

# **MASON DIXON Blue and Gray**

# December 2015

~Member ~ National Corvette Restorers Society (NCRS)

# ~ NCRS TOP FLIGHT CHAPTER OF THE YEAR ~ Former Winners for Fourteen Consecutive Years

~ NCRS & Mason Dixon Activities ~ Judging Events – Rallyes – Drags – Cruisin' Nights – Day Trips Banquets – Weekend Outings Annual Atlantic City Bus Tour

~ Charities ~ Support numerous Charities throughout the Great State of Maryland

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# Chairman's Report John Veen

It's mid-December and the weather is incredible!!! So much for "Old Man Winter" and an early snowfall he left for us last year at this time. This weekend promises to be GREAT weather for driving our Corvettes and could be the last time this year unless this weather continues – I certainly hope it does.

As I write this report, I realize that I am at the end of my third year as the Mason-Dixon Chapter Chairman. As the saying goes "Time flies when you're having fun." Based on that, I MUST be having fun because I don't know where the time went in 2015. It seems that it was just Spring and we were starting to drive our Corvettes and enjoy the "driving" weather.

Although I am looking forward to 2016, I want to inform all Mason-Dixon Chapter members about my second year of my second two-year term as Chapter Chairman, which I announced at the "Fall Annual General Membership Dinner Meeting." For those of you who could not attend the "Fall Annual General Membership Dinner Meeting" on November 21, I want to let you know that, most probably, I will not complete my second year of my second two-year term as Chapter Chairman. The reason is that my wife, Suzanne, and I purchased a home-site lot just west of Wilmington, North Carolina in July, 2016. We plan to build a new house there as soon as we sell our house in Maryland. Our plan is to put our house in Mount Airy on the market in mid-to-late February or early March, 2016. Once we sell our house in Mount Airy we will move to North Carolina to oversee the construction of our new home. As of this point in time, and for obvious reasons, I don't have a definitive date of my final days as Chapter Chairman, but I will be sure to inform you as soon as I know the date. I can report that the management of the Chapter will be in good hands as Jim Buckley, the Chapter Vice Chairman, has agreed to assume the Chairman position for the balance of 2016 which will be the remainder of my two-year term.

Before I recap the Chapter events of the past few months, please accept my personal wishes to all Mason-Dixon Chapter members for the happiest holiday season and a happy and VERY healthy 2016!! Please be sure to take care of each other and stay healthy as we move into 2016 and over the upcoming winter months. In 2016, I hope to see you at as many of the upcoming Mason-Dixon Chapter events as your schedule allows. The Board of Directors and I will be developing the "2016 Chapter Calendar of Events" in the early part of the year so if you have any ideas and/or suggestions, please be sure to make your wishes known to the Board members or me.

Since my last report there have been a number of Chapter events I want to mention and recap.

The following is a list of the remaining events/activities on the Mason-Dixon Chapter "2015 Chapter Calendar of Events." You will most probably recognize some of these activities as they have been conducted by the Chapter previously. Although all of these activities are listed on the Chapter website, this serves as a gentle reminder of what the Chapter is offering to you, the Chapter member, for the balance of 2015.

• On Saturday, September 19 the Chapter held a judging event at Gerry Yursis' "Thunder Valley Garage" in Parkton, Maryland. We judged Gus Tsamouras' beautiful 1970 Corvette coupe. This

judging event will help Gus get the car ready for his participation in an upcoming NCRS Regional Judging event and ultimately the NCRS National Convention in Warwick, Rhode Island in July, 2016. The turnout was very good and Gus' 1970 Corvette earned a NCRS Top Flight Award. Many thanks to Gerry Yursis for the use of his garage, to Gus Tsamouras for bringing his 1970 Corvette for judging, to Rick Aleshire for scheduling and planning the event, and to the Mason-Dixon Chapter members and other NCRS members who helped with the actual judging.

- On November 8, Chapter members again joined the Bel Air Corvette Club for the SECOND road tour to the Wyncote Golf Club in Oxford, Pennsylvania for a Sunday brunch. Although I could not participate in the second road tour event I heard that it was another VERY successful road tour and brunch. Many thanks to Len Maiolatesi who organizes the annual event and also to those Mason-Dixon Chapter members who participated and supported this jointly sponsored Corvette event. If you haven't experienced this road tour you need to put it on your calendar for 2016. Every year the road tour has approximately 25 to 30 various year Corvettes driving down the road it is quite an experience and also very eye-catching don't miss it next year!!!
- Finally, on November 21 the Annual Fall Dinner General Membership Meeting was held at
  Liberatore's Restaurant in Timonium, Maryland. My hearty thanks to Tim and Trisha Davis for
  organizing the dinner and the festivities plus some door prizes, to Steve and Eileen Lesser for
  helping at the event and for the door prizes, and to Gus Tsamouras for finding some new donations
  for door prizes. As usual, the meeting was a lively event. However, on a personal note I was
  saddened because of the retirement of Ed Levine from his position as Chapter recording Secretary.
  I VERY much appreciated Ed's service as the Chapter Recording Secretary and, with the Chapter
  Board of Directors, I want to wish Ed the VERY best as he moves on. Obviously, we need to fill
  the position. However, in the interim, Ed's position will be covered by me and the Board of
  Directors. In the event that you did not attend the dinner meeting, I again want to refer you to an
  earlier part of this report regarding my last year as Chapter Chairman.

Before I move to the Chapter plans for 2016, again I want to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the Mason-Dixon BoD for their hard work and dedication. In the three years since I assumed the position of Chapter Chairman, I believe that the Chapter has been successful and has accomplished quite a lot in terms of developing and providing enjoyable activities for the Chapter members. These successes were ONLY possible because of the devotion of time and the outstanding efforts of the members of the Chapter BoD. We could not have accomplished what we have over the past three years without working together and I thank the Board members for their assistance and guidance.

