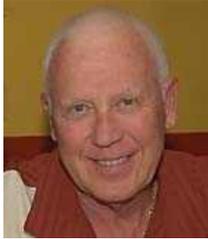


Prez Sez

From The Man

February was a busy month. Club event for the month was a Autocross race organized by Wayne Sandlin for the benefit of the Pelican Island



Audubon Society. Andi and I helped out with the admission donations. Dan Bryant donated the water for the racers and volunteers. Rich Steinbach set up the tent with the club banner. Joe Bernardo represented the club racing the lone corvette. The Bryant's donated \$500 to the club to be given to the Audubon Society under the club's letterhead. Wayne presented the club and the Bryant's with a trophy from the event in appreciation of the support.

A Holiday party committee was established at the officers meeting consisting of Rich, Diane, Andi and Hollyann. Any member who would like a input contact the committee. I would like to have a handle on this before the birds leave.

The monthly cruise was hosted by Andi and I to Captain Butchers with 16 corvettes in attendance. Good food and happy time had by all.

If nonmembers enjoy our events and friendship they should support the club and join.

Stan

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FUN, FUN, AND MORE FUN AT SEBRING RACETRACK

Diane & Joe Bernardo and Tom & I met early on Thursday for the first day of the Sebring 12 Hours race. We were all hyped up because we knew that we were going to be able to do laps on the track that day. We made a quick trip across to Sebring on the back roads.

going down the back stretch of the



track at one hundred and forty eight mile an hour was fantastic, great, fabulous, fun, and more! Three laps later I just hated to stop, what a thrill, it was sensational!!!! We were in a 638 HP ZR1. The ride of the Corvette is just great.

This was Diane and Joe's first venture into the racing world and we really had a great time. They are planning on going to Road Atlanta with us in October if possible.

If you have never been to the races, try it some time. The Corvette Corral is great. It is sponsored and paid for just for Corvette owners. You will meet the plant manager, chief engineers, and designers and get the scoop on what is changing on the new Corvettes. Seminars are planned, guest speakers such as Johnny O'Connell, Ron Fellows, Doug Fehan and others, and let's not forget the Corvette drivers. They come and do autograph sessions and answer questions.

Oh, by the way, the two factory Corvettes both finished on the podium in the ALMS/GT class. Magnussen, Garcia & Taylor finished second in the #3 C6-R Corvette and Gavin, Milner & Westbrook were third in the #4 C6-R Corvette. The #56 BMW that finish ahead of them better look out at the next race in Long Beach, CA.

Save the wave,

Hollyann



This year I won the drawing for HOT LAPS on the track with one of the Corvette drivers. Let, me tell you that

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays for April

Deryle Hunt	April 1
Clinton Atwell	April 22
Stuart Laird	April 27

Birthdays for May

Dick Cantner	May 14
Sue Smith	May 14
Arlene Silva	May 18
Nan Dunne	May 26
Frank Casano	May 31

Happy Birthday to everyone!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dave Gillespie
Mike & Helen Nisbet
Brad & Judy Grandage

MARCH DINNER CRUISE

Dave and Melinda Myers led our bunch of hungry people on a cruise on Indian River Dr. around to the Olive Garden Restaurant on route 60. The weather was great, we had the tops down and the radios turned up.

I am sure that everyone has been to the Olive Garden so you know the food is good. We had a separate area in the back room. The service was very good. Every body visited, and drank.

Some of our members from the north have winged their way back to this area. Dave and Pat Lundell are here and over their health problems. We were all glad to see them and welcome them here for a stay.

We welcome everyone to join us for the dinner cruise. It takes place on the last Tuesday of every month. See calendar for more information.

