



Tach Times

**Revised 2004
Events Listing Enclosed**

On Line

*Serving the most dynamic
Corvette Club in the Southwest*



July 2004



NMCA celebrates freedom & delivers a true show to folks in Silverton, CO on the 4th

Proudly sponsored by



About NMCA

The New Mexico Corvette Association, established in 1962, is the largest Corvette Club in the state of New Mexico. Membership is around 100, representing all generations of America's only true sports car, the Corvette. Members range from their 20's to their 70's, male and female. Some have show Corvettes, some have daily drivers while others have fully race prepared Corvette's.

Throughout the year the club offers a wide range of events, including social gatherings, static displays, caravans, road racing plus annually NMCA hosts Southwest Invitational, our NCCC sanctioned event.

NMCA is proudly sponsored by CASA Chevrolet, 7201 Lomas NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico
www.group1dealer.com/casa



Contact NMCA

Mailing address:

PO Box 91355
Albuquerque, NM 87199-1355

E-mail:

info@nmcorvette.org

Fax:

505-343-0330



505-343-0400 ext 4

(please do not leave messages – hear recorded messages only)

Web site:

www.nmcorvette.org



General Information

The NMCA web site offers information for the public, plus additional information through member log-in. FOR SALE & WANTED items can be viewed, accessed and posted to by the public in the "forum" area. Please, Corvette related items only and no dealers or commercial entries. All posts subject to edit and/or deletion if content is deemed unsuitable.

NMCA meets the third Friday of each month (except December) at CASA Chevrolet, 7pm in the upstairs conference area. Meetings typically last 1 hour and are followed by a quick bite to eat. Prospective members and guests are always welcome. Door prize tickets are for paid members only.



NMCA Officers



Elected:

President:

Phil Ellison
NMCA member 1980-1982 & since 2001
1969 T-Top & 2001 Coupe

Vice President:

Wallace Bow
NMCA member since 2001
1990 Convertible

Governor:

Ron Scott
NMCA member since 1976
1970 Coupe & 1985 Coupe

Treasurer:

Lori Jordan
NMCA member since 2002
2001 Convertible & 2003 Convertible

Secretary:

Suzanne Monroy
NMCA member since 2003
2002 Z06

Activities:

Position Vacant

Appointed:

Membership:

Janet Ellison
NMCA member since 2001
1969 T-Top & 2001 Coupe

CIA & Webmaster:

David Judd
NMCA member since 1979
2002 Coupe

Tech:

Position Vacant

Newsletter:

Phil Ellison
NMCA member 1980-1982 & since 2001
1969 T-Top & 2001 Coupe

NMCCC Rep:

Bill Jackson
NMCA member since 1998
1961 Convertible, 1963 Coupe, 1963 Convertible, 1965 Coupe, 1969 Convertible, 1992 Coupe

NMCA conducts nominations for Governor in September and votes for this office in November. All other elected Officer positions are nominated in October and voted for in November. Elected positions (other than Governor) are announced in December and effective January 1st. NMCA President is charged with filling the appointed Officer positions. No member may hold more than one elected position during the year unless to fill due to an absence.



The Driver's Seat

NMCA President, Phil Ellison



How can it be July already. Seems like it was just June a couple weeks ago. As you've seen on the web site and heard at the meetings, our Southwest Invitational is shaping up nicely and promises to be one of the best ever. Wallace has done an outstanding job thus far. The event logo is awesome. We have event shirts 120 days prior to the event! And the weekend itself is packed with 7 sanctioned events, tons of food and fun for virtually every member at every skill level. If you live for serious competition, then the Sunday autocross events will be just your cup of tea. The pressure is on, and only you will know your limits. If fun competition is more your game, then by all means be sure to enter the funkhana, chaired this year by Steve & Jean Haydu. They always create an interesting, challenging and entertaining funkhana course. And for those who leave things strictly to chance, the poker run, dice game, hidden time rallye will be exactly what the doctor ordered. Forget about skill or pressure....these events are a true crap shoot, but tons of fun none-the-less. With the unbelievable low registration price for this year's SWI, I fully expect a record turnout. We already have multiple entries from out of state....so get involved and keep our hardware at home!

