

COWTOWN LOW-DOWN

VOLUME 36, No. 3

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WWW.COWTOWNVETTES.ORG



THE PLAN

By Mitch Keating With Two Cents Worth Added
Occasionally by Donna Keating

From the mid 70's thru the 80's, we owned a 1957 Chevrolet Bel-Air two-door hard top and were heavily involved in the Cowtown Classic Chevy Club. Then in 1989 we sold it, which we had owned for 12 years, with the intention of finding a Corvette to purchase. Well, we all know about the best-laid plans, life gets in the way (*i.e. medical bills, emergency household expenses, etc.*).

By 1992, the car crazies had cooled off a bit (*but were not completely gone*) and we were into camping and fishing on the weekends, so we bought a new Nitro bass boat to pull behind our truck camper. Since the Corvette was still in the back of my mind, we called the boat the "Wet Vette," because it was fiberglass like a Corvette and lots of fun to drive, too. We went bass fishing every chance we got. However, as time went by, the car crazies intensified, so we sold the camper and boat to start what we called the "Corvette Fund." Slowly, but surely, the Fund got full enough to seriously shop for our new baby. *I have always wanted a Stingray steel bumper car.*

In 2001, I started seriously looking at pricing and the overall condition of cars in my price range. At the same time, I began working on fixing up the garage getting it ready for the new arrival. When the guys at work would ask me what I had done over the weekend, I would say that I had been working on the baby's room. They looked at me kind of funny and I said, "It's not what you think; I'm fixing up the garage, so it will be ready when I find a Vette."

Donna is a quilter and she had found a quilt show to go to in Roundrock, Texas. She said, "Mitch, you're not going to believe this. There is a quilt show and a Corvette show all in one." Strange but true. She knew I couldn't turn down that combo, so we went on a road trip. While she wandered around the quilt exhibits, I was drooling over the cars. Suddenly, there in the show, I saw "Baby," a beautiful 1971 coupe with custom maroon paint, after-market wheels, black interior. She was beautiful! It was love at first sight. In talking to the owner at the show, he indicated that the car was for sale. Within the next few weeks, we purchased the Vette and on April 21, 2007, "Baby" was delivered.

We enjoy her every chance we get. I have done a few upgrades to improve drivability, make her more roadworthy and plan to do more as time and money will allow. And, yes, we still have the ongoing Corvette Fund for all of those things that we want to do for Baby.

So, the moral of the story is to keep working toward your goals set forth in your Plan, no matter how long it takes, and look everywhere (including a quilt show) for your dream.

We look forward to being members of a great club and thanks to everyone for making us feel so welcome.

Go Vette'n when you can; it will make you feel better!

Mitch & Donna Keating



CTV CALENDAR 2009

➤ DENOTES 100%ER EVENT (*)
3/6 ~ MEMBERSHIP MTG *

7:30-9:00 PM

COORS HOSPITALITY ROOM

135W @ JOHN MCMILLAN PKWY.

3/7 ~ EASTER SEALS WALK

GRAPEVINE MILLS MALL

(SEE DETAILS ON THE CTV WEBSITE
& ELSEWHERE IN THIS LOW-DOWN)

3/14 ~ PHOTO SHOOT

FOR 35TH ANNIVERSARY ~ TMS

(SEE DETAILS ON THE CTV WEBSITE
& ELSEWHERE IN THIS LOW-DOWN)

3/15 ~ CCP CRUISE

BACK ROADS & LIVE COUNTRY

MUSIC (SEE DETAILS ON THE CTV
WEBSITE & ELSEWHERE IN THIS
LOW-DOWN.)

3/18 ~ BOARD MTG

7:00 P.M. ~ CONFERENCE ROOM

COORS DISTRIBUTOR

135W @ JOHN MCMILLAN PKWY.

➤ **3/21 ~ PRACTICE AUTO-X ***

MINERAL WELLS, TX

(SEE DETAILS ON THE CTV WEBSITE
& ELSEWHERE IN THIS LOW-DOWN)

➤ **4/3 ~ MEMBERSHIP MTG ***

7:30-9:00 PM

COORS HOSPITALITY ROOM

135W @ JOHN MCMILLAN PKWY.



CTV OFFICERS 2009

PRESIDENT

DON WELLS
DFW73VETTE@TX.RR.COM

VICE PRESIDENT

CANDY LOWREY
CANDY.LOWREY@SBCGLOBAL.NET

SECRETARY

BARB GREENFEDER
BARBSC6@SBCGLOBAL.NET

TREASURER

DONN BECK
DONNBECK@SBCGLOBAL.NET

NCCC GOVERNOR

SCOTT WHEELER
SCOTT.WHEELER@CHARTER.NET

WEBMASTER

DOUG McMAHAN
MACSVETTES@CHARTER.NET
WWW.COWTOWNVETTES.COM

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

SYLVIA HOALDRIDGE
PINKVETT@DOT11NET.NET

CTV BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD MEMBER (TERM 12/09)

DON FOWLER (IPP)
FOWLERROA@AOL.COM

BOARD MEMBER (TERM 12/09)

KARYN FOWLER
KFOWLER@THEBLUMFIRM.COM

BOARD MEMBER (TERM 12/09)

BOB MORRISON
CINBOB75@CHARTER.NET

BOARD MEMBER (TERM 12/10)

CINDY MORRISON
CINBOB75@CHARTER.NET

JR. BOARD MEMBER (TERM 12/09)

HECTOR SANDOVAL
FUTLUZ@MSN.COM

PRESIDENT

I want to thank CANDY LOWREY for planning a wonderful evening for Valentine's Day at Los Vaqueros West. For our members and guests who attended, we enjoyed an evening of friendship and good food.

We hope to see you at the Practice Autocross in Mineral Wells on March 21st. DAVID GILL and his committee have planned an exciting day of racing. If you haven't driven your Corvette on an autocross road course, this is your chance. If you haven't signed up to be an event worker, it's not too late. "The best location to see the autocross is working a corner."

The Club's 35th Anniversary photo is planned for March 14th at Texas Motor Speedway. Check DOUG McMAHAN's article in this *Low-Down* and on Cowtown's website for update information.

I still am looking for an NCCC Event Chair for our TMS weekend in September. If you are interested, please contact me.

