



**February 2018**

The official Newsletter of the Award Winning  
**Northern Illinois Corvette Club**

**Greetings for February**

It is still January as I write this, but we had our February meeting already because we moved the regular meeting up a week. This is not unusual, but for some reason it felt more awkward this month. Maybe because we had a short agenda and some of our members were off to warmer climates.



**President's Corner**

A big thank you goes out to Tauna, Doug, Doris and Cindy for their efforts for the Winter Party. We had a good time and great food at Vito's. Most of the gifts in the "white elephant exchange" were tasteful and well received; only a few were not likely to be "stolen".

We approved the 2018 budget at the last meeting. We also had a request from our social director for volunteers to step up to host an event on the calendar. We are looking for hosts for runs so if you have an idea for an interesting place to go, let Barb Jackson or me know. We also need hosts for the progressive dinner that we moved to June 23 this year.

Ken and Cindy Starzyk are hosting the Bowling Party on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Gene and Karin Alfors are hosting the Wine Tasting Party on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Details for both are on the Web site. Remember to sign up if you have not already done so.

In my last article I mentioned Marvin from the Rod Hawks car club from my high school days. One summer weekend he was driving his Plymouth with a car load of fellow club members on the way to Cordova drag strip. We were excited to go watch Dick, another club member, that had a dedicated drag strip car. Dick was expecting to race against

the famous "Lil Screamer" B altered 1934 Ford coup. The "Lil Screamer" was famous and had been in several car magazines and had won a lot of races.

It was a several hour drive from Marengo, Iowa to Cordova and, of course, in the mid 60's it was all two lane highway. Shortly into the trip Marvin came up behind a Studebaker Avanti. Passing it seemed like the most logical thing to do. That was the beginning of the excitement. We made the pass successfully, but that was just an invitation for the Avanti to pass us in return. The Avanti had no trouble pulling away and we gave up the chase after a short blast to try to keep up. The Avanti must have slowed to a more reasonable pace because we caught up with him again and Marvin again tried to pass. The Avanti did not even let us make it around before he left us in the dust again.

This cycle repeated a few times before we lost track of the Avanti in traffic. I think that was my first experience with seeing a car that was well suited for speed in factory built condition. The Corvettes we all love are such a great example of the same thing. It is not very often that we get to exercise the capability of our cars, but it is nice to know that the capability is there.

By the way, Dick did get to race the "Lil Screamer" but it was not too much of a contest as I remember it.

If you have any questions or concerns about the club, please let me know.

Leon Gorsch  
NICC President

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2018 - Membership and Board Meetings			
<b>Mar</b>	4	4:00 PM	- Board Meeting
		5:00 PM	- Social Hour 6:00 PM - Meeting
<b>Apr</b>	8	6:00 PM	- Social Hour 7:00 PM - Meeting
<b>May</b>	6	5:00 PM	- Board Meeting
		6:00 PM	- Social Hour 7:00 PM - Meeting
<b>Jun</b>	3	6:00 PM	- Social Hour 7:00 PM - Meeting
<b>Jul</b>	1	6:00 PM	- Social Hour 7:00 PM - Meeting
<b>Jul</b>	29	6:00 PM	- Social Hour 7:00 PM - Meeting
<b>Aug</b>	26	6:00 PM	- Social Hour 7:00 PM - Meeting
<b>Oct</b>	7	4:30 PM	- Board Meeting
		6:00 PM	- Social Hour 7:00 PM - Meeting
<b>Nov</b>	4	5:00 PM	- Social Hour 6:00 PM - Meeting
<b>Dec</b>	2	3:30 PM	- Board Meeting
		5:00 PM	- Social Hour 6:00 PM - Meeting

Unless otherwise posted, all Membership and Board meetings are held on Sundays at:

**Sam's Ristorante**  
**6075 E. Riverside Blvd.**  
**Rockford, IL 61114**

Members are welcome to attend the Board Meetings.  
 Guests are welcome to attend the Social Hour and Membership Meetings.

