

# The 'Glass Gazette

February 2007



**Dealer Sponsor:**  
**Koons Chevrolet**  
**Tysons Corner, VA**



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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By: George Kerns

The one bad thing about winter is that as it comes closer to spring, you begin to run out of things to write about. And to make matters worse, Erica and I just returned from our cruise so my mind is still in the Caribbean. However there are still a few things I would like to mention.

First of all are the track events for the year. The first two events are being held on the Jefferson circuit at Summit Point (The Cone Killers' and the April 15<sup>th</sup> high speed event). These two events are in jeopardy of being canceled if we don't start getting some enrollment here soon. As it stands now, we do not have near enough people for either one of these events and I need to make a commitment to the track here soon. So we need to start getting these registrations in for these.

Second is the teen driving school being held in April. Everything is set and the class is almost filled to capacity already! This is really great news for the club because the fact that this event is almost full two months in advance shows what an impact our club had on the community last year. We even have the local State Farm office referring teen drivers to us! I want to thank Howard Snook, Long and Foster, Koons Chevrolet, and Tire Van for all their support for this event. I really would like to see as many members in the club as possible getting involved with this event because it's for a really great cause!

Just around the corner is the annual club banquet on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>! We have a lot of really great prizes to give away this year and the food will be awesome! At last count we had 88 people registered so far and that means there are only 12 seats left. There will be an \$800 tire certificate from Tire Van given to a lucky member of the club, along with some other really cool stuff! So don't miss out on a great time!

Finally I want to mention the Eastern Region Spectacular event coming up in May! All the clubs in the eastern region are participating in this event and there are going to be events for everyone! The Northern Virginia Corvette Club is holding an Economy Run at this event. As of right now, Andrej, Jim B., and myself are working on this event. We are however going to need a few volunteers to help out with this event. We will be talking more about it at the next meeting for details. This event will be a test as to who is really getting the best gas mileage with their Corvette!

Well, that's all the time I have for this month boys and girls, so remember if it's too fast, you're too old!

Take care,  
George



**The folks working hard for you ....**

**NVCC Council Members**

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**Membership Corner**



We currently have **105** active members and **18** prospective members.

*Our newest members:*

Carolyn Offutt	1982 Silver Collectors Edition
Mounir Hadiji	1998 Black Coupe
Ed Kasper	2005 Blue Coupe
Mike Brancato	1973 Red Coupe
Don Ellenberger	2006 Z06
John Palmgren	2006 Blue Coupe
Tom Shea	2006 Red Convertible
George & Kim Joca	2005 Red Convertible

*January New Prospective members:*

Gary Moller	2006 Coupe
George Conlon	2005 Coupe
Lori Grovac	2005 Coupe

**Prospective Members:**

You remain a "prospective" member until you pay your membership dues and return your NCCC form.

**Member spotlight!!**



This month's member is ... **Chris Grabiell**

*Member since:* a long time

*His car:* 2003 Red Z06 (black interior)

*Modifications:* C6 Z06 wheels, MTI 6 shooter shifter, Vararam air induction

*Favorite NVCC activity:* Cruises (particularly Skyline Cruise)

This is vette number 5 for Chris! He bought his first vette in 1995, and has been addicted ever since ...



**Happy birthday!!!**



<b>Richard Anderson</b>	<b>Feb 2<sup>nd</sup></b>
<b>Jeanie Wine</b>	<b>Feb 2<sup>nd</sup></b>
<b>Judy Patrick</b>	<b>Feb 10<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Cassidy Nolen</b>	<b>Feb 18<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Fred Wendling</b>	<b>March 1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Jeff Adelman</b>	<b>March 4<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Joe Holzer</b>	<b>March 9<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Mike Sarver</b>	<b>March 14<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Dale Harrison</b>	<b>March 16<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Kirk DeNee</b>	<b>March 25<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Rita Mars</b>	<b>March 27<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Bruce Witkowski</b>	<b>March 27<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Robert Miller</b>	<b>March 30<sup>th</sup></b>

**MINUTES FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING ...**

**Northern Virginia Corvette Club  
General Business Meeting  
January 23, 2007**

Meeting brought to order at 7:35 pm at Koons Chevrolet, Tysons Corner.

