



## Vette the Dolphin, Our NCCC Mascot

By Joan Thomas, NCCC Webmaster

As part of the 1969 NCCC Convention held in Daytona Beach, FL, Cliff Payne, Convention Chairman, with coordination by Phil Wood, planned a bus outing to Marineland for an Aqua Show. Due to a bus strike, most of the 660 attendees ended up driving their Corvettes up Highway A1A to Marineland. They were quite a sight. According to an article on pages 26 and 27 in the OCT/NOV 1969 issue of Corvette News, the caravan of Corvettes was three miles long. The day and the show were enjoyed by our Members. The staff members at Marineland were quite impressed with all of us and all of the corvettes.



Later that day Cliff and Phil received a Western Union telegram from Richard Edgerton, Public Relations Director at Marineland, stating in part:

**ONE HOUR AFTER YOUR EXODUS EN MASSE FROM MARINELAND OUR COLLECTING CREW DELIVERED A LARGE MALE SPOTTED PORPOISE TO THE ATTRACTION. LIKE YOUR CORVETTE THE SPOTTED PORPOISE IS SLICK, STEAMLINED, REALLY BUILT FOR SPEED. IN YOUR HONOR HE HAS BEEN NAMED "VETTE"**

(Note: Many NCCC Members have the belief that Vette was born at Marineland which is not true. He was brought in from the ocean that day.)

From the September 27, 1969 Governors Meeting minutes:

**Larry Merow made a motion and it was seconded by Sal Gurriero that Vette be accepted as the official N.C mascot. Motion approved.**

(Note: NCCC was commonly referred to as N.C. or N.C.C. in our earlier years.)

The NCCC Standing Rule reads:

**The official NCCC mascot is VETTE, a dolphin from Marineland. [September, 1969]**



A contest was held in 1969 to create a special commemorative jacket patch to be made for the occasion. Walter Last from the South Shore Corvette Club won that contest and he received two free registrations to the 1970 Convention at Louisville as his prize.

(Note: Any Member possessing one of these patches and would like to donate it to the NCCC History Archives should contact the NCCC Webmaster.)

The story of how and why Vette became our mascot and his part in our NCCC history is a very interesting story. Parts of his history have been misunderstood by many of our members since 1969, however, the acknowledgement over the years that he is a worthy mascot has not been disputed. Vette is portrayed as part of our FCOA logo and has been included in awards and other NCCC activities through the years. The full up to date history of Vette with pictures and scans of all references and correspondence can be found under the History link on the home page of the NCCC web site at [www.corvettesnccc.org](http://www.corvettesnccc.org)