



## Spring 2011 Teen Driving School

By Doug Swanson

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, we conducted another successful Teen Driving School (TDS) at Old Dominion Speedway in Manassas. This is our seventh year of putting on these schools as a public service to the community.

As always, there is no charge to the "students" as the club and our sponsors provide all the necessary funds. As in recent years, we will again be conducting a second TDS with our fall event scheduled for November 6<sup>th</sup>.



The club relies heavily on club member support to put on major events such as this. While we can't list them all, the following deserve special mention and thanks: Cassidy Nolan (Chief Instructor, event planning, and for maintaining his "stable" of instructors and conducting the classroom session), Stewart Fox (event planning, logistics, and lead slalom exercise instructor), Andrej Balanc (logistics and lead braking exercise instructor), Paul Benish (logistics and lead car clinic instructor), Ahsanul Sheikh (lead skid pad exercise instructor), Lynn Balanc (logistics and administrative support), and Lori Benish (logistics and lead event planner/coordinator).



We also thank several other Corvette clubs who provided instructors: Cumberland Corvette Club, Tri County Corvette Club, Lancaster Corvette Club, and Corvette Club of America. Also, we thank the Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department who again provided the necessary water for our skid pad exercise. Dan Walker of our new dealer sponsor, Jim McKay Chevrolet, also provided support with his attendance.

While our student enrollment was limited by conflicting teen activities (e.g., proms, SATs), the students and their parents clearly appreciated and enjoyed this event.

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## **The folks working hard for you ....**

### **NVCC Council Members**

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703-404-2035  
[loco1707@yahoo.com](mailto:loco1707@yahoo.com)

**Concours** - Open  
**Spooktacular** - OPEN  
**HPDE** - Open

## **Historian Position Needs a Volunteer**

By: Lorie Benish

I have had a great time over the last 2 (technically 3) years being the Club Historian. Unfortunately this fall, my son Jake's sports schedule will demand my presence every Tuesday starting in August. So I am stepping out of the role of historian, so that someone else can have a turn at the most fun job in the club.

When I started doing the historian questions, I wasn't even a club member! Paul, my husband, was the historian and would ask me to help find interesting questions for trivia at the meetings. Then, he asked me to help shop with him for raffle and trivia question prizes. Eventually I figured I would join the club and become historian myself! I got to meet and learn many people's names through becoming historian, and made amazing friendships with many of the members.

It is a great job for someone to get involved and learn more about the club. Trust me, I knew NOTHING about Corvette's before, and know I can stump a room full of people -LOL! I encourage anyone that was thinking about getting more involved in the club to give historian a try -it is a wonderful and enriching job that brings nothing but joy!!

Thanks!!

## **A Special Thank You to the Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department for Spring TDS**

The Lake Jackson/Cole District Volunteer Fire Department once again provided skid pad support to the NVCC TDS. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their continued reliable support of this community service event.

Without these particular volunteers we would not have the necessary supply of water and the event would have to be curtailed. From all at NVCC, Thank you.





## PRESIDENT'S CORNER May 2011

As I often do, I figure I'll start my article by talking about the weather. I just finished watching more news coverage of the poor folks in the Midwest that were pummeled by tornados earlier today. Some really nasty storms have rolled through states to the west of ours this spring and the damage is significant. You just have to feel sorry for people that have to go through such catastrophic events. Closer to home, both Saturday and Sunday were dry, since I don't know when, so I was able to clean up two of our cars pretty well. Now, how long before it rains again and washes away all my hard work ?

Thanks go out to those that were able to join us on Saturday April 30, as we hosted our latest installment of Teen Driving School. We had brilliant weather, a capable crew of instructors and helpers, as well as a great group of enthusiastic teens and their parents. I'm thinking it's the getting up so early on a Saturday to be there that makes the teens so much fun to be around. Anyway, they were great to work with and the day ran very smoothly. As I mentioned in last month's article, this is our seventh season hosting this important community service event. Having watched group after group of kids and their parents go through our TDS program makes me tremendously proud of our club. Likewise, the collective time and energy contributed by our club members in support of the TDS program is an outstanding example of what makes our club so great.

