

THE CORVETTER

CORVETTE CLUB OF TEXAS

Volume 58 Issue 12 - December 2006



Corvette Club of Texas

PO Box 36022 - Dallas TX, 75235-1002

www.corvettecluboftexas.org

Sponsored by **Friendly Chevrolet**
2754 N. Stemmons Fry - Dallas TX, 75207

Meeting Information

Corvette Club of Texas (CCT)

Monthly Membership Meeting

Held every third Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. at Friendly Chevrolet, 2754 North Stemmons Freeway, Dallas. All members, visitors and Corvette owners are Welcome.

Following each CCT monthly membership meeting, a CCT after club social event is hosted by a CCT Member, starting at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Monthly Board Meeting

Held on the Monday before the third Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Friendly Chevrolet. All members are invited to attend.

On the Cover: Hope you all have a merry Corvette Christmas and a happy New Year!

THE CORVETTER

Volume 58 Issue 12

The Corvetter, the official newsletter of the Corvette Club of Texas (CCT), is published monthly by The Corvette Club of Texas P.O. Box 36022, Dallas, Texas 75235-1022 for the exclusive use of its members and invited guests. Initial distribution is done electronically by e-mail. A small number of paper copies are delivered via First Class mail or by hand when necessary. The newsletter is also available on the CCT web site: www.corvettecluboftexas.org Subscriptions to The Corvetter are free to CCT members.

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Please send all submissions via e-mail to the editor at joe@y2k7.com. All submissions become intellectual property of The Corvetter.

From the Editor

I hope that everyone had a happy Thanksgiving! The Wagners had a quiet day with just the two of us munching on turkey for the first time. Both of our boys were working for Fox Sports at the Cowboy's game so we had a couple extra reasons to watch. We saw Peter working during the halftime but Jon was hiding on the sidelines the whole game. Nice to see them both making money but sad that we couldn't all be home for the festivities.

I took my Corvette into the body shop before the holiday but won't get it back before December. At least I got a pretty nice rental, a Nissan Murano. The current estimate is up to \$2,500 as we found out the left fender was cracked underneath the car. Even though the insurance will cover it, I hope they don't find more damage when they start taking it apart. Watch out for those road 'gaters when you are driving at night!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the CCT Christmas party on the 9th and to the new year full of exciting outings now that we have a new Activities Chair. Thanks Patti!

Joe Wagner

Our Friendly Rep!

Friendly Chevrolet's representative to the Corvette Club of Texas is **Gary Kubiak**. When you need to replace your Corvette with a new C6 be sure and give Gary a call at **214-920-1950**.

Also don't forget to contact Gary when you are upgrading the family car for a new one!

In addition to his regular work schedule, Gary is always at the dealership during our monthly Friday night membership meeting. Also, you can e-mail Gary at: intdir@friendlychevy.com

2006 OFFICERS, BOARD AND STAFF

President	Mitch Factor	817-329-0693	factorm@verizon.net
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Treasurer	Mel Roggenbuck	817-571-0284	rogge69@sbcglobal.net
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NCCC Governor	Joann Powdrill	972-625-6479	jopowdrill@direcway.com

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Ken Bradley	Term ends 06-2007	214-348-0775	k.bradley@sbcglobal.net
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James Powdrill	Term ends 06-2008	972-625-6479	jamespowdrill@direcway.com

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President's Prerogative Dec. 2006

I hope everyone had a happy and healthy Thanksgiving holiday. As I am writing this, Carol and I are flying back from Colorado Springs after a visit with two of our grandchildren and family. Carol was hoping we would get snowed in, but the weather was great during our visit

I appreciate all the members of CCT and all the support that each of you has offered for our club and community. All the Gill children have been adopted and then some! We were able to adopt eight families and 20 children due to the generosity of our members. A special thanks goes out to Mary and all those who help her make it possible for our club to participate in this most worthwhile charitable endeavor again this year.

Good News!!!! Patti Bertwell has volunteered to chair the Activities Committee for 2007. She will need all our support, suggestions for events, and offers to sponsor and/or lead events and activities throughout the upcoming year. Thank you, Patti, for volunteering for this important position in the club.

I look forward to seeing you all at the CCT Christmas Party on Saturday, December 9th. Remember to bring your wrapped gifts for the Gill children that you adopted and for our Chinese gift exchange. Please bring something that YOU would like to receive as a gift yourself. Remember you should spend a minimum of \$20.00 on the gift.