If you have other appropriate events of interest that you'd like to see publicized please send the details to the email address below. They will be included as space allows.  
[editor@nicccorvette.com](mailto:editor@nicccorvette.com)

### 2018 - NICC Events - [See website for updates & flyers](#)

<b>Feb</b>	Sat	17	3:15 PM	<b>Bowling &amp; Dinner Party</b>	Don Carter Lanes/Old Chicago
<b>Mar</b>	Sat	17	7:00 PM	<b>Wine Tasting Party</b>	Gene & Karin Alfors (see flyer)
<b>Apr</b>	Sat	21	10:00 AM	<b>Perryville Cleanup</b>	(tentative date)
<b>May</b>	Sat-Sun	5-6	TBA	<b>NCCC Meetings</b>	Sheraton Westport, St. Louis, MO
	Sat	12	TBA	<b>Spring Run</b>	Host(s) needed.
	Sat	19	TBA	<b>NICC Car Show</b>	Roscoe Antique Mall - until 3:00 PM
	Sat	26	TBA	<b>Parade</b>	Young at Heart
	Mon	28	TBA	<b>Parade</b>	Pecatonica
<b>Jun</b>	Sun	3	TBA	<b>Parade</b>	Leaf River
	Mon	11	5:30 PM	<b>Sonic Cruise Night</b>	Doug & Tauna Billups
	Sat	16	TBA	<b>Parade</b>	Old Settlers Day
	Sat	23	TBA	<b>Progressive Dinner</b>	3 Hosts needed
<b>Jul</b>	Wed	4	TBA	<b>Parade</b>	Cherry Valley
	Sat-Sun	7-8	TBA	<b>Low Speed Event</b>	Wilmot, WI
	Sun-Fri	15-20	TBA	<b>NCCC Convention</b>	New Orleans, LA
<b>Aug</b>	Sat	5	TBA	<b>Run</b>	Elkheart Lake, WI
	Sat	11	TBA	<b>Freeport Cruise Night</b>	Freeport, IL
	Sat-Sun	11-12	TBA	<b>Low Speed Events</b>	Crystal Lake, IL

### 2018 - NCCC & MWR Events

<http://www.mwregion.com/schedule.html>

### 2018 - Other Events of Interest

<b>Jun. 7 - 9</b>	<b>Corvette Adventures</b>	<a href="http://www.corvetteadventures.com/">http://www.corvetteadventures.com/</a>
<b>Jun. 21 - 23</b>	<b>Bloomington Gold 2018</b>	<a href="http://bloomingtongold.com/">http://bloomingtongold.com/</a>
<b>Jul. 29</b>	<b>Turning Back Time Car Show, Sycamore IL</b>	<a href="#">website</a>
<b>Aug. 23 - 26</b>	<b>Corvettes at Carlisle</b>	<a href="#">website</a>

For additions or corrections please contact:  
[Editor@NICCCorvette.com](mailto:Editor@NICCCorvette.com)

Check the Website for updates;

## Important Club Member Dates



### **Birthdays**

**Birthdays are good for your health; the more you have, the longer you live.**

A FarmersAlmanac.com Philosofact

#### February

Linda Stimart  
Gary Vosberg  
Carolyn Samuelson  
Arnie Bailey  
Garry Kohley  
Jane Zeien  
Joel Miner

#### March

Donna Kohley  
Robert Van Cura  
Jackie McClammer  
Barbara Jackson  
Bill Morr  
Nina Morgan  
William Naretta  
Robert Lai  
Darlene Weaver  
Marla Schiller

### **Anniversaries**



#### February

Brent & Jennifer Smith  
Joel & Anne Miner

#### March

Paul & Jane Zeien  
Jeff & Onie Drewelow  
Mike & Jackie McClammer

Is your Birthday or Anniversary incorrect or missing? Please let us know!