As the calendar pages fly past, please keep in mind that shortly we'll be accepting nominations for the 2005 NMCA Officer positions. Here's your chance to make a difference and steer NMCA to bigger and better things. New members bring a fresh approach and creative ideas to the mix. Old members can draw upon past experiences to make the next events even better. Any and all members are encouraged to step forward and get actively involved as an Officer. NMCA is the best Corvette club in the Southwest, and your participation in an active leadership role is something to be proud of. Anyone can sit in the crowd and follow.....but why follow when you can lead. Ok, so you've been an Officer before, or at the moment time is truly a consideration....well then be prepared to nominate a fellow member who you see potential in. Talk with them about their involvement. Don't surprise them with a nomination, only to have them withdraw their name just before the vote. I sincerely hope to see multiple names for each and every position within NMCA this time around. Believe it or not, there was a time in NMCA history when nominated members actually campaigned for their cause and worked for the vote. Not much work required when you're running unopposed. Not much to reveal at the Awards Banquet either. So get involved. I'd like to have people sitting on the edge of their seats this December, anxious to hear the voting results. And for those who step up and get involved with the nomination process.....know that while only one person can be elected, you can still play a vital role in the club's future (see "If I Were King" later in this edition). So start eyeing a position or two, get yourself or someone you know nominated and start working on those campaign slogans. Who knows, there may be an award in December for the most creative campaign!

Stay up to date with all our planned events by watching the web site, checking the Event Line and attending the meetings. A great deal of fun, both driving and pure social, is still on tap for 2004, and you're all invited. This is your club. Take ownership and make the most from a tremendous situation. Look around at work, in the store and throughout your day to day activities.....you'll see a lot of people who can only dream of being involved with the kind of club and opportunities you've got with NMCA.

Phil

The Navigator

NMCA VP, Wallace Bow



OK. I've tried to keep my columns at least marginally Corvette related so far, but this time I just can't help myself. I'm a gadget guy. Just love 'em. Always have and always will. At one point in time, I owned *three* different GPS receivers. I've got computers with clear plexiglass windows on the sides of them and fans that light up so that you can see all the cool stuff inside. I've got a color photo printer in my living room. What's it hooked up to, you may ask? Nothing! Totally wireless, baby! If I'm on my laptop and want to print something, it just happens. In fact, I may add another printer to the master bathroom just because I can. It's a sickness, but there are no twelve-step programs for it yet, so I just keep acquiring more and more gadgets.

But, I just got a new thing that is so cool I have to tell you about it. First off, though, a little history. Advances in real-time computing and packaging in the early 1990's made a personal accelerometer package affordable to the gadget-guy like myself for the first time. Oh yeah, I got one. Suction cup that thing to the inside windshield of your car, find a quarter mile of flat pavement far from any Dudley-do-rights and let it rip. This thing measures your car's acceleration at millisecond intervals and numerically integrates (I promise, that's as close to math as I'll get in this column) the acceleration readings over time to determine your vehicle's speed. Integrate speed over time and you have downtrack position. When downtrack position equals 1320 feet, beep and display quarter mile elapsed time and speed on the readout.

The first time I saw the product, it looked as if it were lit by a bright spotlight from heaven itself. In my mind, a chorus of angels hit a seventh chord that made Beethoven's Ninth Symphony sound like some of that grunge noise coming out of Seattle. A portable dragstrip: \$250. Sure the product had some shortcomings but I knew better things were coming.

Ten years elapse. I'm browsing an electronics catalog when I see it. Same bright light, same seventh chord. It's the accelerometer, like the one I have, but now it computes much more than my original box and you can download the data to your computer so you can compare runs directly, millisecond by millisecond. Did I spin the tires off the line? I will know. Did the motor not pull as hard that run as the last one? I will know. Did I short-shift the 1-2 that time?

Yep. I will know.

As an added bonus, they've included a second axis to the accelerometer that records cornering acceleration as well! Do I transition to full limit cornering too fast in turn two? I will know. Does Shane's car grip better than mine through the autocross slalom? I will know. Who's 'Vette is the fastest, 0 to 60? I will know.

As with most technical advances, all of these features were rolled in over time for no additional cost and my 2004-edition accelerometer also cost about \$250. So all of you gadget-guys and gadget-gals, point your web browser to <http://www.beltronics.com/fx.html> and get yours, too. Just don't try to tell me that you got yours first...

I will know.

Wallace

Governor's Corner

NMCA Governor, Ron Scott



NCCC Convention – Steve & Jean Haydu, Fred & Cindy Hernandez of El Paso, and Becky & I left ABQ at 6:30am and arrived Las Vegas about 9 hours later. We didn't go over Hoover Dam, instead crossed the river at Laughlin. We thought it would be quicker by not having to be inspected at the dam, wrong! The climb out of Laughlin is long and hard! I decided to home by way of the dam and the inspection took less than 2 minutes!

