



ETCC Newsletter

February 2008

Valentine's Day Brunch

For the 2008 Valentine's Day Brunch, we had 42 ETCC members to show up for an *OUTSTANDING* meal. Thanks to **Chuck and Carolyn Johnson** for making all of the arrangements! If you haven't visited the Lakeside Tavern for a Sunday brunch, you might want to put this on your list of places to eat. It was fantastic.



*Left: Steve and Pam Brown
Right: Ray and Karen Moore*



*L to R: Robert Anderson, David Goebel,
Linda Goebel, Linda Dunlap, Duane Dunlap*

Anyone for Bowling?

Saturday night, March 8th, is bowling night for the ETCC. **Jamie Jones** has made arrangements for the club to bowl REAL CHEAP at the Down Under Recreation Center which is located in the basement of the University of Tennessee's University Center. The

address is 1502 West Cumberland Avenue and the phone number is 974-3450. Lanes have been reserved from 6 p.m. – midnight. The cost is \$15 per hour/per lane which includes shoe rental. You can have as many people as you want on each lane. For food, suggestions are to order pizza from a nearby pizza parlor and have it delivered to the bowling center or have a potluck dinner. In addition to the bowling lanes, they also have 11 billiard tables. Further details will be discussed at the club meeting on March 4th so make plans to attend to get all the details. So, start exercising those back muscles and get limbered up for bowling.

Club Trip to National Corvette Museum

On Saturday, April 12th, club members are invited to join up and make a trip to Bowling Green, Kentucky, to witness the flag that is being flown in the museum parking honoring the East Tennessee Corvette Club. **Tom Webber, Jr.**, submitted an entry for the club last year, and we were selected to have a flag made with our name on it to fly in their parking lot along with other clubs. Our plans are to caravan up on Saturday morning and tour the museum around 2 or 3 p.m. Tom has reserved 15 rooms at the Country Hearth Inn which is ½ mile away from the museum. The cost of the room is \$65 per night. If you are interested, you can make your reservation by calling 270-783-4443 and tell them you are with the East Tennessee Corvette Club. More to follow on place to meet on Saturday morning, etc.

February Birthdays



Happy Birthday wishes go out to the following ETCC club members for the month of February:

Steve Cronberg	Feb. 3
Linda Dossett	Feb. 5
Norma Edwards	Feb. 6
Don Rule	Feb. 9
Jeff Whited	Feb. 9
Steve Fischer	Feb. 16
Tommy Wallace	Feb. 17
Nick Thompson	Feb. 19
Howard Roberts	Feb. 20
Doug Lamothe	Feb. 28

Happy Birthday!!

50th Anniversary Club Jackets

In case you are not aware, next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the East Tennessee Corvette Club, one of the oldest car clubs in the area. In honor of these 50 years, **Blan Benton** is arranging to have denim jackets made for club members to commemorate this special event. He now has samples of the jackets for members to try on to make sure the correct size gets ordered. All of the embroidery will be done locally and will take 6-8 weeks to get them completed. If you are interested in ordering a jacket, you should probably attend a meeting to try on a jacket so you can be assured to get the proper size. The total cost is \$104.88 each.

Got an Article for the Newsletter?

I'm always open for articles for the newsletter so this month **David and Linda Goebel** have prepared an article describing an autocross. They are very active in this arena so I think you will find their article interesting. Since it is lengthy, I am deleting the columns and have added it to the end of the newsletter.

Heritage Planetarium Laser Show

Tom Webber, Jr., has invited us to the Heritage Planetarium at Heritage High School on March 16th followed by a dinner at Up the Creek located in Maryville. Heritage High School is located on Lamar Alexander Parkway (Highway 321) in Maryville. Mark your calendar for Sunday, March 16th, at 4 p.m. for the laser show and the dinner at 5 p.m. Hope to see you there!

New Addition to Monthly Meeting at Reeder's

Reeder's Chevrolet will be providing Vette Technician, Jerry McDaniel, to come to our meetings at 6:30 p.m. each month to address questions that Vette owners may have about their cars. Be sure to arrive early to get questions answered before the meeting. If you have a question that you would like answered, please email your question to **Linda Duncan** (davidduncan1234@comcast.net) or **Nick Thompson** (nicksc5s@yahoo.com) in advance so Jerry can make sure he gets your question answered. He will also answer questions from the floor.

