

PRAIRIE CORVETTE GAZETTE

February 2020

Newsletter

**National Corvette
Restorers Society**

Next Meeting

February 15, 2020

Nebraska Chapter

Judging School

in Lincoln, NE at

Brad Hillhouse Shop

3211 South 6th Street

Lincoln, NE

1-402-730-6898

**Chapter Chairman's
Message**

Jerry Nigro, chapter Secretary, will not run for Secretary for the 2020 year. Jerry, thanks for your

Nebraska Chapter



efforts to support club activities. I'm pleased to announce the promotion of Craig Stephan to chapter Secretary for 2020. Craig's new duties as the club Secretary will mesh well with his current responsibilities as the Chapter Top Flight Coordinator. Congrats, Craig! The chapter team is now in place to pursue Top Flighting of the Nebraska Chapter this year. We are already planning the future activities required to meet these goals. Stay tuned. We are expanding the club meeting on March 21st. to a full-blown membership meeting, including short presentations on current officers' activities, and election of officers for the 2020 year. There will be a lot of solid information presented on where the club is headed in 2020 in addition to the election of 2020 officers. We are also looking to

upgrade the location of the meeting to one where slide presentations can be made, etc. If you want to learn more about your club, this is the event to attend. See you then,
Regards, Gene

NCRS Nebraska Judging School for February 2020

The next meeting of the NCRS Nebraska Chapter will be on February 15, 2020 in Lincoln, NE. Using original photos sourced by NCRS & Corvette Hall of Fame member John Hinckley from the St. Louis Corvette plant, we will be installing a rear suspension in a 1968 Corvette. In a normal frame off restoration, the frame is set upright as it is driven, and individual pieces are placed under the chassis one by one. As seen in these photos from 1963, it is clear that the preassembled suspension was actually lowered onto an upside-down frame as an assembly and quickly bolted into place with just the two swing arm bolts and the two crossmember bolts. We will be using GM Photos, the TIMJG and instruction from actual GM Plant workers to install the differential, half shafts, swing arms, strut rods

and using a crane we will lower the entire assembly onto the upside-down frame and bolt it into place.

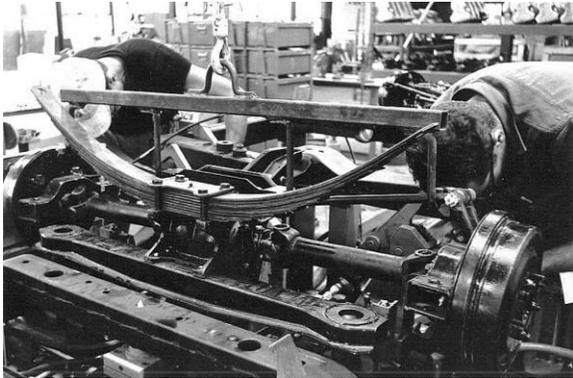
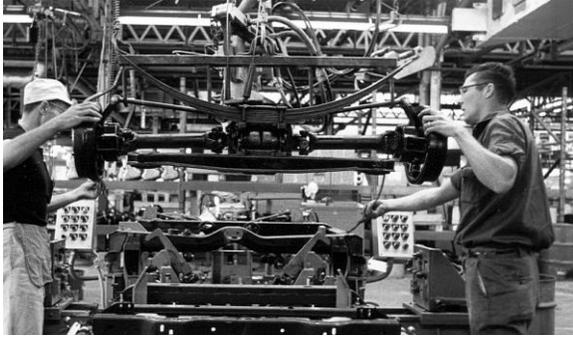
Since 1963-1982 Corvette frames are nearly identical, this judging school will be of interest to anyone that wants to learn about C2 or C3 Corvettes. This Judging School will explain why some bolts are installed “upside down” when looking at the chassis. We will also be using CDCIF to discuss components and hardware for Completeness, Installation & Finish.

The Judging School will be Saturday February 15 from 9-12am. The location is Brad Hillhouse’s shop: 3211 S. 6th Street, Lincoln, NE 68502. Coffee at 9am. Power Point presentation at 9:15. Parts assembly & installation at 10-12. This will be a one (1) point judging school that qualifies towards your Master Judge award.

This is a RSVP event so please contact

BradHilhouse@yahoo.com to reserve your spot!

See you on Saturday February 15!



NCRS Nebraska Membership.

I would like to welcome three new members to the NCRS Nebraska Chapter this month. Two of them attended our Tech School this month and I'm excited that they jumped right into getting involved with the chapter.

The first is Jerry Benedict from Omaha. I met Jerry at Peers all Corvette show last summer when he had his silver 67 at the show. It's a great car and I invited him to join our chapter and he did last fall. Jerry also has a 1968 and is excited about our 1968 Chassis Judging school in Lincoln this February.

Next up is Dave Varilek from Fremont. I met Dave when he had some 1968 Corvette parts for sale on the Corvette Forum. Dave opened up his shop to me and we hit it off like long lost brothers. Dave has had multiple Corvettes in the past and currently has a L89 1968 Corvette convertible in Corvette Bronze. Dave is also a Camaro guy and has a wealth of knowledge on big block Chevrolets.

