



**Mid Alabama
Corvette Club**



MACC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October - 2004

www.midalc Corvette.com

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Wayne Metcalfe

Even hurricanes couldn't stop this club from having fun in September. And fun we did have. We had Vettes for Pets, meetings, and a trip to the mountains, complete with a car show, a wedding, and a run through Deal's Gap where the club learned what fine handling cars our Corvettes are.

Deb and I want to thank each and every one of you that helped make our special day extra special by helping us celebrate it in Gatlinburg. It is friends like you that give life it's full meaning. Thanks from the bottom of our hearts. Ask Rick Stacey about his pink shirt. Thanks Rick.

Congratulations to Steven Pope, Dan Glore, and Nancy Davis. These three members received trophies at Vette Fest. This is not easily done, as those of you that have attended this show before (*continued on page 2*)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

(continued)

know. The Blues Brothers also brought down the house at the talent show on Saturday night at Vette Fest. If you haven't seen the pictures ask around, There are some available.

I now have an opportunity to make a fifty year old dream come true. Ever since I first saw God's beautiful blue ocean, I have dreamed of living close enough to it where I could visit it every day, and enjoy all it has to offer. I have compromised this dream in the past and settled for many short trips each year to visit the place where I know I really belong. These last six months have brought changes to my life that I know are meant to be. First I renewed a eighteen year old friendship which lead to a wedding, then I am approached by a person who wanted to buy my house which was not on the market at the time, and now for the best part, my new bride is willing to pull up stakes and head south.

Deb and I will be leaving Alabama on October 14th headed south. At the present time we don't know where we will put down our roots. I guess I will tie a snow sled and a windshield scrapper on top of the Vette and start looking when someone ask me what these two items are. Our furniture is going into storage in west central Florida and we will start in that area looking for a home. It is scary and exciting. I know God will provide.

It has been a pleasure being a part of the Mid-Alabama Corvette Club. I have made many friends. I will renew my membership this next year as an out of state member. I wish the best for each and every one of you and the club.

Deb and I will be back to visit, and as soon as we have contact information we will send it out.
THANKS FOR THE GOOD TIMES! WAYNE

TO WAYNE METCALFE

The MACC members sincerely appreciate your many extra hours of time and energy invested on behalf of the club to have made this one of the most successful years ever. Our best wishes to you and Deb in your new adventures. You will be missed. Please do keep in touch!

WELCOME TO NEW MACC MEMBERS

by Marti Garrett

Please welcome new members: Mike & Nancy Ingram, they have a 1978 Silver/Anniversary Coupe. I'm working on 2 more prospects for membership.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 19th MEETING

by Suzan Touchton

The meeting was called to order at the Neighborhood Grill by First Vice-President Rob Conrad. There were no guests or new members present.

Secretary Suzan Touchton reported that minutes from August meeting were posted on the newsletter and were available in hardcopy if desired. Suggestions for charities to support were discussed. Those mentioned for donations were St. Clair County Animal Shelter, Susan G.Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, UAB Burn Center and UAB Cleft & Craniofacial Center. Others

mentioned were Goodfellows, National Corvette Museum, Salvation Army and hurricane victims on the Gulf coast. Written request for consideration by the club are to be submitted to the secretary so they can be on the November ballot.

Cathy Crapet, Social Chairman, gave an update on upcoming events. Those include the East Tennessee Show in Gatlinburg, Jocko's Road Rally and the Auburn/Alabama party at the Crapet's lake house. Russell Bailey and David Johnson will be planning the road rally route.

Dan Glore extended an invitation to his annual party on October 9th. Each guest is requested to bring a smoke detector to be given to the UAB Burn Center.

Museum Ambassador Jim Willis asked that MACC members who are also members of the National Corvette Museum notify him. He would like to have a list of all museum members. Jim also has one ticket available for the 4 day Petite LeMans race in Atlanta.

MACC has been invited to display our Corvettes at the International Auto Show. The Birmingham News hosts this event November 11th-14th. They will have Corvettes and Mustangs on display for the weekend. If you are interested in showing off your car please contact Jim Willis

Jim and Sherry Willis attended the 10th Anniversary of the Museum. There were about 3,000 people in attendance. There were many fun events over the weekend. Sounds like a good road trip for next year.

Nominating Committee Chairman Ronnie Jones reported that several had expressed interest in holding an office next year. These are Arlene Johnson and Rob Conrad – President, Fred Turner – Show Chairman, Bill Ringler – Treasurer. If you are interested in holding an office please contact Ronnie. We will have our election at the November meeting.