[editor@nicccorvette.com](mailto:editor@nicccorvette.com)

*If you just need a reason to celebrate:*

Feb 7 *Send a Card to a Friend Day*  
Feb 8 *Kite Flying Day*  
Feb 9 *Toothache Day*  
Feb 10 *Umbrella Day*  
Feb 11 *Don't Cry over Spilled Milk Day*  
Feb 12 *National Plum Pudding Day*  
Feb 13 *Get a Different Name Day*  
Feb 14 *Ferris Wheel Day*  
Feb 15 *National Gum Drop Day*  
Feb 18 *National Battery Day*  
Feb 20 *Hoodie Hoo Day*  
Feb 22 *Be Humble Day*  
Feb 26 *Tell a Fairy Tale Day*  
Feb 28 *National Tooth Fairy Day*  
Mar 1 *National Pig Day*  
Mar 2 *Old Stuff Day*  
Mar 3 *I Want You to be Happy Day*  
Mar 4 *Holy Experiment Day*  
Mar 6 *National Frozen Foods Day*  
Mar 9 *Panic Day*

Courtesy of:

<http://www.holidayscalendar.com>

### **NICC Sunshine Club**

#### **Club Members:**

**If you know of someone who needs to be remembered by our club, via a card or a note, please notify:**

**Doris Hicks, Sunshine Club Chair, at  
[dorishicks78@gmail.com](mailto:dorishicks78@gmail.com)  
815-885-2426**

## **FROM YOUR SOCIAL DIRECTOR**

I hope this message finds everyone safe and warm as we head into this final (worst?) part of winter! Now that all the “Accountants aren’t social” jokes are done, I am happy to accept this new challenge. Please feel free to share any ideas, suggestions, etc., you may have been thinking of – I love fresh perspective!

Tauna has certainly done a great job of kicking off 2018. The Winter Party was a hit with one person saying they had the best steak ever at Vito’s. Tauna has also laid out the calendar nicely but we’re going to need a few more volunteers. Please be thinking of what you may be interested in doing this year.

Our next get-together will be at Don Carter Lanes hosted by Ken and Cindy Starzyk. Even if you don’t care to bowl, come have a drink with us and cheer everyone on! We’ll grab a bit to eat afterwards at Old Chicago. Hope to see you there!

*Barb Jackson*



## **NICC WANTS YOU FOR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**

Would you like to serve your club as a director? The NICC is looking for someone to assume the responsibilities of Membership Director. The duties include:

Keep roster updated as new members join. Order nametags.

Keep prospective membership packets available for possible new members (these are all updated and printed for 2018).

Send renewal packets in August and follow-up through October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Pick up club mail at post office.

If you have any questions, need more information, or are willing to submit your name for consideration to this director position, contact President Leon Gorsch.

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Northern-Illinois-Corvette-Club-325403354269390/](https://www.facebook.com/Northern-Illinois-Corvette-Club-325403354269390/)

## **NICC Minutes January 28, 2018 (February Minutes, 2018 - Unapproved)**

### **1. Opening and Call to Order:**

This "February" meeting was held on January 28th, due to the date of the Super Bowl (February 4th).

The NICC Monthly Membership meeting was called to order by President Leon Gorsch at 6:00 p.m. with 38 members present.

### **2. List of Officers, Directors, & Committee Chairs:**

President: Leon Gorsch

Sergeant-at-Arms: Gene Stimart

Governor: Arnie Bailey

Editor: Preston Morgan

Secretary: Cindy Starzyk

Social Director: Barb Jackson

Treasurer: Doug Billups

Quartermaster: Barb Johnson

Membership: Tauna Billups

Advertising: Jeff Drewelow

Parliamentarian: Doris Hicks

Public Relations: Ken Starzyk

Historian/s: Nancy Bailey & Carolyn Samuelson

Webmaster: Linda Stimart

NCM Ambassador: Louise Gorsch

Parade Director: Dennis Mathews

Sunshine Chair: Doris Hicks

**3. Introduction of Guests:** No guests tonight.

**4. Opening Comments:** Leon asked if anyone is going to have or attend a Super Bowl party.

**5. Minutes:** Leon asked for a motion to review, object to and/or approve the minutes from January 7th, 2018 club meeting. Motion was made, seconded and approved.

**6. Introduction of Officers, Directors and Chairs; call for reports:**

**President - Leon Gorsch:** We are still short on runs. If you think you'd like to organize one, Louise, I or other members will be happy to help you figure out how to set one up.

