



## Heart of Ohio Chapter Newsletter

Volume 3 issue 11

The Front End

November 2006

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### Chairman's Message

Heart of Ohio Chapter-NCRS members in the past I have written about Corvette events past, present and future. However this time, with a heavy heart, I wish to pay tribute to Stew Van Kirk, a short term Heart of Ohio Chapter Secretary/Board Member, Friend and fellow car enthusiast.

As I have communicated to you in past e-mail messages, Stew was fighting this past summer with stage four colon cancer. During Stew's bout with cancer, in late September, Stew underwent cardio vascular bypass surgery on top of having to wage war with his cancer spreading disease. I visited Stew at the Ohio State University hospital a few times and, as I recall, Stew did little talking on how he felt. Stew never volunteered his feelings of pain or suffering but, like a Special Forces soldier, kept his emotions hidden from friends and family. Well, Stew Van Kirk passed away this past Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> in the late evening hours.

Stew, from what I have come to know, was a very quiet, humble, self-made man. I have found out much of this quiet man, aside from his passion for cars. Stew was an Army man in the 101<sup>st</sup> Air Borne unit then joined the Special Forces graduating from Kentucky Military Institute. Stew had spent 27 plus years in the Army, achieving rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After retiring from the Army, Stew attended Ohio Dominican College obtaining a degree as a CPA. Stew has a son; Stewart M. Jr. Stew Jr. who is married to Elena with son Jason and lives in Greece where he is employed as a programmer. I find it hard to correct programs in English in the US; I can't imagine the headaches with a language barrier to boot and having to deal in Greek. Stew had been caring for his mother at home and come to find out Stew has an older brother Tom that comes over to care for mom as well.

Stew was a collector of many items, HO trains, military manuals, Model "A" Ford, Ford parts and special equipment. Stew has a few model "A" bodies and parts in his four-stall over-loaded garage. Stew had collected a single 55 "T" bird with a recent October purchase of "T" bird parts to satisfy the bird craving. Stew's latest passion turns out to be Corvettes. We will have to forgive Stew for thinking "Ford" but it was still a car passion. Stew's stable of Corvettes included a recent purchase of a low mileage ruby red 1993 C4, a bright yellow C3 Shark better know as "Sponge Bob" and a gray 290 horse, 57' project Corvette.

Stew has been married to Pam for a couple of years now. Pam and Stew met at a company they both worked at. Pam to me has always watched over Stew like a mom with a mom and child relationship. Pam, bless her soul, as of late played nurse to both Stew and Stew's mom. I find that Pam was the practical half of their relationship and Stew was more the silent stubborn half. I really met Pam at a Heart of Ohio Chapter tour of Trim Parts in Lebanon, Ohio. It was a most memorable meeting after our tour but, since that meeting we still laugh about the encounter.

In the months of July August and September a group of Heart of Ohio Chapter members had begun assisting Stew in achieving the goal of restoring Stew's 57' C1 Corvette. The 57' is in a project state but with most of the major costs completed. The body is in great shape, painted, the frame painted, the engine painted and nearly complete. What needs to be accomplished is the assembly and finding out the little parts that maybe missing.

I wish to thank Gary Brown, for his helpful words that gave Pam the knowledge and insight on what to do at this time of crises. Also, to all those



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that came out to give respect and provide condolences to Pam at Stew's services. And, to those that helped with Project Van Kirk 57', Barry Dowdy, Herb Harlton, Perry Yasher, Randy Rink, Steve Steffensen, Janice and Bob Le Gault. If I missed anyone I apologize.

I have it from Pam as Stew's last wish that if the Heart of Ohio Chapter members could find it in their Hearts to continue with Van Kirk Project 57'. I wish to display and present a plan to complete Van Kirk Project 57' at the November's general meeting.

Please help me Save the 57' Wave!

In honor of Lt. Colonel Stew M. Van Kirk!

G. Lou Zuniga  
Heart of Ohio Chapter NCRS  
President/Chair

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## November Events

November 11 HoO Chapter Meeting, Election of Officers  
and 2007 Program Development  
November 18-19 Chevy Vette Fest – Chicago, IL

## Chapter Meeting Notes

The Heart of Ohio Chapter held its best ever Chapter Judging Meet on Friday and Saturday October 13th and 14th at member Dan and Karen Singer's Broadway Center in Lancaster, Ohio. There were a total of 40 people in attendance with sixteen of them being HoO members, spouses or dependents. Twenty-three served as judges. Eight cars were entered for flight judging (2 C-1's, 4 C-2's, 1 C-3 and 1 C-4) plus two Sportsmen.



