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## Christmas Lights Rallye

Pics by Lori Benish

Several of our members showed up to the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Christmas Lights Rallye, held by the Benishs, in Sterling on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a nighttime rallye with great holiday sights. Sterling has several big communities that do Christmas light competitions, so it has some great over the top houses to look at. Without the typical rigid rallye rules (say that twice), participants experienced a twist on the normal rallye, which made it new for everyone, even expert rallye runners.

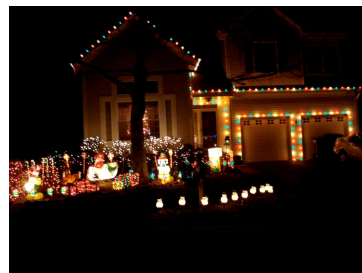
Our question rallye winners were Lynn, Andre, and Katie Balanc, who won \$25. For the poker rallye portion, our best-hand winners were Cassidy Nolen & his guest with a full house. The worst hand winners were Jerry and Irene Lelansk, with a high card of only a 7. They split the poker pot, ending with \$15 for each pair. All the winners received club t-shirts. Hopefully we can do this again next year with an even larger turnout and cool new holiday sights! Have a great New Year.

By Lori Benish

Full Gallery of Pictures available at <http://gallery.me.com/taveren> :  
Christmas lights Rallye 2010

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

### **NVCC Council Members**

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**Concours** - Open  
**Spooktacular** - OPEN  
**HPDE** - Open

Membership information for 2011 is not yet available. I hope that the summary will return to this block by next month. In the meantime, reach out to other corvette owners to expand our rolls. As with many clubs, membership has fallen off during the economic downturn and it is now time to rebuild.

## **New Year --- New Points of Contact**

(Sort of)

To the left you will see the new points of contact for the New Year. With a few important exceptions it reflects the same folks as last year with a little shuffling around. The leadership, whether elected officers or appointed committee chairs, is essential to making NVCC a viable and fun club. Some of these folks have been dedicating their efforts to the council for a VERY LONG TIME and frankly would appreciate a well deserved break, but are too concerned about the club to do so. For perspective, as the editor going into my 4<sup>th</sup> year I'm still a relative newbie on the council.

NVCC needs more volunteers to step forward. There are three listed open chairs, but frankly many of the existing chairs would be most willing to shuffle who does what if you are interested in some other aspect, or desire to start off by being a co-chair. Any help would be sincerely appreciated.

All I can do is ask you to think about it. When I volunteered for the newsletter it was literally weeks away from the current editor going back to school away from the DC area. At that time I knew very few members and didn't really know how the council functioned. Taking that step, however, opened a much broader participation and appreciation of our club. Put another way, being a natural introvert with limited knowledge of NVCC or its broader membership was no impediment to assuming a major role. You can too!



## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER Jan 2011**

With the holiday hiatus over, looks like I am back to work putting my first newsletter article of the year together. Having just watched the NFL playoffs, we know that Green Bay will face Pittsburg in the Superbowl. Based on what I saw today, it should be a good matchup. But hey, we're car guys & gals so let's ponder what we have to look forward to in 2011.

Despite the cold outside, I took advantage of the dry weather to fire up my Vetter this afternoon and after a long period of idling in the driveway, decided that I should drive it to work tomorrow, then get it home again and cover it up before the next predicted snow which should arrive in about 48 hours. Hopefully we won't get too much. I am even more hopeful that it won't cancel our first GBM of the year.

In about two weeks, the racing world will be shaking off the cobwebs as Speedweeks get underway down in Daytona. If you're lucky enough to be able to venture down there this time of year, you'll be able to catch the Rolex 24 Hour race as well as the first ARCA race of the season, various practice runs, qualifying heats, the NASCAR Twin 125's and the Daytona 500. If I'm not mistaken, Corvette Racing will appear in the Rolex in GT-2 this season, so right off the bat our mark will be out in front battling for the lead. Then in March, you'll be able to catch more road race action if you head back down to central Florida for the Sebring 12 Hour race.

