

The 'Glass Gazette

April 2007

Cone Killers Car Control Clinic!!



Photos by Randy Urick and Paul Benish

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Tysons Corner, VA



CONE KILLERS ... TAKING THE “WHAT IF” OUT OF DRIVING

By: Ahsan Sheikh – a.k.a. “Sheikh”

It was a cold and dark night... That’s how most of those stories start, right? Well, not this one. It was a cold and rainy morning. Cone Killers was finally upon us. I hadn’t gotten up at 5am on a Saturday morning since.... Well... Since ever. As I rolled out of bed in our “oh-so-back-woods-West Virginian” hotel and looked out the window, over the glare of the parking lot lights, I could see that it was still raining. None of us were looking forward to putting our 350HP + cars on the track in the rain. Had we made a mistake? Were we going to spin out and hit something? What kind of damage were we going to do to our cars today? Rain, rain, go away.....

Have you ever been to a fancy restaurant with friends and ordered your favorite meal? Perhaps a juicy steak or something along those lines? Then, your food comes and your friend’s meal doesn’t. You have to just sit there while your steak calls to you. So juicy and tender. Just waiting to be eaten. But you can’t... Not until their food gets there..... The temptation. The desire.....

Well, that was kind of what it was like to sit in the paddock area staring at the Jefferson Circuit and knowing that we had 2 or so hours of classroom time before we could even get into the drivers seat. The urge to just get out there and throw the car around was overwhelming. We all knew that we had to really learn about what we were going to do before we did it though. George Kerns, the president of the club, came outside to herd us all into class. So, like eager children filing into school before Spring Break vacation, we piled into the training room, wanting to learn as much as we could so we wouldn’t wrap our cars around any of the many trees on the edge of the Jefferson.



Thank God Miriam Schottland, the head instructor, was entertaining and lively. Lively is an understatement.... Who knew there was that much to know about driving? I used to race, if you can call it that, motorcycles but that is a totally different skill set compared to this whole “4 wheel” thing. What an amazing woman she was and she had more information in her noggin than any one human being should possess. Knowledge to use in real-life situations, not just in racing scenarios.

This was a Car Control Clinic after all. What good was that control if you didn’t know when and how to put it to use? She really walked us through real world situations and how we could handle them safely. How to deal with other cars crossing the double yellow, descending radius turns, obstacle avoidance, braking in corners, setting up for corners and other really useful information. She did share with us some race-inspired advice as well, but this course was aimed at making us better drivers on the road and teaching us how to contend with “surprise” situations that cause most drivers to lose control of their vehicles. Even if we never actually made it onto the track, the classroom sessions with Miriam were worth the price of admission.

After learning a little bit about how to control our cars, we were given the opportunity to put that knowledge to the test. We were broken into three groups based on vehicle type and prior knowledge. My wife, Cindy, and I were put into the green group and off to the skid pad we went. I in our 2000 Convertible Corvette, and Cindy in our 2002 Miata. Have you ever been on an airplane when suddenly the turbulence gets really bad? You know how all of a sudden everybody is your best friend and you just start talking to people like you’ve known them forever? As if you’re making up for years and years of ignoring these people in the first place? That nervous, scared and excited feeling you get when you know your end may be near? Well, looking at the faces of the other people in our group, I simultaneously recognized and experienced that feeling once again. The groups ranged from people who had competed on race tracks to people who had never even driven their cars above the posted speed limit of 55mph. Brave souls and terrified beginners together, our group headed out to the Skid Pad, while mentally tallying up the costs of parts to repair the damage we would do throughout the day.



Let’s break down the word Skid Pad. Skid. Man did we! Pad? There wasn’t a pad in sight. Just hard, cold, hard, wet, hard trees. Did I mention that the trees were hard? I’ll admit that it was a bit intimidating at first. Luckily, we had an instructor in the passenger seat to talk us through every exercise and make sure we didn’t get too aggressive... Speaking of being too aggressive, I won’t mention any names, CASSIDY & DON... What a great way to really learn the limits of your car and yourself. Actually trying to force your car into an under steer or over steer situation while in a controlled and safe environment. Many drivers looped their cars all the way around. I could almost hear the hysterical laughing and screams of terror at the same time.

I had to work up my courage to actually get the vette to break loose but once I did I really learned to “feel” the car and listen to it talk to me. I knew when it was about to break loose, and by the end of the exercise I could feel when it was about to lose traction and was able to nurse it under that limit and maintain control. How’s that for a real-world application? Don’t get me wrong though. It will take years of seat time before I can “talk” to the car like an experienced racer, but what a great start.

After the giggle-inspiring Skid Pad experiment, which just didn’t last long enough, we switched places with another group and went out to the braking exercises. A course was set up ahead in cones and we all took turns heading down. There was a basic braking exercise in which we started off as fast as we could and when we hit a gate, we “thresh hold” braked in order to maintain control of the car to have it wind up in a

marked box in front of us. G force? Uhm... Mental note.. The next time I do this, don't stay out drinking and go to a casino buffet the night before the class. Just not a good idea.

Next, we accelerated around a descending radius turn and headed flat out towards another box. This time, at the last second, our instructor yelled left or right and we had to go around a cone in the middle of the course and then brake to come to a stop within another box. Obstacle avoidance while braking. WHOA!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I think I learned more about controlling my car in an emergency situation here than I have in my last 20 years of driving. Then, we got to do it again, and again and again. I had no idea that my car would do this so well. I also had no idea that I would be able to maintain control of my car so well. I kept pushing the limits until I knew I was about to lose control and then backed off. There. I started learning where the limit was. Simply amazing.