George Kerns, President, welcomed everyone to the GBM, introductions made by all.

George led off the meeting with the progression of the Annual Banquet to be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Erica reported 58/100 reservations have been received. Chuck Pellerin reminded all that to participate in the Grand Prize drawing "You Must Be an Active Member".

Laurie Kistner – Social/Concours/Web Designer:

- Stay tuned -club calendar & forum planning continues for all events for the year
- Anyone with ideas should contact Laurie as soon as possible for open dates
- Concours, June 3<sup>rd</sup> here @ Koons; Need Helpers (Judges, Teching, Parking Cars, etc. ) Flyer coming soon.

Pat Somersall – Membership

- To meet with Helen, Wed, 1/24 for membership handoff
- First priority to get administration in order
- Labels to be printed for update to membership applications

Anne Costolanski – Newsletter

- Announced new section, "Member Spotlight". Monthly, Anne will select a member to interview and feature them in the newsletter. A great way to find out more about our club members interests, etc.

Rich Mars – Vice President

- Thanks to Andrej for putting together the Go Carting Event it was fun for all. There was 1 citation given out for slow driving (will remain anonymous)
- Carlisle 8/24-8/26, Membership Booth – will be great for the club, more details as the event progresses.
- Helpful Hint from Rich – Antifreeze and Thermostat should be changed out every two years (see Rich for more info)

Cassidy Nolen - Historian

- State Vette Club Plate progressing
- Trivia question winners: Ed Kasper, George Kerns, Rich Mars, George Conlon

George Kerns opened the floor to new business:

- Rich is promoting the valve cover races and would like the clubs' input to hold it at the Spook this year as a

form of entertainment. Rich and Cassidy would volunteer to build the track, etc. These races originated in Canada and the Canadian clubs are quite active in the hobby. Special Thanks to Wanda and Zoel for introducing this event to our club.

- George stated that the 4/15 Jefferson HSE is scratched. George stated there are too many competing events.
- However, the 4/28 Teen Driving School Event (to be held in Manassas) will be a hit!! Of the 60 potential drivers, after 8 days of open enrollment, we had 28 kids registered. For those who are not familiar with the event: Free to teenagers, parents must participate by riding in the back seat, fully sponsored event with Gift bags to the drivers. Gift bags normally include but not limited to: first aid kits, tire gauges, ice scrapers, safety items, etc. Tire Van will help with Tech inspection and monitor the kids cars tire pressure. The club is receiving a lot of positive attention and feedback for this event. We are fortunate to have representatives from the National Corvette Council and Blue Bars to attend, support and review the event in general.
- We will need club volunteers at the event as well, traffic directors, lunch runners, cone savers and much more. Reminder, the Teen Instructor/Helper meeting will be held on 2/24 @ 11:30 am here at Koons, lunch will be provided.
- Reminder March 24 Cone Killers – volunteers anyone?
- Radar Gun to be purchased by club – Is this specific to the Cone Killer's event?
- Rallye Master – We need one. Heads Up for e-mails to come. Per George, the Rallye is what the club's platform was build on 30+ years ago. If interested, please get in touch with Chuck Pellerin.
- Andrej and George attended NCCC East Region Spectacular Meeting. The event will be held May 18-20 and is expected to draw 5% of the eastern region clubs and a lot of point chasers. The registration fee is \$35 which includes food and band for the weekend. NCCC members can enter 7 events a day (for driving event prices – contact George or Andrej).

