



Sponsoring Dealer: Koons Chevrolet  
Tysons Corner, Virginia



# The 'Glass Gazette

February 2004

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## Newsletter Article Submissions

DEADLINE: 5:00 p.m. Friday after the  
General Council meeting

(2nd Tues of each month)

Address: Jim Beaupre,

2631 Iron Forge Road

Herndon, VA 20170  
z06@jbcubed.com

Format: email, text-format (MS Word)

Pics 640x800 jpg format

Northern Virginia

Corvette Club

Website: [www.nvcorvetteclub.com](http://www.nvcorvetteclub.com)

## C6 Unveiled!



**Andrej Balanc**  
**George Skeakales** at  
**Spooktakular**—Now that George  
has deserted us for sunny Florida  
(I'm jealous) we need a new  
**Spooktakular Chair**—Volunteer??

You may notice the picture above is of two handsome guys (questionable at best), not the new C6. Unless you were riding the Mars Landing vehicle for the last year, you must have seen the new C6 in some magazine! My theory is there is only one car built, maybe two. EVERY magazine, Autoweek, USA Today, Automobile, Motor Trend, Car and Driver, Road & Track.... What is the common thread? EVERY picture only shows a red car! Only the "spy" photos from San Francisco had pictures of a convertible, all the other articles only showed a coupe. Interesting.

Welcome to the new year for NVCC, with new officers, Council members, all kinds of opportunities to participate, a great conversational online Forum and to not let moss grow under our Goodyears, check out the social

calendar with 2 events in February and 2 in March scheduled already! Great start to a 2004. This first issue of the year has flyers for all the events, a great article from Collin MacDonald on the continuing saga of his '63 Split Window Coupe restoration, an opening salvo from our new President and a wrap up of the last rallye of 2003. Out with the old in with the new. The challenge for everyone is to get involved. Remember membership has rewards and RESPONSIBILITIES. We need people to work Rallyes, Autocross, Spook, etc. Don't feel anxious if you have the calling. All the people like Mike Sarver that have done it for years are more than willing to help the new person, he just needs a break from the primary responsibility. That can be said for everyone.

Please, **GET INVOLVED!**  
Jim Beaupre, ed.

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### What's Happenin'...

### Who ya gonna' Call?...

#### NVCC COUNCIL MEMBERS

**President** Jeff Kirk  
jkirk@dgsys.com 703 798 4193

**Vice-President** James Anderson  
jaa2404@hotmail.com

**Secretary** Wanda Robinson  
redvette1@cox.net

**Treasurer** Jeff Reinke  
JeffreyReinke@aol.com 703 404 0971

**Officer-at-Large** Don Kerndt  
dkerndt1@cox.net 703 759 5495

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

**Autocross** OPEN

**Auto-X Co-Chair** OPEN

**Concours** Collin MacDonald  
o2bquik@adelphia.net 703 338 9677

**Historian** Ralph Watts  
akcelr8@earthlink.net 703 503 5988

**Membership** Judy Patrick  
thepatricks@erols.net 202 234 2820

**Newsletter** Jim Beaupre  
Z06@jbcubed.com 703 478 2977

**NCCC Governor** Andrej Balanc  
redvetteconvertible@yahoo.com 703 450 2314

**NCM Ambassador** Don Patrick  
thepatricks@erols.net 703 234 2820

**Publicity** — Joyce Corbin

**Rallye** — OPEN

**Social** Paul Hertel  
Vet92SixSpeed@aol.com 703 771 0484

**Spooktakular** OPEN

**Web Master** Brad Sneade  
bsneade@iogen.com 703 716 0451

**JANUARY**  
27 General Business mtg Koons 7:30pm

**FEBRUARY**  
7 Annual NVCC membership Party, Tysons Holiday Inn—Contact Paul Hertel  
10 NVCC Council Mtg Koons 7:30pm  
21 Bowling See flyer Sterling 7:30pm  
24 General Business mtg Koons 7:30pm

**MARCH**  
9 NVCC Council Mtg Koons 7:30pm  
10 NVCC Karting, Sterling see flyer 7:30 pm  
14 Hopsfrog Social see flyer 10am  
23 General Business mtg Koons 7:30pm