It has been an outstanding year! Thank you for your continued support.

Mitch Factor President, CCT

Save the Wave!

...and remember to



2006 AFTER CLUB MEETING DRIVE & EAT - SIGN UP

Month	Host
January	Ken & Jeanette Bradley
February	Mitch & Carol Factor
March	TBA
April	Barry and Annette Marsh
May	James & Joanne Powdrill
June	TBA
July	TBA
August	Barry and Annette Marsh
September	Paulette Wagner
October	Carol Factor
November	Ben & Billie Lofin
December	See you at the CCT Christmas Party!

TROPHY CASE @ FRIENDLY CHEVROLET MAINTENANCE - SIGN UP

Quarter	Maintainer
January—March	TBA
April - June	Mary & Paul Wolter
July - September	Joe & Paulette Wagner
October -December	Mary & Paul Wolter

Governor's Report

As the year is nearing an end NCCC activities are slowing down, I have included an article about "Why NCCC?" I hope you will take time to read it.

Also the SW Region schedule is included, as you can see our event will be Oct. 6, 2007. (Ed. These will be in the calendar as well.)

SOUTHWEST REGION SCHEDULE 2007			
DATE	LOCATION	EVENT	CLUB
Feb. 23-24, 2007	St. Louis	NGM	
March 17-18, 2007	Ft. Worth, TX	Awards Banquet\Gov. Mtg.	
Mar 31-April 1, 2007	Wichita Falls, TX	2MTD,2ETD,3LS	TOCC
April 21-22 2007	Tulsa, OK	RD,3 ET,2HS,LS	CCO
May 4-5, 2007	St. Louis	NGM	
May 19-20,2007	Waco, TX	TBD	CTCC/MCCC
May 25-27, 2007	OK. City	6 LS, MTD, RD, 2 ET	OCCC/CCOC
June 16-23, 2007	Convention	Nashville, Tn. (NGM)	
July 7-8, 2007	Belton, TX	10 LS	LCC/MTCC
Sept. 1-2, 2007	Mineral Wells, TX	TBD	Tejas\THT (RFR)
Sept. 7-8, 2007	St. Louis	NGM	
Sept. 22-23, 2007	TBD	7 events	Cowtown Vettes
Oct. 6, 2007	Sherman	7 LS	CCT
Oct. 20, 2007	Georgetown, TX	PC, Fun.	LCC
Nov. 9-10, 2007	St. Louis	NGM	

Merry Christmas!

See you at CCT'S Christmas party.

Joann



WHY NCCC?

The National Council of Corvette Clubs, Inc. (NCCC) was founded as an all volunteer, non-profit organization in 1959 by a small group of Corvette owners/enthusiasts!

The purpose of NCCC was (and still is) to promote interest in Corvette ownership and operation, to publish information on the use and operation of the Corvette and to establish an organized effort to encourage others to participate in the enjoyment connected with the use of the Corvette!

The Competition Program is administered at the National level. This is a major BENEFIT to Member Clubs. The purpose is to encourage interactivity between individual Clubs within NCCC. The largest single BENEFIT most obvious is the insurance program provided by K&K Insurance Company, which is a third party insurance; covering ALL MEETINGS, SOCIALS, CARAVANS, CAR SHOWS and COMPETITION EVENTS. Below is an abbreviated listing of the coverage under this policy:

"Products-Completed Operations Aggregate Limit"	\$1,000,000
"Personal and Advertising Injury Limit"	\$1,000,000
"Each Occurrence Limit"	\$1,000,000
"Fire Damage Limit" (any one fire)	\$ 300,000
"Medical Expense Limit" (any one person) (various locations)	\$ 5,000

COVERAGE	COMPOSITE RATE
Non-competitive Event Liability	Per Member
Rallye Event Liability	Per Event
Competitive Event Liability	Per Event

(This does not cover travel to and from supervised, insured, sponsored events)

There are many other BENEFITS you receive from your National Council of Corvette Clubs:

Publication: The BLUE BARS magazine is our NCCC Newsletter that is published 4 times a year and is a wonderful example of the Corvette fun that NCCC generates.

Charity and Grants Program: NCCC donated over \$121,000 to the National Kidney Foundation in 2002. Each year a new Corvette is raffled off and the model is selected by the Charity Committee. Over the last 7 years, the National Council has donated over \$500,000 to our charity of choice. Regions and/or Clubs may choose to donate \$500 or more towards the Scholarship Program for the children of NCCC members. Also, under the Grants Division, we have a provision for NCCC member hardships. Each hardship donation is determined by the Charity Committee and the Charity Director.