Then, after the sphincter puckering braking exercise, off to the slalom course we went, grinning from ear to ear. This was the part of the day when we headed off down a marked course around tons and tons of cones set up in a slalom. I guarantee this part of the course was where the term "Cone Killer" came from. Ever heard of the term "Squid"? It's a term in the motorcycle community that we use to define a "Squirly Kid". Somebody who has just bought a motorcycle, full of "machismo" and goes off into traffic swerving in between cars, speeding recklessly, flying all over the place and just being all out insane. Yeah, Squid-ish was the only way I could describe this part of the day. It was great to watch the hand over hand action of the drivers in their cars.

Cindy and I have raced SCCA Solo events so we're very familiar with slaloms but this was a whole different experience. We had up hills, down hills, slaloms within slaloms, an obstacle avoidance exercise and a really fast gated slalom thrown in at the end for good measure. The car definitely exceeded my driving abilities and it was amazing to really "talk" to the car in this environment. Again, real world driving skills were being developed and the whole time we were having more fun than should be legal. Although my teeth were clinched so tight that if there had been a piece of coal in there I would have been rich.

In the entire "exercise" part of the day, I hit only one cone. Was I not pushing hard enough? Was I being too timid? Had I developed my skills from the SCCA events? I just know that I kept in mind what Miriam had taught us, I listened and talked to the car and held on for the ride. It really wasn't about how fast I could go, it was about pushing the car towards its limit and then backing off just slightly. I definitely wasn't the fastest person out there, but I also wasn't the slowest. But it wasn't about that, it was about control. What was amazing was that nobody judged anybody. Everybody was part of a brotherhood (and sisterhood) and just accepted you for who you were. There was enough pressure already without having to worry about that stuff.

After our last exercise we retired for lunch and more classroom instruction. Again, Miriam was amazing and she really made the training personal and useful. Considering she has been doing this for over 20 years, she had an uncanny ability to really break things down in layman's terms and help us truly understand. By the end of the class I don't think there was a single person who wasn't twice the driver he or she was walking in. We even got a small class on how to Tech our cars: the basic safety inspection for the condition of the car before you are allowed on the track. For the participants whose only technical experience was in checking their oil, this was incredibly educational. Thanks, Paul.



Then, the best part of the day arrived. All of the classroom, all of the exercises and all of the waiting had finally come to a head. They were going to turn us loose on an unrestricted racetrack to really pull everything together. No cones, no stopping, just go Go GO!!! We weren't all-out racing, but we were putting together our skills in a "race-like" environment. I'm sure the insurance company wouldn't like that term, but it's the best way I can describe it. Hey, at least the rain had stopped.



In our groups again, we began to grid. The butterflies in my stomach were fluttering. My nerves were on edge. Wow. I really need to remember not to eat at a buffet the night before these events. And we were off. It really is funny how your brain kind of shuts down during times like these and your every action just becomes kind of second nature. You are in full control and know what you're doing, but you almost don't have to tell yourself to do it. You just kind of do it. Sort of like blinking or breathing. What an amazing change. Again, it'll still take years of seat time before it's truly second nature, but the seed was planted that day.

We were able to see all of the information come together which made the whole day seem like one cohesive learning experience. My instructor, Chris Prack, was great. He really just let me do my own thing and only got involved when he needed to. He felt me and the car out before

making corrections. He talked me through the lines & braking and kept me on the better side of losing control. Quite a few people did lose control and go off the track. Some more than others.

When going off you start to lose control and your heart starts pumping a mile a minute. You turn and twist and spin and hear sounds that scare the hell out of you. The G-force starts throwing you around and mud and dirt go flying. Your muscles tense up, your grip tightens and your stomach starts to churn. Then you stop. You take a deep breath and realize that you went off. What was the big deal about? All of your limbs are there and there was no damage (At least that's the case for most of us in this infancy stage). The trees are really further off than they seem. Once you actually go off it seems like you actually lose some of your fear of it because you realize that it isn't that big of a deal after all. I honestly think that I actually got more aggressive after my first "off track" experience a few years ago. To be honest though, this was the best place you could push the limits in a safe and controlled environment where there were really no consequences. Our first session lasted at least 10 laps but it seemed like only a couple. We all wanted more and more.



Then, we got to ride with our instructors in their track cars to really see how the Jefferson Circuit should be driven. HOLY CRAP, pardon my language. Unfortunately my instructor's Porsche 944 had some tire issues and we didn't get to do more than 1 lap for safety reasons. I did get to watch the other drivers and I really got a grasp on what the right car set up and an experienced driver could do on that track. Here I thought I was doing pretty well and then I got to see some real drivers and changed my mind. Cindy got to ride with her instructor, Colin, in his INSANE Mustang track car. All she could say when she got out was "Uhhhh". She had a blast and the smile lasted for close to half an hour.



We got to go out on the track in our own cars one last time. This was when many of us got really brave. I have to admit, I was pushing the car way more than I should have for its first time on the track and way more than I think the insurance company would have preferred. Passing other cars became an obsession that was hard to kick. Chris was very patient though and reeled me back in when I got too out of control. I did exit turn 7 way too hot a few times and dipped into the mud at the entrance to the paddocks. By the way, that mud is still on my rear passenger side tire and I will never wash it off. It is my badge of bravery....