**APRIL**  
13 NVCC Council Mtg Koons 7:30pm  
27 General Business mtg Koons 7:30pm

**MAY**  
2 NVCC Concours Collin MacDonald for information see Flyer  
11 NVCC Council Mtg Koons 7:30pm  
25 General Business mtg Koons 7:30pm

**JUNE**  
8 NVCC Council Mtg Koons 7:30pm  
22 General Business mtg Koons 7:30pm

**JULY**  
13 NVCC Council Mtg Koons 7:30pm  
27 General Business mtg Koons 7:30pm

**AUGUST**  
10 NVCC Council Mtg Koons 7:30pm  
24 General Business mtg Koons 7:30pm

**SEPTEMBER**  
7 NVCC Council Mtg Koons 7:30pm  
9-10 NVCC Spooktakular—Summit Point!  
21 General Business mtg Koons 7:30pm

**OCTOBER**  
12 NVCC Council Mtg Koons 7:30pm  
26 General Business mtg Koons 7:30pm

**NOVEMBER**  
9 NVCC Council Mtg Koons 7:30pm  
23 General Business mtg Koons 7:30pm

**CORRECTIONS !!**

## **Presidential Pontifications from Jeff Kirk**

Hello everyone!

As the new President of the Northern Virginia Corvette Club for the 2004 year, I would like to extend my thanks to all those who have expressed their confidence in me to lead this club.

As a member of last year's administration under Paul Hertel, the council set in motion plans to promote the NVCC's image within the Corvette community. This year's mission statement will be, "To increase awareness and participation of the NVCC throughout our community." I have therefore outlined 4 major goals for this year's council and membership:

- To increase awareness of the NVCC within the Northern Virginia community using publicity and advertising.
- To bring in sponsors from local and nationally recognized businesses that can enhance the benefits to being a member of the club.
- To increase the financial stability of the club, making it less dependent on outside funding for events.
- To increase the number of members within the NVCC, and the participation of the members within it.

The emphasis that should be made on advertising and publicizing the club cannot be understated. Some of my thoughts in how to accomplish this will be to have our club begin working more with the various community groups around the area. The event last year that seemed to provide the most satisfaction to those club members that participated was the cruise to the senior citizens home last year. We should increase our efforts to work with organizations like this. Having a people's choice concourse at a local school hosting a fund raising event. Doing charity work with a shelter, or getting the club together for a weekend to assist families with something like "Christmas in April", where club members work on houses. Who doesn't feel good spending a day working hard, knowing that they've helped out someone less fortunate?

Interfacing with more sponsors is a high priority as well. Affiliating with some of these businesses, especially on a local level, will bring not only recognition within the club to a particular business that exists, but also provide something back to the club, or the club

member, that uses them. The deal we have with TireRack is a prime example of the NVCC working with a company that is a win-win situation. Club members have bought multiple sets of tires from TireRack, which has some of the best prices around, but additionally, if the tires are purchased from using the icon on the NVCC homepage, a percentage of the cost of those tires is given directly back to the NVCC. This could be done with local businesses of all types, from florists to oil changes.

Increasing the financial stability of the club to make it less dependent on outside funding is a goal that will definitely benefit all members in the club. Last year's disappointment to many that the concourse was cancelled due to funding issues is something that I hope will never occur again. I know that both Collin and Don invested a lot of time and energy into getting everything setup and organized, and the club also suffered in that we scheduled an event that we weren't able to complete. I do not want to see this happen again. Additionally, various groups within the club are looking to expand on the equipment available for their events, and are working hard on setting and satisfying these financial goals to get this accomplished.

Lastly, but of no less importance, is to increase membership and membership participation. I am hopeful that we can increase overall membership within this club, and that we can get more active participation out of our current members. There will be a multiple pronged approach to accomplishing this, to include more social events of different aspects, as well as my assigning each council member the task of identifying a current member and working to get them more involved in what they do within the council. Most of the increase in membership, I hope, will come once the club gets better promotion and advertising of not only the club itself, but of the club's greatest asset, it's members.

