

# THE CONNECTION



The Newsletter of the  
**Capital City Corvette Club**

Lansing, Michigan

Established in 1958

[www.capitalcitycorvetteclub.org](http://www.capitalcitycorvetteclub.org)

[www.cccorvette.org](http://www.cccorvette.org)

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*Public Relations Director*

Colleen Bratschi  
*Membership Director*

Carrie Hutton  
*Points Director*

Chris Burke  
*Editor*

## ***THE CONNECTION***

### **The Newsletter of the Capital City Corvette Club**

VOLUME XXXVII-NUMBER 12-DECEMBER 2007

~Quick Hits from The Editor ~

### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/HOLIDAY PARTY**

**December 5, 2007**

**5:45 PM**

**Brookshire Inn, Williamston**

### **BOARD MEETING**

**December 19, 2007**

**7:00 pm**

**Delhi Café-Holt**

Please send any articles you would like to have  
published to: editor @ cccorvette.org

## From the President . . .

*Greetings!*

*The past two years have gone by very quickly but not without many fond memories. There are so many people to say thank you to that I don't know where to start.*

*I want everyone to know that it wouldn't be possible to bring the membership all of the activities over the past year without giving credit to my fellow Board members: Craig Iansiti, Rich Shatkosky, Brenda Shatkosky, Bob Maynard, Kathy Wyma, Colleen Bratschi, Carrie Hutton, Chris Burke, and of course my wife Diana.*

*The list doesn't stop here. I've had some people who volunteered to take on responsibilities without being elected to the Board and they include: Angela Hyde, Shalimar Maynard, Gloria Reiffer, Raoul Eiseman, and Terry Burke.*

*I would like to congratulate your new 2008 Board and I wish them continued success*

*with all of the activities they'll bring to the membership in the coming year.*

*Your officers for 2008 are: John Bechtel, President, Gary Wyma, Competition Director, Rich Bratschi, VP/Governor, Carol Putmon, Treasurer, Sandy Bechtel, Secretary, Kathy Wyma, Social Director, Bob Maynard, Public Relations, Colleen Bratschi, Membership Director, Carrie Hutton, Points Director, and Chris Burke, Editor.*

*I'll be having knee surgery the first or second week of December so Diana and I will see you sometime after the first of the year.*

*Seasons Greetings & Happy Holidays.*

*Gone Fish'n,*

*Dave Kuempel*

## CCCC General Membership Meeting November 7, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESIDENT:** Welcome. New member Mike Sprague. Tonight's guests are James Sutherland, Frank and Judy Kessler, and Tom and Denise Rhodes. Condolences go to John and Sandy Bechtel for the loss of John's mother. Dave read a thank you card from Diane McNeil from Potter Park Zoo.

**SECRETARY:** No additions or corrections. Gary Wyma made a motion to accept the minutes. Motion seconded and passed.

**COMPETITION:** Rich Bratschi gave report on sanctioned dates for next year.

**GOVERNOR:** Absent. Kim Keith explained changes in By-laws in Rich's absence. Simon Reiffer made a motion to delay By-laws and to put them before the new Board to be voted on later. Motion seconded. Discussion followed. Vote taken on motion. Defeated 24 to 27. Bob Maynard made the motion to vote on By-laws as they are written. Motion seconded. Motion is passed 34 to 18.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Jim Balla is a new advertiser. Dick Iding has renewed his sponsorship for 2008. Bob has invited Mr. & Mrs. Iding to the Winter Celebration

**TREASURER:** Report given. Sandy Bechtel made a motion to pay the bills. Motion seconded and passed.

**SOCIAL:** November Drive'N Dine, December Christmas Party and January Winter Celebration. Bob Maynard will be taking donations at the Christmas Party for the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

**MEMBERSHIP:** WE have 146 members, 1 Honorary, and 73 F.C.O.A. Club flags are available.

**POINTS:** Current on the website.

**EDITOR:** Deadline is November 23. Please keep profiles coming in. Compliments to Jim Balla on his article in the newsletter.

**OLD BUSINESS:** 2008 Board members elected. Picture of club trailer is on our website as well as on Bud Kouts website.

**NEWBUSINESS:** Salvation Army gave Janet Johnston 2 families for the club to adopt. Joe and Pam Platte will shop for one family and Terry and Chris Burke will shop for the second family Think about chairing an event next year. Contact John Bechtel or Rich Bratschi if interested.

**Museum Report:** Tickets will be available for a special viewing at the Detroit Auto Show on January 19, 2008. Check the Museum website for details.

