

# The 'Glass Gazette

NOVEMBER 2007



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

## ***Bonefish Grill Cruise-In***



cars tried to sneak into our show area, but Alice Arielly set them straight! We had 13 cars come out to this event, with close to 20 people enjoying the fare. Since it was a lovely, sunny but crisp autumn day, due to some member requests I received after lunch, I led interested members on an impromptu cruise...or should I say "performance drive"...through Clifton and Fairfax Station. I hope everyone enjoyed this fun fall event!

-Laurie Kistner

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

### **NVCC Council Members**

**President** – George Kerns  
(703) 753-3277

[whiskeytahoe@comcast.net](mailto:whiskeytahoe@comcast.net)

**Treasurer** – Marsha Batchellor  
(703) 481-0601

[mbatchel@wthf.com](mailto:mbatchel@wthf.com)

**Officer At Large** – Chuck Pellerin  
(703) 242-2619

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

**Vice President** – Richard Mars  
(703) 425-6118

[c5tech@verizon.net](mailto:c5tech@verizon.net)

**Secretary** – Cecelia Holzer  
(703) 502-0450

[joeandcel@verizon.net](mailto:joeandcel@verizon.net)

### **Committee Chairpersons**

**Autocross** – George Kerns  
(703) 753-3277

[whiskeytahoe@aol.com](mailto:whiskeytahoe@aol.com)

**Concours** – Open position  
Any volunteers?

**Drivers Education** – George Kerns  
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**Historian** – Cassidy Nolen  
(703) 768-0319

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(703) 669-3481

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**NCCC Gov** – Andrej Balanc  
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**NCM Ambassador** – Don Patrick  
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**Social** – Laurie Kistner  
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**Spooktacular** – Andrej Balanc  
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[urtoslo@yahoo.com](mailto:urtoslo@yahoo.com)

**Webmaster** – Laurie Kistner  
(703) 631-7117

[lilredcorvette94@yahoo.com](mailto:lilredcorvette94@yahoo.com)

## **Membership Corner**

We currently have  
**133 active members and  
16 prospective members.**



### **Prospective Members:**

Gary Moller  
Josie McMahon

Forrest Elliott

Jim Basdavanos

Alvin Further

John & Jane Fritsvold

Michael Neff

Jim Miller

Rod Cannon

2006 Z51 Victory Red Coupe

1994 Blue Coupe

1993 Blue Coupe

2007 Black Coupe

2007 Monterey Red Coupe

2007 Red Coupe

2003 50th Anniversary Ruby Red Convertible

2006 LeMans Blue Z06 & 1976 Yellow Coupe

1992 Grand Sport, 1996 Grand Sport, 2006 Orange Conv

Gary Essex

Mike Bernardi

Stephen Henderson

Nicole Nolen

Chris Zeck

Scott Ziegler

2007 Red Coupe

2007 Black Coupe

1990 White Coupe

2004 LeMans Blue Coupe

1995 Red Coupe

2003 Yellow Z06

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

November 23, 2007

Meeting brought to order at 7:40 pm at Koons Chevrolet, Tysons Corner.

George Kerns, President welcomed everyone to the GBM, started with introductions made by all. Rich Mars is on business travel will start with Andrej's report on Spook:

Andrej Balanc – NCCC Ambassador/Spook

- Participants much enjoyed the event, workers, and the perfect weather;
- Thanks again to the all volunteers for their great work;
- Not to contend with Ocean City Events, dates for '08 set for Oct 18th & 19th;
- Motion to purchase new timing software to be discussed at a later date;

Rich Anderson – Newsletter

- Mailed out 10/22;
- Things are great!!!
- If there are specific interests in the Tech Area - Paul Benish has volunteered to spear head articles for the newsletter;

General - Summit Point Maint has been repaved

- Some comments received, track is 1-3 seconds faster;
- Curbs have not been replaced as of yet;
- Most like but others miss the markings;

