

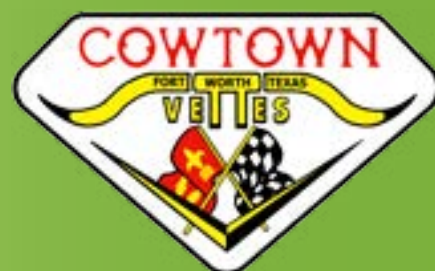


March 2016
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the **LOW-DOWN** from **COWTOWN**



Official
Publication of



Racing, Showing and Cruising around Fort Worth since 1974

www.cowtownvettes.org



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IN THIS ISSUE.....

Page

2	Membership Meeting Location and CTV Sponsor
3	CTV Calendar
4	Words from our President
5	Vice President's Report
6	Membership Report
7	Webmaster
8	Cowtown Cruiser
9	Charity Report
10	NKF
11-15	Tech Talk - with Doug McMahan
16	2016 Valentine's Social
17	Miscellaneous
18	National Corvette Museum Ambassador
19	NCCC Events
20	2016 Competition Schedule
21	NCCC Governor
22	Cowtown Corvettes Cars and Parts
23	Cowtown Corvettes Marketplace
24	The Last Page



Cover photo - William Nolan & Mary Pittman's 2003 C5 Coupe

Membership Meeting Location and CTV Sponsor

"BUFFALO WEST"

7101 Camp Bowie West,
Fort Worth, TX 76116
(817) 732-2370



the



CALENDAR

Space constraints mean it is not always possible to show everything on this calendar. Please check the [website](http://www.cowtownvettes.org) in addition!!!

March 2016

GREAT AMERICAN PIE MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 <i>* Membership Meeting - 7:30 pm</i>	5 <i>Practice Autocross @ Mineral Wells</i>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 <i>* 2 pm. Walking tour of Downtown Fort Worth.</i>	14	15	16 Board Meeting ----- Lowdown Deadline	17	18 <i>Red River Army Depot Cruise thru Sunday</i>	19 NCCC / SWR Awards Banquet, Radisson Hotel Fort Worth, TX
20 <i>Red River Army Depot Cruise</i>	21	22	23	24 Maundy Thursday	25 Good Friday	26
27 Easter	28	29	30	31		

April 2016

INTERNATIONAL GUITAR MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 CTV 101 6:30pm ----- <i>* Membership Meeting - 7:30 pm</i>	2
3	4	5	6 <i>Cowtown Official 42nd Anniversary Day</i>	7	8	9 NCCC - CTCC / MCCC Events; LS Autocross in Mart, TX
10 NCCC - CTCC / MCCC Events; LS Autocross in Mart, TX	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Board Meeting ----- Lowdown Deadline	21	22 NCCC Committee Meetings in St Louis	23 NCCC Committee / Governor Meetings in St Louis
24 <i>7th Annual Vines & Vettes Car Show @ Lost Oak Winery Burleson</i>	25	26	27	28	29 <i>* 20th Annual Super Speedway NCCC Event at TMS</i>	30 <i>* 20th Annual Super Speedway NCCC Event at TMS</i>

Bold italic type denotes CTV events

** Denotes required attendance and participation for 100%er Award eligibility
♦ Members attending these Events receive 100%er credit in lieu of Cowtown Events*



Committee Chairs 2016

AUDIT

Kim West: Chairperson

kdcwest@sbcglobal.net



CAR SHOW

Bill Buehler: Chairperson

buebler8721@gmail.com



CHARITIES

Jane Buehler: Chairperson

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Corey Armes: Co-Chairperson



CTV CRUISER

William Nolan: Chairperson

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CTV HISTORIAN

Mary Pittman: Chairperson

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EQUIPMENT

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LOGO MERCHANDISE

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Gwynne Hanna: Chairperson

vettelady67@sbcglobal.net



MID-AMERICA

James West: Chairperson

jnk69vette@sbcglobal.net

WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT



What an unusual month of February, what happened to the cold weather and the snow? I'm looking forward to a nice weather in the month of March! WHY?

Cowtown has exciting month ahead of us. There is great opportunity to go and play in our cars at Mineral Wells Practice Autocross, enjoy a day with your fellow Cowtown family touring downtown Fort Worth and cruising to the Red River Depot. What a great start to a lot of fun in your Corvette.

At the February Board Meeting we had presentation by Brittany Lewis, a CTV member and Regional Manager at Small Town Brewery. She would like

to sponsor our meetings and some of our events by offering the following adult beverages.

Not Your Father's Root Beer, Not Your Father's Ginger Ale, Pabst, Lone Star and Lone Star Light beers.

We have had many members, including myself, who joined Cowtown Vettes to learn about the great car we all love to drive and own. So I am adding a new topic to the membership meeting agenda where Members will have an opportunity to ask questions for help with fixing or information about their Corvette.

Don Wells
President
dfw73vette@att.net

WANTED - FOR OUR WEBSITE

Veteran Photos – share photos from your service as a veteran

Member Car Photos – share photos of your ride on our website

FCOA Member Photos – do have Future Corvette Owner Assn Members in your family? ...if so, we would like to share those on our FCOA page.

