



Mid Alabama Corvette Club



www.midalcorvette.com

MACC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER October - 2005

2005 OFFICERS

President & Executive Board Member:
Arlene Johnson
arlene.johnson@bellsouth.com

1st Vice President, Show Chair & Executive Board
Member: Ronnie Jones
Ronnie@besha.org

Secretary & Executive Board Member:
Cathy Crapet
cathycrapet@aol.com

Treasurer & Executive Board Member:
Bill Ringler
billringlr@aol.com

Past President & Executive Board Member:
Rob Conrad
robmusicconrad@aol.com

Membership:
Sharon Mathews
smathews13@bellsouth.net

NCRS Ambassador:
Fred Atkins
LT4@Bham.RR.com

NCM Ambassador:
Jim Willis
jdwillis@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Editor:
Beth Carter
bethcarter@charter.net

Social Chair:
Suzan Touchton
stouchton@bellsouth.net

Interim Web Master: Alan Jones
(Luckie & Company)

A Note from the Crew Chief

By Arlene Johnson

A blank slate.....jumping right in.....and taking off!!!

The job of writing an article month after month isn't an easy one. Here I sit with a **blank slate** and am not sure which angle to take on October's article. Most Americans and folks around the world were indeed left speechless after the wrath of this season's hurricanes. Day after day there we sat in front of the TV or computer screen first numb and unbelieving and then upset about what was unfolding. The true heroes and survivors of any catastrophe are those who just **jump right in** to help others and change the course of events sometimes for complete strangers.

I think what is so devastating to most folks is that they had to leave their homes and head to parts unknown. Suddenly and not of their choosing there were tens of thousands of "immigrants" from one town, one parish, or one state to another right here in the U.S. **Most** of our ancestors came to the U.S. by way of immigration – some on their own accord (like my father from Switzerland in 1953) yet others were forced out of their countries for various reasons against their will as slaves or for religious persecution – their lives changed forever.

This reminds me of the man who was so instrumental in creating and some say saving the Corvette.....**Zora Arkus-Duntov**. He was born in Belgium on Christmas Day 1909 of Russian parents. After escaping the advancing Nazi troops he ended up in New York and set up a company that manufactured aluminum heads for the flathead Ford V8 engine. Subsequently he worked on the Allard sports car and the Porche Spyder driving various cars in the 1954 and 1955 LeMans races. He began work at GM in 1953 and sent a memo to his bosses about what he wanted to accomplish in a car design....."pertaining to youth, hot rodders, and Chevrolet". This vision laid the foundation for the

(Continued on page 2)

most successful performance program in the industry and the winningest manufacturer in the history of motor racing. **Taking off** from his vision were many production firsts: the high-lift camshaft which brought fuel injection to Corvette in 1957 the grand sport program in 1963 brought the aluminum small block with twin plug cylinder heads, and pre-production prototypes to Daytona Beach, LeMans, and Pikes Peak, and other racing venues around the world.

From displacement came opportunity and excellence. I think many years from now we will learn that of the children who were literally swept from their homes will be the thinkers, the researchers, and creators of a better place in which we live for future generations. Perhaps a car in which we don't need fossil fuels and one that can navigate above waters as well. Who knows where the future of the Corvette will be taken as future models are planned. I look forward to many more generations of Corvettes.

By-Law Committee by Arlene Johnson

Our club's bylaws act as a guide to our operations and serve as internal club rules. A couple of topics came up during last quarter's board meeting indicating we may need to look at the bylaws and make a few changes (i.e. duties of Show Chairman and membership dues structure, etc.). The by-law committee consists of Chip Yarbrough (lead), Sara Boehme, Nick Klosowsky, and Jim Maddox. These folks are charged with reviewing the verbiage of the bylaws, considering the changes the board of directors recommends, making any other recommendations they or members may come up with and proposing the new set of bylaws to the MACC membership for review and then vote. Please take a moment to read the bylaws (provided to you by the membership chairperson when you joined) to be familiar with the content and language.....and, if you have any suggestions or questions, please contact Chip Yarbrough at yarbroughc@cdpemail.dhs.gov.

December Events by Arlene Johnson

Christmas Parades – December 3rd

The Holiday season is busy for all us, mark your calendars now for these exciting December events. MACC will be participating in two Christmas Parades in opposite ends of the Birmingham area both on **December 3rd**. The Alabaster parade, one in which our club has participated for many years, is held in the morning usually starting at 10am. Cars need to be gathered and decorated early (around 8am) off of Hwy 31 – the exact meet location will be announced later. Be prepared with plenty of candy for this bunch. Lunch follows for the group at a pre-designated location.