Now let's move on to the upcoming business at hand for 2016. Starting in January, 2016, the BoD and I will begin work the "2016 Chapter Calendar of Events." As I have mentioned numerous times before, we don't want to change the schedule just for the sake of changing and I believe the 2015 Calendar of Events reflected that. As always, **if you have any suggestions for events in 2016, please contact any Board member or me. My e-Mail address is jsveen01@comcast.net.** For information about the various things on which the BoD is working, please be sure to review the BoD meeting minutes that are

distributed via email foolowing every meeting. I believe you will see some interesting topics we are discussing.

Finally, please accept my best wishes to you and your family for a VERY happy holiday season, a VERY happy and HEALTHY 2016, and as you drive your Corvettes, please remember to "Save the Wave."

Sincerely, John Veen, Chapter Chairman

# Vice Chairman's Report Jim Buckley

Dear Fellow Chapter Members,

Looks as if it may be a "mild" winter season (we all hope it is). I don't know about you, but when the roads are dry and the sun is bright, I take my Corvette out, just to keep the mechanical aspects of the car functioning. At least it isn't as strange as driving through a snow storm with the top down. Yes, I've seen it.

Seriously, we can still enjoy our cars over the "bad" seasons. There are usually a few really great days we just have to consider all the possibilities to get the most out of our "fun cars" and put a little extra smile on peoples faces as we drive down the road.

Speaking of roads we are always looking for some new and "good" activities. We could use some fresh input and new places to go and explore. If you get tired of hearing this, it will stop when we get suggestions. LOL. Really put your thinking caps on and tell a Board member if you have a new event in mind.

Stay warm and safe. Best to all, Vice chairman Jim

# Treasurer's Report Len Maiolatesi

As of 11/30/15, our checking account balance is \$14,802.26. Additional funds will be deposited in December when all the dues are paid. Thanks, Len

# **Recording Secretary's Report Ed Levine**

# Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Mason-Dixon Chapter of the NCRS at the office of Jerry Blumenthal Lutherville, Maryland Wednesday, November 4, 2015

### <u>Attendance</u>

John Veen, Jim Buckley, Len Maiolatesi, Rick Aleshire, Ed Levine, Tim Davis, Jerry Blumenthal and Gus Tsamouras.

# Call to Order

After a light dinner, John Veen called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

# Reading of the Minutes

John Veen asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the August 19, 2015 BoD Meeting. A motion to accept the minutes as submitted, was made by Rick Aleshire, seconded by Gus Tsamouras and unanimously approved.

# Chairman's Report – John Veen

John Veen made the following comments:

- Thanks AGAIN to Tim and Gus for bringing the dinner tonight
- Thanks to Steve Sokoloff for reserving the Mason-Dixon Chapter spaces at Corvettes at Carlisle
- Thanks ahead of time to Len Maiolatesi for coordinating the road tour and luncheon to Wyncote Country Club in Oxford, Pennsylvania with the Bel Air Corvette Club on November 8
- Thanks to Rick Aleshire for organizing the Chapter judging meet at Gerry Yursis' "Thunder Valley Garage" on September 19 where we judged Gus Tsamouras' beautiful 1970 maroon coupe
- Thanks to Tim Davis and Gus Tsamouras for adding RSVP information to the remaining 2015 events
- E-Mails to Chapter members
- August 19 Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
- Corvettes at Carlisle
- Fall Dinner General Membership Meeting at Liberatore's Restaurant in Timonium on November 21
- Road tour to Wyncote Country Club with the Bel Air Corvette Club for brunch on November 8
- Cancellation of road tour to Hagerstown Aviation Museum and Brunswick Railroad Museum and brunch in Brunswick
- Other Activities
- Finally received the letter from the Carroll County Young Marines needed to request approval of organization to receive a matching contribution from NCRS National. Spoke with Vito Cimilucca, NCRS Region III Representative regarding submission of paperwork. Will send paperwork for Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital and Carroll County Young Marines this weekend. Sent an e-Mail and also left a voice message for Carlton Colclough, NCRS Public Relations Manager informing him about the submission of paperwork to Vito Cimilucca. Have not received any response/reply from Carlton as of today.

- Upcoming activities
- Road tour to Wyncote Country Club on November 8 with Bel Air Corvette Club
- Fall Dinner General Membership Meeting at Liberatore's Restaurant in Timonium on November 21

Vice Chairman's Report – Jim Buckley

Reported that the Vice Chairman's paperwork is up-to-date

<u>Treasurer's Report – Len Maiolatesi</u>

• Announced that, as of November 3, 2015, there was a balance of \$13,760.17 in the Chapter Treasury.

Membership Chairman's Report - Len Maiolatesi

- Reported that the Chapter has 104 members.
- The Chapter website needs to be updated to reflect the 2016 membership dues @ \$40.

Recording Secretary's Report - Ed Levine

- Indicated that he appreciates the continuing assistance he has received from other Board members.
- Announced that he will be giving up his position of Recording Secretary and also his membership at the end of 2015.

Judging Chairman's Report - Rick Aleshire

- Asked that anyone with a technical article for the newsletter should contact him
- Stated that the date of the 2016 Chapter Judging Event at Ron Adams Chevrolet will be on Sunday, April 3, 2016

Social Activities Chairman's Report – John Veen and Gus Tsamouras – Work Conducted since last BoD Meeting:

- Discussed procedures to get donated gifts for the upcoming dinner meeting and how to deliver them to the site
- Worked with Len Maiolatesi and finalized the flyer for the road tour to Wyncote Country Club with the Bel Air Corvette Club and brunch
- Worked with Tim Davis and finalized the flyer for the Fall Dinner General Membership Meeting at Liberatore's Restaurant in Timonium on November 21

<u>Co-Webmasters' Report – Tim Davis and Gus Tsamouras</u> Reported that they are meeting regularly to discuss website issues and improvements

<u>Historian's Report – Jerry Blumenthal</u>

• Indicated he has many photos that can be reviewed by the membership and that he will bring old photo albums to the upcoming Annual Fall Dinner General Membership Dinner Meeting