Send to: macsvettes@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



March Event –

“Discover the History and Legends of the City Where the West Begins.” On Sunday, March 13, we will meet at 2:00 PM at the **FW Visitors' Center, 508 Main Street in Downtown Fort Worth.**

We will then embark on a walking tour of Downtown Fort Worth guided by the experienced tour guides of Authentic Fort Worth Sights and Scenes. This will be our *100% event* for March. According to the tour brochure, this tour will allow you to:

- Follow in the steps of the saints and sinners - cowboys and cattle barons - railroad workers and the earliest oil men.
- Discover the history, legends and mysteries of Panther City from your knowledgeable guide.
- See the architecture and art work that give this historic city its unique flair.

The tour will cost \$7.50/person and lasts about 1 1/2 hours. After the tour, you will be free to shop or visit museums in the Sundance Square area if you wish. Around 5PM we will have dinner together at a downtown restaurant for all who are interested. You will still have a chance to sign up for the event at the March meeting. Payment is required in advance.

April Events –

April is a busy month for CTV. There are 2 charity walks in April in which we traditionally participate: On **April 9, the 2016 Fort Worth Kidney Walk** will take place in Trinity Park. Our team is called “Corvettes for NKF”. Team captain is Sylvia Hoaldrige. Information and sign-up is available on the calendar on the CTV website. Then on **April 23, the KOMEN GREATER FORT WORTH RACE FOR THE CURE®** will take place at Ridgmar Mall. Our team is “Corvettes Racing for the Cure.” Information is available on the website.

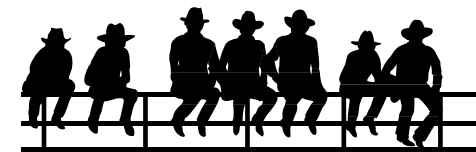
The following day, **Sunday, April 24, the Annual Vines and Vettes Car Show** will take place at **Lost Oak Winery in Burleson**. Check the calendar for more info. Finally, our *100%er for the month of April* will be **April 29-May 1, the 20th ANNUAL NCCC Super Speedway Weekend**. This is our premier racing and fundraising event for the year and we need everyone to help make it a top-notch event. There will be opportunities to volunteer to help for any of the 3 days, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. In order to get 100%er credit, you need to volunteer or race (or both) one or more of those days. Look elsewhere in the newsletter and on the website for further details.

In addition to everything else, **April is CTV's Anniversary Month**. We will have a celebration at the evening dinner at the TMS event on April 30.

It's gonna be a busy month!!

Jo Anne Smith
Vice President
josmith619@att.net

Questions? Contact me at josmith619@att.net



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Robert Geyer: Co-Chairperson

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Gwynne Hanna: Co-Chairperson



SOCIAL MEDIA

Doug McMahan: Chairperson

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TEXAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY

Scott Wheeler: Chairperson

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TIMING

Becky Clark: Chairperson

dcbc5356@charter.net

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

David & Margaret Perry – 2007 Maroon Convertible
Robert & Lou Ann Pressler – 2008 Red Coupe

2nd Time Visitors

Ken Culver – 2015 Z06
Will Huber – 99 Silver C5 Coupe

1st Time Visitors

Donald & Linda Blythe – 2003 Black Coupe
Steve & Paula Hooper – (Member 1978-1982 Currently Have No Vette)
Patrick Page – 2010 Crystal Red Coupe
Larry & Jane Smith – 2114 Z51 Convertible

happy
birthday



03/03 - Jason Blocker
 03/05 - Linda Lummus
 03/06 - Manda Gorman
 03/07 - Joe Rosales
 03/09 - Norman Walker
 03/10 - Ted Gales
 03/14 - Blake Lewis
 03/14 - Adrienne Stovall
 03/15 - Donna Rosett
 03/17 - Jack Gandy
 03/18 - Donald Rankin
 03/28 - Rachel Toombs



03/03 - Ronnie & Connie Mccrary
 03/03 - Norman & Ann Walker
 03/04 - Lonnie & Joy Williams
 03/05 - Larry & Kaye Schaapveld
 03/10 - Joe & Anna Rosales
 03/15 - Donald & Carlanne Hickman
 03/16 - John & Cory Armes
 03/30 - Kerry & Alaine King

Gwynne Hanna
 Membership / Welcome Chairperson
vettelady67@sbcbglobal.com



WEBMASTER



The events are starting, the first being the Valentine Social this past month. I would invite and encourage you to keep your cameras handy – we can always use more photos and everyone has a different type of photo they like to capture. The photos which are provided to me are all resized with credit is given to the photographer on each photo, prior to them being used on the website and provided to PJ for the newsletter.

We have numerous pages that need more and updated content, such as our Member's Vette pages (C1 thru C7), which are organized by generation – is your Vette(s) shared? Are you a Military Veteran? If so, we would like to honor you on the Veteran page on our website. We would welcome photos from your time in the service and any information you would like to share. Cruisers, as you travel around searching for those cruiser points and you run across an outstanding memorial, we would ask that you share that for this page as well.