Convention was well organized expect for the drags. I think we all had a good time, with lots to do a party every night.

I would have had a better time if my brakes had not failed. At the finish of the Rally on Monday, we came to a stop in front of the hotel and the brake pedal went to the floor. The indications were a bad brake master cylinder.

I was able located a rebuilt master cylinder at Checker Auto (oh no!); it was the only one in Las Vegas! Steve, Becky and I worked on the car for 4 hours and could not get the cylinder from Checker to work correctly, no brakes! Have I ever mentioned how much I dislike Check Auto? I have had nothing but bad luck their parts. We put my original cylinder back on but only had about 50% braking.

Tuesday was our day for Autocrosses, didn't think we would able to make our runs, but went ahead and drove out to the track hoping to a least make a slow pass. Dave Alsatores (spelling?) of Corvette Super Sports, came over and helped. We were able to get about 90% braking! I missed the High Speed, but Becky and I were able to run the Low Speed. Becky got 1st place in her class and I finished 4th out 7.

Thursday at the Drags we both broke out on the first run! The car just kept running faster with each run. I turned a 13.7, my best time ever in a Drag. Steve didn't make it to the eliminations, his **New** clutch gave out!

Even with all of our mechanical problems we still had a great time!

NCCC events can be found on the regional web site, www.corvette-paradise.com link Roadrunner Region.

Ron "Sleazy rider" Scott



General Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2004

- Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Phil Ellison.
- Phil announced that we have acquired 4 new members in the past 30 days.
- Members decided to try Venice Beach hamburgers located at Eubank & Candelaria after the meeting; highly recommended by Stu Gorelick.
- Phil talked about prior events: 5/22 drags; 25 Corvettes. Track personnel at the strip were very supportive & want us back. 5/23 caravan - 14 Corvettes went to Embudo Station south of Taos; ate lunch at the station & drove home the long way through the Jemez mountains. Beautiful day & awesome views! 6/13 caravan - again 14 Corvettes; short but sweet trip to Sandia Peak. Aaron Homes of APD led the group a short distance in a 1981 police Corvette. Gorgeous weather, wonderful views from the peak.
- Mike & Mary Robb took top flight award NCRC w/ 97 points at Breckenridge, CO in early June. This qualifies them to go to Park City, Utah for the Nationals. Congratulations to the Robbs!
- Dick Youngdale had to resign his position as Activities Coordinator; his company transferred him to Colorado Springs, CO. He hopes to return by early next year.
- Ron Scott gave an overview of the National Corvette Convention in Las Vegas. The speedway was really great; hotel accommodations excellent; food was wonderful; well organized event. Weather started out hot, became moderate for racing. Steve Haydu lost his clutch at the drags. Beck Scott took 1st place in autocross and Ron celebrated his birthday at a pool party! Ron also stated he placed fliers for SWI in Las Vegas.
- Lori had nothing new to report regarding the club finances except the Petroleum Club has still not cashed our check.
- Ron stated that those going on the Durango trip 7/3-5, will leave on Saturday, 7/3, from Lowe's at Paseo del Norte & I-25 @ 8:30 a.m. We plan to stop on the way for lunch.
- Phil talked about upcoming events: 6/26, non-NMCA sanctioned drag races scheduled. Gates open at 6, racing starts at 7 pm. 7/17 - bowling party -5:30 @ Santa Ana Star Casino, Starlight Lanes. 7/18 - caravan - destination to be determined. 8/21 or 22 - photo shoot (site TBA).
- Under new business: Wallace Bow had SWI shirts for sale @ \$12 each. He also talked about members selecting a chairman for SWI.
- The meeting ended with drawings for prizes. The Haydu's acquired another 'hat'. The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, July 6, 2004. Next General Meeting, Friday, 7/16.
- The meeting was adjourned by Phil @ 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne

Suzanne Monroy, Secretary



Council Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2004

- Meeting was called to order by President Phil Ellison @ 7:00 pm.
- Officers in attendance were Phil, David, Ron, Suzanne, Janet and Lori.
- Phil listed the various events that have already been tentatively scheduled for the remainder of the year. He then stated that since Dick's tenure in Colorado was unknown, we would leave his position as Activities Director vacant through the end of the year; various Club and Council members will be responsible for the upcoming Club events.
- We are still looking into a site for the annual photo shoot; Rio Rancho has a possible location available for free.
- Phil also talked about the fact that we will need a Tech Chairman for the rest of the year; two Club members have stated an interest in the position and the Council will discuss/vote on this position at the next Council Meeting.
- The Council then discussed the upcoming Southwest Invitational; Funkhana, rallies and autocross events. We will be preparing the flyers for distribution in the near future. We already have multiple out of state participants scheduled to participate.
- President Ellison adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Suzanne

Suzanne Monroy, Secretary



Ron & Becky prep for the 4th of July parade in Silverton, CO



What Happened



June 13th – Caravan to Sandia Peak

14 Corvettes gathered at Smith's at noon and enjoyed a 50 mile back roads trek to the top of Sandia Peak. Two additional items worthy of note . . . just prior to the caravan departing, Phil Ellison made a special presentation to Dick Youngdale, recognizing Dick for his great job as Activities Director for NMCA. Dick has been reassigned to Colorado Springs, and may not return for 6+ months. The club was also provided a special treat when APD Officer Aaron Homes brought his 1981 APD Corvette for all to look at. Aaron led the caravan for a few miles, and hopefully we'll see more of Aaron and his very unique Corvette in the future.

(Submitted by Phil Ellison)



June 26th – Drag Race Action

The rain scared away all of the fair-weather racers, but a few hardcore drag fans showed up for a night at Albuquerque Dragway. NMCA's own Jim Allen finished runner-up in the trophy bracket race earning a very nice trophy for himself in the process. Nice job, Jim! Jim's Z06 also posted the fastest 'Vette quarter-mile of the night with a 13.33 second blast.

The announcer was clearly not a Corvette aficionado, referring to my 1990 Corvette as a "92," "96," "98," and a "Z06" at various times during the night. I ran 13.92, 13.94, 13.95 (twice), 13.96, and 13.97, so I say bring it on, bracket boys! I'm ready for the Vette-Viper challenge later this year. Curiously, my fastest time of the day was on the only run where I spun my tires. I'm still running that one through my brain!

(Submitted by Wallace Bow)



July 4th – Silverton, Colorado Adventure & Celebration

Please see pages 14 & 15 for a member recap & photos of this exciting excursion. (Photo: enroute on July 3rd)





Event Planner



See page 15 for a list of revised NMCA events!

- July 16** **NMCA General Meeting**
CASA Chevrolet, 7 pm
- July 17** **NMCA Bowling Party**
Meet at Santa Ana Star Casino, upstairs at the Starlight Bowling lanes at 5:30. Once we have an accurate headcount, we'll submit our request for the lanes needed (last time we had 7 bowlers per lane). Cost is \$22/hour/lane, plus shoe rental if needed. Food & beverage service available. Plan for 2 hours of fun and excitement.
- July 18** **NMCA Caravan**
Canceled – long story short, the Council's attention was diverted in May and June dealing with more pressing issues. As a result, the details for this event never were addressed. The Council elected to scrub this date and put more focus on some new dates and events.
- Aug 8** **Second Annual NMCA Mystery Ride Caravan**
Where are we going? Find out with the rest of the club! Meet at Lowe's, Paseo & I-25 at 11:00 for an 11:30 departure. Anticipate a trip 84.5 miles long. Expect to go 25 mph at points, and 75 mph at others. Expect to travel on at least one road that you probably never even knew existed. Plan to see a few things you haven't seen before. Plan to eat lunch at our destination. Lunch paid for by NMCA! Will there be navigator questions and prizes – of course. Will you get lost? No way. Will you have fun? Guaranteed! But you need to show up to experience the full effect! Hint: our destination has water flowing, cool shade & great vistas, plus indoor restrooms.
- Aug 22** **NMCA Club Photo Shoot**
NMCA official photo shoot to happen at the Rio Rancho SportsPlex off High Resort. Arrive between 9:30 & 10. Cars to be put into position starting about 10:15. Complete process needs to be complete by noon. Come to the July 16th meeting with ideas on layout. Those with multiple entries: let's find a way to get as many of your Vette's involved as possible. Please block this date and have fun making a lasting photo. Lunch at Dion's pizza immediately afterwards. Directions & map will be on web, at August meeting and in August Tach Times.
- Sept 24** **35th Annual NMCA Southwest Invitational**
Registration forms are now available at www.nmcorvette.org. Select "club information", then select "applications". \$50 for a full weekend & 7 events – event shirts just \$12!

