



# VETTE GAZETTE

Volume 2 Issue 1

March 2004

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## Chairman's Corner with Larry Linder

2004 is here and is going to be more exciting than 03 by far. To start with we are going to have a number of judging schools to prepare for the chapter judging meet in June at the "Carillon Historic Park". Your help is needed in making this a well run and executed event. We need Judges, experienced, new, and observer judges. We need about every kind of help in setting up and running this event. It has some special logistics problems -there is no early setup time available, so we have to be at the gate at eight and promptly set it up and be ready to start at nine o'clock sharp. There are going to be some special meetings coming up that are for planning and executing this event. It will be a lot of hard work and in the end we will have achieved another new chapter milestone. Mike Ammer is looking for some help to get this done.

On 20 March 2004 we are going to have a dinner and tour of the Packard museum for you and yours. Its not Corvettes but Packards are some of best examples great early design and engineering. See the web site or call Tom Slie-mers for more information. We hope to see you all there.

We are trying to put together a new Friday night cruise in so you will have a place once a week to take your car and honey. It will be nice to see you all again with your wheels on. Just give your honey some money and send her shopping, while we enjoy the cars and company. I will leave it to Terry Buchanan since he has done so much work on this project to make the announcement and give you all the details. See Terry Buchanan for offering your assistance for this upcoming event.

We are still looking for a charity to support monetarily and a charity project to champion

(participate in). We need some good ideas and recommendations.

We will have a spot at 5th / 3rd field to show off our cars and tickets to the ball game courtesy of Voss Chevrolet.

We have an incredible calendar of events coming up and something for everyone.

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## Judging School by Greg Gorniak

On January 24 the Miami Valley NCRS held it's first in a series of Judging schools at the "Michaels Car Barn and Fun Center". The Weather could have been better but the turn out was good and we now have several members on their way to "Master Judge Level". Well some of have a long way to go but you got to start somewhere.



has been awarded "2 Star Bowtie Status" and is a perfect car to see what and original nonrestored Vette is all about. The exterior and

interior were the items of interest for this class; other sections will be covered in a later session so we can

rounded education. If you are interested let Mike know. This can be a good way to get an idea about what is correct or needs attention before you have your car judged at a meet.

So if you are thinking of judging, having your car judged, or just want to learn, sign up for a future class.

A special thanks goes to Steve Steffensen (a real Master Judge) in helping Mike with the class, and Jerry Michaels for the use of his "Garagemahal".

Not only has this car been raced but it also has been awarded "2 Star Bowtie Status"



The School was run by our chapter Judging Chairman Mike Ammer and he provided his '62, as the subject car. Not only has this car been raced but it also

cover the entire judging sheet.

We are looking for subject cars for future classes so we can get a well



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We are encouraged by the membership renewals which has been very good for such a new endeavor. We have lost a few to being busy, the chapter not being what they thought and stuck in the mid year's big block mode. It all depends on your vantage point as to what is great, we love them all. The comments have been favorable and some constructive criticism is being worked on. Remember its your chapter, encourage

your friends to come to a meeting and join us for more fun. Introduce them to Nick Kammer and he will sign them up.

The general meeting formats will stay the same a short meeting and a presentation. The only difference is that each month there will be a different chairman for the evening. I get to watch for a change and this will allow you to meet the rest of the board members face to face. We also want to do more hand on projects as the weather warms up.

We have the best web site attached to NCRS or pretty close to it. Log on and see for your self. \*\* Its incredible \*\*. A special thanks to Terry Buchanan's better half.

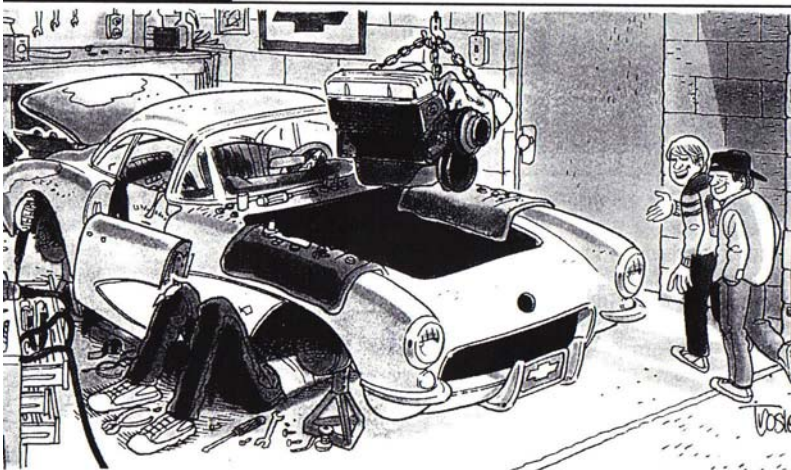
In a few weeks it will be spring and and - you all know what that means - your right foot starts to get heavy and twitch.