Are you on Facebook? If so, Cowtown and NCCC have Facebook accounts – we would welcome you to become friends with one or both of them. In Cowtown, we use FB to reach out to audiences that wouldn't find us on the world-wide-web. We post a few photos from an event our members participated in and then link it to our full website; we kind of use FB as a teaser share point so to speak.

The webmaster maintains a couple-of-dozen email distribution lists for various functions beyond the all member list (CTV-ALL) and the officer list (CTV-EO). If you have questions around the distribution lists, getting yourself added to any specific one, etc. then please get in touch

with me. If you change your email address, mailing address, your Vettes, etc., please let membership know so that your information can be updated. If by chance you are not receiving the CTV-All emails then your correct email address must not be in the system; contact us. Send all email and address updates to:
ctv-membership@yahoogroups.com.

When you are added to a list, you will receive an email asking you to confirm and join – you MUST accept this in order to be confirmed into the distribution list; the invite will eventually time-out as well so don't delay. As of the end of December (each year), any non-renewing members will be removed from these distribution lists



Please don't hesitate to shout if you have suggestions, questions or comments about your Club's website and/or Facebook account. Likewise if you find any pages that have issues or if there is something you would like to see or things you dislike; after all this is your website and I am only the caretaker of YOUR website.

Doug McMahan
 Webmaster
macsvettes@gmail.com



Last month the groundhog forecast an early spring, so hopefully that will make for some nice cruising days. A great way to boost your cruiser points total is by using historic markers on the categories they are allowed in.

Cydnie Geyer gives us a little insight:

“Not all historical markers will work for points in the Cowtown Cruiser program, so having an app on your phone can be very helpful. It will give you the location as well as a picture of the marker showing exactly what is written on it. I use one for Texas called Texas Markers and another that covers all the states called Markers. They can be helpful in planning your cruise stops to maximize your points along the way. You just might drive some awesome back roads and find some great small towns with lots of charm and history. So get cruising and have fun.”

You can use historic markers in the city, county and state categories to earn an extra point on each entry. The marker must contain the name of the city, county or state that you wish to use it for. You can make your trip down the road not just a cruise, but also an interesting history lesson. Did you know that Purcell is called the Birthplace of Oklahoma or that Mississippi was first explored in 1540 by DeSoto or that Cleburne, Texas and Cleburne County, Arkansas are named for the same confederate general, Patrick Cleburne. So whether your passion is a little history or purely a need for speed, hope you are out enjoying your Corvette.

The Red River Army Depot Cruise is right around the corner on March 18-20. If you are signed up and have any questions, please check with Gwen and Gary Hanna. The “Switzerland of America Cruise” in June sponsored by Doug and Glenda McMahan is full, but if you are still interested you can add your name to a stand by list. Several others are working on ideas for later in the year also.



Don't forget to be watching for a great photo op for your Corvette for the “What I Saw Along the Way” photo contest. This contest is open to anyone in the club and you do not have to participate in the cruiser program to enter. We look forward to seeing more great photos this year!

HAPPY CRUISING!!!



by *Mary Pittman*

secretary and general factotum to... (Ha!)

William Nolan

Cruiser Chairperson

wmmnolan@msn.com

Thank you all for approving the charity budget at the February meeting! We will support the following organizations throughout 2016. More details will be shared as we get closer to each event, so check the web for specific dates.



TBD



National Kidney Foundation™

April



June and November



August



"Christmas in July" party - July
Christmas party - December



TBD



December

Jane Buehler

Charities Chairperson-

buehler8721@gmail.com



A Short Walk to Save a Life

As a dialysis patient myself, I know firsthand how kidney disease impacts a family and how a little knowledge can go a long way.

On April 10, 2016, I will be walking with other kidney patients, organ donors, transplant recipients, family, friends and co-workers from Fort Worth and surrounding communities at Trinity Park to help raise awareness of the more than 26 million Americans affected by kidney disease. (1 in 3 American adults is at risk for kidney disease. 1 in 9 American adults has kidney disease--and most don't know it.) I hope that you will join me and other walkers representing Team CORVETTES FOR NKF. If you have not joined our Team, please click on the NKF link on the Cowtown Vettes website, which will take you to the NKF Walk website. (NOTE: Be sure to search for the Corvettes for NKF Team and sign up there.) NKF is one of the few organizations that do NOT require payment in the form of a registration fee. However, we hope that you will use your many contacts, as well as Facebook, to fundraise for this annual Fort Worth event.

If you have questions or problems, please call/text me at 817-846-9478. I will pass out some additional information at the upcoming March membership meeting.

In addition to participating in the Walk each year, YOUR continued support in the form of purchasing 50/50 RAFFLE tickets and/or participating in the SILENT AUCTION at Cowtown Vettes Annual TMS Super Speedway Weekends is greatly appreciated. Due to the date change for CTV's 2016 TMS weekend, this year's profits from both of the 2015 and 2016 TMS weekends will go to the 2016 Fort Worth Kidney Walk serving North Texas.