When you've just about recovered from that parade, you'll have to be ready for the Springville parade which starts at 6pm. The gathering location is the Springville Middle School and cars must be staged no later than 5pm. Afterwards the club will gather at the Maddox's beautiful antebellum home on Hwy 11 in downtown Springville.

More details on each will be forthcoming as we get closer to December.....just put the day on your calendar as a **Corvette Christmas Parade Day** and start planning your car's decorations for the events – that can be anything from balloons to lights, to stuffed animals, to costumes – use your imagination!!!!

MACC Christmas Party – December 2nd

Our **annual Christmas party** will be held at the Inverness Country Club **Friday evening December 2nd**. There will be a cocktail hour with a cash bar and snacks/hors d'oeuvres from about 6:30pm – 7:30pm with dinner beginning near 7:30pm ending about 10pm. There will be a sit down meal with your choice of rib eye or chicken for \$25 per person. Bob Moreno will be preparing an information sheet and will be collecting the checks as it gets closer to the day.

We will be participating in the annual holiday drive for donations/toys for kids put on by Magic 96.5. Each MACC member should bring an unwrapped toy, game, or donation. Rob Conrad will arrange pick-up of the donated items that evening. This will be our third year participating in this worthy fundraiser which helps so many needy local families during the holidays.

We will have background piano music or a live DJ for a few hours and spend a few minutes acknowledging MACC members/officers during this past year. I hope every member considers attending and spending some social time with fellow members. The Christmas committee consists of: *Suzan Touchton, Beth Carter, Cathy Crapet, Bob Moreno, and Arlene Johnson*. Please let any of these folks know of your suggestions for a special evening.

In The Rearview Mirror by Beth Carter

It's been another fun filled month with our cars. We had members participate in many of the local car shows, Vettes for Pets, and the highlight of the month was no doubt our trip to the East Tennessee Club's Vette Fest in Gatlinburg. Congrats are in order for Jane Mantooh, Hoke Graham, Joel and Joseph Tate, and David Carter for placing in the top three of their divisions at the car show. The entire team brought home first place again for the second year in a row in the masquerade ball competition for our peppy rendition of the "MACC Car Wash." A great time was had by all!!!



Get to know your Fellow Club Members:

David and Arlene Johnson



Opposites Do Attract



David arrived a good 'ole Southern boy early one Halloween morning with a penchant for Heavy Metal – it was the same year as Ronnie's first Corvette – if you were paying attention to last month's article – you'll know the year – the place was Bessemer, Alabama. Most of his life he lived in the St. Clair County area between Moody and Leeds. David's Dad was a member of the Ironworkers Local Union #92 and owned his own business for many years – several of the local high rise buildings built in the 1960s to 1980s bear his handiwork – including the BellSouth building on 19th Street.

Arlene was born a Yankee in the decade before David in Morristown, New Jersey early on a September morning. She is the oldest of 4 natural children and 9 adopted children. Her Dad emigrated from Switzerland in 1953 and worked on dairy farms between New York State and New Jersey for almost 20 years. Her mom was attending the Seeing Eye Guide Dog school when she met her Dad...who was also a guide dog trainer. Something about her you may not know is she plays the flute – competing at amateur levels through high school including a competition in Rome, Italy in 1974. Now she plays occasionally at weddings, holiday parties, or just to see if she still knows how. Arlene worked for AT&T in Basking Ridge, New Jersey before moving to Alabama and now works for BellSouth in their Finance Department. She has 25 years of phone company service.

Arlene & David met in 1997 when he was installing her alarm system. David spent 16 years working for various alarm companies large and small in the Birmingham area before opening his own business, Clarity Alarms, LLC in 2003. His customers range from residential locations to churches to grocery stores to large factories that need burglar, fire, or closed circuit TV systems. Arlene & David were married in May of 2002 in Mentone and honeymooned at Gorham's Bluff. Their family consists of Sandy & Taz (mother & son mix breed dogs), Dallas (rescued calico), and Rooster (stealth-like Ninja cat adopted from the shelter).

