



January 2010

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## From the Prez



Happy New Year to everyone! I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays, particularly in light of the crazy weather we had during that period. Unfortunately, Spring is still a ways off and many of us see little use out of our Corvettes during this time of the year. I'm sure that will all change, however, with the improving weather (at least temporarily) and the upcoming activities meeting.

It appears that the Corvette plant and GM overall are still struggling with the economy. There have been recent indefinite layoffs at Bowling Green, and a drop in production rate from 11 cars per hour to 8. Further compounding their problems is the huge recall on C6 coupes, which I'm sure will affect many of us. In case anyone hasn't heard, it has been determined the problem with the roof skins coming off has not been fully corrected, and most 2005-2007 coupes are affected. I for one have had mine up to 130 mph (legally) and had no problem, but I have heard of a few others that

have seen the problem occur. Let's all hope that GM and Corvette can weather this storm and get back on track building the best sports car in existence.

Speaking of the future, there is a lot of buzz regarding the C7 Corvette, supposedly to be released in April of 2012 as a 2013 model. As usual, Corvette is keeping any info top secret and there is only speculation on what the new model will have. Much of it leans toward a small base engine, but not necessarily lower horsepower. Lighter weight is another expected feature, all of which contributes to meeting the newer government mileage requirements. I think most of us are confident that the C7 will be advanced in many ways, and will remain at the top of the list of most desirable sports cars.

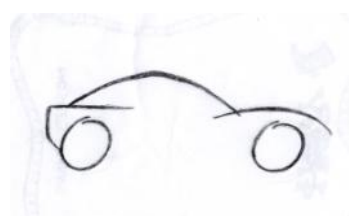
Thanks to all members for making 2009 a great year for the club! Save the wave!

Dennis Kohl  
President

## Calendar

**Jan 16**      **Activities Meeting — 9 am at Golden Corral with possible cruise to follow depending on the weather**

**Feb 5**        **Monthly meeting at James Wood — 7:30 pm**



## Activities Director



We only had a couple of events in the month of December, but they were a couple of good

ones.

On December 12<sup>th</sup> we went to the Christ Haven Children's Home in Keller. We had several cars go on this excursion. We had lots of toys and gifts for the children and Santa even came in a corvette. See the pictures on our web site.

On December 19<sup>th</sup> we had our annual Christmas party. This is always a lot of fun. Everyone gets to let their hair down and have a great time. If you weren't there to see the six beautiful ladies in black, showing off on the dance floor, you missed a lot of fun. The band members had several comments as to the great show these ladies could

put on. It is a good thing they did not rehearse.

Ok. Now is the time to put on your thinking caps. We need everyone to come to the activities meeting on Saturday, January the 16<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the Golden Corral on loop 288 at 9:00 am for breakfast. We have a room in the back so there will be room for all. Please think of what we would like to do for the NTCC's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This is in March. Also think of where and when we need to plan some cruises. Also any functions we may want to attend. Let's get the 2010 calendar rollin'. There may be a cruise after this meeting, depending on the weather.

Thanks to all, and please drive safely.

Paul Loser



*In less enlightened times, the best way to impress women was to own a hot car. But women wised up and realized it was better to buy their own hot cars so they wouldn't have to ride around with jerks. ~ Scott Adams.*

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Bowling Green Assembly Plant



## Ambassador's Corner

### Corvette: The 2009 Year in Review

As always, news and events surrounding the Chevrolet Corvette moved at near supersonic speeds. This year brought us two new special editions for 2009, a Corvette Grand Sport for 2010 and launch control. We also had to deal with 26 weeks of Corvette plant closings and the bankruptcy of General Motors. Corvette Racing successfully ended its GT1 program with a class win at Le Mans and the GT2 Corvette made it to the top of the podium at Mosport. Check out the complete yearly review after the jump.

#### January

Top Gear's Jeremy Clarkson selects the Corvette ZR1 as his Car of the Year. A year after making its debut with dancers and Kid Rock, the Corvette ZR1 returned to a much more low-key Detroit Auto Show. At the Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction, GM sold off several Corvettes from its Heritage Collection. GM Announces the Limited Edition 2009 Competition Sport Corvette. Grand Sport #002 reached a high bid of \$4.9 million but failed to sell at an RM Auction in Arizona. Rumors begin circulating about a Grand Sport model for 2010. The Gulf One 1963 Corvette Z06 sells for \$1.05 Million at Mecum's auction in Kissimmee, Florida. Details emerge about a GT1 Championship Edition for 2009.

#### February

The Transformer's Corvette Stingray Concept was revealed in public for the first time at the Chicago Auto Show. Renovations at the National Corvette Museum show off new Corvette Cafe, Library and gift shop. GM prices the Corvette ZR1's LS9 crate engine at \$21,000. GM officially releases information on the 2009 Corvette GT1 Championship Edition.