50-50 Raffle won by Kathy Wyma

Joe Thomas made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

## CCCC Board Meeting November 21, 2007

Absent: Chris Burke, Kathy Wyma, Gloria Reiffer and Angela Hyde

Meeting at the Delhi Café. Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**PRESIDENT:** Welcome to incoming and outgoing board members. Colleen has sent out the new membership list.

**SECRETARY:** No additions or corrections. Carol Putmon made a motion to accept minutes as is. Motion seconded & passed.

**COMPETITION:** Mark Hanlin would like to know which date would work with club for a low speed training event (April 12 or 19).

**GOVERNOR:** Goodyear Tire has a site on NCCC for possible discounts. Colorado will be the venue for the 2009 NCCC Convention.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Bob has advertising budget for next year. Discussion of selling advertising on our website.

**TREASURER:** Report given. Diana Kuempel made a motion to pay the bills. Motion seconded and passed. Discussion on 2008 club budget. Craig Iansiti made a motion to forego sending out newsletters in December and instead put on website. A few newsletters will be available at the membership meeting. Motion seconded & passed. Discussion on sending By-laws out electronically.

**SOCIAL:** Absent

**MEMBERSHIP:** Updated membership list. 93 members, 1 Honorary and 72 F.C.O.A. 47 primaries, 35 spouse/companion 11 with NCCC in different clubs.

**POINTS:** Points are up to date.

**EDITOR:** Absent

**WEBMASTER:** Absent

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Suggestions to new board members. If possible, a kick off meeting for chairpersons of 2008 events.

**MEMBER INPUT:** None

Carrie Hutton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Next Board meeting on December 19.

## MICHIGAN REGION MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2007

Regional Executive Director, Bill Siebel called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at La Senorita's, Lansing Michigan. Bill asked if there were any deaths in anyone's club and there are none.

Secretary Report - Bill asked if there were any changes or corrections to the September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. There were none. Bernie Christian made a motion to accept the report as written, Joe Scafero seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report - Elana was absent as she had surgery on Monday. A copy of her report was provided.

Points – Sue provided the point standings as of this evening. High Speed, Low Speed, Matching Times and Car shows are complete. Overall and Rallys are not. She will update the standings on the web site. Please let her know if any problems are found.

Webmaster- Jim Sweet – No Report

Regional Executive Director Report - Bill brought up the topic of Proxy's. RE's will be discussing this. Some discussion has come up whether to eliminate them or not to make them mandatory of the clubs. Possibly this is a way to encourage governors to try and attend the governors meetings. After the review has taken place, Bill will advise the outcome.

Membership - Barb Harris reported that three (3) clubs has turned in their membership renewals for 2008. She asked the governors if they needed any more membership applications. Barb would like all renewals sent in sooner than later so she can make the deadline. Bernie Christian asked about the pins and calendars for next year. Barb will be picking them up for each club member at the Governors meeting. She will have them at the February Region meeting to hand out to all governors. NCCC is handling these this way to help save on postage costs. It is up to each individual club governor to pass these on to its' membership. Joe Scafero would like to return whatever pins and calendars he has left over back to NCCC. Barb saw no problem with this.

Competition – Rene' asked who the new officers were from the Lansing Club and also Lake Shore. Roger Stoel mentioned that some of the officers don't want their addresses given out. Barb Harris said we need to have a way to be able to communicate with everybody. She will need a complete list of names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mails following officer elections.

Rene' provided everyone a form for the 2008 events calendar. He went over the rules for submitting an event. Results of an event must be turned in to the RCD within 15 days of an event. Thirty (30) days following, everyone will get a copy of there results. Any club not following the procedure may receive a disqualification for the event. Flyers need to be submitted 50 days prior to each event with a copy to Jim Sweet to be posted on the website. For out-of-state participants, results must be sent to the RCD of the region for which they are a member of.

Ray Meeseman asked if everyone got the NCCC rulebook via e-mail. Some governors did and some didn't. The e-mail copy does not designate what changes were made or if there were any errors. Much discussion followed regarding the rulebook as to whether we want it or not. Printed copy or e-mail copy only? One (1) year rulebook as opposed to four (4) year? More discussion will need to take place at the NCCC level. Need better committee and reporting at NCCC level as no minutes are being kept of the meetings. Bernie suggested putting the rulebook on disc. Joe Scafero posed the question if the rulebook is voted down what happens?