Remember This Is Your Club

Don F. Wells

VICE PRESIDENT

The Valentine's dinner at Los Vaqueros West was a huge hit! We had our own private room, so it was easy to mill around and socialize with everyone, and the food was outstanding, as usual!

The March 100%er will be the Practice Autocross at the Mineral Wells Airport on 3/21. DAVID GILL has been working very hard on this event. If you're new to autocrossing, this is the PERFECT time to come out and see what the fuss is all about! I know he's going to need people to work corners, along with various other duties. I will be doing timing, so if you'd like to know more about how that "timing stuff" works, stop by the club trailer and I'll be happy to give you Timing 101. If you would like to partake in the lunch festivities, you'll need to sign up ahead of time, so we can make sure there's enough food for everyone. (See the registration flyer on the CTV website or pick one up at the membership meeting.)

We will also be shooting our 35th Anniversary club photo on 3/14 at Texas Motor Speedway. Staging will begin at 10:00 AM, then we will caravan to Babe's in Roanoke for lunch. More details, as well as sign up sheets for both the photo shoot and lunch, will be available at the March membership meeting. If you want to participate in this event and cannot be at the membership meeting, contact DOUG McMAHAN for the photo shoot and contact KARYN FOWLER to RSVP for lunch.

KARYN FOWLER is also coordinating our traditional 100%er for April... the Susan G. Komen Walk for the Cure on 4/11. You need to register online at the Komen website and Karyn has arranged for us to eat afterwards at one of my favorite places...Fuzzy's Taco Shop!! See her article elsewhere in this newsletter for more details.

I'm working on a car show at Bruce Lowrie Chevrolet for our May 100%er, so watch the CTV website for more details and the final date.

See ya soon!

Candy Lowrey

PARDON FROM THE GOVERNOR

A report from the NCCC Governor

I try each month at the membership meeting to take some of the mystery out of the NCCC portion of our hobby. In February, I discussed the four-state region to which we belong, the Southwest Region. Jeannie Ruston, from the Oklahoma City Corvette Club, is the Region Executive for 2009. Participating in regional events is a lot of fun and the group of people you get to hang around with become like a big extended family. Give it a try.

I expect to have the NCCC 50th anniversary pins at the March membership meeting. If you ordered any, you should be able to pick them up then.

What's Coming Up

- 3-21 Non-sanctioned (practice) autocross at Mineral Wells. Hosted by CTV.
- 3-28 NCCC Southwest Region 2008 Awards Banquet in Waco
- 3-29 NCCC Southwest Region Governors' Meeting in Waco
- 4-3/5 San Jacinto Corvette Club (SJCC) & Longhorn Corvette Club (LCC) First Choice Weekend; 14 autocrosses plus a playday (practice) at Grand Sport Speedway (Hitchcock TX, south of Houston)
- 4-17/19 Autocrosses & Funkhana at Hallet Raceway; Autocrosses at Tulsa Fair grounds
- 4-25/26 Autocrosses in Waco; Cen-Tex Corvette Club & Mid-Coast Corvette Club
- 5-2/3 NCCC National Governors' Meeting – St. Louis, MO
- 8-8/14 NCCC National Convention – Colorado Springs, CO
- 9-19/20 Cowtown Vettes (CTV) and Brazos River Corvette Club (BRCC) First Choice Weekend; 10 autocrosses at Texas Motor Speedway.

More details of the competitive events are available in the official NCCC flyer. The flyers are posted on the Southwest Region website. Let me know you need a hard copy of the flyer or any other information about the events.

I'd like to encourage you to attend the 2008 Southwest Region Awards Banquet. This year's edition is in Waco. I'll be glad to travel together and keep you company at the banquet. So, don't be shy ... Make plans now to attend the banquet.

Practice Auto-X

Come see what we're talking about. Cowtown Vettes is hosting a practice autocross at the Mineral Wells Ring on March 21. You can come out and watch; you can come out and help; you can come out and drive. Better yet, you can do it all!

NCCC Scholarships

Last month's Low-Down had information about the NCCC National Scholarship program. Our Southwest Region also has a scholarship program. Several Cowtown members and dependents have received SW Region scholarships. I will pass this year's details on to you as soon as I have them.

NCCC National Convention

Our national competition events and celebrations will be in Colorado Springs in August this year. Join us for a week of Corvetting with shows, racing, seminars and partying. This year, we'll have additional celebrating in honor of NCCC's 50th anniversary.

Don't forget to write or call... /*Scott*

"Shortly after man invented the wheel, he invented the trailer. He's been trying to get the wiring to work ever since." - Patrick McManus

CTV COMMITTEES 2009

➤ DENOTES CHAIRPERSON

AUDIT

➤ GLENDA MCMAHAN

GLENDA-G@CHARTER.NET

CAR SHOW

➤ JOHN BREFCZYNSKI

JOHNB96LT4@SBCGLOBAL.NET

CHARITIES

➤ JANE BUEHLER

BBUEHLER@CHARTER.NET

COMPETITION

➤ DAVID GILL

DOGILL80@SBCGLOBAL.NET

CTV CRUISER PROGRAM

➤ DOUG MCMAHAN

MACSVETTES@CHARTER.NET

EQUIPMENT

➤ HECTOR SANDOVAL

CRUISER383@YAHOO.COM

HISTORIAN

➤ GLENDA MCMAHAN

GLENDA-G@CHARTER.NET

LOGO MERCHANDISE

➤ KAREN WATSON

RICKANDKAREN@MINDSPRING.COM

MEMBERSHIP/WELCOME

➤ NANCY WELLS

NJWC6VETTE@TX.RR.COM

MID-AMERICA

➤ JAMES WEST

JNK69VETTE@BCGLOBAL.NET

NCCC EVENTS

➤ HOW ABOUT YOU???

➤ DENOTES CHAIRPERSON

NCM AMBASSADOR

➤ KIM WEST

KDCWEST@SBCGLOBAL.NET

NEWSLETTER

SYLVIA HOALDRIDGE

PINKVETT@DOT11NET.NET

DOUG MCMAHAN

MACSVETTES@CHARTER.NET

GLENDAMCMAHAN

GLENDAG@CHARTER.NET

OPEN ROAD RACING

➤ KARL SAMUEL

KARL.SAMUEL@GMAIL.COM

**PARLIAMENTARIAN &
By-LAWS**

➤ ➤ HOW ABOUT YOU???