You'll be hearing and seeing more about this elsewhere in the newsletter and at our next two GBM's but I have to mention that we are gearing up for Car-B-Que again this year, to be held on Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup> at Old Dominion Speedway. It will once again be an all-day affair including a Cruise-In Car Show, Parts Swap, Autocross 101, Drag 101, and various raffles. We will continue into the evening with a Corvette Parade Lap of the venerable ODS oval before the evening's hometown NASCAR racing gets underway. This event will be a lot of fun. You won't want to miss it !

I'd like to slip a quick mention in here that our club's Publicity Chair; John Palmgren stepped up to the alter on May 21 and married his fiancé Kara Benis. They've both been very excited about getting married and have been looking forward to, and planning for this occasion for quite some time now. Congratulations John and Kara !

In my spare time (???), I have gradually been prepping in order to make it out to several track events this season. Time's almost up, since my first event will be over the Memorial Day weekend. I'm excited to say that I'll be venturing off to Pocono for the first time, for an HPDE being run by Corvette Club of Northeastern PA. CCNEPA is one of our sister clubs within East Region NCCC. Several of their members came down for Instructor Day and for TDS. It been three years since NVCC has put on an HPDE so I'm eager to see how another club runs their event. I'm not sure if they still have slots available but if you are interested, get in touch with **Joe Lazzaro** right away by phone at: **570-654-8719** or email at: **joezo6@netscape.com**

As NVCC continues to settle in and get comfortable with it's new Jim McKay surroundings, we want to remember to thank Bud Carrol, General Manager and Dan Walker, Sales Associate. These gentlemen continue to show a great deal of interest in NVCC and it's members. Dan takes a personal interest in our member's and has jumped in to help several NVCC members work thru service issues with their vehicles, just like he promised. If you haven't had a chance to meet these gentlemen yet, please do so by joining us at our monthly GBM on the fourth Tuesday each month, in the Jim McKay showroom. If you can't make the meeting, stop by the dealership anyway and let them know you are an NVCC member. They'll be glad to talk to you.

Don't forget the Baltimore Grand Prix will be held over Labor Day weekend in September. Racing will include Mazda Series, Indy Lights, and ALMS; including the Corvette Racing GT-2 entry. Rick Poage is spearheading the effort to coordinate registration of NVCC members who plan to purchase ticket packages in order to qualify for paddock access. Additional information is listed on the NVCC website. If you would like to contact Rick directly, drop him an email at: [stompandgo@earthlink.net](mailto:stompandgo@earthlink.net). Space is limited. Early registration is required to obtain paddock parking. .

Thanks for being a part of NVCC. I look forward to seeing all of you this season.

Check the brake fluid, change the oil, put a little air in the tires, rub on some wax, and hang on for another action packed season with your friends at NVCC. Come out and join the fun !

**NVCC Social Calendar June 2011 -  
Laurie Kistner, Social Director & Webmaster**



**Sat. 6/4/11** - 5th Annual Car Show for the Troops, from 1PM – 5PM at Old Dominion Speedway. Cost: \$15 Pre-Registered (\$20 day of show).

Show proceeds benefit Able Forces - an employment and community-based job preparation training program exclusively for wounded warriors and disabled veterans. For more info on this 501(c)(3) charity, contact Skip Rogers at 703.220.1822 or [www.ableforces.org](http://www.ableforces.org).

Entries will receive a free NASCAR Whelen ticket for event on same day at 7PM (\$15 value) and a FREE goodie bag valued over \$20 to 1st 120 cars. Trophies for Top 25 and Best in Show.

Contact event organizer/see website below for more information and registration forms.

Cathy Tarr  
[catarr210@aol.com](mailto:catarr210@aol.com)  
[www.troopscarshow.com](http://www.troopscarshow.com)  
703.334.1770

Send your check and pre-registration form to: Able Forces c/o Cathy Tarr, 14142 Catbird Drive, Gainesville, VA, 20155.