Executive Director Bill Siebel asked for a proxy vote from the governors to take to the November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Rick Werhun made a motion to accept the rulebook as is. Joe Scafero seconded. Vote taken: 4 against (Lakeshore, Shiawassee, Kalamazoo, Great Lakes) 2 fore (Calhoun County, Lansing) One Abstention (Battle Creek). Everyone agreed on the procedure used for this vote.

Rene' made some clarifying remarks as to why some of the changes were made to the rulebook: Trying to make it easier to read. Did it for competitors to better understand the rules. He shared that a lot of work went into the new rulebook.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

2008 Banquet - Jim Harris handed out the proposal. The banquet will be held at Sullivan's Black Forest in Frankenmuth. \$35.00 per person with a cash bar. There will be lodging available for anyone wishing to stay the night. A block of rooms have been arranged at the Frankenmuth Motel. When calling to make reservations make reference to the Michigan Region Corvette Clubs. We must have a minimum of 75 people. Jim will provide a flyer to Jim Sweet to be posted on the website. They are also planning a "walking rally".

2009 Convention – Jim Harris reported in Jeff Janus absents. Not much new to report. Votes will be tabulated and announced at the Governor's meeting on Saturday. Our region had 100% club voting. Jim was very proud and thanked the governor's for voting.

Point System Proposal - Ray Meesseman reported that the points to receive a patch from NCCC will be left at 200. By going to the proposed 300 points patch would not have saved NCCC any money.

Region Shirts – Barb Harris reported that they are on our website. Anyone wishing to buy shirts please let her know. She asked that the governor's let their clubs know. The shirts that she brought this evening for Jackson will be delivered to Steve Massie by Mark Hanlin as Steve wasn't at the meeting this evening.

Updates on Ill Members: Kim Fast – Joe Scafero reported that there are not changes. She experienced a little set back but should be ok. Barb Bush – Joe reported that she has finished Chemo treatments, waiting to get her strength back and then will be having surgery. Carol Johnson - Ray Meesseman reported that she has finished Radiation treatments. Will be getting a cat scan, then Chemo. She is still coughing but doing pretty well otherwise. She is having no pain and the prognosis is better than originally thought. Elana Siebel – Bill reported that she had 3 Chemo treatments, had surgery on Monday, 11/5. Removed everything they could see. They feel that this has put years on her life and she will have more chemo.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Charity Update - Bill reported for Elana that so far \$18,000 has come in toward the Raffle car.

Sue Sweet made a motion to purchase trophies for the awards banquet she would need \$1500.00. Mark Hanlin seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Elections - The ballots were handed out for 2008 officers. The vote was taken and it was unanimous. Your 2008 officers are as follows:

Bill Siebel, Regional Executive Director

Angela Hanlin, Secretary

Elana Siebel, Treasurer

Sue Sweet, Points

Jim Sweet, Webmaster

Regional Membership Director, Barbara Harris

Regional Competition Director, Ray Meesseman

Bernie Christian made a motion that the ballots be destroyed. Joe Scafero seconded.

Roger Stoel made a motion that \$350.00 be used for door prizes for the Regional Banquet. Mark Hanlin seconded. 11 yes votes. 1 no vote. 0 abstentions.

2008 Calendar of Event Bidding - Rene' explained that each club would receive 7 sanctions with 7 rounds of bidding if necessary. (See tentative schedule attached).

14 Sanctions will be needed for the 2009 Convention when we get it.

Rene' reported that sanction requests must be sent to him for the remainder of this year. Beginning in January 08 they will need to be sent to Ray.

Jim Sweet went over the sanction fees for 2007. The number, type and costs attached to each type of event. Joe Scafero suggested that an invoice be sent to each club for whatever is due for 2007. A separate check be sent for 2008.

Mid America Motor Works sent us two (2) \$50.00 rebate gift certificates for the region. This is from the purchases made by the region from them. These will be used at the Region Banquet.

Bernie Christian made a motion that we send \$950.00 to Sullivan's Black Forest which is the 50% deposit required to have the banquet at this facility. Roger Stoel seconded the motion. Passed.

Nominations for Trail Committee: The following individuals were nominated:

|                    |                                    |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Chris Scafero, CCM | Nominated by Joe Scafero, CCM      |
| Gordy McCann, CCM  | Nominated by Joe Scafero from CCM  |
| Bob Hall, FCC      | Nominated by Jim Harris Flint Club |
| Dave Johnson, MAG  | Nominated by Ray Meesseman, MAG    |
| Dave Faulks, FCC   | Nominated by Bob Hall, Flint Club  |
| Jim Sweet, SCC     | Nominated by Ray Meesseman, MAG    |
| Mark Hanlin, CCC   | Nominated by Sue Sweet, Shiawassee |
| Alan Johnson, MAG  | Nominated by Ray Meesseman, MAG    |

Ray Meesseman, Bill Siebel and Barb Harris are automatically on this committee.