Arlene started looking for a C3 in her 40th year (kind of a gift to herself for finally getting her Master's Degree from Birmingham-Southern College). It took about six months of looking, and the Green Goblin was found in Cool Springs, TN. Arlene says that was before the club had a web-site and it took a while to find a contact for the local club – but they finally located MACC and have been in the club seven years. Now-a-days Arlene receives more than one email a week from people out-of-town inquiring about local events, referrals for mechanics, or just information about the club. David's reputation as resident cook and baked bean souse chef developed over the four years he cooked for the annual show out at the Zamora Temple. And, something you may not know about David – he plays the guitar (acoustic & electric) – although very little any more given his hectic work schedules. His favorite performers are Jimmy Hendrix, Eric Johnson, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Yngwie Malmsteen, and the late Darrel Abbott of Pantera.

Their favorite Corvette club memories include the Fall trips to Gulf Shores for Bob's Shrimp boil, their first club trip to Panama City/Dothan run in 2000, the cruises to Covered Bridges by Jim, the scavenger hunts and timed events by Jocko.....and.....being the only Elkhart Green car at the 50th Anniversary in Bowling Green, KY in 2003 and frankly just about anywhere they go. They typically have one of the oldest cars in our cruises or trips out of town and wouldn't have it any other way.....Go Stingray!!!!

Minutes of the September Meeting by Cathy Crapet

The September 20, 2005, meeting of the Mid Alabama Corvette Club was held at the Fish Market Restaurant in Greystone at 7:00 PM. The meeting was called to order by Arlene Johnson, President. There were 34 members present.

Sharon Mathews, Membership Chairman, introduced new members. She announced that she had updated copies of the membership roster, as well as a list of members' birthdays and anniversaries.

Cathy Crapet, Secretary, discussed the minutes of the August meeting. Evelyn Ringler made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the September MACC newsletter. Chip Yarbrough seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill Ringler, Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report. He discussed the need for the club to end the year with limited funds in order to meet the guidelines of the IRS. Cathy Crapet made a motion to accept the report as presented. Terry Mathews seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Arlene discussed the club's presentation of \$1,000.00 to the American Red Cross for the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. She also thanked Sharon and Terry Mathews for their efforts in collecting items from club members and delivering them to the Biloxi area.

Committee reports were given. Jim Willis gave a report on behalf of the National Corvette Museum. Arlene reported on "Vettes for Pets." The club donated over \$800.00, in addition to pet food and other items, to the St. Clair County Animal Shelter. Arlene thanked David Carter on behalf of Higginbotham Oil for their help. Arlene discussed the club questionnaire that she sent out to all members. She received 20 responses. The results indicated that the club wants to sponsor a car show in 2006.

Arlene asked for a report from the Nominating Committee whose members include Cathy Crapet, Ronnie Jones, Jim Willis, Terry Mathews, and Rob Conrad. Jim Willis asked for members who are interested in seeking an office to contact a member of the committee. The slate of officers will be presented at the October meeting. Elections will take place at the November meeting.

Arlene appointed a by-laws committee to look over the current by-laws and make recommendations to the Board. The committee members include Chip Yarbrough, Sara Boehme, Nick Klosowsky, and Jim Maddox. The Board will submit recommendations to the committee to also be reviewed.

Stanchions for car shows were discussed. Hoke Graham presented one at the August meeting. The cost for each is \$25.00. Due to Holt's absence, the discussion of the purchase was tabled until the October meeting.

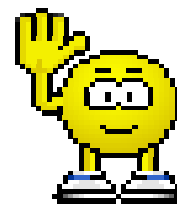
The purchase of a club trailer was discussed. Jim Maddox offered to sell the club a 6x10, 1999 model trailer for the price of \$2,000.00. It would be used to store club assets in one central location. The MACC insignia would be placed on both sides of the trailer. Ronnie Jones volunteered to store the trailer at his home. Insurance was also discussed. Sharon Mathews made a motion to purchase the trailer from Jim Maddox. Terry Mathews seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming events were discussed. Please refer to the newsletter and e-mails for details on all upcoming events. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Corvette Trivia

1. The first "Collector Edition" came in Gold Metallic color. **True or False**
2. The "AM-FM" radio was first available during the 1963 model year. **True or False**
3. The 1970 Corvette was the first year for rectangular exhaust tips. **True or False**
4. What model year Corvette was the first to use a catalytic converter?
 - a. 1972
 - b. 1975
 - c. 1980
 - d. 1970

(Answers on last page.)

