

# **PRAIRIE CORVETTE GAZETTE**

**July 2019**

**Newsletter**

**Next Meeting**

**July 21, 2019 H & H  
All Chevy Car Show  
84<sup>th</sup> & L in Omaha, NE**

**Chairman's Message**

**Dan and Don Peers hosted another successful All Corvette Show with approximately 100 Corvettes showing up for judging. Quite a few Nebraska NCRS Club members were there with their cars, and they did very well. In C1's, Gary Neimanis was runner up in People's Choice and first in Best Restored Original. In C'2s, Rick Reed was first in People's Choice, first in Best Restored Original, and Best OF Show. In C3's, Brad Hillhouse took runner up in Best Restored Original, and show Best Restored Original. John Osterholm took**

**National Corvette  
Restorers Society  
Nebraska Chapter**



**Soap Box Derby Kids Best of Show. Peers had the Soap Box Derby kids make the selection. Cool! Way to Go Guys, Fantastic! (I apologize in advance if I missed anybody.) Let me know, and I will publish it in the next newsletter. Craig Stephan has accepted the appointment of Chapter Top Flight Administrator. We missed the cutoff for 2019 but will accomplish this in 2020. Craig is already reviewing what the chapter will have to do. We will let the Club know at a future meeting the steps required to achieve this. We are doing most of these now. Our next event will be on July 21 at the H & H Car Show in Omaha. This will be a social event and we will review current and future club events. On August 24, we will hold a Judging Tech Session at my**

house. We will review the process of installing, wiring, and aligning the front headlights on my C2. This should be lots of fun while also learning about the intricacies of C2 headlights. Plan on meeting at my place around 10:00am. Margie will provide lunch so we should be well fed. **Regards, Gene**

## **Pictures from the Peer's All Corvette Show**



## **Judging Chairman Update**

Thank you to all of the NCRS Nebraska Chapter members that came to Peers Auto Works on Saturday June 15 for a great Corvette show and NCRS Concours Judging School. We had 11 members at the school and I hope that you learned more about how the new NCRS Concours program is going to work.

Congrats go out to several NCRS Nebraska Chapter members that won trophies and awards at the show. It is always great to see that even non NCRS people know the best of the best when they see it.

With Bloomington Gold this weekend and NCRS National Convention in Greenville SC in July, it looks like August will be our next available time to hold a chapter tech session or judging school. I have hosted several at my shop, and it is always available, but I would love to get more of the Omaha guys

involved and make it easier for travel. Looking at August 31 for a date and would like to hear from someone in the Omaha area that could host us in their garage or shop on a Saturday morning for 1-2 hours. Who has a Corvette project they are working on? From a simple alternator rebuild to a frame off, I am sure someone has something torn up that they are working on. That's a perfect opportunity for a tech session and I'm happy to help put it on. I can also do a judging school presentation if you prefer that. I need ideas to help make this fun and exciting and I want input from the members. Shoot me an email at [BradHillhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:BradHillhouse@yahoo.com) and let me know if you can let us in your garage on a Saturday morning and I will put everything else together. Also, if you missed it, we have a new Website and Facebook page. [www.NCRSNeb.com](http://www.NCRSNeb.com) and Facebook: [NCRS Nebraska Chapter](#) Go to both of them, check it out and see how you like it. It is still a work in progress and more changes will be coming, but it's a start for now. Its been a busy spring for NCRS members and the summer is

looking just as exciting. Coming off of our great concours Judging School at the Peers All Corvette show June was a good month. It was great to see so many NCRS Nebraska members at Peers and many that brought out their Corvettes were trophy winners. Congrats! It goes to show that correctly restored original Corvettes still remain highly desired and respected. July looks to be a fun month for NCRS Members as the National Convention is in Greenville SC the third week of July. I look forward to the judging, the schools, and of course the camaraderie. I know that NCRS Nebraska members Keith Mander, Craig Stephan, Gary Neimanis are going in addition to myself. If anyone else is going, please let me know and we can make dinner reservations for one evening. I plan to take my 1981 to complete its pursuit of Chapter, Regional and then National Top flight Judging. I had received my Bowtie signoff at the Ohio Regional in April but the class is too full to accept any more 1978-82's this year. So, this fall I will go to Frisco to take my first attempt at PV (performance verification) and then hopefully be able to achieve both a

**Bowtie and McClellan award at the same time during the 2020 National NCRS Convention in French Lick, Indiana. Because of the national blackout on Chapter events during the two week window on each side of the National Convention, there will be no July Nebraska chapter meeting.**