All in all, the day was absolutely amazing. I'm sure there wasn't a person there whose jaw didn't hurt the day after from smiling so much. The cars there that day ranged from 600 + Horse Power Z06 monsters to a Toyota Camry. I'll be honest, the Camry's driver surely earned my respect that day. She really came out to learn how to control her car and I'll tell you, she pushed her car to the limit more than almost anybody else out there. What she was able to do with that 4-door grocery getter after developing her skills throughout the day was nothing short of amazing.

We all have or will inevitably be thrust into a dangerous situation in our cars. What will you do? How will you manage the situation? Instead of wondering, we found out. We got to put ourselves in these situations and learn how to control our cars and, more importantly, how to control ourselves. We safely approached our limits and the limits of our vehicles. We did it where there weren't any drop offs, other cars or children standing on the side of the road. I didn't go off the course but I guarantee that those who did learned more than I did. None of us are perfect drivers. None of us are safe from other bad drivers. No course can ever prepare you for all of the dangers on the road. The best thing to do is better equip ourselves to react to these situations.



All of the participants sincerely appreciate the efforts that Miriam, George, the instructors, corner workers and everybody else put into making this event so successful. If you have never taken a car control clinic, I would highly suggest looking into one like the Cone Killers Clinic. I have been through Police Academy Control Clinics while with the D.C.M.P.D., motorcycle race classes and various SCCA race classes. Although they may have prepared me for low-speed and high-speed competitive race type events, none prepared me for every day driving better than this one. Yes, it's scary before you actually do it. Yes, you'll spend hours wondering if you'll wreck your car or if people will laugh at or judge you. They won't. Everybody is there to learn. Humility, if nothing else, was one of the themes of the day. Just ask anybody who had mud on his or her car. And YES, you will spend an entire day cleaning your car afterwards. I truly believe that every participant is a safer, more prepared and overall better driver than before. Take the "what if" out of the equation and take the next step to becoming a safer driver.

For more information about Cone Killers and other Driving schools sponsored by the Northern VA Corvette Club, contact George Kerns at whiskeytahoe@aol.com.

The folks working hard for you

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Prospective Members:

George Conlon
Gary Moller
Becky Anzelone
Josie McMahon
Lynn Balanc
Dick Clark
Fred Locks

2005 Yellow Coupe
2006 Z51 Victory Red Coupe
2006 Silver Coupe
1994 Blue Coupe
1994 Red Coupe
2006 Red Coupe
2006 Blue Convertible

Francis Brooks
Jeffrey Tyley
John Hillenbrand
Ahsan & Cindy Sheikh
Mike Bernardi
David Milburn
Jim Nokes

2001 Yellow Z06
2007 Silver Coupe
2006 Red Convertible
2000 Yellow Convertible
2007 Black Coupe
1996 Red Convertible
2007 Blue & 2004 Red Coupes

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

Happy birthday!!!



Randy Urick	April 2 nd
David Cerutti	April 9 th
Tammy Shiner	April 9 th
George Kerns	April 10 th
Alice Arielly	April 11 th
Kenneth Taggart	April 11 th
Jeff Eckhaus	April 13 th
David Ghiglio	April 20 th
Marsha Batchellor	April 25 th
Bob Devery	April 27 th
George Laing	May 2 nd
James Gaby	May 7 th
Cheryl Anderson	May 15 th
Helen Mihelarakis	May 15 th
Howard Snook	May 18 th
William Molloy	May 19 th

**Membership
Corner**

We currently have
**118 active members and
15 prospective members.**

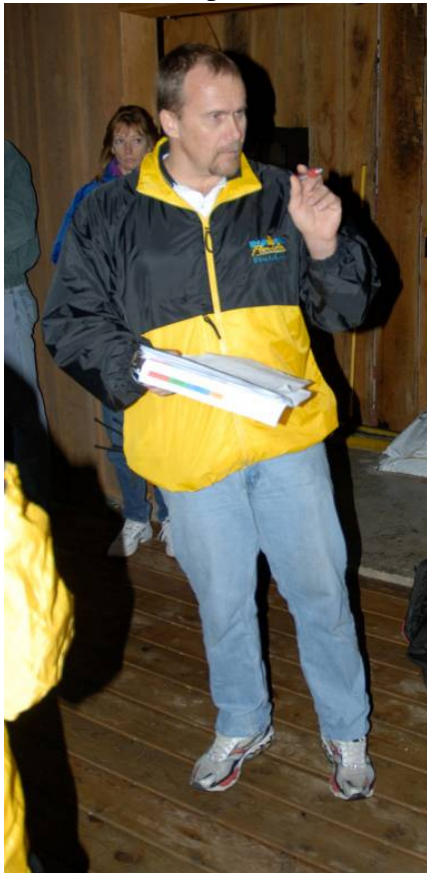
THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY: GEORGE KERNS

First of all I would like to apologize for missing my article in last month's newsletter. Unfortunately sometimes work has to take priority over play. There is a lot going on this month in the Corvette world, but I would like to tell you guys about one of the major events ...

This is a really big month for NVCC! On the 28th of this month is the second annual "Sir Isaac Newton's Totally Awesome Driving School"! It's really amazing to see how much this event has grown in just one year! Last year we had fifty students in the class with very little attention given to the club for putting on this event. There were a lot of people out there that were skeptical that we could pull it off and we did with huge success. So much so that it was addressed at the national NCCC meeting in St. Louis last August, and there is a push for this event to become a National standard for NCCC, and NVCC is being asked to lead the way!