<u>Welfare Report – Ed Levine</u>

• Best wishes to Al and Patty Vogel on their relocation to Florida

• Please send any news of a personal nature that Chapter members would like included in this section of the Meeting Minutes

# Old Business

- We will continue to follow the "new" agenda we used at the two previous Board Meetings held in 2015
- Asked Tim Davis if he had any new information/prices on Mason-Dixon Chapter apparel and options were discussed. A request for a motion to accept prices and provider indicated by Tim Davis was made by John Veen. A motion was made by Rick Aleshire, seconded by Gus Tsamouras and unanimously approved. Tim will have samples of the various apparel items, the respective prices for each item, and ordering information at the Annual Fall Dinner General Membership Meeting on November 21. Additional information will be distributed via e-Mail messages to Chapter members in the near future
- Jerry Blumenthal provided preliminary information on a trip to Florida for 4 nights and 3 days. The trip would be in early 2016 and would include an automobile museum tour and tickets for the Barrett-Jackson Auuction. It was decided that we would add \$25 for members and \$50 for nonmembers to the cost to help defray expenses of the Chapter. More information will be provided at the Annual Fall Dinner General Membership Meeting on November 21. Additional information will be distributed via e-Mail messages to Chapter members in the near future
- John Veen mentioned that he thought that no information regarding dues had been added to the Chapter website as per the August 19 BoD Meeting. Tim Davis, Rick Aleshire and Gus Tsamouras thought the information already had been incorporated

# New Business

- John Veen asked Len if he had sent a check to Steve Sokoloff to reserve the Mason-Dixon spaces at Corvettes at Carlisle for 2016. Len indicated that he mailed a check to Steve Sokoloff to reserve the space at Carlisle for 2016
- John Veen stated that the "2016 Mason-Dixon Chapter Membership Application" needs to be added to the Chapter website. Need to make sure that 2016 membership application is inserted wherever reference is made to the membership application (Under all eight (8) buttons on homepage Site Pages; under "Join" button where "Membership Application Form" is highlighted
- John Veen stated that a "Chapter Nominating Committee" comprised of the immediate Past Chapter Chairman and two other Chapter members needs to be organized for the creation of a ballot for the election of officers. Since the meeting, John has asked that Jim Buckley, Chapter Vice Chairman handle the job of making calls and organizing the Nominating Committee
- John Veen asked for suggestions for events and dates for the "2016 Chapter Calendar of Events." It was decided that the "2016 Chapter Calendar of Events" will be discussed at the January 2016 Board of Directors' Meeting
- John Veen asked for suggestions for names for "Chapter Member of the Year." It was decided that the "Chapter Member of the Year" will be discussed at the January 2016 Board of Directors' Meeting

#### **Other Comments**

• John Veen asked if anyone had any comments about personal events from Chapter members that we can include in the Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes.

# Adjournment

• A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gus Tsamouras, seconded by Jim Buckley, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ed Levine Recording Secretary Mason-Dixon Chapter NCRS Web site: www.NCRS.org/masondixon

If you want to send a note through Yahoo, just e-mail the note to: <u>mdncrs@yahoogroups.com</u> To start sending messages to members of this group, simply send e-mail to <u>MDNCRS@yahoogroups.com</u> If you do not wish to belong to MDNCRS, you may unsubscribe by sending an e-mail to <u>MDNCRS-</u><u>unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com</u> If you are a member of other Yahoo e-mail lists, you may see and modify all of your group settings at: <u>http://groups.yahoo.com/mygroups</u>

# Minutes of the Annual Fall General Membership Dinner Meeting Mason-Dixon Chapter of the

N.C.R.S. at Liberatore's Ristorante, Timonium, MD Saturday, November 21, 2015

Attendance: Aproximately 54 members attended the Fall Dinner Meeting.

# Chairman's Report:

After a delicious dinner, John Veen began the meeting by thanking everyone for coming to the meeting. John acknowledged and thanked Tim and Trisha Davis for coordinating the dinner meeting. John also thanked Steve Lesser and Gus Tsamouras for obtaining the door prizes. John introduced the current Board members and their spouses/wives individually and thanked them for their support of and hard work for the Chapter.

John sadly announced that Ed Levine had resigned his position as Chapter Recording Secretary. As a follow-up to Ed's resignation, John mentioned that anyone interested in filling the position as Recording Secretary for 2016 should contact either John or any member of the Chapter BoD. On a positive note, John introduced John Kane, the newly elected Region III Director of the NCRS National Board of Directors. John Kane made some brief comments thanking the Mason-Dixon Chapter for their support in the election and that he is looking forward to working with the Chapter representatives during his three-year term as the Region III Director.

In speaking about elections, John mentioned that Jim Buckley would be establishing a Nominating Committee for the 2016 election of Chapter officers. The ballot will include the following positions: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. Anyone interested in running for office for those positions should contact Jim Buckley, the Nominating Committee Chairman or a member of the current BoD.

John reported that he would not be running for re-election for the position of Chapter Chairman and also that he may not be able to finish his second year of his second two-year term. John explained that he and his wife Suzanne had purchased a lot in North Carolina, that they plan to advertise their house in Mount Airy in early spring, 2016 and move in mid-2016 after selling their house. John also mentioned that he was selling both of his Corvettes – a 1981 4-speed and a 1993 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary convertible. If anyone is interested or if they know someone who might be interested, they should contact John.

John mentioned that Chapter membership dues were due and that Len Maiolatesi, the Chapter Membership Chairman would gladly accept members' checks at the dinner. John reminded everyone that the 2016 dues were \$40 and that these dues were different from the NCRS National dues which also need to be paid in order to be a Mason-Dixon Chapter member.