Also, because of our TMS date change, we have less time to sell our 50/50 raffle tickets. I will be will be selling the orange tickets for \$1/ticket at the March, April & May membership meetings, as well as Friday night at TMS registration, all day Saturday in the Nextel Garage and at the host hotel Saturday night until the Awards Presentation. ONE-HALF (1/2) of the raffle proceeds go directly to the National Kidney Foundation serving North Texas, along with ALL of the proceeds from the Silent Auction. Your donations go directly to vital programs that help fight kidney disease through prevention, advocacy and education. I hope that you will dig deep into your pockets to help Team Corvettes for NKF to be a Top NKF Fundraiser once again this year.

Remember: "A short walk can help someone take a lifesaving step."

Thank you.

Sylvia Hoaldrige

SWAPPING GEARS

When we first bought our '93 Vette, we had no intentions of racing it, we bought the little red convertible for a daily driver and for some fun weekend trips.

That was before Cowtown hosted an NCCC practice autocross in the 2003 – the first PA since we joined the club.....

I've been very fortunate to own a Corvette since age 16 but oh my goodness, I had never pushed one in the corners – WOW! The most we had ever done was a little street, straight-line fun – nothing as fun as autocross. To make that day even more interesting, several of us finally ribbed Glenda (who had never been competitive) enough that she got in and tried it. Long story short, I don't think she got out of the car more than once or twice the rest of the day so I could enjoy another run.

Well, that started us into the fun of competitive events with Lil' Red, my daily driver Corvette at the time. That was fine and we enjoyed numerous events and met lots of new friends around the region; one of the side-benefits of competing.

After a few years of street tires and driving back-n-forth to the events, we decided we wanted to be able to push it faster. Well, Ken Sutton actually talked us into trying an old set of his "sticky" race tires at an event – we were WOWed again! So we decided to start running the sticky tires on Lil' Red, which also meant trailering to the events.

After doing this for a season or so we decided it was time to stop using Lil' Red as a daily driver and to use it more-or-less as a dedicated track car.

We were excited, Glenda was hooked and so we started making modifications to the car. In NCCC, you do need to pay attention to the rulebook when you start making modifications or you will end up making one little mod that throws you into a classification you won't be as competitive in. After researching the rules, we decided that a rear-end swap was in order; since Lil' Red came with a 2:49 rear-end ratio – great for gas mileage but terrible for get-up-n-go!

The first step in changing the rear end was to locate a gear-ratio that was legal in NCCC group; which at this time was Group 1. The rear-end ratio had to be one that was offered in our group and class (i.e. 1SG or 1G) ; meaning a 3:07 was as deep as we could go with the automatic. The 3:45 was only available in the Grand Sport / LT4s however it was a Dana 44 setup vs the Dana 36 in our automatic. Finally, we found a 3:07 from a member in the OKC club. These typically sell for \$250 - \$500 depending on their package (i.e. chunk or whole batwing assembly). If your C4 is not a 6-speed manual, you will have the Dana 44; unlike the automatic which typically has a Dana 36 unit. To change to a Dana 44, you will be changing out the driveshaft, ladder and rear assembly, etc.

This 3:07 worked well for a few years until we ended up moving into Group 2 after adding headers, suspension modifications, etc.

My search started and I finally found a new Dana 36 3:73 rear end from a Corvette racing company in Florida on eBay – it was bought and on the way.



Enough of the boring history, let's get onto the technical article of swapping gears in a C4. It's really not that hard of a job; especially since we have now done it twice. You can get the differential out in a couple of hours your first time.

(continued over page)

SWAPPING GEARS (cont'd)

Since I don't have a lift, I started off by jacking up the rear of the C4 and secure it on jack stands; higher the better. I use 2 x 8s under my jack stands to gain a little height.

1. Next, remove the spare tire and carrier out of the way and drop the exhaust from the cats back; or first breakaway joint. With the spare tire carrier out of the way, you can see your target.



2. Next, remove the leaf spring. Do this by removing the side bolts first support the end of the spring with a jack and remove the nut and bushing. The bolt is 13/16 and the nut is 22mm. Take note of how many threads are showing as this is your ride height. You can take a floor jack to push up on the hub to release pressure on the bolt/nut.

3. After that remove the 4 bolts in the differential. These are 15 mm Be sure to take note of the spacers and shims and I would recommend that you tape them exactly as you removed them. The bolts are circled in red.

Re-Assembly Note: Also be very cautious of putting side-strain on these leg bolts when you put the spring back in – if the alignment isn't correct, you will snap these cast pieces. Tighten from side-to-side and front-to-back to keep the pressure and alignment correct as you tighten the bolts.



(continued over page)

SWAPPING GEARS (cont'd)



4. Now that the spring is out of the way remove the end links that attach to the center of the housing. I had to remove one end to remove the half shafts (that comes later) so I used a pickle fork and to swing it out of the way. Again important bolts are circled in red. The bolts are 15mm. Note: you will notice in a picture further down (2nd differential swap) that I left the rear spring attached when I dropped the batwing – your choice.

