

# High Plains Shifter

Newsletter of the NCRS Rocky Mountain Chapter

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**October 15**

Tech Session

**November 19**

Judging School, Performance Verification PV

**December 10**

Forney Museum Tour

**January 7**

Holiday Party Luncheon



## Join me in congratulating Brad Hillhouse as our next Region VI Director

Greetings Fellow RMC Members:

This edition of the High Plains Shifter is being sent out a little later than normal as I requested Dennis Dalton, our newsletter editor, to hold off publication until after our Board of Directors' (BoD) meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup> so that I could provide some updated information regarding board matters and the Region VI Regional Director election results.

### Chairman's Report

By Rick Reiff

As you are likely aware, there were two candidates running for the Region VI Director position currently held by Ralph Ridge. Brad Hillhouse and John Marsico, both RMC members, ran a tight race with Brad being declared the winner once all the votes were tallied up. Join me in congratulating Brad as our next Region VI Director and wish him all the best in his new position that starts at the beginning of 2023. Also, next time you see Ralph, please think him for being our Regional Director and representing Rocky Mountain Chapter at the National level. Thanks Ralph.

I previously sent out a broadcast memo to the Chapter asking for feedback regarding becoming a National Corvette Museum (NCM) member. To those of you that responded, thanks for taking the time to submit your feedback. To recap, what we've been looking into is joining the NCM. The initial first-year dues are \$250 and thereafter, \$150 per year. Included in our membership are six free admission passes each year for RMC member use. During Board of Director discussion prior to the October technical session new RMC member Dave Carlson said that he would donate the initial dues payment and the RMC BoD



Martin Eagan, Judging Chair at the Chapter Judging meet



subsequently approved joining the NCM. Thanks Dave for your generous support and also for attending the BoD meeting. For more information regarding the NCM please reach out to Barrett Benson, our NCM Ambassador, who also provides related updates in our newsletters.

I would like to remind RMC members that they are welcome to attend/sit in on RMC BoD meetings. We welcome your input and participation. When we have meetings, they typically coincide with Chapter events that are held at Corvette City, so if you are interested in learning more about what is going on with the Chapter feel free to attend.

Have a wonderful holiday season and I hope to see you at upcoming Chapter events.

Rick Reiff  
Chairman



### Judging Chairs Message by Martin Egan

meet. Also, I would like to thank everyone who came and helped and donated their time for the Judging meet. We could not have done it without your support, thank you. The four flight cars all received Top Flight. Brad Hillhouse '94 LT1, Dave Domenico '63, Ron Morgenstern '63, Mike Santarelli '78 Pace Car. I want to thank the owners for bringing their cars to the RMC Judging Meet. If you did not make the Judging Meet you missed some beautiful cars. Up next is a Judging School on November 19th at Corvette City. Hope to see you all there. Later and Save the Wave.

Martin Egan



Chapter meet judging table:  
Left to right - Barrett Benson, Martin Egan, Rick Reiff and Jim Lennartz

## Judging meet at Foundation Chevrolet

Hello RMC members

On August 20th we had a Judging Meet at Foundation Chevrolet in the Cadillac service area. We had four cars for the Flight Judging and one Sportsman car. We had a good turn out from members to help with judging and tabulation as well. I would like to thank Dirk Gaddis for providing the breakfast and lunch for the



### Membership Report by Steve Beatty

**Our current membership is at 135 members.**



Chapter judges John Marsico and Eckhard Pobuta

Our current membership is at 135 members. We have added the following new members since my last report:

- Ed Peacock (year unknown)
- Duane Powers (year unknown)
- Brent von Stein (1991 ZR-1)
- Dave Carlson (1960)

Please extend a welcome to these new members at a future meeting.

It's almost that time of the year to think about renewing your RMC membership. Watch for the 2023 RMC membership dues notices to be emailed out November 1<sup>st</sup> to those members whose memberships are expiring at the end of this year. Renewal online via the National NCRS website is encouraged using this link:

<https://www.ncrs.org/forums/register/chapter-membership.php>

**REMINDER**, you must be a current member of National NCRS to be a member of RMC.

Chapter notices are generally sent out via email using the addresses contained in the National NCRS member database. Accordingly, please make sure your National NCRS profile email address is always up to date to avoid missing Chapter news. Here is a link to your member profile:

<https://www.ncrs.org/forums/register/change-address.php>

### Chapter Top Flight Award

Recent Chapter activities (discussed elsewhere in this newsletter) have been checking off all the requirements for the Chapter to earn another Top Flight Award in 2022. A special thanks to all of the members whose contributions and efforts made it possible for the Chapter to continue its tradition of earning this award. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the remaining scheduled events this year.