This year the teen driving school has **Howard Snook of Long & Foster** and **Koons Chevrolet** returning as sponsors for this event. We have also been joined by **Tire Van, Curry's Automotive**, and **Securitas** for sponsorship of this event. **Exxon/Mobil** has also donated a great deal of items for this event thanks to the hard work of Cecelia and Joe Holzer. We are also eligible to apply for a grant for this event from the Virginia ABC commission. We are also getting some press coverage for this event that is much needed for future events. On top of all else we were filled to capacity (60 students) in less than three weeks and had over 20 more on standby! I also want to thank everyone that has offered to help out at this event! We have a small army of volunteers this year, and it not only shows the community how much we care about our young adult drivers, but it is also showing other organizations how committed we are to doing what's right for our youngsters! We are also going to be joined by some members of the NCCC East Region for this event to help out and observe how we run the event overall.



Once again Howard Snook of Long & Foster has paid for the use of the facilities. Securitas will have a tent set up at registration handing out coffee, doughnuts, and water to the students and parents along with child identification kits. The money they donated helped pay for the first aid kits we are putting in goodie bags for the students also. Koons Chevrolet also helped pay for the first aid kits along with paying for lunch for EVERYONE (Students, parents, helpers and instructors)! Tire Van will have one of their service trucks out there to help out with tech, along with several of our club members, and Curry's Automotive has donated the goodie bags and tire pressure gauges for all the students. So if you are out there helping and see any of our sponsors, let them know how much we appreciate their support and help! Miriam has the same format as last year for the school with a couple of little improvements! This is why we always have students fill out those pesky evaluations – it allows us to make the improvements needed for these types of driving events. As you can see, I'm really jacked up about this event this year and hope that as many of you can come out to help out if possible!

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

Take care,
George

Member spotlight!!



This month's member is ... *Paul Benish*

Member since: late 2004

Vette owned: 2003 Black Z06

Favorite NVCC activity: HPDEs (or any track event) and rallies

How he got into vettes: Paul used to autocross with his Firebird. While at the track, he met a lot of really nice people who owned vettes (and of course he noticed that they beat every other car out there). In 2002, he met some folks from the Peach State Posse (a Georgia vette club not associated with NCCC) who encouraged him to buy a vette, so in 2004 he took the plunge ... and the rest is history!

Favorite (non-vette) activities: working on cars (seems to be a favorite activity of many in NVCC) and riding his motorcycle

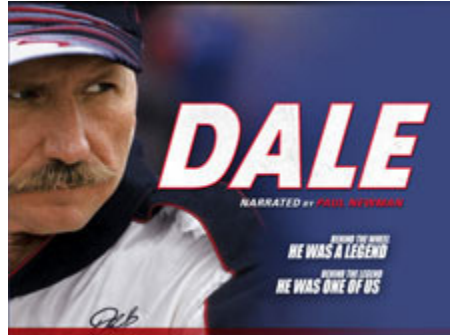


National Corvette Museum (NCM)
Ambassador Corner
By: Donald Patrick



CURRENT NEWS and ACTIVITIES

Museum to Host Dale Earnhardt Documentary Showing



The NCM is excited to be featured as one of many venues hosting a premier of the highly anticipated documentary – “Dale” coming to theaters across the U.S. in the coming weeks. May 22 & 23 a limited number of viewers will be able to enjoy the film in our Chevrolet Theater and will be able to see the #3 car and four production vehicles along with a collection of Earnhardt memorabilia. Tickets are not available through the Museum, and can only be obtained through regional Chevy dealers. The documentary is narrated by Paul Newman, and is a 100-minute film providing the most accurate presentation of Earnhardt's career and life. This moving tribute is told through archival race footage, never-before-seen family home videos and interviews with Earnhardt himself. His fiercest competitors and most avid fans share memories of him on the track, and his family and closest friends give insight to the man behind The Intimidator persona. The film "Dale" illustrates the depth of Earnhardt's influence in the racing world and beyond. Produced with the support and endorsement of the Earnhardt family and Richard Childress Racing, it's a must-see for every fan. A limited number of tickets will be available through Chevrolet Dealers across the U.S. and you can obtain additional information and tickets by visiting the official “Dale” movie site at: <http://www.cmt.com/movies/dale>

Continued on page 9

MINUTES FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING ...

**Northern Virginia Corvette Club
General Business Meeting
March 27, 2007**

Meeting was brought to order at 7:30PM by George Kerns, NVCC President, at Koons Chevrolet, Tyson's Corner.

Marsha Batchellor - Treasurer - Marsha typed up frequently asked questions (FAQs) and glossary for the new and prospective members. Several copies were handed out.

Pat Somersall - Membership - Pat gave the latest count on membership: 130 active members; 12 are new to NCCC.

Anne Costolanski - Newsletter - Anne asked members to let her know who wants to receive the newsletter electronically instead of a paper copy. A high speed connection is required.

Andrej Balanc - NCCC Governor

- Eastern Region mini convention in Aberdeen MD on May 18 - 20. There will be 14 events, to include autocross, econo run, fun show, funkhana, etc. Also, Adams will put on a car detailing clinic.
- Impromptu car show was held at the Heritage High School on March 27th from 3:30 - 5:00pm. There were five Corvettes (Grand Sport, Z06, LT4, convertible and a coupe), a racing Miata and a Mustang.
- There will be a large car show at Heritage High School on June 1st. This is a nonjudged event.
- The Ice Cream Cruise is set for July 15th.