Congratulations to this month's Raffle Winners:

- GM, Mr. Goodwrench Playing Cards – Chuck Pellerin, Rich Mars, Joe Holzer & Dick Clark
- Wanda Robinson – Ratchet Tool Kit Set
- Rita Mars ( Mrs. VP) – Oil Filter Wrench
- Joe Holzer – Oil Change
- George Conlon – 50/50 Raffle \$64

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm with 27 Active and 10 Prospective members in attendance.

Paul Benish will lead anyone interested to Gordon Biersch Brewery in Tysons Mall for drinks.

Cel Holzer – Secretary in training

## Car Batteries by Cassidy Nolen

Ever had that dreaded morning when you find out you have a dead battery? All parts failures aside (like a dead alternator), you can keep on top of it if you know how old your battery is. Most of us have fuzzy recollections about our car batteries. We say things like “well, it was snowing when I changed it” or “I think it was new last year”. The reality is the battery can tell us what we need to know.

By definition, a battery is two different metals contained in an electrolytic solution (or acid). This chemical reaction creates the energy needed to crank and maintain our computer and electrical devices. As the battery ages, it can lose its ability to do this. The metal plates in the battery erode over time and lose the cranking amperage they once had (the number identified by CCA, or Cold Cranking Amps). Batteries differ based on the needs of the car they operate, months of warranty and even use in the country. A battery in Florida would have more electrolyte in it (hotter and it evaporates more easily) while a battery in Wisconsin would have more plate material (colder winter conditions drain the battery and make it harder to start the car).

The life of a battery is directly related to the predetermined number of months a manufacturer expects the battery to last AND the way the battery is stored. Simply driving a car around once every few weeks can keep it going. With this winter, that should be easy. Dead batteries do not always recover if they are left for long periods of time. You can even have a battery freeze solid if the acid becomes pure water! DO NOT CHARGE A FROZEN BATTERY. It is probably time for a new one if this happens.

With all of this said, here’s how you tell the age on your battery. Stamped in the plastic on the top of all AC-Delco batteries is a number. It’s made of little dots that push into the plastic while hot. The first two digits tell us all we need to know. A4xxx, for example, tells us this battery was manufactured in January of 2004. A battery with G5 would be July of 2005. See the pattern? The months are identified by the letters A-M (they leave “I” out, too ambiguous) and the year by the first number. On Interstate and Die Hard batteries, this is a round sticker usually separating the number and letter with a dash.

I usually replace a battery when the manufacture date is within 6-10 months of its life (in other words, I go 50 to 54 months on a 60 month battery). It has been a good rule for me. I also am very careful to buy a battery with a recent build stamp. I actually turned down a battery this past year from a GM dealership that had a date code of 2002! That battery was almost 5 years old! Wherever you go, make sure you are buying a battery big enough (enough CCA’s) and new enough to do the job.

If you were curious, I have run AC-Delco batteries in all of my cars for many years. I purchase the 84 month batteries whenever available. They have a patented sealed-type battery with vapor recovery system built right in. They also have an eye-type hydrometer that tells you whether the battery is charged. They cost a few dollars more, but that is one area I am NOT looking to save money!

## Wanted ... Rallye Chair!!



**Wanted ...** Someone to chair the NVCC 2007 Rallye season. Alice Arielly has agreed to host a rallye and either Dick Hammaker or I can do the Rallye 101. But we need a Rallye chair to pull together the rest of the season. We had a good turnout last year and everybody had a good time. If you enjoyed the sport and want to have a program this year, you have to let me know soon. Don't let lack of experience stop you: We can help you make it happen. The work is rewarding and yields warm fuzzy feelings and a sense of accomplishment.

E-mail: [chuck-p@cox.net](mailto:chuck-p@cox.net)

Oh my goodness ... it's  
**NAKED!**



And it still looks better than most of us  
without our clothes on ... 

# Karting at Allsports!!!

On your mark, get set ... GO!!!!



Is that a point-by??!



And the winners were ...



... Everyone!!!