**Governor - Arnie Bailey,** Absent. Leon stated that Arnie would again advise everyone that The Midwest Region Awards Party will be held on March 10, 2018 at the William Tell Holiday Inn in Countryside. Check the website for information. Registration for the 59th Annual NCCC Convention will begin on February 3rd, 2018 at 8 am. Hotel registration begins February 14th due to the timing of Mardi Gras. The convention is July 15 – 20, 2018 in New Orleans. Leon asked if anyone is planning to attend.

**Secretary - Cindy Starzyk:** Beginning this month, the minutes will be initially submitted to the newsletter with the term "Unapproved" in the header. After the subsequent club meeting, where those minutes are officially approved, they will be labeled "Approved" and placed on the website. Leon commented that this is just a technicality that is easy to do just to make sure we cover all our bases.

**Treasurer - Doug Billups:** Doug passed out the approved NICC 2018 Budget Proposal and asked if there were any questions and/or concerns. Contact Doug with questions or specifics. Leon remarked that if there would ever be an issue in the future with the budget, it would go the board to be addressed.

**Membership - Tauna Billups:** There are 106 members at this time.

**Parliamentarian - Doris Hicks:** No report.

**Historian - Nancy Bailey, Absent & Carolyn Samuelson:** No report.

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**NCM Ambassador - Louise Gorsch:** No report.

**Sunshine Club Chair - Doris Hicks:** No report.

**Sergeant-at-arms - Gene Stimart:** Collected \$4 in badge fines.

**Editor - Preston Morgan:** Please submit anything for the February newsletter by this Wednesday, or Friday at the very latest. Please submit any articles about your personal Corvette experiences. Tell us your stories! Again, any suggestions to make the newsletter more relevant are also welcomed.

**Social Director - Barb Jackson:** Barb presented Tauna with a gift basket in appreciation for all of her hard work. Doug also has served our club as Treasurer for such a long time. Our Bowling Event is on February 17th. The Alfors are hosting the Wine Tasting on March 17th. Although we may need a host for the Spring Run, Gene will discuss doing it with Tom Peck. They prefer to do their planned run in the fall, but can possibly do it in the spring. Gene will let us know.

**Quartermaster - Barb Johnson:** Barb has new catalogues for this year. The company will put our logo on anything. Barb modeled a blue pullover sweatshirt and Gene modeled a blue, lightweight, zip-up jacket, each with the logo.

**Advertising - Jeff Drewelow:** A couple of businesses have chosen to drop out of their sponsorships with NICC. A couple of others have renewed their sponsorships. The emphasis for new businesses being approached is on the higher end ads; \$100 - \$150. Please tell Jeff which businesses you frequent and what you like about them. Make sure you mention your NICC affiliation when you do utilize any of our club sponsors.

**Public Relations - Ken Starzyk:** No report.

**Webmaster - Linda Stimart:** Pictures from the NICC Holiday party are on the NICC website. If you have any additional pictures, please send them to her.

**Parade Director - Dennis Mathews,** Absent.

#### **7. Old Business:**

Winter Party January 20th, 2018 - Leon expressed thanks to Tauna, Doug, Doris, Ken and Cindy. Lots of fun was had by all!

2018 Calendar - There have been no changes since the last meeting. We can still put events on it.

2018 Budget - The 2018 Budget Proposal has been approved.

NCCC Renewals - Several members expressed frustration regarding troubleshooting NCCC's new process of having members print out their new membership cards. Not everyone has tried to do so, but some solutions were discussed. One solution is to send the initial NICC email back and ask them to re-email it to you. Another is to save it on your smart phone so you can retrieve it when needed. You can also call NCCC. Please email Nancy/Arnie if you didn't receive the email yet.

#### **8. New Business:**

Bowling Party February 17th.

Midwest Regional Awards Banquet March 10th.

Wine Tasting Party March 17th.

New Cars - None.

Other? - None.

#### **9. Collection of Fines:** \$4.

**10. Raffles:** 1<sup>st</sup> winner - Barb Johnson - \$50 gift card to Home Depot and golf umbrella. 2<sup>nd</sup> winner - Tauna Billups - Mystery Box - scratch-off lotto tickets.