KERRY KING

KKINGA@FLASH.NET

DEBBIE LINDSEY

DEBGLIND@AOL.COM

SOCIALS

➤ CANDY LOWREY

CANDY.LOWREY@SBCGLOBAL.NET

SPONSORSHIP

➤ HOW ABOUT YOU???

TELEPHONE

➤ ALAINE KING

KKINGA@FLASH.NET

TEXAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY

➤ HARRY RUMZEK

HRUMZEK@SBCGLOBAL.NET

TIMING

➤ CANDY LOWREY

CANDY.LOWREY@SBCGLOBAL.NET

35TH ANNIVERSARY

➤ HOW ABOUT YOU???

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME, VISITORS and NEW MEMBERS!

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

- CLARK AND PATTY KIRBY ~ 1965 COUPE RED



SECOND TIME VISITORS:

- MARK & LOU KIRBY ~ 2007 Z06 ATOMIC ORANGE

FIRST TIME VISITORS:

- JASON GREEN ~ 2008 C6 COUPE
- JESSIE GREEN ~ 2002 COUPE
- DONALD & CYNTHIA RANKIN ~ 2006 C6 CONV & 1975 CONV
- JOHN & NANCY DICK ~ 2003 COUPE

BIRTHDAYS

3/4 ~ JOHN McCOWN

3/5 ~ LINDA LUMMUS

3/6 ~ CHRIS KIRCHEM

3/6 ~ MANDA GORMAN

3/7 ~ JOE ROSALES

3/11 ~ BOB GREENE

3/11 ~ KEITH FITZGERALD

3/14 ~ BRUCE LEWIS

3/15 ~ DONNA ROSETT

3/16 ~ DOLLIE HUNLEY

3/17 ~ JACK GANDY

3/21 ~ MIKE BRASWELL

3/23 ~ KAREN PHILLIPS



ANNIVERSARIES

3/10 ~ JOE & ANA ROSALES

3/15 ~ STEVE & DOLLIE HUNLEY

3/16 ~ JOHN & CORY ARMES

3/30 ~ JIM & LINDA BENWARE

3/30 ~ KERRY & ALAINE KING



CHARITY REPORT

Easter Seals Walk

Our first charity event of 2009 is the EASTER SEALS WALK on Saturday, March 7. Easter Seals provides exceptional services to ensure that people living with autism and other disabilities have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play. The walk is at Grapevine Mills Mall on Saturday, March 7. Registration begins at 7:30am and the walk starts at 9:00am. It's a one-mile "indoor" family fun walk.

LINDA LUMMUS is sponsoring Cowtown Vettes' team. To join our team, sign up by going to the Easter Seals site (www.easterseals.com) and locate the Grapevine walk. Follow the steps to join the Cowtown Vettes' team.

Join the Celebration ~ March 12, 10:00 am—2:00 pm!

To officially open the doors of the Tarrant Area Food Bank's new Community Kitchen, you are invited to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony at 2600 Cullen Street, Fort Worth, 76107. Tours of the new 2400 sq. ft. facility will be held between 10:30 am and 2:00 pm and hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Chef Vedat and his Community Kitchen students. **Please reply by MARCH 3 to Lyllette Pharr at 817-332-9177, x. 118.** The Community Kitchen, which is another innovative way your Food Bank is reducing the number of neighbors vulnerable to hunger, provides culinary and life-skill programs for participants so that they can achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

Jane Buehler

Charity Committee Chairman

2009 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure

The 2009 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure is scheduled for Saturday, April 11 in downtown Fort Worth. Details are listed below:

Date: Saturday, April 11

Time: Meet at 7:15 am

Place: YWCA parking lot at the northwest corner of 4th and Lamar Streets downtown Fort Worth (same place as in previous years)

Please register online at http://www.komentarrant.org/race_for_the_cure.aspx. Click on registration and look for the team Cowtown Vettes. Email me at kfowler@theblumfirm.com if you have any problems registering.

The walk is a 5K (about 3-1/2 miles) and starts near the corner of Houston and 4th Streets about 3 blocks from the lot where we will meet.

I have found the perfect place to go for brunch afterwards – Fuzzy's Taco Shop on Race Street, which is off Sylvania just east of downtown. It's a Baja-style Mexican food place, large enough to accommodate all of us. They open at 9:15 am and we'll probably get there between 10:00 and 10:30 am. They have everything from breakfast burritos & tacos to Huevos Rancheros and Migas. I've had their Migas and they are great. Their Latin fried potatoes are also wonderful. So, if you haven't signed up yet, this is your incentive to do it!!! Even if you don't walk, you can meet us for brunch. Check out Fuzzy's website – www.fuzzystacoshop.com. You can see their menu online.

Karyn Fowler

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!!!!!!!!!!!!

Kidney Walk Talk

There will be NO Kidney Walk in Fort Worth this year. However, please spread the word about the upcoming Plano Kidney Walk on May 2 at LakeSide Market. The Kidney Walk presents an occasion for dialysis patients, organ transplant recipients, organ donor families, the medical community and the general public to celebrate life and create lasting community advocacy and long-term support for the National Kidney Foundation Serving North Texas. (Unfortunately, I will be attending the NCCC Governors' Meeting in St. Louis and will be unable to participate in this walk.)

Register online at www.kidneywalk.org!

Sylvia Hoaldrige

NCCC SCHOLARSHIP INSTRUCTIONS

The NCCC Scholarship program is funded through donations from Clubs, individuals and corporate friends such as MID AMERICA MOTORWORKS. The NCCC Scholarship Committee awards \$1,000.00 scholarships to worthy young people who have some connection with NCCC through a Father, Mother, Grandfather, Grandmother, etc., who has been a member of NCCC for at least three years. "Some connection" implies that the Applicant's relatives should have knowledge of the various requirements of the Scholarship Program.

If the relative is not the Applicant's parent, the relative must write a letter to be included with the completed application indicating the following:

- His/Her relationship to the applicant
- His/Her NCCC Member Number
- That He/She will be the Applicant's Sponsor
- That He/She has been closely involved with NCCC for a period of three or more years.