Each of the 4 goals are tightly bound within one another. Each of them also are dependant on the membership to strongly assist the council in accomplishing these goals. If you have an idea or suggestion, please let us know what it is. If there is a local business that you enjoy and want it to be part of the club, bring it to the table. We need you to help us, help you.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey L. Kirk  
2004 NVCC President





## Letters ... we get letters and emails!

From Ron

Rexroad: In case anyone's interested.

### Eckler's Hi-Performance

### Now's Your Chance

### Drive your Corvette On Road Atlanta or Roebing Road Race Track

Eckler's Corvette Performance Parts and PBOC (Porsche/BMW Owners Club) have joined forces to offer you the terrific opportunity to drive your Corvette on these tracks under the supervised instruction of certified teachers. The two-day driving school will include classroom driving principles, 2 hours of skid pad control lessons and 2 ½ hours of in-car, supervised track-time instruction. The cost for this driving experience is \$275.00 for the Saturday and Sunday school. The Road Atlanta school is March 20-21 and the Roebing class is August 14-15. To get all the details for enrollment and safety requirements visit [www.pboctflorida.com](http://www.pboctflorida.com) or to enroll e-mail [paul.lesinski@ecklers.net](mailto:paul.lesinski@ecklers.net). You can also contact Eckler's at 1-800-327-4868 x312.

*Don is our NCM ambassador and Judy is membership chair. Both are a blessing to NVCC.*

Hi all,

On January 2 Judy broke her knee cap when she slipped on a wet metal grating in the sidewalk. She had surgery the next day. Then things went from bad to worse. On January 10 I noticed something wrong with my right eye and went to the doctor. It turned out that I had a detached retina with seven tears. So I had surgery on January 15th. Therefore, Judy and I were both helpless at that point. Thanks goodness for wonderful friends: Kirk and Cheryl DeNee moved in the night before the surgery and stayed for three nights. Then Emilio Estrada's wife Carmen moved in for three days. You know your friends love you when they are willing to empty your bedpan. Judy's, not mine. While I had to lay on my left side for four days, I could get up to go to the bathroom as long as I kept my head down. I saw a lot of interesting shoes.

We are both progressing as expected. I will not be able to see anything for another week or two with the entire right eye vision process taking about four months. There's an 80% chance my vision will be restored to what it was prior to the detachment. There's normally three procedures to correct a detached retina: 1) Scieral buckle, 2) Gas

bubble and 3) Freezing. I had to have all three treatment. The cause was nearsightedness and weak areas in my retina or simply wear and tear looking at too many shiny Corvettes. (Emilio picked up a Black 2004 on Jan. 10).

Judy starts therapy on Monday, January 26. At this point her leg remains in a brace that she takes off twice a day for ten minutes of exercise. She can bend her leg up to approximately 30% but cannot lift it up which is the other exercise so I pump her leg up and down like a water pump. She cannot return to work until February 16th at the earliest.

She sat at the computer for awhile today with her leg propped up to the side checking emails but got very tired after about an hour. She plans to start working again on membership paperwork very soon.

Obviously we cannot make the January business meeting and probably not the party in February since I can't drive at night and we don't know what stage her leg will be in at that date.

We're both looking forward to the day when we're both off the injured reserve list.

Don Patrick

*Don and Judy are great people, very active in the club. You too can have some great friends and receive the support of fellow members, just become active!! Ed.*

**Talk about nostalgia—when did  
Holley Carbs become standard (and  
don't ask—what is a carb?)?  
1966**





## Conco by Collin Maconald

As most of you know, and for the benefit of our new members, last year's Conco 2003 was cancelled one month before the show date because of a lack of funds needed to rent the Expo Center. It was decided to cancel the show for 2003.

Immediately after this, I started looking. This time our goal was to find someplace we could use year after year, that would not cost us anything to use and that would be fun to go to for a show. Well, the answer was just down the street in Round Hill, VA - Franklin Park. It is the same place we used for the club's photograph.

