



*Mid Alabama*  
**Corvette Club**



## MACC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

June-2005

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

### CHAPTER OFFICERS

President & Executive Board Member:  
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Interim Web Master: Alan Jones  
(Luckie & Company)

### A Note from the Crew Chief

By Arlene Johnson

#### *Latitudes & Gratitude*

My Grandmother taught me that a written thank you note was a most appropriate gesture when someone gave of themselves to influence my small world in some way. A thank you note comes in the form of this newsletter article to special folks in our club who made things happen during May.

**Gratitude** is one word that sums up my feelings for their work and selfless efforts. Ronnie & Kathie, Jocko & Jane, David & Beth and all their helpers turned a bust car show into a respectable exhibition on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Messick, manager of Costco couldn't have been happier – and a grand amount of \$761 went into the 'kitty' for our annual donation to Magic Moments. And, to each of you who came, competed for the coveted purple trophy – you are to be congratulated as well – and thanked.

*(Continued on page 2)*



## A Note from the Crew Chief



(Continued)

David & Beth Carter and Sunny Food Stores have set new *latitudes* in their ability to raise charitable funds. In just a few months they put together over \$4,100 in the dollar for charity campaign in each of their stores; then this past Saturday another \$1,000 or so during the 1<sup>st</sup> annual bike rally in Tuscaloosa. And, if that isn't enough, they started a new campaign for funds by designing & selling the 'Lance Armstrong' type bracelets for Magic Moments. The extent of their capabilities overwhelms me, and a mere 'thank you' just doesn't seem quite enough.

Lastly, I would like to thank each of you who have said an encouraging word or email in the last few months. The role as leader of this club is one in which I try to maintain an even balance realizing that at the opposite ends I could provide overt influence with not enough, lack of action versus being meddlesome, and controlling paired with uninvolved. So I hope you find just the right amount of management, oversight, and guidance with the understanding that each of you too can make a difference in this club. Your suggestions, comments, and ideas are always welcomed.

### **Long Haul or Short Haul – Make the Trip** by Arlene Johnson

*Hot Rod Power Tour 2005* according to information on their web-site:

*It all started back in 1995, when the HOT ROD staff came up with the idea to take a cross-country road trip with our project cars, and we invited all of our car buddies and anyone else that wanted to go along. The first route stretched from Los Angeles all the way to Norwalk, Ohio, and while there were thousands of participants along the way, only seven were die-hard enough to get inducted into the original Long Haul Gang (not counting the staff's and specially invited cars). Boy, we've come a long way since then!*

*As the Power Tour grew in age, it grew exponentially in size, and the 2004 Long Haul Gang was comprised of approximately 2,000 hot rodders (from Ft. Worth, TX to Green Bay, WI). Check out the information on this website, and get on the phone to make reservations now. And don't forget to check back here on a regular basis for the latest news and announcements prior to the Tour.*

*We'll see you on the road!* [http://www.hotrod.com/113\\_0410\\_powertour/](http://www.hotrod.com/113_0410_powertour/).

2005 Hot Rod Power Tour will roll into Birmingham Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> to the Birmingham Racecourse (Greyhound Racing) in the Irondale area. Don't miss this array of all vintages and all manufacturers of hot rods, the sponsor booths, and all the pomp and circumstance of the event coming to town.

Our club's own Fred Atkins, David Johnson, & Jim Willis in their 1973, 1972, and 1965 cars plan to do the 'long haul'. This means departing 6am on Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> headed for Milwaukee. They join the pack Sunday morning from Milwaukee for nights in Springfield-IL, Indianapolis-IN, Nashville-TN and rolling into Birmingham for a quick night stay with their families, and then on to Tallahassee and

Kissimmee-FL for the awards and ceremony of making it the 3,000 or so miles during their 10+ days on the road.

'Short haul' MACC members who are traveling to Nashville to meet the pack should make sure they contact Chris Touchton or Chuck Lewis. Our short haulers will be part of over 15,000-20,000 cars that join the 2005 Hot Rod Tour somewhere during its journey.

We all look forward to the many stories and pictures from the road!

