



Monthly News

1998 Board Members	Position
Brian Webb	President
Mike Wallenfelsz	Vice President
John Harris	Secretary
Rick Spring	Treasurer
Jerry Culbreth	Newsletter Editor

Editors Comments:

This month's newsletter is somewhat lacking in the area of first hand reporting on my part. The month of January didn't seem to have enough days in it to accomplish all of the things I had on my calendar. I was unable to attend the January Sonic Gathering, thus was unable to provide a Monthly Car and Owner Feature that is my favorite. I will pick this up again for the March newsletter so make plans to attend and I will have my camera ready to take pot shots of all the cars.

January Business Meeting:

Board members voted to have a 50-50 drawing at the February 20 Sonic Gathering to raise moneys for the club. Tickets will be on sale for \$5.00 each. A drawing will be held towards the end of the gathering and some lucky member will win half of the pot with the other half going to the club. If this venture is successful this may become a monthly affair.

Starting with the March newsletter advertisements will be sold for \$25.00 each. The \$25.00 cost will allow the add to run for three months. We want to thank Patients First, Blue Ribbon Cleaners and Gary Allen Registered Land Surveyor for purchasing the first advertisements.

Brian Webb would like to invite you to come by his Corvette Party Barn this Saturday, February 20 at 5:00 PM for a pre Sonic get together. There will be drinks and snacks for all and afterwards we will caravan to the Sonic. If you haven't seen this spectacular Party Barn you will not want to miss this opportunity. Brian's address is 2487 Elfinwing Lane, located in the Ravine's off Thomasville Road. Go north just past the Killlearn entrance to the Ravine's make a right then the first left onto Elfinwing Lane. Plan to attend this get together as there is plenty of room for all.

Miscellaneous items discussed at the business meeting focused on the following. The implementation of the Cruisin' Corvettes web page that will be available around March 1. The purchasing of a club banner for promotional purposes. The Spring Time Tallahassee Parade and paid membership that now totals 61 thus far.

A reminder that business meetings are always held at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month. The location is at Patients First, 2907 Kerry Forest Parkway. The next business meeting is February 18 so please make plans to attend as we need suggestions from everyone on how the club should operate.

January Events:

Sonic Gathering - I was told that a good number of cars attended the January gathering. According to members that attended there were around 10 cars present. I am sure that we will see the attendance grow over the next few months now that the weather is changing for the better. Corvette gatherings are always held the third Saturday of each month starting at 7:00 PM located at the Sonic Drive Inn on North Monroe Street. The next gathering is February 20.

Corvette Factory Team Debuts at Daytona 24 Hour Race - This article was provided by club member Rick McClure who attended the Daytona 24 Hour Race on January 29 and 30. Thanks for your input Rick as it is very interesting information.

General Motors decided to reenter racing with a factory sponsored Corvette team and took a chance by debuting the racing version of the Corvette, the C5-R, with less than 4,000 miles of testing. The Rolex 24 Hour Race at Daytona International Speedway is the most demanding endurance race of the year. The course consists of the 2.5 mile 31 degree-banked tri-oval connected to a 1.0 mile infield with five turns. The C5-R uses the new LS1 aluminum, single cam, two valves, engine, bored out to 6.0 liters with other modifications allowed by the USRRC rules. The stock body shape of the C5 was found to be so clean aerodynamically that only a wing and some minor modifications were necessary to produce a stable car at 190+ mph.

Two C5-R's were entered by the Goodwrench team and sported a black and gray checkered flag paint scheme. A superb group of seven drivers was gathered, including Scott Sharp, Andy Pilgram, and Ron Fellows. The C5-R's are classified in the GT2 class that includes the Porsche 911 turbo, and the V-10 Dodge Viper. The entire field of 78 was made up of four classes of cars that includes CanAm, GT2's, GT3's and the new GTT class. The CanAm class consisted of race specific and open cockpit; the GT2 and GT3 classes consisted of a lone C5, 911's, BMW m-3's and others; the GTT class consisted of Camaros and Mustangs. Corvettes were on the track in other capacities as well. The pace cars were C5 hardtops and a Legends of Daytona four lap mini event before the big race included a number of vintage Corvette racers, including many from the NCRS show. Then 250 Corvettes from various clubs made a parade lap of the course.