**Mark your calendars now as we have a Tech Seminar planned for August 24<sup>th</sup> in Omaha at Gene Walkers house. The seminar will be on C2 headlight bucket and motor repair and installation. Look for more details on time and address in this and next month's newsletter.**

**September's Monthly NCRS Nebraska meeting has not been set yet. If you have an idea for a judging school, tech seminar or just would be willing to invite us to your garage to see what's going on with your Corvette, let me know and we can put together a program around what you are working on. One of my goals as Judging Chairman is to hold monthly meetings and increase our member involvement – BUT, I need your help to make this happen. We function best when we all work together as a group to find interesting and informative**

**meetings. Let me know your ideas and we will make it happen.**

**Lock October 19 into your calendar as that will be the day for our NCRS Nebraska fall judging event at Peers Automotive in Omaha, NE. We already have 4 cars lined up and fighting for judging spots. The number we can judge will be dependent on how many people we have available to judge. PLEASE, we need all chapter members to participate – This is how we become a stronger chapter by participating, teaching, learning and being involved. This date is during the heart of the Cornhusker Football season, but it is a “bye week” so you will not have to sacrifice any valuable football time. Depending on the number of judges and cars that register, we may do a Friday afternoon Operations judging, a Friday night meet & greet dinner, and Saturday morning Flight judging. I will have the event posted to the National website in the next week or so and I would appreciate it if you go and sign up as soon as possible so we know how many Corvettes we can accept. I will also hold a judging school so it will either be a 3 or 5 points weekend**

depending on if we do ops on Friday or not. Stay Tuned! There are 6 different NCRS chapter judging events in August, September and October at other neighboring Chapters and I plan to go to all of them. If you want more judging experience and learning about Corvettes, there is no better way to do it than at the Chapter level. I have made so many great friends in Midway USA, Kansas City, Heartland, North Central, Oklahoma, Illinois and Indiana chapters that I don't want to miss out on the chance to learn more when they have an event. The upcoming judging schedules are listed on the National NCRS website under "Services" and then "Coming Events". If you have interest in going, let me know and we can try and carpool together. Supporting our neighboring NCRS Chapters is a guaranteed way for us to get support in return when we put on our 2 annual judging events. Lastly, as you go to Corvette shows, be on the lookout for people that you think would be interested in joining the NCRS. I have made several good contacts at local car shows recently, and I hope you will do the same in an effort to recruit

new members to our Chapter. Who do you know that would be interested in joining? A friend, a coworker, a guy at a Corvette show that has a really nice Corvette? Remember, with the new Concours judging in the NCRS, it's not just limited to stock original Corvettes. Nicely done resto-mods and customs are welcome also.

Get out and enjoy those Corvettes, and I will see you on the judging field!

**See you on the road!**

**Brad Hillhouse**

**Nebraska Judging Chairman**

## **Bloomington Gold**

Bloomington Gold 2019 was a great time as I took my 1981 Corvette to participate in Gold Certification this year at the Indianapolis 500 track on June 20-22, 2019. I have owned this 1981 Corvette for 19 years, but never really had the time to have it judged. Starting with the hospitality of the Midway USA chapter in October 2018, I started my journey to work the car all the way through the NCRS system. Although Bloomington Gold is not an "official" part of NCRS, nearly every judge at Bloomington Gold is a Master Judge and many are National NCRS team leaders.

**Bloomington Gold being well known and respected, I wanted to add a Bloomington Gold Certification to its resume while I am working though NCRS on the way to Top Flight and possible Bowtie status. It also has always been a dream of mine to actually drive a Corvette on the Indy 500 track. In previous years when I have had Corvettes there, they were inside the buildings as part of a Special Display and getting the car out was not possible. So this year, with my 1981 there, it was the chance of a lifetime not only to drive on the track at speed, but to also get some amazing photos of the car in front of iconic INDY 500 racing locations. I got there a day prior to the show starting so that I could have the chance to be able to stage some photos with the car in Gasoline Alley, in front of the Iconic Pagoda, and on Pit Lane with no one else around to give me great photos of the car.**



**Yes it rained, It always rains. I didn't even get out of the driveway before it started raining in Nebraska. But, it wouldn't be an adventure without a challenge. Mother Nature – Challenge Accepted! Last year I learned that there is a great pull through car wash about 3 blocks from the entrance to the Indy 500 track. It is easy to get into with a truck and trailer and I wash the car right on the trailer. It is called "The Dirt Stripper" on Crawfordsville Road and it is super clean, nice and shady and I can take several hours detailing the Corvette before driving into the track. I learned last year that renting a garage stall in the Indy Pit Garage was an excellent idea as there is a good chance that it is going to rain. Usually A LOT!**