Closer to home, NVCC is already busy getting ready for 2011. We have our annual Banquet coming up on March 12 and we have already asked for a number of dates throughout the year at Old Dominion Speedway in order to continue with our Teen Driving School, Car-B-Que, and Spooktacular. Although these events are still in the planning stages, Laurie Kistner will be posting the actual dates to the clubs website calendar any day now. Lori Benish is working hard to put together our annual banquet and she has asked to be Rallye Chairman for 2011. We even voted to increase the prize fund for Rallye, so there will be some interesting new rewards for those that come out to participate. It should be a lot of fun.

Several nights ago, Council got together for the first time and welcomed incoming Vice-President Doug Swanson as well as Officer-At-Large Dana Root. Both these gentlemen bring a lot of experience to the table, to the obvious benefit of NVCC. I look forward to working with both of these gentlemen, as well as all the returning Council members and Chairpersons. At our meeting, we reviewed and approved the Budget for 2011 and the feeling is that NVCC is in pretty good shape. Two years of being fiscally prudent within a tough economy has helped to keep us on solid footing. I thank all those that have helped in this regard.

Speaking to our own Rick Poage over the weekend, I want to mention that the Baltimore Grand Prix will be held over the Labor Day weekend in September. Racing will include Mazda, Indy Lights, and ALMS; including the Corvette Racing GT-2 entry. Rick has been in touch with the organizing body and has information on how we can get 2-day paddock parking, grandstand seating, and parade laps if we pre-purchase tickets by March 15. At this time, we believe that NVCC members will likely need to purchase at least 15 ticket packages in order to qualify for the paddock access. Additional information will be listed in the newsletter and we will also set up a tab on our website with more details.

Thanks for being a part of NVCC. I look forward to seeing all of you this season.



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AND CLUB EVENTS



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[HISTORIAN@NVCORVETTECLUB.COM](mailto:HISTORIAN@NVCORVETTECLUB.COM)

## Corvettes Around the World

by Doug Swanson

The below pictures were taken at the "Princely Brewery" ("Fürstliches Brauhaus" in German) in Regensburg, Germany, on October 30, 2010. My wife and I stumbled into this brewery asking for directions as we had lost our way to the nearby Palace of St. Emmeram.

Apparently a group of Corvette owners were on a driving "cruise" and had stopped at the brewery. We later saw the caravan of these Corvettes drive through town as we walked back to our ship, the Uniworld River Empress.

Doug Swanson



## Corvette Racing Comes to Baltimore

by Rick Poage

If you haven't heard by now, the big buzz in the Mid-Atlantic for all us car-guys(gals) is the addition of the Baltimore Grand Prix to the American LeMans Series (ALMS) roster next season. After more than a decade since the last event in this area, it's not a moment too soon. For those of us who attended then, the Cadillac Grand Prix was the pinnacle of road racing excellence right here in our back yard for three whole days! For those who missed it...set aside Labor Day Weekend this year and prepare yourself for a spectacular encore!

On **September 2-4, 2011** Baltimore is opening up its streets as a race track, right in the middle of the Inner Harbor, for three days of practice, qualifying, and all-out racing (180mph!). There will be five professional series' participating: The IZOD Indycar series, the American LeMans series (ALMS), the Firestone Indy Lights series, the Star Mazda, and the USF2000 Series. For most of us, the ALMS is the big draw with the Corvette Racing Team as the new-kid-on-the-block in GT2. This year, the GT2 Corvette ZR1 will be competing with the Ferrari F458, the BMW M3 GT, the Porsche 911 GT3 RSR, the Ford GT, and all-new this year - the Lamborghini!

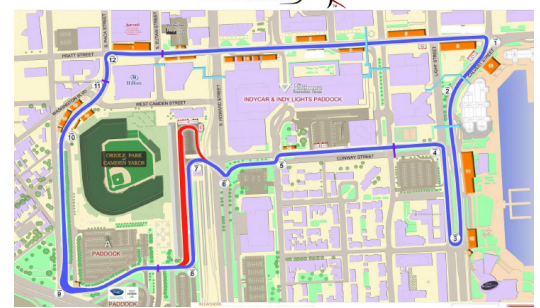
With the added fun of the Sports Zone, the Family Zone and the Party Zone, the infield will be alive with activities for everyone, all weekend long, including a major concert on Saturday night (tba).