The logo for "SAVE THE WAVE" is written in a stylized, blue, 3D block font with a white outline. The letters are slightly wavy and have a shadow effect.

Membership News by Sharon Mathews

We have enjoyed another terrific month and added two new families to our group of "Vette Lov'n" members:

Jeff and Evie Williams
108 Douglas Drive
Alabaster, Alabama 35007
Employer: TRANE Company
e-mail: jawilliams@trans.com
and: el_willi@msn.com
Phone: 663-3371 home;
work 334-269-4900
2002 Triple Black Convertible

Rob and Wanda Leopard
6695 Griffin Valley Lane
McCalla, Alabama 35111
Employer: Leopard Builders
e-mail: leopard builders@bellsouth.net
Phone 428-1657, work: 369-1440, Fax 424-5725
1965 White Coupe
2004 Silver Z06

WELCOME, Jeff and Evie, Rob and Wanda. We look forward to seeing you at all our events!

Take a look at the member list I e-mailed to everyone a couple of weeks ago. Pick out someone you haven't seen in a while, call and invite them to our next meeting or outing! Let them know we miss them.

Member Photos on Website

Help us get your and your car's photo on our website. If you have a picture please e-mail it to me at mathewssharon@yahoo.com if not, just ask at the next meeting or cruise in, we will have a camera there and will get you a great photo.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Nick Klosowsky	<u>01</u>
Sylvia Gonda	<u>05</u>
Tom White	<u>12</u>
Bob Moreno	<u>15</u>
Michael Sadlo	<u>20</u>
Donna Allen	<u>25</u>
Bryan Mullins	<u>27</u>
Delaine Mullins	<u>30</u>
David Johnson	<u>31</u>

(No Anniversaries to report this month.)



Up Coming Social Events by Suzan Touchton

Fall is upon us and offers many opportunities to get out and enjoy our Corvettes. Upcoming events include the Thursday night cruise in at the Tip Top Café, Corvettes Against Breast Cancer, Big Boyz Toys Crusin' the Coast fund raiser at Talladega Motor Speedway, cruise to the ATROX haunted house, and the Hallaweenie Roast at the Boo Barn. Check out the calendar for dates, times and locations.



NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM NEWS

By Jim Willis

2005 Production Stats from the NCM

The first production year for the C6 officially came to a close on September 8, when the last 2005 Corvette came off the end of the assembly line.

A total of 37,372 cars were built during the model year, with no ZO6 production. Coupes proved to be more popular than ever with 72 percent of total production and convertibles taking the remaining 28 percent. The most popular exterior color was Black (21.4 percent), followed by Light Tarnish Silver (18.4 percent), Victory Red (15 percent), Luxo Blue (10.1 percent), Magnetic Red (9.1 percent), Sunset Orange (8 percent), Millennium Yellow (5.4 percent), White (5.3 percent), Precision Red (3.5 percent), Velocity Yellow (2 percent) and Red Jewel (1.9 percent). Most convertible customers opted for the black top (86 percent), with only 11.3 percent choosing beige followed by 2.7 percent who chose gray. Interior color options are as follows: Ebony 60.9 percent, Light Cashmere 24.5 percent, Steel Gray 10 percent, and Cobalt Red 4.6 percent. Once again proving most popular, automatic transmissions accounted for 60 percent of the cars. Six-speed manual transmissions accounted for 17 percent, while 23 percent opted for the six-speed with the Z51 option.



Export cars, other than Canada and Mexico, totaled 4.7 percent. Other popular options included: Memory Package (92 percent), Passenger and Driver Reclining Bucket Seats (98.4 percent), Telescoping Steering Wheel (87.3 percent), Polished Aluminum Wheels (72.5 percent), OnStar (52.5 percent), Heads Up Display (92 percent), and XM Satellite Radio (58.6 percent)

Woooo!!! Do You Have Enough WOE? Does It Seem Like It Takes Longer To STOP?

By Dennis Lyons, impatientcreations.com

With your high performance vehicle it is more important than ever to make SURE you brakes exceed the pedal on the right. The traffic is moving faster and closer together than ever, with more distractions. When you drive your beautiful car, what are you focusing on? Hopefully, it is how I can get where I am going safely *and* with style. Defensive driving is more than a loud horn. Your car has 4 brakes and 1 horn, use proportionately. You must have at least as good a braking system as the car in front of you, preferably better. The Corvette has always exceeded the braking standards, but never take your brakes for granted, they must be maintained. We are going to discuss some common signs that your brakes are waving-their-arms for attention.