**Sat. 6/4/11 - PCCC Quadruple Show**

Beginning at: 7:30 AM  
Category: Concours  
Location: Thompsontown, PA  
Event Title: Concours (4) PCCC

Perry County Corvette Club  
Quad Concours

Sanction #  
ER-050-021

ER-050-022  
ER-050-023  
ER-050-024

Register Chevrolet  
Thompsontown, PA

Email: [pccc@ernccc.org](mailto:pccc@ernccc.org)  
More info: <http://ernccc.org/flyers/2011/ER-050-021.pdf>

**Sat. 6/11/11 - YCCC Funkhana & Fun Show**

Beginning at: 8:00 AM  
Category: Funkhana  
Location: York, PA  
Event Title: Funkhana (1) YCCC  
Event Description:

York County Corvette Club  
Single Funkhana & Fun Show

Sanction # ER-108-098  
  
York Town Center Plaza  
@ Best Buy  
York, PA

Email: [yccc@ernccc.org](mailto:yccc@ernccc.org)  
More info: <http://ernccc.org/flyers/2011/ER-108-098.pdf>

**Sun. 6/12/11 - BACC Triple People's Choice Show**

Beginning at: 11:00 AM  
Category: Concours  
Location: Perryville, MD  
Event Title: Concours (3) BACC  
Event Description:

Bel Air Corvette Club  
Triple People's Choice Concours

Sanction #

ER-263-031  
ER-263 046  
ER-263-047

Perry Point V.A. Hospital  
Perryville, MD

Email: [bacc@ernccc.org](mailto:bacc@ernccc.org)  
More info: <http://ernccc.org/flyers/2011/ER-263-031.pdf>

**Sun. 6/12/11 - BCC 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show**

Beginning at: 9:00 AM  
Category: Non Sanctioned  
Location: Norfolk, VA  
Event Title: Concours (1) BCC  
Event Description:

Beachcombers Corvette Club  
Concours PC

Non-Sanction #:  
N-018

Colonial Chevrolet  
6252 Virginia Beach Blvd.,  
Norfolk, VA 23502

Email: [bcc@ernccc.org](mailto:bcc@ernccc.org)  
More info: <http://ernccc.org/flyers/2011/N-018.pdf>

**Sun. 6/19/11 - Celebrate Father's Day at Sully Plantation's Annual Antique Car show, co-sponsored by the FCPA and The Model A Ford Club of America. More than 400 antique and classic cars will fill the grounds. Buy the car of your dreams at the Car Corral or search for the perfect accessory in the Flea Market with more than 100 vendors. Treat Dad to a delicious lunch and get your toes tapping to a variety of music reminiscent of the heyday of these classic automobiles. Tour of the first floor of the 1794 house included.**

Cost: \$9/adult, \$8/senior, \$6/child Map can be viewed at:  
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully/calendar.htm>

**Sun. 6/19/11 - TCV Triple Concours**

Beginning at: 9:00 AM  
Category: Concours  
Location: Stroudsburg, PA  
Event Title: Concours (3) TCV  
Event Description:

Tri County Vettes - Triple Concours

Sanction #:  
ER-323-034

ER-323-035  
ER-323-036

East Stroudsburg University  
200 Prospect Street East  
Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Email: [tcv@ernccc.org](mailto:tcv@ernccc.org)  
More info: <http://www.ernccc.org/flyers/2011/ER-323-034.pdf>

**Fri. 6/24/11** - 11th Annual Drive Your Corvette To Work Day, sponsored by Mid America Motorworks. In honor of Drive Your Corvette To Work Day, enthusiasts across the United States make "America's Sports Car" their commuter car for the day. Every year, the Friday closest to June 30, Corvette's official birthday, is chosen to observe Drive Your Corvette To Work Day.

Mid America Motorworks promotes Drive Your Corvette To Work Day among Corvette owners and clubs. The goal is to have as many Corvette owners as possible drive their car to work that day. Launched in 2001 for the countdown to the Corvette's 50th anniversary, Mid America Motorworks' Drive Your Corvette To Work Day is an annual event celebrated by thousands of Corvette owners.