So how do you get in on all this fun, you ask? Answer: The Corvette Car Corral weekend pass!! This is an area that you can drive your Corvette into and park, safely, along with other club members – right next to the ALMS Paddock! The Car Corral is also being sponsored by The Corvette Racing Team, which means we'll all have an area under a giant tent to hang out – based on my past experience, this generally includes AstroTurf, tables, chairs, food & drink (tba) and even the occasional "special guest"!! Teaming up with NCCC, NCRS, BMW/PCA (to name a few!) the BGP has put together an awesome package exclusively for Car Club members. For \$150 per car/one person/2-Day, you get:

- Reserved parking space in designated Car Corral area (Lot C). This is next to the track and adjacent to the ALMS Paddock (Lot B) See attached diagram of track map
- Reserved grandstand seat in exclusive grandstand located at Turn 10. This is expected to be a very exciting section of the track.
- Controlled, on-track parade laps either Friday or Saturday for clubs with 20 or more cars ☺
- Pit and Paddock pass

Your passenger only pays an additional \$110. You can also opt for the 3-Day pass if you prefer (\$ additional). You won't find any of this pricing anywhere on the website – this is for Car Club Members (and their guests) only! As I'm sure most of you noticed, the on-track parade laps are quite possibly worth the entire price of admission! If you are interested in this exclusive offer, **here's what NVCC needs from you** to ensure we have enough cars to qualify:

- 1) Mark your calendar as “busy” for Labor Day Weekend 2011 (starting Friday so you don't miss anything!)
- 2) Find a buddy, wife, girlfriend, boyfriend or whoever to tag along (optional)
- 3) Email me right away and RSVP for your confirmed slot in the Parade Lap!
- 4) First come first served



**The absolute deadline for this promotion is March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011, so don't delay!** If you have any questions, feel free to email me for more details. You can take a look at the full schedule and much more at [www.baltimoregrandprix.com](http://www.baltimoregrandprix.com). This is going to be great fun ya'll – hope to see you there!

Savin' the Wave,

Rick

## Well Fed at FedEx

by Bob Montgomery

Saturday, December 4, 2010 was a very cold and blustery day in Parking Lot A at FedEx Field. This was the setting for the 2010 season's final fun show which was hosted by the Corvette Club of America (CCA). A small contingent of hearty NVCC members and their guests made the trek up I-95 to Landover, Maryland for this event. In addition to the fun show, a private behind-the-scenes stadium tour was also scheduled.



The day kicked off with a tour of FedEx Field. The tour took us through various areas of the stadium which included the field, the Redskins locker room, memorials to former players, and the coach's locker room and office. The tour ended with a reception held in the Club level of the stadium. At the reception we were served a buffet of gourmet sandwiches, cold pasta, veggies, soda, and dessert. This was followed by a photo op with a couple of Redskin cheerleaders and some Redskin trivia questions to win autographed footballs and posters.

The second half began with all participants back out in the frigid air again for the fun show portion of the day. Fortunately, the CCA had the foresight to have onsite three large crock pots full of steaming hot chili. This provided enough warmth to enable everyone to walk around and make their award selections. In addition to the chili, Buffalo wings, brownies, cookies, and soda were also provided.



Despite the cold and windy conditions (thanks Anthony for providing the chemical hand warmers!) everyone had a great time. Please see the NVCC web site's photo gallery for a visual sampling of the event.



**Annual Banquet 2011**  
**Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant**  
**March 12 at 6:00 PM**

The banquet will be held this year at 6:00 PM on Saturday, March 12, 2010 at Maggiano's in Tysons Corner, Virginia. Dinner will include the following:

- Appetizers:** *Bruschetta & Mushroom Ravioli al Forno*
- Salad:** *Maggiano's House & Italian Tossed*
- Pastas:** *Rigatoni D (Chicken Marsala Pasta) & Ziti with Marinara Sauce (Vegetarian)*
- Entrees:** *Chicken Parmesan & Oven Roasted Pork Loin (Balsamic Cream Sauce)*
- Dessert:** *Chocolate Zuccotto Cake & New York Style Cheesecake*

All served family style!  
All meals come with tea, coffee, and water. A cash bar will be available to those who would like to enjoy an adult beverage.

Address to Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant:  
2001 International Dr  
McLean, VA 22102-4605.  
Maggiano's has complimentary valet parking starting at 5pm, located in front of the Cheesecake Factory and Maggiano's Mall Entrance.