**It's well worth the \$200 to have a dry place to put the car over night, if the storms come, you get a special early entry pass to come in before the gates open to the public, you get to park inside with other Corvette owners & make friends. AND, you are parking inside the INDY PIT GARAGES!!! How cool is that? I was in Garage Bay "C" #12. In my mind, this is the exact garage that Mario Andretti, AJ Foyt, Bobby Unser and Emerson Fittipaldi parked in!**



**I didn't actually buy gas for the Corvette from the track, but it makes for a great photo opportunity! I have several running jokes for the people that follow me on Facebook and filling up a Corvette on the back of a trailer is one of them. If you want to get in on the fun, Brad Hillhouse on Facebook for Corvette fun, NCRS stuff and Dad jokes.**



**Seriously, who hasn't dreamed of having the Corvette in the Winners Circle at the Indy 500? For me, that is one more thing checked off the old bucket list. I know they don't race Corvettes here; I know a 1981 Corvette "probably" couldn't beat a 1981 Indy car, but come on, you can't tell me you aren't a little bit jealous right now? I've been watching the INDY 500 for close to 50 years now and this picture gives me goosebumps!**



**YES, I sat in the car and made "vroom vroom" noises while I put my left hand out of the window in a victory cheer while I imagined crossing the white Finish line and the "Yard of**

**Bricks” barely edging out a Mustang. The crowd went wild and I could taste that milk pouring down my face! The track is padlocked off, so this is inside the pit lane, but the same finish line and yard of bricks extends from the flag stand, across the track, through the pits, through the walkway of the Pagoda and out into the judging area of the infield concession area.**



**Friday morning was Gold Certification judging and these judges got their red pens out and ready to deduct! NCRS uses pencils that have erasers, Bloomington Gold uses Red Pens that don't erase so I had to be on my game right from the start! But honestly, it's the same great judges I have met at regional and national NCRS judging events, so although the pen is a different color and the judging sheet was shorter, it was pretty much all the same.**



**Saturday morning is when Survivor and Benchmark judging is done. The white shirts are changed for red ones. Very few of the Corvettes from Fridays Gold Certification were brought out for these two additional levels of scrutiny and judging. They were mostly C3-4's although there were several C1-2's that were judged. Some of the same judges from Friday, but several new ones that gave the car an even higher level of scrutiny. Similar to Bowtie or Duntov Judging, the judges are inspecting from Engine pad to exhaust system and everything in between.**



**One of the Survivor requirements is to complete a road trip with the Corvette and have it survive with no overheating or mechanical break downs. Now that Bloomington Gold is at Indy, doing 2 laps of the track is the perfect opportunity to do so! I was the last car on the track and could go at my own pace. On several of the straightaways, I got up to 90 mph, burying that 85 DOT mandated speedometer that came out in 1981! Driving on the Indy 500 track – another bucket list item checked off!**



**Saturday afternoon with rain threatening, each Corvette is staged to cross the start finish line in the infield behind the Pagoda and you hear your name, your Corvette and the award you received. I got to the line, Brian Pierce, 1978-82 team leader on one side of the car, Guy Larson president of Bloomington Gold on the other, I heard the announcement: Brad Hillhouse,**

**Lincoln, Nebraska with a 1981 Corvette gets a Bloomington Gold Certification, a Survivor Silver and a Benchmark Award! All in all, even with a bit of rain, it was a spectacular trip and corvette weekend. Keith Mander, Craig Stephan were also there and it was good to be able to hang out with them looking at Corvettes and socializing. Bloomington Gold does some things better than NCRS, others not as much. Either way, it is an amazing venue for a Corvette show, I got to drive on the Indy 500 track, I met lots of NCRS and non NCRS Corvette friends, found lots of goodies in the swap meet area, enjoyed the Special Collections of Corvette and Camaro race cars, and much more. If you haven't done it before, I encourage you to put Bloomington Gold 2020 on your list of "must do" Corvette events!**

**Yes, it is the Grand Daddy of all**

**Corvette Shows!**

**Article by Brad Hillhouse**

**[Bradhillhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:Bradhillhouse@yahoo.com)**



**Brad Hillhouse won two awards at the Peer's All Corvette Show. The trophy was for 1st in C3 and the picture or plaque was for judges pick!**

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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  
84<sup>th</sup> & L in Omaha, NE**

**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 19, 2019 NCRS  
Nebraska Chapter Judging  
Event. Location and  
specifics TBD**

**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...**



**Extra photos from Bloomington Gold**