John stated that the BoD had discussed the possibility of conducting a few "road tours" over the holidays. The following suggestions were explained by Vice Chairman Jim Buckley and Judging Chairman/Newsletter Editor, Rick Aleshire:

- Jim Buckley mentioned the AACA Museum's annual holiday celebration entitled "Cars and Christmas." The event started on November 14 and continues through January 4, 2016. The AACA Museum has a specialty-themed display for Christmas which includes decorations throughout the museum on all levels with dozens of decorated holiday trees, several model train displays, specialty vehicles, and much more. An e-Mail message describing this event will be sent to all Mason-Dixon Chapter members in the near future. If you are interested in learning more about the "Cars and Christmas" event, additional information can be found on the following website: <a href="http://www.aacamuseum.org/cars-christmas/">http://www.aacamuseum.org/cars-christmas/</a>
- Rick Aleshire described another event, the Atlantic City Car Auction, which the Chapter has attended in previous years. Last year a few Mason-Dixon Chapter members travelled to the auction in a van. In 2016 the auction is scheduled for February 26 28. An e-Mail message describing this event will be sent to all Mason-Dixon Chapter members in the near future. If you are interested in going, additional information about this event can check the following website for information: <a href="http://www.acclassiccars.com/event-schedule-classics.php">http://www.acclassiccars.com/event-schedule-classics.php</a>
- John mentioned an event that will be discussed by the BoD in early 2016. The event is one that is directly related to the history of the Mason-Dixon Chapter. The event would be a party to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chapter and to hold the party at the Manor Tavern which was the location of the first meeting of the Mason-Dixon Chapter. In January, 2016, the BoD will begin to develop the "2016 Chapter Calendar of Events." An event that will most probably be included in the calendar will be a Chapter 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party. As soon as the date is decided, an e-Mail message will be sent to all Mason-Dixon Chapter members.

John summarized the events conducted by the Mason-Dixon Chapter since the Spring Dinner Meeting. Overall, John commented that the Chapter had a pretty good year with events that included three BoD Meetings, a luncheon at Friendly Farm Restaurant, the donation event for the Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital held at Steve and Eileen Lesser's home, Corvettes at Carlisle, a judging event where Gus Tsamouras 1970 Corvette was judged, and about two weeks ago there was a second Road Tour with the Bel Air Corvette Club to Wyncote Country Club in Oxford, PA for brunch.

John wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, a VERY happy holiday season, and a happy and healthy 2016.

#### Vice-Chairman's Report:

Jim Buckley reported that the Chapter was up-to-date with the necessary paperwork and that the Chapter probably will receive another Chapter of the Year Award from NCRS National. Additionally, Jim mentioned the road tour to the AACA Museum "Cars and Christmas" event.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Len Maiolatesi announced that there is now \$14, 227.38 in the Chapter treasury.

#### **Membership Report:**

Len Maiolatesi's announced that there are currently 104 members in the Mason-Dixon Chapter. Len also mentioned that as of the night of the dinner meeting he had received a total of 34 dues renewals. Len indicated that he still needs an additional 34 by the end of November, 2015.

#### Webmasters Report:

Tim Davis and Gus Tsamouras reported that the 2016 membership Application was now on the Mason-Dixon website. The Chapter website is: <u>www.ncrs.org/masondixon</u>

#### Judging Chairman's Report:

Rick Aleshire reported that there will be a Chapter Judging Event at Ron Adams Chevrolet on Sunday, April 3, 2016. Rick also mentioned that the registration form for the judging meet was sent to the NCRS Driveline Editor and that it will be available in the next edition.

Rick also described the Atlantic City Car Auction which will be held from February 26 - 28, 2016. This is another event the Chapter has attended in previous years. Rick mentioned that last year a few Mason-Dixon Chapter members travelled to the auction in a van. An e-Mail message describing this event and asking about members' interest will be sent to all Mason-Dixon Chapter members. If you are interested in going, additional information about this event can check the following website for information: http://www.acclassiccars.com/event-schedule-classics.php

#### Secretary's Report:

As previously mentioned, Ed Levine had resigned his position as the Chapter Recording Secretary. Therefore, there was no report made.

# Social Activities Chairman's Report:

The following organizations were mentioned by Steve Lesser after the distribution of door prizes was concluded. The Mason-Dixon Chapter thanks the following organizations and restaurants for their support and donations: Reliable-Churchill, JBA Chevrolet, J. Lohr Winery, Vette Vues Magazine, Café Hon Restaurant, Pasticcio Restaurant, and Slice on the Avenue Restaurant. In addition, our special thanks to the following individuals: Steve Hafner (a former Chapter member), Ed and Rosemary Ranier, and Glenn and Gail Gitschier for their donations.

# Good and Welfare:

- Welcome to new Chapter members Andy & Carol Anders
- A very sad farewell to Fred and Debbie Terry but our best wishes go with them. Fred has one of the lowest NCRS numbers in the Chapter with number 235. Best wishes to them as they move to a retirement community.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 p.m. Respectfully submitted,

John Veen Chapter Chairman Web site: <u>www.NCRS.org/masondixon</u>

#### Membership Chairman's Report Len Maiolatesi

As of 11/30/15, we have 101 members. We are still waiting for 25 members to pay their 2016 Dues. Please remember to pay your National NCRS dues before your membership expires. REMEMBER: You must be a current member of NCRS to remain a member of Mason Dixon. Thanks, Len

# Judging Chairman's Report Rick Aleshire

Well, in the area of judging, Mason Dixon hosted a judging meet at Gerry Yursis Thunder Valley Garage in Parkton, MD. We had a great judging turnout to judge Gus' beautiful 1970 as he would like to take the car through the system and have it judged at the National in Warwick, RI in July 2016. I am happy to report the car scored TOP FLIGHT!



