

THE RED LINE NEWSLETTER



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DECEMBER 2009



"CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL UPCOMING EVENTS"

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Club Photographers : *Joanne Kun*
Barry Keohan

SAVE THE DATE

North Shore Corvettes Membership
HOLIDAY PARTY - SATURDAY - JANUARY 30, 2010

At the Fairways at Woburn Country Club

More info to follow

SAD NEWS

Our sympathy goes out to Leo & Louise LeBlanc and their family as Leo's mother has passed away this month.

Our sympathy goes out to Howie & Cheryl Brown and their family as Howie's mother has passed away this month.



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NSCM Member

EXPIRES 11-09

Newsletter: Submit before the
25th of the month

Please send all info to: doncowan57@comcast.net

NOTES FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

Ho, Ho, Ho! It's that time of year again.

Whether you celebrate Christmas or Chanukah or Kwanza or "Boop-Boop-Ba-Doop" Day, have a Happy Holiday Season, Kids! Your e-board wishes you all a season of Happiness, Warmth, Love and Good Fellowship. Besides the gift giving, this is the time of year we appreciate our buddies all the more. We usually have put our Corvettes away for their winter slumber and so all we have is each other. Realizing this, each year your e-board tries to come up with activities to put some fun in your Winter Doldrums.

We're planning on doing some Tech Sessions at Herb Chambers Chevrolet. They are well-located (right down the street from the Sylvan Street Grille) and their General Manager, Jim Klimas has agreed to open their shop up for some new Tech Sessions. We have some ideas cooking but if you have an idea for a Tech Session, let us know. Just because the Vettes are put away, does not preclude us from a session on a sheet metal car. After all, automotive technology is automotive technology. Besides, we all drive steel cars – that's why we love the plastic ones! Stay tuned so we can get you the latest information as these sessions are developed.

I have communicated with RimPro, our wheel supplier to ask about a tour of their process facility in Tewksbury and a dissertation on how they seem to magically restore our wheels. It's an exacting process that involves as much art as science. One critical error and you could end up with a wheel that presents a danger to your travel safety. This is why we value our relationship with Adam and Jim at RimPro. Perhaps a late winter or early springtime tour can be arranged. Again, we'll keep you informed.

Have you heard about the North Shore Corvettes of MA Annual Holiday Party (2010), planned for January 30th? It's going to be simply stupendous! We're going to have acrobats, dancing girls, a fly-over by a wing of B-52's, a 12-Man Holiday Chorus from the internationally renowned Boston Saengerfest Men's Choir and . . . Well, it's actually going to be some great food amid some very nice surroundings (Woburn Country Club), in the company of your favorite Corvette buddies from North Shore Corvettes of MA plus music (courtesy of the talented Pat Ferullo and the beautiful John Cabral). Oh, by the way, (this is no fooling) we WILL have a 12-Man Holiday Chorus from the internationally renowned Boston Saengerfest Men's Choir, thanks to our own Jim Burns, a member of that group. (I don't want to suggest that Jimmy B's a talented singer but when he takes a shower, they sell tickets!) Our thanks go to Diane Crovo and to her party planning committee for setting this all up. Please note — your e-board has decided to keep tickets at only \$25.00 per person. This is less than the cost of the meal and is a real bargain. (I paid more than that to listen to Jimmy Burns taking a shower last week!) Watch for your party announcement and ticket form.

At the November meeting, I mentioned the family loss endured by Leo & Louise LeBlanc and the health hurdles overcome by our own John Toce. At that meeting we were saddened to learn of the passing of Howard Brown's mom. Whenever we get information about an illness or a death affecting our club members, the call goes out to Karen Blandini to respond with an appropriate expression to that member and family. Karen never fails and is immediate in her response. Thank you, Karen. We appreciate your work behind the scenes and Tony's support of your work. One favor, please – please put in for the cost of postage and for the cost of the cards. Your time, always when needed, is generosity enough! When you folks see Karen and Tony at a NSCM event, take a moment to thank them for their efforts.

Speaking of special efforts, how about that Patrick Ferullo?! When the Elks Hall was not available for the November meeting, he invited us to hold our club meeting in the loft of his new garage. You've got to see this place. It's more like a "Garage-Mahal"! Thank you Pat and to Linda Flannery for your hard work and hospitality. It was another pleasant meeting with smiles from start to finish. (One down note – Pat ran out of time on this garage project. We'll have to wait for next year for the installation of the bowling alley!)

