

A Parade of Astronauts and Corvettes

by Paul Stenquist - New York Times

A group of current and former NASA astronauts gathered in Cocoa Beach, Fla., on Saturday to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Alan Shepard's suborbital flight. The event was marked by a parade, with the astronauts riding in a fleet of Chevrolet Corvettes that included examples of the sports car's six design iterations.

The astronauts rode in Corvettes that corresponded with the time period of their space missions. Scott Carpenter, who in 1962 became the second American to make an orbital flight, sat on the rear deck of a C1 Corvette convertible, while Susan Kilrain, a crew member from multiple missions in the space shuttle Columbia in the '90s, rode in a C5.

Corvettes, because of some healthy shoves from General Motors and an enterprising Chevrolet dealer in Florida, have been an integral part of astronaut lore for decades. However, Mr. Shepard seems to have initiated the relationship when he arrived for astronaut training in April 1959 in his 1957 Corvette. After Mr. Shepard completed the 1961 mission, Edward N. Cole, a G.M. executive, rewarded him with a specially prepared 1962 model.

JULY 2011



Enter the racecar driver Jim Rathmann, who opened a Chevrolet-Cadillac dealership near the Space Center in 1961. Seeing a publicity opportunity, Mr. Rathmann developed a special lease arrangement that put numerous astronauts behind the wheel of Corvettes.

Later, when three Apollo 12 astronauts were photographed atop their identical Riverside Gold coupes for a Life magazine feature story, space-program directors reportedly fretted that the Corvette/NASA tie-up could be construed as a product endorsement.

But the relationship, celebrated in film and print, has endured, as it did in Cocoa Beach on Saturday.

2011 EVENT SCHEDULE

August 13	Terminator	Dutoit's in Salem, OR
August 14	XXX All Corvette Show	Issaquah, WA
August 27	BC Chapter Meet	Keith Bramhill's in White Rock, BC
Sept 9	Open House	Larry Johnson's in Olympia, WA
Sept 11	Kirkland Concours d'Elegance	Carillon Point Kirkland, WA
Oct 6-8	Regional Meet	Sacramento, CA
Oct 22	Judging School/Mini-Meet	Dan Johnson's in Woodinville, WA
Dec 4	Holiday Event	Brock's Oak Tree in Woodland, WA

Area Coordinator Report

by Mike Doty

The annual eastern Washington chapter judging school was moved this year to the wonderful home of Gary and Annette Christensen. Outside of the rain that made an appearance midway through judging, we had a great event on May 21st. We invited the 3 Rivers Corvette Club to the event to introduce the NCRS to other Corvette owners. A few National members and other Corvette owners from the Tri-Cities showed up to learn more about NCRS as well as view Annette and Gary's big game trophy room and their car collection. A few of these members have been longtime members but had not been to an NCRS event before. We had a car withdraw from judging shortly before the meet but we still were able to judge Pete Bansmer's '67 convertible. I wish to thank Pete for allowing us the opportunity to examine his car.

A few of the chapter members are headed out on the road tour to Michigan and will enjoy the festivities and cars in Novi, Michigan.



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Please check www.nwnrcs.org for updated information.

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**Northwest Chapter NCRS
Board of Directors Meeting
Corvette and High Performance Shop
Olympia, WA
June 26, 2011 3:24pm**

Members Present:

Mike Benner, Suzanne Benner, Bob Johansen, Valerie Johansen, Larry Richter, Arland Dower, Kay Dower, Wayne Loron and David Artz

Minutes from the previous meeting were motioned and approved as written.

Discussion on a treasurer to replace Larry Richter at year end. Carl Davidson's name was brought up but members did not think that he wanted the job. Gail Down's name came up and Mike Benner will talk to her.

Regional 2012: Mike Benner had questions:

Gifts for attendees: we have no sponsors so members felt that it was not that important.

Welcome reception: members felt that the welcome reception was very important and we should include a nice reception for the attendees.

Tee shirts/Sweat shirts: Valerie agreed to do the items for the regional. Kay Downer agreed to do the logo.

Silent Auction: Larry Richter will do auction again.

Terminator party: party and pot luck is coming up.

Holiday party: Mike Benner proposed that we honor Larry Richter who has been chapter officer for over twenty years. Prizes for best picture of Larry will be given. We will probably "roast" him.

Newsletter: members of the chapter may advertise cars and parts for sale.

Financial: Larry Richter said that the chapter is in "good shape." Available funds are approximately \$25,400.00.

Regional Director: Arland Dower said that he would not be running for another term.

2014 Regional: David Artz brought up the possibility of the new Lemay Museum in Tacoma. Members seemed receptive to the idea. He and Mike Doty will gather more information and report back to the board.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45pm.