Competition Program: NCCC has organized a comprehensive National Competition Program which all of our Clubs may participate in. We have a set of Rules that are Nationally recognized and followed. We have a National Points compilation that is maintained by the Vice President of Competition and a Regional Points Standing that each Regional Competition Director is responsible to maintain.

NCCC Displays: NCCC has two traveling Displays that are shipped out to Member Clubs to use at Shows to help promote their Club and NCCC. These Displays have proven to be very effective in helping Clubs get local Members and generate a lot of interest. NCCC is a Member of the National Corvette Museum and has a Promotional Kiosk there.

NCCC Web Site: NCCC has a vast web site that connects all of our Regions together. It is a central location for NCCC Members to get information on events and keep up on the pulse of NCCC Corvette Membership. It is also home to the NCCC Classified Ads which has been extremely effective in the sales of Members' Corvette related items.

Future Corvette Owners Association (FCOA): Since 1991 FUTURE CORVETTE OWNERS ASSOCIATION has been the youth organization of the National Council of Corvette Clubs (NCCC), the largest non-profit Corvette organization in the United States. A unique "Corvette Club for Kids", it has Mid America Motorworks as its main sponsor. FCOA projects are also supported by other major automotive-related businesses. Its mission is to instill and then maintain an interest in the Corvette hobby within the younger generation.

Membership Packets: Each NCCC Member receives an NCCC Membership card, many Special Discounts for NCCC Members for various businesses, updates on our NCCC Rule Book and much more. You may purchase NCCC items through our "Goodie Store" as well.

Annual Conventions: NCCC hosts an Annual Convention in different parts of our Country. Las Vegas, NV, St. Cloud, MN and Orlando, Florida were the sites for the last three Conventions. The Convention 2007 get together will be in Nashville, TN. Convention is a place where NCCC Members come together nationally for a week to compete, enjoy parties and each other.

FUN! NCCC is based on having fun with your Corvette! We have so many Clubs and Members that enjoy their Corvettes and have made life long friends through this fine Council! You will not find any kinder Corvette people anywhere! NCCC brings the Corvette community together to honor America's True Sports Car: THE CORVETTE!

Thanks to NCCC Member Jack Carkner for the basis of this page

CORVETTE CLUB OF TEXAS, INC.**NOVEMBER 17, 2006, MEMBERSHIP MEETING****FRIENDLY CHEVROLET, STEMMONS FREEWAY, DALLAS**

Paul Wolter called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM in the absence of Mitch Factor.

Mel gave the treasurer's report and said we had received all expenses for Round up and the split of the profits would be written to North Texas Vets shortly.

The November Board minutes were read and approved with one exception by Ken Bradley regarding John Parry. It should read: "He said that John Parry, one of our past presidents, had contacted him regarding some memorabilia and old trophies he would like to donate to the CCT." The October business meeting minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Joann, the NCCC Governor, said that the sanction date for our NCCC Round-up for next year was approved for October 6, 2007 and NTV should request their sanction date for October 7th. Discussed the possibility of using another motor home for timing next year because Roger was planning on selling his motor home. Bob Stephens said his motor home would be available. Also, Russell Brundrett had offered his motor home if we needed it. Bob also discussed setting up our timing system in some other system rather than DOS and he would check into this possibility.

Mary Wolter reported no new members for the month. She also discussed the Gill Children's Charities and that those participating should bring their gifts for the children to our CCT Christmas Party.

Paul discussed the CCT Christmas Party, December 9th at the TMS Club House. Each person wanting to participate in the Chinese Auction should bring a gift valued at least \$20. See the flyer in the newsletter for more details.

Dennis Bertwell said that Patti, our new Activities Director, had already been working on a list of events for the club's activities for next year. There would be some new events, as well as, some of the old activities, which seemed to be favorites of the past years.

Ken said he had a good response from people wanting to go on the 4th of July trip in 2007 to Angel Fire, New Mexico, and he would start putting together a schedule of fun events for the week. He will check on these while he is in Angel Fire for Christmas.

Charles Whitaker was presented his gift for helping as our official Photographer at Round-up. Gene Whitaker was also recognized as helping with hospitality.

Nominations for officers were opened again and they will stay open until the December Christmas Party, which will serve as our December meeting. There will be no December Board meeting.