Rallye Masters - Nicole & Cassidy Nolen

- Gimmick Rallye interests, bring them forward;
- Anyone and Everyone welcome to suggest or lead a Rallye will assist Nicole & Cassidy with mentoring of the Masters;
- Chuck made a great suggestion:
- One on One for fun Rallye Cruise Class by - Dick Hammker
  - o Great way to learn;
  - o Meet at Hops Frog for one day class;
  - o Fun, Fast & as Hot as you want to make it;

Marsha Batchellor – Treasurer

- Smiles, We're in the green;

Pat Somersall - Membership

- Membership 53 received, 77 renewals outstanding;

Pat Somersall - Website

- Contracted Network Solutions;
- Design call Thursday;
- Expect to be up and running sometime December;
- Maintain current functionality;
- Evaluate e-mail account needs/usage;

Erica Kerns - Banquet Extraordinaire

- December 8th Dinner Cruise;
- Bavarian Chef - Great Food;
- Chinese Gift Exchange - \$10;
- Cruise on to George & Erica's for HOMEMADE cookie exchange;

Laurie Kistner - Social

- Halloween Event - Vienna Tomorrow Rain or Shine
- November 11th - Bone Fish Annual Cruise In, Centerville, Free Appetizers, roped off parking, e-mail Laurie if attending, see website for menu;
- November 18th - Northern Virginia Mustang Club Annual Billiard Social

George Kerns - Upcoming '08 Events

- Cone Killers - March 29th - Summit Point- Jefferson Circuit
- Concours - June 1st - Koons;
- Summit Point - Main Track July 11 - HPDE - Early registration entrants
  - drawing - one lucky registrant will receive refund of registration fee;
- Spook - October 18th & 19th;

George Kerns - Teen Driving Upcoming Event

- Thanks for the continue support of our sponsors is truly could not be such a success without your support.
- Let's welcome our newest sponsor, The Sterling RURITANS Club and for their generous offering;
- We look forward to seeing Howard Snook, Long & Foster, Long & Foster Insurance, Koons Chevrolet, Tire Van, Securitas, & Road Block Protective Systems at the event;
- Saturday November 3rd, we will have a run through of the Teen Driving Event which we will hold at the school in Haymarket;
- From past experience, we've learned that these kids would benefit from a light car maintenance clinic and thus has been added to this event;

BREAK

General - All that attended Ocean City Cruise had a blast; our own Nicole and Cassidy Nolen won 2nd place in the Rallye of 200+ Cars, Congratulations;

Cassidy Nolen - Historian kicked off this month's Trivia, but first mentioned again that it was an honor to participate in the Ocean City Cruise for Spinal Bifida;

? Number of 1983 Corvette's produced and how many survive today? 43-47 (depending on who you talk to) mules were produced, with one remaining at the National Corvette Museum, making it one of the rarest Corvettes of all time. Winner – Rich Anderson (Cel was shocked with the answer, she said zero.)

? '55 Option purchased to receive a 12 Volt electrical system installed? V8 - - Winner - Paul Benish - '08 Corvette Calendar

? First year model was offered with AC? 55 - Winner – Arthur Bear – '08 Corvette Calendar

? On the '04 Commemorative Z06 this option halted production for a brief time? First ever available carbon fiber hood used by GM in a production car. - Winner - Andrej Balanc - '08 Corvette Calendar

## Minutes continued:

Chuck & Marsha led the Raffle, winners as follow:

- '08 Corvette Calendar - Bruce Witkowski
- Mag Light - Rich Anderson
- First Aid Kit - Paul Benish (no it wasn't a set up)
- '08 Corvette Calendar - Steve Jones
- Oil Change - Ed Davis
- 50/50 \$44 - Ben Duling

Club Officer Nominations - Today, First of Two Consecutive General Business Meeting's with vote at Second, November 27th.