Craig Iansiti motioned to close the nominations. Joe Scafero seconded. The Nominations were closed and the voting will be in February.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. by Executive Director Bill Siebel.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Angela Hanlin, Secretary

Clubs in attendance:  
ACC,BCCC,CCC,CCCC,CCM,CCSWM,FCC,GVCC,GLCC,JCC,KCC,LCC,MAG,  
RCSWM,SCC.

Hello Governors, Officers and Comp Directors:

I was asked to send out a message to all of you regarding the 2009 Convention. For those of you who couldn't attend the Governors meeting this past weekend, you may not have heard that the Michigan Region was not the successful bidder for the 2009 Convention. This was a very sad announcement.

Thanks to everyone who did all of the investigation and worked so hard to put the proposal together. Your efforts have not gone un-noticed and your proposal was magnificent. Unfortunately we weren't able to get enough votes to swing it our way.

Maybe we can try to go for the 2010 convention as it begins the second half of the Corvette Century!!!

Respectfully,

Angela Hanlin  
Region Secretary



## Capital City Chatter

Please be sure to wish a **Happy Birthday** to the following CCCC Club Members!

Gordon Terwilliger-December 2  
Lee Webster-December 14  
Greg Kapp-December 19  
Karen Klein-December 21

Margaret Lewis-December 26  
Marilyn Ickes-December 29  
Raoul Eiseman-December 30

### Welcome!

CCCC is happy to welcome our newest members Mike & Janet Sprague. Mike & Janet joined us in November, and own a 2001 Torch Red Hardtop.. Watch for an upcoming Member Profile of Mike & Janet

### Volunteer Opportunities

The club is always looking for volunteers to help out or organize events such as car shows, community events, and social events. Please be sure to contact any of your club officers if you are willing to volunteer your time, and have some fun in the process!

### Newsletter Articles

The editor is always looking for interesting articles for the newsletter! Be sure to contact [editor@ccc Corvette.org](mailto:editor@ccc Corvette.org) with your Membership Profile, or "Vette Vignette. Remember, you can earn participation points for submitting articles!

## **DRIVE AND DINE PLANNING; ARE YOU UP TO THE TASK?**

**Steve and Barb Musselman**

Last August, we were saddled with the chore of planning and organizing this year's November Drive and Dine. Such a daunting challenge brought all kinds of questions and images to mind; most of them all bad! Would it require driving in a foot of snow; would anyone even want to venture out from their warm, snug winter home to slip and slide in a "Detroit Iron"; would anyone leave the football scene at the height of the season; are there any interesting places, nearby, that have not already been the site of a Corvette invasion; and why did they pick on us?

With gas prices imitating the flight of an untethered hot air balloon, an arbitrary limit of 50 miles was imposed on our travels. But, after checking out a number of possible eateries, taverns, and grills within the allowable radius, none seemed to fit the bill. During a Rotary District meeting at Schuler's of Marshall, the decision became clear. This place offered just what we were looking for; good food, atmosphere, and a new place to visit. Reservations were made for a fireplace-adorned dining room and the staff promised a fun time for all!

The route planning, to be void of any highway driving or populated areas, was also an interesting experience. Many times we were forced to backtrack to avoid gravel roads or surfaces not complementary to sport car sensitivities. After three practice runs, the final route was less than 50 miles in length and complete with no construction, minimum traffic, and could to be driven within daylight hours.....at least for now!

Because of our absence from the October membership meeting, there seemed to be a breakdown in member notification and sign-up. Four days prior to the drive, we were still unsure if we would be driving alone or if anyone else would subject themselves to such a venture.

I'm not sure if it was the many sleepless nights of worry or that the gods were shining down on CCCC, but what a super success of a day! Sunny skies, with a high of 50 degrees, brought out 44 attendees with 21 Corvettes. We all made the trip without getting lost, and arrived in Marshall one minute ahead of schedule.

With the ordeal behind us, we proclaim it to be one of the most enjoyable experiences, ever. But, when asked if we would plan the first Drive and Dine in the spring?.....I think we'll pass, thank you!

## **MARSHALL HISTORIAN**

### **Steve Musselman**

**Susan Collins**, Historian of Marshall, Michigan, was the guest speaker at the November Drive and Dine. Following her presentation, many CCCC members requested her contact information for future reference to tours and events in Marshall. She expressed her personal joy in giving tours to visitors or providing historical programs. Feel free to contact Susan at home, 269-781-4335, cell 269-781-6235, or by e-mail, [sujocol@aol.com](mailto:sujocol@aol.com). She closed by saying, "Your group was an interesting mix of people and that always lends itself to fun!" How true!