George Kerns (President)

- Update on the Banquet - we had 95 people attend, which is 40 more than last year. Total cost for the banquet came in \$14 under budget.
- Cone Killers update - it was a sold out event! The price of the track went up by \$300.
- The first HPDE will be on July 27 at the main track at Summit Point. We will need members to help out.
- Teen driving school –
 - Koons gave \$1,000 for additional cones, lunches, and ice scrapers for the goodie bags.
 - Press and the National Organization for Youth Safety will be at the Teen Driving School.
 - Also, the Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) will provide lanyards, pens, etc., for the goodie bags. They may be able to provide grant funding, and help out with the event.
 - A question was asked if we can get the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) involved to work with insurance companies to provide savings for those that take the class. Steve Jones volunteered to contact DMV.
 - NCCC is considering taking this nationally.

- Howard Snook signed up 50% of the teen drivers for this class and is footing the bill for the school.
- George asked if it would be worth investigating having the same class for adults.

- Shop night will be on April 18th, from 6:00 - 10:00pm. This event is open to club members only and only to work on their Corvettes. There will be 8 lifts available.
- Carl (Koons) will arrange for a club member sale date

Rich Mars - Vice President - Rock Auto, Madison WI, has "killer prices" on parts. They will provide items for the Teen Driving School goodies bags.

Cassidy Nolan - Historian –

- Cassidy gave an update on the Virginia Corvette license plates. Now have the needed 350 applicants. The plates will probably be available in summer 2008. Cassidy provided the form for those interested to fill out; the form is also available at www.vacorvetteplate.com; Send the completed form and checks made payable to "Corvette Club of Virginia - License Plate" to the Corvette Club of Virginia, Inc PO Box 8331 Richmond, VA 23226. Do not send the form and check to DMV!
- TKO Performance (www.tkoperformance.com/) gives 25% discounts for group buys.

Jerry Lelansky - Publicity – Jerry contacted Channels 4, 5, 7, and 9 as well as the Examiner Newspaper to ask for news coverage of the Teen Driving school. Only Channel 7 and the Examiner Newspaper responded.

New Business:

- May 12th is the Skyline Cruise
- May 13th is the Mother's Day Rod Run at the Coast Guard Station on Telegraph Road. The entry fee is \$20 and it includes tickets for food.
- May 18 - 20 is the NCCC East Region Spectacular at Aberdeen MD.
- June 3rd is the Concours at Koons
- July 1st is the NVCC BBQ at Algonkian Regional Park 47001 Fairway Drive, Sterling VA.
- July 27th is the HPDE at Summit Point, main track
- September 27 - 30th is the Spooktacular 2007
- October 28th is another HPDE at Summit Point, Shenandoah track

Congratulations to this month's Raffle winners:

- Roadway bag- Arthur Baer
- Tool Kit - Steve Wolf
- California Duster - Sue Wolf

Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM with approximately 45 members. Paul Benish will lead a group to a new bar/restaurant as Gordon Biersch Brewery now requires the club to guarantee spending at least \$300 to reserve a room.

Notes taken by Jerry Lelansky - Thank you Jerry!

Atomic Orange Raffle Winner Drawn



Congratulations to Terry Chaddock drawn as the winner of the Atomic Orange Corvette Coupe raffle. Terry held winning ticket number 087, and was in Saudi Arabia on business when we called and spoke with his wife Cindy to share the good news. Terry and Cindy are avid enthusiasts and have owned several Corvettes, including a 2006 Black Corvette they currently have.

Petersen Museum Founder Passes



Robert E. Petersen, the self-taught publicist turned publisher whose fortune gave Los Angeles the Petersen Museum, died March 23 at the age of 80. Mr. Petersen founded Hot Rod magazine at the age of 21 which became the seed for a publishing empire that included more than two dozen automotive, hunting, photography, sports and beauty magazines.

Mr. Petersen helped establish the Petersen Automotive Museum in 1994 as a member of the board of directors of the Los Angeles Natural History Museum. The 2007 National Association of Automobile Museums (NAAM) Conference was held last week at the Petersen Museum. Automotive Museums from across the U.S. were attending the conference, including our Executive Director, Wendell Strode who is the current and outgoing President for NAAM. Mr. Petersen was to be honored with both the ‘Automotive Icon’ and ‘Visionary’ awards at the Petersen Museum’s annual gala on May 10. The ceremony will now be held as a tribute to Mr. Petersen and his contributions to the institution and community. Complete details are available at: <http://www.petersen.org/default.cfm?DocID=502&ArticleID=200>

C5/C6 Bash Event Pre-Registration Closes Soon



In three weeks, pre-registration for the C5/C6 Bash - April 26-28 will close, so be sure to pre-register to receive the commemorative dash plaque and lapel pin along with a personalized event badge. All pre-registered guests will also be entered into a special drawing for an opportunity to ride along in one of the 2008 display cars! Pre-registration closes on Monday, April 16. Find out what makes the Bash one of the best NCM events of the year by viewing our exciting event agenda and registering online at: http://www.corvettemuseum.com/registration/c5_bash/info.shtml

Taking a Seat Supports the Museum

The NCM is thrilled over the support of our new “Bench Sponsorship Program”! They have six supporting clubs and individuals who have sponsored a monumental granite bench in the front entrance of the Museum along our brick Walk of Fame.

This is not only a great way to support the Museum, but enables thousands of guests and visitors who come to the Museum each year to see your club logo or customized artwork created in granite.

Each granite bench features customized artwork of the club or supporter and can be reserved either solely or with up to two partners per bench. A limited number of granite benches are available. Club logos, car designs - your choice, so pick the artwork that best represents you and/or your club! Find out more about reserving your spot as part of this fundraising opportunity by clicking here: <http://www.corvettemuseum.com/donations/bench.shtml>



1963 Corvette Needed For Display



We are in search of a 1963 Corvette to put on display inside the Museum. The display will be needed for at least 9 months and no longer than 12 months.