All scholarship applications MUST be completed correctly and mailed to:

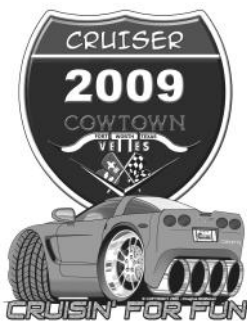
John Osborn
Scholarship Committee Chairman
P.O. Box 5032
Lafayette, IN 47903

All applications must be residing in P. O. Box 5032 no later than the deadline date for the year. The deadline changes from year to year depending upon the date of the Annual NCCC Convention. **The 2009 Received Deadline Date is May 9, 2009.**

CTV PHOTO ALBUM ~ VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER



COWTOWN CRUISER



Corvette Cruisin' can have a different definition...many Vette owners primarily enjoy their Corvettes on pretty weekends and cruisin' on an occasional trip; NO, there is nothing wrong with that. ☺

Sometimes, when we aren't on the back roads, cruisin' does take a totally different perspective. With my daily commute averaging 70+ miles a day, my goal was to spend that 1-1/2 to 2 hours a day of my life enjoying a vehicle that was fun to drive while being economical. Back in 2000, we bought Lil' Red (our '93 roadster) and it became my daily driver for several years. After we began competing in NCCC with it, we sought out another daily driver Vette, so we purchased Red & Barb's black C5 when they bought their first C6; back in September '04.

Long story short, while cruisin' a few back roads on the way to Willow Park for the Valentine's Dinner Social Saturday, the C5 rolled 100,000 miles. Yet today, we wouldn't be afraid to take a trip anywhere in it. 24-26 MPG in my daily commute in heavy traffic is still the average and 26-33 MPG on the highway! So, while "America's Sports Car" is a truly awesome automobile, they do make great daily cruisers; they are awesome on trips and fun can be had cruisin' in them anywhere!✍



2009 Cruises Sponsors... I am still campaigning for three-four *Cruise Sponsors*; each to plan at least one cruise this year - even if just for lunch or dinner somewhere. So, step up, sign-up and commit on putting together a Cowtown cruise for our members to have fun cruising'; I'll offer to assist in getting you started.

The April Bluebonnet Cruise will be the first club cruise. We are heading down to the *Texas Hill Country* on Friday the 17th and heading back home on Sunday the 19th. As with all my cruises, there will be scenic (and fun) back roads, a historic place or two to visit - probably even a ghost town, a winery stop or two, along with shopping opportunities, and, of course, time to enjoy friendship with other members. Current plans are to head down to the San Antonio River Walk on Saturday evening to enjoy something totally different.

At this time, only three of the Cowtown block of 20 rooms remain available at **Tapatio Springs Golf & Conference Center** at a rate of \$89 per night. Besides the highly discounted room rates, they are offering reserved Corvette parking, along with a reception hour when we arrive on Friday with free wine, beer, hot and cold *Hors D'oeuvres*.✍



Our next Club Cruise will be local, on Sunday, March 15th, where we will start with lunch. We will cruise the back roads and end up at a good local winery where we will enjoy *live Country Music* from 3-6 pm.

While it isn't required to participate, we do have a new **2009 Cruiser T-Shirt** available for \$12 each; available in white or gray. Cruiser packets, electronic points logs, T-Shirts, etc. are available - contact me.✍

More information on cruises and the CCP program is located on our website; check the following URL for the latest info on all sponsored cruises:

http://cowtownvettes.org/CCP/cruiserpgm.html#CRUISE_SCHEDULE

The **5th Annual "What I Saw Along the Way" Photo Contest** is underway. This annual photo contest is open to anyone who enjoys their Corvette; you don't even have to compete in the Cruiser Program to enter. From now until November 6th, you can take photos of the neat places you cruise enjoying your Corvette. At the November Membership Meeting, you can display (enter) them, allowing the members at the meeting to vote and select their favorite photo. So don't delay, start snapping photos of neat places your Corvette takes YOU! The Contest rules can be found at:



http://www.cowtownvettes.org/CCP/2008/CCP_PC_08.html

If you need clarifications, have a question or comment about the Cowtown Cruiser Program (CCP), please feel free to give me a call or drop me an email.

...keep on cruising' & "Save the Wave"
Doug McMahan – 2009 CCP Chairperson




The NCCC Nat'l Club Website Contest judging starts on June 26th, and the judging runs thru July 27th. We (I) need your assistance to make everything is as good as it can be during those dates (on-going as well). There is specific content the judges are looking for along with overall first impression, overall appearance, ease of navigation and links accessibility, timely and current information, etc. With your assistance we can be a strong contender for this contest.

<http://www.corvettesnccc.org/WebSite09.html>

A little History: Cowtown Vettes won 1st place in the Contest's 1st year (2005). ☺ Per the contest rules a the winning club cannot compete the following year, so we could not compete in 2006.☺ In 2007, we were again eligible so we entered and took 1st place again.☺ This year, we are eligible again so we will be entering striving for a third win in '09.

This year, we are hopeful but doubtful that a third 1st place win can be pulled off; after all, there are some great web-sites out there in the 280+ clubs in NCCC. However, with your help and eagle eye - anything is possible; so *help Cowtown WIN in '09!* The contest winner will be announced at the **2009 NCCC National Convention** in Colorado Springs, CO. in August - hope you will attend and enjoy the fun.✍

I encourage and welcome your assistance in helping to keep our website updated, with valid information and photos to show off all the many diverse and fun things our members participate in as members of this club and NCCC .

We always welcome event pictures and information for use on the website and in the *Club Historian Scrapbooks*. It is never too late to provide additional photos to be added to either our website or the *Cowtown Scrapbooks*. You can even upload them to the web instead of taking time to burn a CD or email them - contact me for details. 

What does GM have up their sleeve? ...have you visited the [Vette Next](#) page on our website recently? It is linked to the right of the sex Vette generations of Corvettes at the top of the webpages.

On February 12th, GM announced the latest *Corvette Stingray Concept*. Some of the photos have been placed on our webpage along with an article from *Car Body Design*. Just below that article, you will find an article about an upcoming movie which features the *Concept Stingray Corvette* along with three other GM vehicles - so check it out.



If you spot some interesting Corvette News, this page was created to post and share that information - let us know about it so it can be captured.

CTV Membership Directory: The January 2009 edition of the directory has been completed and you should have received an email from Membership on how to download it.; if not email the address below to ask for it.

In the event that any of the information listed in your Membership record needs to be updated please get with membership at a club function or send an email to **ctv-membership@yahoogroups.org**.