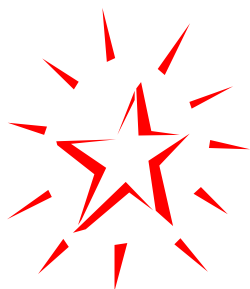


The above is a list of NMCA and related events scheduled. Be sure to check the calendar at www.nmcorvette.org for an expanded list of activities involving other car clubs within the area. Contact information for each is supplied with the event description, if known. As with any event, prior to attending you should take steps to verify the event details, times & locations are still accurate.

Flyers and reservation forms for NMCA events can be viewed and printed from the "downloads" section of www.nmcorvette.org. Applicable forms will be available at NMCA general meetings as well.



Member News



New Additions To The Family

Fred & Mariann Haack

2004 Gray Metallic Coupe



DR Haack is the Director of Surgery at Lovelace/Sandia Healthcare. He and his wife Mariann have already signed up as NCCC members, and will qualify for national points at this September's Southwest Invitational event. Welcome to NMCA!

James Himel

2004 Red Coupe



James recently purchased a shiny new 2004 Red Corvette Coupe from our sponsor, CASA Chevrolet. James was intrigued by the NMCA showroom display case, and immediately contacted NMCA to learn how he could get his membership activated. James has since submitted his application and is looking forward to participating in many of the scheduled events.

HELP!

Who has a line on quality, affordable helmets? These need to be DOT Snell 2000 rated. Several members are looking, so if you are aware of a good source, please be vocal at the July 16th meeting, or send the supplier contact information to: info@nmcorvette.org.

Thank you.



Happy Birthday

July

Karen Gorelick – 10th
Steve Hernandez – 11th
Douglas Dildy – 16th
Ken Daby – 24th

August

Larry Hayward – 7th
Shane LeMon – 11th
Betty Newland – 17th
Barbara Morrison – 17th
Jan Bond – 23rd
Dan Bond – 25th
Judy Vinyard – 26th
Jackie VonLoh – 28th
Brenda Logsdon – 30th



Happy Anniversary

July

Phil & Betty Newland – 7/6/91
Ron & Becky Scott – 7/17/71

August

Michael & Catherine Ragsdale 8/13/77

May you enjoy many more happy years!





Web Wisdom



New Mexico Corvette Association - Mozilla

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Back Forward Reload Stop http://www.nmcorvette.org/modules.php?name=Your_Account Search

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Corvette Excitement Since 1962

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New Mexico Corvette Assn.

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Phil Ellison, Welcome to New Mexico Corvette Association!

This is your personal page

Your Info Your Home Logout/Exit

My Email: corvette01@nmca.org
Actual User Status: **Online**
You're not subscribed to our Newsletter

Last 10 News Submissions sent by Phil Ellison:

"Your Info" is an important page for each member. After logging in, select "Your Account" within the upper left index box. The above page will be displayed as a result. Clicking "Your Info" will take you to an administrative page that is designed to be maintained by the account holder. Probably the most important area on this admin page is the area where you maintain your "real" e-mail account. This is important in the event that you forget your password. The system can communicate with you, but only through the address listed in your "real e-mail" box. The second most important area on this admin page is at the very bottom where you can change your password. See the June 2004 Tach Times for more details about this procedure. Keeping a fake e-mail in the fake e-mail slot will prevent other computers from harvesting your e-mail account and spamming you. Notice in the above example how the e-mail displayed is not accurate. Members who need to reach other members via e-mail should go to the membership list located on the web site and grab the address via that method.

The other interesting icon on the page displayed above is the "Your Home" icon. Selecting this will allow you to slightly customize your own home page. The "Logout/Exit" icon is used if you wish to log out as a registered member. Let's say you are at a friend's home, you log in to show off the cool web site.....at the end of this session you should select "Your Account", then "Log Off/Exit" before leaving, otherwise you will remain logged on at that computer, and that person will in effect become you and will have complete access. If they make entries, it will show up as you making the entries. You are responsible for web access and keeping your account in check.