Corvette owners who observe "Drive Your Corvette To Work Day" are encouraged to send high resolution digital pictures of their car at work to [clubs@mamotorworks.com](mailto:clubs@mamotorworks.com). Mid America Motorworks will post as many pictures as possible on their website at [www.madvet.com](http://www.madvet.com).

If anyone wants to organize a lunch get-together, let me know at [social@nvcorvetteclub.com](mailto:social@nvcorvetteclub.com) ASAP!

**Sun. 6/26/11** - LCCC Double AutoX

Beginning at: 8:00 AM

Category: AutoX

Location: Lancaster PA

Event Title: AutoX (1) LCCC

Event Description:

Lancaster County Corvette Club

Double Autocross

Sanction #

ERX-266-116

ERX-266-146

HACC Lancaster Campus

1641 Old Philadelphia Pike

Lancaster, PA 17602

Email: [lccc@ernccc.org](mailto:lccc@ernccc.org)

More info: <http://ernccc.org/flyers/2011/ERX-266-116.pdf>

**Coming soon...**

**Sat. 7/9/11** – Car-B-Que

**Sun. 7/17/11** – Annual Club Picnic/BBQ

**Sun. 7/17/11** – TCV Double Concours

**Sat. 7/23/11** – CVCC Double Fun Show

**Sun. 7/24/11** – CVCC Double AutoX

If you would like to host or lead an event, please contact me at [social@nvcorvetteclub.com](mailto:social@nvcorvetteclub.com) at your earliest convenience.

Events are being added continually...please visit our website at [www.nvcorvetteclub.com](http://www.nvcorvetteclub.com) for complete details.

Any web questions can be sent to [webmaster@nvcorvetteclub.com](mailto:webmaster@nvcorvetteclub.com) also.

Thanks,

Laurie Kistner

NVCC Social Director & Webmaster



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## Palmgren/Bennis—Another Happy NVCC Couple

*By: Paul Benish*



It was a beautiful Sunday evening at Stonewall Jackson Country Club in Gainesville where our Publicity chairman and former Concours chair John Palmgren tied the knot with his former Concours co-chair, Kara Bennis. Ok so they didn't meet at Concours or even at an NVCC event but they have done many events with us and most of us know John from at least one aspect of the club. He not only does publicity but he also has the cleanest track car I have ever seen. Both of them have done wine tours and car shows with us and even have hosted parties at their house, and their wedding was definitely another great party. As you can see in some of the pictures our chief instructor still aspires to be a race car driver and there were a few more of us from the club that were enjoying the festivities as well. We all wish them a very happy marriage and congratulations!

NORTHERN VIRGINIA  
CORVETTE CLUB  
Store



**GUARANTEE**  
If the key chain, patch or lanyard does not meet your expectations, please return it to the club historian for a full refund. All items are guaranteed to be made in the USA. All items are made to order and will be shipped within 10 business days. All items are made to order and will be shipped within 10 business days.

NVCC Keychains  
\$10.00 ea



Windshield Decals  
\$3.00 ea



**Front**

**Back**

NVCC 2011 T-Shirts  
Small through XL:  
\$15.00 ea.  
XXL: \$18.00 ea  
While Supplies Last!



NVCC Lanyard  
\$5.00 ea



NVCC East Region Patch  
(Limited Qty Available)

Only 2 -  
Left!!

\$5.00 ea

Store Proceeds Go Towards Northern Virginia Corvette Clubs Many Great Events -Support the Club and buy your NVCC Items here!!

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AND CLUB EVENTS

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FOR QUESTIONS OR TO ORDER DIRECT AT:  
[HISTORIAN@NVCORVETTECLUB.COM](mailto:HISTORIAN@NVCORVETTECLUB.COM)





Saturday, July  
9th 2011



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Car-B-Que

Hosted by the Northern Virginia Corvette Club

All makes and models welcome!

