope you know how much SIREN/Eaton Shelter appreciates all you do for our families. This project would not be possible if it were not for all of your support.

I personally look forward to working with each of our donors every year. It was especially exciting to have several new donors on board this year.

Again, THANK YOU all so much. The staff here at SIREN/Eaton Shelter wish you all a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda Nichols".

Linda Nichols

Dear Friends:

Thank You So Much for helping
our family with Christmas presents
this year. We really appreciate
the generosity you show to all.

Thank You again.

Sincerely



Dear Friends.

Thank you for all your giving

Ways.

You made my son very

happy.

He has never had such a

special holiday.

Thank you again.



Try Auto-X; your 'Vette will love you for it.

by Vic Nightscales

About a year ago, when I first tried auto-x (called slalom racing in the US) I discovered a cheap, fun, and thrilling experience. Not unlike sex, this sport is best shared – so here is part one of a five-part guide to auto-x to spark your interest.

Part 1: Why You Should Try Auto-X

You have a Corvette and it was built to perform, but how do you get to know its limits – and yours – in a safe and fun environment?

Try auto-x!

An auto-x course is laid out over a large paved area,

with soft plastic cones to guide you in the right direction. Speeds are kept low because of the numerous sharp turns, so drivers are limited to using only first or possibly second gear. With little need for shifting, automatic and manual transmissions are on equal footing in this sport.

Nowhere else save a race track can you legally explore the limits of car and driver. In auto-x, unlike on a race track, it's one car at a time, so no one is going to hit you, and you won't reach speeds that can carry you off the track into solid objects. Thus you can safely experience the

thrill and challenge of launching your car from a standing start and negotiating through the cones as fast as your abilities and your car allow.

Auto-x requires you to focus on the course, eliminating the cares of this world for at least a moment. Your heart rate increases, giving you an aerobic workout while sitting down. Best of all, you can take a series of identical runs to improve your performance.

The intent is to improve your own times, not to beat the next person – and the satisfaction of meeting a personal challenge will make your day. Those of us who

are driven to win can compare our times with the other cars in equivalent classes. [See the BCCC Member Handbook for full auto-x rules and classes.]

Then there is the social side. Not only do you get to mingle with other Corvette nuts, you get to help pick up cones and support the volunteer organizers so that we can have more auto-x events, and even more fun.

Remember, your Corvette was designed for this. It is your duty to treat your car to auto-x so that it can enjoy its heritage. That would make Zora proud! ■

Making the most of Auto-X

by Vic Nightscales

Here is the second installment of a five part guide to Auto-X by Vic Nightscales. See the Nov/Dec '03 issue for Part I.

Part II: Preparing the Car and Yourself for Auto-X.

The wonderful thing about auto-x is that you can drive to the course and home again in your auto-x vehicle.

All you have to do is remove all moveable objects from your car before running the course. You will be turning rapidly back and forth, accelerating quickly and braking hard, so anything loose can become airborne and pose a hazard. Even the floor mats should be removed, as you will be tap dancing on the pedals, and we don't want you to trip.

Bring a helmet if you have one, but there are hel-

metts that you can borrow, so you don't have to worry about that expense until you decide you want your own personal hardhat.

If purchasing a helmet, ensure that it has a SNELL rating of SA2000 or SM2000. That is the safety rating that gives you confidence that the helmet meets the latest specifications. Do not purchase an old helmet! If a helmet has ever been dropped, small hairline cracks can develop that render it useless. Throw away any helmet that is more than 10 years old – your head is worth the best.

Wear a comfortable pair of running or driving shoes. You do not want to wear sandals, or have big floppy laces that can get caught on the pedals when your brain goes into thrill overload.

Here is a simple check list to conduct on your car before arriving at the slalom:

- Check the pressure in your tires to ensure they meet the specifications for your car.
- Check the oil and other fluid levels and ensure they are to specification.
- Ensure that you have at least a quarter tank of gas upon arrival.
- Ensure that you have followed the maintenance guidelines in your car's manual, and replace any belts or hoses that are worn or rotting.
- Check that your brake pads have at least 1/3 life left in them.

For your own creature comfort, bring a folding chair and umbrella. Rain or shine, they'll add to your comfort level.

Also bring some bottled water to keep your fluids up. Remember that your body is a simple electric cell. Nerve impulses do not process as efficiently when your body

is low on fluids, which means that messages take a little longer to travel from your brain to your hand or foot. Whoops! There goes another cone!

Physical fitness is also an advantage, as you need to walk the course several times in order to commit the path to memory. The more times you can walk it before the race, the clearer and quicker will be your decisions in the car.

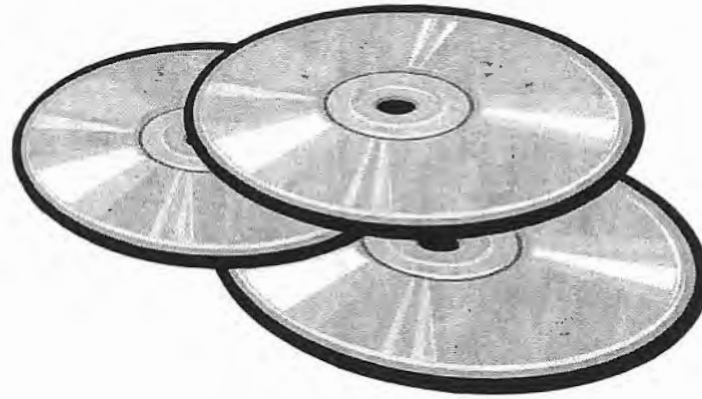
If you have active handling or adjustable suspension, ensure it is set to performance mode before driving the auto-x, as firm suspension and the ability to spin your tires is good for the process.

Finally, take a couple of deep breaths to relax at the start line. The auto-x experience will make you smile!

Watch for Part III: *Walking the Auto-X Course.* ■

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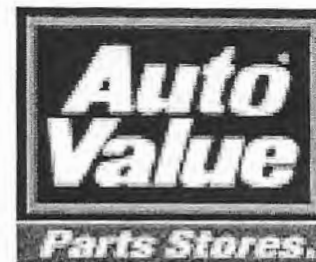


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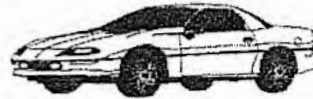


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