### Social Activities Chairman's Report John Veen and Gus Tsamouras, Co-Chairmen

Since the last Social Activities Report, the Chapter has offered and conducted a few events that were well attended. The events were as follows:

- Saturday, September 19 The Chapter held a judging event at Gerry Yursis' "Thunder Valley Garage" in Parkton, Maryland where Gus Tsamouras' beautiful 1970 Corvette coupe was judged. The turnout was very good and Gus' 1970 Corvette earned a NCRS Top Flight Award. Thanks go to the following Chapter members: Gerry Yursis for the use of his garage; Gus Tsamouras for bringing his 1970 Corvette for judging; Rick Aleshire for scheduling and planning the event; and to the Mason-Dixon Chapter members who helped with the actual judging. In addition, I want to thank those NCRS members who are not Mason-Dixon Chapter members who travelled to help with the judging we REALLY appreciate your assistance!!!
- Sunday, November 8 Len Maiolatesi again organized and coordinated another road tour and brunch to the Wyncote Golf Club in Oxford, Pennsylvania. Chapter members again joined members of the Bel Air Corvette Club for the SECOND road tour to the Wyncote Golf Club in 2015. Many thanks go to Len Maiolatesi who organizes the annual event and also to those Mason-Dixon Chapter members who participated and supported this jointly sponsored Corvette event.
- Saturday, November 21 Chapter members Tim and Trisha Davis coordinated the Annual Fall Dinner General Membership Meeting held at Liberatore's Restaurant in Timonium, Maryland. Special thanks go to the following Chapter members: Tim and Trisha Davis for organizing the dinner and the festivities plus obtaining some door prizes; Steve and Eileen Lesser for helping at the event and for the door prizes; and, Gus Tsamouras for obtaining door prizes from some "new" donors. As usual, the meeting was VERY well attended and was again a lively event.

At the "Annual Fall Dinner General Membership Meeting," there were a few activities/events that were mentioned which deserve some additional attention because they are either underway or will be held in the very near future.

- First, the AACA Museum in Hershey, Pennsylvania currently is conducting an activity which has been underway since November 14 and will continue through January 4, 2016. The event, **Cars and Christmas**, is an annual holiday celebration where decorations adorn the museum on all levels with dozens of decorated holiday trees, several model train displays, specialty vehicles, and much more. By the time you read this, an e-Mail message describing this event will have been sent to all Mason-Dixon Chapter members. If you are interested in going to this event, additional information about this event can be found at the following website: http://www.aacamuseum.org/cars-christmas
- Another event the Chapter has attended in previous years is the Atlantic City Car Auction. Last year a few Mason-Dixon Chapter members travelled to the auction in a van. In 2016 the auction is scheduled for February 26 28. By the time you read this, an e-Mail message describing this event will have been sent to all Mason-Dixon Chapter members. If you are interested in going, additional information about this event can check the following website for information: <a href="http://www.acclassiccars.com/event-schedule-classics.php">http://www.acclassiccars.com/event-schedule-classics.php</a>

• The last event that we will mention is directly related to the history of the Mason-Dixon Chapter. Our thanks go to Glenn and Gail Gitschier for sending an e-Mail message to the Mason-Dixon Board of Directors regarding the first meeting of the Chapter. Based on their e-Mail message, the first meeting of the Chapter occurred on April 25, 1991 at the Manor Tavern which happened to be the location of this year's Chapter "Paid-Up Membership Luncheon." At the last Board of Directors' Meeting on November 4, 2015, the Board members discussed the possibility of having a party to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chapter and to hold the party at the Manor Tavern. A possible date for the event would be Saturday, April 30, 2016 which appears to not be in conflict with any holidays. In January, 2016, the Board of Directors will begin to develop the "2016 Chapter Calendar of Events." An event that will most probably be included in the calendar will be a Chapter 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party. As soon as the date is decided, an e-Mail message will be sent to all Mason-Dixon Chapter members.

Based on previous years, the "2016 Chapter Calendar of Events" will be stocked with many events and activities. As you may recall, last year a change was made in the management of the Social Activities Program. The change created a need for Chapter members to volunteer to serve as Activity/Event Coordinators where they would be responsible for a specific event/activity. Last year we were VERY pleased with Chapter members who volunteered to help and the results were VERY positive. This need will continue in 2016. The tasks of an Activity/Event Coordinator generally are not overly time consuming as it involves only one event/activity and the duration of these events are usually not more than one day at most. The Activity/Event Coordinator will be responsible for taking reservations for the event/activity (if needed) and for responses to questions from other Chapter members about the activity/event. There are Chapter members who will be available to help you with any questions or logistics issues and also to help at the event/activity itself. Remember, if nobody volunteers to serve as an Activity/Event will NOT be conducted.

Now that we have described what needs to be done, it is hoped that the "2016 Chapter Calendar of Events" will be issued shortly in the early part of 2016. As we have stated before, **the Chapter NEEDS YOUR HELP NOW so please volunteer to be an event/activity coordinator ASAP.** One of the many benefits of serving as an Activity/Event Coordinator is the opportunity to meet other Mason-Dixon Chapter members that you may not have previously known which expands your group of friends and strengthen your friendships with other Chapter members which, as we see it, are reasons to join organizations such as the NCRS and the Mason-Dixon Chapter.

Keep an eye out for the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes in the upcoming months and be sure to be on the lookout for the "2016 Chapter Calendar of Events. It should help you decide what Chapter events/activities you want to attend and then to save the dates by marking your calendars. As we are writing this during totally unseasonal weather, consider taking your Corvette out for a spin. After the weather changes and the snow and rain arrives, please be positive and think sunshine and warm weather and get ready to uncover your Corvettes and take them for a spin. And finally, when you do take your Corvettes for a drive, please drive safely and remember to "Save the Wave!!!"

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and our VERY best wishes for a happy, HEALTHY, and prosperous New Year!!!

#### Historian's Report Jerry Blumenthal

Folks, we really do need everyone's help here! This is for everyone to enjoy the past history of our Chapter. If you have any pictures, stories, etc. to share with us all, please let Jerry or any of the BOD know.