**CORVETTES OF ALL GENERATIONS INVITED**

10am\* - 5pm at Old Dominion Speedway

10611 Dumfries Rd, Manassas, VA 20112

\*Gate opens at 8AM Liability Waiver must be signed to participate

REGISTRATION INCLUDES THE CHANCE TO WIN 4 FREE TICKETS TO THE EVENING'S RACES, COMPLIMENTS OF ODS.

SIX ADDITIONAL TICKETS WILL BE RAFFLED OFF DURING THE CAR-B-QUE 50/50.

SUPPORT NVCC AND BUY YOUR CHANCE TO WIN. ONE RAFFLE TICKET - \$ 1.00 SIX RAFFLE TICKETS - \$ 5.00

Raffle Tickets available at registration and throughout the day. Drawing will be at 4:30 PM

### Something for everyone!

- Try your hand as a driver during the **Autocross 101** and **Drag 101** sessions\*  
\*Unlimited runs in either event, All participating vehicles subject to safety inspection
- During & between races: Show-off your ride at our **Low Stress, Maximum Fun Cruise-In Car Show** or buy & sell your gently used parts at the swap meet
- **Raffle tickets will be available** all day long, giving you a chance to win NVCC items, 50/50, and tickets to see hometown NASCAR racing under the lights!

**Admission \$25 per vehicle, or \$2 per walk-in spectator!**

For questions, contact: [christopherfox4@gmail.com](mailto:christopherfox4@gmail.com)

### Afterwards:

- **Northern Virginia Corvette Club** will run a parade lap to kick-off the evening's NASCAR racing at Old Dominion Speedway!
- This action packed night of racing will include Late Model, Mini-Modifieds, Legends, & Pure Stock beginning at 7 PM

Admission to the races just \$10 per adult with a wristband from Car-B-Que!



## Back to School

By: Cassidy Nolen

Last spring I was asked to take the role of Chief Instructor for the club. This was not only an honor to fill some very successful past shoes but a challenge to take the program in a new and uncharted direction. As many of you know, we have a history of successful teen schools, high performance driving events (HPDE's) and racing to our name. It was with humbled hands I tried to step up to the monumental challenge of creating a safe and effective curriculum for these programs.

As the Teen Program was our first on the "menu" last year, I hosted a very hurried "instructor clinic" to get the skill-set standardized across all the instructors. While small, it served as the basis to seed our instructor needs for the season. We hosted TWO successful teen schools, a CAR-B-Que, a Car Control Clinic (C Cubed) at Summit Point and a Spooktacular (the later I cannot take ANY credit for, thanks to the excellent work of all involved in that program). I would say the first season was a success.

The fall of 2010 brought about the age-old discussion of how to "spread the word" in relation to our Teen Program. Everyone we talk to wants to know about "certification" and whether the instructors were certified to teach driving. After a meeting with the regional steering committee for NCCC we decided it would be beneficial for me to be certified in Driver Education. We really didn't have any credentials or pedagogy worked into our program, as successful as it had been. Off to NOVA to see what they had in store. I enrolled for the six credits and got ready for some late nights this spring.

I live in Alexandria. Unfortunately, Manassas campus was the only one offering this class. It was about an hour and a half commute one way (rush hour) twice a week for about 12 weeks (they should give you credit for that!). Other than that, certification for Driver Education is rather simple; one 3 credit undergraduate class in "lecture" and another 3 credit class in "lab" (or driver observation). Each class is just as you remember; homework, articles from current events in driving, weekly presentations and a culminating presentation on a topic (I chose vehicle control; seemed fitting for the CI, right?). Homework consisted of passing the VDETS (Virginia's online driver education training unit; about 15 hours of work) in addition to reading the DMV literature on teaching drivers education, about a 400 page manual consisting of 1990's vehicles and some pretty antiquated driver techniques). A background check through the DMV and you are good to go. There is just the matter of riding in the back seat with students for fourteen hours...

I have never been as nervous on a race track NEARLY as much as riding in the backseat with a teenage student driver! Taxicabs are a non-entity at most tracks. There is rarely a chance to get hit at a red light on a track. Teens seem to lack the understanding that cars are heavy and therefore require a moment to respond, unlike a text message or "tweet". Through my teaching network, I was able to find a spot with the local high school instructor, who just happened to be the Virginia Teacher of the Year 2010. Perfect!