Hollyann



Activities

COMING IN APRIL

**12 - Thursday - General Membership Meeting
C.J. Cannon's at the Airport Terminal Building**

**14 - Saturday - 2012 Corvettes on Clematis
Hosted by the Corvette Club of the Palm Beaches
West Palm Beach**

CLUB EVENT FOR APRIL

**14 - Tuesday - Vettes At The Port
Hosted By Cape Kennedy Corvette Club**

**24 - Tuesday - Mystery Dinner Cruise
Our Host Jim & Ann**

**29 - Saturday - River Cruise-In Corvette Show
Hosted by the Stuart Corvette Club
Fort Pierce**

COMING IN MAY

**1 - Tuesday - Board of Directors Meeting
Officers and Directors are asked to please attend,
Club members are always welcome!**

**5 - Saturday - Vettes on the Circle
Hosted by Skyway Corvette Club
Armand's Circle in Sarasota**

**10 - Thursday - General Membership Meeting
C.J. Cannon's at the Airport Terminal Building**

CLUB EVENT FOR MAY

**12 - Saturday - Vettes At The Light
Hosted by the Ponce Inlet Corvette Club**

**29 - Tuesday - Mystery Dinner Cruise
Our Host Jim & Deryle-Ann**



An encouraging start for Corvette Racing

By: Tommy Milner March 27, 2012 AutoWeek.com

This year, as you almost certainly know, marked the 60th anniversary of the 12 Hours of Sebring. One look at pit lane and the history of the race's



overall winners shows how important this event has been to sports-car racing. It was also the first round of sports-car racing's first world championship in 10 years. For me, in my eighth year in GT competition in the American Le Mans Series and my second year with Corvette Racing, Sebring was an important start to the year.

With or without its status as a round of the new FIA World Endurance Championship, Sebring is an event. Some 100,000-plus fans from around the world gathered to enjoy one of the United States' greatest automobile races. When I look back at the drivers, teams and manufacturers who have competed at Sebring, it's humbling to know that I can put myself in the same group as those who came before me.

For 2012, Corvette Racing has brought an evolutionary change to the Corvette C6.R. Now allowed to build a wider car for this season, the team at Pratt & Miller Engineering and Corvette Racing has worked hard in the off-season to develop a car to challenge our competition from Maranello, Munich and Stuttgart. There is no other class in sports-car racing more competitive and compelling than the GT class, and every year each manufacturer continues to develop and improve its car. This year is no different.

Sebring was especially important because it was the only real opportunity to gauge how we, as a team, stack up to our competition before the 24 Hours of Le Mans. We'll have one more opportunity at the Le Mans test day prior to the race, but Sebring is always a true test of the entire team and an opportunity to improve before the famous 24 Hours. As is always the case, while I was

very impressed with Corvette Racing's improvement in the off-season, the other manufacturers made an impact as well.

In qualifying, as Jan Magnussen and my co-driver, Oliver Gavin, threw everything they had at the bumpy 3.7-mile circuit in their respective Corvettes, each came up just a bit short of the quickest times, earning a third and fourth place, respectively. Still, those were a couple of great starting spots for such a long race and a great result for a winter of hard work to improve upon the Le Mans-winning C6.R.

The grid size at Sebring this year was one of the major talking points. Sixty-three cars, more than any in recent history, would start the race;



managing that traffic would be a huge key to a successful race in every class. Oliver would start for us in the No. 4 and we would cycle through drivers at almost every stop.

As the race played out, we seemed to have the race pace to compete with the Ferraris and BMWs. All throughout practice, it's very hard to gauge where everyone is in terms of speed. We seemed to be competitive in practice, and I was happy to see that was still the case in the race when all of the cards were on the table.

In any long endurance race, the goal for the first three-quarters is to simply survive. Make no mistakes on the track or in the pits, and put yourself and the team in position to fight for the win. Oliver, Richard Westbrook and I all led the race at different points. We were keeping our nose clean and just focusing on running quick and navigating traffic as best as possible.

With the sun setting, lap times started

to fall. With about four hours to go in the race, both of our Corvettes and both of the BMWs were right up front, with a Ferrari and a Porsche following closely. We continued to look strong as the temperature cooled, a condition we struggled in last year. That was the only question I had about our pace, and things looked good.