As we prepare for the *35th Anniversary Group Photo*, we will be utilizing the Vette information from the Directory (master file) to stage the Vettes by generation and color so make sure your Vettes are listed correctly - see additional blurb elsewhere in this issue.✎

Cowtown Email Lists: If you change your email address, please let membership know so that we can update your address on the various email lists; you can send the updates to the ctv-membership@yahoo.com list. If you have questions about an email list for various venues which you might like to participating in (i.e. *Open Road Racing, Car Shows, Cruising, NCCC Competition*, etc.) please contact me.✍

If you have any suggestions, questions or comments about our how we are capturing our Club's website, please don't hesitate to give me a shout.✍️

--Doug McMahan - 2009 CTV Webmaster

...whatever your Corvette interest is, *pursue your passion, keep the spirit of fun and fellowship in mind ...and most of all...*
HAVE FUN DOING IT!!!

35th ANNIVERSARY PHOTO TAKING PLACE THIS MONTH!!!!

We do have our photo scheduled to be taken at *Texas Motor Speedway* on either Saturday, **March 14th**. We will start staging Vettes at 10:30 am with a photo shoot around high-noon in Cowtown.

There is an RSVP button on our website for you to send me your name and which Vette(s) that you will be bringing - see article to the right.

In the 30th Photo there were 72 Vettes and 101 Members and *I'm sure we can top that this year, correct?*

Currently we are short one 2009 Corvette to place in the foreground opposing a 1974 (founding year) - as you might notice in the 2004 photo below. So, is any-one hiding or taking to Nathan about buying one?

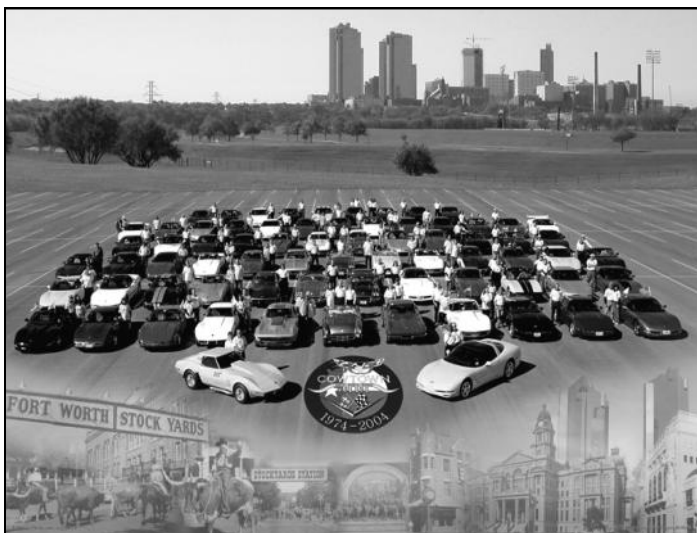
The 30th Anniversary photo (below) was taken in a parking lot with the *Cat's Baseball field* in the background. After several days of digital re-work, we had the Ft Worth Skyline and a few hologram images of scenes around FW at the bottom. While we won't be cloning that same look this year, it will be "tweaked" as necessary to come up with an awesome final product.

The final photo shoot event details and any possible changes will be found on our website as soon as they are available.

Don't forget that all of the latest information around Cowtown's 35th Anniversary activities can be found by clicking the 35th logo off our Home page.

Don't forget to validate your Membership / Vette record in the Directory & keep the Photo Shoot dates open - we want everyone there!

...**THANKS!** Doug McMahan



WANTED YOUR CORVETTE INFORMATION???

As we prepare for the 35th Anniversary Photo, we will be arranging Vettes by Generation and Color - keeps like colors separated ☺.

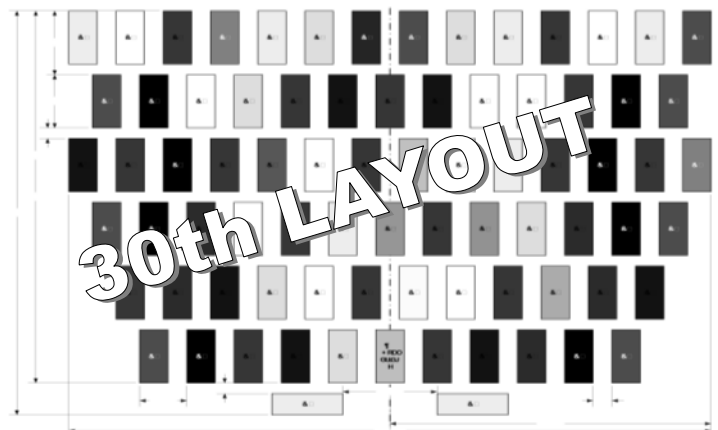
At the March Membership Meeting, there will be a print-out listing each Member and their Vettes, which are currently entered in the Membership Directory.

We would ask that you:

1. **If you will be Participating in the 35th Photo**
2. **Validate the Vette entry** - making any necessary corrections on the printout
3. **Place a check mark** beside EACH Vette that you plan to bring to the photo shoot

If you will not be at the March Membership Meeting, please let me know via email (macsvettes@charter.net)

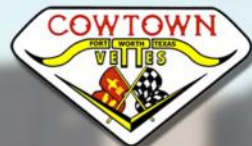
...**THANKS!** Doug McMahan



MITCH & KEAT



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Q: How do I replace the front turn signal on a C5 Corvette?

Depending who you ask or what resource you locate, you might obtain one of the following suggestions on how to replace a front cornering / turn signal bulb on your C5 Corvette:

1. If you have a C5 Corvette surely you can afford a mechanic, correct?

However, if you want to do these mechanical tasks yourself and possibly save a little cash then you should invest in a Chilton's manual for your Vette's model year; it will walk you thru the procedure. Chilton's manuals are well and plainly written and include good, clear photographs.

For less than \$100, you can obtain a Chilton's book along with a basic set of tools so you can literally save thousands in mechanic's fees to accomplish this and other do-it-yourself tasks.

2. Going through the bottom of the Vette, remove a few screws so that the plate comes off (see figure 1). You can then access the bulb (see Figure 2) which requires pressing the clip then a half a turn to remove it.

Reverse the whole procedure and you are done; although you might check to make sure the bulb works before re-assembly.