If you own a 1963 Corvette and are a current NCM member, please contact Betty Hardison at: betty@corvettemuseum.com or find out more about displaying your Corvette by clicking here: <http://www.corvettemuseum.com/display/index.shtml>

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.

Keeping it in the family ...

One of NVCC's newest prospective members is related to one of NVCC's most well-known ... our Vice President, Rich Mars! Rich's nephew, Mike Bernardi (who is only 25 years young), just purchased his first corvette from Koons Chevrolet during a recent sales event. He purchased a black 6 speed coupe with a little help from Carl Leckner, Koons general manager (see the pic below).

Congratulations Mike! We know your uncle is proud of you ... although we'll understand if you're a little reluctant to claim our wild and crazy VP as your relative!





NVCC Event Calendar

April 22 – Tasting, Tour, and Car Show at Winery At La Grange

Join the Old Dominion Corvette Club out at the Winery at La Grange in Haymarket, VA on April 22nd from 1:30pm to 4pm for a Tasting, Tour, and Car Show! LaGrange will be hosting a complimentary wine tasting and private winery tour. Shine up the car for spring, and bring your folding chairs too. We suggest 1:00 or 1:30 pm for your arrival at the winery so you can choose to eat lunch before hand or have light snacks and wine on-site. There is no scheduled end-time to the event and you are welcome to bring a picnic or join the ODCC for a dinner outing afterwards.

Please RSVP to Leslie Lemish as soon as possible at info@olddominioncorvetteclub.org if you would like to attend. She has arranged passes for complimentary tasting for two for each member driving a Corvette. Parking is Corvette friendly to new, old, and Z06 cars alike (the driveway is a short gravel drive and you can immediately pull on to the grass area if you prefer.)

April 28 – Teen Driving School At Stonewall Jackson High School

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 on April 28th. 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) will 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.

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 12th, 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 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.

May 18 to 20 – NCCC East Region Spectacular

The East Region is putting on a (first in a very long time) Regional Spectacular, May 19-20, 2007 in Aberdeen, MD!! The events are being put on by various clubs in the region: from [Delaware](#), [Maryland](#), [New Jersey](#), [Pennsylvania](#) and [Virginia](#). Each club will be handling the events it is responsible for, and we are hoping to make this a yearly event for the region.

The Spectacular is like a Mini-Convention, with multiple competition events held at the same location and chance for NCCC members to maximize their point making potential! Come join us, and see how much more fun you can have with your Corvette!!

The events will be centered at Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen, MD. The event opens Friday the 18th at 1pm, and includes Autocross, Concours, Rallye, Funkhana, and Economy Run events, plus a barbeque, party, and cruise scheduled throughout the weekend. *Register by May 1 to get discounts on event registration and hospitality fees.* See the registration flyer on page 13 for more information.

NVCC will be hosting an Economy Run on Saturday, May 19th. So come and help out, or join in the fun!

Contact Andrej Balanc at urtoslo@yahoo.com for questions or further info, or visit the NCCC East Region's website at <http://www.ernccc.org/spectacular/>.

June 3 – NVCC Concours 2007

Northern Virginia Corvette Club presents Concours and Fun Show '07 to benefit the Special Olympics. This is a show for all Corvettes, with spectacular prizes, raffles, food, music and fun ... Trophies and awards to be won by both NVCC judged and fun show Corvettes!

Sponsored and held at Koons Chevrolet, 2000 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, VA 22182.

Concours event times:

- 7 – 10:30 am Registration
- 9 am Gates open to the public
- 11 am Rags down / Drivers meeting
- 11 am – 3 pm Judging
- 3:30 pm Award Presentations

Directions: From D.C. - Take Rt.66 West to Rt.7 West exit. Go past the Tysons Corner Shopping Center. Dealership will be .5 mile past Center on the Left at the intersection of Rt.7 and Rt.123. From Virginia - Take 495 to Rt.7 West exit. Go past the Tysons Corner Shopping Center. Dealership will be .5 mile past Center on the Left at the intersection of Rt.7 and Rt.123

June 29 – Drive Your 'Vette to Work Day

Started by MidAmerica Motorworks in 2001 to launch the countdown to the Corvette's 50th anniversary, it has now become an annual tradition. For more information: www.madvet.com.

July 1 – Annual Club Picnic / BBQ

Our annual picnic/BBQ will be held this year at Algonkian Regional Park. Come out and enjoy hamburgers, hotdogs, various side items, soft drinks, and dessert as you enjoy the park's nature trail, family playground, and golf. We have reserved Pavilion #1 for the entire day.

Continued on page 14

2007 EAST REGION NCCC SPECTACULAR REGISTRATION

Please Print

Entry #, Official Use Only

Primary Registration: Last name: _____ First name: _____ NCCC# _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Name for ID tag: _____
Home phone: (____) _____ Email _____ Club affiliation: _____

Secondary Registration: Last name: _____ First name: _____ NCCC# _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Name for ID tag: _____
Home phone: (____) _____ Email _____ Club affiliation: _____

Dependent Registration: Last name: _____ First name: _____ NCCC# _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Name for ID tag: _____
Home phone: (____) _____ Email _____ Club affiliation: _____

REGISTRATION FEE REQUIRED TO ENTER / USE HOSPITALITY, FOOD, BEVERAGE AND ENTERTAINMENT:

Before 1 May 2007, \$50 / person; After 1 May 2007, \$60 / person _____ X \$ _____