Another great part of our meeting was seeing all those swell toys being brought in for the "Toys for Tots" campaign. We will collect more at our December meeting and will then take them all to the Massachusetts State Police for conveyance to the United States Marine Corps. If you cannot make it to that meeting you can send your unwrapped toy (plus any needed batteries) with another NSCM member. One last thing – Thank you all for the generosity you and your fellow NSCM members have shown this year toward children's causes and toward our veterans. Gee, I'm proud to be a member of this club!

Well, that covers some of it. It's getting really late and I need to send this in to Don Cowan or he'll beat me up! Here's hoping you Kids had a Happy Thanksgiving. See ya!

With a wave,

— Rich Gureghian

How about you? Do you have an idea for an event or a cruise that you'd like to see developed? If so, please let me know or bring it up at the next cruise night or club meeting. Remember this is your club . . . so let's hear from you!



NSCM MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTES:

November 19, 2009

Start time: 7:32 PM

Adjourn time: 8:41 PM

E-Board Members Present:

Richard Gureghian	President
Don Cowan	Vice-President
Dan Crovo	Secretary
Barry Keohan	Treasurer
Pat Ferullo	Cruise Night Director



E-Board Member Absent:

Joe Generazzo	Membership Director
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President Rich Gureghian opened the meeting at 7:32 PM.

Agenda Items:

Welcome/New Member Introductions & Announcements – LeBlanc Family Loss; our sympathy to Leo on the loss of his mother. Cheryl Brown's husband Howie lost his mother on Monday. Our sympathies go out to them.

1. John Toce getting well, recovering from surgery. New members; Richard and Valerie McKusker 2001 Metallic Gray Coupe. Tony and Diane Liburdi.

2. Member Announcements – Joe is absent, Don reports 141 members at this time.

3. Treasurer's Report — Treasurer Barry Keohan made the report which was accepted as read.

4. Secretary's Report – Secretary Dan Crovo requested a motion to accept the secretary's report as it appears in the Red Line newsletter. A motion was made, seconded and accepted.

5. Vice President's Report – Don Cowan noted that at the Holiday Party committee meeting there was discussion regarding membership. Currently the renewal is \$35 + \$15 for a second household member. A proposal is to charge \$50 per household (includes 1 or two 2 people) and eliminates the 35/15. A vote was taken and it was accepted by all present.

6. NCM & Ambassador – Barry reported that at the beginning of cruise nights he will begin to obtain NCM Corvette raffle tickets that will be for sale at cruise nights.

7. Business –

End of Season Cruise – 01 November Cruise to Hotel Northampton for Sunday Brunch. Dan Crovo led and his wife Diane navigated. 18 cars and 35 members & friends.

Club Sponsorship Update – Rich reported he has had two meetings with the general manager of Herb Chambers Chevrolet. Pat Ferullo and he attended the 1st meeting, Rich attended the second on his own. Rich told the general manager sponsorship would require a transfer of funds, especially since at the end of this term, Don Cowan will not be doing the web site and that function will need to be funded. Rich also noted we would like to have the dealership hold Tech Sessions and offer discounts on service and parts. Rich is not going to provide the dealer with a roster of club members. If the dealership is interested in getting the word out on anything, it can be done via the E-Board. Rich will keep the club informed.

Exhaust System Legislation – Rich has contacted the Massachusetts Joint Transportation Committee. Two attempts were made; the first was ignored. Rich received a favorable response from a state rep from the Worcester area. Currently the legislature is on holiday hiatus.

Holiday Party date is 1/30/2010. — Flat contribution of \$25.00 per person. Diane Crovo reported the party will be at the Woburn Country Club. There will be raffles. We are not allowed to bring any food, including desserts. The party will open with a cocktail hour with international cheese board. The menu will be a buffet with a choice of roast beef or fish. There will be a sheet cake for dessert. John Cabral and Pat Ferullo will handle the music. A 12 member men's chorale led by member Jim Burns will provide music during dinner. Sign up sheets are available at this meeting.

NSCM MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTES CONT.

Toys for Tots – several members brought toys this evening. Rich noted we will also accept toys at the December meeting which will be delivered to the Andover State Police Barracks. Please remember to include batteries if needed.

Corvette Survey by Harvard grad students for Corvette Div. – Rich received an Email from Harlan Charles, director of marketing for Corvette noting that they are working with Harvard University graduate students to survey Corvette owners. They got 30 responses for the survey for which they are grateful.

8. Upcoming Events (New Business) Update –

Tech Sessions – Bow-Tie Shop Evening Tech Session Series – 1963 Split-Window “Fuelie” – Wednesday, 25 November at 6:30 PM. Joe Scafidi, a NCRS master judge, is leading the restoration.

Rich noted that Techron is on sale for ½ price at Advance Auto Parts through 11/25.

Thanks to Pat Ferullo for his hospitality in hosting this month’s meeting in his new garage/meeting room.