The park people are as excited about having us do the show as I am about having a place to do the show. NVCC is going to gain a lot, especially if things go well. Our biggest gain is a place we can return to year after year.

Now some might say, "Why are we going to western Loudoun County to do a show?" My question to this question is why do we go to West Virginia for the Spooktacular?

**We need a place that will support our show, provide a year-to-year place to go, will welcome us, be cost effective, and is willing to help and is glad have us.**

Although the Dulles Expo Center was a great place, we did have problems that we could not overcome. The main one being, our sponsor was not providing funds.

Well this is old news; but the new news is Franklin Park provides their staff to help us set up and take down, provides traffic control, provides us with tables and chairs, and with tents. Yes, we will have 15 10X20 tents to put special cars under, and two 10X10 tents to use for vendors, plug a tent on concrete with power that can be used for our judging center etc. All this **FREE** to us.

The show area for the Conco has over 188 parking spaces or at least 94 double spaces plus a LARGE flat field for shine n show cars. These are all in the same immediate area, with public parking across the street. In addition they will set up snow fence around the immediate blacktop area to limit access of the public, making them go through a gate to pay. They only ask us to help them set up and take down the snow fence with their people.

Another plus is we can use the upper lot (where the photos were taken) to park trailers, use for registration and inspection, and a big plug, they will run a house for those needed to wash their cars before the show. Also, in the blacktop show area, a water faucet, near the pool building will be accessible for those wanting buckets of water to do touch up. A covered picnic area will be ours for the day; and they will help with setting up and tearing down the

## Autocrossing Screeches By **FILL IN YOUR NAME HERE!!!!**



### Speed events in the Mid Atlantic area

Organizer	Event	Date
-----------	-------	------

We are going to have good time this year. Right now Spooktacular set for October 9th and 10th and here is ja piece regarding out potential involvement in the Washington Area Metropolitan Sports Car Clubs.

Mike Sarver & Andrej Balanc went to meet with MWSCC. They have a \$10 initiation fee and we must host 1 event per year if we join. Event can be anything. Would like to see more rallyes & cruises. Autocrosses use SCCA rules. Usually 20-50 cars, max 150 cars, avg \$20/car, \$500 track rental, \$50 event fee for championship event. Require insurance for event, use K&K, now \$9/ member to participate annually. We can also use our own insurance as long as they're on policy. Club must go to Beltsville, pick up equipment, set up, timing, tech, track layout, submit to council, track tear down, bring batteries for radios. Must use their timing equipment because they track points. Would like club to participate in 1/2 of all events. Can't have an open event within 35 miles from center of DC same day. Although ODS is within this distance, if we didn't open the event to everyone, we could still do this. Possible \$2k profit per event (income \$3K (150 x \$20) less \$1K (\$500 track rental, \$50 fee, \$300 trash etc.) expenses). Need several people to run it, but corner workers use entrants. More profit than Austin Healy event (made \$500). Don't run on FedEx weekends. Must have 2 reps, 1 has to make one meeting every 90 days. Meeting is about 5 miles north of Beltway, off of Georgia Ave.

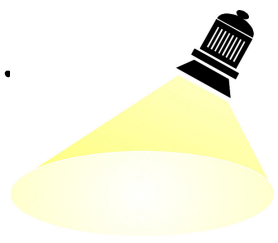
Paul made motion – Mike seconded, Andrej, Jim B., Mike as reps. All voted in favor of joining the club. Ed.

tents, tables, chairs etc. All power connections for our computers and printer are free.

As far as the being in the country, remember it has to be accessible by participants who just happen to come from the G-burg club, Maryland clubs and PA clubs. Franklin Park is located in the middle of the road between Winchester and Leesburg. This makes routes 81, 15, and 7i deal for many of our friends from Maryland and PA to attend. In many cases it's closer for them. Besides, the club has no problems holding the Spooktacular further down the road in West Virginia.

Much more information at the upcoming GBM in January. But for now, I want you to think about what you want to do to help with putting on the show. Are you interested in becoming a judge, working in registration, inspection, at the front gate, selling T-shirts? We need a crew of members who will come forward and help to make this show a success. Let me or Don Kerndt know, please....the show is on the road.....!!