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

The month of May proved to be another very exciting, fun filled month. A great time was had by all that participated with the Circle City Corvette Club's cruise to Panama Beach. We send them many thanks for their generous hospitality. It was a wonderful experience cruising with 199 other Corvettes. The calendar is filled with many fun events to choose from in the upcoming months. As always, if you have an experience you'd like to share, or any newsworthy articles, please send them to me at [bethcarter@charter.net](mailto:bethcarter@charter.net).

On a more personal note, David and I would like to thank everyone for your participation with the "Making Magic Ride" and for stopping in Sunny Foods to purchase a "Magic Moment" card. It was a great success thanks to you and the Sunny Foods employees

### **Minutes of the May Meeting** by Cathy Crapet

The May 26, 2005, meeting of the Mid Alabama Corvette Club was held at O'Charley's in Pelham. The meeting was called to order by Arlene Johnson. Thirty-two members were present.

Arlene introduced two new members: Jerry Strong and Ron Dyar.

Sharon Mathews, Membership Chairman, announced there are seven people from the Costco Car Show that she is in contact with as prospective new members. In order to update the web site, Sharon asked members to check the current roster for correct information, and for each to add birth date, anniversary date, and comments.

The minutes of the last meeting were printed in the newsletter. Sharon Mathews made a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Chuck Lewis seconded. The motion passed unanimously. In the absence of the Secretary, Sara Boehme took the minutes at the meeting.

Bill Ringler gave the Treasurer's Report. Ronnie Jones made a motion to accept the report. Terry Mathews seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

David Carter presented the club with a check which included proceeds from Sunny Food Stores for "Magic Moments." The proceeds will be added to other funds previously collected to be included in the donation to "Magic Moments." David also discussed the upcoming bike ride in Tuscaloosa.

Ronnie Jones reported that we had 33 cars at our show at Costco. He announced the amount we took in from the show. He also discussed the possibility of having another exhibition in the fall.

Chuck Lewis gave a report on the Power Tour. He announced that anyone wanting to ride to Nashville on Tuesday should meet at the Cracker Barrel in Gardendale at 8:00 AM.

Upcoming events were discussed. A list was included on the meeting agenda. Please refer to the club calendar for events and dates.

Suzan Touchton, Social Chairman, can be contacted for further information.

Other business included the following: Fred Atkins gave a report on the NCRS. A baby card for Bryan and Delaine Mullins was passed around to be signed, and money was collected to either purchase a gift certificate or give them a gift of cash. A presentation trophy was presented to the club by Clear Branch Church for our participation in their show.

Arlene asked for a list of club assets anyone may have stored at their home. She stressed the need to compile a list of what is owned by the club and where items might be stored.

The MACC Board will meet on Thursday, June 2, at 11:30, at Brookwood Mall. **The next club meeting will be Saturday, June 18, at Golden Coral on Lorna Road in Hoover. Breakfast will be at 8:30 with the meeting beginning at 9:30. Directions are at the end of the newsletter.**

Cathy Crapet  
Secretary

## **Membership News May, 2005** by Sharon Mathews

### ***WE PROUDLY WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBER:***

Ron Dyar  
22544 Timberwood Drive  
McCalla, Alabama 35111  
477-5698, fax 477-1033, work 477-1551  
  
2003 Yellow Z06

We have been blessed with a bounty of new members this year. I hope none of you will be shy about joining in on any and all of the summer's scheduled events. Come join in on the fun and meet others who enjoy their Vettes!

### **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 compiling a list of birth dates and anniversary dates to add to our list of member information. If you would like yours added, please e-mail them 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**

It occurs to me that many of those in our membership own a business or are in a trade which may be useful to other members. For instance, did you know you can buy hardware from Chris Touchton, get your bookkeeping done by Bill Ringler or Sara Boehme, buy signs and advertising aids from Terry Mathews, purchase a home security system from David Johnson, get your painting, cabinets and home repair done by Paul Boehme, buy groceries from Merv Torme, ...just to name a few.

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

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

Summer has started off with a bang! About twenty MACC members went to the Circle City Club trip from Dothan to Panama City. The weather and the cars were beautiful. About 200 Corvettes cruised down to Pineapple Willie's for lunch then we all enjoyed a busy weekend. This was a fun trip. We all look forward to doing it again next year!