#### Website Coordinator's Report Tim Davis / Gus Tsamouras

This month we're going to try something new.... Publish the Newsletter in a single PDF file. It seems that many of our club members now have highspeed or broadband internet access, so we're hoping that the download issues of the past, might well be, well, past us! - Let us know if you can't read this.

#### Restoration of 1965 Dash by Dan Bogarty #47862

To ensure all of the parts were ready for painting, I started by stripping all the old paint off all the metal and fiberglass interior components by using Captain Lee's Stripper. I then washed all the parts down with water, wiped with lacquer thinner, and then give all the parts a final sanding with a light grade 2000 grit sandpaper. And, finally I applied a prepaint degreasser to ensure all the parts were free of all contaminants like oil from my hands, etc.

When I was ready to apply paint, I first sprayed two coats of an Dupont Sprayable High-Build Primer/Surfacer etch primer on all the metal lower windshield trim, radio speaker grill, and kick panel windlace insert. Then I applied three coats of primer to all the interior panels, fiberglass and metal parts. After everything was dry, I sanded the primer with 320 grit sandpaper, then with 500 grit sandpaper to remove the 320 scratch and was left with a smooth paintable surface. Now that all the sanding was finished, it was time to match the interior color to the new dash pads.

One thing you want to be sure of is you don't want to see a two-tone green interior! Maybe in 1965 it was okay, but in 2015, Corvette enthusiasts want to see a perfect interior.

I don't know about you, but I'm never lucky with ordering a can of dye from a Corvette vendor and having the color match. So with the help from a Dupont paint representative and his trusty paint camera, he took a picture of the new dash pads and the camera helped him determine a paint mixing formula. I'll say that was just a start. It did give us a color that was close, but not quite perfect. From there we start tinting the original color.

This color took me six different tries to get the color just right. With interior paint it will take twelve hours to get a true color. It needs to dry completely so the color can flatten out and you can see the final color.

So there was six days of doing spray outs to see how much more adjustments needed to be made to the color. Definitely not a one-day job! In the end when the interior is all in the car and the color matches, it makes it all worth it.

The following pictures show the stripped parts prior to applying the primer and then the 1965 Dupont green paint. There is also a picture of all the six different sprayouts to get to the final color. The samples are the same base color and I just kept adding black and green tints and flattening agent to get the correct shade and the correct gloss level to look like lacquer. It is DuPont vinyl dye. The final picture shows the final installation of the parts into the 1965 dash. Another job well done!















**Official 1989 GM Photo** 

The big news for 1989 was the completely new six speed manual transmission. It was designed for the Corvette by Zahradfabrik Firedshafen A.G. (ZF) a German transmission builder with an excellent background for producing bulletproof transmissions for high horsepower applications. It replaced the "4+3" manual plus overdrive Doug Nash unit that first appeared in 1984 Corvettes. It was a no-cost option (the four speed automatic was standard) with improved shifting characteristics as part of the bargain.

Similar in some ways to the overdrive function of the "4+3" manual, the new transmission featured a Computer Aided Gear Selection (CAGS) system. Under certain circumstances (engine warmed up, speed between 12 - 19 mph, less than 35% throttle) shifting up from first caused fourth gear to be selected. Any other circumstances (in other words, spirited driving) caused the transmission to behave like a conventional six speed. The goal was improved fuel economy and the system resulted in an EPA rating of 16 mpg city / 25 mpg highway rating – and once again the Corvette was not subjected to the gas guzzler tax.

Also new (and overshadowed by the introduction of the six speed) for 1989 was the Selective Ride System (RPO FX3; \$1,695.00). It required the Performance Handling Package (RPO Z51; \$575.00) which was was available only with manual transmission coupes so the price added up. It started a new trend in Corvettes: giving the driver the ability to control suspension settings. Three settings were available – Tour, Sport and Perf[ormance] – controlled by a rotary switch just behind the shifter. Within each mode there were six different settings which varied depending on the speed. The settings were implemented via actuators located in the shock absorbers.



**Official 1989 GM Photo** 

All C4 Corvettes proudly featured a Bowling Green KY assembly plant emblem under the hood. The 17 inch wheels optional for 1988 were promoted to standard equipment in 1989.

The 1989 Corvette continued its mission as a showcase for GM technologies with the optional Low-Tire Pressure Warning Indicator (RPO UJ6; \$325.00). This ingenious system consisted of a tire pressure sensor mounted inside the wheel which, via a built in self-powered radio transmitter, relayed tire pressure data to a receiver in the dashboard. On the other side of the wheel was a weight equal to the transmitter assembly so wheel balance was maintained. A dashboard mounted light warned the driver when tire pressure was low.

A factory sourced hardtop (RPO CC2; \$1,995.00) became available in 1989 and there was a lot to back up the high price. Construction consisted of a composite panel of rigid urethane surrounded by fiberglass which was molded around a structurally sound steel and aluminum cage. A cloth headliner and a heated rear window was included.

# Options

RPO	Description	Production	Price
24S	Removable Roof Panel, blue tint (coupe)	8,748 (33.12%)	\$615
64S	Removable Roof Panel, bronze tint (coupe)	4,042 (15.30%)	\$615
AC1	Power Passenger Seat	20,578 (77.91%)	\$240
AC3	Power Driver Seat	25,606 (96.95%)	\$240
AQ9	Sports Seats, leather	1,777 (6.73%)	\$1,025
AR9	Base Seats, leather	23,364 (88.46%)	\$400
B2K	Callaway Twin Turbo; installed by Callaway, sold and warranted by GM.	67 (0.25%)	\$25,895
B4P	Radiator Boost Fan	20,281 (76.79%)	\$75
C2L	Dual Removable Roof Panels (coupe)	5,274 (19.97%)	\$915
C68	Electronic Air Conditioning Control	24,675 (93.42%)	\$150
CC2	Auxiliary Hardtop (convertible)	1,573 (5.96%)	\$1,995
D74	Illuminated Driver Vanity Mirror	17,414 (65.93%)	\$58
FX3	Selective Ride and Handling, electronic	1,573 (5.96%)	\$1,695
G92	Performance Axle Ratio	10,211 (38.66%)	\$22
K05	Engine Block Heater	2,182 (8.26%)	\$20
KC4	Engine Oil Cooler	20,162 (76.34%)	\$110
MN6	6-Speed Manual Transmission	4,113 (15.57%)	n/a
NN5	California Emission Requirements	4,501 (17.04%)	\$100
UJ6	Low Tire Pressure Warning Indicator	6,976 (26.41%)	\$325
UU8	Stereo System, Delco-Bose	24,145 (91.42%)	\$773
V01	Heavy-Duty Radiator	20,888 (79.09%)	\$40
V56	Luggage Rack (convertible)616 (2.33%)		
Z51	Performance Handling Package (coupe)	2,224 (8.42%)	\$575