Celebration In Silverton

Saturday July 3rd a group of 9 Corvettes (including Fred and Cheryl from El Paso, TX;) met at Lowe's on Paseo & I-25 for an 8:30 departure to Durango & Silverton, CO. We headed north stopping in Farmington, NM for a quick lunch, arriving in Durango without incident around 2. The women shopped while the men 'hung out' in front of the local mercantile establishments. The weather in Durango was hot and muggy with lots of folks in town for the 4th. Around 4 pm, the Vettes headed for Cascade Village located 20 miles south of Silverton for check in. Cascade boasts a country store, restaurant, game room, an indoor heated pool, as well as beautiful vistas. Mary & Mike Robb, Lori Jordan and Suzanne & Hugh Monroy spent some time in the indoor spa before dinner. Several of the group gathered for supper with Ron & Becky Scott and David & Helga Judd; the rest of us joined them after supper for some chit chat.

Sunday morning found us heading to Silverton at 9 am for participation in their 4th of July parade. What a sight! The townfolk had everything from a stage coach, to kids leading dogs, to a wagon load of people dressed in 1776 garb, fireman, you name. Just as the Vettes lined up to get into the parade, Al and Ella Colman's Vette wouldn't start. So Al ended up taking lots of pictures of the entire parade from the sidelines. During the parade the Mayor of Silverton had requested that a couple of Air Force F-16's do a fly over. Two flew over twice, followed by 4 in formation. What a rush...it was so cool! We also got a great snapshot of the Mayor with our group. The sun stayed out just long enough for the parade to finish and then clouded up, threatening rain.

After the parade we found a neat old hotel for lunch from which Al called Scotty for technical assistance. After lunch the group wandered around town heading back to Cascade Village around 3. Some of the group returned to Silverton for the fireworks that evening. Monday morning we headed back caravan style to have a late brunch in Aztec, NM. Some of us were already planning to return to Silverton next year. Another wonderful NMCA trip with beautiful weather.

Submitted by Suzanne Monroy



The NMCA "gang" with Jim Huffman, Silverton, Colorado town Mayor.
NMCA behaved well enough to be invited back next year!

Snapshots from Silverton



As you can see, the group had a very good time and were well received by the locals.
Thanks guys for making us all proud. Next year . . . everybody goes!



If I Were King . . .

A few observations by NMCA President Phil Ellison: I can hold my head high looking back over the past 3 years knowing that 90% of the goals set forth for NMCA were addressed and met. Often times exceeded.

Despite my efforts and the efforts of all Officers, there are a couple of goals that have yet to be realized, and probably won't be under my remaining time in office. So, please allow this to be a seed for the next club members and Officers who lead the charge.

First: I think everyone would agree that event participation has greatly improved over 3 years ago when I (and Shane) first got involved. Perhaps it was simply a cycle that the club was going through, and it wouldn't have mattered who was in charge at the time. Regardless, members started showing up in bigger numbers, and that's a good thing. Membership tripled. One downfall with NMCA is that despite repeated requests, it seems that 95% of the work, planning, organizing, etc is done by 5% of the membership.

What I believe should happen is to form a few, and just a few, sub-committees. For example, find two members who simply live for caravans. Make them the caravan leaders. They should have input on the event, be responsible for NCCC forms, driver's meeting, and all elements of each caravan, soup-to-nuts.

Do the same for racing/autocross action. And one other team for social events. If these three special teams were in place, life for all Officers would improve, and the workload that falls on the same shoulders event after event would be delegated to some degree.

Second: I would have greatly enjoyed more input toward the monthly newsletter. If the same person does the entire newsletter month after month for 3+ years . . . the newsletter begins to look like the same old thing month in and month out. Fresh ideas and creative input are the elements that make a newsletter newsworthy. I am certain that of the nearly 100 members we have, more than 4 of you have actually done something involving a Corvette that resulted in an experience worthy of sharing with the members. In the past 3 years I have received about 6 such stories. Not a very good record. We're all busy, but a quick 150-250 word recap of what your cool Vette experience involved really would be of interest to other members, plus you may open eyes and create more participation for the following year at the same event. How many times have you heard about an event after the fact and wished you'd known more ahead of time?

Third: The NMCA By-Laws and Standing rules need a face lift. If I were king, I'd put more detail into the position descriptions, so that members really knew what was expected from that position. Not so much detail so as to choke the system, but more than what is currently written.

Next, the club jackets. A little history to start. When NMCA moved to CASA Chevrolet we were faced with the need for new jackets. This wasn't really an option, so the task had to be addressed. Shane and I spent a considerable amount of time and energy to locate options for the club. Shane had connections who would be able to save the club expense in the long run. Many things happened during the jacket replacement period. Time was against us, and we needed to get this issue resolved so that CASA could foot the expense. After 4 months of work, the membership decided upon a jacket, logo and how the whole thing would look. As soon as the order went in, we discovered that the jackets desired had been discontinued. The checkered strip on the sleeve was no longer available. Instead of going back through the search process, we opted to purchase the jackets without the stripe, and have the stripe sewn on after the fact. Locating the stripe material was another hassle, and a suitable stripe never was found, so we settled for what we could find.