## NO-FAULT INSURANCE EXPLANATION

Sandy Bechtel

Prior to 1973, Michigan, like most states, had a traditional tort system in place for auto insurance, which simply meant that anyone involved in an accident had to fix blame, hire a lawyer, and go to court to recover economic losses. Some estimated that before no-fault, 69,000 automobile injury lawsuits were filed each year in this state, many of which dragged on for years. One-third to one-half of the money paid in compensation then went to lawyers and for other legal expenses. To make matters worse, a victim could only collect damages if the other driver could be *proven* to have been negligent and was then actually able to pay. Federal studies at that time showed that less than half of the people injured in accidents ever received any benefits under this tort system, and many of those claims did not result in enough money to cover the losses.

In the early seventies, Michigan lawmakers began exploring the concept of no-fault insurance – a system in which people who are hurt in accidents are compensated by their own insurance companies. When it was enacted on October 1, 1973, accident victims not only began receiving quick payment from their own insurers (our statute provides for payment within 30 days of receipt of proof of loss), but they were also given *unlimited* compensation for the costs of medical treatment, hospital care, and rehabilitation, plus compensation for lost income and substitute services (three years). In exchange for these unlimited medical benefits, Michigan drivers were required to purchase auto insurance and their rights to sue for non-economic (pain and suffering) claims were limited. While still allowed, pain and suffering lawsuits must meet a high threshold before proceeding to court. Judges are now authorized to determine whether an accident victim's injuries have reached the threshold that would allow him/her to sue for non-economic damages.

Michigan has the most comprehensive no-fault automobile insurance system in the nation. Because disputes over who was at fault in an accident are virtually eliminated, medical bills are timely paid. Our state is unique in that damages to vehicles also fall under the no-fault system. A Michigan driver must buy collision and/or comprehensive insurance in order to cover damages to his or her own vehicle. This, too, saves time and money in the payment of claims.

Mini-tort – an exception to no fault. If your vehicle is damaged in a not-at-fault accident, you may collect up to \$500.00 in damages to your vehicle that aren't covered by insurance from the at-fault driver.

## Corvette History - December

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- **December 6, 1963:** At the International Bahamas Speed Week races in Nassau, the 112 mile Governor's Trophy race is held. The Corvette Grand Sport, driven by Richard Thompson, blows its engine, ending its participation. Grand Sport No. 003, driven by Roger Penske, takes first in prototype class and third overall. Grand Sports No. 004 and 005 take second and third in class, and fourth and sixth overall.
- **December 6, 1963:** At the International Bahamas Speed Week races in Nassau, the 252 mile Nassau Trophy race is held. Two Corvette Grand Sports are entered, No. 004 and No. 003. No. 004 takes first in prototype class and fourth overall. No. 003 takes third in class and eighth overall.
- **December 16, 1997:** Location of the ABS/Traction Control System brake pressure modulator is moved from the rear of the Corvette to behind the radiator.
- **December 24, 1953:** Production of 1953 Corvettes stops for the year, yielding a total of 300 Corvettes built for 1953.
- **December 1953:** Corvette production moves from the Flint, Michigan assembly plant to a General Motors Assembly Division plant on Union boulevard, in St. Louis, Missouri.
- **December 1954:** Production of the 1954 Corvette ends with a total of 3,256 built and 1,076 left unsold.
- **December 1958:** Bill Mitchell begins work on the Q-Corvette, with a rear-mounted transaxle and fully independent suspension.
- **December 1958:** Zora Arkus-Duntov hits 183 mph on the General Motors Proving Grounds, Phoenix, AZ in a Corvette SS.
- **December 1964:** Roger Penske races Jim Hall's Grand Sport Corvette #005 at Nassau against vast and powerful Cobra opposition, winning the race. His win established the last General Motors victory over the Ford-powered Cobras for years to come.
- **December 1982:** At the Riverside International Raceway in California, Chevrolet previews the 1984 (not 1983) Corvette, where the automotive press tests the car.
- **December 1992:** General Motors' Corvette group secretly contracts with TDM, Inc. to build a test car of the 1997 Corvette. The test car is officially called CERV-4 (Corvette Engineering Research Vehicle). Corvette directs the project, with Chevrolet paying for it. General Motors management is not told about it, for fear that they would cancel it.



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