**Total Production:** 26,412

**Coupe:** 16,663 (63.09%) **Convertible:** 9,749 (36.91%)

**Notes:** Base Corvette Coupe with 350 cu. in. 245 hp engine and four speed automatic transmission: \$31,545.00.

Base Corvette Convertible with 350 cu. in. 240 hp engine and four speed automatic transmission: \$36,785.00.

**SERIAL NUMBERS:** Coupe Serial Numbers: 1G1YY21x2J5100001 to 1G1YY21x2H5122789 Convertible Serial Numbers: 1G1YY31x2J5100001 to 1G1YY31x2H5122789

# Colors

Code	Exterior	Quantity	Interior	Soft Top
10	White	5,426 (20.54%)	Blue / Black / Gray / Red / Saddle	Black / Saddle / White
20	Medium Blue Metallic	1,428 (5.41%)	Blue / Black	Black / White
28	Dark Blue Metallic	1,931 (7.31%)	Black / Saddle	Black / Saddle / White
41	Black	4,855 (18.38%)	Blue / Black / Gray / Red / Saddle	Black / Saddle / White
68	Dark Blue Metallic	3,409 (12.91%)	Black / Saddle	Black / Saddle / White
81	Bright Red	7,663 (29.01%)	Black / Gray / Red / Saddle	Black / Saddle / White
90	Gray Metallic	225 (0.85%)	Black / Gray	Black / White
96	Charcoal Metallic	1,440 (5.45%)	Black / Gray / Saddle	Black / Saddle / White
Code	Exterior	Quantity	Interior	Soft Top
10	White	5,426 (20.54%)	Blue / Black / Gray / Red / Saddle	Black / Saddle / White
20	Medium Blue Metallic	1,428 (5.41%)	Blue / Black	Black / White

Notes: Not all soft top / interior combinations were available.

# **VEHICLE NUMBERS (Also known as VIN Numbers):** 1G1YY2186K5100001 THRU 1G1YY2186K5126328

# **VIN SUFFIX:**

ZRA: 350 CUBIC INCH, 240/245 HORSEPOWER, MANUAL TRANSMISSION, ENGINE OIL COOLER ZRB: 350 CUBIC INCH, 240/245 HORSEPOWER, AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION ZRC: 350 CUBIC INCH, 240/245 HORSEPOWER, AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, ENGINE OIL COOLER

**Note:** For Callaway Twin-Turbo, Chevrolet engine coding was replaced as follows: First two digits for year, next three digits for Callaway sequence, last four digits to match the last four digits of the vehicle identification number.

#### ENGINE BLOCK NUMBER: 14093638: ALL HEAD NUMBER: 10088113: ALL

# **Komedy Korner**

#### **Church Bulletin Bloopers: Prayers and Illnesses**

Due to the rector's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice.

Mrs. Johnson will be entering the hospital this week for testes.

On a church bulletin during the minister's illness: God Is Good--Dr. Hargreaves is better.

This Sunday morning following services we will have our monthly feelowship.

Said during a congregational prayer when leading prayer for unsaved loved ones: "Father, we just want to pray for our unloved saved ones."

Lift up our Messianic brothers and sisters in Israel who are suffering during our prayer time.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even though he diets, yet shall be live."

On a church postcard: "I have received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I would like a personal call."

Church sign: "Jesus Saves!" Safeway sign across the street: "Safeway saves you more!"

A worm welcome to all who have come today.

Don't miss this Saturday's exhibit by Christian Martian Arts.

Next Friday we will be serving hot gods for lunch.

If you would like to make a donation, fill out a form, enclose a check, and drip in the collection basket.

Applications are now being accepted for 2 year-old nursery workers.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget all His benefits.

# **Bad News About Grandpa**

An elderly man had a massive stroke and the family drove him to the emergency room. After a while the emergency room doctor appeared wearing a long face.

"I'm afraid Grandpa is brain-dead, but his heart is still beating."

"Oh, Dear God," cried the wife, "We've never had a liberal in the family before!"

# **Cajun Confession**

Boudreaux was feeling guilty, so he went to confession. "Father, I kinda took a little lumber from that new construction site."

Priest: "What did you do with the lumber, my son?"

Boudreaux: "Well, Father, my porch, she's had a hole for a long time. I'm 'fraid someone will break their leg, so I fix the hole."

Priest: "Well, that's not so bad."

Boudreaux: "Well, Father, I had a little lumber left."

Priest: "What did you do with it?"

Boudreaux: "Well, my poor dog, Phideaux, he ain't never had no place to get outta the weather, so I make him his own little doghouse."

Priest: "OK, anything else?"

Boudreaux: "Well, Father, I had a little lumber left. So you know, my truck, she ain't never had no place to get outta de weather either, so I make her a two car garage."

Priest: "Now, this is getting a little out of hand." Boudreaux: "Well, Father, I still had a little lumber left."

Priest: "Yes?"

Boudreaux: "Well, my wife, she always want a bigger house. So I add two bedrooms and a new bathroom."

Priest: "OK! That's definitely too much. For your penance, you are going to have to make a Novena. You do know how to make a Novena, don't you?"