Congrats to David and Beth for a great Saturday in Tuscaloosa. Sunny Foods did a fantastic job raising money for Magic Moments.

Coming up soon is the Hot Rod Power Tour. The group going to Nashville will be meeting at the Cracker Barrel in Gardendale and leaving at 8:00am. If you are planning to go with this group, please call Chuck Lewis and let him know.

Vettes by the Shore in Biloxi will be the weekend of June 10<sup>th</sup>. Sharon Mathews has all the details if you are interested in going.

June 26<sup>th</sup> will be the Varsity Show in Atlanta. This is an open show and lots of fun! Registration is from 9:00 to 11:00 and the show is over at 3:00pm. Go to [www.peachstatecorvette.com](http://www.peachstatecorvette.com) for registration details.

Annual MACC Picnic at the Crapet's lake house on July 17<sup>th</sup>. A day of food, fun and friends. We always look forward to this.

Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup> will be The Meet Me at the Cross car show at Cathedral of the Cross in Center Point. For info go to [paulandvickie@charter.net](mailto:paulandvickie@charter.net) or call 681.9261.

The Day's Chevrolet Show in Acworth is Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup>. They will have a Sock Hop on Friday. Go to [www.cgcorvetteclub.com](http://www.cgcorvetteclub.com) for more details. This is an all Corvette Show.

Baytown Wharf in Sandestin will be hosting Corvettes at the Village Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup>. Call 800-277-0800 for reservations and use Code #2168Q for special rate of \$109. This is a beautiful location and should be a great weekend trip for guys and girls!

Vette Fest in Gatlinburg will be the weekend of September 23<sup>rd</sup>. I know it is a long way off but you do need to go ahead and reserve your rooms at the Park Vista before they are sold out. Call 865-436-9211 for the \$99.00 room rate. For new members this is a DO NOT MISS trip. The host club planned a great time for us.

If there are any events I haven't mentioned, please let me know so we can get them on the calendar. We are always open to suggestions for club outings. Call me with ideas!

## **What's That Smell; It Smells like Something's Burning – Electrical It Started Fine Yesterday; What Has Changed? - Electrical**

*By Dennis Lyons*

Many of you drive vintage Corvettes with a high probability that someone has added an electrical accessory or two over the years, which can lead to overloading the wiring and circuits. Poor connections are probably the most common problem, especially in a Corvette where there is an intricate grounding system.

This is one topic that can be covered in one short writing. Your Corvette's electrical power source is a 12 volt DC (direct current) battery. It has two posts that connect to your car, the positive (+) is routed to your starter and the negative (-) is routed to your chassis. Your battery is charged by the alternator or generator as you drive. The newer Corvettes depend more on your electrical system being fully charged and functioning perfectly. The older models can operate on less than 12 volts, however as the voltage drops the amperage increases, which increases heat in the wires and can melt the insulation on the wire. Basically, every end device (radio, wipers, etc.) is connected by two wires; one is a positive or hot wire that eventually connects to the positive side of the battery and the other is the ground and connects to the negative side of the battery. The negative may be a little more difficult to recognize as it may have a path to the chassis through metal and not necessarily a wire.

As I mentioned "poor connections" are the most common problem. The connections on your battery are where you begin. If it looks any color other than lead grey the connection may be less than desirable. With DC current you can have a partial connection; if the connections are partial on the source side then it is partial on the charging side. Many times battery issues are really connection problems. Other symptoms you may have seen are dim lights, slow power windows or turn signals that make other lights blink in sequence with the indicator. There are a couple of tools that can make this job pretty easy; use the correct size wrench to remove the battery cables, clean with a battery post/cable tool, attach the cables TO THE CORRECT POST and then apply a thin layer of Vaseline over the entire connection. If connections are loose, wire loose in a connection, frayed wires, corroded connections, bare wires, stray wires, you get the idea, CORRECT THEM. There are tools, tape and electrical cleaning supplies that can simplify these corrections.