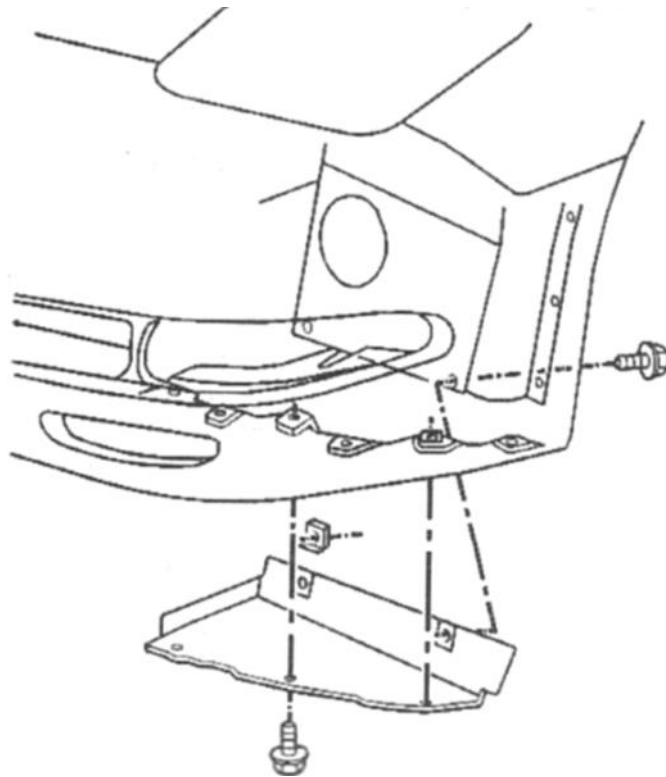


Figure 1

3. If you have small arms and hands, this procedure might be of interest.
 - Turn on the parking lights so that the headlights raise but the main lights are off. Unscrew the 3 small torx screws on the blackish-gray plastic headlight bezel.
 - Gently pull the bezel from around the headlight so that you can reach down around the headlight unit to turn and release the bulb holder.
 - The bulb socket unscrews counter clockwise but it has a plastic clip which you need to squeeze to release it. Below shows how the bulb fits into the lamp assembly.
 - The Daytime Running Light (DRL) bulb is the lower of the two. Insert and check the new bulb then reverse the process to replace the plate.

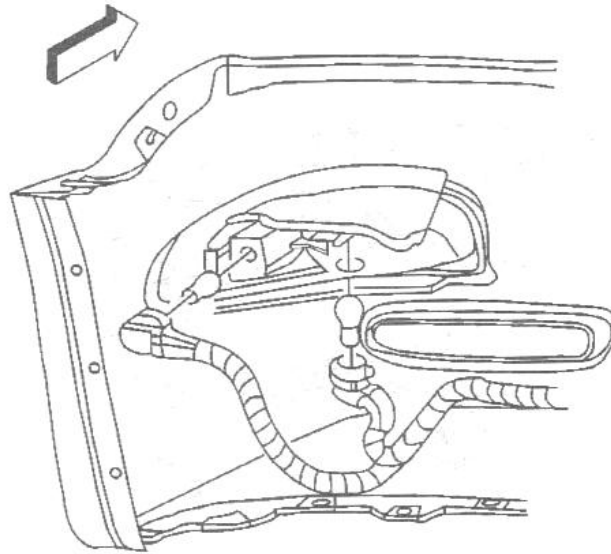


Figure 2

4. Now for all you *autocross* and *road racer* types: Since you typically do your own repairs and typically don't like taking your Vette to a dealership; who will typically charge close to a hundred bucks for this.

- Drive your Vette to your local dealership, where you would do a rapid deceleration in front of the service bay, then lock the tires up for a sideways slide

(since most of you have practiced that many times ☺)

- Once you have properly stopped your Vette, open the door, jump out, then reach up inside the brake duct opening just below the turn signal and push the brake ductwork back and out of your way. Reach inside the hole and locate the wiring harness and lamp socket for the turn signal. Press the clip, turn the socket 1/4 turn and pull wiring harness out thru the brake duct opening.
- Change the bulb and then reverse the process.

Note: Be sure to push the release clip on the side of the socket as you turn it which releases the "stop" and allows it to turn. If you have your owners manual it shows the stop release in the section that describes changing a rear bulb, before sliding in for the pit stop.

- This whole process takes less than 4 minutes!!! ...that is, unless you are going to follow the earlier advice provided where you go fumbling through a Chilton's manual to follow instructions.
- The final step, do a burnout (safely) as you leave the service bay - don't forget to turn-off your traction control.

Note: this process is not easy with a Z06 or if you have screens - not to mention if your hands are not small ☺

Article (and humor) provided by Doug McMahan

Happy 35th Anniversary to Mid-America Motorworks and Cowtown Vettes

I have just completed our first order of the year. Contact me if you need to order any Mid-America parts or products. Our members receive a 10% discount and free shipping on any \$500.00 or more order. I will take your order and will place it when the club has accumulated the \$500.00 order. You may pay for your order after it comes in. You can find Mid America on the web at www.mamotorworks.com for item numbers if you don't have a catalog.

James West

jnk69vette@sbcglobal.net



CTV CAR SHOW COMMENTS

The Fort Worth Rod and Custom Car Show is February, 27th – March 1st at Will Rogers Exhibit Hall. This year's entries in the Cowtown display are:

Larry & Sylvia Hoaldrige	1956 Copper Convertible
Don & Karyn Fowler	1960 Red Convertible
Donn Beck	1967 Blue Convertible
Fred & Donna Rossett	1965 Red Convertible
Bobby & Manda Gorman	1978 Silver Coupe
Don & Virginia Littlefield	1982 Special Edition Coupe
John & Jan Brefczynski	1996 Red LT4 Coupe
Craig Murphy	2004 Z-16 Z-06
Doc Lambert	1962-2003 Custom
Hector Sandoval	2007 Special Edition Z-06

Thank you to all the members willing to show their cars in this three-day event. I will have the results of the show at the club meeting.

Jan and I were the only Cowtown members to enter the Dallas Autorama and received 1st place with our C4.