Pat spoke on cruise night noting we had a pretty good year. Thanks to Jerry Dunklee for helping set up and those who help break down. Pat encouraged members to call other inactive members to encourage them to participate. Pat thanked those who participate on Tuesday’s at Sylvan and who attend the monthly meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

NSCM FALL CRUISE PICTURES



“Don’t we look pretty?”



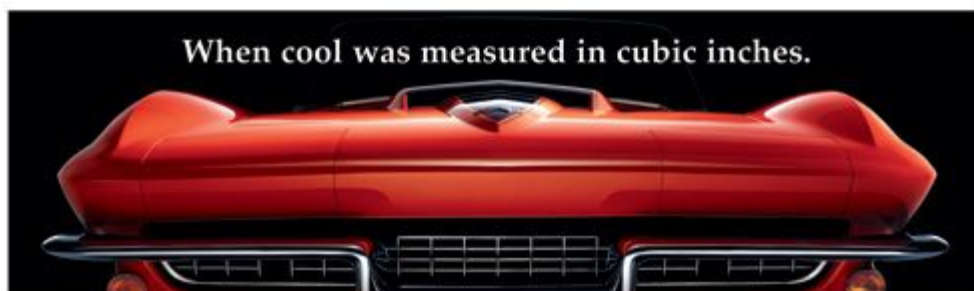
“The hand is quicker than your eyes”



“Look over here!” “Ya, three cameras at once”



“Louie tells Johnny the Red Sox didn’t make the play off’s this year.”



Muffler Wars – As you know, I am trying to get through to the Massachusetts Joint Transportation Committee in order to persuade them to reconsider their “Bill to Ban the Use/Sale of Aftermarket Exhaust Systems”. I am pleased to report that a member of that committee contacted me in reply to my latest message to them. The dialogue with Rosemary Sandlin is shown below. I hope and expect this exchange to continue to a positive outcome for the Commonwealth and for our automotive enthusiast population. Please note the messages below and note that I will keep you informed as we make progress.

Dear Richard Gureghian:

As a member of the transportation committee I would welcome your input. I had assumed that the leadership of this committee had responded to you and for that I am sorry if they haven't. I represent 4 western Massachusetts communities and have spoken to my area car clubs. I would suggest that you might educate me via Email.

Rep. Rosemary Alajanian Sandlin Proudly representing Agawam, Southwick, Granville and Russell

Dear Representative Sandlin.

My sincere thanks for getting back to me. I will be happy to attempt a response worthy of your consideration. It will be my privilege to remain in contact.

Examples of the salient points of our concern are as follows —

- Legislation to control/eliminate offending noise generators and their inconsiderate operators would adversely affect a much larger number within the automotive enthusiast hobby. Inoffensive cars are being rejected from state inspection due to the lack of a consistent standard of measurement and evaluation. — *Make no mistake, none of us like the cars, light trucks and loud motorcycles, many with un-muffled pipes, which tend to shake neighborhoods from quiet use. But certainly we can expect a solution that leaves the non-offending cars and their automotive enthusiast owners intact and on the road.*
- By putting this legislation out to unofficial deployment, we have a situation where inspection stations and state troopers who are finding fault with cars that no reasoning and reasonable adult would notice. Their criterion of merit is simply that the car's exhaust system is not the stock system. — *Although usually anecdotal, we can provide first person testimonials, with substantiation, that show this troubling trend.*
- Another by-product is that dealers/repair/inspection stations are using the egregious lack of standards to scam owners out of their wallets or out of this family-oriented hobby. — *One approached a lady member of our Corvette club, with the following offer to provide an inspection sticker. They would remove the aftermarket exhaust system from her Corvette, reinstall the original exhaust system, inspect the car and once the sticker was on the windshield, reinstall the aftermarket system — all for only \$200.00 plus the cost for the sticker! But that's not the best part; the aftermarket exhaust system in question was purchased from that dealer! A consistent standard for measurement and evaluation would remove such scam artists from the landscape.*

There is a great deal more to cover but I truly don't know where to begin. If you have any specific questions where we can be of help, please let me know. I will, in turn, contact other car hobby entities to provide feedback as you folks might require. All that is sought is a mutually supportive and generally beneficial relation of communication and cooperation with our lawmakers.

Please consider the plight of decent, middle-class folks whose only sin is their love of cars. Consider also that we, as a subset of the Commonwealth's population, can provide new funding to the general treasury through specialty license plate opportunities, etc. Imagine a single plate, as suggested some time ago, that would allow car enthusiasts to have a Massachusetts auto enthusiast, single plate that would cost less to produce and which would require no bond, etc. since all the proceeds would go to the state. Constraining this hobbyist population serves no useful purpose. Our open involvement and give-and-take with our legislators would open doors of opportunity to improve life in our home state and give kids avenues for positive self-expression while developing technical and social skills, useful throughout their lives.