SPECIAL!! 14 EVENT SPECTACULAR PACKAGE, INCLUDES REG. FEES-

\$150 / person, 7 Sanctioned events Sat. + 7 Sanctioned events Sunday, _____ X \$ _____

\$175 / person after 1 May 2007

SATURDAY, 19 MAY 2007, YOU CAN ONLY RECEIVE POINTS FOR 7 SANCTIONED EVENTS PER DAY

Circle event choices below

7 Low Speeds E-013, 014, 015, 016, 017, 018, 019 per Driver
4 CONCOURS, Fun Shows E-020, 021, 022, 023 per Car
2 ECONOMY RUNS E-034, 035 per Car
2 FUNKHANAS E-026, 027 per Car
PARADE, NON-SANCTIONED EVENT per Car

Table with columns: Class, Pri., Sp., Dep., and Total amount. Rows include registration fees for various event classes like Low Speeds, Concourses, Economy Runs, Funkhanas, and Parades.

SUNDAY, 20 MAY 2007.

3 CONCOURS; 1 Judged, 2 Fun Shows E-029J, 028F, 030F per Car
4 RALLIES, 1 gimmick, 3 poker E-031, 032, 033, 024 per Car

SHIRTS: TEE'S \$15 each, circle sizes, GOLF \$25, circle sizes
S M L XL XXL S M L XL XXL

_____ X\$15 + # _____ X\$25

GRAND TOTAL AMOUNT

Make checks payable to: ER-NCCC or VISA / Mastercard only, fill out below:

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____ (CIRCLE ONE) VISA or MC

SIGNATURE _____

PRINT NAME _____

MAIL COMPLETED FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

2007 EAST REGION SPECTACULAR
C/O GEORGE GALLANT
309 SOUTH ATWOOD RD.
BEL AIR, MD 21014

QUESTIONS? CALL 410-836-2355, EMAIL: gallants auto@aol.com

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, CONTACT:

NAME: _____
RELATIONSHIP: _____
PHONE NUMBERS: _____

2/26/2007

Continued from page 12

Please sign up on the website or RSVP to lilredcorvette94@yahoo.com and indicate how many in your party will be attending. For more park information visit: <http://www.nvrpa.org/algonkian.html>

To reach Algonkian Regional Park from the Beltway (I-495), take Route 7 west 11 miles to Cascades Parkway north, and drive 3 miles to the park entrance.

2007 Rallye Series is Cancelled



It is with great regret that I have to announce the cancellation of the NVCC 2007 Rallye Series. Since no one volunteered to chair the series, there will be no formal series this year. However, I encourage anyone interested in sponsoring an individual rallye to do so. If you are not familiar with the process, or if you feel that you need help putting one together, please give me a call and I will answer your questions and provide any support that you may need. If you are interested in hosting a rallye, please be sure to contact Laurie Kistner to see if there is a potential conflict with a previously scheduled event before you set the date.

Chuck Pellerin, Officer at Large



Northern Virginia Corvette Club presents

Concours & Fun Show '07

to benefit the Special Olympics

Sunday, June 3rd, 2007



Sponsored by & held at Koons Chevrolet * 2000 Chain Bridge Rd. Vienna, VA 22182

A show for all Corvettes, with spectacular prizes, raffles, food, music and fun...
Trophies and awards to be won by both NCCC judged and fun show Corvettes!

7 - 10:30 AM - REGISTRATION
9 AM - GATES OPEN TO PUBLIC
11 AM - RAGS DOWN/DRIVERS MTG
11 AM - 3 PM - JUDGING
3:30 PM - AWARD PRESENTATIONS
4:30 PM - SHOW CLOSES

NCCC Sanction Event Number E-040, Club Number 357

Andrej Balanc, NCCC East Region Governor
604 S. Dogwood Street, Sterling VA 20164, 703-220-8228

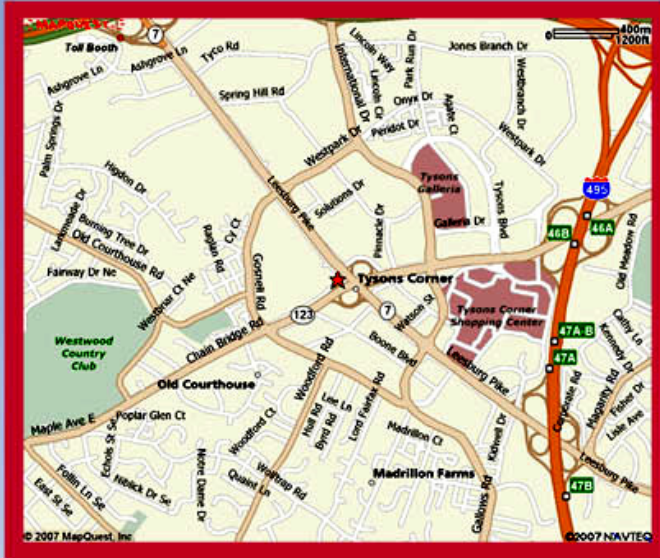
Judged Classes: **\$30** pre-registry, **\$35** day of
Fun Show Cars: **\$20** pre-registry, **\$25** day of



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.nvcorvetteclub.com

NVCC Concours & Fun Show 2007 Registration Form & Map



Directions

From D.C./Virginia -
Take Rt. 495 or Rt. 66 to
the Rt. 7 West exit. Go
past the Tysons Corner
Shopping Center. Koons
Chevrolet will be .5 mile
past the Shopping Center
on the left at the inter-
section of Rts. 7 & 123.