## ***MIKE WOODS SWEEPS NOMINATIONS IN ALL CATEGORIES!!!!***

*(Editor's note...this is what happens when you don't attend meetings)*

Treasurer - Mike Woods, Marsha Batchellor

Secretary - Mike Woods, Cel Holzer

Officer at Large - Mike Woods

- Chuck Pellerin
- Stuart Fox
- Andrej Balanc
- Paul Benish
- Lynn Balanc
- Bruce Witkowski, (aka - Brewski)

Vice President - Mike Woods

- Rich Mars
- Paul Benish
- Ahsan Sheikh , (aka - Sheikh)

President - Mike Woods

- Rich Mars
- Chuck Pellerin
- Paul Benish

***NVCC Event Calendar***  
***Maintained by Laurie Kistner***



## **Sat. December 1<sup>st</sup> - Teen Driving School**

This is NVCC's continuing commitment to teaching driving skills to the next generation. The scope and support for this important function is growing rapidly and we need all the volunteers we can get. This session will be at Battlefield High School in Haymarket, Virginia. More information is available on our WEB site. This effort is headed up by our club President George, who can be reached at [whiskeytahoe@comcast.net](mailto:whiskeytahoe@comcast.net).

## **Sat. December 8<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Dinner Cruise**

This has become an annual event with the route including Manassas Battlefield, Lincoln winery, Sycamore House, Gray Ghost Vineyards ...with dining at the Bavarian Chef, an outstanding German restaurant. This is a reservation only restaurant, so George needs your reservation by December 4<sup>th</sup>. The average price per couple usually averages between \$60 and \$80. Everyone is then invited back to the Kerns household for a cookie exchange. This event is headed up by our club President George, who can be reached at [whiskeytahoe@comcast.net](mailto:whiskeytahoe@comcast.net).

## A note from our Social Chairperson:

Well, the cold and snowy weather 🌨️ is fast approaching and not so Corvette-friendly, but there's no reason we still can't get together (even if it's via sedan, truck, SUV or minivan). The club calendar is wide open in January and February...

Some of the ideas people have mentioned for winter club events:

Go-karting (Andrej and Ralph have planned this in the past...hint) 🏎️  
Valve cover racing, Bowling, Skiing, Ice skating, Billiards, Comedy club, Karaoke, Meet n' eat etc.....

If anyone would like to coordinate one of these winter activities, get back to me, please! Let me know a date you prefer, and then you can run with it. All it takes is maybe some phone calls on your part to set things up. I can help with forum and web calendar postings, emails, announcements at meetings and in the newsletter.

Let me know at [lilredcorvette94@yahoo.com](mailto:lilredcorvette94@yahoo.com).....thanks!



### American History Lesson: The 1954 Corvette

By Cassidy Nolen

Everybody knows this was the second year of the Corvette, but this is where magic begins. The 1953 model, with its limited production and sparse options was the beginning of something that would develop for the 1954. The production facility was moved from its humble origins in Flint Michigan to St. Louis, Missouri where it would almost see the end of the C3 line before moving to its current location in Bowling Green Kentucky. The anticipated production was to be 10,000 but fell short by a good margin at a total of 3,640 roadsters.

The car now came with some options. While it retained its very modest power train (that would see major improvements in 1955) and 6-volt electrical system (most vehicles at that time had the same) it did come with some color options. No tags were ever made vehicle-specific which makes restorations tricky today. Over 3,200 of the cars produced were the beautiful Polo White, 300 were Pennant Blue and around 100 were Sportsman Red. There are GM memos to support metallic green and bronze production but without a trim/color tag, this is difficult to prove.

The 1954 was a “diamond in the rough” to say the least. While the Cadillac’s of the day were luxurious, items like the remove-and-store windows and leaking top were definitely a hard sell for just a few dollars less than the luxury line. The “optional” Powerglide transmission was retained (and used exclusively) as was the “Blue-Flame” six cylinder engine. All the vehicles were equipped with vacuum operated windshield washer systems and AM-seeking radios. The heater did not draw in fresh air, rather circulated cabin air. Finally, the wheels of the 1954 could be found in either tube or tubeless configuration with a variable whitewall between 2.5 and 3 inches.