**Collin MacDonald and Don Kerndt, Conco 2004  
Chairs....**



**Members  
CORNER  
By Judy Patrick**

**February Report**

Judy and her husband Don have suffered some medical issues causing some them to not be as energetic as usual. Until they are mended please provide any club applications, new member inquiries to any of the officers or council members. The information below may be out of date for which we apologize. Ed. We currently have 106 Active members and 12 prospective members

Additional NVCC key rings (\$6 ea.), NVCC window decals (\$2 ea.) and NVCC windshield banners (\$5 ea.) are available to active members. See Judy for these.

**Prospective Members:**

- Dick Allardyce - '72 Gold T-Top
- Sal Gioia - '03 Black Convertible
- Howard Gappa '69 Gold Roadster
- Ron Rexroad - '72 Blue Convertible
- Jeffery Smith - '04 Magnetic Red Coupe
- Marty McCabe '96 Silver Roadster
- Bryan Mossey '69 Black Roadster
- Charlie Brown '77 Red Coupe & '01 White Z06
- Patrick & Jean Hagen '02 Yellow Z06
- Jeffery Smith & Lauren Singletary '04 Magnetic Red Coupe
- Phillip Tinney '96 Yellow Convertible

Note: You remain a "prospective" member until you pay your membership dues and return your NCCC form to Judy.  
**Judy Patrick**



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

**January Birthdays:**

- Robert Arnold, Jr. .... 1
- Laurel Singletary..... 1
- Robert Compton..... 2
- Jackson Hufnagle ..... 24
- Carl Hunt .....24
- Jim's Z06 ..... 27
- Jim Beaupre ..... 26
- Jim Tortorella ..... 26

**February Birthdays:**

- Judy Patrick ..... 10
- George Skalkeas..... 11

**Socially Speaking  
from  
Paul Hertel**



**NVCC 2004 Social Calendar**

**NVCC HOLIDAY PARTY !! February 7, 2004 see the website for details!!**

**Feb. 21st Bowling party—come smash some pins with other NVCC's**

**March 10—Mid winter racing break—Karts at Sterling, VA**

**March 14 Hopsfrog Social (see flyers for details)  
What at social calendar to start 2004!**

Paul Hertel, 2004 NVCC Social Director

**With the huge tires of today, do you know when tire size changed from 6.70x15 to 7.75x15? 1965!**

**NCM Ambassador Corner  
by Don Patrick**

Don would like to apologize for missing this month as he and Judy have run into a number of personal problems related to accidents and their health. We wish them both well and Don assures me once they are on their feet again his great NCM reporting will be resurrected. Miss you Don and Judy!

## Rallye #5—Last Rallye of 2002 was held on November 2nd, 2003

### Rallye #5 Recap By Joe "JD3" Daly (rallymaster)

Well, lets just say we were blessed with some absolutely perfect weather. We were a little afraid based on the previous weeks of rain and cold windy weather, but at the last minute everything broke clear and we had mostly sunny skies, in the mid 70's. Perfect top down weather to go out and enjoy the last NVCC rallye of the season. The start and end was at Chili's in Reston, who have been very accommodating over the past ten years that I have been doing this rallye, and a special thanks goes out to them.

We had 10 cars participating in the rallye and the poker rallye and one car that came out to do the cruise and just to see what it was all about. They ended up following along the rallye sheet and were having a blast. We had several people come out without a navigator, so we paired them up and they ended up winning. Not bad for Brian Seeling's first time out in a week-old special edition Z06 - he wins the rallye and splits some poker winnings. I'll bet we'll see alot more him in the future. Seth realized that his Corvette doesn't like to go that slow and they had to make a de-tour and get another vehicle.

There was only one "trick" question -- What color is the big red tractor? (answer at the end of this article) As it happened, a clue we were going to use kept changing the weeks and days/hours before the actual event start, so since the question was so obvious, we decided to keep it in - just for kicks.

As usual, in addition to the rallye questions there was also a list of scavenger items for extra credit/points, and despite the efforts of a club member to hinder other participants, everyone was given credit for the "missing" items. First and foremost, rallye and other club events are fun events (even though they are competitions" - you shouldn't do something that will detract/hinder others enjoyment).