The third is Blaine Koch of Plant City Florida. Blaine is the son of Grady Koch who joined our chapter last year. Blaine has his dad's passion for 1967 Corvettes and is excited to learn more through the NCRS. I look forward to meeting Blaine & Grady at the NCRS Lakeland Regional in February.

As your NCRS Nebraska Membership manager, I always appreciate leads to friends that you may think would be interested in joining NCRS and the Nebraska Chapter. Please forward my contact information to anyone that you think would like to hang out with a great group of people that love Corvettes!

Brad Hillhouse

BradHillhouse@yahoo.com

402-730-6898

Judging Chairman's Message

I want to thank everyone that came out to the January Tech Session at John Osterholm's house and helped put in the dash and wiring harness. I am going to try and present a similar judging school or tech session every month in 2020 to give people opportunities to learn more about Corvettes. Because of the date of the NCRS Lakeland Regional that I will be attending, our February meeting will be pushed forward one week to February 15. I will be hosting the chapter at my shop in Lincoln and the Judging School will be on the topic of C2-3 Corvette Chassis and Rear Suspension Installation. See an article about this meet and how to rsvp in this newsletter. The March meeting will be our annual membership meeting, officer election on March 21 (see Chapter Chairman Gene Walker's letter in this newsletter). If we have enough interest, I have prepared a power point presentation on judging and how to handle disputes on the judging field. With our spring judging meet coming up in April, I thought this would be a great time for this presentation.

Our April event will be our Spring Judging event on April 11 in Lincoln. This will be at Brad Hillhouse's shop in Lincoln and we are wanting to have either 1 or 2 Corvettes for judging. To have a meet, we need cars and we need judges, and this is where you come in. Do you have a Corvette you want to have judged? The chapter level is the perfect opportunity to learn the process and be judged in a friendly environment. I would also like to get your RSVP to participate as a Judge or Observer Judge. The best way to learn about Corvettes is to participate on the judging field where we inspect cars and compare them against the judging guide. I pair up novice judges with ones that are more experienced, so no one is ever put in an uncomfortable spot. It's a great opportunity for learning and you will have a great time! I do not have this event online for registration yet, but if you want to be a judge or observer judge at this event, please rsvp to BradHillhouse@yahoo.com. Any questions, I am here to help you understand the process and get involved.

In 2020, Nebraska is lucky to be right in the middle of a host of

NCRS Regional and national activities. The first is the Rocky Mountain Regional on May 28-30 in Loveland Colorado. The Rocky Mountain chapter puts on a great 3 day judging and school event and I know many people including myself will be attending. June 11-13 will be the North Central (Minnesota) Regional in Rochester Minnesota. This will also be a 3-day event and hosted by a great chapter. The 2020 National Convention is in the central US this year in French Lick Indiana. Running from July 19-24, this 5-day event will host the best of the best when it comes to national quality Corvettes, Flight Judging, Tech seminars, judging schools, socializing and much more. All the details of these events can be found in the January issue of the NCRS Driveline Magazine of contact me and I can help you get involved!

Lastly, plans are already underway for the Nebraska Chapter LAST BLAST 2020 judging event. Our inaugural event last year was a smashing success with people attending from 9 states & Canada. 2020 will be even bigger and better so you better get ready! Location

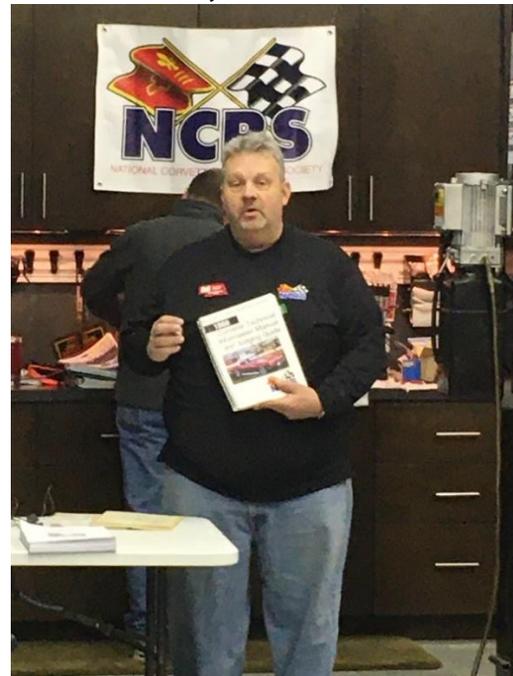
and date is in the final planning stages, look for details in the March newsletter.

**Brad Hillhouse
Nebraska Judging Chairman**

Report from the January 25th Chapter Seminar Meeting.

On January 25th we met at chapter member John Osterholm's in Elkhorn NE. to kick off our 2020 Chapter series of seminars, judging schools, judging meets, and membership events.