What started out as a very obvious labor of love would soon become big business. Next month, the changes that made the 1954 Corvette find its way (and plant its roots deep in the American psyche).

## Tech Talk

By Paul Benish

Talking with a lot of people and working on a lot of cars I always get the question “how often should I change my oil?” This is a topic of much contention and usually a good way to start an animated discussion among your car enthusiast friends if happen to be at a party and the conversation degrades to “who has the best cell phone signal at the moment.” Well on many of today’s cars there is an “oil life indicator” that tells you when to change it; however, how accurate each one is varies by manufacturer. Some base it on mileage alone so when you hit a predetermined mileage it lights up. Others, such as GM’s, base it upon multiple factors such as what speeds you drive, what your average trip length is and the speeds that you drive. This makes it a variable system where if you do mostly city driving and short trips it will prompt you to change your oil sooner, around 3000 miles. However, if you drive mostly highway miles or long trips at a steady speed it will prompt you to change it at higher mileage, anywhere from 5-8000 miles. These systems were made to help conserve oil, save money, while still providing a high level of protection for your vehicle.

That being said these systems shouldn’t be taken as law and there are still other variables to be taken into effect that the system does not calculate. How much time has passed between oil changes, if you race your car or use it in more strenuous ways such as towing, off road driving, hill climbing, etc. These will affect the amount of time between oil changes and should be taken into effect when determining how often to change your oil. Some people say “Well I only drive my car 5000 miles a year why should I change it every 3 months?” Well, oil also absorbs water and after a while will lose it’s lubrication properties by containing more water, which does not lubricate very well at high temperatures. On top of that it will also corrode your engine as the protective additives that are in oil are now being displaced by water which will slowly eat away at all the metal parts in your engine. Another comment I get is “well I drive all highway miles why shouldn’t I change it every 10,000 miles?” Well, another factor that most people don’t remember is oil filter performance. Different oil filters perform better or worse depending on their composition, their flow rates, and most importantly, how much they filter before they cannot filter anymore and bypass the oil pass the filter and no filtration takes place. I will discuss this more in the next *Tech Talk*, but for now, keep in mind that is another factor to take into consideration when deciding how often to change oil.

So where am I going with this? Well there is a more reliable way to determine how often to change your oil, and that is by getting an oil analysis report done. This can be done at a place such as blackstone laboratories. I just had such a sample done not too long ago so I can have a baseline since I do track my car, as well as drive my car in various conditions and distances. I have uploaded my report to [http://www.ginch.org/~firebird/oil\\_analysis.pdf](http://www.ginch.org/~firebird/oil_analysis.pdf) so you can see what one looks like and the comments that were made. A detailed explanation can be found at [http://blackstone-labs.com/gasoline\\_diesel\\_report\\_expl.html](http://blackstone-labs.com/gasoline_diesel_report_expl.html), but certain things to look for are the amount of water in the oil, the viscosity, the flashpoint, and if you are looking for the amount of additive left, the TBN. I did not request the TBN to be done (it is an extra charge and since I am changing my oil early I did not feel it necessary) but if you are looking to find out how long you can go between oil changes, this is a good test to get. Doing the test yourself is very easy since you can request the shipping containers to be sent to you and getting an oil sample is as easy as beginning to drain your oil, putting the container they give you under the stream, then packaging it all up into the shipping container they send you and shipping it to them. I highly suggest that everyone does this at least once, especially as you begin to get more mileage on your car or if you race your car. If you have any questions, feel free to email them to [tech@nvcorvetteclub.com](mailto:tech@nvcorvetteclub.com).



### Something Different???

The next time your friends that own a Porsche or other “quasi-sports car” tell you and your corvette to go jump in a lake you can have a ready response by checking out [www.malibuboats.com](http://www.malibuboats.com), manufacturer of the Corvette Limited Edition Sport V.