5. Before removing the lower arms, I opted to mark the current alignment settings with a Sharpie; just in case something shifted.



6. Next you are going to remove the lower arms. Just remove them from the housing and swing them down. The nuts are 13mm and the bolts are 15mm.

7. Now on to the half shafts and driveshaft. All of the bolts for the u-joints are 8mm. This was shocking the first time I saw these small bolts. There is no easy way to do this and I found that with the shafts in the position in the pic below is the only way to get on them with a ratchet. After removing one, you will need to rotate the rear wheels (half shafts) to get to all 4 of them easily. Once you have them out, you can pull the half shafts loose and let them hang from the rear hub. This is the part that required the removing of the end link. Note: if you aren't replacing the u-joints, tape them with electrical tape to keep them from coming apart where you could lose your needle bearings. **Note:** this is where I decided to go ahead and replace the half shaft u-joints as well; and why not, one side is already disconnected.



(continued over page)

SWAPPING GEARS *(cont'd)*

8. You are ready to unbolt and remove the ladder bar (C-beam as some call it) and the batwing housing. Support the rear of the ladder bar with a jack stand. This is important as this brace holds the transmission up and you will not be able to remove the differential without it being supported. There are 4 bolts to this part, 2 at the ladder and 1 on each side of the batwing. The side ones are 18mm on the bolt and 3/4 on the nut. The big bolts are 13/16 and 22mm nut, best I recall. You can see from the second photo where the long bolts go in the ladder; these are fun to remove and put back in ...but the positive, the 2 at the rear of the ladder are easier than the front 2.



9. Now wrestle that old diff out and get ready to swap out with your replacement unit.

10. If you bought a complete assembly (i.e. batwing and all) you just start assembling in reverse of the removal. If you bought a diff gear housing assembly (see below), you'll need to assemble it into the batwing after removing the old one.



(continued over page)

SWAPPING GEARS *(cont'd)*

11. The assembled differential / batwing is now ready to be installed.



Swapping gears is a very easy job and anyone can do it by themselves with basic hand tools. It would go quicker with a friend, if for no other reason you need someone to hand you a beer. The extra hands would definitely pay off when you are bench pressing the housing into place. Since I did it on my own, I found it easiest to use the floor jack with a few pieces of wood to level it – so I could just raise it into position.

One last recommendation ...buy stock in your favorite tires; now you can really smoke them off.

We noticed a significant difference in replacing the 2:59 with the 3:07 gears ...and a much larger difference (of course) changing from the 3:07 to the 3:73 gears which we run today.

So, regardless if you are competing in your C4 or not, the deeper gears are a welcome modification that allow you to enjoy your Vette even more!



Doug McMahan
Webmaster
macsvettes@gmail.com

Sunday February 14th

Johnny Carino's Italian Restaurant, Grand Prairie, Texas



Community Event Invite

Brant Stovall talked at the last membership meeting about the [Hot Rods & Heros Event](#) in Cleburne, TX. The event is on March 19th from 10-3pm and includes a car show, not to mention all kinds of other activities for the family. This event is hosted by the [Chisholm Trail 100 Club](#); Brant offered CTV members the early registration price of \$20 for the Car Show.

The **Chisholm Trail 100 Club** is dedicated to supporting the First Responders of Johnson County, Texas. They provide a \$50,000 life insurance to over 1,200 Law Enforcement Officers, Fire Fighters, Correctional Officers and Emergency Medical Personnel, as well as offer serious injury benefits and scholarship opportunities.

Yes, we realized that the 19th is a busy date with the SWR NCCC Awards Banquet (evening); not to mention several members will be on the 3-day Red River Army Depot Cruise.

...Doug & Glenda

How We Joined Cowtown

Several years ago we were attending a party in our neighborhood and ran across Raley and Jo Anne Smith. In the course of conversation it was discovered that Raley and I share the same hometown....small world...even smaller hometown. The Smiths had driven their yellow C5 to the party and Raley was more than willing to take a quick trip down the street so William could hear it (guy thing I suppose). Later after we were home the events of the day prompted a comparison of the dream cars on our "bucket list"...mine a sports car (preferably an Audi TT roadster) and William's a Corvette.

Weeks later we crossed paths with the Smiths again, this time at Lost Oak Winery in Burleson along with a group of their Corvette club friends. They were cordial enough to let us join them that day. The same scenario happened at the next wine club pick-up party with someone "suggesting" that we really ought to buy a Corvette and join their club. Raley just happened to have an ad on his phone for a used Corvette available at Bruce Lowrie Chevrolet and even better yet Don Wells just happened to be there, too and they "knew" this was a well cared for Corvette since it was previously owned by club member, John Dick. Well, the rest is history, we checked off the dream car category on both our bucket lists, learned about cruising, auto crossing, rallies and car shows and gained a great group of friends passionate about their common interest!!!!