#### March

Spy Pictures show the 2009 Corvette GT1 Edition at the decal shop. Corvette Racing shows off its new livery that matches the exterior of the 2009 GT1 Championship Edition Corvettes. The 2009 Corvette GT1 Championship Edition makes its public debuts at the 12 Hours of Sebring. Corvette Racing announced that the Corvette ZR1 would be basis for the ALMS GT2 C6.R that would make its debut later in 2009.

#### April

A few more of GM's Heritage Collection Corvettes were sold at the Barrett-Jackson auction in Palm Beach. Spy pics show Corvette Racing's flat black Corvette ZR1-based GT2 C6.R race

car getting some practice at Road Atlanta. Stile Bertone announce their Project M car is based on the Corvette ZR1. Corvette Racing's last American race for the GT1 Corvettes was on the temporary race course at Long Beach. The new 2010 Corvette Grand Sport is unveiled to enthusiasts at the National Corvette Museum. In addition, we hear about all the new features including on Launch Control.

#### May

We learned about the 1 of 1 Hero Edition Corvette ZR1 that will be raffled for the Kids Wish Network. The Black ZR1 features Red badges and embroidery. Geiger's 890hp Bi-TURBO Corvette Z06 shows its stuff. Prince Albert von Thurn und Taxis of Germany takes delivery of a 2009 Corvette ZR1. GM releases pricing for the 2010 Grand Sport. Chevrolet celebrates production of the 1,500,000th Corvette on May 28th.

#### June

GM Enters in Bankruptcy - Corvette appears to be safe. GM announces pricing for 2010 Corvette Coupe, Convertible, Z06 and ZR1. Corvette Racing scores its sixth GT1 Class win at Le Mans. Bloomington Gold hosts Mecum collector car auction. Only 108 of the 286 Corvettes offered were sold.

#### July

The Corvette Coupe tops Strategic Vision's 2009 quality list. Hertz begins selling off portions of their Corvette ZHZ fleet. A 1962 Custom Corvette is named Good Guys Street Machine of the Year. Oliver Gavin Joins SRT for Spa 24. The National Corvette Homecoming held its annual get together. We got our first look at the Corvette-Based SV 9 Competizione. Full pricing is now available for all 2010 Corvettes and options. Final production stats for the 2009 model year were released; just 16,956 Corvettes built.

#### August

Corvette Racing officially introduces the new ZR1-based GT2 Corvette C6.R. In its first race at Mid-Ohio, O'Connell and Magnussen finish second. GM's 2-year product plans calls for a C7 Corvette to begin production in 2012 as a 2013 model. As Cash for Clunkers sweeps across the US, we watched a video of a C4 Corvette having its engine killed. Corvette Racing takes third place at Road America. A 1964 Corvette was stolen during the Woodward Dream Cruise. Paul Graham is replaced by Bob Parcell to lead the Corvette Assembly Plant. Corvette Racing scores its first GT2 victory at Mosport. Rain comes down hard at Carlisle but it does little to dampen spirits.

#### September

Corvette caravans from around the USA converge on Bowling Green for the 15th Anniversary Celebration at the National Corvette Museum. GM shows off the dry-sump oil package for the new Grand Sport LS3. Also announced is that the Dry-sump equipped LS3s are being built at the Performance Build Center in Wixom. Porsche and Ferrari complain to the ACO about Corvette Racing's direct injection system. NCRS announces its award confirmation service. GM's VP of Global Design Ed Welburn told Inside Line that the new C7 Corvette will go retro and will feature a split rear window. Corvette Racing dominated the first several hours of Petit Le Mans, but rains forced an early end and Corvettes finished 4th and 7th in GT2.

#### October

Magnussen wins first Pole for Corvette Racing in GT2 at Monterey. Bruce Willis sold his 1967 Corvette Convertible for \$150,000 at Barrett-Jackson's Las Vegas auction. The final ALMS race of the year is a wild one with Corvette Racing's Magnussen and Porsche's Bergmeister going at it until Magnussen crashes on the final straight. Both racers are slapped with a 2-race probation for 2010. Corvette Racing's Program Manager Doug Fehan wins his second "From the Fans" awards. A bone stock Corvette ZR1 runs a 10.851 @ 129.89 MPH. GM renames the Transformer's Centennial Concept the 50th Anniversary Corvette Stingray Concept.

#### November

Corvettes are out in full force at SEMA. GM sends a highly accessorized 2010 Corvette Grand Sport Convertible to SEMA to help show off its Genuine Corvette Accessories. Superformance announces its building continuation rollers of the iconic 1963 Corvette Grand Sports.

