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Editor

THE CONNECTION

The Newsletter of the Capital City Corvette Club

VOLUME XXXVIII-NUMBER 2-FEBRUARY 2008

~Quick Hits from The Editor ~

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

February 6, 2008

7:00 pm

Deli Café-Holt

BOARD MEETING

February 20, 2008

7:00 pm

Delhi Café-Holt

Please send any articles you would like to have published to: editor @ cccorvette.org

From our President

“For what it’s worth...”

One of my many concerns over becoming president of this club was the responsibility to write this column each month. Especially, this month before the season really gets going. As some of you may know, I’m a man of few words who lets his actions speak for him. No wait, that’s not me at all, I talk all the time, never mind.

I want to thank Kathy Wyma and her committee of Gary, Sandy and Carol for putting together a great WinterFest party for all of us. Thanks too to the board members and others including Craig Iansiti and Dick Iding for all the great door prizes.

February is going to be a busy month but, mostly from a planning and preparation stand point. Your board will be finalizing our major event schedule and making the chairperson assignments. Obviously, if you are interested in chairing an event you should contact Kathy Wyma or any of the board members to let us know of your interest. If you are interested in or just curious about chairing an event, drive n’ dine or whatever, let one of the board members know and we will work with you to provide any tips, suggestions, directions or just hand holding that you need. The board is also going to be brainstorming several of the details of our events to try to find ways to simplify or streamline things. If you have any suggestions please share them with us so we can make our events more enjoyable for everyone.

Sandy has suggested that February is the romance month; I think it has something to do with Valentine’s Day. I, like most guys don’t really buy into that idea, but it occurred to me that there may be something in it for us. Guys, if we pay attention and act nice during February then maybe we can get points toward what we want to do this summer. There’s got to be a reason why February only has 28 (29) days and July has 31. Besides, we can’t play with our cars in the cold anyway so let’s pay attention to our better halves and make life better for both of us. Sandy and I are going to Hawaii for two weeks, the rest of you guys are on your own.

I trust that everyone realizes that I wrote that last paragraph with my tongue firmly planted in my cheek and mean no disrespect to the wonderful ladies of this club. In fact in as much as we will not be at the February general membership meeting I would like to wish all the ladies a very Happy Valentine’s Day. I would also ask that you treat Rich Bratschi as he runs the February meeting as nicely as you all treated me in January.

Thanks JB.

P.S.

I just got back from the National Corvette Museum preview of the 2009 ZR1 at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. One hundred and ninety nine of my closest friends and I went into Detroit at 0: dark thirty on Saturday morning and listened to Tom Wallace and several other Corvette dignitaries and engineers extol the virtues of this great car. With details like 15” and 15.5” brake rotors, brake pads that looked to be three times the size of the ones on my C5, a dual disk clutch and 19x10 and 20x12 wheels; this thing is a beast. Aside from all the numbers the car is gorgeous and a totally worthy extension of the Corvette legacy. Joe Thomas and Jim Balla were also there and I’m sure they will give you more great details if you ask.

Capital City Corvette Club
Board of Directors Meeting, Delhi Cafe
Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Present: Craig Iansiti, VP/Comp.
Colleen Bratschi, Membership
Kathy Wyma, Social

Absent: Balance of 2007 Board

Guests: John Bechtel, President Elect
Sandy Bechtel, Secretary Elect
Rich Bratschi, Governor/VP Elect
Colleen Bratschi, Membership Elect
Kathy Wyma, Social Elect
Gary Wyma, Competition Elect
Carol Putmon, Treasurer Elect

Meeting called to order at 6:20 pm.

This is the final meeting for the 2007 Board of Directors.

Minutes of November Board Meeting: Approved

Competition Report: No new items. Discussed Roster requirements from most catalog stores before they will contribute to our events. Other general discussion. No Action.

Membership Report: Questions and clarification on a few items from last board meeting. General discussion. No Action.

Social Report: Disposition of two \$30 Meijer gift cards left from Bingo event. Since it was too late to get them to Toys for Tots or other recipients it was decided to hold on to them for charitable distribution in 2008. Other general discussion about the Winter Celebration and a few other items. No action.

No old or new business.