Mary Pittman and William Nolan

NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM AMBASSADOR



As the official Cowtown Vettes Ambassador for the National Corvette Museum, I would like to make the following (not-so) official proclamation: The spring driving season is now officially open! That means it is time to pull the Vette out of the garage and spend some quality time with your car detailing it and doing routine maintenance to prepare for some quality road trips, racing, car shows or whatever suits your fancy.

This winter was almost non-existent here in the DFW area and many of us got some quality "behind the wheel time" in, but there is nothing that compares to some top-down springtime cruises. As such, I would like to tell you about an opportunity for some springtime driving fun in which the NCM will soon be offering.

On April 28-30, the museum will conduct the "Michelin NCM Bash," one of the largest yearly nation cruise events in the country. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend this event, but I have been to similar events in the past and I can assure you that it is well worth the trip and if you attend you will make some memories that will last a lifetime.

You might ask why pick this particular weekend to visit the NCM? There are many reasons, and in the remainder of my column, I will discuss a few of them. First, this event will give you an opportunity to get a first look at the new 2017 Corvette. The new model C7 will be rolled out for the first time to the public, so if you have an idea you might want to learn more about the new C7, this will give you a "no-pressure" opportunity to look it over first hand. There will also be seminar speakers discussing the topic "What's New in the 2017 Model Year." Other Technical seminars will feature engineers and designers from the Warren Tech Center, Milford Proving Grounds, and the Bowling Green plant. They will be available to answer every question about the new Stingrays. Also from a tech standpoint, there will be a LT4 engine building demonstration by BGAP Rob Nichols and Brian Lee. Now for my favorite aspect of these events, the road tours. This year there are a few great road tours being offered. The first one I'll discuss is the Trooper Island Tour & Lunch. This is a tour that Cindy and I experienced last year and we thoroughly enjoyed it. Compared to other tours, this one is a fairly short drive. Trooper Island is about an hour or so drive from the National Corvette Museum, but the tour includes a visit to the camp, which last another 2-3 hours. The

trip down is nice and scenic and has some hilly country roads and a few nice curves. The drive is actually escorted by a Kentucky State Trooper who drives a Corvette that was "donated" by some drug dealers. The Vette is a 2008 Corvette and is officially a KSP vehicle. The camp has a wonderful story and I won't ruin it for anyone going, but suffice to say it was a very nice experience hearing what they are doing for underprivileged youth in Kentucky.

Another road tour being offered this year is the "Park Mammoth/ GTO Heaven Road Tour." We once took a tour which included Mammoth Cave, and it was great, but this tour also includes a trip to GTO Heaven- a private collection of Corvettes, motorcycles and other old cars owned by (aptly named) Phil Wheeler. I almost forgot to mention that this tour will include a buffet lunch in the Mammoth Cave Park Lookout Restaurant.

Other road tours include the Lighthouse Restaurant Lunch Tour and the Grand Victorian Inn Lunch Tour. For those of you who are tired of driving there are other opportunities for recreation, for example the Shopping Trip to Opry Mills and the Grand Ole Opry Tour via chartered coach. If you have never toured the Corvette assembly plant, this is a must do for any Corvette fanatic.

Before I close, I want to mention one more event that being the All Corvette Celebrity Car Show. This is just a free 'show and shine' type of event that is located in the NCM parking lot. The best thing about this event is just having an opportunity to visit with Corvette enthusiast from all over the country, as well as other visitors to the museum. Cindy loves to let the kiddos sit behind the wheel of our car for photos, and the kids really dig it.

Anyway, there are way too many events to mention all of them in this column, but complete information is available on the National Corvette Museum Website. I mainly wanted to give you a taste of what happened at these events. I hope some of you are able to attend. After writing this column and remembering some of the good times we have had at these types of events, I am sort of sad that we cannot attend, but there is always the anniversary event in August.

Don Brown
NCM Ambassador
dbrown1157@aol.com



NCCC EVENTS



The 2016 NCCC Competition Year has started around the country and from a Cowtown perspective we are seeking participants for Cowtown's Competition Committee at this time. If you have an interest (experience or not) we would welcome you. We are also seeking volunteers to serve as functional chairpersons at these events.

Cowtown's **NCCC Event Dates for 2016** have been filed and are on the [Southwest Region Schedule](#). We would ask that you please mark your calendars to assist in hosting and participating in these events.

- **March 5, 2016:** [Practice Autocross](#) at the Mineral Wells Heliport This is an event that we accomplish a couple of things 1) it is for people that would like to enjoy their Vette in an autocross, with some seasoned competitors assisting, 2) it is for us to let members try out various areas of the event as workers and to see what it takes to host an event of this type.

- ***April 30-May 1, 2016:** [20th Annual Super Speedway Weekend](#) at Texas Motor Speedway. This is the same weekend as the Pate Swap Meet; which will increase traffic for our competitors and workers however it could also be a benefit. We will be having additional discussions with TMS to ensure our workers and competitors can easily get in and out of the infield area. We do plan on some extra 20th Anniversary event activities so stay tuned for that.

We need everyone's assistance with making this event a success again this year. This event has typically brought in the majority of the revenue that is needed to operate the club for the year. With the significant price increase at TMS this year, the profits will be much smaller.