Register as soon as possible to reserve your seats!  
***Deadline for reservations is Feb 26***

Number of people attending: \_\_\_\_\_ (total)

Names of attendees (please mark if attendee is a child under 12 years old)

_____	Child: _____
_____	Child: _____
_____	Child: _____
_____	Child: _____
_____	Child: _____
_____	Child: _____

The banquet fee is \$35 per adult and \$15 for any children under 12.  
**Please mail this registration form and a check made payable to NVCC to:**  
**Lori Ann Benish**  
**21731 Ladbrooke Grove Ct.**  
**Sterling, VA 20166**



## How to Paint Your Brake Calipers

By Laurie Kistner

With winter comes many winter projects...and not necessarily ones of our own. Since I am well known as the car enthusiast in my social circle, friends will come out of the woodwork asking for “help” with their car to-dos. The word “help” is most often code for “I’m terrible at this. Can you please do this for me?” Sure, I can knock this out...*no problem* (but you owe me dinner at Morton’s)...

The favor of the day this time – “make my red Brembo brake calipers into black ones, but put the Brembo logo back on”. Err....OK. To be honest, the simpler way to accomplish this would have looked like the following:

1. Buy black Brembo brake calipers.
2. Sell red Brembo brake calipers on Craigslist or eBay.
3. Enjoy peace and harmony once again.

But nooooo...that would be just too easy. So, let’s explore the process for those who are too lazy to deal with for-sale ads...

**Step 1: Clean your brake calipers well.** I asked my friend to make sure he did this before bringing them over, but everyone’s definition of thorough seems to vary. Used brake calipers often can have some residual brake fluid on them when removed, and we all know what happens when brake fluid and paint get together (it ain’t pretty). So, I re-cleaned them and made sure they were safe for the next step of the painting process. A good cleaner/degreaser like Spray 9 works well.

**Step 2: Mask off parts you don’t want painted.** This includes fittings, etc. Use a painter’s tape that has a high tack – I like the blue tape from 3M. You can find this at Home Desperado or any paint store.

**Step 3: Base coat time!** I used high temperature brake caliper paint in black. This highly specialized paint will withstand temperatures up to 1,200 degrees. Since my friend tracks his car, this was pretty important. Many colors are available in this product, so you should be able to find that perfect accent color. I did 3 thin coats, each of which were allowed to dry thoroughly before applying the next.

**Step 4: Apply the stencil.** Brembo actually sells their logo as a stencil – how convenient! Be sure your base coats have cured well before applying, as you only get *one* chance to position the self-adhesive stencil properly. Then, make sure you mask around areas you do not want painted with painter’s tape and drop cloths (or in this case, old sheets that have given up the ghost. Guys, please excuse the flowers.)

**Step 5: Spray logo color.** In this case, white was chosen to match the stock Brembo look. Again, make sure you spray very evenly!

**Step 6: Peel away stencil right away!** Do *not* wait to do this step. Be careful and you should have a clean release. If you need to do any touch-ups, a #0000 artist’s brush can be used. Be advised that you need a steady hand and a good eye if you have to go this route.



Step 7: **Protect your work.** I sprayed 3 thin, even coats of high temperature clear to the calipers to seal everything in and give it a nice gloss. Remember to let the coats of clear dry well each time.

Step 8: **Cure time.** There's a difference between something being dry and a surface that has cured to a hard finish. Since I wanted to make sure my friend didn't come back to me with any issues while re-installing, I held the calipers hostage for a while until I was sure it was safe. Depending on humidity and weather, this could be a few days to a week or more.

Step 9: **Re-install the calipers and enjoy!** I handed these babies back to the owner and he successfully re-installed the calipers. Here is a look at the finished product:



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## NVCC Social Calendar Jan 2011 - Laurie Kistner, Social Director & Webmaster



Hello Corvetters!

Another new year has begun, and hopefully Mother Nature will give us a break soon so that we can enjoy our fiberglass toys again!

With spring coming up in less than 2 months, I am busily working on adding events to our online calendar. Luckily we have many dates locked in with our friends at Old Dominion Speedway with such events as the Instructor Clinic, Teen Driving School, Car-B-Que, and C<sup>3</sup> (Car Control Clinic). The fine folks with the NoVa Mustang Club have also contacted me, as they are trying to choose their drag dates to cooperate with our schedule. And the club picnic date has been set as well!