Bill Ringler will be doing an audit on our books next month. He will also work on a budget so we know exactly how much money we have to donate.

Ronnie mentioned that we might want to consider using some of our surplus funds to purchase items for the club. These items would be folding tables, tents and stanchions for shows. This will be discussed further.

Arlene told us about the Vettes for Pets outing that was held on Saturday. Money was raised for the animal shelter and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Arlene for planning such a great day trip.

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

by Cathy Crapet

Wow!!! What a great turnout in Gatlinburg. We had approximately 18 cars for the weekend. I actually lost count. Terry Mathews is to be congratulated on winning the Karaoke contest on Friday evening. And as you have seen by the recent e-mail pictures, the "Blues Brothers" had a great performance. Terry led the group with "Soul Man," with lots of members joining in with back-up. Ronnie and Kathy Jones were a hit with their dance movements!! Last, but not least, several of our members won trophies for their beautiful Corvettes.

Upcoming events include Jocko's Annual Road Rally on October 23rd. He has asked several members to help plan it with the rally ending at his house. More details will follow.

The Auburn-Alabama Party this year will be at the Crapet's lake house on Saturday, November 20th. I will be sending out more information in the November Newsletter which will include directions and "food" news.

We have a new activity to add to our calendars. It is the First Annual Eastern Area Christmas Fantasy Parade which goes through the Roebuck area. It will be Saturday, November 27th. I would love for us to be well represented, so mark your calendars now. More information on the details of the parade will be sent at a later date in a separate e-mail.



NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM NEWS

by Jim Willis

If you are a member of the National Corvette Museum, please let me know so we can make a record of it. If you are not yet an NCM member, let me know and I'll give you the information necessary to join. Remember, that you get a 25 percent discount on your membership because the Mid-Alabama Corvette Club is a club member of the Museum.

See me if you want to buy a \$10 raffle ticket to win the 2005 Red C6 Coupe to be given away at the Museum on Labor Day, 2005.

Thanks! Jim Willis, jdwillis@bellsouth.net, 956-6428.

GENERAL CLUB NEWS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT by Ronnie Jones

The nominating committee has been working on a slate of officers to present at the October meeting. So far, only a couple of members have contacted us to say they were interested in holding an office; therefore, no volunteers means drafting. Several members did express interest in the appointed positions. The new President should have no problem filling these positions with qualified people. The slate of officers is complete and will be presented at the next meeting. Club officers will be elected by members present at the November meeting.

REPORT ON VETTES FOR PETS HELD SATURDAY, SEPT 18TH by David & Arlene Johnson

Thanks to MACC members for your support of the 4th Annual 'Vettes For Pets. We had 13 cars travel to the Grape Stomp in Harpersville and then most joined us at Longhorn Steaks for dinner. Congratulations to Fred Turner for winning the 'cat theme' basket and to Dale Griffith and Judy Horton for winning the 'dog theme' basket. Thank you as well to the many of you who were not able to join the event but made a donation to the shelter. A total of \$695 was raised in addition to 150 lbs of pet food and miscellaneous items.

J & J'S ROAD RALLY by Jane Lewis

Our road rally is scheduled for Saturday, October 23, 2004. The starting point will be the Nextel office off Lakeshore Parkway. You pass under the red light at West Oxmoor and go through the next light at Industrial Parkway. Start looking to the left and take the next street to the left after Nextel. The first car will leave promptly at 1:00 p.m. The run will be approximately 1 ½ hours, so make sure you have plenty of gasoline. There will be trophies for the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners.

We will have Dreamland Barbeque (ribs & chicken) with all the fixings for \$10 per person after the run at our home on Shannon Road. If you can't make the road rally, you are welcome to come and eat. I will need to get a head count of how many will be eating before I order the food. Please let me know as soon as possible. My e-mail address is jmantooth@luckie.net. Alabama & Auburn have

games sometime that Saturday, so you are welcome to stay and watch the football games. Hope to see you all on the 23rd!

NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT by Rob Conrad

Friday night October 1st, I had the honor of being the master of ceremonies for the Magic Moments 20th anniversary dinner. I want everyone in the club to know what a wonderful organization this is. It provides opportunities for sick and terminally ill children to do things they would never otherwise have the chance to do. As I read the list of some of Birmingham's most influential companies and organizations that make Magic moments possible, there we were, "The Mid Alabama Corvette club" It gave me great pride to think we are recognized as a major player by this organization. They want to strengthen their ties with us next year and do anything we ask to make our show more successful. If you recall they eagerly provided volunteers for the concession sales at the Zamora temple. This is a fine organization that deserves our continued support and gives us credit for what we give them.

Jim Willis and I hooked up at road Atlanta for the petit Le Mans, and represented the club with our cars in the Corvette corral. Ask Jim about the certificate they awarded his car, very cool. I would love to see the club show up en mass to this race next year. Seeing the C-5-R's dominate this race was a thrill. You meet Corvette owners from all over, and there is a ton of great cars on display. Check this out, as Jim and I were eating dinner at the Corvette hospitality tent, we were joined by none other than Dave Hill and his wife. It was great talking to the chief Corvette engineer over dinner, this was hard to beat. By the way going 94 in a 70 on 1-20 in Douglas County Georgia costs \$192.50 - ouch! Anyone got a good radar system to recommend?

On Friday the first of October I saw more Corvettes on the road than ever. At one intersection, there were two other C-5s. My hand got worn out from all the waving.

See ya'll at the next meeting.

NAME TAGS LOOKING FOR A HOME by Jane Lewis

I have MACC name badges for the following members:

Teresa & Bobby Conrad	Glen & Barbara Badham
Claudia Bruce	Cheryl & Michael Sadlo
Nancy Davis	Becky & Randy Fuller
Marshall & Pat Eddy	Amos & Bobbie Mitchum
Deanne & Robert Johnson	Paul & Frank Lowery
Bryan & Delaine Mullins	Bob & Ginger Hensley
Carl Smith	

You can pick up your name badges at the next meeting or at the Road Rally on 10/23/04.

DRIVING THE C6 CORVETTE BY DALE EARNHARDT JR.

Through my relationship and my family's history with Chevrolet, I am fortunate enough to get a lot of opportunities. Occasionally, those are opportunities beyond the friendships I have made as a result of my association with Chevrolet.

One such opportunity is driving the C5-R, which remains one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had. Through the efforts of my father and his relationship with Chevrolet, I can say I've actually driven one the most incredible racecars to ever come out of the U.S. As a result

of that race and the attention that it created, both dad and I were “adopted” by the Corvette brand team, the race team and Corvette fans everywhere.

As a Corvette enthusiast myself, I am very proud to be part of the Corvette’s history. Recently, I was given the opportunity to spend some time in a pre-production C6 Corvette. When I say, “spend some time,” I mean I have had this car for almost two months now. When I say “pre-production,” I mean one out of the first 100 or so pilot cars run down the Bowling Green Assembly line. It’s a black Z51 six-speed with a Cashmere leather interior. From what my friends within the Corvette brand team tell me, it has every option available on a C6, minus the painted roof panel.

I have a Precision Red Z51 C6 on its way, so I was anxious to see what the newest Corvette is like. When they told me I could be a test pilot in exchange for an honest appraisal, I snatched the keys, or key fob as the case may be.

Looking at the car, I’ll have to admit, I like the covered headlights. It makes it look a lot like the C5-R and brings it into the 21st century. I also like the sharp lines on the body, especially the creases at the tops of the fenders and quarter panels. It makes it obvious that it has some 63-67 Stingray DNA in it. The side scoop looks good too and I also like the chopped off rear end.

The rear of the car looks good. It has a little C4 in it, which is by no means a bad thing. Overall, I think it’s a great looking car. It comes off more hostile and tense looking than a C5, but it’s easily recognizable as a Corvette. The colors seem to play a part in how it looks too. The metallic colored cars have more going on, in terms of how light plays off of the sharp edges, while the darker cars have more of a purposeful look to them. I’m sure the aftermarket will have a field day with the new body, especially the hood. I was thinking a ’67-style big block stinger-type hood would look pretty cool.

On the inside, the car seems much more finished than a C5. The light tan interior in the test car is pretty nice. I think the brushed aluminum parts wake up the black instrument faces and break up some of the tan color on everything. The gauges are neatly arranged and easy to read. The information center is a good feature, as on the C5. The tester also has the optional navigation system, which is a nice, 21st century feature. It’s hard not to want to fiddle with it all of the time, but most regular stereos are like that too. The speakers are clear and the sound system is good for a production car. As always, the Bose people did a good job with matching everything up to work well inside the car. Seating position is good and the range of adjustment can meet pretty much anyone’s needs.