Registrants came from as far away as northern and southern Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana and West Virginia. Other NCRS Chapters represented were Pittsburgh, Miami Valley, Queen City and Lake Erie. Six Top Flight Awards were earned.

The events of the weekend began Friday afternoon with three cars arriving for their operations check. Members Rink, Zuniga, Singer, Eyl (Joe and Mary Carol) and Harlton were there to greet them and to get things set-up for Saturday's judging. Later that evening we all headed over to the Glass City Barbeque for dinner and libations.



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Early the next morning (6:30am) things got underway as the registrants and judges started to arrive. Dan Singer had the coffee perking and Randy Rink had a great breakfast buffet brought in. By 8:30 everyone had arrived and Randy held the judges and owners meeting. The morning's judging session began promptly following this meeting and ran until about noon. Lunch was again brought in – by a second caterer – and it too was great with plenty of good food for all.



After lunch the judging continued until about 3:00 and then, while the results were being tabulated, it

was time for a technical seminar by Steve Hack of Eastern Corvettes. His topic was rebuilding “Corvette Wheel Bearing and Trailing Arm Rebuilding”. As usual Steve had many good tips and plenty of examples to talk from and to pass around for us to look at. Plus he had an excellent “leave behind” how-to pamphlet that summarized many of the things he told us.



When Steve's tech seminar was over Randy called the group together one last time to announce the Flight Awards. They were as follows:

Name	Year Corvette	Award
Noel Grace	1967	Top Flight
Dal Metzger	1967	Top Flight
Tom McKeever	1967	Top Flight
Vic Cubellis	1967	Top Flight
Merle Campbell	1972	Top Flight
Roger Zrimsek	1991	Top Flight





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It was a great Chapter Meet and by some accounts the best that Heart Of Ohio has ever had. Thanks go out to all of the Judges and volunteer workers with special thanks to new members Dan and Karen Singer for the use of their great facility in Lancaster. And finally, to the person who made this all happen, congratulations and a very special thanks to our Judging Chair, Randy Rink.

**And thanks to Priscilla Rink for the use of her pictures.**

Herb Harlton, Publications Chair

### **Winterizing Tips**

Jim Salvino passed along the following link to a great article at Corvette Action Center.

### **Long-Term / Winter Storage Truth, Myth and Fallacies**

<http://www.corvetteactioncenter.com/tech/care/storage.html>

### **Authors Wanted**

Do you have anything that is Corvette or car related you want to share with our members? A special vendor you found, a tip on how to fix something, a

story about a corvette experience. Anything you think might be of value or interest. **We welcome your contributions!**

Please take a few minutes and send me an email. I will be glad to put your article into our Newsletter. You can reach me at [Herb@harltons.com](mailto:Herb@harltons.com) or (614) 847-0774.

### **Moving?**

Let us know if your mailing address or your e-mail address has changed so, we can update our records and keep you up to date. **Please send changes to Garry Brown our acting Membership Chairman:**

Garry Brown  
614-793-9467  
[tpgdirop@aol.com](mailto:tpgdirop@aol.com)



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### HoO Vendor List

Help others find quality services and vendors. Share your good experiences by contributing to our list. Send me listings for your favorite vendors. HH

#### Aluminum Arc Welding

Ohio Trailer Supply Inc.  
2966 Westerville Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43224  
PH: (614) 471-9121

#### Brakes & Fuel Lines

Fine Lines, Inc.  
127 Hartman Rd.  
Wadsworth, OH 44281  
Phone 800 778-8237

#### Corvette Reproduction Parts

Corvette Central  
P.O. Box 16  
13550 Three Oaks Road  
Sawyer, MI 49125  
Phone 800-345-4122

#### Corvette Parts, Service & More

Corvette Corner  
1661 E Dublin-Grandville Rd.  
Columbus, Oh 43229  
Phone 614 888-6688

Columbus Corvette  
572 S. Nelson Road Building Q  
Columbus, OH 43205  
Phone 614 253-0066  
(Fuel injection adjustment)

#### Corvette Parts & Instrument Restorations

Corvette Specialties of Maryland  
1912 Liberty Road  
Eldersburg, MD 21784  
Phone 410 795-3180

#### Corvette Reproduction Parts

Trim Parts Inc.  
2175 Deerfield road.  
Lebanon, OH. 45036  
Phone (513) 934-0815  
[sales@trimparts.com](mailto:sales@trimparts.com)

Long Island Corvette Supply Inc.  
1445 Strong Avenue S.  
Copiague, NY. 11726  
Phone 800 466-6367