Its been a long winter.

Larry Linder  
Chairman



## TOON UP



"And this is my father's home entertainment center..."



## Feature Article

### I've Got a Secret by Terry Brim

Let me give you a hint... somewhere in never never land, there is a 28K mile 66' Big Block roadster with 2 tops, AC, PB, PS, PW, and telescopic steering wheel that hasn't seen the light of day for more than 30 years! First of all, why never never land? Why not Dayton, or Centerville, or Kettering, or Beavercreek, or Spring-

somewhere in never never land, there is a 28K mile 66' Big Block roadster with 2 tops, AC, PB, PS, PW, and telescopic steering wheel that hasn't seen the light of day for more than 30 years!

boro, or any other place?

Because Don Groves

would rather not reveal the location of his baby... and why not you ask? Believe it or not, Don has had two other mid-

years stolen out from under him and he's not about to take any chances with this one, who can

blame him!

Let's turn the clock back almost 40 years to 1965. As Don tells it, "when they made the Stingray, that's the first one he fell in love with" .....familiar story? Anyway, in 1965, Don bought a 65' roadster with only 1,000 miles on it.

Don and his wife enjoyed the vette and drove it everywhere. Then around 1968, his wife and her mother were downtown at a play and someone stole their baby....ugggg. Don says they eventually found the 65' vette unfortunately, it had been striped. The fenders were busted out where they pulled the engine. The interior was all busted up, he said it looked like they took a crow bar to get the radio out.



friend of his. Now why do you suppose his friend was selling his 66' Big Block,.....

well you would never guess... turns out his friend had had his hard

The interior was all busted up, he said it looked like the took a crow bar to get the radio out.

top stolen 3.....yes count'em 3 times! Don says his friend had had it and "was not messing with it anymore". Don drove the 66' for a couple of years and what do you think happen.... Yep, you guess it, it was stolen literally right out from underneath him... Well right in front of his house anyway...ouch! Again, they found the car this time however, it had been stripped by professionals. Don still has the hard top from that vette however, still brand new according to Don, never been on the car!

Fast forward to around 1972/1973, someone told Don of another 66' roadster that NCR had

Continued on next page

Continued from page 4

repossessed. Trusting guy that he is, Don bought the car sight unseen.....guess the price was right!

Don said when he called

As it turned out, having it "fixed" meant they pulled the Big Block and replaced it with a non-corvette 327 engine

the guy, he was told there were some "problems" with the engine and that they were going to take it to a guy and have it "fixed" As it turned out, having it "fixed" meant they pulled the Big Block and replaced it with a non-corvette 327 engine. When he went to pick it up, Don said he was a little upset but he figured he would "fix it up and do something with it"

However about that same time, Don's son was 5 or 6 years old and the vette kinda got pushed to the background.....well we all know how that goes!



Finally 30 years later, Don is back at it, true to his word, he is finally getting around to "fixing it up". A couple of years after he bought the car, Don found a Big Block engine to put in the vette, but it too has been sitting in storage for almost 30 years.

Don's biggest problem now



is that when they pulled the Big Block 30 years ago, they virtually removed everything from the firewall forward, so all the AC brackets, hoses, etc. from the Big Block are all missing. Don is undeterred however, he says that he has met many knowledgeable guys since joining our club and is getting lots of help and advice.

Don's intent is to restore the car, but not necessarily "by the numbers". He wants to make a nice driver out of it and just enjoy the car.

For example, it now has the wheel wells cut to allow for big tires, Don is undecided as to whether or not he is going to leave as is or restore the wheel wells to original.

when they pulled the Big Block 30 years ago, they virtually removed everything from the firewall forward

In either case, he is planning on a body off approach to the restoration process. Don has already got some good advice and contacts from fellow club members Pete Tank and Jerry Michaels

The interior of the vette looks good. It is a beautiful beige and is all there. When Don does get this vette restored, it will be a knockout!

