



*Mid Alabama*  
**Corvette Club**



## MACC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August -2005

[www.midalcorvette.com](http://www.midalcorvette.com)

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(Luckie & Company)

### A Note from the Crew Chief

By Arlene Johnson

#### *Think 'Cool' Thoughts*

**Think** a minute about twiddling about in a non-air-conditioned car during these almost 100 degree days? Well our '72 'Vette is just that - temperature challenged. One starts to imagine and execute all the ways to stay **cool** in such a situation, and I've tried them all: traveling only in early morning or late afternoon, carrying a hand-held, battery operated personal fan, putting a bottle of frozen water between my legs, sticking my head out the side window for some breeze, wearing little in way of clothing, placing a towel on the seat to collect the perspiration, slathering on the 30+ sun screen and heavy duty deodorant, donning a ball-cap; and in some cases – leaving the car home during July & August. So – **cool thoughts** are sent your way this blistering summer – life isn't so bad if you have air conditioning, now is it?!!

Cont. on page 2



## A Note from the Crew Chief



(Continued)

MACC events for July were all about the outdoors: cruise-ins in Pelham and Trussville, fire-works in Birmingham, picnic at the Crapet's, Magic Moments & Sunny Foods with us at Vulcan Park, and the Grand-Am Rolex Sports Car Series at Barber's Motorsports Park this past weekend. In-between the raindrops and tropical storms we managed to have quite a grand time enjoying our 'cool' cars.

Thank you to the 10 households who completed and submitted the Car Show Questionnaire. **How about the rest of you?** We have 64 households represented in our club – surely more than 10 have an opinion (positive or negative) about our club's car show plans for 2006. Please fill them out and return them this month – I will bring extra copies to our next meeting – and will summarize the responses for our September meeting.

Well, I'll see you around in the coming month.....and hope to see some of our newer members at the next meeting or event. Signing off and sizzlin' in the '72!!!!

### **2005 'Vettes for Pets – Saturday, September 17th** by Arlene Johnson

The 'Vettes For Pets planning committee consisting of Jim & Joann Harris, Hoke & Charlotte Graham, Jim & Cindy Maddox, Arlene & David Johnson met and formulated plans for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Vettes For Pets. The word from the crew was **'Keep It Simple'**.

Our final destination for the event will be the Argo Drive-In owned by Brian Skinner. Brian supported the 1<sup>st</sup> Vettes for Pets event in 2000 the year the shelter opened and jumped right in to help with this one as well. He can't tell us the movie(s) selection yet but is looking forward to our coming out for the evening.

Here are the plans (specific directions will be sent at a later date). You don't have to have a Corvette to enter – just come out & have fun & help support the St. Clair County Animal Shelter. Invite your families & friends as well.

**Entry Fee** (cash or check made out to ASPCI for **\$20 per person plus** one or more items on the following wish-list). The entry fee gets you a reserved seat at Sammie's for Dinner, a spot at the Drive-In for the Movies, and entered for a few 'special' drawings.

**5:00pm** Pull into the St. Clair County Animal Shelter in Pell City, deliver your check & donation items (Arlene will be at door). Get door prize tickets & pass for drive-in & proceed to dinner location (next door).

**Enjoy dinner** (on your own) at Sammie's Touch 'N Go – next door to the Animal Shelter & on edge of St. Clair County Airport. (Steaks, bar, seafood, Cajun)

**6:30pm** Leave for caravan to Argo Drive-In (Hwy 231N to 174W to 11S) – ride is about 45 minutes.

**8:00pm** Movie starts at Argo Drive-In. Bring your chairs, blankets, coolers, bug spray – and enjoy the evening.

#### **Shelter Wish List:**

- Used Towels or Blankets
- Clorox, Pine-Sol, Dish Detergent
- Copy Paper for printer
- Purina Puppy or Kitten Chow
- Paper Towels, Toilet Paper
- Garbage Bags (large heavy duty preferred)

## **Editor's Note:** by Beth Carter

This month I am happy to announce a new edition to the newsletter. Every other month we will highlight a different club member or couple in the newsletter. So look out!!! I may contact you soon for a bio. We have a large membership; and hopefully this will help us to get to know our fellow club members. Special thanks to Ronnie and Kathie for their participation.