National Corvette Museum (NCM) Ambassador Corner  
By: Donald Patrick

November 2007

**CURRENT NEWS and ACTIVITIES**

**Corvette Museum ahead of plans**

being turned on the facility's \$9M expansion. The following link is November 21, 2007, article in the Bowling Green Daily News regarding the building expansion:

<http://www.bgdailynews.com/articles/2007/11/21/news/news4.txt>



Dirt  
a

**Paul Graham Appointed Plant Manager of GM Bowling Green Assembly Plant**

PONTIAC, Mich. General Motors today announced that Paul Graham, currently assistant plant manager of its Fairfax Assembly plant, is appointed plant manager of its Bowling Green facility, effective Jan. 1, 2008. Wilmer Cooksey, the current plant manager at Bowling Green, will retire, effective March, 1, 2008.

Graham began his GM career in 1980 as a college student intern at GM Truck and Bus in Flint, Mich. In 1986, he became an associate manufacturing engineer at the plant, then moved on to become a supervisor of production in 1987 at the GM Ft. Wayne Assembly plant in Indiana. Graham held several positions at the facility before being promoted to senior manufacturing project engineer in GMC Truck and Bus Division in Pontiac, Mich. in 1989. In 1992, Graham moved on to GM Baltimore Assembly in Maryland to assume an assistant superintendent of Maintenance position, and over the years held positions of increasing responsibility at the plant before returning to GM Ft. Wayne Assembly to an area manager of the Body Shop position in 1995. In 1997, Graham expatriated to Guanajuato, Mexico to assume a platform program manager position with GM of Mexico. In 2000, he returned to the United States and was appointed assistant plant manager of the GM Shreveport Assembly plant in Louisiana. Graham was appointed assistant plant manager of the GM Oklahoma City facility in 2005. He was appointed to his current position in 2006. Graham holds a bachelor degree in Mechanical Engineering from Kettering University (formerly GMI) and a master degree in Project Management from John Hopkins University.



General Motors Corp. (NYSE: GM), the world largest automaker, has been the annual global industry sales leader for 76 years. Founded in 1908, GM today employs about 280,000 people around the world. With global headquarters in Detroit, GM manufactures its cars and trucks in 33 countries. In 2006, nearly 9.1 million GM cars and trucks were sold globally under the following brands: Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, GMC, GM Daewoo, Holden, HUMMER, Opel, Pontiac, Saab, Saturn and Vauxhall. GM's OnStar subsidiary is the industry leader in vehicle safety, security and information services. More information on GM can be found at [www.gm.com](http://www.gm.com).

## **Pratt & Miller Engineering Introduces Corvette C6RS Supercar for the Street**

Pratt & Miller Engineering has designed and developed a new limited edition Corvette C6RS that provides an exceptional level of performance and refinement for enthusiasts.

Inspired by the Le Mans-winning Corvette C6.R race cars, the new Pratt & Miller Corvette C6RS supercar combines advanced racing technology with everyday drivability. The first production Corvette C6RS will be available in April 2008. "Every body modification has a purpose," Gary explained. "The features were modeled on the C6.R race cars, and there are no nonfunctional styling elements." For more information, visit the Pratt & Miller website at: <http://www.prattmiller.com>



## **Corvette Vintage Luggage in the Corvette Store**

Travel in Corvette style by carrying Corvette vintage luggage - new in the Corvette Store.

This classy luggage set features three pieces – small, medium and large and is perfect for displaying or daily use. Order yours online at:

<http://store.corvettemuseum.com/detail.aspx?ID=1877> or call us at: (800) 53-VETTE. Find other great gifts online at: <http://store.corvettemuseum.com> or call us to receive our new 2008 catalog!