Meeting adjourned and remaining time given to 2008 President Elect to address his new directors.

by:
Craig V. Iansiti
VP/Competition

CCCC General Membership Meeting, January 2, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

President: Welcome. Thanks to the 2007 board for all of its hard work. The 2008 board plans to work on all events, and will be happy to help anyone who wishes to chair an event. To assist people, we hope to standardize tasks. All board members are available to listen to your ideas, opinions, and complaints. Please see the president if you have a serious concern. We wish to conduct all club business in a civil, courteous manner.

Secretary: No additions or corrections to the November general meeting minutes. Craig Iansiti made a motion to accept the minutes. Motion seconded and passed.

NCM Ambassador: Presentation on the 2009 caravan will take place in the next couple of months. Club members are encouraged to become museum members, and/or visit it and its website:
www.corvettemuseum.com .

Membership: New members – Frank & Judy Kessler. We have 94 regular, 1 honorary, and 72 F.C.O.A. members. The updated January membership list will be emailed to everyone. Some copies are available from Colleen.

Points: No 2008 points to report until after tonight's meeting. Points information will be available on our website and at general meetings throughout the year.

Editor: February newsletter deadline is January 23rd. Newsletters are now available on our website. A limited number of copies will also be available at future general membership meetings. John Bechtel noted we will work with anyone who needs assistance accessing the newsletter electronically.

Social: Kathy Wyma absent. Gary Wyma noted on her behalf that a sign-up sheet for the Winterfest is circulating. January birthday treats will be given out at the February general membership meeting.

Treasurer: 2008 proposed budget was presented. Dave Kuempel made a motion to accept it as written. Motion seconded and passed. Report given on our current finances. Milton Price moved to accept the report. Motion seconded and passed.

Competition: Gary will be attending a low-speed training meeting on January 24th. If you have suggestions, please let him know. Past competition director Craig Iansiti advised that all 2008 club sanction points have been applied to Spartan Speedway. He explained that because points affect racers, applying all of our points to our low-speed fundraiser helps us make more money.

Governor: NCCC membership pins will be give out at our meetings as soon as they are received. NCCC dues are increasing (probably \$5.00). The increase won't affect us until our next renewal.

Public Relations: Bob Maynard absent. No report.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Member Input: John Bechtel mentioned the recent LSJ article that included interviews with Gary Wyma and Joe Thomas. Randy Putmon displayed a poster of his Corvette and Dave Kuempel displayed a calendar of his Corvette. Ted Lasher made both. Dave Cripe has club-related items for sale. Carrie Hutton read a GM news article regarding pacecars. A copy will appear in an upcoming newsletter.

50/50 Drawing: None

Adjournment: Jeff McQuade moved to adjourn. Motion seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

CCCC Board Meeting January 16, 2008

Absent: Angela Hyde, Shalimar Maynard

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m., and opened with a prayer by Gary Wyma.

Topics Discussed:

Newsletters: Although it is available on the club's website, we discussed the possibility of distributing the newsletter via email. We will attempt to do this soon. The membership will be advised when this will happen. We will then work to solve any problems that occur.

Events Planning: Standardization of duties to simplify holding an event. Standing committees, registration, waivers, flyers (NCCC has a template), goodie bags, length of shows, etc., were discussed. Bob Maynard noted he has a check list for what to do for car shows.

Beginning list of 2008 Club Events:

- May 17, 2008 – Blessing of the Vets. Culvers Ice Cream, Okemos. John and Sandy Bechtel will chair.
- June 14, 2008 – All Corvette Show, Bud Kouts Chevrolet, Lansing. Bob Maynard will chair.
- July 19, 2008 – tentative date for 50th anniversary celebration. Celebration committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. on February 23rd at the Delhi Café to begin discussing possible activities.
- August 17, 2008 – Low Speed Event, Spartan Speedway, Mason. Gary Wyma, Rich and Colleen Bratschi will chair.
- September 14, 2008 – Horsepower at the Zoo, Potter Park, Lansing. Board will begin plans soon.

Social: Kathy will encourage people at the general meetings to sign up to chair a drive & dine or cruise in.

Sanction Points: Rich advised five sanction points will be assigned to our Spartan Speedway low-speed event. One point each will be assigned to two car shows. This distribution provides an opportunity for non-racers to accumulate points. It also eliminates the possibility of bad weather for one event affecting someone's ability to earn points.

Club Property: As soon as weather permits, shelving and other storage hardware will be installed in the club's new trailer. All club property will be collected, inventoried, and safely stored in the trailer. A new "Corvette" awning has been donated by John Bechtel.