The vehicle I rode in was actually a new Toyota Prius (in order to use a vehicle for driver education, it must have a passenger side brake and be newer than 9 model years old; didn't know that factoid before this class!). It was very informative to see how the teacher worked with the student and their given skill-set. I saw some excellent tutelage and will use those skills in my own instruction. For example, constant steering correction usually indicates short field of vision, or "driving off the bumper"; he was able to redirect focus to "visual cues" in the distance like stop lights which solved the issue without getting technical. He worked well with varied levels of instruction and skills, while always commanding a calm but assertive tone in the vehicle. He was often funny, and enjoyed a relaxed rapport with the kids; clearly this was not his first day on the job. Rarely were physical interventions necessary (grabbing the wheel or hitting the remote mounted brakes) as a simple verbal redirection of cue was all it took. It was amazing to me the varied skills



between kids, even ones with as many as 20 or 30 hours behind the wheel. It is a learned behavior but some do just get it quicker than others, simple as that.

What I have been able to do is incorporate these skills into our teen school. Hand positions, mirror settings, common vocabulary (like “lane position 1,2,3”) have all been articulated with state standards. Safety issues have been addressed as well, such as how to handle a collision, re-entering the roadway after an off-road recovery and merging.

All in all, this was very informative. I feel better able to relate the program to the teens. I have a fairly unique interactive program for them but I know they will get more out of it by having it relate to what they are learning/have learned in their classrooms. It adds credibility to what we do as we move forward to share our skills with other clubs.

So far this year we have already hosted a first-ever Regional NCCC Instructor Training Workshop as well as a successful Teen Driving School. I know this year will continue to see growth of our programs and I wish to thank everyone who has helped make this a successful season so far. Thanks for holding me a seat at missed meetings, I look forward to seeing you all this summer!

---

## 2012 Corvette Orders Begin 19 May 2011

*A note from Ed Kasper*

Today is the first cycle in which our waiting 2012 Orders are pulled and sent to plant for production. **CONSTRAINTS THIS WEEK** & orders that will not be pulled are; NO Z06 CORVETTES | NO Z07 PACKAGES | NO ZLC CENTENNIAL PACKAGES and **Only 157** Carlisle Blue have been allocated for 1st week of 2012 consideration!



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## Does your 2003 or 2004 Corvette Ride Rough?

*By: Bob Montgomery*

Does your 2003 or 2004 Corvette ride rough? Do you have to check your dental work after hitting a bump in the road? Are you unable to transport canned or bottled sodas for fear of an explosion? If you are like me and answered “Yes” to any of these questions, I may have a remedy for you.

I did some research of the various C5 Corvette forums and found several possible solutions for reducing an especially harsh ride. Most recommendations were general C5 related items such as replacing the OEM run-flats and selecting “Tour” rather than “Sport” on the ride control. But one remedy caught my attention. It was to make sure that the factory installed “shock stuffers” (plastic spacers placed on the shock rod) had been removed from the shock absorbers. Shock stuffers were used on all 2003 and most 2004 Corvettes that had the F55 magnetic suspension option (standard equipment on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition). They were installed to prevent the suspension from bottoming-out during transport to the dealerships. GM engineers thought the spacers were needed since the shock absorber only worked when electrical current was supplied. During new vehicle preparation, the dealerships were to remove the shock stuffers. Since this was a new procedure at the time and only pertinent to Corvettes with the F55 option, many technicians inadvertently left the shock stuffers in place. Per the C5 forums, there are still a lot of '03 and '04 Corvettes on the road with their shock

stuffers attached. I purchased my Corvette with 32k miles on it last summer and I was very surprised to find them still on my vehicle.