Officers nominated are as follows:

President	-	Mitch Factor
Vice President	-	Paul Wolter
Treasurer	-	Carol Factor
Secretary	-	Jeanette Bradley
NCCC Governor	-	Joann Powdrill
Board Member	-	Dennis Bertwell to replace Bob Mischel whose term expires Jan. 2007

Joann brought cupcakes for Mary's birthday and everyone wished Mary a happy birthday. (The cupcakes were delicious.) Paulette Wagner conducted the raffle. Everyone was invited to caravan to the restaurant arranged by Ben and Billie Loflin.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanette Bradley, Secretary

Some of the Roundup workers get their rewards:

Photos by Paulette Wagner



Every worker got a bottle of Meguiar's Detail Spray and some micro fiber towels as a "Thank You" from the club.

Including the workers that put in the most effort by far, Paul and Mary!

Thank you to all!



Upcoming CCT Events



CCT & NTV CHRISTMAS PARTY

DATE: Saturday, 9 December 2006

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: Texas Motor Speedway Club House

Please bring a dish or dishes to share and BYOB (if you want hard alcoholic beverages).

The club will furnish the meat and drinks.

Chinese gift exchange (\$20 minimum cost per person), will follow the dinner.

If you have adopted a Gill's Children Child, please bring all of their gifts.

We will also have KARAOKE BY RONNIE WALKER

RSVP

Paul and Mary Wolter at

mwol1990@sbcglobal.net

or 817-478-6096

by December 6th if you plan to attend this years party.



Tech Tips 101

C4 Rear Axle Recommended Maintenance

via Corvetteforum.com



The rear axles in C4 Corvettes are from Dana Corporation <http://www.dana.com/>

GM does not specify a service interval in the owners manual. Dana Corporation makes the following recommendations:

1. If there is any possibility of water contamination the oil needs to be changed immediately.
2. If the axle temperature spend a lot of time at or above 275F, the oil should be changed every 30,000 miles and the set up and bearings should be checked every time. This should only be a factor when you are getting a good amount of track time.
3. Under normal use, the oil should be changed at 75,000 miles.
4. If you are getting chatter (noise) from the rear end, you may want try changing the oil or at least adding some limited slip additive.

Dana Corp says that the factory oil is adequate, but synthetics are superior especially when heat is an issue. A limited slip additive should always be used. Gear oil should have a GL-5 rating and a 75w-140 or 75w-90 weight, with 75w-140 being the preferred weight.

C4/C5/C6 Ramps for under \$45

via Corvetteforum.com

by John Richman

How do you get under a C4 to change oil & filter? Conventional ramps are too steep and perilously slip. I made a set in the Fall in a few nights for under \$45. Start with 10 clean 2x6x8 pine boards. Mark 27" in from each end and draw a line from top to bottom. Saw all 10 on that line. That gives you 20 sections. Glue and using threaded rod, bolt 10 together twice, giving you 2 10 ply laminates. Stain dark and varnish. Install 2 strong handles on one side to move. They weigh near 45 lbs each. They lift the car gradually 5.5" regardless of tire size. They will not slip.

Not So Corvette News

By Paulette Wagner

December, 2006

Eagles Canyon Raceway

It's about one month until the opening day of Eagle Canyon Raceway in Slidell, TX, in Wise County, northwest of Denton. The latest images on the website (<http://www.eaglescanyon.com>) show the 2.5 mile road course with 15 turns being paved. The facility is designed to be a member club race track but there are plans of hosting FIA and SCCA events in the future. Car clubs and driving schools are also encouraged to check this place out.

Classic Education

McPherson College (<http://www.mcpherson.edu/>) in the middle of Kansas is the only American college to offer a bachelors degree in automobile restoration. The Automotive Restoration Technology program was started in 2002. Some of the courses include Engine Rebuilding, Drive Train Rebuilding, Welding & Panel Fabrication, Chassis Restoration and Automotive Paint Restoration. One specialty, Automotive Restoration Design Technology, is for the student that wishes to pursue a career in automotive art. 'Tonight Show' host Jay Leno, a classic car enthusiast and collector, has established a scholarship and a summer internship for McPherson students. About 110 students are enrolled in the program, some of them coming to the school after leaving other careers.

Classic Education (Part 2)

There's a website "dedicated to literature collectors, restorers, museums, publishers, manufacturers and investors who collect and preserve automotive literature." The Automotive Chronicles (<http://www.automotivechronicles.com>)

Is a wealth of information! You can subscribe to the monthly electronic newsletter for free. The current issue includes a review of a book about the Pate Museum located in Cresson. Some of the Chevrolet items in their inventory include posters and press kits.

