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# CORVETTE NEWS

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# 1969 CONVENTIONS CONVENE IN SUN COUNTRY.

## NCCC-EAST SIDE

*Daytona Beach.* A convention in Florida is more fun than business. And when it's a convention for Corvette owners it's *all* fun.

The 10th annual convention of the National Council of Corvette Clubs, Inc. was held in Daytona Beach with the North Florida Corvette Assoc., Inc. (NFCA), the host club. Under the leadership of Cliff Payne, convention chairman, the NFCA went out of their way to make the '69 convention the swiftest ever. Which it was.

With approximately 650 people registered at the Daytona Plaza from 52 clubs in 23 states and Canada it was the largest NCCC convention ever held. Registration, handled by Letty Wood and her crew began July 8th and continued through the week.

The first afternoon got off to a warming 100-degree start with a concours d'elegance, set up by Bill Sauls and held in the hotel parking lot. There were 88 Corvettes washed, polished and prepared for the judges. Top trophy went to Phil Chandler of NFCA, with 650 accumulated points.

Other trophies were awarded to: Richard Grubb (Konners Corvette Club), Tony Cotturo (Tiretown Corvette Club), Larry Tetzlaff (Corvette Club of Michigan), William Ralson (Chicago Corvette Club), Tom Mathewson (NFCA), Kenneth Jestes (Corvette Club of Baltimore), James Daniels (NFCA), and R. A. Sell (nonaffiliate).

The opening night was the traditional poolside party, yet it came close to being without the traditional liquid refreshment. There had been a beer strike but the NFCA did manage to drum up 25 kegs. Since the opening night spilled over into the next morning, it was rather a shock to see anyone show up for the Convention Welcome Breakfast.

At 1:00 p.m. everyone piled into their cars and drove to Marineland. Phil Wood made arrangements with Marineland officials to accommodate the Corvette crowd. And what a sight it was to see all those Corvettes lined up and down the highway. Three miles long—Corvettes to the horizon.

Soon after the Corvette exodus a large male spotted porpoise was delivered to Marineland. Immediately a telegram was sent to the convention with these words: "Like your Corvette, the spotted porpoise is slick, streamlined, really built for speed. In your honor he has been named *Vette*."

To really get their fill of fish everyone returned to the hotel for a fish fry and dance. In the meantime, John Palladino, NCCC president, called together a Governor's Meeting with officers and members participating.

Thursday and Friday mornings were set aside for the competition events. It was really one event but split up into two days to provide participants more driving time on the track, the Daytona International Speedway. It's the kind of course where you can let it all hang out.

The competition was managed by Wayne Padgett and Ray Pontones and the members of the Cape Kennedy Corvette Club. There were 340 entrants—with 10 ladies' and 13 men's classes—all had the opportunity to check their skills against one another



and the track. And to the tune of a 140-degree track temperature. The fastest time was recorded by Rick Hay from the Corvette Club of Michigan. In the ladies' classes, it was earned by Jan Raymond from the Corvette Club of Iowa.

Thursday night there was a watermelon eating contest, arranged by Ron Peren. After three heats the number was narrowed down to three of the finest watermelon eaters in the country. When it was all over Gary Kosier of the Mound City Corvette Club in Newark, Ohio, emerged as the champion.

Then it was decided to have a greased watermelon chase in the Atlantic Ocean. So a melon was slicked up and tossed into the drink. Nobody drowned and Larry Voit of the Central Ohio Corvette Club rescued it.

Friday night was certainly the wildest. It was "hospitality" night. And it was hospitality Southern style with a taste of real "good-old-time" convention. The Mississippi band played "Dixie" at least a half a dozen times, but not without the North's retaliatory request for "Yankee Doodle Dandy." (Equal time, you know.) The credit for convention entertainment goes to the Mike Fraser committee.

Twenty members of the NFCA managed to struggle out of bed and get things ready for the Saturday morning rally, directed by Larry O'Steen. And by 7:30 most of the 108 entrants were up and waiting at the starting line. First place overall was the team of Tony Cotturo and Doc Gresock of Tire-town Corvette Club. Winners of the "booby" prize were Carol Renshaw and Billy Fortune of the Long Island Corvette Owners' Association.

At 2:00 p.m. Saturday the Awards Luncheon was held and more than 200 trophies, valued at \$2,000, were distributed. Longest distance trophies went to John and Judy Pluma from Camino Corvettes and Bob and Thelma Roach, Goldstrand Racing Association, both of California. Award for most members and the greatest distance traveled was earned by Corvette Club of Iowa, with 38 members and 42,000 accumulated miles.

The final event was the Chevrolet Reception and Dinner held that evening with Dick Boo, Corvette Grand Sport owner and race enthusiast, as the guest speaker. His subject was "preparing a Corvette for professional racing," but since the air conditioning wasn't working he got a big round of applause for scratching his speech. Boo said, "After seeing the way you handled your cars at the competition event you don't need to know how to prepare a Corvette for racing. You already know how." He was introduced by Chevrolet's Jim McDonald.

If you attended last year's convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan, you'll recall the campaign the North Florida Corvette Association made to host this year's. Their slogan "NFCA really swings, sock it to me wild thing" gave them the bid. Thank you, NFCA, for showing everyone a swingin' good time. And next year it's Louisville, Kentucky, with Rich Goranflo, convention chairman.

(1) Registration at the Daytona Plaza Hotel. (2) Concours. (3) Concours. (4) Vettes at Marineland. (5) Concours. (6) Concours. (7) Gary Kosier wins watermelon eating contest. (8) Parade lap at Daytona International Speedway. (9) Enthusiasts gather around track tower. (10) Trained porpoises perform for Corvette crowd.