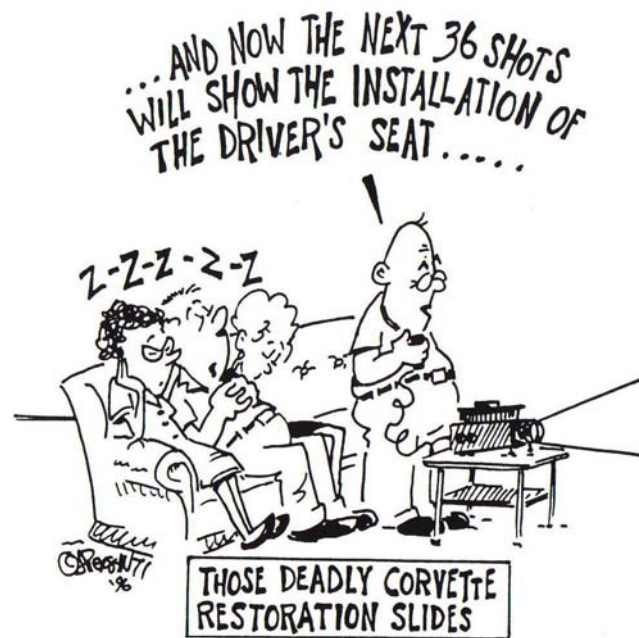


We wish Don well in his adventure in bringing his

Continued on page 9

## Miami Valley Chapter Members Corner

If only I had a 67' 427  
Big Block to drive





## **Rebirth of a 69 427 Corvette Part II** **by Terry Brim**

'twas the night before Christmas and all thru the house not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.....well not quite.

Actually it was the week before Christmas on a cold December morn and we were there bright and early to help Pete Tank remove the body from the 69 he was bring back to life. Those volunteering to do the heavy lifting were Pete, Mike Ammer, Terry Brim, Greg Gorniak, Nick Kammer, and Al Katona.

'twas the night before Christmas and all thru the house not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse

Pete had already prepared the body for removal by removing the interior, exterior hard top, engine, drive train, doors, hood, rear deck cover, headlight doors, bumpers,



and all other misc exterior trip and chrome. He had also put stabilizer rods in the door posts to keep the body from flexing. Prior to starting, Pete had removed all the body mounting bolts, so all that remained was the easy stuff!

The next step was to place the required lifting strap



front to rear. This was followed by the big roll out ...yep, we actually hooked Pete's dog up to the car



and he single pawedly pulled it out of the garage. Nick Kammer had brought his engine hoist which we would use to lift the body off the frame. Once the hoist was in place, addi-

J-hooks was attached to the underside of the sides of the body. Now, all was



ready for the big lift!

As we started the lift, all went smoothly for a few inches, then we hit a snag,

yep, we actually hooked Pete's dog up to the car and he single pawedly pulled it out of the garage

Pete had accidentally for-



got to disconnect one of the bolts holding the heat shield pan bracket to the frame under the drivers side of the body. After

Continued on next page

## Rebirth of a 69 427 Corvette Part II (con't)

a minor wrench job on the bolt, we were ready to rock & roll. I was amazed at how easily the body separated from the frame after almost 34 years of marriage.



Pete is always thinking ahead, or maybe it's just that he has been through this before,. Whatever the case, he had pre-made (out of wooded 2x4's and caster wheels) a rolling frame to set the body on.



With the Pete's best friend supervising, the body was

I was amazed at how easily the body separated from the frame after almost 34 years of marriage

carefully lowered onto it's new resting place.

Now fully exposed, the good, the bad, and the ugly actually looked pretty good. The 34 year old frame showed very little sign of that pesky old

thing we call rust. Some surface scale was evident, but for the most part, it was solid!

With the body now off, Pete has a few more tasks to do in terms of



getting the frame ready for dipping. At this writing, Pete has striped the frame of all other components and has sent it out for dipping and painting.

Next the mating game!

I know those pesky number are here somewhere

Meet the surgical team!  
From left to right.....  
Dr.'s Mike Ammer, Greg Gorniak, Al Katona, Pete Tank, Terry Brim, and Nick Kammer





# Calendar of Upcoming Events

## March 2004

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## April 2004

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## May 2004

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

9 Mar: General Club Meeting...Restoration Station  
 13 Mar: Judging School at Jerry's Car Barn  
 20 Mar: Packard Museum Tour and Dinner  
 28 Mar: Corvette swap meet...Lima, Ohio

13 Apr: General Club Meeting

8 May: Corvette Cruise In Bud's Chevrolet...St Marys, Ohio  
 11 May: General Club Meeting

## I've Got a Secret (con't)

baby back to life. When finished, he will have a vette that will turn heads and make us all proud I'm sure.

We will track Don's pro-

gress in future issues of our Vette Gazette, so stay tuned.....more to come.



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### **Judging Chairman:**

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### **Newsletter Chairman:**

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#### **Rules Chairman:**

Jerry Michaels (36147)  
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[jerned@aol.com](mailto:jerned@aol.com)

#### **Events Chairman:**

Tom Sliemers (16327)  
937-429-0596

## **Editor's note**

I would very much like to see more participation by you our club members in terms of technical articles, corvette trivia items, parts wanted listings, parts for sale listing, technical Q&A's, member's corner articles about you and your corvette.....most anything corvette related to make our club newsletter more informative and entertaining to read. This is your newsletter.

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