

PRAIRIE CORVETTE GAZETTE

August 2019 Newsletter

National Corvette Restorers Society

Nebraska Chapter



Next Meeting

**August 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at 16612 Frederick Circle,
Omaha, NE. 68130 Gene Walker's House**

Chairman's Message

Our next meeting will be at my place on August 24 at 10:00 am. We will have a short meeting, then hold a Judging Tech Session on the process of installing front headlights on my C2. This should be lots of fun while also learning about the workings of the C2 headlights. Brad Hillhouse and I have already met and have identified the additional parts that I will need to order to complete the installation. For our new members, my address is 16612 Frederick Circle, Omaha, NE. 68130. Margie will be providing lunch so we will be well fed... ** "If you can attend, please let me know so we can plan for lunch." ******

Applications for the NCRS Foundation scholarships are due this month. If you have a son, daughter, niece, nephew, grandson, granddaughter, etc. that will be applying, please let me know ASAP. This is very important because our Nebraska Chapter relatives receive special consideration for the scholarship. It has been raised to \$1500.00 this year courtesy of the club membership.

Craig Stephan, Brad Hillhouse, and myself will be meeting in September for the initial phase for reviewing and planning the steps necessary for the club to obtain Top Flight Status in 2020. We are already performing most of the requirements for meeting the Top Flight goals, will have to add a few additional steps, and report to National on our Top Flight activities.... See you on the 24th. Gene

Great news for NCRS Nebraska Chapter members. We now have a new chapter website up and running. It is still a work in progress, but about 60 hours have gone into development and creation of the site and more information is being added daily. As more people move toward using computers and smart phones for their daily information, our own website will allow us to share upcoming events, photos, tech articles, the monthly newsletter the Prairie Corvette Gazette and pics and stories of previous Nebraska and National NCRS events. Please visit www.NCRSNeb.com and check it out today! Brad Hillhouse

Our NCRS Road Tour to Greenville, S.C.



By Craig Stephan

When my wife, Mary Clare, and I retired one and a half years ago. I decided that I would go to every NCRS National Convention I could from here on out.

As we were making travel plans for the trip to Las Vegas last year, I started reading about the various NCRS National Road tours. The places we would stop for the evening, and the events, museums, and sites we would see along the way. Of the eight of so Road Tour Groups, starting from all corners of the country and Canada. We decided the tour best suited for us was called the Rocky Mountain Road Tour. It was leaving from Denver and would be the closest to meet up with the group. Needless to say, it was a fantastic experience, traveling in a caravan of corvettes, stopping at fun sites and beautiful places, and doing it with friendly and fun NCRS people, right away a decision was made to do it again the next year.



Which leads us up to our second road tour to Greenville South Carolina. Again, after studying all the possible tours, the Rocky Mountain Tour group made the best sense for us.

First and foremost, I have to give all the credit for a fun, smooth, and safe trip to our tour leaders, Tom and Diane DiRito of Littleton, Colorado, who volunteered and spent many, many hours planning the trip. When I say planning, they have every mile planned out. Every lunch, every bathroom break, every rest stop and every hotel we would be staying at for the evening. They would not only check everything for quality and comfort, but would use internet Arial views to make sure there was safe and adequate parking for our twenty or so corvettes and support vehicles.

With the tour leaving from Denver, we would meet up with the group in Junction City, Kansas. That evening three more cars joined us from North Dakota and we spent the evening with a great meet and greet gathering and a fine meal. One of the tour members drives a large crew cab pickup with a topper. It is stacked to the brim, with snacks, beer, wine and other beverages on ice. Every evening after Dinner we would have a great place together. Hence it was known as The Beer Truck.