After the initial surge of orders to get each member a jacket, the demand fell off substantially, as expected. Two things then happened. First, we all but exhausted our inventory of available jackets. And secondly, our human connection to the actual product and stitching left town. At the moment we have no available option other than to order 1, 2 or 3 jackets at a time, and pay an absolute premium price, then spend additional time and effort afterwards to get the stripe put on and the sewing of logos done. What should be a simple task is now a very painful, time consuming ordeal.

If I Were King . . . (continued)



There is a solution, and someone truly needs to take this idea and carry forward with it. Locate a store in town that can embroider, plus has a good, steady supply of a variety of items. Zia graphics is such a shop for example. If NMCA went to Zia graphics and had them build the logo into their system, and arranged for a discount to NMCA members on items purchased, we could eliminate the middleman and allow each member, at will, to go forth and purchase club items. This keeps NMCA from being a warehouse, and having club funds tied up in merchandise ordered because 4 members wanted something, but we had to order a minimum of 12 to make the order happen at all.

Now, getting back to the club jackets. Make certain that Zia graphics has a steady supplier of a particular jacket style. Amending the Standing Rules is a pain, but luckily we had the foresight last time around to provide a loophole, where “approved” jackets could be substituted for official jackets. This allows for another jacket (Zia graphics) to be “approved” by NMCA. No additional Standing Rule changes need to be made, and each member can order at will, one at a time, from the distributor. Zia graphics will have standing orders as to logo placement, size, etc, so that each jacket is uniform, which is the desired outcome. One style, one color, one way for logo placement. But, the payoff is that the club is no longer in the clothing business, and multiple options become available. Polo shirts, silk screening, etc....all now available to members on an individual basis. While there will still be ONE approved jacket, the options are unlimited for other apparel.

Fourth: Our membership has been wide open. We sign up members who we never again see. This is just wasted effort on our part. I suggest returning to a policy of new members being accepted into the club following a short process. Could be a number of meetings and/or events attended prior to being accepted into the club. Main goal is to obtain members who are interested in the club, activities, participation, etc....folks who will be solid contributors and energized, and not just a name on a mailing list who we never actually see. As of July 2004, we have 30+ such members, all local residents.

Fifth: One goal that I assumed could be easily accomplished has become one of the most difficult. In my opinion, an opinion which I believe is shared by many, NMCA should be actively involved with a charity. We have much to offer. Cash, Corvette shows to draw attention, provide rides for donations, etc. I still firmly believe that NMCA could make a true difference for one or more local charities. For 3 years the stumbling point has been which charity(s) to support. Some members want to contribute to a national group. While that is fine and dandy, we really see zero in return for our efforts, plus our cash contribution isn't huge. A local charity could actually do something with absolute results realized from our involvement. A new coat of paint, new appliances, a family truly helped, an eyesore made to look presentable, etc. Options galore. Of the relatively short list of goals that didn't get accomplished under my watch, I think this one is the one that bothers me the most. Buy-in by the membership is vital to the success of this program. If the vast majority of members can have fun and feel good about making a difference for the better, then everyone wins.

Finally: I would assign permanent numbers to each member's car. This would make life easier for autocrosses and Southwest Invitational.

Ah, if I were king. Perhaps those who follow in 2005 can complete this unfinished business and put some of these ideas into action.



Other Vette Opportunities

Vettes On The Rockies 2004 Summit County, CO



From our club to yours. Looking Glass Corvette Association of Lakewood, Colorado will host the 31st. Vettes On The Rockies in Summit County Colorado (Breckenridge, Frisco, Dillion, Copper Mtn, etc.). As in the past there will be an Autocross, Funkana, Dinner/Dance, and a Show and Shine. Dates 7/29/2004 through 8/1/2004. Details are located at our website <http://www.lgcacorvette.org> . Or contact us by phone - Teri Luggen at 303-680-4025 or Tom Robben at 303-232-1886.