## ***Ronnie and Kathie Jones*** ***Members Since 1994***

Ronnie was born in Rome, GA and moved to the Valley (West Point, GA/Lanett-Langdale, AL) area when he was in second grade. Kathie is from Whitesville, GA, the same area just about 12 miles from West Point and 12 miles from Callaway Gardens in Pine Mt., GA. During her high school years, Kathie worked for three summers performing in the water ski show at Callaway Gardens.



Ronnie attended Troy State and Auburn University. He purchased his first corvette, a silver coupe, in 1964 and the love affair began.... Then in 67 he bought a silver convertible. Both of these cars were purchased new and he still has the paperwork on both. (Wishes he still had the cars along with the paperwork!) He and Kathie dated in the 64 and went to Panama City on their honeymoon in the 67. One of their favorite Vette memories is coming home from P.C. and having to get their luggage in the car when they ran into rain. They did go a few years without a Vette when money was tight and they couldn't afford the insurance. When they got back into them, they had a blue 67 convertible, a silver 76 coupe and a 78 pace car to name a few. When the boys got bigger and began to argue over who had to sit on the "hump" (before mandatory seat belts and car seats) they again when several years without a Vette.

Ronnie worked for the Opelika Housing Authority until 1980 when they moved to Valdosta, GA where Ronnie was Executive Director of Valdosta Housing Authority. It was there that Kathie began working with him on a part time basis. They lived in Valdosta for 14 years. In 1994, Ronnie accepted the position of Executive Director of Bessemer Housing Authority. The HUD office in Alabama did not want them working together, so Kathie worked at Fairfield Housing Authority for 3 years before becoming Executive Director of the Tarrant Housing Authority. After getting settled in McCalla and with the boys grown, Ronnie bought a white 94 coupe. Shortly thereafter, Ronnie read "All Corvettes Are Red", so the white 94 was replaced with a red 94 convertible. The 94 has turned into a 98 red convertible.

As most of you know, Ronnie loves the mid-years. His first two Vettes were a 64 and a 67. He has owned several mid-years over the years. Currently they have a white 65 coupe. Kathie tries not to become attached to them because she never knows how long they are going to "stay". For sentimental reasons, she says if they could find a nice silver 64 or 67, it would be a keeper.

Ronnie and Kathie joined the MACC in 1994 at the "Champagne Show of the South" at Susan Shein in Pelham. Kathie has served as Secretary. Ronnie has held the office of President and served as Show Chairman twice. He was instrumental in moving the show to Zamora Temple a few years ago. The first show was outside in the parking lot there. The next year it went to a very successful indoor show. This MACC "Champagne Show of the South" became a favorite of our friends in Corvette Clubs throughout AL, MS, and GA. The show was held at the Temple until 2005 when we had a scaled down version at COSCO.

They feel MACC offers members a wide variety of events – something for everyone. The Club is so active you can't participate in all things you would like to. Over the years they have seen many changes in club and its members. Ronnie and Kathie treasure the memories and the friendships they have made through all their years in the Mid AL Corvette Club.

## **Minutes of the July Meeting** by Arlene Johnson

The monthly meeting of MACC took place during the annual picnic held at the Crapet's lake house in Pell City. Since Cathy was doing a great job of being the hostess with the mostess and frankly – needed a break - Arlene offered to prepare the minutes for her.

The meeting was called to order with our new microphone and speaker system delivered and set up by Rob Conrad. What a deal we got and very much appreciate Rob's contacts and knowledge in this area. The unit can be used at meetings, picnics (*if Arlene would use it*), car shows, presentations, etc. and will be a club asset for years to come.

The official Secretary's report and Treasurer's reports will be heard at the next meeting. Minutes from the June meeting are noted in our July Newsletter and the *word* from Bill is "we're in good shape at the bank".