Our next leg of the trip was a 400 mile drive the rest of the way across Kansas and across Missouri to Fairview Heights, Illinois. Enjoying the evening with a fine dinner, and gathering around the “Beer Truck” we started to get ready for the next day journey to Bowling Green, Kentucky. There was a rumor that in Bowling Green there was a “certain” national car museum as well as a race track, and an assembly plant that builds “ That Certain” car. We also added more tour members from Wisconsin, Chicago, and Canada. The group was getting big enough to break up in to three different sub groups so we could keep together. The next day trip to Bowling Green was 267 miles.



We spent a day and a half in Bowling Green enjoying “Our Museum”. A few of us whipped our cars around the race track, wink, wink, smile, smile, of which I could have done at least twenty more times, and drove around the factory stopping to pose at certain places for pictures. The time went fast and we were off to Nashville, Tennessee.

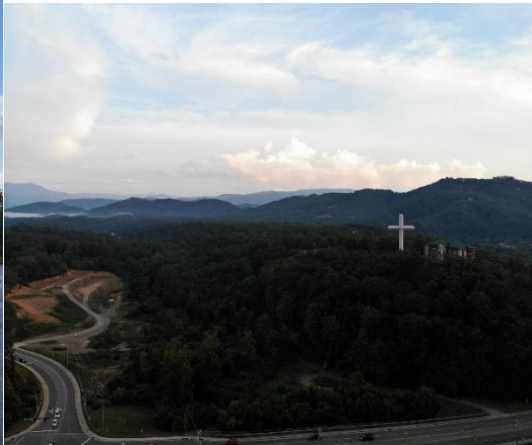




The next day drive was in the afternoon and we only had 60 miles to Nashville. The day and a half in Nashville gave us plenty of time to enjoy an evening downtown. Sight see the next day and hit the Grand Ole Opry that evening.



Next was a drive through the beautiful hills and Smokey Mountains of Tennessee to our next destination of Pigeon Forge, Tenn. A unique resort vacation town and home to Dollywood Theme Park. A place with a lot to do, or just sit back and relax.



Our final trek was to Asheville, North Carolina, where all the road tours met up for an evening called “Last Night Out”. A great evening dinner for everyone to exchange stories and give awards and accolades to our tour leaders. At that point the tour was over and the next day we drove the short distance to Greenville, South Carolina to kick off the National Convention.

Even though seven days seems like a long time to drive 1200 miles, the time went fast. If you have ever considered an NCRS Road Tour trip, I encourage you to give it a try. I can guarantee you will have fun, but the best part are the friends you will make and have for the rest of your life! **At NCRS: You go for the cars, but you stay for the people.**

My story on the NCRS Nationals - Brad Hillhouse

The 2019 NCRS National Convention in Greenville South Carolina was another success for the club and all who attended. About 140 Corvettes were judged and on display for the week of July 14-19, 2019. Nebraska Chapter members that attended were Craig Stephan, Gary Neimanis, Brad Hillhouse, Daniel Rechtfertig and Dave & Jo Houlihan. All of us took part in many facets of the event including Flight Judging, Tabulating, Concours Judging, Technical and Judging Schools, Bowtie Judging, and much more.

My trip started out with a visit to the original Corvette plant on Natural Bridge Avenue in St. Louis, MO. Since my 1981 was built the last 3 weeks of production in St. Louis before production was moved to Bowling Green, KY, a stop at the birthplace of my Corvette seemed fitting.

Two more days of driving and convention week started on Sunday afternoon with Corvette placement in the parking lot of the Greenville Convention Center in preparation for Monday morning Operations Check of all Corvettes. Judging instructions for owners and judges was at 6am on Monday and operations judging on the field began at 7am. Within 3 hours all Corvettes had been through a rigorous mechanical and operations inspection including everything from testing the engine, exterior and interior lighting systems, windshield wipers, door lock and window functions, and much more. Operations is a critical portion of the judging process as each line of the Operations check is worth 25 points. Achieving minimal ops point loss is somewhat critical to achieving a Top Flight as the week progresses. I was participating this year not only as a judge but as a car owner with my 1981 being judged this year with a goal of earning a Top Flight. A lot of preparation went into making sure everything on the car worked to perfection including the 8-track player, the oil pressure gauge, the R12 air conditioning blowing ice cold and the factory alarm system. After many practice runs at home and some minor needed repairs, my 1981 scored a perfect Zero deduction Operations score plus the 10 bonus points for a NCRS decal, a fire extinguisher and a battery cutoff switch. The balance of the day was spent moving all the Corvettes into the convention center, parking, going to judging schools and finally the annual membership meeting.