Specialty cars have a tendency to be operated on perfect days when they occur on the weekend. This is the perfect environment for the "not driven enough" high maintenance syndrome. Lack of use is almost as deteriorating as abuse.

CAUTION! The older cars use a very corrosive fluid that will eat paint and a lot of other stuff so BE CAREFUL! We have performed several conversions to the synthetic fluid and when performed properly works well. The synthetic fluid is much kinder to the stuff under the hood and paint. The pedal pressure is a little different, not quite as firm, so if you are a heel-and-toe shifter and the pedals are the perfect height and feel stay with what you have.

Tell-tale signs that you need to get your brakes checked.

1. Pedal slowly creeps down when you are at a stop – air in the lines, bleeding the brakes will remove the air, but how did it get in?
2. Hard pedal – if you have power brakes and the pedal is very hard, there is likely to be an issue with the booster.

3. Firewall paint behind and under the master cylinder curling or an appearance of being stripped – leaking master cylinder or over filling and careless service of master cylinder.
4. Pulling to one side while stopping – there are about a dozen possibilities, but likely; caliper leaking and corroded the piston(s) so it does not move fluidly; caliper leaking and soaked pad(s) and one is not providing the resistance as the other resulting in a pull to one side; one caliper locked up and not providing any braking; emergency brake not releasing; pulling can be caused by the rear brakes as well as the front; when the rear brakes are pulling the car has a sensation of being turned from the rear rather than the steering wheel turning; flex hoses, one is bulging and not providing the same pressure on the disc; tire pressure; tire size; there are more, but these are the most common.
5. Signs of fluid streaking down the inside of the tire. It won't be a lot, just light streaks. This may be a leaking caliper or brake line
6. Squeaking – hopefully it is the pad vibration alert that is telling you the pads are thin and need replacing. It could be the metal from the pad mounting plate against the rotor and that is the sound of dollars.

Upgrading to the calipers to what is referred to as stainless steel sleeves with O-rings is a good choice. They will normally last longer with periodic use than original style calipers. Changing the fluid to synthetic reduces the corrosive environment which also can extend the life for the occasional driver.

Your braking systems can have pressures approaching 1,500psi. If your car is older than 20 years, the metal brake lines may be thin from corrosion, so any time someone works on them there is a possibility of rusted, rounded fittings and damaged lines, that should be replaced. Replacing normal wear and worn parts may result in chasing corrosion damaged parts farther down the lines. Make sure your technician has experience with working on your age vehicle; you are betting your life on it. May the good Lord always bless you with great brakes.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Club events/meetings are noted in bold print)



- October 6th** **6:00 pm First Thursday night Cruise in, Tip Top Café**
588 Shades Crest Rd., Contact Bill Ringler
- October 8th **Corvettes Against Breast Cancer**, @ Atlanta Motor Speedway,
Sponsored by Corvettes Serving America Foundation (contact Suzan Touchton for information)
- October 8th 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Big BoyZ Toy Fundraiser to benefit Biloxi residents
Motorsports Hall of Fame, Talladega AL, contact Arlene Johnson
- October 16th** **5:30 pm MACC Dinner Meeting at Lloyds Restaurant (on Hwy 280)**
7:00 pm Cruise to Leeds - ATROX (Haunted House)
- October 22nd Emerald Coast Show, Panama City, FL (Cancelled due
to extensive hurricane damage to the Gulf Coast)
- October 28th 6:30 PM Halloweenie Roast at the Allen's Boo Barn, Contact Wayne Allen or Chris Touchton
- November 20th** **MACC Meeting & Nomination of 2006 Officers**
2:00 – 4:00 pm, Neighborhood Sports Grill, Trussville
- December 2nd** **Christmas Party, Inverness Country Club (contact Bob Moreno)**
- December 3rd 8:00 AM Alabaster Christmas Parade
5:00 PM Springville Christmas Parade

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

**Next MACC Meeting
October 16
Lloyd's Restaurant
5301 Highway 280
205-991-5530
5:30 Dinner & Meeting
7:00 PM Cruise to the ATROX Haunted House
Leeds, AL**



Answers to Trivia Questions:

1. False, 2. True, 3. True, 4. B - 1975