So, progress is moving along nicely. With that being said, if anyone wants to host a cruise, rallye, or social event, please let me know at your earliest convenience. As always, it is my goal to make sure everyone's events make it onto the calendar. This requires flexibility and cooperation, so please email me at [social@nvcorvetteclub.com](mailto:social@nvcorvetteclub.com) with any dates you are considering and your event details.

And do be sure you visit our website at [www.nvcorvetteclub.com](http://www.nvcorvetteclub.com) for updates - since it's early, details are TBA, so check back often. Don't forget to find us on **Facebook** - click on the Facebook icon on our website! If you have not done so already, sign up for our online forum to chat with other club members. Need help online? Contact me at [webmaster@nvcorvetteclub.com](mailto:webmaster@nvcorvetteclub.com) and I'll be happy to answer your questions.

In the meantime, stay warm and think spring!

Cheers,  
Laurie Kistner  
NVCC Social Director & Webmaster

### Hands-On Science Exhibit Coming Soon!

Explore the science of how things move by land, sea and air at the National Corvette Museum's new traveling exhibition, From Here to There, opening on January 18. Lift, launch and levitate as you experiment with hands-on exhibits that make learning about gravity, friction, and the laws of motion fun. Ride a hovercraft to experience how air pressure works, adjust wind speed to form fabric into an airfoil and float your sailboat to experiment with the effect of wind, rudder and sail positions.

The 1,500 square foot exhibition is color-coded and divided into three main categories: transportation by land, sea and air and will be on display through April 18, 2011 in the Museum's Exhibit Hall. Groups rates are available, and discount tickets are available for the public at any Warren County PNC branch. Additionally, PNC customers may show a bankcard to receive discount admission. Learn more [here](#).



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### Corvette Museum Auctioning Special Edition Z06

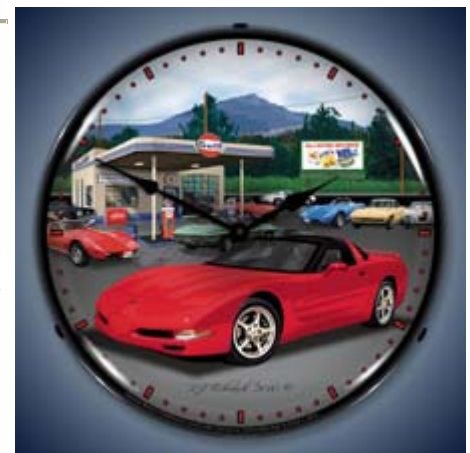
In an effort to raise funds for the Museum's planned Motorsports Park, we are auctioning off a 2011 Special Edition Z06 Le Mans tribute Corvette at Barrett-Jackson on January 21. The car has many special one-off features and is VIN 001, the first saleable Z06 Corvette for 2011. Read more about this sweet ride [here](#).



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### Corvette Store Feature: Lighted C5 Gulf Clock

If you're tired of the same boring neon clocks that have been around for the last 30 years you'll love the Lighted C5 Gulf Clock! The clock measures 14 inches across. The outer lens is made from high quality optical lexan held in place with 3 removable rivets. It's scratch resistant and won't yellow over time. The advertisement face is cut out by a CNC router and the image is placed with a UV dried computer controlled printing process that will last for many years. The back of the clock is made from black ABS plastic that houses a 22 watt fluorescent circuline bulb with an on/off switch in the cord. The clock is a battery operated quartz movement that runs from one AA battery. This is a must for any collector and would look great in your home, office, or garage. [\\$119.95](#)



## Northern Virginia Corvette Club

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### Newsletter News ...

Another month...well another year for that matter has slipped by and all save one of my corvettes is under cover awaiting any harbinger of spring before daring to venture out upon the salt encrusted roads (tundra?). The newsletter reflects the weather in being a tad sparse on NVCC events. However this gives me the chance to bring different content to light, such as the article on painting your brake calipers.

As always, I am interested in hearing from you concerning your corvette activities, whether from Germany or from your garage. Please keep those articles and pics coming.



Rich Anderson [richard.anderson157@frontier.com](mailto:richard.anderson157@frontier.com)

### Next General Business Meetings:

**Tuesday, Jan 25th at 7:30 pm**

**Tuesday, Feb 22nd at 7:30 pm**

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