Mid America Motorworks  
#1 Mid America Place  
P.O. Box 1368  
Effingham, IL 62401  
Phone 800 500-1500

Paragon Reproductions  
8040 S. Jennings Road  
Swartz Creek, MI 48473  
Phone 810 6554641

#### Electrical Components

Lectric Limited  
6750 W. 74th Street - Suite A  
Bedford Park, IL 60638  
Phone 708 563-0400

M&H Electric Fabricators, Inc.  
13537 Alondra Blvd.  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
Phone 562 926-9552

#### Frame Repair

Ferris Frame Restoration  
11183 Broad St. Southwest  
Pataskala, OH. 43062  
Phone 740-927-2299

#### Glassworks & Stainless Steel

The Hardtop Shop  
238 Spring Run Road  
Crescent, PA. 15046  
Phone 888 340-7812

#### Holley Carburetor Restoration

Holley Custom Speed Shop  
509 Industrial Drive  
Springfield, TN 37172  
Phone 888 465-5395

#### Horn Restorations

The Horn Works  
967 Hackett Street  
Beloit, WI 53511  
Phone 608 361-0095

#### Interior & Upholstery

Al Knoch  
9010 North Desert Blvd  
Canutillo, Texas 79835  
Phone 800 880-8080

#### Metal Acid Dipping

US Metal Processing  
1089 Claycraft Rd.  
Columbus, OH 43230  
Phone 614 575-1806



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### **Oil & Fluid Services**

Valvoline Service Center  
2609 Dublin-Granville Road  
Columbus, OH.  
1-614-899-9222  
Discount to Corvette owners  
State your are a member of the  
Corvette Alliance

### **Paint & Body Shop**

Murphy's Classic Restorations  
841 Clubview Drive  
Dover, OH 44622  
Phone 330-343-8778  
Fax 330-364-5988  
Web Murphysclassics.com

### **Powder Coating**

Columbus Custom Powder Coating  
915 Distribution drive  
Columbus, OH 43228  
Phone 614 276-6181

### **Radio & Clock Repair**

Radio & Clock Repair  
D&M Restoration  
46 Grand Ave.  
Greenville, SC 29607  
Phone 800 722-0854

### **Radiator Repair**

Hedrick Auto Radiator Inc.  
2733 Morse Rd.  
Columbus, OH 43231  
Phone 614 475-3048

### **Suspension & Brakes**

Precision Engineering  
3111 Fortune Way Suite B-13  
Wellington, FL. 33414  
Phone 888 748-0362

### **Transmission Repair**

Scott's Transmissions  
7186 Broad Street S.W.  
Pataskala, Ohio 43062  
PH: (740) 927-5886

### **Weather Strip & Rubber Products**

Corvette Rubber  
10640 W. Cadillac Road  
Cadillac, MI 49601  
Phone 888 216-9412

### **Wheel Alignment**

Bee-Line Alignment Service  
1030 Harmon Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43223  
Phone 614 443-7681

NTB/Tire Kingdom  
2195 Baltimore-Reynoldsburg Road  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068  
Phone 614 863-6926

### **Window Sticker Reproductions**

Triple A Enterprises  
P.O. Box 8463  
Bloomington, IN 47408  
Phone 812 245 8252  
<http://www.window-sticker.com>



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### Calendar Of Events

**Dates in Bold are Heart of Ohio Chapter events**

Dates underlined are NCRS chapter events

*Dates in italics are other Corvette related events*

Dates in italics and underlined are **Corvette Alliance** events

#### **November 2006**

**November 11** HoO Chapter Meeting, Election of Officers and 2007 Program Development

*November 18-19 Chevy Vette Fest – Chicago, IL*

#### **December 2006**

**December 9** HoO Holiday Party

#### **January 2007**

January 17-19 NCRS Florida Winter Regional Meet – Kissimmee, Florida

#### **April 2007**

April 17-19 NCRS Tennessee Regional Meet – Chattanooga, Tennessee

#### **July 2007**

July 22-26 NCRS National Convention – Boston (Marlborough), Massachusetts

#### **May 2008**

May 15-18 NCRS Michigan Regional Meet – Novi, Michigan

#### **June 2008**

June 12-14 NCRS Pennsylvania Regional Meet – Seven Springs, Pennsylvania



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## **HEART OF OHIO CHAPTER OFFICERS**

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**SECRETARY:**

**TREASURER:**

**JUDGING CHAIRMAN:**

Randy Rink  
740-243-2538  
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