As I hopped in the car for my final stint with about two hours to go, I knew we'd come out of the pits right with the others in our class and now the race was on. After getting by one BMW early on for second place, I set my sights on the next BMW for the lead. I was able to match the pace of Joey Hand in the BMW and was a bit better through traffic. Twice I was able to get past him but only just and on the wrong side of the track to make the pass stick. Finally, after two tries, I was able to get a run out of the last corner when he made a mistake; I got by him into turn one to take the lead with about an hour and 20 minutes remaining before I would pit and Oliver would get into the car for the finish.

As things shook out, we ended up fourth in the combined WEC/ALMS standings and third in the ALMS GT results. A win would have been sweet, of course, but third was still a very strong start to what will hopefully be another fantastic year in the GT class and, from a selfish standpoint, a much more competitive year for us at Corvette Racing! Be sure to follow along all year!

Editor's note: Autoweek Editor at Speed Tommy Milner, 26, of Lake Mary, Fla., joined Corvette Racing in 2011 as a full-season driver in the No. 3 Compuware Corvette C6.R. He realized his potential quickly, winning the GTE Pro class at the 24 Hours of Le Mans with co-drivers Olivier Beretta and Antonio Garcia. Milner made the pass for the lead and then completed his stint in treacherous wet conditions before handing off to Garcia for the final laps in the world's most famous sports-car race.

Westbrook, Garcia give Corvette its first Daytona Prototype WIN!

March 31, 2012 AutoWeek.com

It didn't take long for Chevrolet's new Corvette Daytona Prototype to reach victory lane in the Grand-Am Rolex Sports Car Series, and it did so in convincing style. A wire-to-wire run by Richard Westbrook and Antonio Garcia in Saturday's Porsche 250 at Barber Motorsports Park gave the Spirit of Daytona team's new car its first overall win in the series.



Alex Gurney (with co-driver Jon Fogarty) brought the GAINSCO/Bob Stallings Racing Corvette DP home in second, while defending DP champions Scott Pruett (with Memo Rojas) prevented a podium-sweep by Corvettes with a late pass for third in their Chip Ganassi Racing in the Riley-BMW. Pruett suffered a mid-race penalty for contact with the No. 43 GT car driven by Joe Nonnamaker; a new set of tires during a caution period with five minutes remaining allowed for the podium comeback.

"A first win for our team and which is just incredible," said Westbrook, who also scored his first Daytona Prototype victory. "Daytona [at the Rolex 24 in January] didn't meet our standards, but we've worked so hard since then. "It's good to get the monkey off our back. It's good for morale to get the first win." Garcia, who held off Gurney on a last-minute restart, scored his second overall Grand-Am victory. "It was in my head for the last two hours," he said of a potential caution-period that would wipe away his large lead. "The first win for Spirit of Daytona is great; the first win for Corvette is even better."

UPCOMING CLUB APRIL EVENT

We have one event on April 12th at Cape Kennedy. It will be the 11th ANNUAL VETTES AT THE PORT. This is coming up fast. You can find more on the Club Calendar. This is a good show to attend. Many nice restaurants along the water to choose from, (We do like to eat don't we) with outdoor patios and inside lounge areas for a cool drink (We do like to drink don't we) and I know all us girls like to shop (some of the guys shop, too!)

More info at Thursday's membership meeting.



UPCOMING CLUB MAY EVENT

In May it will be an over night stay or an early morning ride. Cars need to be in place by 9:45 AM. We go up late Friday and come back Sunday. It's time for VETTES AT LIGHT. Under the lighthouse at Ponce Inlet Park! Music, food, door prizes, silent auctions and more. Check the "DETAILS" on the club web calendar for hotel deals, \$89.00 for Ocean Front at the Emerald Shores is a great deal. Some of the best Restaurants in Florida are in this area. Save May 12th for this trip. This park is in the shade, and is different from any car show that you have attended. For more information call Tom 772-519-2748 or Hollyann 772-464-5979.