At the annual membership meeting many awards are given out and it is when the prior year's Master Judging awards, Top Flight Chapters and many other awards are presented. This year, I earned my 100 point Master Judging hat and it was a tremendous honor to receive it from NCRS President Mike Ingham and National Judging Director David Brigham.



Throughout the week there were many excellent judging schools presented on C5 judging, Judging Paint and attributes of factory applied paint, 1973-1982 build sheets, Engine stamp pad and the broaching process used at Flint & Tonawanda engine factories, Advanced judging schools where Corvettes are put on lifts and the chassis and undercarriages are inspected and much more.



My 1981 was Flight Judged on Thursday and 4 teams of national judges went over the car with a fine-tooth comb. My largest point deduction was for the non-original battery. Batteries use a standard deduction table so that across each Corvette they are judged the same. I do have a AC Delco service replacement in the correct size and configuration, but since the red, white and blue Freedom II battery is no longer available a 15 point deduction out of 30 is the lowest deduction I could achieve. I lost the most one-sei and two-sei points on chassis for condition which is to be expected of an original Corvette. Replacing original parts with new replacement parts just to gain back condition points would be more than offset with the loss of originality points and I am fine with that. Even with the minor condition points deduction, at the Thursday night awards banquet I was awarded a National Top Flight ribbon with a final score of 98.9. Friday morning it was time to pack up and head back home but not without a stop through Bowling Green Kentucky and the National Corvette Museum for some great photos of the 1981 at the museum and Corvette Plant. I had hoped to get a glimpse of the C8 that had been publicly announced the day before, but sadly, none were spotted while I was there. 11 days, hundreds of good friends, thousands of laughs and 1 blue ribbon later and I was back home in Lincoln, NE. To say that it was a fantastic trip is an understatement. The 2020 NCRS National Convention is scheduled for June 19-23 in French Lick Indiana and I will be there along with many other Nebraska Chapter and other great NCRS members. Please plan now to join us!

Brad Hillhouse

Nebraska Chapter

Current 2018 / 2019 Chapter Officers:

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2019 - NCRS Nebraska Chapter Meetings, Activities, Functions and Upcoming Events

Nebraska Chapter Meetings & Events are listed below in **BLUE**.

July 14 -19, 2019 NCRS National Convention in Greenville, SC.

July 21, 2019 H & H All Chevy Car Show 84th & L in Omaha, NE

August 24, 2019 meeting and tech session at Gene Walkers house in Omaha.

September 19 -21, 2019 NCRS Lake Tahoe Regional in Lake Tahoe, CA.

September 22, 2019 Nebraska Corvette Association – All Corvette Show on “O” Street in Lincoln, NE

October 18 & 19, 2019 NCRS Nebraska Chapter Judging Event at Peer’s Auto in Omaha.

October 24 – 26, 2019 Texas Regional in Frisco, TX.

If you know of an event that would be of interest to our chapter membership, have an interesting story to tell, a possible meeting location or something our members just wouldn’t want to miss out on, let me know, we will include it in a future newsletter! - Greg

See you on the road...

I know, this is down a little different road, but below are a few photographs from the Chevrolet Nomad Association Convention held in Omaha at the Regency Marriott in the middle of July. Next year we will celebrate our 50th annual convention in the Detroit area. The nomad club started having an annual convention in 1971. This year was my 41st national convention with the Chevrolet Nomads, dating back to 1977 when I bought my 1955 Nomad. I have missed two national conventions in the past 42½ years of my ownership. Greg