- ***June 11, 2016:** the [5th Annual Corvette Scramble](#) at Fat Daddy's. This is our for-fun NCCC event that consists of a Car Show, a Funkhana and a Gimmick and Poker Rallye. This is always a fun day of fun with your Corvette and friends; come on out and enjoy the all of the fun events. Closer to the event I will have slideshow at the Membership Meeting from past events.

- ***September 17-18, 2016:** Our [annual No-Frills Autocross Scramble](#) held jointly with CCT; an event we have typically held in the spring. This year, we flipped the TMS & this event when TMS bumped us from our 18-year late-year standing event date.

If you have any questions around NCCC, our events or competing, please don't hesitate to contact myself, Donald or your NCCC Governor – Glenda.



Doug McMahan & Donald Hickman
NCCC Event Coordinator & Co-Coordinator
macsvettes@gmail.com

SW Region Clubs

- BRAZOS RIVER CORVETTE CLUB (BRCC)
Granbury, TX • SW-540
- ◆
- CEN-TEX CORVETTE CLUB (CTCC)
Waco, TX • SW-200
- ◆
- CORVETTE CLUB OF OKLAHOMA CITY (CCOC)
Oklahoma City, OK • SW-468
- ◆
- CORVETTE CLUB OF TEXAS (CCT)
Dallas, TX • SW-074
- ◆
- CORVETTE OWNERS ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH TEXAS (COAST)
San Antonio, TX • SW-143
- ◆
- COWTOWN VETTES (CTV)
Fort Worth, TX • SW-055
- ◆
- EAST TEXAS CORVETTE CLUB (ETCC)
Lufkin, TX • SW-577
- ◆
- LONGHORN CORVETTE CLUB (LCC)
Austin, TX • SW-207
- ◆
- MID-COAST CORVETTE CLUB (MCCC)
Lake Jackson, TX • SW-170
- ◆
- NORTH TEXAS VETTES (NTV)
Fort Worth, TX • SW-555
- ◆
- OKLAHOMA CITY CORVETTE CLUB (OCCC)
Oklahoma City, OK • SW-131
- ◆
- SAN JACINTO CORVETTE CLUB (SJCC)
Houston, TX • SW-063
- ◆
- SUN CITIES CORVETTE CLUB (SCCC)
Albuquerque, NM • SW-085
- ◆
- TEXAS COMPETITION
CORVETTE CLUB (TCCC)
McGregor, TX • SW-569
- ◆
- TEXAS CORVETTE
MOTORSPORTS CLUB (TCMC)
Houston, TX • SW-568
- ◆
- TEJAS VETTES (TV)
Plano, TX • SW-163
- ◆
- TEXAS OUTLAWS CORVETTE CLUB (TOCC)
Graham, TX • SW-198
- ◆
- TIN HALL TOYS (THT)
Santa Fe, TX • SW-392
- ◆
- TULSA VETTE SET (TVS)
Tulsa, OK • SW-248

2016 COMPETITION SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT	CLUB
03/01	Your Club	Nat'l Newsletter Contest - email required / due to participate	Nat'l
03/05	Mineral Wells	Practice Autocross - non-sanctioned	CTV
03/19	Ft Worth, TX	SWR Awards Banquet, hosted by THT Banquet Registration Deadline: 3/1/16(postmarked) Location: Radisson in Fort Worth TBD Room Cost: \$99 + tax Deadline 3/15/16 (block will be released)	ALL
03/20	Ft Worth, TX	SWR GOVERNOR'S MEETING - 9:00 AM at TBD	ALL
03/15	Your Club	Nat'l Newsletter Contest - 1st Issue is Due	Nat'l
04/09-10	Mart, TX	Prairie Hill Dragway 7 Low-Speed Autocross Events ◇ 7 Low-Speed Autocross Events ◇	CTCC MCCC
04/22-23	St Louis, MO	NATIONAL MEETINGS	Nat'l
4/30 - 5/1	Ft Worth, TX	Texas Motor Speedway - 20th Annual Super Speedway Weekend 7 Low-Speed Autocross Events ◇ 5 Low-Speed Autocross Events ◇ Laps on the Oval Sunday Morning	CTV (BRCC)
05/06 05/07-08	Hallett, OK	Hallett Motor Racing Circuit - Oklahoma Thunder Driving School / Track Day (non-sanctioned) Friday the 6th 7 High-Speed Events ◇ 7? High-Speed Events ◇	THT TOCC
05/28-29	OKC, OK Noble, OK	Sheriff's Facility - 47th Annual Southern States Corvette Festival 7 Low-Speed Autocross Events ◇ Thunder Valley in Noble 3 Drag Events - MT, Record & ET ◇	OCCC
06/01	Your Club	Nat'l Newsletter Contest - Final Issue is DUE	Nat'l
06/04-05	OKC, OK	Sheriff's Facility 7 Low-Speed Autocross Events ◇ 7 Low-Speed Autocross Events ◇	TVS SCCC
06/11	Mansfield, TX	Fat Daddy's Bar & Grill Spring Scramble, Car Show, Funkhana & 2 Rallyes	CTV (BRCC / CCT)
06/25	TBD	2nd SWR GOVERNOR'S MEETING - 7 PM @ TBD	SWR
06/25-26	Mart, TX	Prairie Hill Dragway 10 Low-speed Autocross Events	Nat'l
06/01-07/17	Your Club	Nat'l Club Website Contest - Judging takes place	Nat'l
07/17-22	Omaha, NE	NATIONAL CONVENTION 2016 & NATIONAL MEETINGS	Nat'l
07/22	Omaha, NE	National Club Newsletter & Website Contest Winners An- nounced	Nat'l
08/13-14	Cresson, TX	Motorsports Ranch - 1.3 Mile Lower Track 14 Low-Speed Autocrosses	CTCC TCCC