## ***NVCC Event Calendar***

### **March 3 – Annual NVCC Banquet**

The Annual Banquet will be held on Saturday March 3, 2007 at 7:00PM at Maggiano's at Tysons II. Cost is \$25 per person (Children 5-12 are \$10). See the flyer on page 7 for more info.

### **March 11 - Washington, D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade**

We have an opportunity once again to participate in the Washington, D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade downtown ([www.dcstpatparade.com](http://www.dcstpatparade.com)). The parade date is Sunday, March 11th, 2007 at noon.

If you are interested in participating, or need more information, please email Joe Daly at [jdthree@cox.net](mailto:jdthree@cox.net) ASAP. Also, if anyone has any kids that want to carry the banner ahead of the group, let me know.

### **March 24 – Cone Killers Car Control Clinic**

Come out to Summit Point's Jefferson Circuit on March 24<sup>th</sup> from 7am to 5:30pm for the Cone Killers Car Control Clinic to develop your confidence and driving skills. We promise a great day of fun, learning and camaraderie in a safe environment, a mere hour and a half drive for most of you.

ABSOLUTELY NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED for this event. There will be a Plethora of Patient Instructors to help and guide you through all the fun, which includes driving exercises in the morning and track time in the afternoon. In addition, you can go for a ride with our Fabled, Fabulous, and Facile Instructors. There are 39 slots available for this event, and the fee is \$150 till March 19, \$175 thereafter. (*Note: no refunds after March 19.*) See the flyer on page 8 for more info.

### **April 15 - HPDE on the Summit Point Jefferson Circuit**

NVCC is sponsoring a HPDE on the Summit Point Jefferson Circuit. Cost is \$150 until April 8<sup>th</sup>; \$175 thereafter. Instructors are free but must register. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis and will close on April 14th. There will be 15 slots in each run group. No refunds after April 8th. See the flyer on page 9 for more info.

### **April 28 – Teen Driving School At Stonewall Jackson High School**

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, NVCC, Koons Chevrolet, Howard Snook of Long and Foster, and Tire Van will be sponsoring the Sir Isaac Newton's Totally Awesome Driving School for teens only. Teen drivers will learn how to really control a car, not just learn how to pass the driver's test! They will

learn why cars do what they do, why they do it, and what to do about it.

Your child (or friend's child) has the opportunity to spend the day with NVCC's knowledgeable driving instructors who are highly skilled drivers as well as teachers. They will put the drivers through a series of driving exercises designed to extend the driving skills and thinking of the participants. Parents are urged and encouraged to stay and attend classroom sessions and watch their offspring drive through the exercises, which are designed to make the young drivers understand why they lose control and how to prevent it. All this is done at very slow speeds in a very safe environment.

The driving school is FREE and includes a pizza lunch. Space is limited, so get your registrations in ASAP!

### **May 12 – Spring Skyline Drive Cruise**

Corvette Forum's Jim Strathearn and Shenandoah Valley Corvette Club are sponsoring this year's Spring Skyline Drive Cruise on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007. For those that remember past Skyline Cruises, we always have a blast! Attendance has been anywhere from 100-200 or more 'vettes...the event keeps growing and growing each year.

Spring Skyline 2007 will benefit Blue Ridge Hospice, who took care of the final journey for a Corvette Forum member who died on Christmas Eve 2004. Registration will be a \$10.00 donation to Blue Ridge Hospice, payable at the cruise start point in Front Royal, Virginia. Additionally, you must pay an entry fee to get into the park (good for 7 consecutive days), which is \$15.00 or you may purchase an annual pass, which is \$30.00.

We will meet at the Newgate Shopping Center parking lot (corner of Routes 28 and 29 in Centreville) at 7:30 AM, drivers' meeting at 7:45 AM, leaving at 8 AM SHARP! We should arrive at the Front Royal Chevy dealership at around 9:00 AM, where those organizing the cruise will begin distributing goodie bags and door prizes. We will then leave for the cruise at 10:30 AM with a police escort through town. Please bring your family radios! Contact Laurie Kistner at [lilredcorvette94@yahoo.com](mailto:lilredcorvette94@yahoo.com) for more information.