## **Download our November Calendar Wallpaper “free”**

November calendar wallpaper is ready for you to download and features a sleek 2006 Red Convertible! Our calendar wallpapers are downloadable in six screen resolution sizes at: <http://www.corvettemuseum.com/pictures/calendar.shtml>



## **Congratulations “Build Your Own” Corvette Raffle Winner!**

Congratulations to Ken Almer, drawn this afternoon as the winner of our “Build Your Own” Corvette Coupe/Convertible raffle drawing! Ken is from Oro Valley, AZ and owns a 2002 magnetic red convertible now, but he has never been to the Museum. He was familiar with the Delivery Program because several members of his Corvette Club have taken delivery. He said he has never won anything before, but thought he would take a chance on this raffle, and he is so glad he did.

Thanks to everyone who participated on this fundraiser. Your next chance to win a new Corvette is coming up on Wednesday, December 5 at 2:00 p.m. CT! Only 500 tickets are being sold at \$250 each.

Find out more and get your ticket online at: <http://www.corvettemuseum.com/raffle/index.shtml> or call us at: (800) 53-VETTE. You just might be our next Corvette raffle winner!

## **Document Your Corvette**

Preserving documentation on a Corvette is not only a hobby but can be a great gift that shows you went the extra mile this holiday season. Build sheets and replica window stickers are available through the NCM and are available on any Corvette assembled in Bowling Green since the GM Plant opened in 1981.

Order your build sheets and windows stickers **before December 14** and receive them in time to wrap and place under the tree. For extra savings, order the complete build sheet package featuring an original dealer brochure and black book in addition to the build sheet and window sticker. Find out more and place your order here:

<https://store.corvettemuseum.com/services/buildsheet.asp>



## **BACKGROUND**

NVCC is one of the founding members of the NCM. Club benefits are:

- Free individual or group admission to the NCM.
- 10% discount on NCM and Catalog merchandise.
- Free subscription to the magazine "America's Sports Car."
- NVCC plaque in the museum.

If any NVCC members are planning a trip in the vicinity of Bowling Green, Kentucky, a visit to the home of the NCM and the Corvette factory should be in your plans. The NCM card can be borrowed from our President.

For additional information log on to: <http://www.corvettemuseum.com> or call the NCM at 800-53-VETTE (800-538-3883) or contact Donald Patrick.

## *Observations and Reflections*

### **The Corvette Ten Commandments**

- I. Thou shalt not loan a Corvette to anyone.
- II. Thou shalt not bring a Corvette to an automatic car wash.
- III. Thou shalt not fail to wave to a fellow Corvette owner.
- IV. Thou shalt not swear at Corvette - for it is very temperamental.
- V. Thou shalt not cruise a Corvette on an unpaved road.
- VI. Thou shalt not pass a fellow Corvette owner in distress.
- VII. Thou shalt not feed a Corvette with budget grade fuel.
- VIII. Thou shalt not expose a Corvette to severe weather conditions.
- IX. Thou shalt not forget to activate Corvette alarm.
- X. Thou shalt not acknowledge a Porsche or 280Z as being true sports cars

## Northern Virginia Corvette Club

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McLean, VA 22103-3458



### Newsletter News ...

Well the collection is all tucked away except for my winter daily C-4 driver. Now I can concentrate on more seasonal activities, like gaining weight and drafting plans for yet another garage.

This of course is the season to concentrate on social activities as reflected by the calendar in this newsletter. It is also a great time to do vette gift shopping, whether parts to fix the wear of the past season, or one of the interesting items available from the Corvette Museum...or for the truly motivated, a new car from our sponsor.

We've added a history section by Cassidy Nolen that I hope members will find interesting. Hopefully we will also be seeing more tech articles to keep our vettes looking and running young.

I'm told that normally the Editor and our expansive newsletter staff take December off for the holidays. However there appears to be a special edition of the newsletter in the works as part of an effort to update our bylaws and practices to reflect contemporary reality, so there may be one more this year....we'll just have to see.

*Rich Anderson*

[richard.anderson157@verizon.net](mailto:richard.anderson157@verizon.net)

### Next General Business Meeting:

**Tuesday, Jan 22nd**

**Koons Chevrolet**

**2000 Chain Bridge Road**

**Tysons Corner, VA**