John Brefczynski

CTV COMPETITION REPORT

March Practice Autocross

- ✓ To allow novice event workers to begin to hone their skills (this includes me!)
- ✓ To provide an opportunity for veteran competitors to sort out their cars
- ✓ To allow veteran competitors to screw up without affecting their point totals
- ✓ To have fun, socialize, and eat what is probably the best track food available

I want to thank all of those who have volunteered to work toward a successful event. We have the registration form available on the Cowtown Web Site and we have an approved budget. There will be one more Competition Committee meeting before the event. I will announce it at the next membership meeting and will contact all volunteers via email well in advance of the meeting date.

Dallas Raceway (<http://www.dallasraceway.com/contact.html>)

The strip is not yet complete but, as you will see on the web site, their schedule starts in April. Crandall, TX (the site of the new facility) is Southeast of Dallas (South of I-20 on US 175). And, yes, it is a quarter-mile strip.

The Texas Mile (<http://www.texasmile.net/>)

If you want to let your Corvette "get its legs," this might be for you. If you think your car is faster than your buddy's, this might be for you. If you like drag racing but believe the strip is too short, this is **definitely** for you. (The course is one mile with a half-mile shutoff.) This year's dates are March 27-29 and October 17-18. March looks a tad busy for me, but I plan to press hard to attend the October event.

NCCC Events

I am not going to establish a practice of duplicating the postings of other chairpersons, but I will encourage you to check them out. There are three autocrosses in April, one in May (comb. Autocross/drag race), and three in June. Additional details are, of course, on the NCCC Southwest Region web site:

<http://www.ncccswwregion.org/schedule.html>

Dave Gill

SWR CLUBS
2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS ~ NCCC SW REGION

BRCC—BRAZOS RIVER CC	3/28	SWR NCCC Awards Banquet (hosted by Cen-Tex CC)	Waco, TX
GRANBURY, TX SW-540	3/29	SWR Governors' Meeting	Waco, TX
CCO—COMP. CORVETTES OF OKLAHOMA	4/3-5	LCC/SJCC Friday—play day @ Grand Sport Speedway Saturday—7 LS; Sunday—7 HS	Hitchcock, TX
TULSA, OK SW-423	4/17-19	CCO/COAST Friday—play day @ Hallett Saturday—2 LS, 4 HS, 1 F @ Hallett Sunday—7 LS @ Tulsa Fair Grounds	Tulsa, OK
CCOC—CC OF OKLAHOMA CITY	4/25-26	CTCC/MCCC 14 LS	Waco, TX
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK SW-468	5/2-3	National Governors Meeting	St. Louis, MO
CCT—CC OF TEXAS	5/23-25	OSCC/COCC Saturday—6 LS Sunday—2 ETD, 1 MTD, RD (Noble, OK)	Oklahoma City, OK
DALLAS, TX SW-074	6/6-7	THT/TVS—Regional Fundraiser Events TBD	Oklahoma City, OK
COAST—CORVETTE OWNERS ASSN. OF S.TX	6/13-14	BRCC (CTV) Events TBD	Mineral Wells, TX
SAN ANTONIO, TX SW-143	7/25-26	CCOC/SCCC 11 LS	Oklahoma City, OK
CTCC—CEN-TEX CC	8/8-14	NCCC's 50th Convention	Colorado Springs, CO
WACO, TX SW-200	9/12-13	National Governors Meeting	St. Louis, MO
CTV—COWTOWN VETTES	9/19-20	CTV/BRCC ~ Texas Motor Speedway 10 LS	Fort Worth, TX
FORT WORTH, TX SW-055	9/19	SWR Governors' Meeting	TBD
LCC—LONGHORN CC	9/26-27	CCT/NTV 14 Events TBD	
AUSTIN, TX SW-200	10/24	MTCC 5 LS (not a 1st Choice weekend)	Oklahoma City, OK
MCCC—MID-COAST CC	10/31	TV 7 LS	Mineral Wells, TX
LAKE JACKSON, TX SW-170	10/31	SWR Governors' Meeting	
MTCC—MID-TEXAS CORVETTE ASSN	11/1	TOCC 7 LS	Mineral Wells, TX
KILLEEN, TX SW-185	11/14-15	National Governors Meeting	St. Louis, MO
NTV—NORTH TEXAS VETTES			
FORT WORTH, TX SW-555			
OSCC—OKLAHOMA CITY CC			
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK SW-131			
SCCC—SUN CITIES CC			
ALBUQUERQUE, NM SW-085			
SJCC—SAN JACINTO CC			
HOUSTON, TX SW-063			
THT—TIN HALL TOYS CC			
SANTA FE, TX SW-392			
TOCC—TEXAS OUTLAWS CC			
GRAHAM, TX SW-198			
TV—TEJAS VETTES			
PLANO, TX SW-163			
TVS—TULSA VETTE SET			
TULSA, OK SW-248			

NCCC Event Codes: C = concours; CD = class drags; ETD = e. t. drags;
RD = record drags; MTD = Matching time drags; F = funkhana; R = rallye;
LS = low speed autocross; HS = high speed autocross; MTT = matching time autocross;
TBA = to be announced; TBD = to be determined; PCC = people's choice concours

WHAT IS AUTOCROSSING?

THE ADVANTAGES FAR OUTWEIGH THE DRAWBACKS

by Neal Kennedy

Note: This article originally appeared in Tulsa Vette Set's newsletter, *The Vette Gazette*, August 1984. As I have transcribed it, I have made minor editorial changes to make it applicable to Cowtown Vettes. - Scott Wheeler

To autocross or not to autocross? That seems to be a question facing Corvette enthusiasts this season and I would like to state my case for retaining one of the activities that I feel is possibly the backbone of the organization.

Granted, interest has dwindled recently. But that may be the fault of factors other than "Nobody wants to do that anymore." If the direction of the club is to be simply a social organization with the biggest crowds at parties, I wonder why we are a "CAR" club.

What is autocrossing? Come see on March 21 at the Mineral Wells Ring on the Mineral Wells Airport. It is individually timed runs over an established course with the quickest time in any class the winner. There are as many different courses as there are events. Usually marked with pylons (those orange cones you see behind the phone company trucks) the course will usually consist of offset gates and slaloms with various left and right turns necessary to negotiate the course. If you knock a pylon over, there is a penalty. Usually two seconds will be added to your time, sometimes five seconds for critical locations.

You don't have to drive any faster than you want to. Recent history has given us play days with plenty of time for practice. Even the most experienced autocrossers can get lost on the course and that is just part of the FUN. Usually there are two or three runs recorded in the competition. I say "usually" a lot because the rule are flexible as to how the event may be conducted though the rules for classification are specific.