### **May 13 – Mother's Day Rod Run**

Cruisin' Company is again hosting its 30th annual Mother's Day Rod Run on Sunday, May 13th 2007 at the Coast Guard station on Telegraph Road in Alexandria. For those that have gone to this show in the past, the Coast Guard facility provides an excellent venue for this show with plenty of shade and green grass. The show brings in a unique mix of street rods, street machines, customs, bikes and of course Corvettes! The show includes Dash Plaques, Top 40 Awards, Top Club Participation Award, 50-50 Drawing, Kids Games, T-Shirts, BBQ Dinner & Sodas, and Live Music. Entry is \$20 for 2 Adults and Children.

We will meet at the IHOP in the Manchester Lakes shopping center for a small breakfast at 9:00 AM before cruising into the show. For more information, please contact Laurie Kistner at [lilredcorvette@yahoo.com](mailto:lilredcorvette@yahoo.com).

# *Northern Virginia Corvette Club Annual Banquet*

**Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007**

**7:00pm at Maggiano's in Tysons Galleria Mall.**

**Cost is \$25 per person (Children 5-12 are \$10). Checks must be made payable to NVCC and mailed to:**

**NVCC  
c/o Erica Kerns  
13544 Wycrosse Court  
Bristow, VA 20136**

**THE LAST DAY TO SUBMIT PAYMENT FOR THE BANQUET IS ON FEBRUARY 27<sup>th</sup> AT THE GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING. We have 88 people signed up so far – only 12 more spots are available!**

**Dress is Business Casual. The Banquet is open to all NVCC members, their spouses, children, guests, and all those who have applied for NVCC membership.**

***Appetizers:*** Bruschetta & Four Cheese Ravioli Fritte

***Salads:*** Caesar & Maggiano's

***Second course:*** Spaghetti, Meat Sauce, Linguine Chicken and Pesto w/Pine Nuts

***Entrees:*** Oven Roasted Pork Loin, Portabella Mushroom Sauce and Stuffed Chicken Fontina

***Desserts:*** Apple Crostada and Profiteroles, Vanilla Bean Ice Cream, Hot Fudge

All served with regular and decaffeinated Coffee, Hot or Iced Tea.

**CASH BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE!!**

*COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CORVETTE*

## CONE KILLERS' CAR CONTROL CLINIC

SATURDAY, MARCH 24 FROM 7:00 (AM THAT IS) TO 5:30 PM

ON THE BEAUTIFUL, ROMANTIC JEFFERSON CIRCUIT, NESTLED IN THE ROLLING FOOTHILLS OF SUMMIT POINT, IN WILD, WOOLY WEST VIRGINIA; WE RUN RAIN OR SHINE!



If you HATE driving, come on out anyway to develop your confidence and skill.

If you LOVE driving, come on out and love it more.

Either way, we promise great fun, a great day, great learning and great camaraderie in a safe environment, a mere hour and a half drive for most of you. ABSOLUTELY NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED for this event. There will be a Plethora of Patient Instructors to help and guide you through all the fun.

**HEAR** what High School Drivers' Ed teachers were forbidden to tell you!

**AMAZE** your friends with your Driving Knowledge!

**FEEL** your car do things it has Never Done Before!

**LEARN** Astounding Facts about driving!

**SPEED** legally!

NO hyperbole is too extravagant to describe the Thrills That Await!

For your morning pleasures, we have devised a series of Devilish, Demonic and Diabolical exercises to stretch your thinking as well as your driving skills; in the afternoon we will put it all together on this most excellent track, just goin' a little bit faster. Aaaaaand for an Extra Treat, you can all go for a ride with our Fabled, Fabulous, and Facile Instructors. All this and much more will be imparted to those **39** Lucky Drivers who register early for this rare but spectacular event..