Complete schedule and flyers for these events can be found at
<http://www.ncccswregion.org/schedule.html>

NCCC GOVERNOR



The NCCC (National Corvette Clubs Council) events always get underway for the year in March. After a winter of rest and relaxation it is time to get that corvette out and drive and enjoy! Here in Texas so far we have had a very easy winter! Let's hope the spring will be kind and we can enjoy all the events that Cowtown and the Southwest Region have to offer.

March starts with our practice autocross at Mineral Wells airport. This is an event that allows you to try autocrossing without any pressure of competition. The best thing this year it is offered to Cowtown members for FREE! If you are not interested in autocross competition, you can just come drive the course and see what a corvette is capable of. It is amazing car. If you still are not into trying your car a little, Cowtown needs you to come work the various functions and learn what is required to host our NCCC events. It promises to be a FUN DAY! These events are our primary revenue that enables us to operate this club.

Next for the Southwest Region is the 2015 Awards Banquet for all the competitors who spend their time and money running events. The banquet is local and will be a party to remember. It is at the Radisson in Ft. Worth at 2540 Meacham Blvd. It is \$40 for cocktails, dinner and entertainment for the night. I am looking forward to seeing all my corvette family from the Southwest Region, so come join us. Cowtown has several members who will be honored.



Check out the regional and national scholarship requirements for you or your loved ones. Information on both are found on the regional and national websites, both linked off of our home page.

Speaking of national NCCC, don't forget that the 57th Annual NCCC National Convention registration is open. The Cornhusker Corvette Club has a full filled week planned for everyone; regardless if you are into diamonds, parties or competition. Don't forget to check out there promotional video that is also linked off the Cowtown home page – lower right corner below the Roar into Omaha logo.

Looking forward to a great year for Cowtown competition and the social life that it includes.

SAVE THE WAVE!

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Glenda McMahan
2015NCCC Governor
glenda-gm@att.net



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Current club members enjoy a FREE "Who Does What" listing. Listings renew each December. Contact the Editor for more info.



Hello everyone. Welcome to the Logo Merchandise store. There are lots of great things for sale with the Cowtown logo on them. Here's just a sampling of some of the things we have for sale:

Caps.....	\$ 7.50
Visors.....	\$ 7.50
Sweatshirts.....	\$20.00
<i>(2XL and up slightly higher)</i>	
Long Sleeve T-shirts.....	\$15.00
<i>(2XL and up slightly higher)</i>	
Short Sleeve T-shirts.....	\$13.00
Men's & Women's Long Sleeve Denim Shirts.....	\$25.00
Polo shirts. All different styles.....	\$25.00
<i>(Please note that on all shirt orders, 2XL and up sizes are slightly higher)</i>	

If you want your name added to your shirt, it's only \$3 more!

Or if you want a Cowtown logo or a certain year Corvette on one of your own shirts it's only \$5!

Name tags.....\$ 12.00
We also have stickers, patches, koozies, and tumblers *(only two of these left!)*

So stop by the Logo table before and after the meeting to place your order. You'll get your order by the next meeting.

Thanks!

Karen Watson
Logo Merchandise Chairperson
rickandkaren@mindspring.com
817-232-3871



ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE SENT TO:
COWTOWN VETTES
P.O. Box 1974
Fort Worth, Texas 76101



July 18 - 22 2016

<http://www.corvettesnccc.org/Convention2016.html>



DO YOU HAVE A NEW ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL ADDRESS? HAVE YOU SOLD YOUR CORVETTE OR BOUGHT A NEW ONE?
If so, let Membership know so we can update your address on the various email lists. You can send any updates to Membership at: ctv-membership@yahoo.com.



We would invite you to check out the promotional video of the 2016 NCCC Nat'l Convention – they have fun stuff planned for everyone; including diamonds for the ladies

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/VsJlSkRyn3c?feature=oembed>



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Contact the Editor for more info.*

Future Corvette Owners Association (FCOA)

Do you have a son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, niece, nephew, or are a guardian to a child under the age of 16 years. If so, don't forget to enroll him/her in the **Future Corvette Owners Association (FCOA)**, NCCC's youth organization.

Website: <http://www.corvettesnccc.org/fcoa1.html>



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