A few new members and guests were acknowledged: Matt & Sylvia Gonda (members since about April), a renewed member John Caoila, and guests Roger & Kathy Browning and Mark & Lynn Mullins from the Peach State Corvette Club. There were 32 members in attendance.

Arlene mentioned upcoming events such as the Barbers Rolex series the last week in July, the Classic Glass car show in Acworth the first weekend in August, and the Baytown (Playground Corvette Club) show the second week in August. Flyers on all shows and upcoming events were available.

Jim Willis mentioned to the club anyone signing up for a museum membership Sunday would be given a t-shirt. Since the club is a museum member, all individual members received 25% off the typical fees.

Arlene introduced the latest in "**membership initiation plan**" – you must pass the Corvette trivia test. Three teams were created (red, white & blue) and provided 20 questions to answer in 15 minutes. The blue team (who ended up with twice as many members as others and took extra time to fill out their questionnaire) was led by Jim Willis. The white team was led by Bryan Mullins and the red team was led by Rob Conrad. Red and White held their own, but the Blue team answered one more correct question than the Red team and won. Each Blue team member received a Chevrolet trinket and the team leader, Jim, chose a tote bag on wheels as his 'grand' prize.

After lots of grumbling about the lack of team member's brain cells and cheating of other teams...the meeting was adjourned to the volleyball court where we witnessed the finesse (or lack thereof) of many club members – watch out for Joanne's 'rocket' wrist return ball!!!

## **Membership News** by Sharon Mathews

***WE HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED APPLICATIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING NEW PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS:***

John Caiola (welcome back!)  
117 Deer Ridge Drive  
Chelsea, AL 35043  
Phone 678-0046  
Cell 902-3555  
E-mail: [jtchopper@netzero.com](mailto:jtchopper@netzero.com)  
1999 Magnetic Red Coupe

Marshall Eddy  
5545 Parkside Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35240  
Phone 991-3783  
work 205-410-4806  
e-mail: [odenvilledrugs@alltel.net](mailto:odenvilledrugs@alltel.net)  
1968 Red Coupe

If you know of others who may enjoy our club meetings and events, please ask them to join us. Also, we have cards with club information on them that can be left discretely on a windshield to let other Vette owners know of our organization.

### **Member Photos on Website**

Is your photo and the photo of your car on our website? If not, please e-mail me one at [mathewssharon@yahoo.com](mailto:mathewssharon@yahoo.com)  
Also, we try to have a camera at all meetings. Just ask that we snap our photo at the next meeting or cruise-in.

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

We are still trying to complete our list of birth dates and anniversary dates to be added to our list of member information? Please e-mail yours to me at [mathewssharon@yahoo.com](mailto:mathewssharon@yahoo.com) Any other information or miles stones (like new Grandchildren, job changes, retirements) that you would like to share are always welcome.

### **Member Occupations and Businesses**

Have you added your name to our list of member occupations and businesses, which may be useful to others in our club? If you would like to be on a list of this type, please e-mail me some pertinent information such as the name and nature of your business along with the address and phone number.

Sharon Mathews  
Membership Chairperson  
205-987-4837 Home  
205-397-2083 Work  
205-305-6308 Cell  
[mathewssharon@yahoo.com](mailto:mathewssharon@yahoo.com)

## **UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS** by Suzan Touchton

Hope everyone is having a great summer! There are lots of fun things coming up this month. This weekend is the Day's Chevrolet Show in Acworth. They have a great sock hop on Friday and all Corvette show on Saturday. Refer to events calendar for more info.

In just about a week we leave for Baytown Wharf. Beth Carter will be giving out that info. Don't forget to buy your stuffed animal for registration!

The Saturday night Cruise-In at Trussville will be on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

September starts up slow but picks up quickly. The 17<sup>th</sup> is our annual Vettes for Pets and the 18<sup>th</sup> is the Motor City Corvette Show and Drag in Chattanooga. Arlene will give us an update about the 17<sup>th</sup>.