Bring a tarp to put your junk on, dress for who-knows-what-kind-of-weather, wear lace up shoes, cotton long pants and long sleeve shirt and helmet ...mandatory! Brain Buckets (helmets that is) can be rented from OG Racing for a mere pittance. They are located in Sterling, Virginia, and their number is 703-430-3303. Helmets must be SA rated, 2000 or later; no motorcycle helmets! To make sure all four wheels are attached to your car, all cars will be "teched" in the morning, so make sure your car is in good condition and safe before you show up. It's a good idea to have it inspected by a qualified technician before the Grand Event.

The fee for this SUBLIME ECSTACY is \$150 until **March 19**, then \$175 thereafter. This includes a health packed breakfast of greasy grungy Crispy Crème Donuts, (or a substitute), and coffee burned to perfection right here in West Virginia. Sorry, no refunds after March 19. Lunch will be available at the track.

By the way, **NO WALK-INS, NO CAR SHARING! NO TRUCKS, NO VANS, NO SUVs!**

By the way, by the way, each cone killed will cost ya 2 bits for the funeral, so bring plenty of quarters. All proceeds will be donated to the charity of the group's choice. More information will be made available to those 39 With-It, and astute drivers who register early.

For directions and to register, visit our website: [www.nvcorvetteclub.com](http://www.nvcorvetteclub.com) OR send a \$150 check payable to NVCC with the form below and mail to: **George Kerns, 13544 Wycrosse Ct., Bristow, VA 21036**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Car Make and model \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first track event? \_\_\_\_\_ Is your car a convertible? \_\_\_\_\_

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***HPDE on the Summit Point Jefferson Circuit  
Hosted by Northern Virginia Corvette Club  
Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Rain or Shine***

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Car Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

NCCC Number (If Applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Track experience; please circle one (novice, intermediate, advanced, instructor). Please describe your experience in detail and list organizations you have participated with (for example FATT, BSR, PCA, NASA, etc.) Also include # of HPDE's attended. **Is this your first high speed event!**

If registering as an instructor, list instructor experience & specify which organizations you instruct for \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost: \$150. Registrations after April 8th, \$175. Instructors are free, but must register.** The NVCC will determine instructor qualifications. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis and will close on April 14th. There will be 15 slots in each run group. **No refunds after April 8th. Please make checks payable to NVCC.** Please mail registration forms and checks to:

**George Kerns  
13544 Wycrosse Ct.  
Bristow, VA 20136  
(571) 921-0620**

NVCC website: [www.nvcorvetteclub.com](http://www.nvcorvetteclub.com)

Fire extinguishers, Helmet SNELL SA 2000 or newer, and roll bar for convertibles are required. Cars must pass tech inspection. No timing equipment allowed. See administrative sheet for additional details.

Directions to Summit Point: Take Route 7 West past Leesburg toward Winchester, VA. Continue on Route 7 West past the Berryville exits and turn Right onto Route 632 (Crums Church Road). Follow 632 until you reach the "T" intersection. Turn right onto Route 761 (Old Charles Town Road). Continue on 761 until you reach the next "T" intersection. Make a right turn and follow 300 yards. The entrance will be on your right.

## Northern Virginia Corvette Club

*Return Postage Guaranteed*

P.O. Box 3458

McLean, VA 22103-3458



## Next General Business Meeting:

**Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Koons Chevrolet  
2000 Chain Bridge Road  
Tysons Corner, VA**

## Newsletter News

Hello all ...

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via email, or not at all, please contact me at [anne.steffie@gmail.com](mailto:anne.steffie@gmail.com) and let me know. And don't forget that it is available via our website at [www.nvcorvetteclub.com](http://www.nvcorvetteclub.com)!

**Anne Costolanski**  
Newsletter Editor