To determine if your 2003 or 2004 Corvette still has shock stuffers attached, you must first jack the car up until the suspension hangs. At this point, I found it easier to locate and detach the shock stuffers by removing the wheel. With the wheel off, look for a yellow tag protruding from under the rubber shock dust cover. Note – examine carefully as a couple of the tags on my Vette had worked their way around to the back of the shock and were more black than yellow. Upon finding a yellow tag, lift up on the rubber shock dust cover and then pull down on the tag. This will drop the shock stuffer below the dust cover and allow you to remove it (it just snaps easily off the shock rod). After removal of the shock stuffers, take your Corvette out for a run and enjoy the vastly improved ride! Maybe even take along your favorite canned or bottled soda....



## From Rich Mars, Ambassador to the National Corvette Museum

[http://www.corvettemuseum.com/about\\_us/index.shtml](http://www.corvettemuseum.com/about_us/index.shtml)

### [Japanese Producer of Special Paints Back in Production](#)

**Xirallic** is back! We have good news today that the **Merck** plant that produces **Xirallic** in Onahama, Japan, has re-opened. Closed since the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, **Merck's** plant was not able to provide some pigments for auto producers.

**Xirallic** is the pigment that was missing to produce **Corvette** exterior colors **Cyber Gray Metallic** and **Crystal Red Metallic Tintcoat**.



Word is that it may take a little time to re-enter the production flow, but we expect that the missing colors will be available early in the **2012 Corvette** production. Stay tuned!

### [Top Down = Hearing Damage? Read On...](#)

Recent studies have shown that driving a convertible car with the top down may cause hearing damage.

Experiments revealed that drivers going 75mph and even 55mph were prone to hearing noise levels higher than the recommended work safety level of 85db. This noise is equivalent to the sounds heard on the dance floor of a nightclub.

“In light of the results, we are recommending that drivers be advised to drive



with the top closed when traveling for extended periods at speeds exceeding 52mph,” says Dr. Anthony Mikulec of the Saint Louis University School of Medicine. “Long duration driving at high speeds with the top open will increase the risk of hearing damage.”

What’s even worse? Turning up the radio with the convertible top down...

Now, this isn’t a scare – just a note of precaution. Take care of yourself (and your ears) even if it means riding “uncool” with the convertible top up!

## [Milner & Westbrook Join Corvette Racing Team](#)

Tommy Milner.  
Richard Westbrook.

These two gentlemen mark the 21st and 22nd drivers to join the **Corvette Racing** team since its first debut in 1999.

Both men have had extensive experience in world-class GT competition and will be joining the Corvette Racing team during the 2011 American Le Mans Series and the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

"We look at our competition continuously and intensely, and it became very clear that Tommy Milner and Richard Westbrook have the qualities we value at Corvette Racing," said Doug Fehan, Corvette Racing program manager.

"They are quick, intelligent, team-oriented, and disciplined in their approach. They will connect with Corvette fans and represent Chevrolet as a global brand. We are very excited to have these two talented young drivers join America's most successful production sports car team, and we look forward to long and rewarding relationships with both of them."

"... to be a part of the Corvette program at this point in my career is very exciting," said Milner.

"I've raced against the Corvette enough times to know it's better to be driving one than racing against one," Westbrook said.



Tommy Milner



Richard Westbrook

## [Corvette Wins IntelliChoice's '2011 Best Overall Values of Year' Performance Award](#)

Stellar performance - one of the qualities a Corvette is known for!

Just this past month, IntelliChoice, the market leader in automotive ownership cost and car value analysis, re-instilled this Corvette fact at the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) 2011 Best Overall Value of the Year (BOVY) awards in San Francisco.

***The Chevrolet Corvette was honored as Performance Car of the Year for 2011!***

The BOVY awards identify which vehicles on the market offer consumers outstanding value and lower than expected costs over time, giving customers a way to best define vehicles that will provide them with a "best bang for your buck" deal.





"The most important thing about choosing a car wisely is knowing that it's not just about the lowest sticker price," said IntelliChoice Executive Editor, Charlie Vogelheim. "In fact, the purchase price is just the first cost; there are many other factors to consider when gauging overall cost."

Only 21 of nearly 1,800 vehicles fit into a winning category, representing the best values and results of a careful analysis of ownership costs (depreciation, maintenance, repairs, fuel, fees, financing, insurance, etc.).