**11. Attendance Drawing:** \$20 - Jim Millikin - not present. February drawing will be \$30.

**12. Adjournment:** - 6:35 pm.

**Next Club Monthly Meeting:** March 4th, 2018 - 4 pm BOD Meeting, 5 pm Social Hour, 6pm Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Starzyk

Did you get a new or new to you Corvette and want the club to know? We can't tell it if we don't know it!  
Even if someone else tells us we can't publish the news unless you give your permission.  
Just send an email and photo to the editor letting us know all about it and we'll put it in the newsletter.

## From the Editor

Editor: Preston Morgan



How many of you remember the 1967 movie *Cool Hand Luke*? It was a movie that featured those stalwart actors Paul Newman and George Kennedy. The movie was about a laid back, cool, gutsy prisoner in a Southern chain gang. Luke Jackson (Paul Newman) refused to conform to authority, escaping several times only to be recaptured. Luke became a legend while prison officials consistently berated and crushed him until he breaks. The other prisoners admired Luke because, as Dragline (George Kennedy) put it, “You’re an original, that’s what you are!” Dragline also said, “That’s my darling Luke. He grins like a baby but bites like a gator.”

Probably the most famous quoted line from the movie was uttered by the Captain (Strother Martin). How many of you remember the words, “What we’ve got here is... failure to communicate.” I know that I have repeated this quote many times.

The NICC does not want its membership to experience a “failure to communicate.” As the editor for *Vette Visions*, I want you to use our newsletter as one of the practical ways that you communicate with other members. I encourage you to submit to me notes, comments, questions, and anything else that you want to get off your mind.

Better yet, I encourage you to submit articles for publication in *Vette Visions*. I know that there are a lot of interesting stories out there just waiting to be shared with others. I attended the NICC Holiday Party last month and was fascinated with all the Corvette stories. Even if you don’t want to write about your own experiences, have you seen any articles in other publications that you want to share with other members? If so, send me information about the article, a link to it (I have to give credit to the original publication and author). We want to share information with others and we do not want to have a “failure to communicate.”

Let’s for a minute go back to our high school days. Remember your school’s honor role? Well, I was not that good of a student to experience the pride of landing on my school’s honor role. I was just grateful to graduate. However, after serving an enlistment in the U.S. Air Force, I went to college and graduated with honors receiving a Baccalaureate degree and finally ended up earning a Masters in Education degree. Whoever would have “thunk” I would do such a thing; certainly not any of my high school teachers.

I am going to institute an honor role for *Vette Visions*. All you have to do to earn a spot on the honor role is to have an article published in the newsletter. The more articles that you have published; the higher you rise in the honor role. At the end of the year we will see who the high honor members are in NICC. Will it be you? It could be. So get your pens out, your keyboards warmed up, and get to writing. All articles to be considered for *Vette Visions* can be submitted to me through the website and emailing them to the editor. I eagerly await your contributions.

## **VETTE GRINS**

Q: Why was the student’s report card wet?

A: It was below C level!

## **HOLIDAY PARTY REFLECTIONS**

Submitted by Tauna Billups

The NICC Winter Party was held at Vito's Restaurant on Saturday, January 20th. Thirty-five people attended. The food was great with choices including a nine ounce filet, chicken marsala, or fresh-Atlantic salmon. We are grateful to Vito's for satisfying our palates through their outstanding culinary skills.

The party atmosphere was fun and the gift basket giveaways were exciting. The White Elephant gift exchange was excitingly stressful as one never knows what is lurking in that beautifully wrapped package. And behold, if that gift is something that you really want, can you keep it or will it be "stolen" by one of your "friends." There was not a lot of stealing of gifts this year, but a few members fought over the liquor selection. Cindy Starzyk was lucky enough to get the "boobie" prize (literally). At least one person has their White Elephant gift for the 2019 party.

The flower center pieces adorning the tables were beautiful and enjoyed by all. Each one had a model of a Corvette nestled in the middle; either a remote controlled car or just a model. The center pieces were given away through a drawing so some lucky members went home with an extra gift.