The poker pot at my rallye was split as usual (50% to high hand, 25% to low hand, & 25% to 2nd high hand (you just hate "almost" winning so you get something for your efforts)). High hand went to Marcellyn Daly; Low hand to Brian Seeling & Jimmy Daly; and 2nd High hand to the Kolsters who unfortunately had to leave early. (Bill & Susan - I have your money, just remind me the next time I see you).

Although we did get a good turnout, we'd like to see even more participate next year. All in all, everyone seemed to have a really good time and really enjoyed the weather, good food, and good friends. What better way is there to spend a Sunday afternoon?

Results for those of you keeping track:

Place	Driver	Navigator	Points
1	Brian Seeling	Jimmy Daly	9
2	Alice Arielly	Jack Hufnagle	6
3	Mark Bergstrom	Barb Shaw	4
4	Chris Koloziej	Colleen Mont	3
5	Seth Watari	Bill Ladner	2
6	Joe Daly, Jr.	Marcellyn Daly	2
7	Kevin Martin	Joe Haardt	2
8	Wanda Robinson	Dana Robinson	2
9	Steve Wojcicki	Brad Wojcicki	2
10	Bill Kolster	Susan Kolster	2
Cruisers:		Craig & Chris Heizer & Emily Hutchinson	

Again, thanks to everyone for coming out and to my Rallye Check (Carol). Barb Shaw - great job with the rallye season... looking forward to see what you have planned for next year. By the way the answer to the question: What color is the big red tractor? RED (astonishingly, not everyone got this)

# NVCC ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

**Saturday February 7th, 2004**

**Where: Holiday Inn, Tyson's Corner  
1960 Chain Bridge Road**

**Time: 6 PM to 11 PM with drinks and  
hors d'oeuvres from 6PM to 7PM**

**Prime Rib Buffet Dinner to include:**

A variety of salads including fruit, vegetable, pasta, and garden  
Vegetable Crudities, fresh vegetables, and Rice Pilaf  
Chef carved Prime Rib and Breast of Chicken Dijon  
Fresh rolls, assorted desserts, coffee and tea

**Events include: Awards, door prizes, and special Corvette only re-  
served parking**

**Payment must be received no later than January 27th, 2004**

Send this registration form in along with your check payable to  
NVCC to Paul Hertel, 5851 Wood Flower Court, Burke, VA 22015

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number of people \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_





## Impromptu Sunday Brunch & Social

Let's get together for Brunch at Hopsfrog Tavern!

**WHEN: Sunday, March 14, 2004**

**10:00 am – 12:00 pm (or until you can't eat anymore!)**

Show up a little early for front row parking!

**WHERE: Hopsfrog Tavern, 5745 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke, VA 22015  
(703) 239-9324**

**SOCIAL:** Hopsfrog Tavern's Sunday Brunch is \$12.95 + drink + tax + tip.  
Please bring cash - \$18.00 per person (Hopsfrog requested one check)

Please **RSVP** by March 7, 2004 to Dick Hammaker (703) 250-8644 or hammaker@erols.com

**Directions:** From I-495 – Take the Braddock Exit (Ext 5 – Rt 620 West)  
Go approx 5 miles to Rt 123 (Ox Rd)  
Turn left on Rt 123  
Turn left on Burke Centre Parkway (approx 1/2 mile)  
Hopsfrog Tavern is on left (hard to miss!)

## NVCC bowling in Sterling— Have fun! Top Bowler wins a new C6!!!

Last three bowlers lose the pink slips to their Vettes!

**WHEN: Saturday, February 21st 07:30 pm - 09:30 pm**

**WHERE: Bowl America Sterling 46940 Woodson Dr Sterling, VA  
20164**

**(703) 430-1350**

**SOCIAL: Bowling, beers and bragging rights**

You can register for this event on our website or  
forum. If you prefer e-mail then you can send your  
**RSVP** to me no later than February 13th, 2004.