Overheating wires is a result of overloading the capacity of the wire. This can be the result of a shorting end device, adding electrical devices that exceed the capacity of the wire, frayed wires grounding to metal and low voltage. Have you ever wondered why they have different size fuses in the fuse panel? It is to protect the wire! The end device dictates the wire size and the wire size dictates the fuse size. There is a larger size wire and fuse for an A/C fan than for a radio, because the fan requires more amperage (same voltage) than the radio. Recognize the wire size is the limiting factor so when you start splicing on additional electrical loads you are asking for problems. If you want to add additional loads the proper way is through your fuse panel. Use an unused position in the fuse panel first and if there are none available install an auxiliary fuse panel or an inline fuse and holder. The important thing is to find a source of current that is capable of handling the capacity you are adding. There are two current sources, switched and unswitched. Switched is energized when the ignition switch is on and turns off when the switch is off, unswitched is on all of the time. When you add an electrical device plan the installation before you start. If you have a shop do the installation, don't assume they know what they are doing. Ask them where they are going to connect the load and how.

### **A Couple of DON'T'S**

- If your motor does not want to turn over quickly when you turn the key to the right, DON'T KEEP TRYING TO START IT, it can overheat and harm your starter and electrical system.
- DON'T KEEP DRIVING if you do smell something burning stop immediately and investigate, it will not heal.
- DO NOT short out a fuse holder; there is a reason it blew.
- DON'T REPLACE THE FUSE WITH A LARGER FUSE to correct a fuse blowing problem; find the problem! The wire may not be able to handle the higher load.
- DON'T SHORT THE BATTERY to see if there is life in it.
- DON'T charge a battery on high amperage for long periods of time, slow charge it.
- If you want to add some electrical accessories fuse it, label it and wire it to an appropriate source with the proper size wire, DON'T SPLICE it to another wire.

Dennis Lyons  
Impatient Creations, Inc.

# **2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

(Club events/meetings are noted in bold print)

- June 4th -11th**      **2005 Power Tour /Milwaukee to Kissimmee-St Cloud with a stop in Birmingham on June 8<sup>th</sup> (contact Jim Willis or Fred Adkins for long haul) Chris Touchton for Nashville to B'ham/ short haul) (Marriott Courtyard at Opryland for June 7<sup>th</sup> 615-882-9133)**
- June 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>      **Biloxi Vettes By The Shore/ [www.msgccc.com](http://www.msgccc.com) (contact Sharon Mathews)**
- June 17th – 19th**      **National Hot Rod Reunion, Bowling Green, KY (contact David Johnson) More info at [www.nhra.com](http://www.nhra.com) under Museums, then Reunions, then 2005 NHRR**
- June 18<sup>th</sup>**              **MACC Meeting/Golden Corral in Hoover  
Breakfast 8:30 am/Meeting 9:30 am  
(AFTER MEETING CRUISE IN PLANNING STAGES)**
- June 26<sup>th</sup>              Car Show At The Varsity/Atlanta  
More info and registration [www.peachstatecorvette.com](http://www.peachstatecorvette.com)
- July 4<sup>th</sup>**                **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cruise to the Fireworks with the Ghost  
Contact Chris Touchton**
- July 17<sup>th</sup>**              **MACC Meeting & Annual Picnic at the Crapet's Lake House  
1:00 pm**
- July 17<sup>th</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup>        2005 NCR's Convention, Park City, Utah  
More info at <http://www.ncrs.org/parkcity/> , Contact Fred Atkins
- July 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>        Grand American Rolex Sports Car Series/Barber's  
(Contact Arlene for details regarding ticket prices & car corral)
- August TBA**            **MACC Meeting**
- August 6th             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 (more info when we get it)

September 16<sup>th</sup>

**Vettes for Pets/Argo Drive-In/  
MACC Meeting/Tailgate party & movies**

September 22<sup>nd</sup>-  
25th

**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>-  
October 1

Chevy presents Petit Le Mans/Road Atlanta

October 8<sup>th</sup>

**Corvettes against Breast Cancer, Atlanta Motor Speedway  
(Contact Fred & Rox Mudge)**

October 16<sup>th</sup>

**MACC Dinner Meeting at Tac Room Restaurant in Leeds at 5:30 then to  
Haunted House at 7:00**

November TBA

**MACC Meeting**

December TBA

**Christmas Party**

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

**Next MACC Monthly Meeting  
June 18, 2005, 8:30 AM  
Golden Corral  
3117 Lorna Road  
Hoover, AL 35216  
205.822.1314**