Mail-in Registration Form

Name _____ NCCC# _____ Club _____
Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone (H) _____ (W) _____ Email _____
Year of Corvette _____ Type (check one) _____ Coupe _____ Convertible _____ Hard Top _____

Classification (check one only): See NCCC rule booklet for full explanations.

- Concours - Showroom condition, stock equipment. Int/ext/engine judged.
 Modified - Some modifications allowed. Int/ext/engine judged.
 Custom - Many mods, including custom paint. Int/ext/engine judged.
 Race-Prepared - Meets RP requirements for speed events. Int/ext/engine.
 Street Show - Street driven. Int/ext/engine judged.
 Wash & Show - Street driven. Interior and exterior judged only.
 Fun Show - No judging, exhibition only.

Describe your Corvette (include details such as color, engine, trans, mods, etc) _____

Judged class pre-registry is \$30, Fun Show pre-registry is \$20. Amt. encl.\$ _____
Checks must be payable to NVCC and mailed to: Laurie Kistner, Concours '07
Director, 13800 Rock Terrace, Centreville, Virginia 20120 no later than 6/1/07.
Judged class Corvettes parked indoors MUST contain 1/4 tank or less of gas.

Chevrolet Corvette Convertible To Pace 2007 Indianapolis 500

The 2007 Chevrolet Corvette Convertible will serve as the Official Pace Car for the 91st Indianapolis 500, a record fourth consecutive turn at the front of the field of "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing."

It's the ninth time Corvette will pace the Indianapolis 500, a record for the event. The previous years were 1978, 1986, 1995, 1998, 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2006. It's the 18th time a Chevrolet will lead the field, also an event record.



The 91st Indianapolis 500 is scheduled for Sunday, May 27 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, with live coverage on ABC Sports and the IMS Radio Network. The Pace Car driver will be announced at a later date.

"Corvette is synonymous with speed to millions of worldwide automotive enthusiasts, so it's only fitting that the 2007 Corvette Convertible will pace the field for the 91st Indianapolis 500," IMS President Joie Chitwood said. "The heritage of Corvette performance that started with the first model in 1953 is a perfect match for the history and tradition of 'The Greatest Spectacle in Racing.'"

Chevrolet will produce 500 special-edition replicas of the Indianapolis 500 Corvette Convertible Pace Car for sale to the general public. The cars, manufactured in Bowling Green, Ky., will be available starting this spring.

It's the first time since 1998 that Chevy will offer a regular production replica of the Indy 500 Pace Car. But several dozen copies of all the Pace Cars have been used for official activities in support of their respective Indianapolis 500 races, such as parades. These cars – known as "festival" cars – have become prized collectibles, along with the limited-edition, regular-production replicas.

The performance-bred Corvette handles its official pace duties in nearly factory-stock trim, with little more than racetrack-required safety equipment, strobe lights and eye-catching graphics added.

In years past, many Indianapolis 500 Pace Cars required modification to perform their on-track tasks. The 2007 Corvette's powertrain and suspension, including a 400-horsepower (298 kW) LS2 small-block V-8 engine, are more than adequate to maintain the speed, acceleration and handling required to lead the pack around the famed 2.5-mile oval.

"Chevrolet and Corvette have a long, storied history at Indianapolis, and the new Pace Car special edition

commemorates that heritage with what will surely be an instant collectible," said Ed Peper, Chevrolet general manager.

The distinguishing features of the Pace Car replica include:

- Atomic Orange exterior color, including door handles
- Indianapolis 500 exterior graphics – including gold ribbon graphics that flow outward from the front fender vents and "Indianapolis 500" door logos
- Z06 rear spoiler
- New aluminum "split-spoke" wheels in Sterling Silver
- Ebony seats with embroidered Indianapolis 500 logos
- Interior trim plate and pods painted Atomic Orange
- Atomic Orange engine covers

All of the Pace Car replicas are equipped with the Z51 performance package. A six-speed manual transmission is standard, with the six-speed paddle-shift automatic optional. The navigation system with Bose audio and OnStar also are standard.

Taken from www.indianapolis motorspeedway.com

***HPDE on the Summit Point Main Track
Hosted by Northern Virginia Corvette Club
Friday July 27th, 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. _____

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

Cost: \$175. Registrations after July 13th, \$200. 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 July 27th. There will be 25 slots in each run group. **No refunds after July 20th. 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

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.

NVCC would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the following folks for their generous donations to the Northern Virginia Corvette Club:

TireVan

TireVan provides mobile tire installation throughout the DC Metro, and is a strong supporter of the Northern Virginia Corvette Club.

Now for NVCC members from TireVan: **FREE** membership in the new TireVan Advantage Program. No-obligation valuable services and discounts!

Claim your **FREE** enrollment, use Corvette Club Enrollment Code: **NV405CC** Enroll at www.TireVan.com (under TireVan Advantage Program)

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- Protects against acid rain and mineral buildup
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And as always, a special thanks to **Koons Chevrolet**, our dealership sponsor, for everything they do in supporting NVCC!!!

Northern Virginia Corvette Club

Return Postage Guaranteed

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McLean, VA 22103-3458



Next General Business Meeting:

Tuesday, April 24th

Koons Chevrolet

2000 Chain Bridge Road

Tysons Corner, VA

Newsletter News

Current and past newsletters are accessible via our website at www.nvcorvetteclub.com. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via the website rather than thru the mail, please let me know, and you'll receive an email each month as soon as it is available.

We also have advertising space available in the newsletter! Contact me for rates and more information.

Anne Costolanski
Newsletter Editor
anne.steffie@gmail.com