**Paul Hertel**

**(six\_speed@yahoo.com)**



**Directions:** Corner of Route 7 and Dranesville road.

from Tysons take route 7 west to Dranesville Road take the first left after passing 7100  
Fairfax county parkway

That left is Dranesville road, go 1/4 mile on Dranesville, Bowl America on your right.



# Winter break NVCC Go Kart Racing!!

**March 10, 7:00 show time 7:30 on track**

5 minute warm-up 120 Lap EnduroTeam Competition  
Laps average 25 seconds at 35mph average speed

Driver's Suit, Gloves and Helmet Provided

If you have a helmet you may use it if it has a full face and shield

**\$80 per driver**

There are only 20 driver slots available – Sign up Early!!

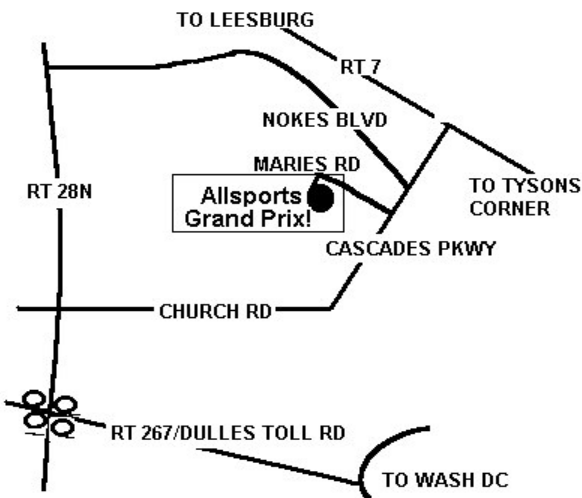
### Payment due with registration

*(Checks payable to Ralph Watts, mail to 10012 Raeburn Court, Fairfax, VA 22032)*

*Registration closes the evening of 18 February*

Contact Ralph Watts 703.503.5988, or akcelr8@earthlink.net

**Due to limited slots, please choose teammates from club members or immediate family members (significant others)**



Driver #1:

\_\_\_\_\_

Driver #2 if known:

\_\_\_\_\_

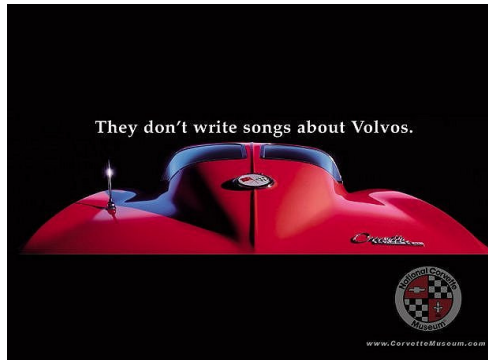
Is this registration for both drivers?  Yes  No

If yes, include payment for both.

## Restoration 63 continues in 2004..... Ironing out the Mechanical Kinks and Restoring the Interior.

by Collin MacDonald

It's been sometime since I've written about my 63-restoration project. Several members have told me they love reading about the project and have missed my articles. They have asked me about the progress and how it's going. Between my ongoing work schedules, especially the travel, and visiting my daughter (just became a Grandfather), it's been hectic and impossible to sit and write an article. As far as typical of trying to correct and car. It seems you move ahead a Progress is measured in inches, buying a car that had many previous repairs were performed by fast and cheap. All of this come more expensive and time consuming to go back and fix what the terminated to correct past faults, making steady progress day by day. It's making vision is this car will be restored as close as possible to the day it left the factory.



They don't write songs about Volvos.

I guess the efforts are starting to show. Recently, several people were interested in purchasing the car. Each offer was fair and generous. Yet, I still am not interested on selling. It did make me curious to the real value of this car. So I had the car appraised by Chuck Berge, a professional appraiser of Corvettes, recommended by NCCC and NCRS. Good news! The car and its recent restoration efforts have elevated this car to very high level for classic cars. Furthermore he told me I was taking all the proper steps to assemble a top-notch classic car of high value. I was very pleased with his assessment that rendered a fair written appraisal and value. He re-enforced to me that the final steps are the most critical. He said when the exterior painting and cosmetics are completed it will substantially increase the value of this car, thus placing the appraisal value much higher. We talked for hours, and I obtained a lot of valuable restoration pointers, but mostly I left with my confidence increased, and re-energized to complete this restoration correctly. Having the car appraised becomes just as important as restoring the car. This gives you a good baseline to understand the car's potential worth, and makes it clear to the owner how much should be spent on the restoration.