The consensus of those attending was that the party was fun and a good way to socialize with other members. Pictures of the event are available for viewing on the website. If you missed out on this NICC event, there will be several more opportunities throughout 2018 that you can enjoy. Look at the club calendar and pick out the events that you want to participate. I encourage you to attend as many as possible.

### ***VETTE GRINS***

#### **WINTER MORNING**

A wife texts her husband on a cold winter's morning, "Windows frozen."

Her husband texts back, "Pour some lukewarm water over it."

The wife texts back 5 minutes later, "Computer completely messed up now."

Source: Steve Sanderson



## **1953-1962 C1 Corvettes: A Rough Start, But a Great Finish**

By: K. Scott Teeters

The following article is reprinted from:

<http://www.superchevy.com/features/1710-1953-1962-c1-corvettes-rough-start-great-finish/>

With few exceptions, all Corvettes suffer from the same affliction: the success of their successors. Within the Corvette's long and colorful history, there are many spectacular models that, in their day, were the "to die for" Corvettes, only to be eclipsed by the next "to die for" Corvette. While prices for C1 Corvettes have become steep because of their low production numbers, there isn't another generation Corvette that was so radically changed from its beginning to end, while remaining astonishingly similar. Of course, when the 1963 Sting Ray arrived with its new and improved structure and independent rear suspension, C1 Corvettes quickly became second-class. But a closer look shows that from 1957 to 1962, C1s were pretty good performance cars.

The C1 generation can be segmented into four distinctive groups: 1953-'55, 1956-'57, 1958-'60 and 1961-'62. Let's look at the bodies. The first, second and third groups have no common important body panels, while the third and fourth groups share common front ends. Harley Earl's first Corvette is a timeless classic that needs to be seen next to regular cars of the day. But the rollout of the first three years of Corvettes was not good. Sales were terrible because the car truly wasn't completed. In the first three years, only 4,640 Corvettes were sold in total. Even though the 1955 Corvette finally had a three-speed manual transmission and the all-new 265 small-block Chevy V-8 engine, the car was already tainted by its past. On top of that, Ford's new Thunderbird was a much more finished car with luxury features expected in a premium-priced automobile. Ford sold 16,155 of the 1955 Thunderbirds while Chevrolet only sold 700 Corvettes.

By late 1954, managers and designers knew that the Corvette desperately needed a reboot. As clean as the original Corvette was, it was "nice" but not aggressive enough. The 1956 Corvette received an all-new body that was a "Wow!" Sales jumped from 700 in 1955 to 3,467 in 1956 and then to 6,339 in 1957. But sales were still nowhere close to the Thunderbird that sold 15,631 units in 1956 and 21,380 in 1957. Then, Ford bailed out of the two-seater American sports car segment after 1957, leaving the Corvette as American's only true sports car.

As clean and aggressive as the 1956-'57 Corvette body was, all GM cars were mandated to wear the new corporate four-headlight look. The third body group, the 1958-'60 Corvettes were identical, except for the reduction of chrome trim after 1958. While the 1958 Corvette took some heat for its larger size (9.2-inches longer and 1.7-inches wider) and heavy use of chrome trim, sales jumped to 9,168 for 1958, 9,670 for 1959, and 10,261 for 1960, so Chevrolet was happy. The 1958 model was also retiring Harley Earl's last Corvette, and he really liked lots of chrome. The fourth body group was the 1961-'62 models; the prelude to the upcoming Sting Ray. The front end was identical to the third body group, except for the grille and other minor trim, but the back end had the distinctive boat tail design with two clusters of two taillights, a look that Corvette would maintain until the arrival of the C7. Sales kept climbing with 10,939 Corvette sold 1961 and 14,531 sold for 1962.