September 24<sup>th</sup> is one of our favorite weekends of the year for MACC. That is the Vette Fest in Gatlinburg. If you have not made your hotel reservation and registered for the show do so soon! You will have a ball.

I have had several requests about a MACC cruise. On a boat not in the Vettes! I am working with a travel agent about a trip out of New Orleans with Norwegian Cruise Lines. February looks good as a time to work on those faded tans and get away from cold weather. If you are interested in more details please let me know.

More events in the works. See ya soon!



# **NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM NEWS**

By Jim Willis

## ***Showcase Your Club's Support in a "club member" Display***

The National Corvette Museum is offering club members such as the Mid-Alabama Corvette Club to chance to be part of a special drawing that could put one of our club member's Corvettes on display inside the Museum!

This recognition program was designed to reward and thank club members for all of the support they give throughout the year. There are approximately 50 clubs supporting the NCM as business/club members. The NCM will begin by choosing six clubs, and the first three will be drawn at the annual Corvette Celebration – Labor Day weekend September 1-4. The next three clubs will be drawn January 10. If our club is interested in participating, let me know so I can enter us by Aug. 30 for the Labor Day drawing.



## ***Pre-order Your Commemorative Cachet/Corvette Stamp Collector Piece***

The NCM will host a special Corvette stamp unveiling ceremony in the Chevrolet Theater on August 22. As part of the unveiling activities, the Bowling Green Post Office will be on-hand to postmark and cancel a specially designed cachet envelope created in conjunction with the unveiling.

This commemorative piece will feature the new Corvette stamp and will be postmarked with a special cancellation design. Enthusiasts and collectors can now pre-order this unique collector piece through the Corvette Store at: [www.corvettemuseum.com/store](http://www.corvettemuseum.com/store) or by calling (800) 53-VETTE. A limited quantity of cachets are available and will only be offered for a short time and while they last. The Corvette stamp is one of five stamps in the soon-to-be released "America on the Move: Sporty Cars of the 50s" stamp set. For the complete release on the soon to be released stamp set and our unveiling ceremony click here: [http://www.corvettemuseum.com/press\\_releases/index.shtml](http://www.corvettemuseum.com/press_releases/index.shtml)



## ***Panama Canal Cruise Update***

Interested in participating in the NCM's 4<sup>th</sup> annual Corvette Cruise to the Panama Canal Jan. 13-21?

If so, join Corvette Racing's Johnny O'Connell and hundreds of fellow Corvette enthusiasts for the time of your life aboard Royal Caribbean's "Brilliance of the Seas" as you enjoy the beauty and sites of Aruba, Costa Rica, Grand Cayman, and much more! Space is limited. The deadline to sign up for the cruise is September 5 and ocean-view and interior rooms are available at this time. Find out more and make your reservations by calling cruise coordinator Sheri Durham-Velinsky at 866-427-8938 or by visiting this URL:



<http://www.ncmcruz.com/> click

## General Club News by Beth Carter

Congrats are in order for Steve and Jan Thomas. They won the Zora Dunkov Award (Club's Award to 1 car) and 1st Place in the 68-82 Original Restored at the MS Corvette Show, Biloxi in June.

Below is a letter from Magic Moments. Thanks Arlene for scanning it for everyone to see.

### Board of Directors

Heidi Hallman  
Chairperson

Greg Bass  
Shelley Clark  
Mary Todd Davis  
Joey Dobbs  
Billy Dodson, Esq.  
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Mary Nabers Doyle, MD  
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Chris Eagan, Esq.  
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Idie Hastings  
Tom Hinton  
Bill Jones  
Buffy Marks  
L. E. Patton  
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Tom Shufflabarger  
Cournoy Stephens  
Jennifer Stone  
Bobby Thurston  
Ila Jo Worthen

Conrad Rafield  
Honorary Member

Pam Jones  
Executive Director

Mrs. Arlene Johnson, President  
Mid-Alabama Corvette Club  
7012 Country Club Lane  
Leads, AL 35094

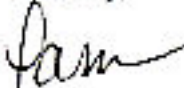
Dear Arlene:

It is with sincere gratitude that I thank you and all the members of the Mid-Alabama Corvette Club for the continued support you give to Magic Moments. Your generous donation of \$5,000 will allow us to continue to provide *magic moments* to the children of Alabama living with life-threatening illnesses or life-altering conditions.