This subject matter of this article describes the types of "bugs" that occurred with my restoration, and the fixing of those menacing "bugs. Also it brings you current on the ongoing work of restoring the interior, its related electrical system, center console, dashboard and instrument cluster. As of this writing, the car was moved to Corvette Specialties, in Maryland to undergo the instrument cluster and dashboard electronics restoration, and correct a couple newer issues recently discovered.

One of the most notable accomplishments that occurred since my last update has nothing to do with the 63 directly. It was the completion of my garage renovation project. As you can see from the photographs it really turned out to be a nice showroom for both Corvettes. Only a fee little odds and ends and that's it.

Recognizing and Fixing Faults Cause by Rebuilding....



**My new Corvette home!**

So far most of the effort and expense during this restoration was rebuilding the engine, and drive train. It was expected to have mechanical bugs after such a major engine overhaul. The only way to find and correct faults is to drive the car. Since I have been able to drive the car, these faults have certainly become apparent and are concerning. When you take on such a major overhaul, you must make sure the mechanics that perform this job will support and stand behind their work after you drive out of the garage. I finally drove the car for a while and the following is a list of the issues needing to be fixed

- **4th gear is popping out into neutral** when you let up on the gas while driving; it's very annoying. The shift linkage needed to be adjusted, fourth gear linkage was readjusted to allow the shifter sufficient length to click into 4<sup>th</sup> gear. This was fixed.
- **Very Low Oil Pressure**, when the car comes to an idle, the oil pressure drops too far down. This is serious; however, this could be a bad oil pressure gauge in the dash. Since the instrument cluster was refurbished and calibrated, this still showed low pressure. The oil pan was dropped, and the oil pump was bad, and replaced. This fixed the oil pressure problem.
- **Steam out the tail pipe left bank.** The left side exhaust has a very sweet smell, and it steams, so antifreeze is getting into the heads. Found a few things with this one, mainly a bad head gasket. Anti-freeze was leaking into the 5<sup>th</sup> cylinder. It was replaced. In addition found a couple of other problems on the intake manifold that was fixed. No more steam.... increase in power, engine sounds much better.
- **Serious vibration issues.** The car has a lot of vibrations, most seem to be drive train and half shaft related and we found some bent control arms on the right. I experienced this when I drove to Maryland and asked the guys at Corvette Specialties to look at it. He first test drove the car, then put it up on a lift. What they found was the frame in the car is broken at the spring pocket. The tie rod and sleeve on the right front are bent, the right hand lower control arm appears to be pushed back, drag link appears to be bent. It actually sounds worse than it is. They welded the frame, replace the bent parts and recheck the frame and correct it for straightness on an alignment machine. I understand that many of the mid-year Corvettes have this issue and many are not being corrected. The car was realigned, tires balanced, one new half shaft installed, and the drive train balanced and this eliminated all of the vibration issues. These issues are being addressed while at Corvette Specialties.
- **Carburetor Choke Adjustment**, the carburetor was out of tune and needed to be readjusted. The carburetor uses a warm air choke and is very difficult to adjust. Once it was adjusted correctly, the engine runs much smoother now.
- **Clutch Chatter**, found many hot spots on the clutch, and the centerpin (used to center the clutch to flywheel) was missing. Pilot and throughout bearings were bad and replaced. Shifts much smoother now, although had to replace the entire clutch because of bad hot spots on the plate. Also replaced the gasket in the transmission pan.
- **Directional Canceller** did not work, found a crimped wire on the bottom of the shaft, replaced and now it works.

Although some of these issues are very concerning and could have resulted in serious problems if not fixed, all were fixed by Corvette Specialists and the car is running better than ever.

**(next month... Rebuilding the interior)**



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