#### December

Vette Garage: The Series kicks off with a three episode run with Pfadt Race Engineering. Loma Performance unveils the Corvette C6.BlackforceOne. A 1965 Corvette was recovered after being stolen 39 years ago. Corvette shines in Consumer Reports Owner Satisfaction Survey. Corvette Grand Sport #002 finds a home at the Simeone Foundation Museum in Philly. The National Corvette Museum names Grady Davis, Fred Gallasch and James Ingle as 2010's HOF inductees. A Lingenfelter Corvette ZR1 runs 9.81 @ 145.74 mph. GM lays off an additional 75 workers from the Bowling Green assembly plant. It was a tough year for workers at Bowling Green as the plant was shut down for a total of 26 weeks this year.

Marc Hughes

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

Cynthia Watley  
January 8

Mary Cole  
January 16

Johnny Bittick  
January 17

Sandra Garonzik  
January 17

Mary Picciuti  
January 18

Paula Paschal  
January 19

Danny Frazier  
January 22

Ray Guidry  
January 23

Charlie Davis  
February 6

Lynne Von Villas  
February 12

Clay Clarkson  
February 15

Kaye Sipolt  
February 15

### Anniversaries

Randy & Debra Testerman  
January 8

Clay & Bev Clarkson  
January 20

Mark & Cynthia Watley  
February 14

Dennis & Kaye Sipolt  
February 15

## From the VP

**"You should always go to other people's funerals; otherwise, they won't come to yours." ...Yogi Berra.**

What a week Diana and I have had...two funerals in just two days. I guess Betty Davis was correct when she said, "Old age ain't no place for sissies."

Reflecting on all of this, we finally decided two things seem to play a large role in times such as these. The first is our faith. In the politically correct world of today, I will not delve into that topic. Too much of that and Diana and I will never get invited to any more parties.

The second resource is friends, having one as well as being one. One funeral was for a friend of the family. We all moved into the North Dallas/Plano area at about the same time. Our kids grew up together. We lost jobs together. We felt joy and pain together. There was soccer, softball, swimming and eating. We played on cold days and hot days and everything in between. We would see each other fre-

quently and then not so much for a while. We even followed the birth of grandchildren on Facebook. On a cold day last Friday we, along with many more of their friends, came together to comfort and be comforted. We got through it and even managed to laugh a little amid the tears.

The funeral on Saturday was for a member of the Run for the Wall group. In case you have forgotten, that is the group that rides from California to Washington, D.C. each May. One of the road guards died recently. He was one of those bigger-than-life types. When you first saw him, it could absolutely scare you half to death. He had the biggest hands I've ever seen. He spent a large portion of his life as a long-haul truck driver. Every May he came with us to D.C. His job was to help guide across the country safely. He did just that. As a matter of fact, he did it well. Between family, local friends, and the Run for the Wall bunch, I would say we had 250 to 300 people there. The service had music, mostly

C&W, Harley Riders, Honda Riders, and his motorcycle parked prominently up front. The thing lasted for two hours. Then we walked across the creek to a local place and had beer and pizza, not to mention a little Jack Daniels. There were friends, friends and more friends. We told stories and caught up on current goings-on. Mostly though, we did supporting and healing.

Again, as in newsletters past, I need to explain all of my ramblings, if that is possible. We find friends in all sorts of places. They are next door, at church, at work, in the Starbucks in the morning and in the North Texas Corvette Club. We get to meet and know them better by participating in life's "activities". My point is this. Be involved with this club. There are some great people here. Make a friend.

Carl



## January Meeting Notes

President Dennis Kohl called the meeting to order at 7:30. All officers were present.

Dennis welcomed everyone back on a freezing night and hoped everyone had a great holiday.

There were no visitors or new members. But it was mentioned 2010 dues are now due - \$25/person or \$50/couple.

Minutes from the December 4, 2009, meeting were read by Lynn Von Villas. There were no additions or corrections.

Treasurer Lisa Davis reported the club balance at \$2,437.43, the 50/50 fund was at \$0 due

to using this fund for the Holiday Party.

Dennis Sipolt reported the membership number was still holding at 130 members.

Activities Director Paul Loser reported on the 2 events in December and asked that everyone attend the planning meeting on Saturday, January 20, at Golden Corral, in Denton at 9:00 am. At this point there is nothing on the calendar.

National Corvette Ambassador Mark Hughes discussed putting an "ad" in the monthly magazine from our club two times year. A motion was made and

seconded – passed.

Sue Loser talked about an additional fundraiser by running a "Classified" section in our newsletter. Items would be for our club members only and be Corvette related. A motion was made and seconded – passed.