The most dramatic improvements for the C1s were all under the skin. The Blue Flame six was just an interim engine while the new small-block Chevy was in development. C1s started out with 150 horsepower from the Blue Flame six and maxed out with 360 horsepower with the 1962 327 fuelie. The 1955 265 V-8 Corvette got a 45-horsepower bump over the Blue Flame six to 195 horsepower. In 1956, Chevrolet started offering performance engine options for Corvettes and continued to do so until 1981. For \$172, 1956 Corvette customers could order RPO 469, the 265ci small-block with dual-quad carbs and 225 horsepower. But 1957 was the year to remember with the arrival of the \$484 RPO 579, Rochester fuel injected 283. Two versions were offered, one with 250 horsepower and the other with 283 horsepower.

But the hot news for customers that wanted to race their 1957 Corvette was the first of the Zora Arkus-Duntov and Mauri Rose "racer kit" options: the \$780 RPO 684, officially listed as Heavy Duty Racing Suspension. This was a suspension and brakes option, not unlike the 1973-'75 Z07 off-road suspension and brake package and then the 1984-'17 Z51 performance handling package. RPO 684 included heavy-duty front and rear springs and shocks, a larger front stabilizer bar, a quick steering adapter, finned brake drums and rear brake scoops. Combined with either the 270hp dual-quad or the 283hp fuel-injected 283 engine, the manual four-speed transmission and Positraction, customers had a solid foundation to build a competitive Corvette race car. While the RPO numbers changed slightly through 1962, the basic racer kit package remained the same, except for more powerful fuel-injected 283 and 327 engines.

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A few words about the C1's structure. The C1 frame and suspension are often erroneously called "parts bin" cars. This is not correct. C1s all ride on the same basic setup that was designed by Maurice Olley, GM's top suspension man, who was considered the best in the industry in his day. The first C1 was not designed to be a race car and Duntov described the Corvette as a "wobble wagon" after his first test track experience. All of Duntov and Rose's suspension development consisted of changes to suspension settings, mounting points, shocks and springs, sway bars and brakes. Aside from bolt-on parts and mounting points, the frame, suspension, and brakes of a 1953-'62 Corvette are nearly identical. Olley's design, with Duntov and Rose's help, made racer kit Corvettes a force to be reckoned with from 1957 to 1962. Let's look at racing results.

The racer kit arrived in 1957 and in the capable hands of Dr. Dick Thompson and Gaston Audrey, Corvette won their class at Sebring. Thompson went on to win the 1957 SCCA B/Production class. With the slightly larger 1958 model, Jim Jeffords' Purple People Eater was virtually unbeatable and won the SCCA B/Production Championship in 1958 and 1959. In 1960, one of the Briggs Cunningham-prepared 1960 Corvettes placed 8th in the GT class at Le Mans. In 1961, Dr. Dick Thompson drove the Grady Davis 1961 B/Production Corvette to an SCCA championship. The car won every race that year. And lastly, in 1962, Dr. Dick Thompson drove the Grady Davis Gulf Oil 1962 A/Production Corvette to a championship and Don Yenko's Corvette won the SCCA B/Production championship.

In retrospect, racing Corvettes, using Maurice Olley's frame and suspension, along with the various racer kits engineered by Duntov and Rose, dominated SCCA A/Production and B/Production classes for five years. The C1 Corvette was not a parts bin car.

And lastly, let's talk about price. From the beginning, Corvettes have always been a premium automobile. The 1953 model had a base price of \$3,498. That was pretty steep, considering that a basic 1953 Chevy 150 Special two-door sedan started at \$1,613 and a Cadillac Series 62 Hardtop Coupe started at \$3,571. You could get a Cadillac with every gee-wiz option available in 1953, while the Corvette had one color (white) and two options; an AM signal-seeking radio and a heater. Imagine that, the heater was optional and the car didn't even have roll-up windows. A loaded 1953 Corvette could cost \$3,734. Harley Earl gave away many of the 300 1953 Corvettes as gifts and for promotional use. The popular 6-foot 4-inch actor John Wayne was gifted a 1953 Corvette. We can imagine how happy the big man was with the little Corvette with snap-up side windows. He must have thought Chevy was nuts. By 1962, Corvette customers had seven colors to choose from and 19 options. The base price of a 1962 Corvette was \$4,038. The next expensive 1962 Chevy was the \$3,068 Impala, V-8 four-door wagon. A fully loaded 1962 Corvette cost approximately \$5,300; again, Cadillac Series 62 priced.