Steve Beatty  
Membership Manager



**Editor's Corner**  
By Dennis Dalton

## Events Past and present

Rick asked me to hold off on publication for our 4th quarter newsletter until our board meeting and tech session which was held yesterday as I am writing this.

### Judging Meet

Our Chapter Judging Meet was held at Foundation Chevrolet in Weatridge, CO back on August 20th. We had 4 cars for flight judging: 2 C2, 1 C4 and 1 C3. I have a photo spread on the following pages of the meet. Our judging chair, Martin Egan has a full description of the event and info on the cars that won awards in his report in this newsletter.



Photos by the editor and Rick Reiff



Chairman Rick Reif gives the chapter a review of the board meeting



Gary Steffens, our technical advisor gives a powerpoint presentation on rebuilding a Holly carburetor in his restoration shop. Steve Beatty is sitting next to Gary.



### Tech Session

Our chapter event this month was a tech session on October 15th at 11: Troubleshooting a C2 Holly 4Bbl carburetor. Gary Steffens presented a powerpoint produced by Jack Humphrey where he discussed rebuilding Steve Beatty's 600 series Holley carburetor off of his 66. The session was well attended and many questions were answered.



Brad Hillhouse '94 LT1



Mike Santarelli '78 Pace Car



Dave Domenico '63

*Chapter Judging Meet at Foundation Chevrolet*



Ron Morgenstern '63



## NCM's 28<sup>TH</sup> YEAR... & PLANT TOURS RESUME... ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

**Barrett Benson**  
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corvettemuseum.org  
1-800-538-3883

I returned on September 5<sup>th</sup> from a very enjoyable Labor Day trip to Bowling Green, KY where I joined a most congenial crowd of about 500 fellow Corvette Museum fans to celebrate NCM's 28<sup>th</sup> year. Among many outstanding moments was the Stingray Walk-Around, where Z06 and 70th Anniversary coupes and convertibles were parked with a team of Corvette engineers available to answer all our questions. Invited to hop in a favorite Stingray and dream, I picked a torch red 70th Anniversary convertible... what a dream!



### ASSEMBLY PLANT UPDATE:

I'm pleased to share this most awaited Assembly Plant announcement. Kai Spande, Assembly Plant Manager, began his presentation saying the popular assembly plant public tours will resume in mid-November 2022...and of course he got a rousing ovation from the audience!

Using a plant floor schematic, Kai showed the tour route for viewing various operations. He discussed each area in detail, citing some changes, and highlighting a new viewing experience where Corvette colors are applied to painted parts. To minimize chances of accidental damage while on the line, painted parts are now assembled on the Corvette near the end of the assembly process. Though without access to the actual painting operation, viewers will watch robot applicators in action.

Discussing the intricately designed Stingray assembly, Kai pointed out that production isn't based on when orders are received from dealers. Rather, the line is arranged to intersperse specific models — like Z06s and export Corvettes with right-hand drive — with domestic-market base coupes and convertibles. This carefully planned assembly sequencing yields production efficiency.



Corvette Racing Team  
stock picture - ED

Kai said the NCM and Assembly Plant will honor the thousands of IOUs for those R8C (Museum Delivery) customers who had to postpone their tours due to COVID and the December 2021 tornado that damaged the plant. Tours are not scheduled by the plant, but will continue to be scheduled by NCM for all customers.

Sharon Brawner, NCM President/CEO, said Museum members will be given priority in the tours for a week or two prior to the opening of public tours. When public tours begin, scheduling will be on a first-come basis.

### CORVETTE TEAM UPDATE:

Harlan Charles, Corvette Product Marketing Manager, recapped all the great news surrounding Corvette, noting according to sales Corvette owns 50% of the sportscar market. He covered what's new for the '23 model year.

### ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2022 issues I reported on the Museum's new program highlighting a significant moment in Corvette history, Artifact of the Month. The 4<sup>th</sup> artifact is a specially designed ring celebrating the very first win at the 24 Hours of Le Mans race for the Pratt & Miller Corvette Racing era that produced 8 Le Mans victories, 15 additional racing championships for Corvette Racing, and 8 Corvette Hall of Fame (HOF) inductees!

Gary Pratt and Jim Miller formed Pratt & Miller Engineering in 1989. In 1996, the Corvette Racing era began with the blessing of John Middlebrook, General Manager of Chevrolet, and Herb Fishel (HOF 2015), Director of GM Motorsports. Program Manager Doug Fehan (HOF 2020) connected with Gary Pratt and Jim Miller (both HOF 2022), who would build their race cars based on the all-new C5 Corvette. With test



4<sup>th</sup> Artifact of the Month: Ring Celebrating Pratt & Miller Racing Win at Le Mans

driver Ron Fellows (HOF 2011) they would continue to develop the C5-R until 1999 when they began racing in the new American Le Mans Series. Gary Claudio (HOF 2012), Corvette Marketing Manager, was ready to make sure everyone in the world would take notice.

In 2001, with only two seasons behind them, the two-car Corvette Racing team took the overall win at the 24 Hours of Daytona in the #2 Corvette driven by Ron Fellows, Johnny O’Connell (HOF 2013), and Chris Kneifel. The #3 Corvette came in second-in-class, driven by Dale

Earnhardt, Dale Jr., Andy Pilgrim (HOF 2012) and Kelly Collins. Following the victories, the team then raced at the 24 Hours of Le Mans, and after 24 hours they stood victorious on the podium with first and second place trophies!

Gary Claudio recalls that moment vividly, “standing on the podium looking down at this crowd, this ocean of people, as our National Anthem was played. They were all celebrating with us. They had adopted us. We had come hat in hand, humble, honoring the tradition of Le Mans, and they had accepted us. They loved the sound of that ground-pounding-American thunder and would flock to the fence when our cars would go down the Mulsanne Straight. Watching them now chant “Viva La Corvette” was a profound moment for all of us. We set out to compete internationally and represent GM, the Corvette, and the loyal patrons who loved and drove these cars, and we had won. We made history that day and would go on to do it seven more times.” Claudio said the ring he donated to the Museum commemorating the 1<sup>st</sup> Le Mans win “...represents the hard work of the team, the sweat, the blood, the dedication, the passion, and the love that is best summed up in one word... Corvette.”



Barrett Benson in the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Torch Red Convertible

### AMBASSADOR POINTS

As the NCM Ambassador for the Rocky Mountain Chapter, it is my pleasure to serve you and the NCM in a variety of ways. I am able to achieve the status of Master Ambassador by earning ambassador points each year. I have achieved the Master Ambassador level for each year I have served – usually only 15 to 25% of the ambassadors reach this level. When you inform me by e-mail or in person of the various Museum categories you use, I can submit the points you earn for me. The categories include:

- Insurance (both quotes and purchasing a policy), for each vehicle you insure or get a quote. Note – the insurance is usually a lot less than other insurance programs from other companies
- Purchasing Tickets for the Corvette Raffles offered each month. I always have Corvette Raffle Ticket Forms at each meeting or RMC event
- Attending Museum events during the year such as the Michelin Bash, Anniversary Celebration, etc.
- Becoming a member or renewing your membership
- Purchasing a “brick” for display inside or outside the Museum. Our chapter has a brick located on the walk of fame outside the main entrance.
- Volunteering for various on-site events. The events need volunteers for parking, working in the store, etc. for the events to be successful. I volunteer each time I attend and I will earn points whenever you volunteer your services.
- Donating funds to the NCM





**Merchandise**  
By Eckhard Pobuda

We now have most sizes of the heather gray ring spun t-shirts, blue silk touch polo shirts, royal blue sweatshirts, gray sweatshirts with embroidered logos. This includes: Heather Charcoal Ring Spun Short Sleeve T-Shirts (Pic 1); Black Heather Silk Touch Long Sleeve T-Shirts (Pic 2); Blue Silk Touch Short Sleeve Polo Shirts (Pic 3); Royal Blue Long Sleeve Sweatshirts (Pic 4). All of this merchandise is available in all sizes. Also, we have replenished the inventory of several of our popular items such as the Chambray Shirts with embroidered pockets and Black Short Sleeve T-Shirts with embroidered pockets. Prices are shown in the attached Merchandise Inventory.