Enough with the gadgets though. Let’s get to the hardcore stuff; performance. The car handles great. It’s really a pretty neutral-handling car. You can flick the wheel, stab the throttle and easily drive it like a big sprint car if you’re so inclined. I’m sure there’s some more handling left in there, but it would compromise the everyday ride. The test car is a Z51. I like it so well that I ordered option Z51 on my red C6. It may be a little on the stiff side for some compared to the base car, but it feels just about right to me. It seems like it’s sprung a good bit differently than a C5. Actually the C6 with Z51 seems to be better mannered overall than a standard C5. I also noticed that on rougher roads, the new car doesn’t seem as jittery as the old car. There’s going to be some shaking going on in any performance car on a rough road, but the C6 seems to take it a whole lot better than a C5. In terms of handling and ride, the C6 is a car you can drive every day and not be tired of. The C5 was also like that but the C6 is like that and then some. I imagine that a lot more C6 Corvettes will become daily drivers, which is a concept you couldn’t even contemplate in a number of great Corvettes from the past. As far as braking goes, it stops very well for a street car. They’re firm and stop the car extremely well, which is what’s supposed to happen.

My favorite thing about the 2005 Corvette is the LS2 engine. You can really feel the difference, especially in the higher RPM range. The new engine is much freer-breathing, which is important on a twisty road or a track day. I did what I was supposed to with the test car, which is to give it a good

workout. The engine never flinched. It never ran over 210 degrees and in almost 2,000 miles of power shifting and back-country road trips, it never used so much as a drop of oil. What really surprised me though was the fact that it's showing 19.8 miles per gallon on the computer, which is amazing considering it's been driven like it was stolen the whole time.

We took it to a local track and with a timing device attached, ran a string of consistent 12.7 quarter-mile times. Zero to 60 was a little harder to master without the traction control activated but it was typically 4.7 to 4.9, which is pretty serious for a street car. These are numbers that some of the old 427s and 454s laid down in their day, which are impressive, regardless of when they were recorded. Around town, it pulls a lot like a well behaved big-block, delivering the reward of big-engine torque without solid lifters to adjust or plugs that fuel foul. If it were up to me, I'd give the engine guys a raise.

Fit and finish on the car were as good as any I've seen on any original Corvette. The panels all line up well and there are no squeaks or rattles to mention. Usually, early production cars are the opposite, so a finished production car should really be nice.

Now all I need to do is work on the right people at Chevy to be a test driver for the next Z06.

MACC CLASSIFIEDS FOR MEMBERS SELLING CORVETTES, PARTS & ACCESSORIES

Hey folks, here is yet another Vette for sale. 1988 35th Anniversary Edition, coupe body style, classic white on white combination (specifically made for the 35th Anniversary - only 2050 made), alarm system, Bose stereo system, automatic transmission. Car has 52,500 miles. I am the 2nd owner. Asking \$13,500.00...obo. Please, feel free to email SZN2000@aol.com or call me at 907-4444, Soraya Nilipour

I have 4 stock tires and rims off of my 98 for sale and 4 stock rims off of my 03 Z71 truck 4 sale. Tony Crapet, teparc@aol.com, 988-0291 home, 283-7790 cell

2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October:

- 9th 6th Annual "Been on Fire" bonfire party, starts at 7:30, contact Dan Glore at 856-0004
- 15th Knoxville, Tennessee, Fall Corvette Expo at the Chilhowee Park Fairgrounds, Info: Byron Cooper 865-687-3976 or www.corvetteexpo.com
- 17th **Monthly MACC meeting, Neighborhood Sports Grill, Trussville, 2:00 PM**
- 23rd Jocko & Jane's Road Rally, contact Jim Lewis

November:

- 11th Birmingham International Auto Show, contact Jim Willis
- 13th Circle City Peanut Festival Corvette Show, contact John Hickman at 334-347-5908
- 20th MACC Alabama vs. Auburn Tail Gate Party, contact Cathy Crapet
- 21st **Monthly MACC meeting, Neighborhood Sports Grill, Trussville, 2:00 PM**
- 27th Roebuck Christmas Parade, contact Kathy Crapet

December:

3rd MACC Christmas Party, contact Bob Moreno

**Next MACC Monthly meeting
Neighborhood Sports Grill - Trussville
October 17th - 2:00 PM**