I know your club faced some unplanned circumstances this year with your annual car show, but – along with the help of David Carter and the Sunny Foods district managers and employees – you all still managed to provide Magic Moments with a very substantial donation. I continue to be amazed at the support you have provided to Magic Moments over the years. It is rare for a charity to have this kind of long-term support from an organization, and we are so very grateful to all of you for your hard work and dedication in helping us raise awareness and funding for Magic Moments. Without the support of groups such as yours, our jobs would be much more difficult and our efforts would not reach as far.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and – most importantly – the families of Magic Moments, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your donation. We sincerely appreciate your continued support and look forward to the possibility of an ongoing relationship for years to come.

Sincerely,



Pam Jones  
Executive Director

*Magic Moments is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and our Federal Tax ID Number is 63-0887875*

## AIR CONDITIONING

### Did We Really Ride For Hours With Our Parents And No A/C?

One of my grandkids was in a car we had restored, pointed at the window crank handle and asked “what’s this?” Power windows is currently standard on most cars, but will be standard equipment on all cars soon. A/C used to be an option, today it is a requirement. It is one of the devices that can slowly become less effective. We are going to discuss what you can do to increase the life of your system.

I want to offer some suggestions about A/C operation and a brief, common sense explanation of why.

Auto air conditioning and heating systems add and/or remove heat. The heating coil (adds heat) is located in the same box that houses the cooling coil (removes heat) and it has the fan that blows air into the passenger compartment. This box is usually found behind the dash on the passenger side of the passenger compartment.

Suggestions:

1. If your system seems to be working, but just cannot catch up, you may want to consider a manual valve in one of the heating hoses going to the firewall. This will stop the hot water from circulating to the heating coil during the summer, and then open it back up in the winter. You should not leave it closed year around, the heating coil needs to circulate water through it periodically.
2. Generally, your system will perform better and longer the harder and more often it operates; I know that sounds crazy.
  - Harder: Use “max “cooling for a short period of time, then go to “normal “ setting once the system has caught up. The A/C system will work harder in the normal position that is OK. I have replaced many compressors that have had liquid come back from the cooling coil, compressors do not like liquid. There is more than one reason but the most common is the coil did not have enough load on it and “normal” keeps the coil loaded.
  - Harder: Use the higher speeds on the fan speed selection; you are NOT saving you system by using the slower speeds. The cooling coil needs the air movement to load the system and guard against the problem stated above. If it is too cold, make sure it is in the normal setting, then start moving the temperature up.
  - Often: Operate your A/C system at least once a week, yes, even in the winter time. If your system as a defrost selection that uses the A/C compressor for dehumidification that will work. When the compressor sits idle it usually loses refrigerant around the seal because it does not get lubricated. You do not have to operate it long just a few minutes to get the system up to pressure.
  - Often: If you have a convertible should you run the A/C with the top down? ABSOLUTELY, wide open, enjoy!
3. Does your system need charging? Charging you system should be left to a professional, but there is a simple check to see if your system is charged. Initially, look at a car that the A/C is cooling well on so you can see what it is suppose to look like. With the car outside in the heat, crank the engine, turn on the A/C, wait a couple of minutes and raise the hood. DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING, THIS IS A VISUAL INSPECTION! Locate the A/C compressor on the engine; it is usually the largest belt driven accessory on the engine. It has two lines attached to the body, one noticeably larger than the other. After a few minutes the larger line should be sweating. This condensation or sweat is evidence that the line is cold or below dew point and actually dew is forming on the pipe. The other smaller pipe is hot, so do not touch the pipes. The system has an adequate charge if the large line is sweating. If your system needs charging, it does so because some of the refrigerant leaked out. The leak has to be stopped before adding refrigerant and should be performed by a certified professional.
4. Where is the water coming from in passenger floor board and it is not raining? When your system is operating normally the cooling coil, usually located over your passenger’s feet, is wringing out or condensing gallons of water out of the air. This water is suppose to drain into a pan that has a hose attached that wanders over to the firewall or floor board and drips/pours its water on the ground. This is the puddle that shows up on the ground under the car when you park. Sometimes this pan clogs up with lint and gaka, it backs up and overflows in the passenger floor board or on your passenger’s feet, neither are acceptable. You need to get this flowing by cleaning out the drain tube from the outside in or getting access to the coil and pan and cleaning it out the proper way from the inside out.
5. The A/C seems to work at first then it almost quits blowing. Usually this occurs when the cooling coil is freezing up and blocking the air flow. There are three primary reasons for a freezing coil.
  - The system has a low charge and needs charging. It probably has a small leak.
  - The fan needs to be operated at a higher selection. There is not enough air flow.
  - On most “add on” A/C systems there is a temperature knob, turn it counterclockwise until the compressor cycles on-off. The tendency is if you turn it all the way it will cool more, not necessarily so. The compressor should cycle on and off when the system is matched and balanced properly.