Special Recognition

President **Nick Thompson** ended the February meeting by making a couple surprise presentations to a couple of members who do behind-the-scenes work for the club. The first award was presented to **Steve Fischer** for his endless hours of keeping our website up to date with activities; posting pictures of members with their cars; posting pictures of members at events; and providing links to activities outside of the club. The second award was presented to **David Duncan** for the photographs he makes of club members and their cars; club members at events; group pictures; and anything else he can find to make pictures of---related to Corvettes. David provides Steve with pictures so they can be downloaded to the website! What a team! Thanks to Steve and David for all of their efforts.

Check out our website
for updates to club
activities.

<http://www.etcorvette.com/>



*Special Recognition
L, David Duncan
R, Steve Fischer*

Upcoming Events

April 11, 12, 13

Trip to Corvette Museum
Bowling Green, Kentucky

April 18, 19, 20

Grand Run
Pigeon Forge

May 4

Reeder Car Show
Reeder Chevrolet

What is an Autocross?

It is also called a "solo", "Gymkhana" or "low speed event".

My Name is Dave Goebel. My wife Linda and I have been Members of ETCC since September of 2008. We started "Corvette – ing " in 1971 in South Florida and were very active until 1988 when we sold our last Vette. We bought a new Z06 in September and have gotten back into Corvette activities.

The two most popular activities of Corvette Clubs are car shows and autocross (our "thing"). Autocrosses are held on a closed course and are designed to test driver skill, car acceleration, braking and cornering on an approximately one minute course made up of slaloms, turns, etc. through pylons on a large parking lot, driver training course, old airport runway or real race track. Linda and I competed in 49 autocrosses from October 1st to December 14 last year in north Florida and Alabama.

Low speed events are designed to never exceed 80 MPH in a stock Corvette. You will not be going any faster than you would on the expressway (?). You will put your tires and brakes to the test! You will find out why the Corvette is one of the best cars in the world.

What do you need? Bring your car. You must have a valid driver's license. Close-toed shoes. A helmet with SA2000 or M2000 rating (if you don't have one, the host club usually has some available). I suggest you have about 30 lbs. of air in your tires. Empty out loose items that could roll around in the car. Everything else will work itself out at the event. Remember these are fellow Corvette enthusiasts who are glad to meet and help you!

There are exhibition classes, novice classes. There are close to 50 classes for men and 50 for women. You may be out driven but not out powered. Most clubs do not give trophies anymore but they provide lunch, soft drinks, and sometimes tee shirts. Of course there are bragging rights!

The event begins with registration and tech. At tech they class your car, check lug nuts, seat belts, modifications, etc. You will have time to walk the course – I suggest you "latch on" to an experienced driver to walk with you and explain how to drive each portion of the track. Everyone will be glad to help you. There will be parade laps, where you drive your car in a caravan through the course to get the feel of the route from an in the car perspective. When your class is called you will drive to the timing Start Line. When directed to "GO" you will attempt to negotiate the course as quickly as possible, trying not to hit any of the pylons. The idea is to be faster than anyone else in your class (or group of classes). Experienced drivers will be happy to give you pointers where and how you can do better.

Due to the cost of travel, motels, etc., most clubs put on 5 to 7 autocrosses each day of the weekend. Each event consists of 2 or 3 timed runs. Last year we went to Huntsville for 14 autocrosses held at a college stadium parking lot. Nashville club holds events in the parking lot at Nashville Super Speedway. Linda and I enjoy driving our Z06, so we journeyed to St. Augustine to compete on a police/emergency vehicle training course, also to Brooksville (near Tampa) to run on old airport. After 20 years of not competing, within two weekends we were winning again.

There are many ways to enjoy your Vette. Just driving, or caravans with other club members to activities is a lot of fun. Most are familiar with car shows (Concours). These can be just for display, people's choice awards, or fully judged competitions. Organized Road Rallyes such as "Fun Rallye" where you figure out the route by answering questions and observation can be quite enjoyable. Economy Runs with a 50-mile route – who uses the least fuel wins. Funkhana – where two people ride together on a "closed course" and have several stops where you get out and perform something fun (like shoot a basketball or stack blocks) competing for quickest time are a lot of laughs. Drag Racing on a real track to test your reaction and the power of your Vette. We have done them all – and what a great time we've had.

National Council of Corvette Clubs provides a rulebook, insurance and a competition program for all of these types of activities and more. The competition program allows each of us to accumulate "points" toward year-end awards within our "region" and overall in the "nation". All points earned by ETCC members are also added to ETCC's total for year-end recognition for the Club. Last year in just over two months Linda and I accumulated enough points to push ETCC into fourth place in the Southeast. With your participation 3rd is possible in 2008.

We will do some articles for future newsletters describing the other types of events and relating some old stories about them! National Convention is June 21 – June 27 in Tulsa. Each of the events mentioned (except the economy run) will be held there. Make plans to attend.