2006 EVENT CALENDAR

Before attending any event listed in this calendar please double check with the organizers for any last minute changes. CCT is not responsible for the accuracy of any listing except of **CCT organized events**. For **NCCC events** check <http://www.corvettesnccc.org/>

December

2	Cruise (every 1st Saturday)	Extreme Corvettes Cruise Night 5 – 9 PM	Ezs Brick Oven, NW corner 190 & Coit, Plano see www.extremecorvettes.com for more info
2	Cruise (every 1st Saturday)	North Texas Mustang Club Cruise 5:00 – 8:30 PM	Cracker Barrel, 35E @ Fox Avenue Exit, 889 South Stemmons Freeway, West Side Frontage Rd, , Lewisville
2	Show (every 1st Saturday)	Hooter's Car Show	1711 Cross Roads Dr. Grapevine. Call Roger 214-908-2924 for info
2-3	Race School	Super School - SCCA	Motorsports Ranch, Cresson
3/17	Show (every 1st & 3rd Sunday)	Hot Rods & Hoggs Car Show	Cruiser's location at 2750 Preston Rd @ Hwy 121 across from the Stone Brier Mall in Frisco
9	Party	CCT Christmas Party (See Flyer)	Fort Worth, TX. (Texas Motor Speedway)
9	Show (every 2nd Saturday)	The Camaro and Firebird Car Club registration 5-7 PM, awards 8:30PM	Chuck's Lewisville location, 2267 I-35, north of Vista Ridge Mall, \$10 entry fee
10/22	Show (every 2nd Sunday & 4th Friday)	Cruisers Club of Cedar Hill Car Show	Cruiser's location at 2750 Preston Rd @ Hwy 121 across from the Stone Brier Mall in Frisco
11	Meeting	CCT Board Meeting - NO MEETING IN DECEMBER	Friendly Chevrolet
15	Meeting	CCT Membership Meeting - NO MEETING IN DECEMBER	Friendly Chevrolet
16	Drive/Show (every 3rd Saturday)	Christian Classic Cruisers car show. (Mar. - Oct.)	Birdville ISD Athletic facility located at the corner of Mid-Cities Blvd. and Precinct Line Rd
24	Deadline	Last day to submit articles and pictures to December Newsletter	Send to joe@y2k7.com
25	Holiday	Merry Christmas!	

2007 EVENT CALENDAR

February

23-24	Meeting	National Governor's Meeting	St Louis, MO
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March

17-18	Meeting	Awards Banquet/National Governor's Meeting	Ft Worth, TX
31-4/1	Drag -Autocross	2MTD,2ETD,3LS	TOCC - Wichita Falls, TX

April

21-22	Drag -Autocross	RD,3 ET,2HS,LS	CCO - Tulsa, OK
26-28	Gathering	C5/C6 Bash	National Corvette Museum

May

3-5	Gathering	ZR-1/C4 Gathering	National Corvette Museum
4-5	Meeting	National Governor's Meeting	St Louis, MO
19-20	TBD		CTCC/MCCC - Waco, TX
24-26	Gathering	Corvette Forum Cruise-In	National Corvette Museum
25-27	Drag -Autocross	6 LS, MTD, RD, 2 ET	OCCC/CCOC - Oklahoma City, OK

June

16 - 23	Convention	NCCC Annual Convention and National Governor's Meeting	Nashville, TN
18-30	Cruise	Mediterranean/Europe Cruise	Sponsored by National Corvette Museum

July

7-8	Autocross	10 LS	LCC/MTCC - Belton, TX
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August

30- Sep 2	Gathering	Anniversary Celebration/ Hall of Fame	National Corvette Museum
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September

1-2	TBD		Tejas/THT (RFR) - Mineral Wells, TX
7-8	Meeting	National Governor's Meeting	St Louis, MO
22-23	Autocross	7 Events	Cowtown Vettes - Location TBD
27-29	Gathering	Pace Car Reunion	National Corvette Museum

October

6	Autocross	CCT Annual Roundup Autocross	CCT - Sherman, TX
11-13	Gathering	Classic Corvette Extravaganza	National Corvette Museum
20	Autocross	PC, Fun	LCC - Georgetown, TX
25-27	Gathering	Z06 Fest	National Corvette Museum

November

9-10	Meeting	National Governor's Meeting	St Louis, MO
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December

8	Party	CCT Christmas Party (Date Tentative)	Fort Worth, TX. (Texas Motor Speedway)
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What good does racing do?