This was a technical seminar on installation of a C2 midyear under dash wiring harness on Osterholm's 1965 396 convertible. This included several examples of original and reproduction harnesses. The differences, and the installation.



Our Judging chairman, Brad Hillhouse, started the morning with introductions of the members and guests and then explaining the many manuals and reference materials available on the subject, with examples of all.



Brad then turned it over to chapter member James West. Who explained the disassembly process from the car, then laying out the harness on the bench and pre-attaching it to the dash pod before installation back into the car. Always explaining the Do's and Don'ts and points of extra care as he went along.



Then with the help of several members putting the entire harness with dash gauge pod back in the car.



James then explained the reattachment process while in the car doing the reassembly. Members were able to help hands on, in position to see the install, and ask questions during the operation.

Special thanks to John Osterholm who so generously welcomed us to his garage and use of his car for this seminar, and to James West for sharing his expertise and hands on knowledge on the subject.



Thanks to the 12 members and guests that were in attendance. One of our guests, Chris Smith, traveled all the way from Bowling Green Ky. because of the subject matter and where he was in his project's restoration. Also welcome to new chapter member, David Varilek, from Fremont who joined our chapter that morning.



**Hope to see you all at our Judging Meet on February 15th.
Craig Stephan, NCRS Nebraska Chapter Top Flight Administrator
Nebraska Chapter
Name Badges:**

I will be ordering Nebraska Chapter name badges in the next few weeks and now is your chance to get one. Laser cut from heavy duty composite with a magnetic attaching tab, no one will have a reason to not know who you are! As we gain more members, having a Nebraska name badge will help us all get to know each other better. The badge costs \$10 and you can pay at an upcoming chapter event. Please email BradHillhouse@yahoo.com and let me know that you want a new or replacement name badge.



The Road to a Chapter Top Flight

2020 is the beginning of an exciting year for our Nebraska Chapter. This year our chapter will take a step forward in chapter events. Events that will encourage the sharing of knowledge in the restoration and preservation of the corvette, while promoting involvement and participation by its members.

To help our chapter stay on point, the National NCRS has developed a Chapter Awards program. An awards program that measures the performance and activity of each chapter through a list of required activities such as:

- Chapter Judging meets**
- Chapter Technical seminars**
- Chapter Judging Schools**
- Chapter Membership meetings**
- Chapter Charitable event**
- A Chapter road tour**
- Chapter Social event**

and more.

These events do have certain criteria to meet the National NCRS requirements. Mainly member participation!

All the chapters in the states

surrounding Nebraska have achieved Chapter Top Flight status for a decade or more and there is no reason we can't join them.

Last year Brad Hillhouse, our Judging Chairman, along with the help of others put together Judging meets, Judging schools, seminars, and more, that not only sparked the interest of chapter members of surrounding states to attend, but also brought national attention to our chapter.

This year's plans are not only to build on that but to bring on more national attention to our chapter by achieving a Chapter Top Flight Award.

Chapter members will be kept informed of upcoming events through our Chapter newsletter "The Prairie Corvette Gazette" and through personal emails. I will also try to keep members informed though out the year as to our status of achieving our chapter goals.

To some this may sound rather demanding on our chapter, but believe me it will make our chapter a lot more meaningful, our membership a lot closer, and will be a great vehicle for us to enjoy our Corvette hobby through America's greatest Corvette organization NCRS.

As with any club or organization,

member participation is its key to success.

So Come, Enjoy and Learn!!

Craig Stephan NCRS Nebraska
Chapter Awards Administrator

The NCRS Nebraska Chapter Website is up and running strong! This is a great place to see more photos, stories and information about our chapter and NCRS Nebraska members that participate in other Corvette and NCRS Events around the country.

I am always looking for more content, photos, stories, etc. to add to the website. If you have pictures and a story of you and your Corvette, please forward them to me at BradHillhouse@yahoo.com to be uploaded onto our chapter website:

www.NCRSNeb.com

Nebraska Chapter

Current 2018 / 2019

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**2019 - NCRS Nebraska
Chapter Meetings,**

**Activities, Functions
and Upcoming Events**
Nebraska Chapter
Meetings & Events are
listed below in BLUE.

NCRS Nebraska Chapter
Judging School on February
15, 2020 at Brad Hillhouse
Shop in Lincoln, NE

February 19-22, 2020 NCRS
Florida Regional in Lakeland,
FL

NCRS Nebraska Chapter
Membership Meeting &
Elections tentative @ Gene
Walker House in Omaha @
10:00 a.m.

May 14-16, 2020 NCRS
Adirondack Regional in
Albany, NY
May 28-30, 2020 NCRS Rocky
Mountain Regional in
Loveland, CO

June 11-13, 2020 NCRS
North Central Regional in
Rochester, MN

July 19-23, 2020 NCRS
Nation Convention in French
Lick, IN

August 20-22, 2020 NCRS
Northwest Regional in
Redmond, OR

October 22-24, 2020 NCRS
Texas Regional in Frisco, TX