Bylaws: The board will thoroughly review our 2008 bylaws and discuss any need to correct punctuation, typographical/spelling errors, etc. at the February board meeting.

Membership: Colleen has ordered 40 new T-shirts. She contacted Rally Sports and received name badges that we will complete. New-member packets include: by-laws, a copy of the most current newsletter, membership profile form, name tags, shirts, and club applications.

Treasurer: Bills paid as provided for under the 2008 approved budget.

Sandy Bechtel made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Rich Bratschi will preside over the February 6, 2008 general membership meeting. The next board meeting will be February 20, 2008.



Capital City Chatter

Please be sure to wish a **Happy Birthday** to the following CCCC Club Members!

Pam Thompson-February 2
Joy Hardman-February 4
Diana Parks-February 7
Arthur Ickes-February 9

Steve Sage-February 10
David Brown-February 11
Carol Armstrong & Jerry Kranz-February 22
Diana Brown-February 24

Winterfest 2007

Winterfest was again a big success, thanks to all the hard work of our Social Director Kathy Wyma and her faithful assistant Gary. A good time was had by all, and many thanks to our sponsors, board members, and club members who so generously donated all the wonderful door prizes.

Welcome!

Please extend a warm welcome to the newest members of Capital City Corvette Club, Frank & Judy Kessler from Bath who own an '08 Black Coupe, Cynthia Gregor from Charlotte who owns a 96 White Coupe, and Mike & Janet Sprague from Sunfield who own an '01 Torch Red Hardtop. Hopefully we will be seeing Member Profiles of all our new members in upcoming newsletters. Welcome to all!

Calendar

The calendar featured in this month's newsletter is a brief overview of some upcoming events. Please keep in mind that these events are subject to change at any time, please be sure to view the online calendar on our website for the most up to date information on our club events, and other events in the region.

Volunteer Opportunities

The club is always looking for volunteers to help out or organize events such as car shows, community events, and social events. Please be sure to contact any of your club officers if you are willing to volunteer your time, and have some fun in the process!

Newsletter Articles

The editor is always looking for interesting articles for the newsletter! Be sure to contact editor@ccc Corvette.org with your Membership Profile, or "Vette Vignette. Remember, you can earn participation points for submitting articles!



Capital City Corvette Club

PO Box 27295 ~ Lansing, MI 48909



Calendar As You Go

May 17-Blessing of the Vettes @ Culvers in Okemos

June 24-All Corvette Show/Fun Rallye @ Bud Kouts Chevy in Lansing

July 19-Capital City Corvette Club 50th. Anniversary Celebration and Car Show @ Bud Kouts in Lansing

August 17-Low Speed NCCC Sanction Event @ Spartan Speedway in Mason

September 14-Horse Power At the Zoo Charity Show @ Potter Park Zoo in Lansing

Please consult the website for the most up to date information

www.cccorvette.org



FOR RELEASE: 2007-12-27

CONTACTS

Chevrolet Unveils Two Unique '08 Corvette Indy 500 Pace Cars

Two-time Indy 500 Champion Emerson Fittipaldi to Drive Corvette Z06 E85 Concept Pace Car at 92nd Indianapolis 500

INDIANAPOLIS – Known for their charismatic designs and superior performance, the pack-leading pace cars share a special place in Indianapolis 500 lore. History will be made at the 2008 Indianapolis 500 when a pair of distinctive yet highly differentiated Corvette models will serve as the official pace cars – one highlighting Chevrolet's commitment to fuel solutions and the other marking 30 years of Corvette's pace car heritage.

Chevrolet and Indianapolis Motor Speedway officials gathered at the Indianapolis Auto Show to make the historic announcement.

One of the pace cars is a customized Corvette Z06 E85 concept that runs on E85 ethanol fuel, a domestically produced alternative fuel similar to the E100 fuel that powers all of the racecars in the IndyCar Series. It will be driven during the race's pace lap by two-time Indianapolis 500 champion Emerson Fittipaldi.

The other official pace car is a black-and-silver commemorative edition that marks the 30th anniversary of the celebrated 1978 pace car – the first Corvette to pace the field at the Indianapolis 500. Chevrolet will produce a total of 500 pace car replicas in both coupe and convertible form, each signed personally by Fittipaldi at the Corvette's Bowling Green, Ky., assembly plant.