### 2010 Corvette Sales - A Summary

Corvette sales for the 2010 calendar year were **down -9.4%** when compared to the previous year. That means 12,624 Corvettes were sold in 2010 versus the 13,934 sold in 2009.

When assessing the past Corvette delivery statistics, it's interesting to note the following facts.

Highest number of Corvettes sold:

- 2010 – May (1,428)
- 2009 – May (1,643)
- 2008 – August (4,242)

Least number of Corvettes sold:

- 2010 – February (624)
- 2009 – January (842)
- 2008 – November (1,093)

Yes, with the aging of the current C6 and the economy just recovering, we still have an opportunity to grow. With that, Chevrolet is working hard to incentivize customers nationwide with the purchase of a Corvette.

### A Top Collectible, the ZR1

In our opinion, there are two kinds of drivers: practical vs. investor. The practical drivers look to a car as just a means of transportation. The investor, however, sees a vehicle as a means to making money long-term with their prized-possession.

Well, Hagerty Insurance's CEO, McKeel Hagerty, was recently asked which vehicles he would rank as the future's most collectible. His list includes:

1. Dodge Viper
2. **Chevrolet Corvette ZR1**
3. Mercedes-Benz SLR McLaren
4. Ford GT
5. Porsche Carrera GT

When asked why he ranked the ZR1, Hagerty responded, "this is the Corvette that elevated the model into a new class of world class sports cars. Nowhere has this news been more prominently displayed than on the recent ZR1, the most powerful Corvette to date. And unlike the big block screamers of the 1960s, like the L88, the ZR1 is totally trackable and downright docile."

## [National Corvette Museum Upcoming Exhibits](#)

The National Corvette Museum offer various temporary exhibits throughout the year. Below is some information on upcoming displays.

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### **On-Going: Driving Simulators**

Two educational driving simulators are now available for use by our visitors age 16 and over with a valid drivers license or learners permit. Read more about the simulators [here](#).



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### **April 20 - June 19: American Muscle Cars**

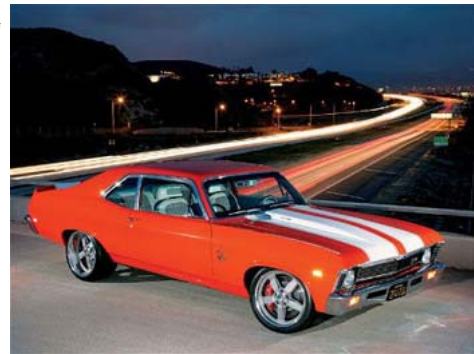
View an array of American Muscle cars. Learn more [here](#).



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### **June 20 - July 30: Chevrolet Nova Exhibit**

The Chevrolet Chevy II was produced from 1962 to 1968. The Nova was produced in the United States from 1969 to 1979. Nova was the top model option in the compact Chevy II range and was marketed as the Chevrolet Chevy II Nova until the Chevy II name and badging was dropped for the 1969 model year. This exhibit will illustrate the short, but unique history of the Nova.



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### **MORE TDS PICS**



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### Newsletter News ...

Rain, rain go away. Yes folks it has been wet, with many keeping their baby's under wraps. However Summer is coming and with it almost assuredly hot, humid...but primarily dry weather will be upon us soon. Look over the social schedule and plan your vette days....or trek out on your own to see what is on the other side of the hill. Regardless, please send me the notes on your vette activities and pics to use in our next NVCC newsletter.....and if it keeps raining, I'd appreciate any referrals to a good ark builder. Back Creek has twice this Spring been up into the picnic parking lot. That and I've already proven once that a C5 Z06 will leak at the door sill before floating. Thankfully ignition systems are sealed better than they used to be.

Thanks and enjoy the coming month.



Rich Anderson [richard.anderson157@frontier.com](mailto:richard.anderson157@frontier.com)

### Next General Business Meetings:

**Tuesday, May 23rd at 7:30 pm**

**Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm**

**Jim McKay Chevrolet**  
**3509 University Drive**  
**Fairfax, VA. 22030**