The best way to learn about the various classes is to read your rule book or better ... come out and watch the tech session. Don't be afraid to ask questions. We all had to start someplace and fear of asking the "dumb" question would put this reporter out of business.

Now the fears that seem to accompany the mention of autocrossing. "Am I going to hurt my car?" Possible but not probable. If you are reckless and do foolish things you might do some damage. However, if you use common sense, start slowly, build up your speed (lowering your elapsed time) gradually and listen to some of the more experienced autocrossers the chances for serious damage are minimal.

The advantages? Many. You get to know your car better. The capabilities of the Corvette WILL surprise you. You can stop faster than you think you can. You can turn and maintain control better than you think you can. Generally, you will become a better, safer driver after a few sessions. You won't be forced into the traditional close-your-eyes-and-slam-on-the-brakes-and-hope-for-the-best method of most American drivers. It is possible to drive out of many hazardous driving situations.

Even if you fear your brakes going out, wouldn't you rather it happen on a large, open area than the expressway?

It is thrilling. That's why I do it. It is challenging. That's why I do it. It is more than driving. It is tire pressure, sway bars, shock absorbers and the rest... If you desire to go that far. That's why I do it.

In the early history of NCCC, there was a class group called Pure Stock. For a variety of reasons it was changed to Group I... Stock was changed to Group II... Modifieds and Race Prepared were changed to Group III... But that is another story. The point here is that your "Pure Stock" Corvette can be competitive. You will be classified only against other Pure Stock cars.

Most experienced autocrossers agree, a good driver in a bad car can beat a good driver in a bad car. So don't use the excuse "My car isn't good enough." You can often see someone in a relatively primitive older Corvette. The type of driver who causes everyone at the event to set down their cold drink, stop talking, and watch when they take to the asphalt. They might drive their car to work everyday, not be on a big autocross budget, have no trailer, tow rig, and not even an extra set of tires. But they have a WHOLE lot of fun.

You can too! Come out March 21. I'm available for questions. I don't know all the answers but I betcha I know someone who will know. And by all means... Ladies... You too can autocross. There are separate classes for the females and a good time available for everyone.

Rules require at least 30 psi of pressure in your tires. So air 'em up and see you at Mineral Wells on Saturday, March 21.

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Are your KIDS and / or GRANDKIDS enrolled in the *NCCC Future Corvette Owners Association (FCOA)* - if not - get with one of our Club Officers to ask



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ITEMS OF INTEREST

Please see the Press release below. We are very excited to be a part of this event. Not only are we a sponsor BUT, we will be entering 3 of our cars in the actual races. I was hoping that you would pass along this press release to your members. This should be a very fun event and we are expecting a number of Vettes to be racing. We are also trying to secure an area for Vette Parking Only. Please come support your local Corvettes of Dallas Dealership. Let me know if I can answer any questions.

Todd

PRESS RELEASE FROM TEXAS MOTORPLEX - Corvettes of Dallas to Sponsor the Quick 8 at PINKS All OUT

February 18, 2009 – Corvettes of Dallas to Sponsor the Quick 8 at PINKS All Out

Leading DFW Corvette retailer and performance tuner Corvettes of Dallas has stepped up to sponsor the Quick 8 competition during PINKS All Out, Saturday March 21 at Texas Motorplex in Ennis.

"The Corvettes of Dallas Quick 8" will feature the eight quickest race cars out of the field of more than 460 qualifiers vying for a spot in PINKS All Out and racing for over \$18,000 in prize money.

The event, hosted by Rich Christensen, executive producer and creator of PINKS, is an entire day's worth of on-track racing and off-track activities. Filmed for the highly-popular show on SPEED, the event invites more than 450 racers from across the southwest to run their cars "all out" during two time trial sessions, while the show's technical advisors select the closest grouping of elapsed times to make up the PINKS All Out 16. In the process, PINKS will select the quickest eight racers to compete in the "Corvettes of Dallas Quick 8."

Winner of the Quick 8 will receive a cash bonus and recognition as Corvettes of Dallas Quick 8 Champion.

To prepare for the March 21 event, Corvettes of Dallas located on Interstate 35 in Carrollton, is also offering a special PINKS All Out precision dyno offer to racers or anyone eager to improve the performance of their car...Race car or street car. From now until March 21, bring in your car and receive a 3 pull baseline dyno for \$49 or reserve exclusive dyno time at the discounted rate of \$80 per hour.

"If you have never had your car on a dyno, there is a huge gain to be had," said Todd Fitzerman, owner of Corvettes of Dallas. Our performance tuners are racers and have been able to help car owners gain 2-3 tenths for both street car and race cars."

"Corvettes of Dallas will be available for PINKS All Out entrants to bring in their rides in preparation of the event, however this DYNO special is available to ANYONE wanting to get the most out of their car," Fitzerman added.

Four hundred racers signed up in the first four hours of registration for PINKS All Out, and 64 more spots are up for grabs at second chance qualifier races on Saturday March 7 and 14 at the Motorplex, located on Hwy. 287 in Ennis between I 35E and I 45.

CALL Corvettes of Dallas -- 972-242-9775 to schedule PERFORMANCE or visit www.corvettesofdallas.com for more information.

Todd Boone Fitzerman, Owner

Corvettes of Dallas, 1810 North I-35E, Carrollton, TX 75006

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Please keep the following CTV members in your thoughts and prayers as they fight to regain their good health:

- Mary Allen
- Bill Berryhill
- Linda Griffith

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Do you have a new address, phone number or email address?
Have you sold your Corvette or bought a new one?
If so, please contact Membership and help keep our records up to date.

COWTOWN VETTES' MYSTERY MEMBER

Who am I ???

Pick up your ballot at the membership table, fill it out and drop it in the Mystery Member box.

A prize will be awarded to the person correctly guessing who the mystery members are, if two or more guess correctly, the winner will be determined by random drawing, prior to the 50/50 drawing.

If no one guesses Correctly, the Mystery Member wins.

If you would like to be the next Mystery Member, submit your photo to Cindy Morrison at cinbob75@charter.net or put your photo along with your name in a sealed envelope and drop it in the Mystery Member box.

February's Mystery Member was JIM BENWARE.

Winner by random drawing was DOC LAMBERT.

Thanks to all who participated.