The race began with a rolling start and to no one's surprise the powerful CanAm cars immediately dominated the top positions. Mechanical problems and track mishaps began to thin the ranks as the hours passed and by the middle of the night one of the Corvettes led the GT2 class. This Corvette was **5th OVERALL** with the other factory Corvette a few positions back. An oil leak caused the lead Corvette to be flagged and an hour in the pits while three GT2 Porsches moved ahead. The other factory Corvette required to visit Mr. Goodwrench in the garage area to replace the transmission and rear end. Rain began in the early dawn hours, requiring a change from slicks to rain tires. The oil leak was repaired on the #2 Corvette and it reentered the course followed later by the #4 with its transplanted transmission and rear end. As the race neared the 1:00 end, the Corvette held the 4th GT2 spot one lap behind the 3rd place Porsche. Hopes of being on the podium were fading in the last few laps when the Porsche suffered a terminal failure and rolled to a stop. The mud covered, sleepless, and beer soaked Corvette fans cheered as the Corvette roared to a 3rd in class, 18th overall finish beside its repaired brother in 46th place overall. Two race-tested veteran Porsches finished ahead of the Corvette. The private Corvette was 26th overall. Less than half of the cars completed the race and all were very impressed with the C5-R and the Goodwrench team in its debut. The Goodwrench team plans are to run in the 12 Hours of Sebring race on March 20 and the 24 Hours of LeMans this summer.

NCRS Winter Regional Meet - A caravan departed from Tallahassee on Friday, January 15 to attend the NCRS Winter Regional Meet in Orlando. Six cars participated in the caravan and all had a good time cruising I-10, I-75 and the Turnpike. This year's event was moved from Cypress Gardens to Orlando at the Disney Wide World of Sports Complex and turned out to be very successful. This year offered more to the Corvette enthusiasts due to the surroundings of Disney World. If you needed anything for your car this was the place to find it. All of you will want to put this event on your calendar for next year.

Future Events:

Heaven Hill Farm Car Show - Heaven Hill Farm is located 20 miles north of Trenton, 1 mile off U.S. 129 on C.R. 138 in Gilchrist County. This year's spring event is scheduled for February 26-28. There will be a \$250.00 cash prize for the club that enters the most cars each day and three people's choice awards given each day. The Original Antique and Collector shows are Saturday, February 27 and the Rod and Custom shows are Sunday, February 28. Pre-registration of shows by February 15 is \$10.00 the day of each show is \$15.00. For more information on registration you can write Heaven Hill Farm, 1839 NW C-138, Branford Florida 32008 or phone (904) 935-0348.

There will be a variety of collector vehicles for sale in the Car Corral, and a large selection of New and Used auto parts and accessories in the Swap Meet. The Swap Meet also has a variety of Old Toys of all types including trains, and model cars, etc. A large selection of auto advertising and literature and auto related apparel and a large selection of old gas pumps; old coke machines; and porcelain signs can also be found. There will be a variety of Antique items for the individuals, as well as Antique Jewelry, Dolls and other items. The swap meet opens daily at 8:00 A.M.

For those of you that are coming to the show in self-contained Motor-Homes, there is plenty of Free Parking on the grounds with no hook-ups. Affordable food and beverages are available and plenty of picnic tables where you can relax and eat and listen to music.

Corvette Caravan to Panama City- The Circle City Corvettes club of Dothan, Alabama will caravan to Panama City beach for lunch at Pineapple Willie's beach bar early Saturday morning April 24. The Cruisin' Corvettes club is planning to meet the caravan and join in the festivities. More information on where we will meet the caravan is forth coming in the March newsletter. Lets all make plans to join our brethren in a jaunty fun filled excursion of at least 60 corvettes.

Club Paraphernalia:

Baseball caps, shirts and club decals are now available and are on sale. Available cap colors are red and white to match the color combination of the club insignia as seen on the envelopes you receive each month containing the monthly newsletter. The caps will be used as prize giveaways at events and can be purchased by anyone for \$20.00. One club decal is provided to each member upon joining the club. Additional decals are also available for \$5.00 each. All profits from these items will be deposited into the club bank account to cover operating costs. If you are interested in purchasing caps, shirts or decals give me (Jerry Culbreth) a call at 487-9414 (work) or 893-7315 (home).