The C1 Corvette came in like a gentile high school prom queen and went out a rip-snortin' street brawler and racing champion. The difference between the two is night-and-day, but all based on the same platform, with a ton of improvements. Duntov and his team lead the development and refining efforts for street Corvettes and Duntov and Mauri Rose made sure Chevrolet-engineered racing parts were available. In 1959, Chevrolet offered the Sports Car Equipment Guide for Corvettes that explains how to successfully race your 1959 Corvette. You can download the PDF version from [GMHeritageCenter.com](http://GMHeritageCenter.com). While C1 performance Corvettes aren't "in-your-face" like today's Z06, but they were definitely a force to be reckoned with. C1 Corvettes tend to get overlooked because their successors were so much better.

*K. Scott Teeters has been a contributing artist and writer with Vette magazine since 1976 when the magazine was titled, Vette Quarterly. Scott's Corvette art can be seen at [www.illustratedcorvetteseries.com](http://www.illustratedcorvetteseries.com). His muscle car and nostalgia drag racing art can be found at [www.precision-illustration.com](http://www.precision-illustration.com).*

## NICC Vette Visions

**Northern Illinois Corvette Club, Inc.** is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the promotion of **Corvette** ownership and operation.

The club provides **Corvette** information and encourages others to participate in its ownership and enjoyment by holding meetings, events (concoors, parades, races, rallies, runs, shows) and socials.

Through the magnetism of the **Corvette**, the club raises funds and supports various local and national non-profit organizations.

NICC is a 100% member club of the National Council of Corvette Clubs (NCCC). Membership is limited to owners of Corvettes.

	<u>New</u>	<u>Renew</u>	<u>Late Renew Fee</u>
PRIMARY MEMBER	\$50	\$50	\$50 + \$10 (If not postmarked by Oct. 15th)
CO-MEMBER*	\$10	\$10	

\*(spouse, dependent, companion)

NCCC Lifetime members are only required to pay NICC dues. For more information on the NICC and NCCC go to their websites at the links below.

*VETTE VISIONS*, NICC's newsletter, is published monthly on our website and a publication notice is e-mailed to all members, advertisers and Corvette enthusiasts who have provided us with their email address and have expressed an interest in our publication. Materials submitted and published in *VETTE VISIONS* are believed to be accurate and NICC assumes no legal responsibilities of correctness.

The club's mailing address is:  
**Northern Illinois Corvette Club, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 573**  
**Rockford, Illinois 61105-0573**

### Corvette Links

Northern Illinois Corvette Club      [www.nicccorvette.com](http://www.nicccorvette.com)

### **NOTE**

**When sending emails to NICC members, ALWAYS put "NICC" in the subject. Most of us do not open messages we do not recognize.**

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## Newsletter & Website Contributions

*Vette Visions* is your newsletter. Your contributions are welcome. Corvette related pictures, stories, editorials, ads, or other appropriate materials are welcome. Please email items to

[editor@nicccorvette.com](mailto:editor@nicccorvette.com) or  
[webmaster@nicccorvette.com](mailto:webmaster@nicccorvette.com)

Text file formats are best in .doc, .docx, .rtf or .txt, and photos in .jpg, .jpeg, .png or .bmp files. Thank you.

**DEADLINE for all Reports, Items, Advertising, and Articles in EACH issue is the FRIDAY following the monthly meeting.**

## Vette Visions & Website Advertising

Need help developing your ads? Design assistance is free with half or full page 12-month ads and new copy can be submitted at any time. Your ads will appear on our Website.

<u>Size of Ad</u>	<u>Rate / 12 Months</u>
Full Page	\$300
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Members are encouraged to use *Vette Visions* and our website to buy and sell Corvette related items. This service is free of charge to members. Member ads may contain photos and those might only appear on the website. Member ads will automatically renew until we are told to stop running the ad.

Ads for non-members will be published, subject to editorial restrictions, at a fee of \$5.00 per month for a business card size ad. Non-member ads must be renewed each month on or before the Wednesday following the monthly meeting.

Mailing and email contact information is on the previous page.

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