Contact  
Eckhard @ [epobuda@aol.com](mailto:epobuda@aol.com).

Item	Value	Color
2015 National Cooler	\$10.00	Blue
<b>Aprons</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	
Challenger Jacket (SM - XL)	\$82.50	Red/Navy
Challenger Jacket (SM - XL)	\$82.50	Black/Black
Challenger Jacket (SM - XL)	\$82.50	Blue/Navy
Challenger Jacket (XXL - XXXL)	\$85.00	Red/Navy
Challenger Jacket (XXL - XXXL)	\$85.00	Black/Black
Challenger Jacket (XXL - XXXL)	\$85.00	Blue/Navy
<b>Fleece Vests</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>	<b>Red</b>
Fleece Vests	\$35.00	Blue
Fleece Vests	\$35.00	Black
<b>Hats</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>Black</b>
Hats	\$15.00	Black/Red
Hats	\$15.00	Brown
Hats	\$15.00	Beige
Hats	\$15.00	Beige/Green
Hats	\$15.00	Beige/Black
<b>Hat Pins</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>	
<b>Pocket Knife</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>	
<b>Polo Shirt - Short Sleeve</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>	<b>Red</b>
Polo Shirt - Short Sleeve	\$30.00	Blue
Polo Shirt - Short Sleeve	\$30.00	White
Polo Shirt - Short Sleeve - Silk Touch (SM - XL)	\$25.00	Blue
Polo Shirt - Short Sleeve - Silk touch (XXL - XXXL)	\$30.00	Blue
<b>Subtotal Polo Shirts</b>		
<b>RMC Window Sticker</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>	

Chambray Shirt (SM - XL)	\$35.00	Denim
Chambray Shirt (XXL - XXXL)	\$40.00	Denim
Chambray Shirt -Short Sleeve	\$30.00	Denim
<b>Shopcoats - 38R</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>	
Shopcoats - 40R	\$35.00	
Shopcoats - 42R	\$35.00	
Shopcoats - 52R	\$35.00	
Shopcoats - 54R	\$35.00	
Shopcoats - 56R	\$35.00	
Shopcoats - 58R	\$35.00	
<b>Sweatshirt (SM - XL)</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>Gray</b>
Sweatshirt (XXL - XXXL)	\$25.00	Gray
Sweatshirt (SM - XL)	\$25.00	Royal Blue
Sweatshirt (XXL - XXXL)	\$25.00	Royal Blue
<b>T-Shirts - SS - Embroidered w/Pocket (SM - XL)</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>Black</b>
T-Shirts - SS - Embroidered w/Pocket (XXL - XXXL)	\$20.00	Black
T-Shirts - Short Sleeve -Stenciled	\$10.00	Gray
<b>T-Shirts -Ring Spun SS -Stenciled (SM - XL)</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>Heather Charcoal</b>
T-Shirts - Ring Spun SS -Stenciled (XXL - XXXL)	\$15.00	Heather Charcoal
<b>T-Shirts - Silk Touch LS -Stenciled (SM - XL)</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>Black Heather</b>
T-Shirts - Silk Touch LS -Stenciled (XXL - XXXL)	\$18.00	Black Heather



Pic. 3



Pic. 1



Pic. 4



Pic. 2

Membership in the NCRS is open to persons interested in the restoration, preservation and history of the Corvette produced by the Chevrolet Motor Division of General Motors Corporation from 1953 through 1996. NCRS is not affiliated with Chevrolet or General Motors.

Membership in the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the NCRS is open to all members of the NCRS National organization. Dues are \$30.00 for each year. First year dues entitle the new member to purchase a Chapter ball cap at a discount.

Advertising in the Rocky Mountain Chapter Newsletter is free to all active members, for all Corvette related items or Corvettes for sale. Commercial advertising rates for the Newsletter are \$15.00 for a business card, \$25.00 for a ¼ page, \$40.00 for a ½ page and \$60.00 for a full page. All rates are quoted for 4 issues or one-year printing. Contact the editor for further information. All editorial material can be sent to the editor.

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