Boudreaux: "No, Father... But, if you got the plans, I got the lumber."

# **Better than Botox?**

What's the name of a face lotion developed for Jewish women?

Oil of Oy Vey

# **Two Priests**

The elderly priest, speaking to the younger priest, said "You had a good idea to replace the first four pews with plush bucket theater seats. It worked like a charm. The front of the church always fills first now."

The young priest nodded, and the old priest continued, "And you told me adding a little more beat to the music would bring young people back to church, so I supported you when you brought in that rock 'n roll gospel choir. Now our services are consistently packed to the balcony."

"Thank you, Father," answered the young priest. "I am pleased that you are open to the new ideas of youth."

"All of these ideas have been well and good," said the elderly priest. "But I'm afraid you've gone too far with the drive-thru confessional."

"But, Father," protested the young priest. "My confessions and the donations have nearly doubled since I began that!"

"Yes," replied the elderly priest, "and I appreciate that. But the flashing neon sign, 'Toot 'n Tell or Go to Hell' cannot stay on the church roof!

# Kids' Bible Jokes

Q. Why should we be encouraged by the story of Jonah and the whale?

- A. Because Jonah was down in the mouth, but came out all right.
- Q. When was the first meat mentioned in the Bible?
- A. When Noah took Ham into the ark.

Q. On the Ark, Noah probably got milk from the cows. What did he get from the ducks? A. Quackers.

Q. Why did Noah have to punish and discipline the chickens on the Ark?

A. Because they were using "fowl" language.

Q: How do we know Peter was a rich fisherman? A: By his net income.

# HOW THE INTERNET STARTED, ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE.

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a healthy young wife by the name of Dorothy (Dot for short). Dot Com was a comely woman, large of breast, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighboring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures – Hebrew to The People (HTTP). And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS. And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known. He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are."

And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators."

"YAHOO," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside.

It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

That is how it all began. And that's the truth.

# **Because I Said So!**

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing He said to them was, "Don't."

"Don't what?" Adam asked.

"Don't eat the forbidden fruit," God said.

"Forbidden fruit? We got forbidden fruit? Hey, Eve! We got Forbidden Fruit!"

"No way!"

"Yes WAY!"

"Don't eat that fruit!" said God.

"Why?""Because I'm your Creator and I said so!" said God, wondering why he hadn't stopped after making the elephants.

A few minutes later, God saw the kids having an apple break and was angry. "Didn't I tell you not to eat that fruit?" God asked.

"Uh huh," Adam replied.

"Then why did you?"

"I dunno," Eve answered.

"She started it!" Adam said.

"Did Not!"

"DID so!"

"DID NOT!"

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own.

#### **Supervised Chinese Food**

A rabbi was walking home from the Temple and saw one of his good friends, a pious and learned man who could usually beat the rabbi in an argument. The rabbi started walking faster so that he could catch up to his friend, when he was horrified to see his friend go into a Chinese restaurant (not a kosher one).

Standing at the door, he observed his friend talking to a waiter and gesturing at a menu. A short time later, the waiter reappeared carrying a platter full of spare ribs, shrimp in lobster sauce, crab rangoon, and other *treif* (non-kosher food) that the rabbi could not bear to think about.

As his friend picked up the chopsticks and began to eat this food, the rabbi burst into the restaurant and reproached his friend, for he could take it no longer. "Morris, what is this you are doing? I saw you come into this restaurant, order this filth and now you are eating it in violation of everything we are taught about the dietary laws, and with an apparent enjoyment that does not befit your pious reputation!"

Morris replied, "Rabbi, did you see me enter this restaurant?" The rabbi nods yes.

"Did you see me order this meal?" Again he nods yes.

"Did you see the waiter bring me this food?" Again he nods yes.

"And did you see me eat it?" Nods yes.

"Then, rabbi, I don't see the problem here. The entire thing was done under rabbinical supervision!" Chinese Jews

Sid and Al were sitting in a Chinese restaurant. "Sid," asked Al, "Are there any Jews in China?" "I don't know," Sid replied. "Why don't we ask the waiter?" When the waiter came by, Al said, "Are there any Chinese Jews?" "I don't know sir, let me ask," the waiter replied and he went into the kitchen. He quickly returned and said, "No, sir. No Chinese Jews." "Are you sure?" Al asked. "I will check again, sir." the waiter replied and went back to the kitchen. While he was still gone, Sid said, "I cannot believe there are no Jews in China. Our people are scattered everywhere." When the waiter returned he said, "Sir, no Chinese Jews." "Are you really sure?" Al asked again. "I cannot believe there are no Chinese Jews." "Sir, I ask everyone," the waiter replied exasperated. "We have orange jews, prune jews, tomato jews and grape jews, but no one ever hear of Chinese jews!"

#### **Guilty Conscience**

An elderly Italian Jew wanted to unburden his guilty conscience by talking to his Rabbi. "Rabbi, during World War II, when the Germans entered Italy, I pretended to be a Catholic and changed my name from Levy to Spumoni, and I am alive today because of it."

"Self preservation is allowable, and the fact that you never forgot that you were a Jew is admirable," said the Rabbi.

"Rabbi, during the war, a beautiful Jewish woman knocked on my door and asked me to hide her from the Germans. I hid her in my attic, and they never found her."

"That was a wonderful thing you did, and you have no need to feel guilty."

"It's worse, Rabbi. I was weak and told her she must repay me with sexual favors, which she did, repeatedly."

"You were both in great danger and would have suffered terribly if the Germans had found her. There is a favorable balance between good and evil, and you will be judged kindly. Give up your feelings of guilt."

"Thank you, Rabbi. That's a great load off my mind. But I have one more question."

"And what is that?"

"Should I tell her the war is over?"

# **OOOOPS!!**

The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection. The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, making lewd gestures to the guy in front of you and, cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally . . . I assumed you had stolen the car."