Early History

GM's factory backing of the C5-R Corvette benefits the race team and production team equally, but the real beneficiary is the customer.

If any car in history can endorse the benefits of racing, it's the Chevrolet Corvette. Introduced in 1953 as America's first sports car, Corvette was nearly discontinued in 1955 because of slow sales. Owners of early Corvettes complained about the car's anemic 235-cubic-inch 6-cylinder engine, and by 1955 Ford Motor Co.'s V-S-powered Thunderbird was outselling Corvette by more than 20 to one.



But Chevrolet had a secret weapon in the person of Zora Arkus-Duntov, a young engineer who would be assigned to head the Corvette program and try to save the struggling marque. Arkus-Duntov's formula was simple: horsepower and racing.

In 1956 he put Corvette on the radar screen of the American

public by piloting a 265-cubic-inch small-block V-8-powered Corvette to a record speed of 150.583 mph in a flying-mile run during Speedweeks at Daytona Beach. Corvette sales blipped in response and Arkus-Duntov readied a new weapon -- the Corvette SS -- to compete with the Jaguars, Ferraris and Mercedes for the 1957 running of the Sebring race.



In June of 1957, the Automobile Manufacturer's Association, in cooperation with General Motors Corp. management, threw a wrench in Corvette's long-term strategy when it banned automakers from direct participation in racing. But the car's brief brush with the sport had already polished its image enough that they would continue to be raced successfully and independently for the coming decades -- long after the factory ban was lifted.

Factory-Sponsored Racing

When Chrysler Corp. decided to finance a factory-backed effort in GT racing with its Viper GTS-R program in 1996, eyebrows raised at GM. If the Chrysler effort was successful, GM ran the risk of having Corvette lose the image of America's sports car icon. Compounding the problem, Corvette was having an identity crisis following the launch of the C5.

Racing... continued



"When we came out with the C5 production car in 1997, the message we communicated was how much more refined the car was than its predecessor," says Dave Hill, Performance Car vehicle line executive (VLE) and Corvette chief engineer. "We had to tell that story because that was what was most different from Corvettes of the past. I think as a result, Corvette's image lost some of its sparkle as an all-out performance car, which was part of the decision to go racing in 1999-- we knew racing would get that back."

In putting the racing program together, Hill worked closely with Joe Negri, GM group manager of road racing, to establish a strategy that would benefit both the production car as well as the racecar. The image boost to Corvette was a given, but the two programs needed to compliment one another on many levels.

"It was extremely important we felt connected to the production group," says Negri. "Right now I don't remember if this was my idea or Dave's, but we thought it would be good if an engineer from his organization would get assigned to the race program for a limited number of years and then cycle back to the production side. We tried to be mindful that while a person would feel honored getting tapped for the job, we didn't want them to stay so long that they lose out on their career path."

The first, and so far only, production engineer to be drafted into the Corvette racing team is Ken Brown, total vehicle integration engineer for GM Performance Cars. In 1997, Brown had just finished designing the chassis for the C5 and was nominated for the team because he

showed the right mixture of knowledge, spirit, breadth of understanding across the car and a working knowledge of the resources available at GM.

According to Negri, racing groups tend to get isolated from what is happening in the day-to-day world inside of the company, often being unaware of technologies that are available to them for the asking. Brown served as a conduit to that knowledge, matching needs within GM's racing community to company resources that could shortcut a problem.

"Racing is a different world," says Brown. "On the production side there are more boxes to check because you are building thousands of cars, so you have people and facilities to help you do that. I was able to bring those contacts to the team. In contrast, on the race side I am responsible for the whole deal. I don't have to make a business case; I have to get the job done before the next race -- that's my timeline. It creates a passion and tenacity for getting the job done, and that is what I'm bringing back to the production side as I cycle back"

Along the way, Brown and other team members learned



that one of the primary benefits of racing is contact with the customer. Hill says it is the single best source for ideas that will be incorporated into future Corvettes.

"Engaging the customer is a very real benefit of racing," Hill opines. "At the races, you get a real understanding of the customer. It's not just showing them something and asking if they like it -- you already know they like it and they have ideas to share on how to improve it. You begin to think like your customer and know what turns them on or off. You can actually start to anticipate their needs, and that doesn't happen at a clinic."

