

# NCRS MIAMI VALLEY CHAPTER

## Vette Gazette

February 2012

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### FEATURED ARTICLE

*Patricia, my Grandma passed away 3 months ago and I originally wrote this story as my fondest memory of her. Many people encouraged me to put the article in a magazine, so when the National Corvette Museum asked for inspiring stories for an upcoming article I followed through. Attached is an article I submitted to the museum and I was a finalist, but the article wasn't published. [Michael T. Mills](#)*

Growing up in a GM town in the 70's like Dayton Ohio, a boy could not help but dream of cars and the open road. Much of my influence can be attributed to playing in my uncle's '68, which was tucked in a corner of his garage. The car was in primer and non operational except as a cat's litter box. Sitting behind the wheel of a "two-seater", with a speedometer reading well past the standard 85 mph, had no choice but to infect this young boy with "Corvette Fever". We all know the only cure for "Corvette Fever" is the keys and the open road.

At the age of 7 (circa 1980) one Friday night my Grandma was taking me to her house to spend the night. We stopped for dinner at a Dayton-area Burger King. When we came out, a Corvette was parked next to my Grandma's '72 Nova. I turned to her and said, "Grandma, when I grow up I'm going to buy a Corvette and you will be the first one to ride in it". I reiterated this dream to Grandma through Jr. High, High School and College. My wife Traci was fully aware of my Corvette dream, as we would buy a Corvette before we could start a family. After we we're married in 1997, we began to save for the fulfillment of my childhood dream. A true testament that I was now a man, not because I was married, starting a career, or even a homeowner. No, I became a man because the difference between the men and the boys is the price of their toys. In 1999 after 2 years of saving enough cash, I bought my first Corvette. It was a shiny red '67, 327/350 side pipe convertible with bolt-ons. I couldn't wait to take Grandma for a ride and Traci wouldn't ride until I honored my promise to my Grandma. I arrived at my Grandma's house and offered her the ride and she said, "I don't think so." After much coaching, she finally agreed and then she surprised me.

She went and put on lipstick, which I can never remember her wearing any make-up. She also changed her clothes! I have never seen my Grandma get excited over anything! We went for the ride that I promised 19 years earlier and she smiled the whole way! She enjoyed that ride like I've never seen her enjoy anything. She never said anything to me afterward, although she got many rides after.

She never again said "I don't think so" when I offered. Those follow-on rides didn't put a smile on her face nor did she get all dressed up for them as she did that first one.

I'm proud to report the Corvette dream is alive and well in my family. I now have two daughters who love to go for a ride with mom and dad (who will be celebrating 15 years this May). My 11 year old daughter loves the creature comforts and radio of the '02, while my 7 year old loves the rumble of the side pipes of my '66 big block. We are a Corvette family of generations.

### JUDGING SCHOOLS

The latest judging school, a paint seminar held on January 7, 2012 at Allen King Farm in Rushville IN, proved to be an interesting and informative event. The presentation was given by Bob Dransman of the Queen City Chapter, Cincinnati Ohio, with approximately 25 NCRS members present. While this was a paint seminar, the primary purpose of this event was fiberglass repair. It was interesting to learn how edge repairs and contour repairs can be performed on cars that have been altered by damage or over-sanding of the fiberglass body. This obviously requires a lot of skill in order to get the contours and edges back to their original configurations as seen on a factory body.

While time consuming, severely damaged panels can be saved by painstaking work. This proves to be advantageous if you wish to keep the original part of your car. It was interesting to learn that fiberglass repair materials come in tints to match the original fiberglass color of the car. This makes repairs less obvious if seen from the underside of the panel. It was also pointed out that it is good to try and match the primer color to the original color. The entire presentation is available on the Queen City NCRS website if you are interested in more information on this subject.

A DVD presentation was also provided concerning judging paint with Tom Ames, NCRS Regional Paint and Fiberglass Advisor. This presentation was extremely informative on how to judge the paint on mid-year vehicles. One of the points emphasized was to be careful about using the term "too shiny" as a judging description. He emphasized that the term "over-restored" is the appropriate term to be used when judging a vehicle in which the paint appears to exceed the standard of that which would be found on a car as purchased from the dealer during that period. The car should be judged to the standard as it would have been at the time of delivery from the dealership. Mr. Ames stressed the need of the judge to show respect and courtesy to the owner of the vehicle, have a positive attitude, and to show your appreciation for their efforts in the restoration. He pointed out the differences in lacquer and clear coat, and spoke about the Distinctness of Image (DOI), i.e., mirror image method, to determine between the two.

Mr. John Ballard, NCRS Master Judge, gave a hands-on review of judging paint on a 1963 convertible. He walked us through the actual judging process and pointed out what one would look for in judging the body, fiberglass and paint.

Overall, the seminar was excellent and very interesting. Thanks go out to all those who were involved in organizing this event, and a special Thank You to our host, Allen King, for the use of his shop and facilities to hold this event.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

The annual Member Appreciation Dinner date **has been changed** to **March 3, 2012 at 6:30 pm** at Bullwinkle's Top Hat Bistro in Miamisburg, Ohio. Dinner will be in their private dining area, and dinners can be ordered from the standard menu. Please contact Nick Kammer to RSVP so that he can provide the restaurant with the number that will be in attendance.

Mark your calendars for the NCRS Miami Valley Chapter judging meet scheduled for May 19, 2012 at Voss Collision Center Building, 100 Loop Road, Centerville Ohio. Judges and tabulators are needed. If interested in participation in this event please contact Nick Kammer, Judging Chairman or Jeff Bernhardt, Events Chairman.

Heart of Ohio Judging Meet, April 29, 2012 at Coughlin Chevrolet, Pataskala Ohio. See MVC website for details.

### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

To any of those members who are not familiar with our monthly meeting schedule, we have the general membership meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at a specially designated site. Our February meeting is to be held Tuesday the 14th at El Toro across from the Greene next to the Kmart shopping center. This will be an information exchange meeting and we welcome any suggestions for the chapter for the coming year.

### **SWAP MEETS**

Indoor Swap Meet and Car Expo of GM cars and parts, Sunday March 4, 2012 at Columbia Chevrolet, 9750 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati Ohio. This event is sponsored by the NCRS Queen City Chapter. General admission is \$5.00 with a portion of the admission donated to the Shriner's Burn Institute. For additional information or registration contact Steve Hack at (513) 553-2080 or Bruce Slattery (513) 741-0848. Email: [Mike@Easterncorvettes.com](mailto:Mike@Easterncorvettes.com). Check out the website [www.NCRS.org/QC](http://www.NCRS.org/QC) for more information.

### **IMPORTANT REMINDER**

If you have not already done so, NCRS chapter membership dues need to be sent to Bob Puls, 2158 Carloway Ct. Miamisburg OH, 45342. The dues were due to be in by the end of January, so if you have not done so yet, please mail your dues to Bob as soon as possible so your membership will be current. Also, be sure that your National NCRS membership is up to date!!

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### **NCRS Miami Valley Chapter Club Officers 2012**

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***HAPPY VETTING!!***