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"RED VETTE GATHERING" & POKER RUN-2004

RENO, NEVADA

NO CAR SHOW-NO JUDGING-NO STRESS

A RELAXING "JUST FOR FUN" GET TOGETHER FOR

RED VETTE OWNERS & THEIR "BEAUTIES"

REQUIREMENTS: ONE RED VETTE, A DESIRE TO CRUISE

WITH OTHER RED VETTES & JUST HAVE A RELAXING, FUN WEEKEND

WHERE: RENO-HILTON HOTEL/CASINO

WHEN: OCTOBER 1 & 2, 2004

IF YOU HAVE A: Magnetic Red, Torch Red, Roman Red, Burgundy Red, Traffic Light Red, Blood Red, Blood Clot Red, Carmine Red, Lite Red, Dark Red, Cherry Red, Candy Apple Red or any other "RED", it will qualify.... But it must be a RED..not Orange or Pink. If it's MOSTLY RED but maybe has a white stripe down the center, colored flames, etc...That Is Okay.....It just has be mostly RED to be fair to all the others attending. If you'd like to attend the "RED VETTE GATHERING & CHARITY POKER RUN-2004" please e-mail: redvettegathering-reno@corvettecruzin.com and request a registration package which will be e-mailed to you or send a fax# and one will be fax'd to you. Since the hotel needs totals for the Sat. Night Dinner and our "special parking area" 10 days prior to the event, & the totals for the T-shirts & Dash Plaques are needed 3 weeks prior to the event... This has a "Must Pre-Register" event deadline of Sept 10. Any registrations received after that date, can't be guaranteed T-Shirts, Dash Plaques, or attending the Saturday Night Dinner/Poker Run Awards. If you don't pre-register by Sept 10..... you'll probably miss out on all the above.

*** REVISED *** 2004 NMCA Events Planner Listing

All times, destinations and final details subject to change. Consult the web site and the event line for the latest information, cancellations, revisions, etc. Many events are tentative with details to follow, however the date is blocked and we fully anticipate the event to occur roughly as planned. Additional events will be decided upon and added at the next Council meeting. A few events that are not yet on this list, but should be anticipated are:

Santa Ana Star Casino Corvette Show + Sandia Casino Corvette Show (CASA Appreciation Show)

- Jul 16 General meeting, 7 pm
- Jul 17 Bowling party at Santa Ana Star Casino, 5:30 arrival. \$22/hour/lane + shoes
- Jul 18 Caravan – **** Canceled ****
- Aug 8 *** new *** Mystery Ride Caravan – meet at Lowe's, Paseo & I-25 at 11:00 – details page 10
- Aug 10 Council meeting. 6:30
- Aug 15 RGCC Make-A-Wish (non-NMCA event)
- Aug 20 General meeting. 7 pm
- Aug 22 *** new *** NMCA official club photo shoot. Rio Rancho Sports Complex – details page 10
- Aug 29 *** new *** NMCA non-sanctioned autocross – Santa Ana Star – 9 am start
- Sep 7 Council meeting, 6:30
- Sep 11 **or** Sep 18 *** new *** Proposed date for second private drag strip day **PLUS** the Vette-Viper challenge
- Sep 24-26 Southwest Invitational – the biggest and best to date. Block these dates!
- Oct 1-3 NMCA caravan to Durango, Co. Fall colors and an absolutely “cool” ride!
- Oct 5 Council meeting, 6:30
- Oct 15 General meeting, 7 pm – voting for Governor, nominations for all other Officers
- Nov 9 Council meeting, 6:30
- Nov 19 General meeting, 7 pm – voting for 2005 Officers & Person Of The Year
- Nov 20 NMCA Progressive Dinner. 3 stops, tons of food, see ya there!
- Dec 7 Council meeting, 6:30
- Dec 11 NMCA Awards Banquet at the Milagro Brewery & Grill in Bernalillo, starting at 6 pm

An important note about events & changes to planned schedules:

343-0400 ext 4 is the NMCA Event Line to be kept handy for situations where you're in doubt. Thank you.



Non-NMCA Autocross Dates

- Aug 7 – Porsche Club @ Sandia MotorSports
- Aug 28 – Porsche Club @ Sandia MotorSports
- Sept 11 – SCCA @ Casino Hollywood
- Oct 1 – SCCA @ Sandia MotorSports
- Oct 9 & 10 – SWMS @ Sandia MotorSports
- Nov 6 – Porsche Club @ Sandia MotorSports

**Prices, times & details need to be located through the respective club hosting each event.
Some events listed may not allow outside (non-member) participants.**



**That's It For This Month
Save The Wave**