"Although not a production FlexFuel vehicle, the Corvette Z06 E85 concept pace car is a high-performance example of Chevrolet's gas-friendly to gas-free initiative, demonstrating viable fuel solutions," said Ed Peper, Chevrolet general manager. "As an ethanol refiner in his native Brazil, Emerson Fittipaldi is the fitting Chevrolet champion to help support GM's efforts with E85 and celebrate 30 years of the Corvette pacing the Indianapolis 500."

The 92nd Indianapolis 500 takes place on Sunday, May 25, 2008. It will be the Corvette's 10th appearance as the official pace car – a record unmatched by any other vehicle.

"It's only fitting that Corvette will be the first car to earn the distinction of having two models pace the Indianapolis 500 in the same year," said Joie Chitwood, Indianapolis Motor Speedway president and chief operating officer. "Chevrolet and Corvette are a vital part of the rich history of 'The Greatest Spectacle in Racing,' and we're honored to have a great champion of the race and of alternative fuels, Emerson Fittipaldi, as this year's pace car driver."

Corvette Z06 E85 concept

The Corvette Z06 E85 concept pace car is based on the production Z06 – already one of the fastest and most powerful cars on the market – and blends its performance with the high-octane, renewable alternative fuel that is derived from a variety of crops grown across the United States.

E85 is blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. Its benefits include reduced emissions of greenhouse gases and a reduced dependence on petroleum. GM is the leader in E85 production models, with more than 2.5 million E85-capable cars, trucks and SUVs on the road – with more on the way. Chevrolet offers seven E85-capable models in 2008.

Apart from the fuel system and powertrain controller revisions required to run E85, the Z06 concept pace car is mechanically stock. It is distinguished by a unique Gold Rush Green color-shifting paint scheme that changes between hues of green and gold when viewed from different angles and in different light. A subtle checkered flag pattern also is part of the paint.

scheme. Safety equipment and strobe lights are the only other equipment added to the car.

Emerson Fittipaldi: ambassador of racing and ethanol

After winning the Indianapolis 500 in 1989 and 1993 while driving for Chevrolet – and spending 30 years in his native Brazil as a refiner of ethanol – Emerson Fittipaldi is the perfect ambassador to lead the Indianapolis 500 in an E85-powered Corvette Z06.

"Most of the vehicles in Brazil are powered by ethanol produced from crops grown in the country, so I understand how a domestically produced renewable fuel can help the energy solutions of a nation," Fittipaldi said. "And the E85-powered Z06 concept pace car proves economic and environmental consciousness can be fun and exhilarating. I can't wait to get it on the racetrack."

Fittipaldi, whose personal cars include a Corvette Z06 and a Camaro awarded after winning the 1993 Indianapolis 500, resides in both Florida and Brazil. He has interests in several Brazilian ethanol companies and is an ardent champion of ethanol as a viable alternative to gasoline.

Brazil – the fifth-largest country in the world – is a global leader in ethanol usage in automobiles. Approximately 70 percent of Brazilian new cars are equipped with FlexFuel systems that allow the use of a gasoline/ethanol mix or pure ethanol. Ethanol production has grown tremendously during the last three decades and has allowed the country to practically wean itself completely from imported oil.

30th Anniversary commemorative edition

Commemorating one of the most recognizable Indianapolis 500 pace cars, the Corvette 30th Anniversary Pace Car features a black exterior with silver graphics that honors the 1978 model – the production replicas of which became instant collectibles and continue to stand as an iconic symbol of Corvette's heritage at the front of the Indy field.

In addition to the exterior color scheme, the anniversary models are equipped with a special, two-tone titanium-color interior, with the Indianapolis 500 logo embroidered on the seats. Coupe and convertible models are available. Each replica will be personally signed and numbered by Emerson Fittipaldi.

Both the coupe and convertible come equipped with Corvette's 3LT option package, Z51 performance package and dual-mode exhaust. Additional features include:

- Choice of six-speed manual or six-speed paddle-shift automatic transmissions
- LS3 small block V8 with 436 hp
- New-for-2008 forged chrome five-spoke aluminum wheels
- Corvette Z06 rear spoiler
- Silver checkered flag graphics
- Indy 500 logo fender badges

More information on pricing and availability will be announced a later date.