Respectfully submitted:
David Artz
Secretary

From the Editor

Mike Benner's monthly message was unavailable as this issue went to press so I found the article "A Parade of Astronauts and Corvettes" in the New York Times the other day. I enjoy the NYT because it just about covers any subject a person can be interested in. I guess it has to since the Big Apple is made up of so many kinds of people. I love the internet. When it's time for another edition of the Front Bumper, I just google "Corvette news" and in seconds time I have more articles than Toyota has recalls.

Anyway back to the "A Parade of Astronauts and Corvettes" article - I remember watching the liftoff of Alan Shepard in the Freedom 7 rocket. I was in first grade and the school custodian rolled a black and white TV into the gymnasium. The screen was probably all of 27" inches but it didn't matter to the 200 kids crowding around the TV - history was being made and we wanted to see it. Just imagine if someone had the foresight to broadcast the first Corvette driving off Chevy dealer's lot. I bet that would look real good on a 60" plasma screen.



Collector!car expert Keith Martin founded Corvette Market magazine to provide today's serious Corvette collectors with an accurate# fact!filled resource to help them with their collecting\$

In the %& years we have been covering the market# as the publishers of Keith Martin's Sports Car Market # we have recorded over %%# ' ' ' Corvette sales in our databases\$

So we assembled a top!flight team of Corvette experts# and three years ago created Corvette Market\$

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As the Corvette market continues to mature# and collectors are demanding ever more documentation as they are asked to pay higher prices# CM strives to be part of your own personal collecting resource library\$

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We've found Corvette owners to be among the most knowledgeable enthusiasts anywhere# and your comments and questions are welcomed\$ Thank you for joining us\$ We promise you'll enjoy the ride\$

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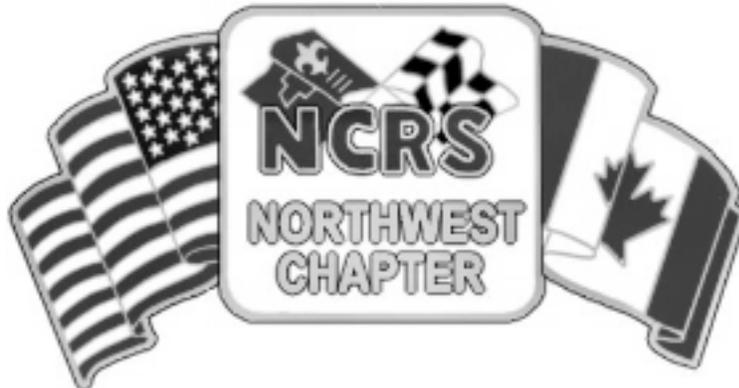
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Vice Chairman • Mike Doty • corvettemikenw@charter.net • 509.480.0790
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Membership Chairperson • Tammy Shirley • membership@nwnocrs.org • 509.560.0250
Newsletter Editor • Peter Jens Berger • editor@nwnocrs.org • 971.570.1284
Webmaster • Mike Doty • webmaster@nwnocrs.org • 509.480.0790

AREA COORDINATORS

Boise Area - Eastern Oregon & Southern Oregon
Bert Lukens • abclukens@aol.com • 541.330.0277
Eugene Area - Willamette Valley & Southwestern Oregon
Chuck Dutoit • vetfuelie@gmail.com • 503.393.3928
Portland Area - Northwestern Oregon & Southwestern Washington
David Hughes • mlcorvettes@yahoo.com • 503.668.3693
Seattle Area - Northwestern Washington & Puget Sound
Bob Johansen • rjohansen@comcast.net • 425.869.9533
Spokane Area - Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, Eastern Washington & Northwest Idaho
Mike Doty • corvettemikenw@charter.net • 509.480.0790

ADVISORS TO THE BOARD (non-voting)

Past Chairman • Wayne Loron • judgingchairman@nwnocrs.org • 253.638.6763
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Region VIII Representative - AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, AB, BC & SK
Arland Dower • akadower@comcast.net • 360.896.5334



Founded December 12, 1978
Circulation 150
www.nwnocrs.org

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THE CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE - 1974 Corvette T-top, Metallic Dark Brown / Lt. Saddle Leather, numbers matching 350 L-82, Auto, A/C, PS, PB Tilt/Tele, AM/FM, map light, owner, 52,000 miles, NCRS Top Flight, very original w/documentation \$29,500 Jim 503-590-6049 or jim74L82@gmail.com NCRS Member #43688

FOR SALE - A Tommys aluminum enclosed car trailer. Interior is 20 ft long, 8 ft wide and 6 ft tall with a V-nose of about 5 ft. Overall length is 27 ft and width is 8? ft. Tires are new and bearings and brakes have just been serviced. For more details and pictures, go to craigslist, Olympic Pen, search for "aluminum enclosed car trailer". Asking \$14,900, but contact us directly at 360-681-0286 or spence@olympus.net for a lower NCRS member price. John & Nancy Spence, Sequim, WA

Northwest Chapter of NCRS, Inc.
19048 SW Salmonberry Dr.
Sherwood, OR 97140

Address Correction Requested