We all realize you folks are busy but your reply has given me hope. I look forward to hearing from you and from your colleagues and to being at your service.

With best wishes, Richard Gureghian

NOW, I Have You In My Clutches! – I have always loved C4s. My first Vette was a C4 with the Doug Nash 4+3 manual transmission. When they introduced the German ZF 6-speed in 1989, I thought a dream had come true. It provided better performance than the “4-plus-3” and it was a proper gearbox with a true overdrive, rather than an added overdrive unit. The differences went to the core of their designs. The Doug Nash tranny was simply a 4-speed with a little 2-speed automatic bolted on the tail to act as an overdrive. We all thought it was neat when it came out but the design shortcomings soon became apparent. The ZF, on the other hand was a precision mechanism, smooth and strong. Think of it as a Rolex for your Vette. When I visited our own Steve Cataldo for my end-of-year service (remember the winter storage tips from last month?), he informed me of the changes affecting Corvette owners as part of the recent GM restructuring. In this particular instance, a late-C4 needing a clutch was staying on the lift because no parts were available. Unbelievable you say? Read Steve's dissertation shown below.

NSCM TECH PAGE CONT.

Rich,
As I have stated, the 1989-96 Corvette clutch, dual mass flywheel, slave cylinder and related lines are obsolete from GM. At the time of my inquiries there are no after market sources as yet manufacturing these parts. If an owner of a 6 speed, NOT the 4 plus 3 transmission equipped Vette needs a clutch or flywheel (the flywheel usually knocks like rocks in a can at idle, clutch disengaged) they may have to look further like E-BAY etc. The flywheel CAN NOT be resurfaced like a conventional flywheel used through the 88 model year. The clutch is also unique to this application and was manufactured for GM by Valeo. There are also no rebuilt units available that I am aware of. A standard finger style clutch and solid steel flywheel will not work. I just finished a clutch replacement on an 89 and removed the "after market" clutch and flywheel and sourced out an OEM unit to the tune of \$1800.00 just for the clutch and flywheel!

**If anyone has found out that there is a source for the clutch parts please let me know. I will also keep searching.
In the mean time, don't slip the clutch!!!
Steve"**

As we develop more information on this topic, we'll let you know. For now, please advise anyone buying a late C4 with a manual gearbox to have a care about the condition of the clutch system. Having a pre-owned Corvette inspected by an expert such as Steve Cataldo is always a smart investment and can save larger investments in unanticipated repairs and TUMS!

Hope this helps, guys. Is there a tech question we can help you with? If so, just let me know via the NSCM home page e-mail or e-mail me at r.gureghian@comcast.net. My fax number is 781-272-7457.

Keep the wave and always save one for the Corvettes you see! — *Rich Gureghian*

TECH. SESSION ON A COMPLETE RESTORATION OF A 1963 CORVETTE by the BOWTIE SHOP

Pictures courtesy of Richard McCusker

We will keep you posted when we have the next Tech. Session so you can see the progress in person.



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Glass Cleaner - 16oz. or Gallon	\$ 7.25 or 24.00
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2009 UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 01 - Tuesday 6:30PM - NSCM Dinner Meeting - Sylvan Street Grille, Peabody, MA (unless notified on website)

December 08 - Tuesday 6:30PM - NSCM Dinner Meeting - Sylvan Street Grille, Peabody, MA (unless notified on website)

December 10 - Thursday NSCM Board of Directors Meeting at the Elks. Time: TBA

December 15 - Tuesday 6:30PM - NSCM Dinner Meeting - Sylvan Street Grille, Peabody, MA (unless notified on website)

December 17 - Thursday 7:00PM - NSCM Membership Meeting at Wakefield Elks (Serving Food)

December 22 - Tuesday 6:30PM - NSCM Dinner Meeting - Sylvan Street Grille, Peabody, MA (unless notified on website)

December 25 - Friday Christmas

December 29 - Tuesday 6:30PM - NSCM Dinner Meeting - Sylvan Street Grille, Peabody, MA (unless notified on website)

SAVE THE DATE

North Shore Corvettes Membership

HOLIDAY PARTY - SATURDAY - JANUARY 30, 2010 At the Fairways at Woburn Country Club

FLYERS WILL BE SENT OUT IN THE MAIL

NSCM MEMBERSHIP REPORT: *By Joe Generazzo*

We currently have 141 Members

No new members this month.

**RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS WILL BE SENT
OUT IN THE MAIL THE FIRST OF DECEMBER**