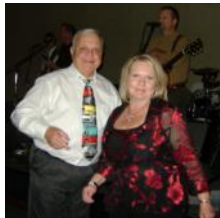
Ray announced that Kermit Dye is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

The 50/50 was won by Sandra Garonzik with \$75.00 in the pot!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 with dinner immediately following at Miguelitos.

## Corvette Christmas 2009

'Twas about a week before Christmas, and about 50 of the usual suspects gathered once again at the Marriott by TMS. Noticeably absent in the parking lot was the normal plethora of Corvettes. My guess is that the 'Vette isn't the best choice of vehicle to load up with golf clubs and luggage for an overnight stay. Not to mention that getting in or out, while wearing something other than jeans and a T-shirt, ain't such an easy task for most of us north of 60. That said, I would at least expect Marc to drive one of his dozen or so Corvettes to the event. Instead, they take Sarah's little plastic Tonka Toy, remarking that, "We filled it up last August, and we're still good to go." Wayne and Mary, and Joel and Susan made the two day trip from their home to join the fun.



Some wine and cheese in the reception area, David showing off his knowledge of all things Corvette, Margie escaping to talk to the girls, an opportunity to compare the eight guys who wore some sort of Corvette neck tie, and admire all the pretty ladies' dresses, and, of course, have a drink or twelve.



I think I counted about six or seven of the women who weren't wearing all black dresses. Myrna looked stunning, and Ray showed up in a Tuxedo and made some remark like, "If I'm gonna be impotent, I'm gonna look impotent." Jim and Sam could have been confused as the Mafia bosses with their all black outfits. Of course, I tried to sneak into some trousers that fit me about 30 pounds ago. And we barely recognized Marc in something other than a T-shirt and a worn out ball cap, but everybody recognized Sarah. Dennis and his lovely wife were dressed in tune with the Holiday Spirit, and



Joel and Susan looked great.

We picked up our little nametag stocking (the color defining our choice of entrée), and selected our seats in the dining area. Dianne was her usual all smiles, and Carl, as usual, embarrassed himself getting on stage and speaking. Seems Dennis was at home folding his underwear, and Carl seized the opportunity to welcome everyone and give the invocation.

The food and the service were great, but we did, however, have to display a letter from Congress to get a refill on the wine. They obviously wanted to encourage use of their cash bar. I was able to get Sandra to stop drinking somewhere after the, "Stand up and whistle" phase, but before the, "Break things and get up on stage with the band" phase." As usual, I took no prisoners on the dessert table, popped a button, broke a window and was billed for the damages.

Speaking of the band—I think they are called Dylan Revisited, or Almost in Tune, or Time Warp, or something similar. In any event, they returned for the third time to entertain us, and everybody loved them. They played music from the '50's and '60's. I'm not sure if it was Chuck, or Clay, but one of these guys remarked, "I love this modern music." Of course, they were both born when Roosevelt was president, and I don't mean Franklin. Lurlene made Gig behave, and Carol absolutely refused to let Mike where his Tooth Fairy wings.

Paula provided the additional entertainment. She didn't miss a dance, and even Sam woke up a time or two to get out on the dance floor with her. Shirley made Kermit look competent on the dance floor.



Sherry and Jim appeared light on their feet and reminded some of us of our youth as did Joanne and Bill, and the rest of the party animals. The "Girls in Black" did a circle dance, and Lisa and Sue, using their fake ID's to get in, joined the fray. Paul along with Richard and Marilyn, kept us informed of the Cowboy's score down in the Ninth Ward, while at the other end of the room Ray was starting to come out of his Tux. And Charles and Lynn showed off their ability to do the two step.



Sue felt right at home on stage and proceeded with her instructions to her class: "OK, class, listen up. I am going to read a Christmas Tale, and when your secret word is read, you are to stand and repeat three times---Girl of the Night, Girl of the Night, Girl of the Night, then go to the Christmas Tree and select your gift from all those pretty wrapped packages. You may pick some really neat Corvette stuff, or some POS that is obviously re-gifted. Anybody not happy with your choice of gift must wait until next year, rewrap the gift and put it under the 2010 tree!"



The geezers began to nod off, the band handed the sound mixer guy a guitar, and the thinning crowd, became as obvious as our thinning hair. Great party. Thanks to all who put the thing together.

Allan Garonzik



## Corvette Stuff for Sale

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thing seems  
under  
control,  
you're just  
not going  
fast  
enough. ~  
Mario  
Andretti.*

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## NEW ADDITION TO THE WAVE

It's time to clean out that garage or closet. Post an ad for anything Corvette-related for a mere \$5. All proceeds will go to the Christmas Party. You can email me ([a.sue.loser@gmail.com](mailto:a.sue.loser@gmail.com)) with the info and pictures and I will post it for one month.