Having a well performing A/C system makes cruising much more enjoyable. If you have A/C and it is not performing well, it can, take it to a professional.

**Dennis Lyons**  
**Impatient Creations.com**

## **2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**(Club events/meetings are noted in bold print)**



- August 4<sup>th</sup>**                      **Thursday Night Cruise In**  
**Pizza Hut, Vestavia Hills**
- August 6<sup>th</sup>                      Day's Chevrolet Show/Acworth GA / [www.cgcorvetteclub.com](http://www.cgcorvetteclub.com)
- August 13<sup>th</sup>**                      **Vettes at the Village/Sandestin**  
**Reservations at 1-800-277-0800 for \$109**  
**(Contact Beth or David Carter for more info)**  
[www.playgroundcorvetteclub.com](http://www.playgroundcorvetteclub.com)
- August 13<sup>th</sup>                      5<sup>th</sup> Annual Capital City Corvette Club Open Show/  
Columbia, South Carolina
- August 21<sup>st</sup>**                      **MACC Meeting**  
**2:00 – 4:00 pm**  
**Neighborhood Sports Grill, Trussville**
- September 17<sup>th</sup>**                      **Vettes for Pets/Argo Drive-In/**  
**5:00 pm Dinner**  
**8:00 pm Movie (Contact Arlene Johnson)**
- September 17<sup>th</sup>                      National Guard Show, Birmingham  
10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
(contact Hoke Graham)
- September 18<sup>th</sup>                      Mountain City Corvette Association  
Corvette Show & Drag  
Chattanooga, TN (Contact Richard Williams 706-935-2723)
- September 20<sup>th</sup>**                      **TBA MACC Dinner Meeting**
- September 22<sup>nd</sup>-  
25<sup>th</sup>                      **27<sup>th</sup> Vette Fest/East Tennessee Corvette Club**  
**Gatlinburg, TN/Park Vista Hotel call 865-436-9211 for reservations**
- September 29<sup>th</sup>                      Chevy presents Petit Le Mans/Road Atlanta

- October 16<sup>th</sup>      5:30 pm MACC Dinner Meeting at Lloyds Restaurant (on Hwy 280)  
 7:00 pm Cruise to Leeds - ATROX (Haunted House)
- October 22<sup>nd</sup>      Emerald Coast Show, Panama City, FL
- November 20th      MACC Meeting  
 2:00 – 4:00 pm  
 Neighborhood Sports Grill, Trussville
- December 2nd      Christmas Party, Inverness Country Club (contact Bob Moreno)

MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS MAY CHANGE DUE TO CONFLICTS WITH OTHER EVENTS. WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED.

**Next MACC Meeting**  
**Sunday, August 21<sup>s</sup> 2:00 – 4:00 pm**  
**Neighborhood Sports Grill: 205-655-1018**  
**1423 Gadsden Hwy (Hwy 11) , Trussville**