Corvette at Indy

The 2008 edition of the Indianapolis 500 represents Corvette's 10th time as the official pace car – and a record fifth-consecutive year – and Chevrolet's 19th time as the manufacturer selected to lead the field. Corvette's pace years and details include:

- 1978 – Driven by 1960 race winner Jim Rathmann; Chevrolet produced 6,502 production replicas
- 1986 – Driven by famed pilot Chuck Yeager; all 7,315 production convertibles were considered pace car convertibles and included official graphics (to be installed at the owner's discretion)
- 1995 – Driven by then Chevrolet General Manager Jim Perkins; 527 production replicas produced
- 1998 – Driven by 1963 race winner Parnelli Jones when an injury prevented golfer Greg Norman from performing the duty; 1,158 production replicas produced
- 2002 – Driven by actor Jim Caviezel; no production replicas produced but graphics were available through SPO – approximately 300 sets sold
- 2004 – Driven by actor Morgan Freeman; no production replicas produced
- 2005 – Driven by General Colin Powell; no production replicas produced
- 2006 – Driven by cycling champion Lance Armstrong; first Corvette Z06 pace car; no production replicas produced
- 2007 – Driven by actor Patrick Dempsey; 500 production replicas – all convertibles
- 2008 – Driven by Emerson Fittipaldi; 500 production replicas – coupes and convertibles

The Indianapolis 500 is the largest single-day spectator sporting event and the most prestigious auto race in the world. "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" has been run every year since 1911 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, except for the periods during the United States' participation in world wars in 1917-18 and 1942-45. The winner of the 92nd Indianapolis 500 will earn racing immortality, a spot on the famed Borg-Warner Trophy and a record winner's purse of at least \$2.5

Push for June 30 To Be Declared National Day of Recognition for Corvette

Mid America Motorworks Behind Grassroots Movement To Celebrate The Birthday of America's Sports Car

EFFINGHAM, IL – Long a supporter of the Corvette hobby and creator of “Drive Your Corvette To Work Day”, Mid America Motorworks has petitioned the United States Congress to declare June 30th a National Day of Recognition for Corvette - America's First Sports Car. The Corvette first rolled off a Flint, Michigan assembly line on June 30, 1953.

The petition is being presented by United States Congressman John Shimkus (R-Illinois). All Corvette enthusiasts are urged to contact their U.S. Congressional Representatives to pass this resolution.

“As the longest running, most widely respected production sports car in United States history, the Chevrolet Corvette is more than a material possession. It is truly a symbol of American pride. For this reason Mid America Motorworks is launching a grassroots movement to honor America's True Sports Car with a National Day of Recognition.” said Mike Yager, Chief Cheerleader and founder of Mid America Motorworks, the world's leading supplier of Corvette parts and accessories.

Mid America Motorworks has a history of creating national movements to honor the Corvette. In June of 2001, Mid America Motorworks created *Drive Your Corvette To Work Day* as an annual event to celebrate Corvette's Birthday on the Friday closest to June 30. On Friday, June 27th 2008, thousands of Corvette lovers will drive their Corvette to work to participate in the 8th annual event.

In September of 2001, Mid America Motorworks orchestrated a massive grassroots movement, called the Corvette Stampede, to petition the United States Post Office to create a Corvette Stamp. The stamp was to honor of the 50th Anniversary of Corvette. Finally released in 2005, the USPS debuted the stamp at Mid America Motorworks Corvette Funfest.

This year, as GM celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2008, a National Day of Recognition is a fitting tribute to Corvette – GM's greatest contribution to the automotive industry.

Every Corvette owner is encouraged to petition his or her congressional representative to pass the resolution declaring June 30th as a National Day of Recognition for Corvette. For more information go to www.mamotorworks.com/corvette or call 800-500-1500.

Mid America Motorworks
Loves
Capital City Corvette Club MI

Just until Valentine's Day (February 14th), I am offering Corvette Clubs the opportunity to purchase our lambskin leather bag in any of the seven embroidered logos at the reduced price of \$44.99 each on orders of 10 or more. To show you how deep our love is, we will personalize each bag (up to 10 letters) **FREE** and also only charge \$20 for shipping! That's a total savings of **\$160!**

(By the way, don't tell Mike that I'm allowing you to mix and match the logos to reach the discounted level.)

Call me directly at (217) 540-4336 or

Email me at nancy.bushur@mamotorworks.com

To place your order.

Best of Luck,

Nancy

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